

Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

GB max: 1,594 Aug
NI max: 155 Oct

International threshold: 2,300
Great Britain threshold: 6*
All-Ireland threshold: 20*

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

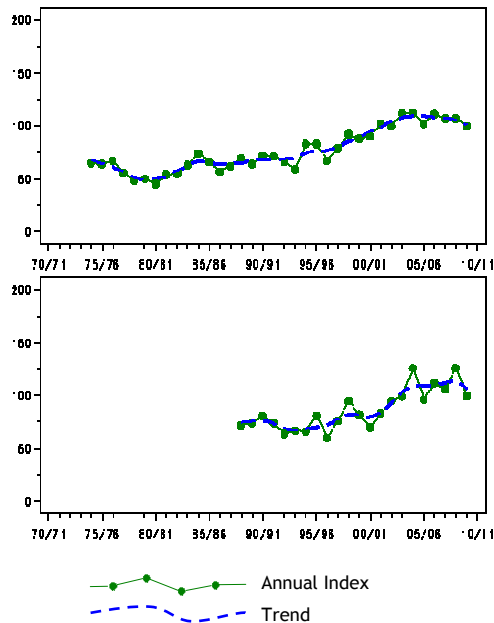


Figure 55.a, Annual indices & trend for Greenshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

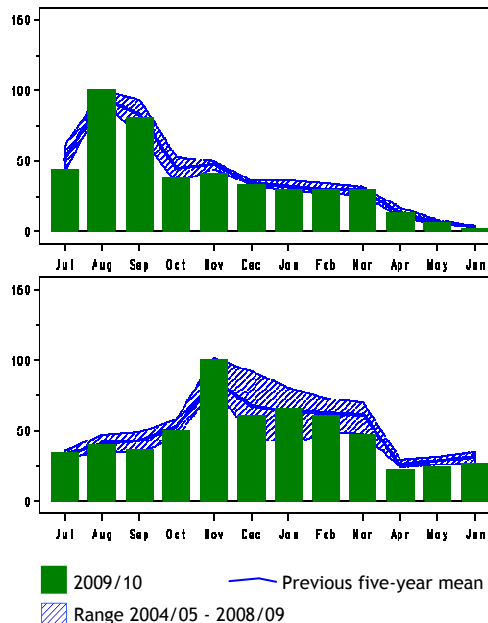


Figure 55.b, Monthly indices for Greenshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

Greenshanks were recorded during Core counts at 232 WeBS sites in 2009/10. Numbers at most of the major sites were close to average, with typically the peak counts noted during autumn when birds migrate from their breeding grounds in northern Europe (including some sites in Scotland) to wintering areas in southwest Europe, and north and west Africa.

Following the high count at The Wash in 2008/09, the maximum this year (173 in August) represents the lowest autumn peak at the site since 1993/94. Elsewhere, noteworthy counts were received from Camel Estuary (48, the highest since 1969/70), Montrose Basin (73, equalling the

peak from 2002/03) and Eden Estuary (30, the most ever there).

Having steadily increased over three decades, probably at least partly as a result of milder climatic conditions (Austin & Rehfish 2005, Maclean *et al.* 2008), the number over-wintering in Britain appears to have now stabilised. The highest counts during the December to February period were 19 at both Chichester Harbour and Eden Estuary. In Northern Ireland, the trend also appears relatively stable following a shallow increase during the 1990s and early 2000s. Maxima in 2009/10 were 95 at Strangford Lough in December and 48 at Lough Foyle in February.

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 20 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
The Wash	258	201	252	301	173	Aug	237
Thames Estuary	144	196	132	130	129	Aug	146
Blackwater Estuary	(84)	(73)	(119)	(86)	(59)	Aug	(119)
North Norfolk Coast	147	118	87	71	118	Sep	108
Stour Estuary	78	106	103	110	84	Aug	96
Chichester Harbour	91	132	77	82	88	Sep	94
Hamford Water	104	79	86	31	8	Oct	62

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Fal Complex	58	59	66	52	67	Sep	60
Medway Estuary	(4)	(10)	(9)	(4)	(50)	Jul	(50)
Exe Estuary	38	71	41	34	61	Sep	49
Pegwell Bay	36	42 ¹²	40	64 ¹³	50	Aug	46
Morecambe Bay	33	59	(28)	44	38	Sep	46
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(16)	32	50	67	31	Aug	45
Humber Estuary	33	21	(47)	(52)	(54)	Sep	41
Langstone Harbour	38	51	37	26	26	Sep	36
Cleddau Estuary	42 ¹¹	25	25	39	40	Oct	34
Montrose Basin	5	19	(19)	36	73	Aug	33
Tamar Complex	36	29	32	31	34	Oct	32
Kingsbridge Estuary	35	27	45	48	5	Aug	32
Taw-Torridge Estuary	29	22	34	39	38	Aug	32
North West Solent	(17)	29	31	24	30	Sep	29
Jersey Shore		26	28				27
Camel Estuary	(21)	(20)	16	19	48	Sep	26
Poole Harbour	(9)	(19)	(24)	(11)	(13)	Sep	(24)
Swale Estuary	(55)	(15)	(7)	9	12	Oct	23
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(2)	(15)	32	9 ¹²	20	Aug	20
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	84	85	65	95	70	Nov	80
Lough Foyle	74	34	65	48	47	Oct	54
Carlingford Lough	39	40	66	(17)	(14)	Oct	48
Dundrum Inner Bay	22	24	20	28	26	Aug	24
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2009/10 in Great Britain[†]							
Eden Estuary	9	7	10	19	30	Sep	15
Kentra Bay	25	10	18	16	(25)	Nov	19
Breydon Water and Berney Marshes	16	8	10	3	25 ¹²	Apr	12
Queens Valley Reservoir			0	16	23	Sep	13
Dungeness and Rye Bay	18	13	10	15	21	Aug	15
Abberton Reservoir	18	(13)	24	14	20	Aug	19

[†] as many sites exceed the British winter threshold a qualifying level of 20 has been used to select sites for presentation in this report

Lesser Yellowlegs

Tringa flavipes

Vagrant

Native Range: America

One was at Aberlady Bay (Forth Estuary) stay recalls recent wintering birds in Fife in from August through to December. The long 2007/08 and Norfolk in 2004/05.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

International threshold: 10,500

Great Britain threshold: +[†]

All-Ireland threshold: +[†]

GB max: 19 Aug

NI max: 0

During the course of 2009/10, Wood Sandpipers were seen at 23 WeBS sites. Autumn records, which tend to be highly dependent on Core count dates coinciding with fluxes of autumn passage, involved birds at seven sites in July, 11 in August and four in September. All sites held singles with the exception of five at Severn Estuary, three at The Wash, and two at North Norfolk Coast - all in August. A fair spring passage produced records in April to June from eight sites, including four at North Norfolk Coast and three at Tees Estuary in May.

