

## 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.

- 1 WWT data
- 2 Uist Greylag Goose Management Committee
- 3 SNH data
- 4 Bean Goose Working Group
- 5 WWT studies
- 6 Supplementary daytime counts
- 7 Greenland White-fronted Goose Study Group
- 8 WWT publications
- 9 SOTEAG reports
- 10 WeBS Low Tide Counts
- 11 Roost counts
- 12 Supplementary daytime counts
- 13 Icelandic Goose Census
- 14 Firth of Clyde Eider counts (Chris Waltho)
- 15 R Godfrey (in litt)
- 16 International Swan Census (WWT)
- 17 All-Ireland Light-bellied Brent Goose Census
- 18 WWT unpublished data
- 19 Judith Smith, Gr. Manchester County recorder
- 20 SNH data
- 21 Paul Daw, County recorder for Argyll
- 23 Roost counts
- 24 Supplementary counts
- 26 B McMillan (in litt.)
- 28 BTO/CCW Carmarthen Bay surveys
- 29 WWTC/CCW Carmarthen Bay surveys
- 30 Supplementary data
- 31 Supplementary counts
- 32 RSPB data
- 33 A Stevenson (in litt.)
- 34 WWT UK-breeding Greylag Goose Survey
- 37 W Aspin (in litt.)
- 39 D Tate (in litt.)
- 43 Norman Elkins (Fife Bird Club)
- 46 S.J. Turner, West Midland Bird Club
- 47 Birdguides ([www.birdguides.com](http://www.birdguides.com))
- 49 Norfolk bird report; White-fronted Goose counts
- 50 RSPB Bean Goose counts

## Fulvous Whistling Duck

*Dendrocygna bicolor*

Escape

Native Range: S America, Africa

Singles were at Ditchford Gravel Pits in August and The Wash in June.

## Lesser Whistling Duck

*Dendrocygna javanica*

Escape

Native Range: S America, Africa

A Lesser Whistling Duck was at Poole Harbour in December. This is presumably the same bird that was reported there in 2006/07 and 2008/09.

## Mute Swan

*Cygnus olor*

International threshold (British population): 320

International threshold (Irish population): 100

Great Britain threshold: 740

All-Ireland threshold: 110

GB max: 22,713 Oct

NI max: 1,206 Oct

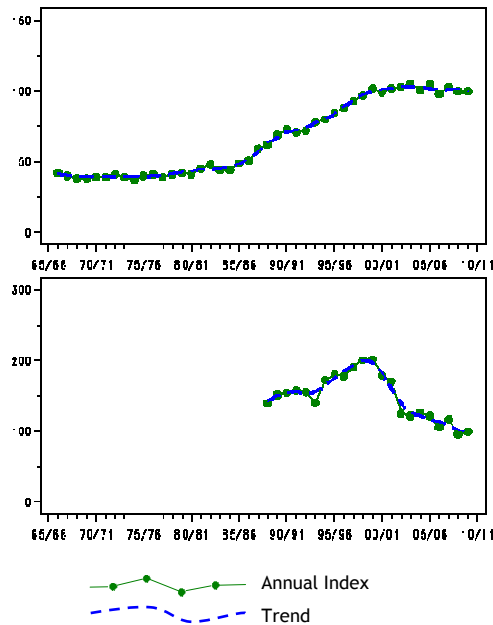


Figure 3.a, Annual indices & trend for Mute Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

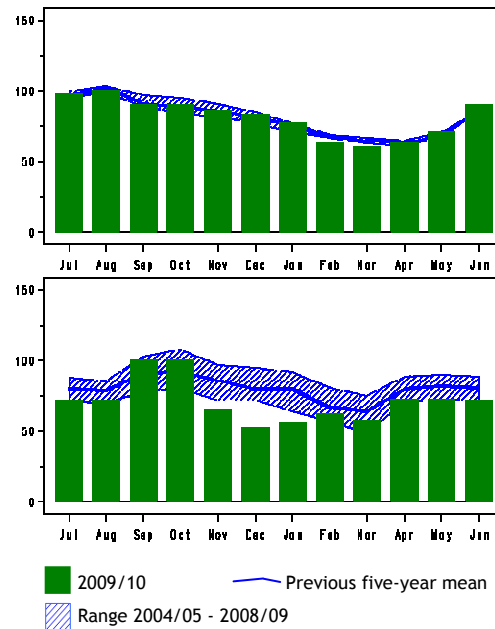


Figure 3.b, Monthly indices for Mute Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

The population of Mute Swans in Britain is now estimated to be approximately 74,000 birds (Musgrove *et al.* 2011). This is more than the total implied by a breeding census in 2002 which found 31,700 birds at the start of the spring (Ward *et al.* 2007). 10,000 birds are estimated to winter across Ireland (Crowe *et al.* 2008).

Mute Swans in Britain and Ireland are largely sedentary, and hence the populations are considered separate from both one another and from birds on the

Continent. All sites of national importance in Britain and All-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland are technically also classed as being of importance internationally, due to the fact that the seemingly low international threshold value of 320 is somewhat out of date.

During the last ten years, annual indices for Mute Swan in Britain have shown very little in the way of variation. In 2009/10, the peak WeBS count of Mute Swans was 1,174 at Somerset Levels, just short of the

site maximum recorded there in the previous year. For the third year in a row, the peak at Fleet & Wey failed to reach 1,000 birds. Considering that the site has shown relatively little variation in annual peaks over the course of the WeBS reporting period, it remains to be seen how soon that particular threshold will be surpassed again.

Maxima at the majority of other principal sites were close to recent average. Notable exceptions were those at three east coast

estuaries: an all-time high at Humber Estuary, the most since 1996 at Tweed Estuary, and the highest total since the early 1960s at Stour Estuary. Increasing populations of Mute Swans have the potential to generate conflicts, either through damage to crops or dirtying of areas by concentrated gatherings of birds regularly fed by the public. The latter has become an increasingly pertinent issue at Stour Estuary (R. Vonk, pers. comm.).

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Somerset Levels	1,024	1,164	1,098	1,252	1,174	Dec	1,142
Fleet and Wey	1,147	1,013	867	990	897	Dec	983
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,024	770	1,012	702	898	Oct	881
Ouse Washes	427 <sup>6</sup>	508 <sup>6</sup>	1,151	(1,010)	625 <sup>6</sup>	Nov	744
Rutland Water	510	588	499	562	555	Nov	543
Tweed Estuary	460	583	364	410	632	Jul	503
Loch Leven	319	542	520	544	434	Aug	472
Stour Estuary	288	347	544	512	632	Jan	465
Dungeness and Rye Bay	315	410	476	489	417	Jan	421
Loch Bee (South Uist)	267	401	399	605			418
Severn Estuary	390	421	477	383	381	Feb	410
Upper Lough Erne	300	457	354	351	396	Feb	372
Humber Estuary	178	350	266	377	453	Aug	362 ▲
Abberton Reservoir	373	(399)	311	348	326	Aug	351
Hornsea Mere	462	375	290	155	318 <sup>6</sup>	Jul	320
Lower Lough Erne	309	266	311	(149)	(133)	Oct	295
Strangford Lough	133	(59)	252	111	221	Sep	179
Upper Quoile River	134	121	144				133
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/10</b>							
Morecambe Bay	320	(328)	(164)	265	(264)	Dec	304

## Black Swan

*Cygnus atratus*

Escape

Native Range: Australia

Black Swans were noted at 75 WeBS sites in 2009/10, representing a slight drop for the second year in a row. These included three sites in Wales, four in Scotland and one on the Channel Islands. A monthly peak of 65 birds was in October. The majority of records were of singles or pairs, but maxima of ten were noted at Abberton Reservoir in October and Stour Estuary in August. Given the proximity of these two sites, these counts may potentially have involved some of the same birds.



