

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

International threshold: 6,600[†]

GB max: 326 Aug
NI max: 3 Mar

The British maximum was the highest ever recorded for WeBS, being over twice as high as the previous year's total. Birds were noted at 94 sites across the UK, the majority of records coming from southeast England and the Isle of Wight maintaining its importance for the species. The highest single-site total was of 148 at Brading Harbour in August, a

new record for the site. Several other sites also supported new peak totals during 2005/06, including the Thames Estuary, Tamar Complex, Pagham Harbour, Foreland, Aberarth and Fishguard Harbour. In Northern Ireland, single birds were recorded at Lough Foyle and Belfast Lough, with two present at the Outer Ards Shoreline in March.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Folkestone: Copt Pnt/East Wear Bay				157 ⁴²			157
Brading Harbour	28	126	57	92	148	Aug	90
Newtown Estuary	65	80	(15)	(42)	57	Apr	67
Ryde Pier to Puckpool Point	8	45	9	47	45	Aug	31
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes					27 ⁴²	Jan	27
Thames Estuary	(13)	20	27	27	30	Aug	26
Tamar Complex	14	30	0	(26)	39	Sep	22
Pagham Harbour	0	16		2	60	Jan	20
Camel Estuary	(1)	8	25	26	18	Sep	19
Swansea Bay	20	16	19	12 ⁴²	28	Jul	19
Chichester Harbour	4 ¹²	(16)	(14)	(8)	(22)	Apr	13
Foreland	3	1	4	4	50	Jan	12
Fleet and Wey	2	2	4	8	23	Jan	8
Morecambe Bay	(1)	(4)	(4)	4	12	Jul	8
North Norfolk Coast	(6)	(13)	8	5	6	Apr	8
Poole Harbour	(2)	3	(7)	(12)	8	Mar	8
Aberarth		0	0	6	22	Aug	7
Taw-Torridge Estuary	3	7	(3)	(5)	12	Jul	7
The Wash	1	2	8	15	7	Apr	7
Ribble Estuary	9	7	8	(2)	0		6
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain[†]							
Fishguard Harbour	2	2	2	2	14	Sep	4
Beaulieu Estuary			0	0	9	Mar	3
Barton Pits	0	1	1	0	8	May	2
Lade Sands	1		3	0	6	Jul	3
Orwell Estuary	1	2 ¹⁰	3 ¹⁰	2 ¹⁰	6 ¹⁰	Jan	3
Tyne Estuary	1	1	0	1	5 ⁴²	Jan	2

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 5 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Laughing Gull

Larus atricilla

Vagrant
Native Range: America

GB max: 4 Nov
NI max: 0

There was a record influx of Laughing Gulls into the southwest in autumn 2005, which resulted in WeBS records at eight sites between November and March. All reports were of single birds and only at the Taw-Torridge Estuary and Traeth Bach did birds remain for more than one month. Reports at Welsh sites were from Kenfig Pools in

November and Traeth Bach December to February. All other records were from English sites and included Taw-Torridge Estuary in October, January, February and March, Portsmouth Harbour and Swanpool (Falmouth) in November and Chichester Harbour, Fal Complex and Shibdon Pond in December.

Franklin's Gull

Larus pipixcan

Vagrant
Native Range: America

GB max: 1 Nov
NI max: 0

Prior to 2005/06 only one Franklin's Gull had been recorded during WeBS, in December 1994. During the current WeBS year two records were received. In November, one was

recorded at Ruan Lanihorne in the Fal Complex, while in June, the first ever Guernsey record was reported from two adjacent stretches of the Guernsey Shore.