Sites with 3 or more birds during passage periods in 2009/10[†]

Severn Estuary	5	Aug	The Wash	3	Aug
North Norfolk Coast	4	May	Tees Estuary	3	May

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set, a qualifying level of 3 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Redshank

Tringa totanus

International threshold: 2,800

Great Britain threshold: 1,200

All-Ireland threshold: 310

GB max: 84,151 Oct

NI max: 8,858 Oct

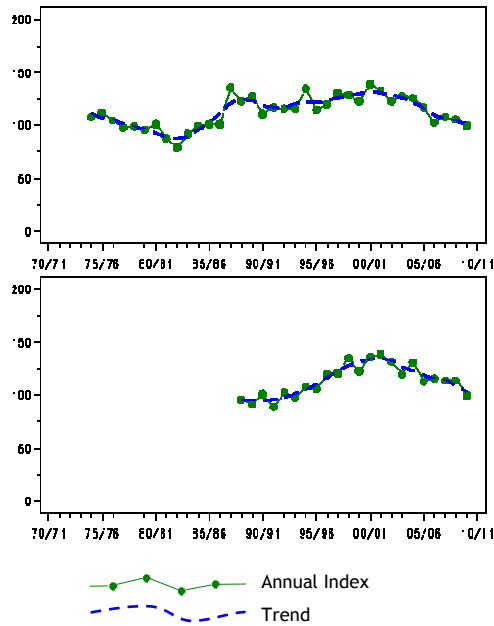


Figure 56.a, Annual indices & trend for Redshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

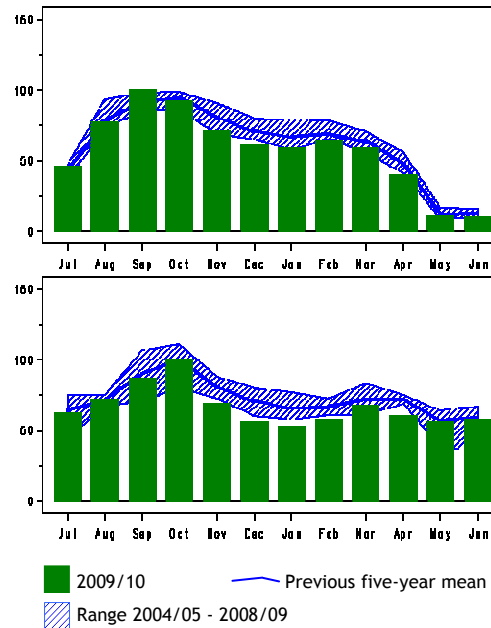


Figure 56.b, Monthly indices for Redshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

Predominantly found on the coast in the UK, the non-breeding population of Redshanks is considered to comprise local breeders and birds from Iceland and nearby European populations. The downward trends over the last decade, in both Britain and Northern Ireland, continue. In Britain, the species is now approaching the same status as the early 1980s when at an historical low.

Thirteen WeBS sites currently surpass the threshold for international importance. A further 21 WeBS sites are of national importance, following the revised threshold of Musgrove *et al.* (2011). Peaks at most of these years were close to the respective five-year means, the notable exception being The Wash where numbers were considerably higher than normal in August and September, peaking at a record 11,017 in the latter month. Typically monthly maxima at many of the sites of international importance were in the autumn period of September to October,

although more sites than usual also held respective highs in mid winter.

In general, sites in north-west Britain (e.g. Dee Estuary, Morecambe Bay and Ribble Estuary) appear to have experienced a reasonably good year in terms of peak numbers, whereas those in the south-east (e.g. Thames Estuary and Alde Complex) fared relatively poorly. This would appear to add weight to the results of Maclean *et al.* (2008) who demonstrated a north-westerly shift in core wintering range of Redshanks, indicative of short-stopping in the direction of Icelandic breeding grounds.

Scrutiny of the monthly indices show that numbers in the autumn period of August to October were close to average, but in general wintering totals during November to February were, for the second year in a row, markedly down compared to normal. This is also suggestive of a geographical shift in wintering distribution, but perhaps in more of an easterly direction; Redshanks in The Netherlands having slowly increased since the mid 1990s (Hornman *et al.* 2011).