Black Swans (Toni Cross)

### Sites with 4 or more birds during 2009/10

Abberton Reservoir	10	Oct	Ramsbury Lake	6	Mar
Stour Estuary	10	Aug	Roath Park Lake	6	Mar
Fleet and Wey	7	Jun	Grouville Marsh	6	Nov

## Bewick's Swan

*Cygnus columbianus*

GB max: 6,568 Jan

NI max: 0

% young: 9.1

Brood size: 1.5

International threshold (*bewickii*): 200

Great Britain threshold: 70

All-Ireland threshold: 20\*

\*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

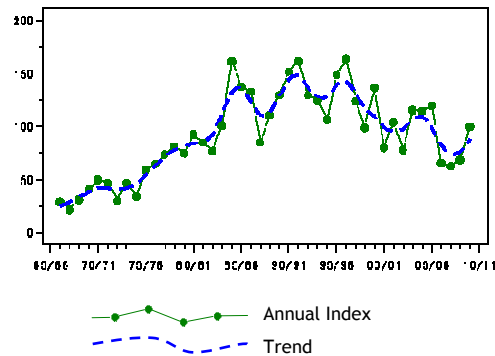


Figure 4.a, Annual indices & trend for Bewick's Swan for GB.

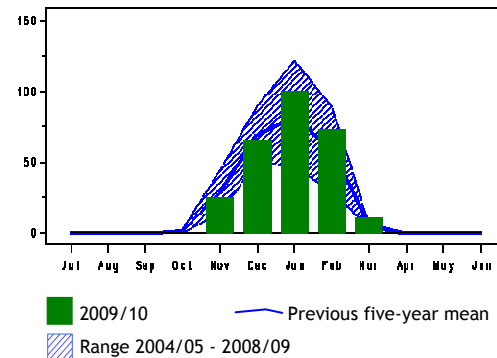


Figure 4.b, Monthly indices for Bewick's Swan for GB.

Bewick's Swans breed in the northern Russian tundra and winter primarily in Britain and The Netherlands. The global population has decreased, and international declines have led to this red-listed species being the focus of dedicated conservation initiatives (Rees & Beekman 2010).

A census of the wintering population, co-ordinated in the UK by WWT, was carried out in January 2010. The number present in the UK was estimated to be 7,000 birds, representing a decrease of 0.07% since the last survey in January 2005 (C. Hall, pers. comm.). The winter of 2009/10 featured a spell of much colder weather than has characterised recent years, which may have resulted in a greater proportion of birds using sites in the UK than has been typical of recent years. The WeBS annual index rose in comparison to the previous three years, thereby maintaining a cyclical pattern in the associated trend that has been evident over the course of the last 25 years. Moreover, the WeBS counted monthly maximum, 6,568 birds in January, was over 50% greater than the maximum recorded during the three previous winters.

The longer-term downward trend is likely to be a reflection of milder winters, with Bewick's Swans stopping further east on continental Europe. Additionally, in recent winters, an increased proportion of Bewick's Swans in the UK have tended to be concentrated in the fenlands in eastern

England. Whereas peak WeBS counts at most sites across the UK have declined in recent years, those at the two principal sites of Ouse Washes and Nene Washes have remained relatively stable. At both of these locations, the birds use wetlands for roosting whereas agricultural fields are used diurnally foraging. In January, the estimated totals from the International Swan Census for Ouse Washes and Nene Washes were 5,109 and 962, respectively.

Elsewhere in 2009/10, although the January count at the Severn Estuary represented the highest recorded there since January 2003 (345 individuals), whilst the peak at Dungeness & Rye Bay failed to reach three-figures for the second year in succession. Other traditionally favoured sites in the southern counties of England, such as Somerset Levels, Arun Valley and Henfield Brooks, appear to have hosted maxima slightly in excess of recent average, which is perhaps indicative of a cold weather effect.

Breeding productivity was assessed at three wintering sites in the UK during 2009/10; WWT Slimbridge, WWT Martin Mere/Ribble Estuary, and the Ouse Washes. Across these three sites the proportion of young birds was 9.1%, an indication of relatively poor breeding success in 2009, following an even lower value the previous year. Mean brood size was also low, at 1.5 juveniles per pair.

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Ouse Washes	5,449 <sup>11</sup>	3,407 <sup>11</sup>	5,341 <sup>11</sup>	3,468 <sup>11</sup>	5,109 <sup>11</sup>	Jan	4,555
Nene Washes	1,649 <sup>11</sup>	703 <sup>11</sup>	642 <sup>11</sup>	305 <sup>11</sup>	962 <sup>11</sup>	Jan	750
Horning Marshes					238 <sup>16</sup>	Jan	238
Severn Estuary	225	196	180	238	303	Jan	228
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Breydon Water and Berney Marshes	231	147 <sup>11</sup>	87 <sup>12</sup>	5	131 <sup>12</sup>	Mar	120
Dungeness and Rye Bay	135	130	127	83	99	Feb	115
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010</b>							
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	63	48	82	56	55	Feb	61
Martin Mere and Ribble Estuary	(132)	24	12	21	98 <sup>16</sup>	Jan	57
<i>No data for years 2005/06 to 2009/10: Hickling Broad</i>							

## Whooper Swan

*Cygnus cygnus*

International threshold: 210  
Great Britain threshold: 110  
All-Ireland threshold: 130

GB max: 9,732 Jan  
NI max: 3,270 Nov  
% young: 15.4 Brood size: 2.0

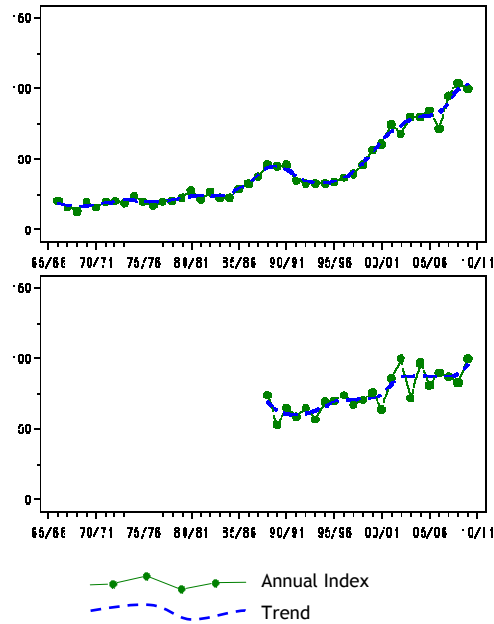


Figure 5.a, Annual indices & trend for Whooper Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

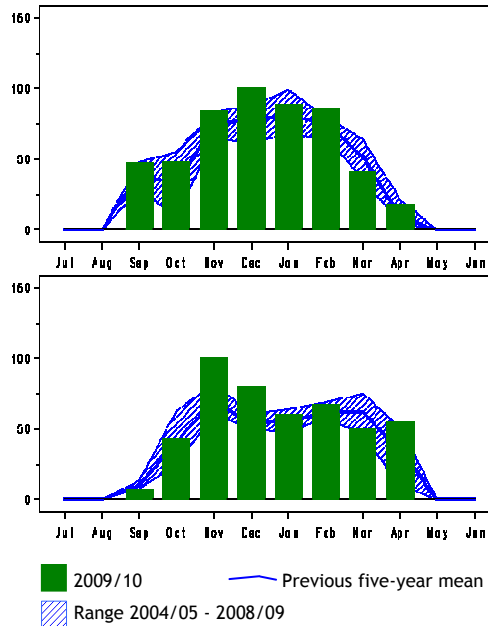


Figure 5.b, Monthly indices for Whooper Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

Whooper Swan has increased as a wintering species in Britain and Ireland over the course of the last 25 years, the majority originating from the increasing breeding population in Iceland.

A census of the wintering population in the UK, co-ordinated by WWT, was carried out in January 2010 when the number present in the UK was estimated to be 16,502 birds (J. Reed, pers. comm.). This represents an increase of 9.6% compared to results from the previous survey undertaken

in January 2005, and indicates that a sizeable proportion of the winter population are not counted by WeBS. In Ireland, a total of 14,981 Whooper Swans represented a 6% increase compared to results from the previous census in 2005 (Boland *et al.* 2010).