Little Gull

Larus minutus

International threshold: 1,230
Great Britain threshold: ?[†]
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 340 Apr
NI max: 2 Mar

Following the record peak of 2004/05 the British maximum returned to more usual levels. Much of this was due to the lower numbers recorded at Hornsea Mere, which in 2005/06 were the lowest since 1999/2000. Numbers at most sites were unremarkable, although the Low Tide total from the Alt

Estuary surpassed all previous WeBS counts at this site. In recent years, large numbers of Little Gulls have been present in the southern North Sea in autumn and the numbers recorded on WeBS counts depend greatly on the weather conditions around the dates of the counts.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Hornsea Mere	3,150 ¹¹	1,350 ¹¹	(940) ¹²	7,000	160	Sep	2,915
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Alt Estuary	212 ¹¹	218	432	201 ¹¹	530 ¹¹	Apr	319
Forth Estuary	22	41	75 ²⁸	321	(0)		115
Tophill Low Reservoirs	0	10	110 ¹²	75	(0)		49
Tay Estuary	(22)	50	36	28	26	Jul	35
Monikie Reservoirs		60	0	38	(0)		33
North Norfolk Coast	70	9	38	8	32	Jun	31
Minsmere	2	(15)	73	1	8	Aug	21
Morecambe Bay	31	1	36	7	3	Nov	16
East Chevington Pools	4	29	12	18	3	Jun	13
Lindisfarne	0	(0)	26	(0)	(0)		13
Alde Complex	0	0	0	0	49	Mar	10
Thames Estuary	(3)	17	(2)	3	(1)	Aug	10
Moray Firth				8 ¹	9 ¹	Nov	9
Outer Tay & St Andrews Bay			13 ²⁸	4 ²⁸			9
Dengie Flats	0		8	0	(22)	Nov	8
Humber Estuary	(0)	(2)	(12)	(0)	3	Jun	8
St Andrews Bay	8			7			8
Tring Reservoirs	0	1	40	0	0		8
Rescobie Loch	0	(11)					6

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 5 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Sabine's Gull

Larus sabini

Scarce

GB max: 1 Nov
NI max: 0

A single Sabine's Gull was recorded in Gerrans Bay during November. This was the

16th record of this species for WeBS and the first for three years.

Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: 19,000†

All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 183,960 Jan

NI max: 16,573 Jan

The British maximum has fallen below 200,000 for the first time since gulls were first regularly counted for WeBS back in 1993/94. Although analysis of gull data is not easy, given the fact that recording them is optional for WeBS, the current figure is over 10% lower than in the previous year and almost 30% lower than the ten-year average. The Northern Ireland maximum was over 2,000 higher than the previous year and the highest since 1999/2000.

In total, four sites held mean numbers exceeding 20,000 birds, although at no individual site were counts above this number submitted during 2005/06. In recent years, counts of gulls at key sites have been largely