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Dee Estuary (England/Wales)	12,367	9,384	12,994	9,576 ¹⁰	11,235	Sep	11,111
Morecambe Bay	7,283	(8,254)	(5,802)	10,302	8,814	Sep	8,800
The Wash	6,052	5,605	4,407	5,367	11,017	Sep	6,490
Forth Estuary	6,039	4,689	4,374	5,141	4,244	Oct	4,897
Humber Estuary	4,682	3,886	(4,059)	4,716	(2,687)	Sep	4,428
Strangford Lough	4,099	3,632	4,028	4,969	4,488	Oct	4,243
Thames Estuary	4,811	4,134	3,512	4,243	3,701	Jan	4,080
Solway Estuary	(1,595)	(1,822)	(3,213)	(2,739)	3,918	Oct	3,918
Ribble Estuary	4,078	1,491	3,559	3,414	4,339	Oct	3,376
Blackwater Estuary	(2,472)	2,514	(3,586)	3,752	(1,926)	Nov	3,284
Alde Complex	1,608	1,673	9,246	1,213	2,289	Oct	3,206
Mersey Estuary	3,622	2,455	(2,069)	(1,228)	(1,520)	Dec	3,039
Duddon Estuary	3,698	3,122	2,562	3,213	2,102	Jan	2,939
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Severn Estuary	1,930	(2,362)	(1,962)	2,997	2,433	Oct	2,453
Ythan Estuary	(5,274)	1,481	1,497	(2,308)	(1,706)	Sep	2,453
Montrose Basin	2,237	1,794	(1,860)	2,198	2,770	Sep	2,250
Deben Estuary	2,037	2,710	2,080	1,856	1,992	Oct	2,135
Chichester Harbour	1,754	(2,535)	2,403	1,810	2,028	Oct	2,106
North Norfolk Coast	1,608	1,786	2,899 ¹⁰	2,109	1,333	Jan	1,947
Stour Estuary	1,814	1,988	1,948	2,176 ¹⁰	1,779 ¹⁰	Nov	1,941
Inner Moray & Inverness Firth	1,910	(1,658)	2,040	1,988	1,731	Feb	1,917
Inner Firth of Clyde	1,984	1,915	1,901	1,965	1,596	Feb	1,872
Orwell Estuary	1,813 ¹⁰	2,075 ¹⁰	1,375 ¹⁰	1,908	1,737 ¹⁰	Feb	1,782
Cromarty Firth	2,266	1,491	1,514	(1,402)	1,613	Oct	1,721
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(556)	1,202	1,361	2,403	1,791	Sep	1,689
Tees Estuary	1,731	1,865	1,383	1,471	1,331	Oct	1,556
Hamford Water	1,695	1,266	1,538	1,366	(1,127)	Feb	1,466
Colne Estuary	(1,013)	(742)	1,442 ¹⁰	(730)	(1,107)	Mar	1,442
Medway Estuary	(1,405)	(307)	(668)	(874)	(497)	Feb	(1,405)
Lindisfarne	1,104	(1,267)	(1,746)	1,367	(1,026)	Apr	1,371
Lavan Sands	1,644	1,016	1,794	1,058	1,221	Oct	1,347
Breydon Wtr/ Berney Marshes	1,663 ¹⁰	1,310	1,405	1,117 ¹²	1,189 ¹²	Sep	1,337
Swale Estuary	(1,727)	1,139	(1,384)	(1,049)	910	Mar	1,242
Blyth Estuary	1,134	1,031	2,002	(1,012)	789	Nov	1,239
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Belfast Lough	1,754	(1,698)	1,303	1,432	1,769	Sep	1,591
Carlingford Lough	1,554	1,128	1,174	1,818	(632)	Feb	1,419
Lough Foyle	1,314	1,177	905	1,239	1,305	Nov	1,188
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,307	1,160	1,124	1,145	1,183	Nov	1,184
Dundrum Inner Bay	723	759	1,284	1,105	897	Sep	954
Larne Lough	737	379	383	397	253	Jan	430
Bann Estuary	400	261	392	230	290	Jan	315



Redshank (John Harding)

Numbers have been declining in both Britain and Northern Ireland for a decade.

Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

International threshold: 1,500
Great Britain threshold: 480
All-Ireland threshold: 120

GB max: 10,236 Jan
NI max: 1,724 Mar

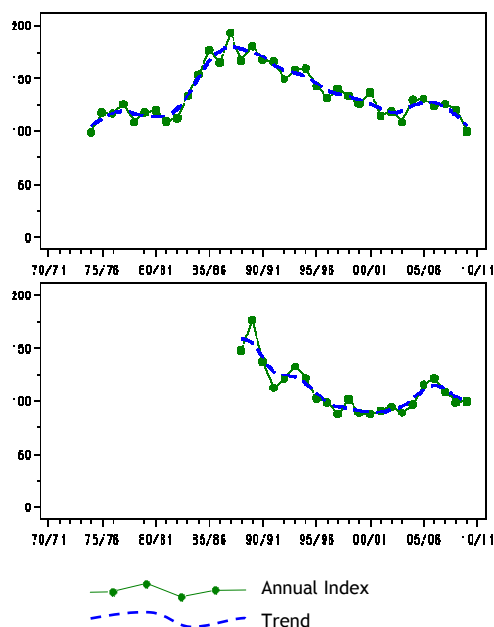


Figure 57.a, Annual indices & trend for Turnstone for GB (above) & NI (below).

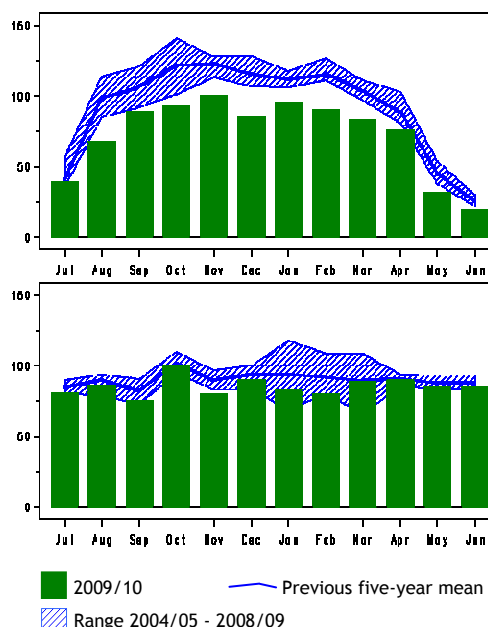


Figure 57.b, Monthly indices for Turnstone for GB (above) & NI (below).

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Morecambe Bay	1,269	1,163	(709)	973	1,394	Apr	1,200
Tiree	1,191 ³²						1,191
Thanet Coast	949	1,477	(783)	722	(624)	Dec	1,049
Forth Estuary	847	(778)	(934)	(855)	(699)	Nov	879
North Norfolk Coast	928	678	913	774	741	Jul	807
Thames Estuary	680	680	1,090	1,060	382	Jan	778
The Wash	1,169	657	478	685	547	Sep	707
Blackwater Estuary	498	527	676	1,102	502	Oct	661
Stour Estuary	655	569	617	525	459 ¹⁰	Nov	565
Humber Estuary	(183)	(542)	(344)	(447)	(553)	Nov	(553)
Farne Islands	606	(445)	556	580	349	Aug	523
Langstone Harbour	742	450	488	550	299	Mar	506
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,203	1,292	930	937	949	Mar	1,062
Belfast Lough	418	436	419	503	537	Dec	463
Strangford Lough	435	382	344	589	391	Oct	428
Carlingford Lough	356	480	315	155	(98)	Oct	327
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010							
Swale Estuary	(480)	(456)	(432)	(268)	314	Oct	421
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2009/10 in Great Britain							
Pegwell Bay	(7)	110	21	130	927 ¹²	Mar	297
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2009/2010 in Northern Ireland							
Larne Lough	58	(75)	105	74	160	Apr	99

Turnstones from two distinct breeding populations occur in the UK. The majority of those which winter in the UK originate from Greenland and east Canada, while

Siberian and Scandinavian breeders pass through in spring and autumn en route to and from wintering sites in western Africa. The UK holds over 50% of the flyway

population during the winter (Delany *et al.* 2009) and numbers are estimated to be in the order of 48,000 birds (Musgrove *et al.* 2011).