In both Britain and Northern Ireland, the WeBS indices were relatively high continuing the positive longer term trends. It is unclear whether this species was particularly affected by the relatively cold

period of weather during winter 2009/10, but the monthly indices indicate that above average numbers were present in November and December in both Northern Ireland and Britain.

The maximum noted at Ouse Washes, 5,632 in January, was lower than the maximum recorded during 2008/09, but still high in a historical context. However, the peak at Nene Washes in February was the most ever there. Maxima at the other thirteen sites of international importance were largely similar to recent years. In response to the increase in the winter population that has occurred in recent years, the national population estimate has

now been revised accordingly (Musgrove *et al.* 2011). Consequently, a smaller selection of WeBS sites surpassed the new threshold for national importance.

Breeding success was marginally above average for all regions surveyed, with the exception of flocks using eastern England. Across all sites, flocks contained 15.4% cygnets, and the mean brood size of pairs with young was 2.0. The mean percentage young at WWT Martin Mere/Ribble Estuary, Ouse Washes and WWT Caerlaverock were similar to the five-year means recorded over the five winters up to 2009/10, and productivity similar to that estimated during the 2008/09 winter.

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Ouse Washes	3,547 <sup>11</sup>	3,756 <sup>11</sup>	5,470 <sup>11</sup>	5,979 <sup>11</sup>	5,632 <sup>16</sup>	Jan	4,873
Martin Mere and Ribble Estuary	1,666	1,451	1,819	1,703	2,296	Jan	1,787
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,268	1,731	1,734	(1,592)	1,803 <sup>16</sup>	Feb	1,634
Lough Foyle	1,030	1,042	1,167	1,240	2,033	Nov	1,302
Upper Lough Erne	822	956	680	636	799 <sup>16</sup>	Feb	779
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	518	61	399 <sup>13</sup>	797 <sup>13</sup>			444
Nene Washes	215 <sup>11</sup>	216 <sup>11</sup>	110 <sup>11</sup>	462 <sup>11</sup>	767 <sup>11</sup>	Mar	354
Loch of Strathbeg	680	285	92	252	182	Oct	298
Strangford Lough	242	199	432	251 <sup>10</sup>	183	Nov	261
Solway Estuary	150	194	(97)	(231)	424 <sup>16</sup>	Dec	256
Loch Heilen	360	(197)	84	(59)	300	Nov	248 ▲
Loch Leven	17	220	242	350 <sup>12</sup>	357	Nov	237 ▲
Wigtown Bay	(165)	(164)	267	(195)	177	Jan	222
East Fenton Farm Reservoir	156	143	340 <sup>12</sup>	182	240	Feb	212 ▲
Locharwoods					210 <sup>16</sup>	Jan	210 ▲
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Norham West Mains	194 <sup>12</sup>	196					195
River Tweed - Kelso to Coldstream	132	162	230	252	134	Mar	182
Dalreoch		264		216 <sup>13</sup>	67 <sup>13</sup>	Dec	182 ▼
R Clyde: Carstairs to Thankerton	220	188	173	109	(86)	Nov	173
Dornoch Firth	213	241	(86)	190	37	Feb	170 ▼
Montrose Basin	181	147	(182)	103	151	Feb	153
Black Cart Water (Gryfe-White Cart)	112	106 <sup>12</sup>	98 <sup>12</sup>	207 <sup>12</sup>	221 <sup>12</sup>	Nov	149
Loch a' Phuill (Tiree)	259 <sup>12</sup>	152 <sup>12</sup>	103	94	115	Jan	145
Lower Teviot Valley	13	36	98	(129)	433 <sup>12</sup>	Nov	145 ▲
Wedholme Flow		0	0	19	557 <sup>11</sup>	Nov	144 ▲
Ballone					142 <sup>16</sup>	Jan	142 ▲
Rossie Bog			99	(78)	(162) <sup>12</sup>	Nov	131 ▲
Morecambe Bay	(100)	(84)	158	82	(118)	Feb	120 ▲
River Eden: Grinsdale to Sandsfield	98	59	186	108	108	Nov	112
Quendale Links					110 <sup>12</sup>	Jan	110 ▲
<b>Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland</b>							
River Lagan					204 <sup>16</sup>	Jan	204 ▲
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010</b>							
Lindisfarne	119 <sup>10</sup>	(170)	(15)	90	27	Mar	102
<i>No data for years 2005/06 to 2009/10: Leven Cut, River Earn: Lawhill Oxbows, Strathearn South Kinkell, Loans of Tullich</i>							
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2009/10 in Great Britain</b>							
Killimster Loch		51	90	9	181	Mar	83
Lower Derwent Ings	74	104	88	93	174	Mar	107
North Loch (Sanday)		1	48	(80)	130	Nov	65
White Cart Water (Netherton Farm)	0	8	0	92	120	Nov	44

## Chinese Goose

*Anser cygnoides*

Escape

Native Range: E Asia

Chinese Geese (the domestic strain of Swan Goose) were recorded at eleven sites in Britain. All records involved one or two

birds, with the exception of three at Stour Estuary in August.

## Taiga Bean Goose

*Anser fabalis fabalis*

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

GB max: 260 Oct  
NI max: 0  
% young: 14.8 Brood size: 1.4

There are two regular sites for wintering Taiga Bean Geese *Anser f. fabalis* in the UK; Slamannan Plateau in central Scotland and Yare Valley in Norfolk. Birds are highly faithful to these areas, where their numbers are monitored by the Bean Goose Working Group and RSPB, respectively; hence all 'bean geese' reported from the Slamannan and Yare Valley areas are assumed to relate to Taiga Bean Geese. Similarly, unless specifically reported as being of the *fabalis* race, all other records of 'bean geese' in the UK are assumed to be of the race *rossicus* (known as Tundra Bean Goose). Although scarce in the UK, Tundra Bean Geese are more prone to cold weather influxes and consequently are more likely to be recorded at other sites.

In 2009/10, a peak of 260 Taiga Bean Geese recorded at Slamannan Plateau in October represented a decrease of five

birds compared to the maximum seen during the previous year. At Yare Valley, a peak of 81 in February represented a significant fall compared to recent years, thereby further accentuating the downward trend at the site. The extent to which this drop in numbers, the lowest at the site since 1973/74, is a reflection of the cold winter and associated difficult feeding conditions is not known.

Continued monitoring of the wintering population at Slamannan Plateau by the Bean Goose Working Group indicated that approximately 15% of the population were first-year birds in 2009/10, the second lowest breeding success yet recorded.

Away from these two key areas, Taiga Bean Geese were identified at two other sites during Core counts in February; Loch of Spiggie and Nene Washes (3).

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Slamannan Area	300 <sup>4</sup>	255 <sup>4</sup>	300 <sup>4</sup>	265 <sup>4</sup>	260 <sup>4</sup>	Oct	276
Middle Yare Marshes	169 <sup>50</sup>	111 <sup>50</sup>	136 <sup>50</sup>	133 <sup>50</sup>	81 <sup>50</sup>	Feb	126

## Tundra Bean Goose

*Anser fabalis rossicus*

International threshold: 6,000  
Great Britain threshold: 3  
All-Ireland threshold: +

All records of bean geese away from the two key wintering areas of Taiga Bean Goose *Anser f. fabalis* are assumed to relate to Tundra Bean Goose *Anser f. rossicus*, unless submitted as otherwise. Since 2008/09, the two forms have been listed separately in the WeBS annual report.

Very small, but regular, numbers of Tundra Bean Geese are noted during the course of most winters in the UK, primarily at sites in eastern Britain. Most records

tend to relate to birds in with flocks of other geese, however during periods of cold weather on the continent influxes of discrete, larger, groups can occur. The most recent influx was in the winter of 2004/05, when flocks of 80+ were noted at both Ouse Washes and Dungeness & Rye Bay.

In 2009/10, Tundra Bean Geese were recorded at 12 sites, three of which were on Shetland, between November and April.

The monthly maximum was 16 birds in February. All records related to ones or twos, with the exception of four at Lower

Derwent Ings (Feb) and three at North Norfolk Coast (Feb) and Nene Washes (Mar).