influenced by the inclusion of Winter Gull Roost data, which have highlighted the importance of many sites for roosting birds, and further submission of gull roost counts for any sites would be most welcome. The highest single-site total during 2005/06 was at Morecambe Bay where over 16,000 birds were noted during July, when not all sections were covered. Peak totals from Tophill Low Reservoirs were particularly low and have fallen from 25,000 to just over 3,000 in the last five years. The key Northern Ireland site remains Belfast Lough where almost 10,000 birds were counted; this was the highest total ever recorded there by WeBS.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Thames Estuary	(22,911)	(30,275)	43,601 ⁴²	40,048	(14,737)	Dec	41,825
Bewl Water	33,000 ⁴²	57,000 ⁴²	31,000 ⁴²	69,000 ⁴²	440	Mar	38,088
Chew Valley Lake			29,800 ⁴²				29,800
Humber Estuary	(2,217)	(363)	21,450 ⁴²	(1,028)	(2,298)	Jul	21,450
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006†							
Lower Derwent Ings	4,500	25,300	28,000		11,000	Jan	17,200
Sites with mean peak counts of 10,000 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Poole Harbour	(7,386)	(12,461)	17,707 ⁴²	(11,811)	(5,720)	Mar	17,707
Lower Derwent Ings	4,500	25,300	28,000		11,000	Jan	17,200
Queen Mary Reservoir			16,836 ⁴²				16,836
The Wash	(16,136)	(15,999)	17,582 ⁴²	11,093	15,595	Aug	15,281
Church Wilne Reservoir			15,000 ⁴²				15,000
Southampton Water	(1,788)	(826)	14,822 ⁴²	(2,280)	(645)	Aug	14,822
Grafham Water			14,470 ⁴²				14,470
Morecambe Bay	7,795	(17,772)	12,574	16,757	(16,581)	Jul	14,296
Ribble Estuary	(24,460)	(821)	7,419 ⁴²	9,750 ⁴²	(10,228)	Jun	12,964
Hamilton Low & Strathclyde Parks			12,600 ⁴²				12,600
Southfield Reservoir			12,000 ⁴²				12,000
Exe Estuary				11,577 ¹¹			11,577
Tophill Low Reservoirs	25,000	11,900	8,900	8,385	3,170	Dec	11,471
Eyebrook Reservoir			11,300 ⁴²				11,300
Pitsford Reservoir	10,000 ¹¹	12,000 ¹¹	10,000 ⁴²				10,667
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth		7,452 ¹⁰	12,760 ⁴²	(210)	(76)	Nov	10,106
Severn Estuary	(5,725)	9,209 ¹⁰	13,139 ⁴²	9,656 ⁴²	8,278 ⁴²	Feb	10,071
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Belfast Lough	8,986 ¹²	5,503 ¹⁰	7,095 ¹⁰	7,515 ¹⁰	9,936 ¹⁰	Feb	7,807
Outer Ards Shoreline		4,945	5,113	2,419	4,566	Jan	4,261
Loughs Neagh and Beg	(2,787)	(4,036)	(1,593)	(2,267)	(3,472)	Mar	(4,036)
Strangford Lough	3,503 ¹⁰	3,518 ¹⁰	3,388	3,111	4,011 ¹⁰	Jan	3,506
Lough Foyle	1,627	2,780	1,300 ⁴²	1,057	2,565	Sep	1,866
Larne Lough	2,060	733	831	1,396	591	Sep	1,122
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain†							
Doddington Pool	0	600	150	11,000 ⁴²	12,000	Nov	4,750
Longnewton Reservoir	7,100	8,400	5,800	9,500	10,400	Sep	8,240
Lackford GPs	8,000 ¹¹	8,000	12,105 ⁴²	605	10,000	Jan	7,742

† as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set qualifying levels of 10,000 and 1,000 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

Vagrant
Native Range: N America

GB max: 3 Nov
NI max: 1 Mar

Ring-billed Gulls were reported from a total of 11 sites; eight in England and one each in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. All records were of single birds, although there were multiple site records from the Alt Estuary

in August and November, Thames Estuary in September, October, December, February and March and Fal Complex in November and March. The only record from Northern Ireland was from Belfast Lough in March.

Common Gull

Larus canus

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: 9,000†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 47,442 Mar
NI max: 5,362 Sep

The British maximum was almost 20% less than during the previous year and 25% less than in 2003/04. The Northern Ireland maximum was average compared to those of the past few years. Figures for key sites in the table below have, during the past few years, been augmented by the inclusion of totals from the Winter Gull Roost Survey. The importance of sites for roosting birds is highlighted by the figures recorded at Bewl Water, which has fallen from 75,000 during the Winter Gull Roost Survey to just 80 during standard Core Counts. As seen for Black-headed Gull,