Turnstone (Jill Pakenham)

Judging from the annual index and the monthly indices shown above, 2009/10 was a very poor year for Turnstones in Britain. The British index reached its lowest ever level, thereby accelerating a downward trend apparent since the late 1980s, in a similar vein to Purple Sandpiper with which it frequently shares favours habitats. Turnstones are considered to have slowly shifted northwards within Britain in recent decades in response to milder winters (Austin *et al.* 2008). It is notable therefore

that rocky shores and associated specialist species have been identified as being especially vulnerable to the effects of changing climate, both due to the potential loss of habitat *per se* as a result of rising sea levels, as well as potential changes to invertebrate communities (Kendall *et al.* 2004, Rehfishch *et al.* 2004).

At Morecambe Bay, the highest number of Turnstones for several years was noted. The most recent five-year mean of 1,200 birds at the site is low when compared to the peaks recorded there during the 1970s when 2,000+ birds were regular. The historic maximum at Morecambe Bay is 3,795 in August 1972, which is, unsurprisingly, the largest site total ever noted by WeBS. In common with the overall trend, peak numbers were below average at all the other principal sites listed, particularly Thames Estuary where the lowest peak for thirty years was noted.

The peak monthly count at Outer Ards Shoreline, consistently the most important site in Northern Ireland, was at a similar level to the previous two years and hence somewhat lower than the longer term average. In contrast, the highest total since 2000/01 was seen at Belfast Lough.

Wilson's Phalarope

Phalaropus tricolor

Vagrant

Native Range: America

One was at Forth Estuary in November; the 22nd WeBS record and first in Scotland.

Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus

Scarce

Three passage Red-necked Phalaropes were recorded in 2009/10; autumn birds at

Dee Estuary and Humber Estuary followed by a June record at Upton Warren LNR.

Grey Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicarius

Scarce

Five Grey Phalaropes were recorded in 2009/10; singles at Loch Gruinart (Oct), Chew Valley Lake (Nov), Thurso Bay (Nov),

Weirwood Reservoir (Nov) and North West Solent (Dec).

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

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

GB max: 2,501 Aug
NI max: 55 Dec

Kittiwakes were seen at the traditional sites during WeBS counts in 2009/10, with the exception, unusually, of Loch of Strathbeg, despite coverage there throughout the year. The peak monthly total of 2,501 birds in August was almost double the equivalent total of the previous year. Counts of 1,000+ were received from Arran (Sep), Howick to Beadnall (Mar) and Lunan Bay (Aug).

It is likely that counts of Kittiwakes at WeBS sites are affected by breeding productivity on stretches of coastline

nearby, as well as the weather and offshore conditions. Nevertheless, low numbers recorded through WeBS may be associated with a declining UK breeding population and recent abysmal productivity. Breeding numbers, which account for approximately 8% of the global population of the species, declined by 25% during the period 1985-1988 to 1998-2002, and by a further 30% between 2000 and 2010 (JNCC 2011).

Typically, all records in Northern Ireland were from Belfast Lough.

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Loch of Strathbeg	1,130	3,282	785	37	0		1,047
Arran	701	400	1,000	800	1,500	Sep	880
Beadnell to Seahouses	512	850	(460)	200	450	Jul	503
Tay Estuary	(740)	(190)	300	(17)	155	Aug	398
Forth Estuary	(276)	(379)	(127)	(334)	(141)	Oct	(379)
Lunan Bay	250	133	67	(120)	(1,000)	Aug	363
Durham Coast	250	(363)	(71)	(225)	(379)	May	331
Dee Estuary (Scotland)	191	175	458	183	(640)	Sep	329
Dungeness and Rye Bay				500	2	Dec	251
Otter Estuary to Kingsbridge Estuary			250				250
Tweed Estuary	340	410	132	126	224	Aug	246
Howick to Beadnell	0	0	0	0	(1,208)	Mar	242
Glyne Gap	19	457	(233)	(78)	233	Jan	236
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010 in Great Britain[†]							
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	(165)	3	119	35	317	Aug	128

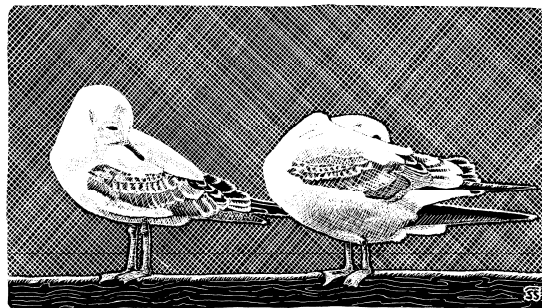
[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set, a qualifying level of 200 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Bonaparte's Gull

Chroicocephalus philadelphia

Vagrant
Native Range: N America

One at Arlington Reservoir in April represents the ninth WeBS record and the first since 2004/05.



Black-headed Gulls (Steve Suttill)

Black-headed Gull

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: 22,000†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 187,110 Feb
NI max: 14,045 Mar

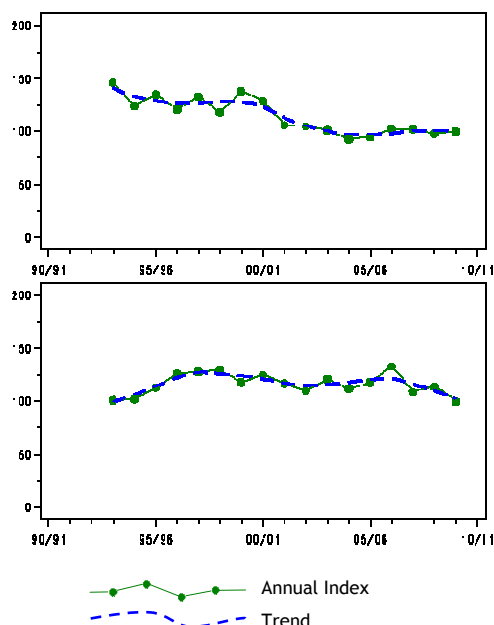


Figure 58.a, Annual indices & trend for Black-headed Gull for GB (above) & NI (below).

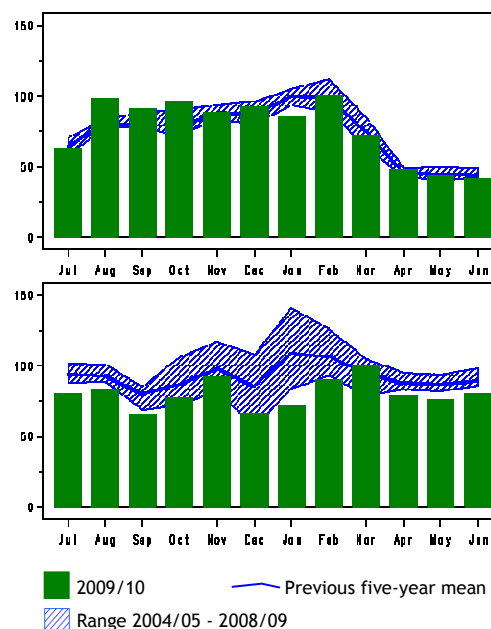


Figure 58.b, Monthly indices for Black-headed Gull for GB (above) & NI (below).

