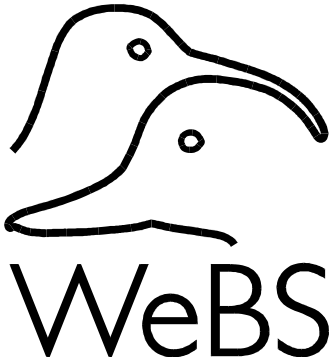
Waterbirds in the UK 2009/10
The Wetland Bird Survey

Chas Holt, Graham Austin, Neil Calbrade, Heidi Mellan, Carl Mitchell, David Stroud, Simon Wotton & Andy Musgrove



Published by

British Trust for Ornithology,
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
and Joint Nature Conservation Committee
in association with
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

July 2011

ISBN 978-1-906204-33-4
ISSN 1755-6384

This publication should be cited as:
Holt, C.A., Austin, G.E., Calbrade, N.A., Mellan, H.J., Mitchell, C., Stroud, D.A., Wotton, S.R. & Musgrove, A.J. 2011. *Waterbirds in the UK 2009/10: The Wetland Bird Survey*. BTO/RSPB/JNCC, Thetford.

Published by: BTO, RSPB and JNCC in association with WWT. www.bto.org/webs

Cover: Goosanders on ice at the Nunnery Lakes - by Richard Thewlis.
Birds have been a life-long interest for Richard, who has worked for the past eleven years at the BTO. He is an accomplished wildlife artist whose work has been published in a wide range of books, journals and on-line. His work is derived from direct field observations of live subjects, both in the UK and abroad. To see more of Richard's work, visit his website: www.richardthewlis.co.uk

Photos: Dawn Balmer, Neil Calbrade, Kevin Carlson, Nigel Clark, Sue Clayton, Toni Cross, Al Downie, Graeme Garner, John Harding, Tommy Holden, Andy Musgrove, Jill Pakenham, Mike Toms, Mike Weston, Peter M Wilson

Artwork: Andrew Chick, C.J.F. Coombs, Ben Green, Alan Harris, Andy McKay, Richard Richardson, Steve Suttill, Thelma Sykes, Richard Thewlis

Produced by the BTO.
Printed by Crowes Complete Print, 50 Hurricane Way, Norwich, NR6 6JB. www.crowes.co.uk

Available from: BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU, UK.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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

Phil Atkinson, Niall Burton, Nigel Clark, Mark Collier, Aonghais Cook, COWRIE, Olivia Crowe, Iain Downie, Simon Gillings, Colette Hall, Mark Hammond, Paul Harrup, Paul Harvey, Richard Hearn, Andrew Joys, Maria Knight, Ilya Maclean, John Marchant, Nick Moran, Marcia Sayer, Judith Smith, Ron Summers, Richard Thewlis, Rick Vonk, Chris Waltho, Colin Wells, Linda Wilson, Ilka Win, Karen Wright and Lucy Wright. Many amateur observers also provide reports of their studies; these are acknowledged within the text.

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

The WETLAND BIRD SURVEY

Organised and funded by

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

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

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

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

WeBS CONTACTS

WeBS Counter Network: Heidi Mellan
WeBS Core Counts: Chas Holt
WeBS Low Tide Counts: Neil Calbrade
General queries: webs@bto.org

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

GOOSE & SWAN CENSUSES

Organised and funded by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Contact: Carl Mitchell
E-mail: Carl.Mitchell@wwt.org.uk
or monitoring@wwt.org.uk

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
Slimbridge
Glos GL2 7BT, UK
Tel: 01453 891225
Fax: 01453 891901
www.wwt.org.uk/speciesmonitoring

OTHER NATIONAL WATERBIRD SURVEYS

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

ERRATA TO PREVIOUS REPORTS

Please note the following corrections to data previously presented:

Dunlin: The peak counts of Dunlin at Mersey Estuary and Dee Estuary in 2006/07 were wrongly listed in the annual reports for 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09. The figures for those sites should have read 34,600 and 15,584, respectively (as now shown).

