
Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

International threshold: 490
Great Britain threshold: ?[†]
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 962 Jul
NI max: 0

The count of Little Terns at the Dee Estuary (England & Wales) was the second highest ever recorded at the site, the highest being of 700 in August 1995. This count was also the highest during 2005/06 and pushes the site mean above that of the North Norfolk Coast,

traditionally the key site for this species. Numbers at several sites in the southern half of England were low, noticeably at Chichester Harbour where the peak was the lowest for over six years.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(0)	242	(256)	300	411	Jul	318
North Norfolk Coast	(265)	(280)	(405)	233	246	Jul	286
The Wash	(103)	(36)	68	(108)	182	Jul	125
Thames Estuary	(1)	(100)	(28)	33	74	Aug	69
Durham Coast		(6)		(0)	67	Jun	67
Chichester Harbour	200 ¹²	42	28	36	14	May	64
Duddon Estuary		28	42	84	92	Jun	62

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

Gull-billed Tern

Gelochelidon nilotica

Vagrant
Native Range: S & E Europe, America, Asia

GB max: 1 May
NI max: 0

A single Gull-billed Tern was reported at the Taw-Torridge Estuary (Caen to Whitehouse section) during May. This was the fourth

record for WeBS, the last being at Drift Reservoir in September 2002.

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

International threshold: 7,500
Great Britain threshold: ?
All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 27 Aug
NI max: 2 Sep

Black Terns were recorded at 16 sites in 2005, well below the 40 sites in 2004. There were no spring records and the first birds of the year were not noted until August when the national maximum reached 27; this was less than a third of the 2004 figure. Up to nine birds were present at Doddington Pool in August, while

counts of five and four were recorded at Dengie Flats and the Thames Estuary, respectively, during the same month. Birds were reported throughout September and October and the latest record for the year was of a single bird at Wigtown Bay in November.

White-winged Black Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

Vagrant
Native Range: E Europe, Asia

GB max: 1 Sep
NI max: 0

Whilst there have been ten previous records of White-winged Black Tern during WeBS counts, the one recorded at River Clyde,

Lamington, in September was the first time this species had been counted in Scotland.

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

International threshold: 1,700

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 8,628 Jul

NI max: 312 Sep

The British maximum fell by a quarter compared to the previous year, whereas the Northern Ireland figure rose slightly. As the recording of terns is optional for WeBS, these values can vary largely due to coverage as well as changes in numbers at the key locations. Sandwich Terns were recorded in every month in 2005 and from 117 sites across the UK. The highest count from any single site was of 3,228

on the North Norfolk Coast in July, although this was the lowest peak total for this, the principal UK site for this species, for over five years. Low counts were also noted at Dundrum Bay. Numbers at Cemlyn Bay & Lagoon have remained over 2,000 for the third year running helping this site maintain its internationally important status.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
North Norfolk Coast	(3,365)	(4,600)	4,170	5,533	3,228	Jul	4,383
Forth Estuary	(994)	(2,317)	2,802	(1,526)	(1,243)	Jul	2,802
Cemlyn Bay and Lagoon	0		2,455	2,700	2,000	Jun	1,789
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(11)	1,632	716	759	829	Jul	984
Tees Estuary	35	974	2,601	(333)	221	Jun	958
Duddon Estuary	(0)	704	955	1,144	604	Jun	852
Solway Estuary	(235)	(206)	(548)	(282)	(209)	Aug	(548)
Ythan Estuary		930	150				540
Morecambe Bay	(0)	220	531	500	(110)	May	417
Humber Estuary	(124)	(396)	(303)	(324)	(325)	Jul	(396)
The Wash	512	150	223	208	307	Aug	280
Tay Estuary	167	461	310	96	126	May	232
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Dundrum Bay	296	722	264	173	133	Aug	318
Belfast Lough	409	357	136	99	255	Sep	251
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2005 in Great Britain[†]							
Farne Islands	72	120		(0)	295	Apr	162
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	0	30	3	158	(254)	Sep	89
Lavan Sands	(7)	25	170	250	235	Aug	170

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

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

International threshold: 1,900

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 5,186 Jul

NI max: 136 May

The British peak was comparable with that of previous year while the maximum in Northern Ireland was the highest recorded in the province. However, the national totals depend on the level of coverage and as the recording of terns is optional these figures will depend on which sites terns were counted at. Furthermore, the majority of sites in Northern Ireland are usually only counted during the core winter period and further counts in the

summer months would undoubtedly lead to higher peaks.