#### Sites with 3 or more birds in 2009/10

Breydon Water /Berney Marshes	10 Feb
Lower Derwent Ings	4 Feb

Nene Washes	3 Mar
North Norfolk Coast	3 Feb

## Pink-footed Goose

*Anser brachyrhynchus*

International threshold:	2,700
Great Britain threshold:	3,600
All-Ireland threshold:	+

GB max:	355,177	Oct
NI max:	8	Oct
% young:	17.3	Brood size: 1.9

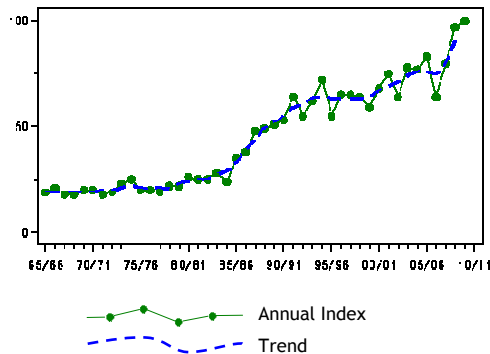


Figure 6.a, Annual indices & trend for Pink-footed Goose for GB.

There are two populations of Pink-footed Geese: one which breeds primarily in Greenland/Iceland and winters almost exclusively in Britain, and a smaller Svalbard-breeding population which winters primarily in the Low Countries (The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg).

The annual census of Pink-footed Geese is carried out through the Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme co-ordinated by WWT. The autumn of 2009 saw three counts take place (in October, November and December) representing the 50th consecutive Icelandic-breeding goose census (IGC).

Despite recent fluctuations in numbers, partly due to variation in coverage, the long term population trend for the species has been one of continued increase, and there are no indications of this changing in the near future. Note the revised 1% threshold for national importance (following Musgrove *et al.* 2011) now exceeds that for international importance, which is somewhat out of date.

The wintering population arrived relatively early in the autumn of 2009, with the total flyway population estimated to be 364,212 birds (Mitchell 2010), an increase of 3.7% compared to the previous year which itself had seen a sharp rise in the index. In September, 60,626 were recorded at Loch of Strathbeg, while the following month an exceptional 69,970 had gathered on the South Lancashire Mosses. Although the distribution of birds within the UK changed during the course of the winter, the shifts were not as marked as recent years. The main movement involved an overall transition of birds from Scotland and northeast England in October, to sites in eastern England, primarily those in Norfolk, by December. The maximum counts on the North Norfolk Coast during the month included 30,820 at Wells-next-the-Sea and 28,700 at Snettisham.

Breeding success was assessed at several locations throughout Scotland and England. The proportion of first-years within flocks was 17.3% and the mean brood size for pairs with young was 1.9, both figures just slightly lower than the previous year. Consistent annual productivity, combined with targeted nature reserve management and changes in availability of agricultural foraging resources (Gill *et al.* 1996, Fox *et al.* 2005) have all combined to contribute to the rise of the Pink-footed Goose population since the mid 1980s. However, the unavailability of meaningful hunting bag statistics from Britain and Ireland, means any interpretation of possible changes in population dynamics is a very complicated task (Mitchell 2010).



	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Loch of Strathbeg	68,000 <sup>13</sup>	37,396	39,370 <sup>13</sup>	53,454 <sup>13</sup>	60,626 <sup>13</sup>	Sep	51,769
Southwest Lancashire	31,860 <sup>13</sup>	39,030 <sup>13</sup>	17,877	90,455 <sup>13</sup>	69,790 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	49,802
Holkham Marshes	70,000 <sup>13</sup>	69,100 <sup>13</sup>	56,000 <sup>13</sup>	22,145 <sup>13</sup>	30,820 <sup>13</sup>	Dec	49,613
Snettisham	49,610 <sup>13</sup>	33,485 <sup>13</sup>	47,530 <sup>13</sup>	51,950 <sup>13</sup>	28,700 <sup>13</sup>	Dec	42,255
West Water Reservoir	28,240 <sup>13</sup>	43,252 <sup>13</sup>	27,960 <sup>13</sup>	47,361 <sup>13</sup>	26,400 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	34,643
Montrose Basin	30,181 <sup>13</sup>	25,000 <sup>13</sup>	23,945 <sup>13</sup>	38,911 <sup>13</sup>	6,500	Oct	24,907
Scolt Head	55,000 <sup>13</sup>	17,200 <sup>13</sup>	7,870 <sup>13</sup>	23,000 <sup>13</sup>	10,750 <sup>13</sup>	Nov	22,764
Aberlady Bay	14,250 <sup>13</sup>		23,415 <sup>13</sup>	32,244 <sup>13</sup>	15,721 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	21,408
Loch of Skene	17,730 <sup>13</sup>	(22,930) <sup>13</sup>	19,000 <sup>13</sup>	18,560 <sup>13</sup>	16,780 <sup>13</sup>	Dec	19,000
Breydon Water and Berney Marshes	11,213	17,800 <sup>11</sup>	22,785 <sup>12</sup>	21,400 <sup>11</sup>	14,230 <sup>11</sup>	Dec	17,486
Morecambe Bay	20,980 <sup>13</sup>	10,200 <sup>13</sup>	21,200 <sup>13</sup>	(7,255)	(2,757)	Apr	17,460
West Freugh					(16,000) <sup>12</sup>	Dec	(16,000) ▲
Carsebreck and Rhynd Lochs	11,130 <sup>13</sup>	12,600 <sup>13</sup>	11,200 <sup>13</sup>	15,200 <sup>13</sup>	18,250 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	13,676
Loch Leven	22,175 <sup>13</sup>	14,600 <sup>13</sup>	1,000	17,618 <sup>13</sup>	4,539	Dec	11,986
Solway Estuary	(6,862)	23,313 <sup>13</sup>	(5,004)	5,751	6,633	Jan	11,899
Findhorn Bay	9,400 <sup>13</sup>	(3,800) <sup>13</sup>	7,800 <sup>13</sup>	9,850 <sup>13</sup>	14,500 <sup>13</sup>	Nov	10,388
Easterton - Fort George	10,000 <sup>13</sup>						10,000
Martham Broad				8,500 <sup>13</sup>			8,500
Loch of Lintrathen	9,790 <sup>13</sup>	7,040 <sup>13</sup>	8,410 <sup>13</sup>	10,745 <sup>13</sup>	3,550 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	7,907
Dupplin Lochs		1,450 <sup>13</sup>	2,100 <sup>13</sup>		18,500 <sup>13</sup>	Nov	7,350 ▲
Beaully Firth	700 <sup>13</sup>				12,800 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	6,750 ▲
Loch Spynie	23,000 <sup>13</sup>	9,000 <sup>13</sup>	150 <sup>13</sup>	1,000 <sup>13</sup>	3 <sup>13</sup>	Nov	6,631
Winter Loch, St Fergus Gas Terminal		6,620 <sup>13</sup>					6,620
Kilconquhar Loch	1,250 <sup>13</sup>	90	7,010 <sup>13</sup>	14,000 <sup>13</sup>	9,540 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	6,378
Wigtown Bay	802	(6,695)	11,720 <sup>13</sup>	(4,943)	5,941	Jan	6,290
Hule Moss	6,000	2,250 <sup>13</sup>	6,850 <sup>13</sup>	6,250 <sup>13</sup>	9,350 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	6,140
Horse Mere	6,240 <sup>13</sup>	5,430 <sup>13</sup>					5,835
Heigham Holmes	5,670 <sup>13</sup>						5,670
Lindisfarne	5,800 <sup>13</sup>	(6,132)	6,900 <sup>13</sup>	3,500 <sup>13</sup>	3,500 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	5,166
Holme and Thornham	5,000 <sup>13</sup>	4,000 <sup>13</sup>	3,865 <sup>13</sup>	4,170 <sup>13</sup>	8,000 <sup>13</sup>	Dec	5,007
Fala Flow	3,750 <sup>13</sup>	2,170 <sup>13</sup>	3,650 <sup>13</sup>	1,510 <sup>13</sup>	13,084 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	4,833 ▲
Lochhill	3,525 <sup>12</sup>	760	5,000 <sup>12</sup>	7,100 <sup>12</sup>	7,000 <sup>12</sup>	Oct	4,677
Humber Estuary	3,909	4,151	3,703	7,108	3,944	Jan	4,563
Eden Estuary	100	9	430 <sup>13</sup>	20,520 <sup>11</sup>	650 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	4,342
Wedholme Flow		0	1,300	6,000 <sup>12</sup>	10,000	Mar	4,325 ▲
Norton Marsh	4,500 <sup>13</sup>	6,650 <sup>13</sup>	4,850 <sup>13</sup>	2,720 <sup>13</sup>	2,831 <sup>13</sup>	Dec	4,310
Middlemuir (New Pitsligo Moss)			4,500 <sup>13</sup>	3,500 <sup>13</sup>			4,000
Simonswood Peat Moss		3,000 <sup>13</sup>	4,500 <sup>13</sup>				3,750
R Clyde: Carstairs to Thankerton	4,500	1,540	(4,720)	4,530	3,100	Oct	3,678
Biggar Moss	50	0	6,500	7,000			3,388
Ravenstruther	850	1,300	1,800	9,500	(460)	Oct	3,363
Braco		3,290 <sup>13</sup>					3,290
River Tay - Haughs of Kercock	3,500 <sup>13</sup>	3,702 <sup>13</sup>	3,165 <sup>13</sup>	2,704 <sup>13</sup>	2,500 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	3,114
Forth (Skinflats)	3,980 <sup>13</sup>	2,950 <sup>13</sup>	2,176 <sup>13</sup>	4,463 <sup>13</sup>	775 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	2,869
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	3,226	1,116	575	4,305	4,500 <sup>13</sup>	Nov	2,744 ▲
Rossie Bog	2,250 <sup>13</sup>		655 <sup>13</sup>	6,000 <sup>11</sup>	2,070	Nov	2,744
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010</b>							
Loch Tullybelton		2,700 <sup>13</sup>	2,800 <sup>13</sup>	4,000 <sup>13</sup>	150 <sup>13</sup>	Nov	2,413
Ythan Estuary and Slains Lochs	(1,800)	1,600	2,000		(0)		1,800
<i>No data for years 2005/06 to 2009/10: Tay and Isla Valley</i>							
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2009/10 in Great Britain</b>							
Dingwall Bay	350 <sup>13</sup>	170 <sup>13</sup>	521 <sup>13</sup>		8,200 <sup>13</sup>	Dec	2,310
Whitrig Moss		700			4,500 <sup>11</sup>	Nov	2,600
Lower Teviot Valley	(110)	0	2,000	50	4,000	Nov	1,513
Loch Watten	0	0	400	71	4,000	Feb	894