Appendix 1: recent reports have incorrectly listed *brittanica* as the subspecies/ population of Redshank used for threshold-based site selection. This should have read *robusta*.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements 2
The Wetland Bird Survey 3
WeBS Contacts 3
National Goose Censuses 3
Other National Waterbird Surveys 3
Errata to previous reports 3

Summary 5

Introduction 7
Aims, Objectives & Methods* 7
Weather in 2009/10 8
Coverage 10

Total Numbers 11

Species Accounts 24
- Swans 25
- Geese 30
- Ducks 48
- Divers 84
- Grebes 87
- Cormorants 92
- Herons 94
- Rails 99
- Waders 104
- Gulls 140
- Terns 151
- Kingfisher 154

Principal Sites 155

WeBS Low Tide Counts 160
Aims, Methods, Data presentation 160
Estuary Accounts 161
Acknowledgements 174

References 175

Glossary 179

Appendices 181
Appendix 1. International and National Importance 181
Appendix 2. Locations of Principal WeBS Count Sites 184

* Details of WeBS Core Count survey methods, analysis, presentation of data, and interpretation of waterbird counts, are now available via the WeBS website at www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs/publications/annual-reports

Summary

WeBS AND 'WATERBIRDS IN THE UK'

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) is a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), in association with Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), to monitor non-breeding waterbirds in the UK.

The principal aims of the scheme are to identify population sizes, determine trends in numbers and distribution, and identify important sites for waterbirds.

WeBS Core Counts are made annually at approximately 2,000 wetland sites of all habitats; estuaries and large still waters predominate. Monthly coordinated counts are made mostly by volunteers, principally from September to March, with fewer observations during summer months. Data from other sources, *e.g.* roost counts of grey geese, are included in this report where relevant.

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

2009/10 WeBS COVERAGE

This report summarises counts during 2009/10 and previous years (since 1960 for wildfowl, 1969 for waders and the early 1980s or 1990s for other species). During 2009/10, WeBS counters covered 4,214 count sectors at 2,296 count sites. A total of 4,166 sectors were counted at least once during the core 'winter' period of September to March, and over 2,000 were covered in all twelve months.

This, once again, represents a fantastic effort by everyone involved, and a huge thank-you goes to all.

2009/10 WeBS HEADLINES

Effects of a cold winter
Cold weather in late December and through parts of January and February affected waterbirds to varying degrees. Dabbling ducks responded most profoundly, with influxes of Wigeon, Teal and Mallard, but an exodus of Shoveler. There were also notably fewer Golden Plover and Lapwing compared to recent winters, both probably due to redistribution in the cold conditions.

Other species in the headlines
Pintail and Turnstone both dropped sharply in Britain, with notably fewer of both species present throughout the year. The rapid rise in Little Egrets at WeBS sites appears to have ended (but an increase in the wider countryside probably continues).

New WeBS trends published
Annual WeBS indices and associated trends for Moorhen and six gull species are included in *Waterbirds in the UK* for the first time. The gull trends should be used in conjunction with results from the decadal WinGS (Wintering Gulls Survey).

National 1% thresholds revised
Following a revision of estimates of British overwinter waterbird populations, new 1% thresholds are used for listing sites of national importance in this report.

Long-term trends
Responses to cold weather are best evaluated within the context of longer-term species' trends and events at the flyway level. In 2009/10, the following reached all-time maxima or minima in terms of WeBS index values. **Great Britain *'Highs':*** Pink-footed Goose, Svalbard Barnacle Goose, Naturalised Barnacle Goose, Canadian Light-bellied Brent Goose, Svalbard Light-bellied Brent Goose, Egyptian Goose, Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Black-tailed Godwit. ***'Lows':*** Moorhen, Turnstone, Common Gull. **Northern Ireland *'Highs':*** Whooper Swan, Grey Heron. ***'Lows':*** Wigeon, Goldeneye, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Dunlin, Black-headed Gull.

2009/10 WATERBIRD SUMMARY

Swans & Geese: Numbers of **Bewick's Swan** were higher than the last three years, while **Whooper Swan** continued its upward trend. The number of **Pink-footed Geese** increased to yet another high in 2009/10, to an estimated 361,000 birds. All-time peaks in terms of national index values were also attained by both the **Svalbard** and **Canadian** populations of **Light-bellied Brent Goose**, **Svalbard Barnacle Goose**, and, perhaps more predictably, **Egyptian Goose** and **naturalised Barnacle Goose**. In contrast, despite the cold winter, **European White-fronted Geese** numbers were typically low, and for the first time peak numbers on the British coast exceeded those in the west in the Slimbridge area. More encouragingly, the drop in numbers of **Greenland White-fronted Geese** appears to have bottomed out. **Canada** and **Greylag Goose** (of both **Icelandic** and **British/Irish** populations) were present in typically high numbers. The latter is a combination of the 're-established' and 'Northwest Scotland' populations of Greylag Geese previously listed in *Waterbirds in the UK*.