Numbers of Black-headed Gulls in 2009/10 were broadly similar to those recorded through WeBS in recent years, with counted monthly maximum again in February. Given that the species uses many non-wetland habitats combined with the fact that counting gulls remains optional during Core counts, the totals represent a relatively small proportion of the British population estimate of 2.2 million derived from the last Wintering Gulls Survey (Banks *et al.* 2007). Bearing in mind this important caveat, the trend based on WeBS indices (included in the report for the first time) is essentially stable, but over the last ten years there is a suggestion of a slight decline in the number present at WeBS sites. The breeding population is estimated to have risen by 36% between 2000 and 2010 (JNCC 2011).

Three sites are currently listed as surpassing the threshold for international importance; Bewl Water, Eccup Reservoir and The Wash. For the sixth WeBS-year in succession, the largest count submitted related to the roost at the former site.

As ever, it should be remembered that a number of sites of assumed importance do not feature within the tables below, owing to a lack of gull data submitted through WeBS since the last Wintering Gulls Survey (WinGS) in 2003/04. The submission of counts from sites formerly recognised as being used by large numbers of Black-headed Gulls, such as Chew Valley Lake and Humber Estuary, would inevitably help to provide a more representative picture of the abundance and distribution of the UK's most numerous waterbird (Musgrove *et al.* 2011).

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Bewl Water	55,600 ¹¹	67,840 ¹¹	48,400 ¹¹	35,340 ¹¹	36,400 ¹¹	Dec	48,716
The Wash	(15,595)	30,097	(18,679)	(20,878)	(29,615)	Sep	30,097
Eccup Reservoir			20,000				20,000 ▲

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010							
Thames Estuary	(13,848)	10,712	(12,901)	(14,532)	(7,601)	Aug	12,998
Sites with mean peak counts of 10,000 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Morecambe Bay	(16,695)	(15,232)	(12,153)	13,758	13,034	Aug	14,680
Ribble Estuary	10,228	15,261	10,055	6,389	25,000 ¹⁰	Nov	13,387
Thames Estuary	(13,848)	10,712	(12,901)	(14,532)	(7,601)	Aug	12,998
Rutland Water	5,500	12,000	10,000	5,000	30,000	Oct	12,500
Tophill Low Reservoirs	15,000 ¹¹	3,835 ¹¹	12,000 ¹¹	21,000 ¹¹	10,400	Feb	12,447
Severn Estuary	8,278 ²⁷	(3,589)	(4,851)	16,121 ¹⁰	(9,721)	Sep	12,200
Swithland Reservoir					12,000 ¹¹	Nov	12,000
Blyth Estuary	4,203	23,700	3,971	(5,312)	(1,500)	Jan	10,625
Doddington Pool	12,000	11,000	11,000	8,500 ¹¹			10,625
Wint'sett & Cold Hiendley Resrs		5,000	20,000	6,000			10,333
Lower Derwent Ings	11,000	5,321	11,600	11,200	11,000	Mar	10,024
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Belfast Lough	9,936 ¹⁰	(6,823)	4,971	2,168 ¹⁰	4,307 ¹⁰	Feb	5,641
Outer Ards Shoreline	4,566	3,800	2,893	3,614	5,628	Mar	4,100
Strangford Lough	4,011 ¹⁰	3,889 ¹⁰	4,109 ¹⁰	5,656 ¹⁰	2,826	Sep	4,098
Loughs Neagh and Beg	(3,472)	(3,978)	2,610	2,989	3,599	Mar	3,330
Lough Foyle	2,565	(2,091)	3,237	3,324	2,573	Nov	2,925
Larne Lough	591	2,245	1,989	2,453	692	Mar	1,594
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010 in Great Britain[†]							
Dungeness and Rye Bay	(5,000) ¹²	(1,500) ¹²	5,020	2,336	10,000	Aug	5,785

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

Little Gull

Hydrocoloeus minutus

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

GB max: 132 Aug
NI max: 0

In 2009/10, Little Gulls were noted at 36 WeBS sites across Britain during WeBS Core counts. The totals recorded were largely unimpressive, autumn and spring Core count peaks being 117 at Hornsea Mere (Aug) and 66 at Alt Estuary (Apr), respectively. The latter count presumably coincided with a flux of spring passage, as birds were seen at several other localities on the same date, including 30 at Arlington

Reservoir (providing company for a Bonaparte's Gull!) and 11 at Ribble Estuary.

Hornsea Mere remains the only site that surpasses the threshold for international importance. Although traditionally supporting large numbers of passage birds in autumn, the peak supplementary count there during 2009 fell well short of the exceptional numbers reported during the autumns of 2006 and 2007.

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Hornsea Mere	160	(16,000) ¹¹	21,500 ¹¹	1,200 ¹¹	610 ¹¹	Sep	5,868
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Alt Estuary	530 ¹¹	162 ¹²	97 ¹²	75 ¹²	66	Apr	186
Tophill Low Reservoirs	375 ¹¹	26 ¹¹	250 ¹¹	125 ¹²	120 ¹²	Jul	179
Tay Estuary	26	206	(3)	(0)	(1)	Aug	116
North Norfolk Coast	32	176	30	10	4	Jun	50
Humber Estuary	(3)	(0)	(33)	(2)	5	Sep	19
Morecambe Bay	(3)	14	(0)	3	23	Nov	13
Forth Estuary	(0)	25	9	3	(2)	Jul	12
Anstruther Bay	0	0	55	0	0		11
Alde Complex	49	0	0	0	0		10
Tees Estuary	4	6	11	21	10	Jul	10
East Chevington Pools	3	14	7	18	9	Jul	10
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010 in Great Britain[†]							
Arlington Reservoir	0	0	0		30	Apr	8
Ribble Estuary	0	(0)	1	(0)	11	Apr	4

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

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

GB max: 352 Jan
NI max: 5 Oct

International threshold: 6,600
Great Britain threshold: 18
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

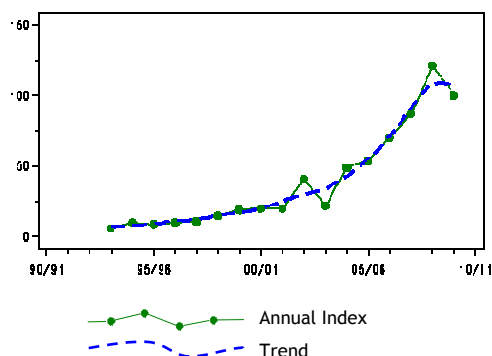


Figure 59.a, Annual indices & trend for Mediterranean Gull for GB (above) & NI (below).