## European White-fronted Goose

*Anser albifrons albifrons*

International threshold: 10,000

Great Britain threshold: 24\*

All-Ireland threshold: +

GB max: 1,457 Feb

NI max: 0

% young: 26.2 Brood size: -

\*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

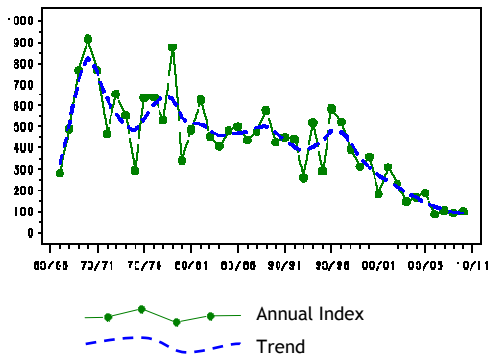


Figure 7.a, Annual indices & trend for European White-fronted Goose for GB.

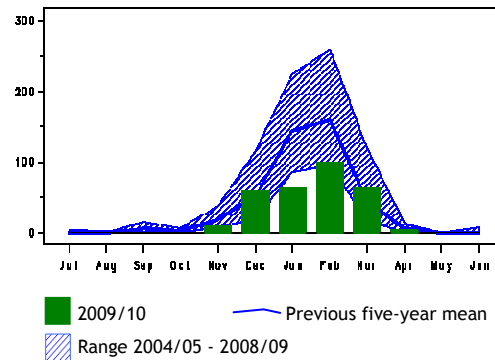


Figure 7.b, Monthly indices for European White-fronted Goose for GB.

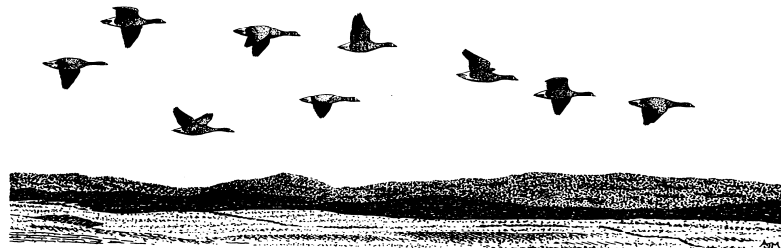
Predictably, 2009/10 saw European White-fronts remain at the low level that has increasingly characterised the last decade. However, in the last four years the species may have reached a trough as the index values have changed relatively little. It is now well-established that the downward trend is associated with a distributional shift in core wintering range - referred to as "short stopping". In stark contrast to the UK, numbers continue to increase in The Netherlands where 892,000 were present in January 2009. This represents a relatively high total even by recent standards, considered to be due to an especially marked influx from eastern wintering areas that winter (Hornman *et al.* 2011).

In contrast, in 2009/10 an easterly range shift was again evident even within Britain. For the first time, the peak WeBS count from Severn Estuary was surpassed by

maxima from both Swale Estuary and Dungeness & Rye Bay. However, somewhat in contrast to that trend, was a noticeably low peak at North Norfolk Coast.

This species is one often associated with cold weather movements, but the only record of a sizeable flock away from typical sites, which may relate to such a movement, was 136 at Lower Derwent Ings in February.

Breeding success of tundra-nesting geese generally decreases in years of low lemming abundance as a consequence of predators switching from lemmings to birds. European White-fronted Geese were aged at two localities during winter 2009/10 (WWT Slimbridge and North Warren, Suffolk). Although no brood size data were collected, 26.2% of birds were aged as first-winters; indicative of a reasonably productive breeding season for this species.



European White-fronted Geese (Andy McKay)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Severn Estuary	750	542 <sup>8</sup>	520	507 <sup>5</sup>	300 <sup>5</sup>	Dec	524
Heigham Holmes	512 <sup>49</sup>	570 <sup>49</sup>	800 <sup>49</sup>	200 <sup>49</sup>	(150) <sup>49</sup>	Dec	520
Swale Estuary	430	355	315	160	523	Mar	357
Dungeness and Rye Bay	550	151	194	239	388	Feb	304
North Warren and Thorpeness Mere	330 <sup>6</sup>	180	452 <sup>6</sup>	245	293	Feb	300
North Norfolk Coast	404	200	275	226	96	Jan	240
Middle Yare Marshes	76	66	193	72	90	Dec	99
Breydon Water and Berney Marshes	290	0	61 <sup>6</sup>	0	28 <sup>6</sup>	Jan	76
Pegwell Bay	(0)	0	118	0	120 <sup>6</sup>	Jan	60
Alde Complex	12	0	58	206	7	Feb	57
Stodmarsh	122	0	32	0	0		31
Thames Estuary	86	0	24	17	28	Feb	31
Lower Derwent Ings	0	0	1	0	136	Feb	27▲
Ouse Washes	79 <sup>6</sup>	7	0	41 <sup>6</sup>	0		25
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010</b>							
Dengie Flats							
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2009/10 in Great Britain</b>							
Buckden and Stirtloe Pits				0	35 <sup>6</sup>	Jan	18

## Greenland White-fronted Goose

*Anser albifrons flavirostris*

International threshold: 270  
Great Britain threshold: 130  
All-Ireland threshold: 110

GB max: 13,269 Dec  
NI max: 26 Feb  
% young: 12.9 Brood size: 3.1

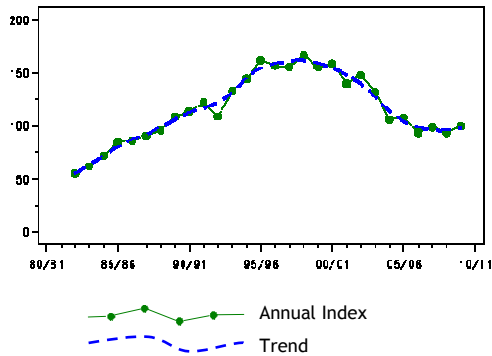


Figure 8.a, Annual indices & trend for Greenland White-fronted Goose for GB.