Ducks: Dabbling ducks showed the most profound response to the cold weather in mid winter. Influxes of **Wigeon**, **Teal** and **Mallard** contrasted with an exodus of **Shoveler** and a marked drop in **Pintail**. These events occurred within the context of probable longer-term shifts in core wintering range of species such as **Mallard**, **Pochard**, **Goldeneye** and **Red-breasted Merganser**, that may be at least partly in response to recent milder winters. **Gadwall** and **Tufted Duck** both reached all-time highs in Britain in 2009/10 and **Smew** numbers were somewhat higher than recent years. **Eider** continue to decline slowly, but in general, monitoring of seaducks through WeBS is notoriously difficult; species such as **Long-tailed Duck** and **Velvet Scoter** require more targeted surveys of favoured sites, so it is difficult to draw conclusions about the current status of these species.

Divers, Grebes, Herons & Rails: The divers and scarcer sea grebes were present in similar numbers to recent years; the assessment of which relies heavily on submission of supplementary data from sites not counted routinely. **Little Grebes** in Britain continue to show evidence of a gradual increase, while **Great Crested Grebe** remained relatively stable. Although **Little Egret** continued to expand both north and westward, the overall trend at WeBS sites is now stable. Also stable in Britain is **Coot**, but a recent marked decline in Northern Ireland may be attributable to "short stopping". **Moorhen**, for which a WeBS trend is published for the first time, shows signs of a slight decline in Britain.

Waders: **Golden Plover** and **Lapwing**, which typically fluctuate more than for other wader species, both exhibited sharp drops in 2009/10 presumably in response to freezing conditions in mid winter. The long-term declines of **Ringed Plover** and **Dunlin** may have stabilised, but **Curlew** and **Redshank** continue to fall and **Turnstone** dropped sharply to an all-time low. There were further improved fortunes for **Grey Plover** and **Sanderling**. **Bar-tailed Godwits** continue to struggle to recover from an apparent slump six years ago, whereas numbers of wintering **Black-tailed Godwits** rose again and reached an all-time high. **Avocets** fared well again, and **Oystercatcher**, **Knot** and **Purple Sandpiper** were all reasonably consistent in terms of their respective recent trends of relative stability.

Gulls & Terns: Numbers of gull and terns recorded by WeBS reflect coverage as much as abundance of birds *per se*. This year, WeBS trends for six gull species are published in this report for the first time. In contrast to the anticipated upward trend evident for **Mediterranean Gull**, numbers of **Common Gull** and **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at WeBS sites in Britain appear to be undergoing a steady decline.

Results from waterbird monitoring schemes such as WeBS are best considered at the flyway population level. Hence, wherever possible in this report, interpretation of results from WeBS is placed in the context of trends from other countries within the East Atlantic flyway.

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

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

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

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF WeBS

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

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

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

Structure and organisation of WeBS

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

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

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

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

Aim of this report

This report presents syntheses of data collected between July 2009 and June 2010 (see *The WeBS Year*), and in previous years, in line with the WeBS objectives. Data from other national and local waterbird monitoring schemes, notably the WWT/JNCC/SNH Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme, are included where WeBS data alone are insufficient to fulfil this aim, so that the report provides a single, comprehensive source of information on waterbird status and distribution in the UK.

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

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

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

Methods

Details of WeBS methodologies, included in the Introduction until Holt *et al.* (2009), are available via the WeBS website at www.bto.org/webs.

Gulls: WeBS indices and trends

In this report, WeBS annual indices and associated trends for six gull species feature in *Waterbirds in the UK* for the first time. As counting of gulls remains optional within WeBS, the data reflect abundance of gulls only at regularly monitored sites where gulls are counted. For a broader scale appraisal of gull numbers wintering in the UK, it is recommended that the WeBS trends are used in conjunction with results from WinGS (Wintering Gulls Survey), most recently carried out in 2003/04. In order to increase the number of sites on which WeBS trends can be based, regular counting of gulls at new WeBS sites and submission of data from traditional roosts is encouraged.