Numbers at the Alt Estuary, as well as being the highest ever recorded at the site, were the highest single site total during 2005/06. In general, numbers at most other sites were around average with several of the lower than average counts being due to incomplete coverage.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Alt Estuary	800 ¹¹	900 ¹¹	1,664	1,135	2,010	Aug	1,302
Tees Estuary	(12)	696	1,678	1,251	(521)	Jun	1,208
Thames Estuary	(190)	(158)	(224)	(553)	(219)	Aug	(553)
North Norfolk Coast	(213)	(321)	419	476	450	Jun	448
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(3)	422	(384)	(180)	(109)	Jul	422
Forth Estuary	(40)	(691)	193	(183)	(287)	Jul	390
Chichester Harbour	500 ¹²	130 ¹²					315
Southampton Water	(300)	(50)	(7)	(63)	(62)	Aug	(300)
Humber Estuary	(6)	(291)	280	(160)	(61)	Aug	286
The Wash	(435)	(102)	122	199	129	Aug	221
Ythan Estuary		18	415				217
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2005 in Great Britain†							
Loch of Strathbeg	0	108	199	151	449	Jul	181
Don Estuary	0	4	7	39	260	Jul	62

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

Roseate Tern

Scarce

Sterna dougallii

GB max: 3 Jul
NI max: 0

Roseate Terns were reported from just five sites during 2005, the lowest number for several years with counts from one of the key areas, St Mary's Island, unavailable. The earliest record was of two at the Forth Estuary

in May, with birds in June being one at East Chevington Pools and two at the Duddon Estuary, followed by two in July at Alnmouth and one at the Alt Estuary in the same month.

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

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

GB max: 2,365 Jul
NI max: 0

Reflecting the northerly breeding distribution of Arctic Tern, 75% of the key sites for this species were in Scotland with the remainder in northern England. On average, the Farne Islands remains the key site but in recent years terns have not been counted during the summer months at this site. The July count of 2,100 at Loch of Strathbeg was the highest-ever count at a single site. The previous

highest count, also at this site, was in August 1995.

The high count at Loch of Strathbeg greatly influenced this year's British maximum, which as always is greatly dependent on the number of sites at which terns are recorded. New site peaks were reached at Loch of Beith, Loch An Duin (Aird Point) (Lewis), Cemlyn Bay & Lagoon, North Norfolk Coast, Beadnell to Seahouses and Loch Paible (North Uist).

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Farne Islands	(600)	(0)		(0)	(0)		(600)
Loch of Strathbeg	0	35	(68)	40	2,100	Jul	544
Ythan Estuary		106	860				483
Loch of Beith		150 ¹²	31		1,000	Aug	394
Forth Estuary	2	(1,214)	197	(186)	7	Aug	321
Loch An Duin (Aird Point) (Lewis)					300	Jun	300
Loch a' Phuill (Tiree)	473	477	150	120	58	Jun	256
Tay Estuary	32	660	290	0	10	Jul	198
Morecambe Bay		94	(178)	(59)	(16)	May	136

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Mon	Mean
Eden Estuary	(53)	125	320	4	0		112
The Houb (Whalsay)	0	120	82	300	3	Aug	101
Cambois to Newbiggin	5	246	0				84
St Andrews Bay	44	29	(0)	192	70	Aug	84
Braewick Loch	70	170	50	30	8	Jun	66
Inner Loch Indaal		51	76				64
Lindisfarne	(0)		(1)	3	(120)	Jun	62
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2005 in Great Britain†							
Cemlyn Bay and Lagoon	0		23	17	80	Jun	30
North Norfolk Coast	(0)	(2)	12	(16)	(65)	May	31
Balta Sound	7	9	0	55	55	May	25
Beadnell to Seahouses	0	0	1	0	53	Jul	11
Loch Bhasapoll (Tiree)	17	22	36	9	50	Jun	27
Loch Paible (North Uist)		10	36	20	50	Jun	29

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

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

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

GB max: 485 Oct
NI max: 7 Dec

Following a slight drop in 2004/05, the Great Britain peak rose again to its highest ever level. Twelve sites held five-year mean peaks of seven or more birds, two less than in the previous year, and gravel pit complexes again tended to produce the highest counts. The top

site remained the Somerset Levels, though the peak count was slightly lower than for 2004/05. As ever, however, WeBS methodology is not ideal for surveying the fortunes of this widespread but often elusive species.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 7 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Somerset Levels	16	(14)	(12)	20	(18)	Oct	18
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	14	19	12	18	16	Sep	16
Ditchford Gravel Pits	7		13	12	13	Sep	11
Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	11	8	10	6	8	Sep	9
Pitsford Reservoir	11	9	11	(3)	6	Sep	9
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	12	4	10	6	9	Sep	8
Southampton Water	5	(5)	(6)	9	(11)	Oct	8
Avon Valley: Salisbury/Fordingbridge	(3)	(4)	(6)	(5)	(7)	Nov	(7)
Chichester Gravel Pits	3	4	7	9	11	Feb	7
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	(3)	(4)	(4)	5	9	Sep	7
North Norfolk Coast	4 ¹⁰	7	6	8	10	Oct	7
Thames Estuary	3	9	(7)	7	10	Oct	7
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain†							
Taw-Torridge Estuary	4	5	(5)	(5)	9	Sep	6
Chilham and Chartham Gravel Pits	1	2	3	3	9	Sep	4
Orwell Estuary	(2) ¹⁰	(4)	10 ⁵	(5)	7	Dec	6
Wraysbury Pond	1		0	2	7	Dec	3

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 7 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report