numbers at Tophill Low Reservoirs have fallen and are currently a fifth of those five years ago. Mean numbers there, as well as at Haweswater Reservoir, have fallen below the international threshold, although the sites remain of national importance. Nevertheless, Haweswater Reservoir held the highest single site-total during 2005/06, whilst peak numbers at Rutland Water were also worthy of note. The key site in Northern Ireland was Lough Foyle where peak numbers were almost twice those of 2004/05.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Bewl Water	63,000 ⁴²	42,000 ⁴²	75,000 ⁴²	75,000 ⁴²	80	Mar	51,016
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Haweswater Reservoir	16,566 ¹¹	13,674 ¹¹	27,986 ⁴²	22,000 ¹¹	12,535 ¹¹	Mar	18,552 ▼
Tophill Low Reservoirs	33,000	23,100	16,530	6,500	6,340	Dec	17,094 ▼
Hallington Reservoir	4	24,000 ¹¹	25,000 ⁴²				16,335
Eyebrook Reservoir			16,100 ⁴²				16,100
Humber Estuary	(366)	(2,077)	29,000 ⁴²	2,005	(120)	Dec	15,503
Blyth Estuary	(1,337)		12,000 ⁴²				12,000 ▲
West Water Reservoir			10,050 ⁴²				10,050
Ribble Estuary	(8,653)	(146)	(6,036)	(9,817)	(253)	Dec	(9,817)
Chew Valley Lake	(0)		18,200 ⁴²		0		9,100
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006							
Derwent Reservoir	6,500	11,800 ¹¹	(6,500) ⁴²	1,714	3,500	Dec	6,003
Ullswater	(0)		11,470 ⁴²	(0)	0		5,735
Colt Crag Reservoir		8,200 ¹¹	4,700 ⁴²				6,450
Sites with mean peak counts of 3,000 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Rye Harbour and Pett Level			8,600 ⁴²				8,600
Solway Estuary	(1,398)	7,193	9,564 ⁴²	(2,275)	(285)	Aug	8,379
Rutland Water	50 ¹¹	100	12,080 ⁴²	14,500	10,000	Mar	7,346
Lower Derwent Ings	5,500	14,200	3,720 ⁴²		5,500	Jan	7,230
Southwold Sole Bay			5,000 ⁴²				5,000
North Norfolk Coast	(1,420)	(1,283)	5,600 ⁴²	(2,163)	4,342	Jan	4,971
Tees Estuary	8,130	2,970	4,033	6,193 ⁴²	2,103	Mar	4,686
Moray Firth	5,961 ¹	5,037 ¹	5,208 ¹	809 ¹			4,254
Eccup Reservoir	9,000	5,000	579 ⁴²	1,200			3,945
Hule Moss	2,200 ¹²	6,300 ¹²	5,600 ¹²	3,550	1,850	Nov	3,900

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Loch of Lintrathen	1,450		0	10,000			3,817
Loch of Skene	570	433	17,284 ⁴²	361	370	Dec	3,804
Lindisfarne	(2,920)	(370)	(3,644)	(580)	(252)	Sep	(3,644)
Forth Estuary	(1,658)	(1,356)	6,321 ⁴²	2,500 ⁴²	2,100 ⁴²	Dec	3,640
Morecambe Bay	3,632	3,194	4,358	3,633	2,802	Dec	3,524
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(1,519)	4,182	5,311	692	(309)	Jul	3,395
Wigtown Bay	(4,277)	1,427	3,251	7,269	675	Dec	3,380
Pitsford Reservoir	3,000 ¹¹	4,000 ¹¹	3,000 ⁴²				3,333
Hamilton Low Parks and Strathclyde Park			3,200 ⁴²				3,200
Chichester Harbour	2,062	4,142	3,389	3,778	2,379	Feb	3,150
Severn Estuary	1,500 ¹²	746 ¹⁰	3,714 ⁴²	4,259 ⁴²	5,110 ⁴²	Feb	3,066
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Lough Foyle	3,300	4,606	(5,930)	2,322	4,354	Sep	4,102
Belfast Lough	2,103 ¹²	2,718	2,644 ¹⁰	1,937 ¹⁰	2,156	Feb	2,312
Outer Ards Shoreline		772	2,543	1,171	1,328	Mar	1,454
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain[†]							
Tyne Estuary	240	489	4,450 ⁴²	95	5,000 ⁴²	Dec	2,055
Burry Inlet	1,513	2,315	4,239	942	3,953	Aug	2,592
Thames Estuary	3,135	2,041	2,319 ⁴²	(3,669)	3,768	Aug	2,986
Lade Sands	0		2,000	2,000	3,000	Jan	1,750

[†] as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set qualifying levels of 3,000 and 1,000 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

International threshold: 5,500
Great Britain threshold: 500
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 29,065 Jun
NI max: 1,839 Sep

The Great Britain maximum count was the lowest since 2001/02, whereas the Northern Ireland maximum was three times higher than that for 2004/05 and was the second highest in the province recorded for WeBS. The key site for this species is traditionally Morecambe Bay, notably around the breeding colony at South Walney, although the peak count here was much lower than in previous years being 30% below the five-year peak mean. Six sites (Lakenheath Fen, Ribble Estuary, Ouse Washes, Dee Flood Meadows, Heaton Park