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. They then winter exclusively in Britain and Ireland, the favoured locations being Islay on the west coast of Scotland and Wexford Slobs in Ireland.

Having recovered from a population crash in the late 1970s, numbers fell again reaching their lowest point for over twenty years in 2008/09. As well as red-listed, Greenland White-fronted Goose qualifies as 'Endangered' under IUCN criteria.

In 2009/10, there was a very slight improvement in the index, and it appears that the steep decline that characterised the period of 1998/99 to 2006/07 has been halted.

The annual census organised by the Greenland White-fronted Goose Study was carried out in two months (December 2009 and March 2010). In terms of numbers at sites in the UK, the peak of 13,269 geese in December represents an increase of 6.1% compared to the maximum recorded during the previous year. Over half of the Scottish population was on Islay, the remainder mostly elsewhere in western Scotland. The peak count from the most southerly wintering site in Britain, the Dyfi Estuary, was slightly lower than recent years.

It would appear that a ban on hunting in Iceland has helped to allow numbers to stabilise. Previously, hunting pressure had been an additional source of mortality during a long period of low breeding productivity (Fox *et al.* 2009), and was considered responsible for the decline of the Greenland White-fronted Goose population. During 2009/10, both the percentage of young in flocks at sites in Britain (12.9%) and mean brood size (3.05) were indicative of a relatively successful breeding season.

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Island of Islay	7,456 <sup>7</sup>	7,902 <sup>7</sup>	7,980 <sup>7</sup>	8,590 <sup>7</sup>	7,262 <sup>7</sup>	Dec	7,838
Machrihanish	1,433 <sup>7</sup>	1,716 <sup>7</sup>	1,285 <sup>11</sup>	1,477 <sup>7</sup>	2,180 <sup>7</sup>	Mar	1,618
Rhunaheorine	955 <sup>7</sup>	940 <sup>7</sup>	1,451 <sup>7</sup>	879 <sup>7</sup>	1,017 <sup>7</sup>	Feb	1,048
Tiree	1,112 <sup>7</sup>	974 <sup>7</sup>	803 <sup>7</sup>	979 <sup>7</sup>	787 <sup>7</sup>	Jan	931
Isle of Coll	778	687 <sup>7</sup>	445 <sup>7</sup>	336 <sup>7</sup>	284 <sup>7</sup>	Feb	506
West Freugh/Stranraer Lochs	282 <sup>7</sup>	360 <sup>7</sup>	247 <sup>7</sup>	273 <sup>7</sup>	350 <sup>10</sup>	Mar	302
Isle of Lismore	320 <sup>7</sup>	273 <sup>7</sup>	240 <sup>7</sup>	280 <sup>7</sup>	300 <sup>7</sup>	Nov	283
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Keills Peninsula and Isle of Danna	344 <sup>7</sup>	300 <sup>7</sup>	202 <sup>7</sup>	239 <sup>7</sup>	214 <sup>7</sup>	Feb	260 ▼
Sound of Gigha	149 <sup>7</sup>	105 <sup>7</sup>	194 <sup>7</sup>	330	337 <sup>7</sup>	Jan	223
Loch Lomond	210 <sup>7</sup>	210 <sup>7</sup>	223 <sup>11</sup>	220 <sup>7</sup>	200 <sup>7</sup>	Mar	213
Bute	190 <sup>7</sup>	209 <sup>7</sup>	240 <sup>7</sup>	210 <sup>7</sup>	215 <sup>7</sup>	Feb	213
Loch Ken	220 <sup>7</sup>	206 <sup>7</sup>	177 <sup>7</sup>	194 <sup>7</sup>	186 <sup>7</sup>	Mar	197
Loch of Mey	184 <sup>7</sup>	176 <sup>7</sup>	146 <sup>7</sup>	240 <sup>7</sup>	170 <sup>7</sup>	Dec	183
Westfield Marshes	200 <sup>7</sup>	155 <sup>7</sup>	173 <sup>7</sup>	176 <sup>7</sup>			176
Clachan and Whitehouse	193 <sup>7</sup>	186 <sup>7</sup>	120 <sup>7</sup>	170 <sup>7</sup>	182 <sup>7</sup>	Feb	170
South Uist: Loch Bee/Kilaulay	144 <sup>7</sup>	160 <sup>7</sup>	184 <sup>7</sup>	150 <sup>7</sup>	123 <sup>7</sup>	Jan	152
Loch Bee (South Uist)	144	141	184	135			151
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010</b>							
Eriska/Benderloch	239 <sup>7</sup>	43 <sup>7</sup>	92 <sup>7</sup>		35 <sup>7</sup>	Jan	102
Isle of Colonsay	111 <sup>31</sup>	76 <sup>18</sup>	109 <sup>8</sup>				99

## Lesser White-fronted Goose

*Anser erythropus*

Vagrant and escape  
Native Range: SE Europe, Asia

Escapes were seen at five sites during 2009/10, including long-stayers throughout much of the year at Llyn Traffwll and Testbourne Estate.

## Icelandic Greylag Goose

*Anser anser*

International threshold: 870  
Great Britain threshold: 850  
All-Ireland threshold: 50

GB max: 108,507 Dec  
NI max: 0\*\*  
% young: 21.9 Brood size: 2.3

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

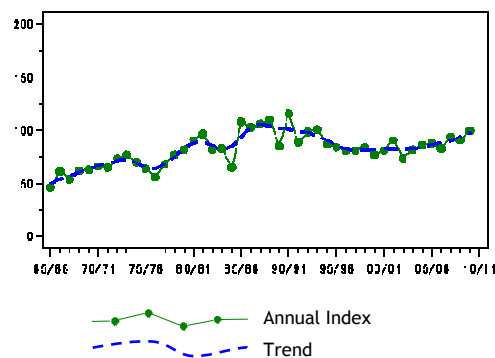


Figure 9.a, Annual indices & trend for Icelandic Greylag Goose for GB.

Counts of Icelandic Greylag Goose were undertaken in late 2009 as part of the 50th consecutive Icelandic-breeding Goose Census (IGC). This census incorporates monitoring of sites in Britain, Ireland, the Faeroes, Norway and Iceland.

Across all these countries, totals of 120,971 and 111,677 were counted in November and December, respectively. The latter included 108,507 birds in Britain. Following adjustments for the presence of birds from other populations and the addition of estimated counts, a population estimate of 109,496 was derived from the flyway November total (Mitchell 2010), representing an increase of 11.4% compared to 2008/09 when a population size of 98,291 individuals was estimated.

The distribution was typical, with 71% of the population in northern Scotland by November. In recent years, there has been an increasing concentration of the population onto Orkney, where a peak count of 80,538 was noted in December (although this total includes an estimated 10,000 summering birds) (Mitchell 2010). This shift in winter distribution has probably

meant that fewer Greylag Geese are being shot in Britain (as there are fewer wildfowlers on Orkney compared to east and central Scotland). Despite the continuing annual harvest of geese in Iceland, a presumed reduction in the number shot in other parts of the winter range and good breeding success in recent years is considered sufficient to have reversed the shallow decline noted in this

population during the 1990s (Trinder *et al.* 2010). During early November, Greylag Geese were aged at various localities throughout northern Scotland. Breeding success was deemed higher than average, with flocks containing 21.9% young, but the mean brood size of 2.3 goslings per successful pair was the same as last year and hence slightly lower than the longer term average.