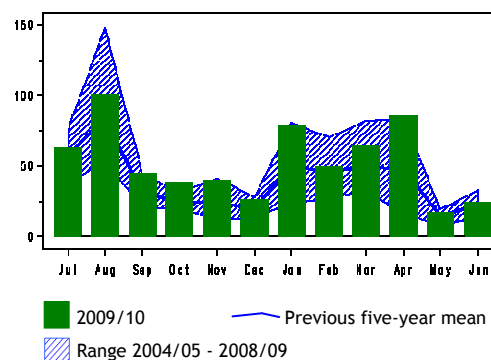


Figure 59.b, Monthly indices for Mediterranean Gull for GB (above) & NI (below).

In 2009/10, Mediterranean Gulls were recorded at a record 127 WeBS sites in Britain and two in Northern Ireland. The peak monthly British total counted through WeBS was 352 in January.



Mediterranean Gulls (Peter M Wilson)

The continued expansion of this species in Britain is exemplified by the revised population estimate of Musgrove *et al.* (2011); compiling numbers from recent county bird reports, approximately 1,800 wintering birds are now considered to be present. The table below lists the sites

where counts surpass the associated 1% threshold.

For the first time in the annual WeBS report, a trend for Mediterranean Gull features; it illustrates the marked increase that has occurred over the course of the last fifteen or so years. The breeding population has also increased considerably (JNCC 2011). Considered a BBRC rarity until 1962, the species has slowly become an established fixture among Britain's *Laridae*.

Five counted WeBS sites, all located within the central south coast stronghold, held peaks in excess of 100 birds during the course of the year. Forty other sites held at least five birds. The WeBS site maximum was 172 at Beaulieu Estuary in September. Several other south coast locations known to be favoured by this species (including Copt Point in Kent) are not currently monitored through WeBS.

Still relatively few tend to be seen away from the southern counties and East Anglia, epitomised by records from just four sites in Scotland. Maxima outside the core range were eight at Cleddau Estuary (Sep) and six at Scarborough (Jan).

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Folkestone: Copt Pt/East Wear Bay				270 ¹²			270
Brading Harbour	148	91	64	461 ¹²	101	Aug	173
Southampton Water	(2)	(112)	(309)	(30)	36	Oct	152
Breydon Water & Berney Marshes	27 ²⁷		131 ¹²	118 ¹¹	189 ¹¹	Aug	116

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Pagham Harbour	60	71	(124)	(118)	140	Jan	103
Fleet and Wey	23	39	61	140	211 ¹⁰	Nov	95
Newtown Estuary	57	56	19	53	111	Apr	59
Beaulieu Estuary	9	6	1	65	172	Sep	51 ▲
Tamar Complex	39	34	37	45	65	Aug	44
Thames Estuary	30	71	34	40	37	Jan	42
North West Solent	0	8	29	101	41	Jan	36
Ryde Pier to Puckpool Point	45	22	45		27	Nov	35
Foreland	50	20	50		10	Oct	33
Camel Estuary	(18)	11	6	78	33	Oct	32
Swansea Bay	28	33	12	34	55	Jul	32
Chichester Harbour	(22)	12	(31)	28	(56)	Apr	30
Wootton Creek	12	102	16	6	4	Aug	28
Thorness Bay					27	Mar	27 ▲
Minsmere	10	10	11	45	33	Apr	22
Medway Estuary	(1)	(18)	(13)	(14)	(12)	Apr	(18) ▲
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010 in Great Britain							
Yar Estuary	0	0	2	4	42	Mar	10
R.Avon: Ringwood - Christchurch		0	(0)	0	35	Mar	12
Medina Estuary	1	4	0	5	35	Apr	9
Pegwell Bay	0	3	4	11	32 ¹²	Aug	10
Portsmouth Harbour	7	11	(12)	29	(22)	Mar	17
Glyne Gap	5	(15)	8	(11)	19 ¹¹	Oct	12

Common Gull

Larus canus

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: 7,000†

All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 66,256 Feb

NI max: 4,201 Nov

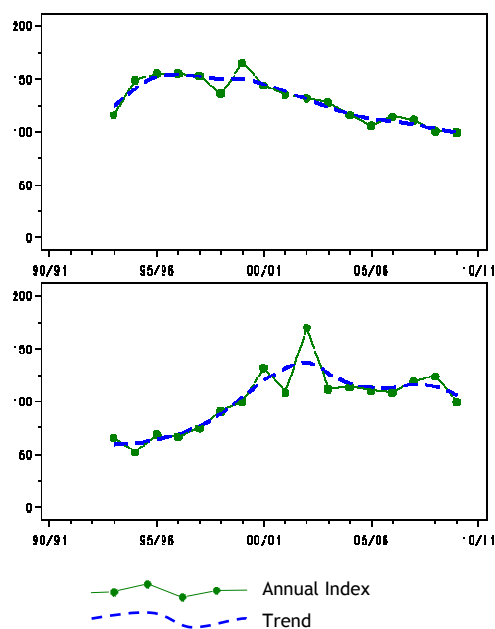


Figure 60.a, Annual indices & trend for Common Gull for GB (above) & NI (below).

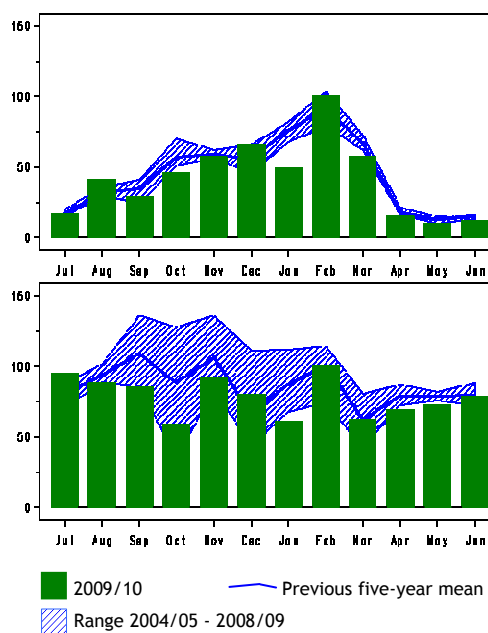


Figure 60.b, Monthly indices for Common Gull for GB (above) & NI (below).