Reservoir and Heathfield Gravel Pits) attained nationally important status with four further sites surpassing table-qualifying levels for the year. In Northern Ireland, increased coverage at Loughs Neagh and Beg confirmed its status as the key site and a high peak at Belfast Lough was over double the five year peak mean for the site. As mentioned for other gull species, assessment of the relative importance of different sites for this species would be much enhanced by further submission of roost counts from key sites.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Morecambe Bay	31,620	36,461	31,479	33,004	21,932	Jun	30,899
Theale Gravel Pits	(0)	(3)	20,000 ⁴²	1,152 ⁴²	(74)	Dec	10,576
Chew Valley Lake	(0)		7,015 ⁴²		(0)		7,015
Queen Mary Reservoir			6,656 ⁴²				6,656
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(687)	(25)	5,800 ⁴²	(44)	(141)	Dec	5,800
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Severn Estuary	945	(3,072)	(8,073)	(10,036)	4,696 ⁴²	Feb	5,364
River Avon: Fordingbridg/Ringwd	3,478	2,309	6,550 ⁴²	3,500	5,100	Oct	4,187
Ribble Estuary	(91)	(244)	(106)	(113)	(3,011)	Jun	(3,011) ▲
Great Pool Westwood Park	1,350	2,000	3,800 ⁴²	2,500	2,500	Jan	2,430
Longnewton Reservoir	970	2,680	1,890	2,930	3,310	Sep	2,356
Rutland Water	2,000 ¹¹	5,000	2,500	200	1,200	Apr	2,180
Hule Moss	3,090 ¹²	2,100 ¹²	250 ¹²	2,400	2,500	Sep	2,068
Thames Estuary	1,560	1,507	1,898 ⁴²	2,966	(775)	Sep	1,983
Alt Estuary	1,619	4,341	(945)	556	614	Aug	1,783
Alde Complex	767 ¹⁰	4,474	388 ⁴²	1,833	1,162	Mar	1,725

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Frampton Pools	1,500	(250)					1,500
Belvide Reservoir			3,000 ⁴²	0			1,500
Lower Windrush Valley GPs	3,166	871	484	1,343	1,071	Jan	1,387
Blithfield Reservoir	0			2,620 ⁴²			1,310
Roadford Reservoir	52	70	6,031 ⁴²	110	71	Apr	1,267
Llangorse Lake	1,170 ¹²	1,110 ¹¹	1,140 ¹²	2,660 ¹¹	28	Oct	1,222
Bartley Reservoir			1,200 ⁴²				1,200
Pitsford Reservoir	550 ¹¹	1,000 ¹¹	2,000 ¹²				1,183
Hurleston Reservoir	65	700	1,500 ⁴²	3,500 ⁴²	84	Oct	1,170
Chelmarsh Reservoir	500	(34)	3,500 ⁴²	83	56	Jan	1,035
Solway Estuary	(243)	(673)	(971)	(154)	(253)	Aug	(971)
The Wash	(582)	855	898	1,039	(1,075)	Jul	967
Portworthy Mica Dam	(2,000)	419	700	960 ⁴²	469	Sep	910
Cleddau Estuary	825	659	723	1,537	552	Oct	859
Lakenheath Fen				0	1,500	Jan	750 ▲
Wellington Gravel Pits		(1,400)	750	100			750
Haweswater Reservoir	231 ¹¹	400 ¹¹	1,450 ¹²				694
Ouse Washes	37 ¹²	104	760 ⁴²	256	2,305	Jan	692 ▲
Hayle Estuary	(340)	130	940	980	(552)	Feb	683
Llys-y-fran Reservoir	6	2,000	90	650	600	Jan	669
Inner Firth of Clyde	(557)	544	705	509	769	Aug	632
Burghfield Gravel Pits			618 ⁴²				618
Dee Flood Meadows	(52)	(0)	(4)	(0)	600	Nov	600 ▲
Heaton Park Reservoir	350 ¹²	920 ¹¹	200 ⁴²	870 ⁴²			585 ▲
Heathfield Gravel Pits	260	300	(1,000)				520 ▲
Hollowell Reservoir			500 ⁴²				500
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006							
Blyth Estuary	(93)		200 ⁴²				200
Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	(228)	1,218	1,115	(434)	997	Sep	1,110
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain†							
Camel Estuary	452	117	769	142	606	Jan	417
Fernworthy Reservoir	4	61	(139)	663	548	Nov	319
Langford Lowfields Gravel Pits	6		30	112	540	Nov	172
Heritage Park Loch	28	75	46	28	500	Jul	135
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Northern Ireland†							
Belfast Lough	79	279	310	246	792	Sep	341