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Orkney	40,403 <sup>13</sup>	55,521 <sup>13</sup>	67,540 <sup>13</sup>	68,349 <sup>13</sup>	60,519 <sup>13</sup>	Nov	63,099
Caithness Lochs	8,727 <sup>13</sup>	2,734	6,802 <sup>13</sup>		11,510 <sup>13</sup>	Nov	9,105
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	13,269	2,463 <sup>13</sup>	7,112 <sup>13</sup>	818 <sup>13</sup>	4,508 <sup>13</sup>	Dec	5,634
Easterton - Fort George	3,500 <sup>13</sup>						3,500
Dornoch Firth	1,632 <sup>13</sup>	2,858	3,310 <sup>13</sup>	6,379	1,825	Jan	3,201
Bute	2,110 <sup>13</sup>	1,670	1,960 <sup>13</sup>	3,800 <sup>13</sup>	2,550 <sup>13</sup>	Mar	2,418
Strathearn (West)		3,170 <sup>13</sup>	1,400 <sup>13</sup>				2,285
Loch Fleet Complex	3,000	1,762	2,100 <sup>13</sup>	1,110 <sup>13</sup>	2,143	Jan	2,023
Loch of Skene	4,700 <sup>13</sup>	(500) <sup>13</sup>	520 <sup>13</sup>	790 <sup>13</sup>	760 <sup>13</sup>	Feb	1,693
Loch of Skail	1,720	320	1,170	1,049	3,093	Oct	1,470
Beaully Firth	1,380 <sup>13</sup>						1,380
Loch Ussie	3,280 <sup>13</sup>	133	1,250	(0)	620 <sup>13</sup>	Nov	1,321
Inner Firth of Tay	850 <sup>13</sup>	157 <sup>13</sup>	636 <sup>13</sup>	2,640 <sup>13</sup>	1,943 <sup>13</sup>	Dec	1,245
Forth Estuary	2,107	(471)	875	936 <sup>13</sup>	783	Sep	1,175
Gadloch	1,020 <sup>13</sup>	1,100 <sup>13</sup>	600	1,990	780 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	1,098
West Freugh					1,000 <sup>6</sup>	Nov	1,000 ▲
Mill Dam and Balfour Mains Pools	1,720	676	1,095	850	374	Jan	943
Loch Garten	1,700 <sup>13</sup>	1,150 <sup>13</sup>	102	580 <sup>13</sup>			883
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Island of Westray	811 <sup>13</sup>	1,030 <sup>13</sup>	735 <sup>13</sup>				859 ▲

### British/Irish Greylag Goose

*Anser anser*

GB max: 40,055 Oct  
NI max: 1,706 Feb

Pooled 're-established' and 'Northwest Scotland' populations (previously listed separately)

Great Britain threshold: 1,400<sup>†</sup>  
All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

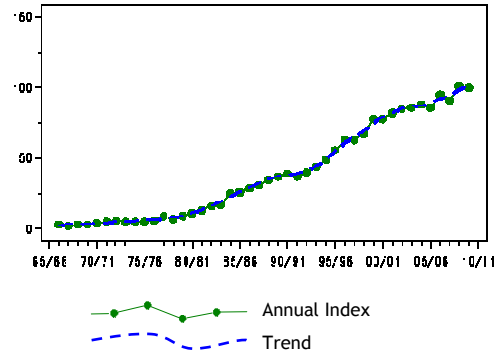


Figure 10.a, Annual indices & trend for British/Irish Greylag Goose for GB.

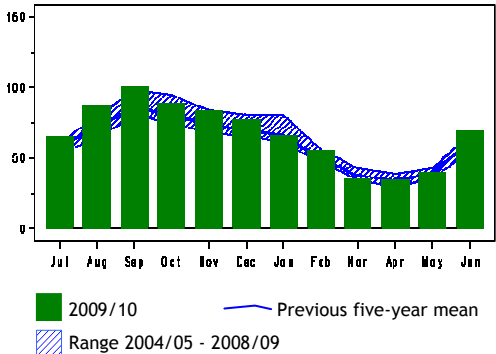


Figure 10.b, Monthly indices for British/Irish Greylag Goose for GB.

British/Irish Greylag Goose, listed as such in the annual WeBS report for the first time, refers to a combination of the

previously listed 're-established' and 'North West Scotland' populations of Greylag Goose. As these two populations have

spread towards each other in Scotland, it is no longer possible to make a clear distinction between them (Mitchell *et al.* 2010).

The annual index continues to illustrate a population of birds in the ascendancy, in keeping with the rise in the breeding population in the wider countryside (Baillie *et al.* 2010). Numbers were typically high during the late-summer period when birds form moulting flocks.

Following the change in the classification of resident Greylag Geese in Britain, six sites surpass a 1% population threshold of 1,400 birds (Musgrove *et al.* 2011). These include Nosterfield Gravel Pits, Lower

Derwent Ings and North Norfolk Coast in England, and Tiree and the Uists in Scotland. 2008/09 and 2009/10 WeBS Core count data exist for Nosterfield Gravel Pits, but unfortunately were unavailable in time for the publication of this report.

It should be noted that as a consequence of the reclassification of Greylag Goose populations, all nationally important sites are also of international importance. However, until such time that the British/Irish populations of Greylag Goose are recognised internationally, sites will be listed in the WeBS annual report as surpassing the threshold for national importance only.

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Tiree	3,892 <sup>32</sup>	4,005 <sup>32</sup>	3,694 <sup>32</sup>	3,370 <sup>32</sup>	2,848 <sup>32</sup>	Aug	3,562
North Uist	2,671 <sup>34</sup>	2,318 <sup>34</sup>	2,294 <sup>34</sup>	2,783 <sup>34</sup>	2,488 <sup>34</sup>	Aug	2,511
Nosterfield Gravel Pits	1,663	1,898	2,819				2,127
South Uist	2,119 <sup>34</sup>	1,719 <sup>34</sup>	1,141 <sup>34</sup>	1,971 <sup>34</sup>	2,482 <sup>34</sup>	Aug	1,886
Lower Derwent Ings	1,401	1,780	1,056	1,472	2,468	Nov	1,635
North Norfolk Coast	1,435	1,725	1,270	2,203	1,159	Dec	1,558
<b>Other sites with mean peak counts of 800+ birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Tophill Low Reservoirs	1,400	1,190	1,230	1,000 <sup>6</sup>	(890)	Nov	1,205
The Wash	1,005	1,337	1,159	1,200	1,291	Aug	1,198
Point of Ayre Gravel Pit	530	900	1,165	1,630	1,250	Sep	1,095
Humber Estuary	(525)	(785)	(906)	945	1,192	Aug	1,069
Ouse Washes	671	810	687 <sup>6</sup>	1,496	1,061	Oct	945
Dungeness and Rye Bay	702	773	1,409	964	740	Oct	918
Livermere and Ampton Water	879		1,285	784	642	Jan	898
Bolton-on-Swale Gravel Pits	774	615	1,585	716	732	Aug	884
Morecambe Bay	881	(617)	(585)	1,139	538	Feb	853
Windermere	488 <sup>8</sup>	985	767	843	1,184	Jun	853
King's Dyke Pits, Whittlesey	366	1,338	(0)	(90)	(46)	Jan	852
Alton Water	612	1,056	1,068	613	807	Sep	831
Broom Gravel Pits				397	(1,232) <sup>6</sup>	Aug	815
Hay-a-Park Gravel Pits	132	825	1,503	606	1,007	Sep	815
Swale Estuary	(1,062)	632	885	(681)	671	Feb	813
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 50+ birds in Northern Ireland<sup>†</sup></b>							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	(630)	662	1,284	(917)	1,294	Feb	1,080
Lough Foyle	1,129	974	716	750	194	Feb	753
Strangford Lough	355	277 <sup>6</sup>	431	513	462	Dec	408
Belfast Lough	147 <sup>6</sup>	196 <sup>6</sup>	134	86	87	Sep	130
Lower Lough Erne	140	140	38	(14)	(30)	Feb	106
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2009/10 in Great Britain</b>							
Abberton Reservoir	665	103	239	212	870	Aug	418

<sup>†</sup> as few sites surpass the revised British threshold (1,400) and no All-Ireland threshold has been set, qualifying levels of 800 & 50 have been chosen to select sites in Great Britain and Northern Ireland for presentation in this report.