As the counting of gulls remains optional during WeBS, total numbers reported here often reflect variation in coverage as much as fluctuation in actual numbers.

The peak monthly total of Common Gulls was the highest ever recorded. However it is probably evidence of increased coverage and a greater proportion of counters

submitting counts of gulls as opposed to a favourable status for this particular species. The annual indices and associated trends based on WeBS data are included in the WeBS report for the first time, and the British trend for this species indicates a steady decline in numbers using WeBS sites over the course of the last 15 years.

Continuing the theme of recent years, the maximum number of Common Gulls was

recorded at the impressive roost at Bewl Water. Typically, numbers of Common Gulls at several other important sites have not been counted since the last Wintering Gulls Survey (WinGS) in 2003/04 (Banks *et al.* 2007). Submission of count data from all sites, particularly those where the species is known to roost in significant numbers, is therefore encouraged.

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Bewl Water	90,000 ¹¹	75,500 ¹¹	59,650 ¹¹	34,200 ¹¹	52,000 ¹¹	Feb	62,270
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Haweswater Reservoir	12,535 ¹¹	17,185 ¹¹	17,560 ¹¹	23,565 ¹¹	19,612 ¹¹	Mar	18,091
Tophill Low Reservoirs	21,600 ¹¹	8,000 ¹¹	25,000 ¹¹	19,000 ¹¹	15,600	Feb	17,840
Hallington Reservoir	34,000 ¹¹	700 ¹¹					17,350
Ribble Estuary	(253)	(1,973)	5,020	1,758	32,000 ¹⁰	Nov	12,926 ▲
Derwent Reservoir	40,000 ¹¹	18,500 ¹¹	5,000	512	151	Nov	12,833 ▼
Rutland Water	10,000	10,000	13,500	4,000	3,000	Nov	8,100
Eccup Reservoir			8,000				8,000 ▲
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010							
Colt Crag Reservoir							
Sites with mean peak counts of 3,000 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Forth Estuary	2,100 ²⁷	(603)	7,831	(1,118)	(1,264)	Dec	4,966
Inner Firth of Clyde	2,463	6,234	3,610 ¹⁰	1,778	9,438	Feb	4,705
Longnewton Reservoir	2,700	3,400	5,400	5,400	2,700	Dec	3,920
Carsebreck and Rhynd Lochs	6,250 ¹¹	3,000 ¹¹	320 ¹²	6,700 ¹¹	3,300 ¹¹	Mar	3,914
St Mary's Island to N. Shields Quay	3,900 ¹¹						3,900
Severn Estuary	5,110 ²⁷	(1,076)	(65)	2,430 ¹⁰	(200) ¹²	Feb	3,770
Humber Estuary	(120)	(74)	(298)	(415)	(3,461)	Dec	(3,461)
Blyth Estuary	4,914	6,300	228	1,600	(1,325)	Jan	3,261
Chichester Harbour	2,379	3,225	2,289	4,862	3,424	Jan	3,236
Thames Estuary	3,768	2,622	(1,552)	(895)	(1,945)	Jan	3,195
Dungeness and Rye Bay	3,000 ¹²	500	1,010	781	10,002	Aug	3,059
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Lough Foyle	4,354	2,836	3,952	4,771	2,513	Dec	3,685
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,328	984	1,022	1,075	1,753	Mar	1,232
Belfast Lough	2,156	1,405 ¹⁰	687	571 ¹⁰	899 ¹⁰	Nov	1,144
Larne Lough	84	1,194	645	2,236	(687)	Feb	1,040
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010 in Great Britain[†]							
North Norfolk Coast	4,342	1,550	(790)	1,618	4,363	Dec	2,968
Wet Sleddale Reservoir	1,765 ¹¹	2,020 ¹¹	533 ¹¹	2,046 ¹¹	3,740 ¹¹	Aug	2,021
Lower Derwent Ings	5,500	950	1,070	1,850	3,200	Mar	2,514
Hule Moss	1,850	40	2,750	1,050	3,000 ¹²	Dec	1,738
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010 in Northern Ireland[†]							
Dundrum Inner Bay	128	301	724	1,190	1,124	Sep	693

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

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

Vagrant

Native Range: N America

Ring-billed Gulls were seen at six WeBS sites, with a monthly maximum of five birds in January. In England, returning birds resided at Thames Estuary and Portsmouth Harbour throughout the winter, with others

seen at Carsington Water (Nov), Tamar Complex (Jan, Mar) and Fal Complex (Jan). In Scotland, one was recorded at Forth Estuary (Jan).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

International threshold: 5,500

Great Britain threshold: 1,200

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 26,358 Jun

NI max: 1,303 Sep

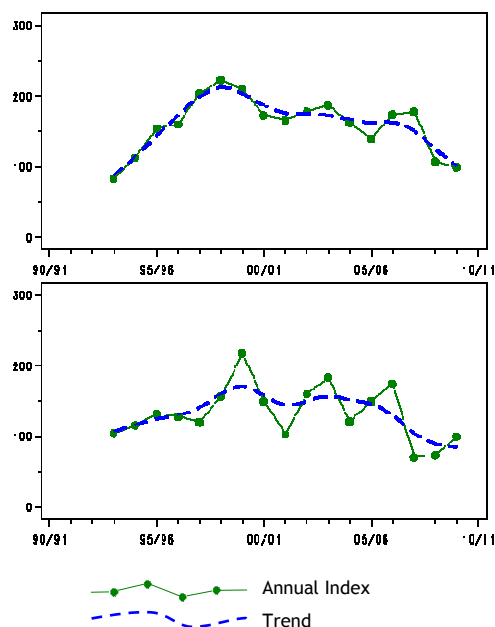


Figure 61.a, Annual indices & trend for Lesser Black-backed Gull for GB (above) & NI (below).