† as no All-Ireland threshold has been set a qualifying level of 500 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Yellow-legged Gull / Caspian Gull

Larus michahellis / *Larus (argentatus) cachinnans*

International threshold: 7,000†

GB max: 178 Aug
NI max: 1 Nov

Yellow-legged Gulls were recorded from 34 sites, all of which were in England apart from one at Belfast Lough in Northern Ireland. The monthly maximum was slightly higher than the previous year. The highest site total was again recorded at Southampton Water, whilst maximum figures from the Thames Estuary, Poole Harbour and River Avon – Fordingbridge to Ringwood were all much lower than in 2004/05.

Caspian Gulls were recorded from seven sites, with a notable cluster of records in the Nene Valley where birds were noted at Earls Barton,

Ditchford and Clifford Hill Gravel Pits. Other records came from Minsmere, Weirwood Reservoir, Welbeck Estate and the Thames Estuary. All records were of single birds and all occurred between October and March, in contrast to the late-summer peak shown by Yellow-legged Gull. The taxonomic subcommittee of the British Ornithologists Union has recently recommended that Caspian Gull should be treated as a separate species, *Larus michahellis*, and, following adoption by the BOU Records Committee, this recommendation will be followed by WeBS in future years.

Sites with 5 or more Yellow-legged Gulls in Great Britain†

Southampton Water	157	Aug	Great Pool Westwood Park	6	Jan, Feb
Thames Estuary	16	Oct	Pagham Harbour	5	Jul
Poole Harbour	9	Oct	River Avon: Fordingbridg/Ringwd	5	Sep, Dec, Jan

† as no sites exceed the international threshold and no British or Northern Ireland thresholds have been set, a qualifying level of 5 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

International threshold: 5,900
Great Britain threshold: 4,500†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 47,346 Feb
NI max: 10,802 Jan

The British maximum was almost half that of the previous year though was more in line with figures from years preceding 2004/05. The Northern Ireland total was the highest ever for the province and was over 25% higher than in the previous year. However, as the recording of gulls remains optional during WeBS these totals are largely dependent on the level of coverage of this group.

Following a re-evaluation of the international 1% threshold level downwards from 13,000 to 5,900, a total of eight UK sites