## Bar-headed Goose

*Anser indicus*

Escape

Native Range: S Asia

Bar-headed Geese were recorded at 44 WeBS sites throughout Britain, with a monthly peak of 19 birds in October.

Maxima of six were present at both Grouville Marsh (Oct-Dec) and Duddon Estuary (May).

## Snow Goose

*Anser caerulescens*

Vagrant and escape  
Native Range: N America

Snow Geese were reported from 16 WeBS sites during 2009/10, with a monthly peak of 31 birds in November. Most records involved counts of 1-2, a notable exception being a flock of up to 25 at Harewood Lake. A regular group residing on Coll peaked at 27 birds in August (J. Bowler, pers. comm.).

Most Snow Geese seen in the UK are escapes from captivity, although singles with Pink-footed Geese at Loch of Strathbeg and North Norfolk Coast during the course of the winter may have been of more genuine provenance.

## Ross's Goose

*Anser rossii*

Escape and possible vagrant  
Native Range: N America

Nine sites, five of which are in Cambridgeshire, hosted Ross's Geese (all

presumed escapes) during the course of 2009/10.

## Emperor Goose

*Anser canagicus*

Escape  
Native Range: Alaska, NE Siberia

The resident flock of Emperor Geese were present at South Walney Island in

Morecambe Bay, peaking at 15 in July. There were no records from other sites.

## Canada Goose

*Branta canadensis*

Naturalised introduction†  
Native Range: N America

GB max: 60,207 Oct  
NI max: 349 Feb

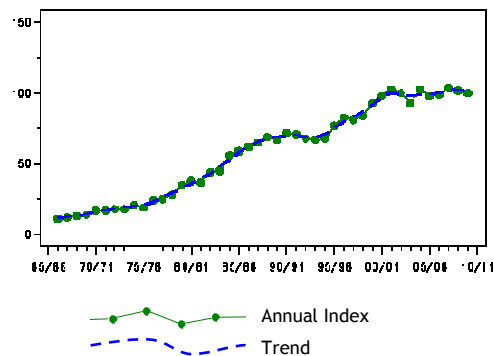


Figure 11.a, Annual indices & trend for Canada Goose for GB.

The last decade has witnessed relative stability in the overall British trend for Canada Goose, following the well-publicised increase during the 1980s and 1990s. However, population increases appear to be continuing towards the edge of the range of this naturalised population - exemplified by a marked rise in the trend at WeBS sites in Scotland, notable annual maxima at sites in north-west England, as well as a further

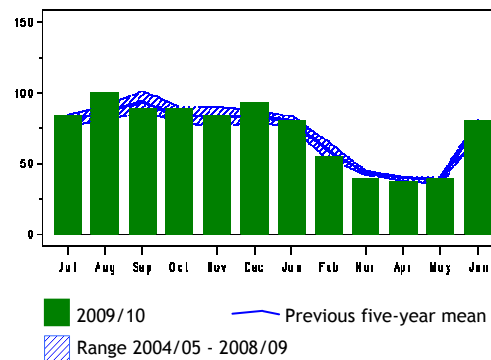


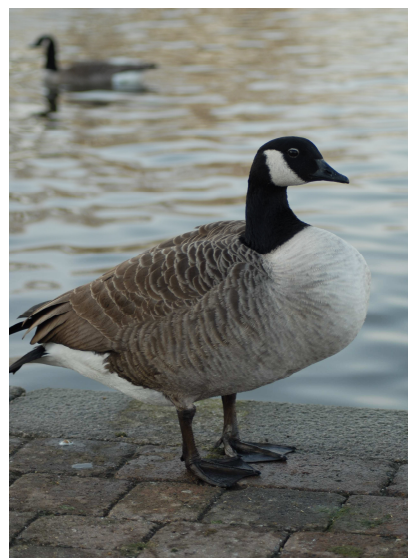
Figure 11.b, Monthly indices for Canada Goose for GB.

increase in the adjacent population in The Netherlands (Hornman *et al.* 2011).

In 2009/10, the highest ever count of Canada Geese at a single WeBS site was noted; 4,519 at Mersey Estuary in June, which helped to place the site at the top of the table below. Numbers there in mid-winter were also at the same high level as reached in 2008/09; a January count of 3,318 birds representing the most ever noted by WeBS during the month. Staying in

north-west England, the peak of 1,828 at Ribble Estuary in December represents the most ever reported from that site. Aside from these, counts of 1,000+ were received from a number of other locations, the most notable of which were from Arun Valley, Lower Derwent Ings, and Southampton Water where the peak was the most ever recorded. Conversely, lower than normal numbers were again reported from Abberton Reservoir.

In Northern Ireland, the national monthly maximum remained at a similarly relatively low level to the previous year, with Upper Lough Erne and Strangford Lough both yielding significantly lower maxima than their respective five-year means.



Canada Goose (Toni Cross)

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 700 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Mersey Estuary	2,188	2,160	2,706	3,500	4,519	Jun	3,015
Dyfi Estuary	2,947	2,420	2,799	3,319	2,478	Jul	2,793
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	1,987	1,810	2,536	3,204 <sup>10</sup>	2,303	Aug	2,368
Ribble Estuary	626	(1,245)	1,494	1,625	1,828	Dec	1,393
Colliford Reservoir	841	2,439	1,637	632	1,409	Jun	1,392
Medway Estuary	935 <sup>10</sup>	824	1,413	(1,123)	1,103	Oct	1,080
Rutland Water	1,070	1,118	1,009	1,063	1,084	Aug	1,069
Arun Valley	742	1,076	570	(939)	(1,535)	Nov	972
Alde Complex	780	684	1,131	1,248	851	Jan	939
Fairburn Ings	2,509	609	436	421	687	Aug	932
Taw-Torridge Estuary	(1,109)	986	(565)	647	944	Dec	922
Harewood Lake	888		1,080	630	999	Dec	899
Bewl Water	900	548	1,039	(669)	1,072 <sup>12</sup>	Dec	890
Lower Derwent Ings	712	688	573	703	1,697	Nov	875
Doxey Marshes SSSI	(601)	802	726	987	884	Sep	850
R. Severn: Atcham Bridge - Wroxeter		600	650	1,200	800	Dec	813
Dolydd Hafren	(800)	(500)					(800)
Ouse Washes	445	575	558	1,463 <sup>12</sup>	823 <sup>12</sup>	Nov	773
Osberton	427	1,212	790	850	542	Aug	764
Pitsford Reservoir	682	832	587	877	807	Oct	757
Windermere	505 <sup>12</sup>	747 <sup>12</sup>	796	967	693	Jun	742
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	564	(488)	516	1,130	(549)	Jul	737
Southampton Water	(674)	384	(526)	(795)	(1,248)	Oct	725
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Northern Ireland<sup>†</sup></b>							
Upper Lough Erne	484	665	390	301	202	Feb	408
Lower Lough Erne	532	365	286	(71)	(78)	Oct	394
Strangford Lough	260 <sup>10</sup>	247	161	166	120	Sep	191
Lough McNea Lower	147	44	148	27	60	Feb	85
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2009/10 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Severn Hams	(498)	378	260	221	926	Dec	457
Eccup Reservoir	969	905	20	147	899	Oct	588
Fisherwick and Elford Gravel Pits	349	119	250	701	793	Sep	442
Tees Estuary	302	504	447	443	761	Dec	491
Bar Mere	600	625	550	359	750	Dec	577
Eversley Cross and Yateley GPs Pits	393	330	631	234	739	Aug	465
Acre Nook Sand Quarry	223	151	48	42	726	Aug	238

<sup>†</sup> as no British or All-Ireland thresholds has been set, qualifying levels of 700 and 50 have been chosen to select sites in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report