WEATHER IN 2009/10

This summary of UK weather is drawn from the Meteorological Office web site at www.metoffice.gov.uk. Bracketed figures following the month refer to the Core Count priority date for the month in question.

United Kingdom

July (12) saw mean temperatures and sunshine levels close to average. However rainfall was above normal across much of the UK, with for example south-west England, parts of Wales, and north-east receiving three times expected amounts.

August (23) temperatures were close to or slightly above the historical average across most of the UK. Rainfall levels were highly variable; it was very wet in western Scotland, Cumbria and Northern Ireland, but East Anglia received less than half usual amounts.

September (20) proved to be dry and generally warmer than normal across most regions of the UK. Much of East Anglia and the Midlands received less than a third of expected rainfall. Overall, it proved to be the driest September since 1997 and the ninth driest since 1914.

October (11) temperatures were above the historical average across the UK, largely due to a very mild final third to the month. Rainfall was well above normal across Scotland, but below average throughout most of England and Wales.

November (22) temperatures were well above average, typically by 1.5 to 2.5°C across England and Wales and by 0.5 to

1.5°C in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Almost all areas recorded above average rainfall; overall, it was the wettest November in the series since 1914.

It was the coldest **December** (20) across the UK since 1995. Despite a mild start to the month, mean temperatures were 1.5 to 2.5°C lower than normal across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In Scotland it was up to 3.5°C colder than normal, with a low of -18.5°C noted in Aberdeenshire. There was significant snowfall after mid-month.

In **January** (17), the cold conditions from December continued with widespread snowfalls occurring until mid-month. Across the UK, mean temperatures were up to 3°C lower than normal. Following a brief period of milder weather after mid-month, there was a return to colder conditions at month's end. Overall, it was the coldest January in the UK since 1987 and equal eighth-coldest in a series from 1910.

February (21) proved to be another cold month, the coldest February across the UK since 1991. Particularly heavy snow fell in Scotland at the month's end; 70 cm being reported in Aberdeenshire. A few milder interludes during the month were mainly confined to the south and west of the UK.

March (14) proved to be largely dry and settled thorough the first half of the month, and became more changeable from mid-month with snowfalls and strong winds at the month's end. Overall, mean temperatures were close to average.

Most of the UK experienced a relatively warm and dry **April** (18). Most parts recorded less than 50 % of expected rainfall and over England and Wales as a whole it was the fifth sunniest April since 1914.

It was the driest **May** (16) across the UK since 1991. Below average rainfall was noted throughout most of the UK, with less than 50% of normal across much of both Scotland and England. Some new temperature records for May were set in Scotland, and across the UK as a whole sunshine levels were slightly above normal.

June (20) was warmer and sunnier than normal, with high pressure prevailing. Temperatures were up to 2.5°C higher tham normal in western and central areas. Less than 50% of normal rainfall was recorded across most regions, and a maximum of 31°C was recorded in Kent.

Table 1. The percentage of inland count units (lakes, reservoirs, gravel pits, rivers and canals) in the UK with any ice and with 75% or more of their surface covered by ice during WeBS counts in winter 2009/10 (England divided by a line drawn roughly between the Humber and the Mersey Estuaries).

Region	Ice	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Northern Ireland	>0%	0	0	0	8	2	6	0
	>74%	0	0	0	0	0	<1	0
Scotland	>0%	0	0	<1	51	72	71	18
	>74%	0	0	0	36	57	50	7
N England	>0%	0	0	<1	49	73	60	4
	>74%	0	0	0	29	54	34	2
S England	>0%	0	0	<1	51	61	36	<1
	>74%	0	0	0	28	43	14	<1
Wales	>0%	0	0	0	41	37	28	2
	>74%	0	0	0	19	20	10	<1

Arctic Breeding Conditions 2009

Arctic breeding conditions for birds that winter within the UK are summarised from information available from the website www.arcticbirds.ru – having been collated by Soloviev & Tomkovich (2010).

Summer temperatures differed quite markedly across the Arctic region in 2009. In the early summer period, temperatures were close to or slightly above average throughout most of arctic Russia and eastern Siberia but slightly lower than average in much of arctic Canada and Greenland. In mid summer, it was somewhat warmer than average throughout the region, notably in Greenland and eastern arctic Canada where it was up to 5.5°C higher than usual. An exception was the most distant parts of Siberia where it was up to 5°C cooler than normal.