now qualify as internationally important for Herring Gull, although assessment of the true importance of sites would be enhanced by submission of further roost counts where possible. The highest single-site total was recorded during Low Tide Counts at Belfast Lough, whereas the highest WeBS total was at Morecambe Bay, albeit the lowest ever recorded at the site. Mean numbers at the North Norfolk Coast have fallen below the national importance threshold; the count there was the lowest for almost ten years.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ribble Estuary	(9,767)	(209)	14,859 ⁴²	(31,090)	(2,060)	Jun	22,975
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth		27,956 ¹⁰	(2,341)	(2,003)	3,000	Nov	15,478
Forth Estuary	(1,868)	(1,925)	7,376 ⁴²	(15,434)	(1,780)	Oct	11,405
Morecambe Bay	12,170	14,373	10,551	8,311	7,488	May	10,579
Belfast Lough	9,157	7,046	7,536 ¹⁰	7,903 ¹⁰	10,296 ¹⁰	Feb	8,388
Queen Mary Reservoir			8,279 ⁴²				8,279
Moray Firth	9,564 ¹	10,335 ¹	6,468 ¹	2,349 ¹			7,179
The Wash	(7,603)	7,640	10,703 ⁴²	3,258	3,527	Apr	6,546
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Rye Harbour and Pett Level			5,850 ⁴²				5,850
Hastings to Bexhill			5,700 ⁴²				5,700
Isle of May					5,220 ⁴²	Jan	5,220 ▲
Llandegfedd Reservoir				4,710 ⁴²			4,710
Hamilton Low & Strathclyde Parks			4,600 ⁴²				4,600 ▲
Thames Estuary	2,867	3,330	(4,349)	8,504	3,680	Aug	4,595
Sites with mean peak counts of 2,500 or more birds in Great Britain†							
North Norfolk Coast	5,062	3,964	(3,047)	5,307	2,340	Mar	4,168
Alt Estuary	1,440	3,153	3,825 ⁴²	7,155	(2,150)	Feb	3,893
Chew Valley Lake			3,400 ⁴²				3,400
Roughrigg Reservoir	47	1,121	15,144 ⁴²	416	210	Dec	3,388
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(778)	3,602	4,052 ⁴²	4,244	1,210	Jun	3,277
Severn Estuary	(345)	2,981 ¹⁰	3,500 ⁴²	(3,164)	(2,666)	May	3,241
Troon Meikle Craigs			3,174 ⁴²				3,174
Dungeness Gravel Pits		(400)	3,000 ⁴²	(500)			3,000
Caldey Island			2,800 ⁴²				2,800
Solway Estuary	(2,719)	3,281	2,189 ⁴²	(1,051)	(480)	Aug	2,735
Guernsey Shore	1,972	2,127	(2,759)	(3,744)	(2,362)	Oct	2,593
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Outer Ards Shoreline		1,001	(1,351)	1,179	1,304	Mar	1,209
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain†							
Loch of Strathbeg	(51)	360	775	220	4,342	Dec	1,424
Burry Inlet	2,106	2,834	1,904	1,089	3,007	Sep	2,188
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Northern Ireland†							
Lough Foyle	93	63	182	151	1,480	Jan	394

† as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set qualifying levels of 2,500 and 1,000 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

Iceland Gull*Larus glaucoides*

International threshold: 2,000

GB max: 9 Feb
NI max: 3 Jan

Iceland Gulls were recorded at 21 sites throughout the UK, although most reports were from Scotland and England. The highest total was of four at Loch Eriboll in February and there were reports of two and three at

Belfast Lough in January and March respectively. All other records were of single birds with none reported in more than one month.

Glaucous Gull*Larus hyperboreus*

International threshold: 10,000

GB max: 4 Feb
NI max: 0

Glaucous Gulls were recorded from nine sites, all but two of which were in Scotland. In England, singles were reported at the Otter Estuary in January and February and Hurworth Burn Reservoir in February. In Scotland,

singles were present at Uyea Sound in October, North Ronaldsay Lochs in November, Burra Firth in January and February, Strathy Bay in February, and Loch of Skail and Ugie Estuary in March.

Great Black-backed Gull*Larus marinus*

International threshold: 4,400

Great Britain threshold: 400

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]GB max: 9,740 Oct
NI max: 1,918 Jan

Following a record low British maximum count in 2004/05, numbers were back to more usual levels, although still somewhat below the peaks of previous years. The Northern Ireland maximum increased to a new record high however. Despite a re-evaluation of the international 1% threshold downwards from 4,700 to 4,400, no UK site reaches this level. Twenty-five British sites surpassed national