Rodent abundance was generally low across most arctic regions in 2009, although high densities were recorded at a scattering of regularly monitored sites.

Indications from sites across the Arctic were of mixed breeding success in 2009. Results were suggestive of a reasonably successful season for birds in Scandinavia and more western regions of arctic Russia, but were less clear for more distant regions of Siberia and arctic Canada. Results from a small number of monitoring stations in Greenland were generally poor.

COVERAGE

WeBS Core Counts

Coordinated, synchronous counts are advocated to prevent double counting or birds being missed. Priority dates are recommended nationally (Table 2). Due to differences in tidal regimes around the country, counts at some estuaries were made on other dates to match the most suitable conditions. Weather and counter availability also result in some counts being made on alternative dates.

Standard Core Counts were received from 2,296 sites for July 2009 to June 2010 (an increase of 1.3% compared to 2008/09), comprising 4,214 count sectors (sub-divisions of large sites for which separate counts are provided).

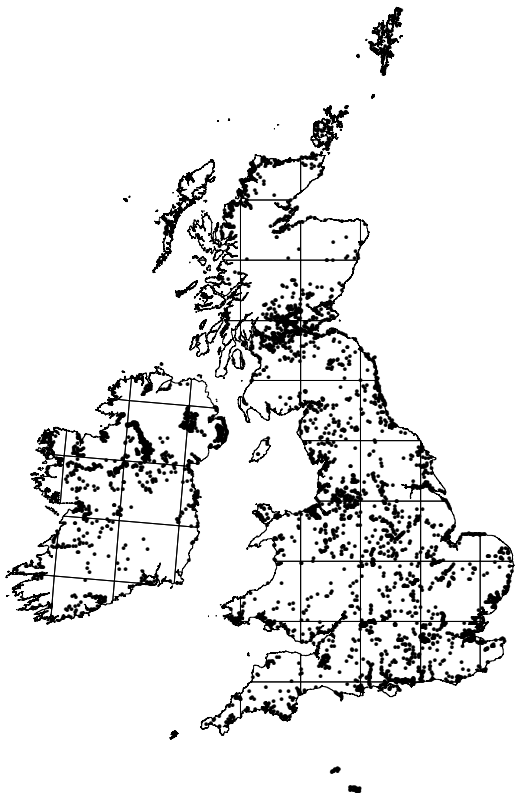


Figure 1. Position of all locations counted for standard WeBS and I-WeBS counts between July 2009 and June 2010.

WeBS and I-WeBS coverage in 2009/10 is shown in Figure 1. The location of each count sector is shown using only its central grid reference. The grid references of principal WeBS count sites mentioned in the Principal Sites table (Table 6.) are given in Table A2, Appendix 2 and are shown in Figure A1, Appendix 2.

Table 2. WeBS Core Count priority dates in 2009/10

12 July	17 January
23 August	21 February
20 September	14 March
11 October	18 April
22 November	16 May
20 December	20 June

As ever, areas with few wetlands (*e.g.* inland Essex/Suffolk) or small human populations (*e.g.* much of Scotland) are apparent on the map as areas with little coverage. Northwest Scotland is usually poorly covered compared to most areas, although in 2009/10 this was again covered by surveys by the RAF Ornithological Society. These data are presented in this report. Northern Ireland remains relatively poorly covered away from the major sites and further volunteers from there or indeed anywhere in the UK are always welcome.

Goose censuses

In 2009/10, counts of Bean Geese were submitted by the Bean Goose Action Group (Slamannan Plateau) and the RSPB (Middle Yare Marshes). Surveys of Pink-footed and Icelandic Greylag Geese were undertaken at, primarily, roost sites in October to December 2009 as part of the Icelandic-breeding Goose Census. A census of Greylag Geese at key sites in Northwest Scotland was carried out in August 2009 and February 2010 by the Uist Greylag Goose Management Committee and others. Counts of Greenland White-fronted Geese were undertaken by the Greenland White-fronted Goose Study. Greenland Barnacle Geese were counted regularly by SNH and others on Islay and other key locations, while Svalbard Barnacle Geese on the Solway were counted regularly by WWT staff and volunteers. Data were also provided by the International Light-bellied Brent Goose census.

Seaduck surveys

Monthly aerial and/or land-based counts of Common Scoter in Carmarthen Bay were carried out in January to March 2010 (WWT Consulting 2010).