qualifying levels, one less than in 2004/05. The Wash remains the key site for this species whilst the counters at the Thames Estuary recorded their highest count to date. Conversely, counts at Tophill Low Reservoirs were the lowest ever recorded for WeBS. The peak count from Belfast Lough was the highest for over six years, as was the peak from Lough Foyle.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
The Wash	4,515	1,959	4,628	(1,480)	1,773	Sep	3,219
Humber Estuary	(83)	(113)	2,200 ⁴²	(226)	(66)	Aug	2,200
Thames Estuary	(412)	1,236 ¹⁰	857 ⁴²	1,648	1,972	Oct	1,428
Tees Estuary	(1,038)	702	1,523	1,657	(366)	Jan	1,294
Lower Derwent Ings	2,200	777	1,041 ⁴²		500	Jan	1,130
Lynemouth Ash Lagoons			1,074				1,074
Grafham Water			1,050 ⁴²				1,050
Dungeness Gravel Pits	(0)		1,000 ⁴²	(0)			1,000
Coquet Island			980 ⁴²				980
Ogston Reservoir			900 ⁴²				900
Pegwell Bay	1,000	1,305 ¹⁰	305	610	1,190	Oct	882
Tophill Low Reservoirs	900	3,030	223 ⁴²	120	17	Aug	858
Durham Coast	(16)	(21)	(41)	(684)	776	Oct	776
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth		1,432 ¹⁰	70	(93)	(4)	Nov	751
Moray Firth	884 ¹	1,001 ¹	674 ¹	336 ¹			724
North Norfolk Coast	748	617	1,051	327	471	Oct	643
Loch of Strathbeg	(129)	569	(606)	191	795	Dec	540
Hastings to Bexhill			520 ⁴²				520

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Eyebrook Reservoir			500 ⁴²				500
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	(67)	(55)	(200)	495	(347)	Aug	495
Guernsey Shore	(205)	353	560	404	(477)	Jan	449
Hanningfield Reservoir	(0)	1,098 ⁴²	437 ⁴²	0	140	Nov	419
Southfield Reservoir			408 ⁴²				408
Hoveringham & Bleasby GPs	0		1,600 ⁴²	2	0		401
Romney Sands			400 ⁴²				400
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006							
Morecambe Bay	331	353	(322)	(296)	(294)	Jul	342
Forth Estuary	(108)	(211)	286 ¹⁰	(239)	(84)	Oct	286
Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Belfast Lough	458	397	436 ¹⁰	1,008	1,281	Jan	716
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain†							
Fleet and Wey	576	87	200 ⁴²	142	873	Nov	376
Cambois to Newbiggin	75	108	156	162	(600)	Oct	220
Camel Estuary	247	233	278	117	492	Jan	273
Lade Sands	0		200	250	400	Jan	213
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Northern Ireland†							
Lough Foyle	397	(221)	340	199	503	Dec	360

† as no All-Ireland threshold has been set a qualifying level of 500 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: ?†

All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 2,404 Jul

NI max: 25 Sep

The British maximum was over twice that of the preceding year, and was recorded in July rather than September. Half of this July total was recorded at Loch of Strathbeg, which lies close to known concentrations of breeding birds. Scotland remains the key region for this species with 11 out of the 16 sites holding mean numbers exceeding 200. Four of the

remaining five are in northeast England. The Northern Ireland maximum was the highest for three years and all of the birds involved that month were recorded at Belfast Lough, whilst other counts were of 11 at Larne Lough in November and two at Loughs Neagh and Beg in March.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Loch of Strathbeg	0	940	6,300	152	1,130	Jul	1,704
Nigg Bay to Cove Bay				846			846
Lunan Bay	0	400	3,400	100	250	May	830
Arran	1,700	185	290	340	701	Sep	643
Tay Estuary	266	1,100	133	690	740	Aug	586
Loch Linnhe: Camas Shallachain	500						500
The Wash		(481) ³⁰					(481)
Farne Islands	920			0			460
Tweed Estuary	340	470	860	114	340	Jul	425
Tees Estuary	20	30	1,492	(56)	61	Apr	401
Loch a` Phuill (Tiree)	406	1,128	276	104	54	Jun	394
Forth Estuary	(274)	(453)	(426)	170	(276)	Sep	320
Durham Coast	(0)	(0)	(0)	(279)	(250)	Jul	(279)
Beadnell to Seahouses	0	160	350	140	512	Jun	232
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	(18)	0	153	534	(165)	Aug	229
Solway Estuary	(574)	(300)	(47)	0	(150)	Apr	214
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain†							
Anstruther Harbour	4	4	20	14	550	Jun	118

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 200 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report