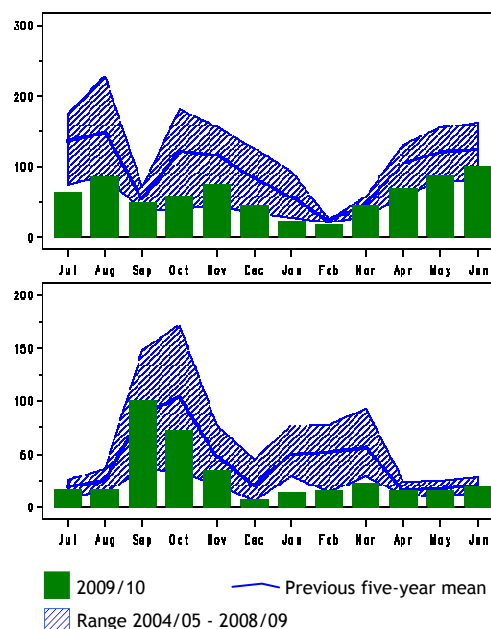


Figure 61.b, Monthly indices for Lesser Black-backed Gull for GB (above) & NI (below).

The monthly maximum of Lesser Black-backed Gulls was significantly lower than recent years, but because the counting of gulls is optional during WeBS, summed national maxima probably reflect changes in effort as much as actual numbers.

For a number of sites, comprehensive data are lacking since the last Wintering Gulls Survey (WinGS) in 2003/04 (Banks *et al.* 2007). Some of these sites are likely to be used by Lesser Black-backed Gulls in sufficient numbers to surpass the thresholds for international or national importance. Currently, just three sites (Morecambe Bay, Cotswold Water Park (West) and Ribble

Estuary) have a five-year mean beyond the threshold for international importance.

Annual indices and associated trend are included in the WeBS report for the first time. As with the other gulls, an increased submission rate for this species during the winter is encouraged, to improve the robustness of these indices and therefore the representativeness of the associated trend.

It should be noted that of all the gull species for which WeBS trends are shown, the trend for this species is based on a relatively small sample of monitored sites (owing to the species' relative prevalence in the summer).

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Morecambe Bay	21,932	29,576	41,347	17,097	20,110	Jun	26,012
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(141)	6,500 ¹¹	9,500 ¹¹	4,500 ¹¹	4,630 ¹¹	Jan	6,283
Ribble Estuary	3,011	5,525	9,005	6,045	6,800 ¹⁰	Nov	6,077
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Solway Estuary	(363)	4,701	(202)	(384)	(219)	Jun	4,701
R. Avon - Fordingbridge to Ringwood	5,100	3,160	500	1,507	9,800 ¹¹	Sep	4,013
Severn Estuary	4,696 ²⁷	(115)	(130)	2,899 ¹⁰	(143)	Aug	3,798 ▼
Great Pool Westwood Park	2,500	2,000	3,500	3,000	4,500	Dec	3,100

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
R. Severn and R. Vyrnwy Confluence	120	(144)	(401)	4,636	(242)	Sep	2,378
Llys-y-fran Reservoir	600	(4,000)	700	2,000	3,000	Nov	2,060
Alde Complex	1,162	2,990	453	2,775	2,609	Mar	1,998
Hule Moss	(2,500)	550	(1,750)	(450)	2,900 ¹²	Oct	1,925
Longnewton Reservoir	3,310	2,740	1,320	1,810	430	Sep	1,922
Alt Estuary	809	1,980	1,063	703	2,206	Sep	1,352 ▲
The Wash	1,075	1,027	1,184	(1,081)	(2,052)	Jul	1,335 ▲
Lower Windrush Valley GPs	1,071	2,922	(750)	852	468	Jan	1,328
Calvert Brick Works		610	2,500	1,200	520	Nov	1,208

Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010

Thames Estuary	775	273	(343)	(1,121)	(181)	Sep	723
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Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]

Loughs Neagh and Beg	997	1,136	387	(214)	1,177	Sep	924
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Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010 in Great Britain

Eversley Cross and Yateley GPs	6	862	693	80	3,010 ¹¹	Oct	930
Chelmarsh Reservoir	56	47			3,000	Aug	1,034
Wellington Gravel Pits		400 ¹²	300	1,000	2,500	Oct	1,050
Rutland Water	1,200	50	2,500	100	1,500	Aug	1,070

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

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

International threshold: 5,900

Great Britain threshold: 7,300[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 86,058 Jan

NI max: 4,466 Nov

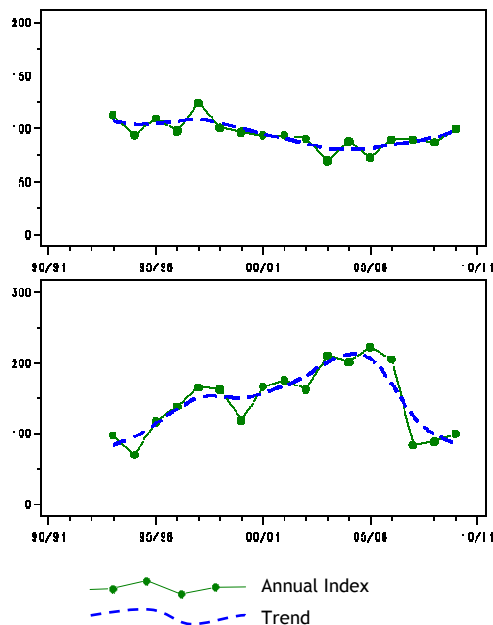


Figure 62.a, Annual indices & trend for Herring Gull for GB (above) & NI (below).

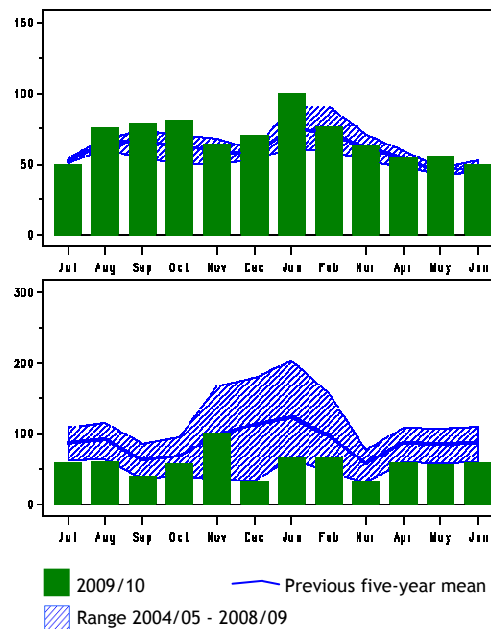


Figure 62.b, Monthly indices for Herring Gull for GB (above) & NI (below).

The counted British maximum of Herring Gulls was the highest for several years. However, because counting of gulls remains optional during WeBS, any summed national maxima reflect changes in effort as much as actual numbers. The national trend based

on WeBS data is included in the WeBS report for the first time, indicating relative stability in the number at WeBS sites, thereby contrasting somewhat with a declining breeding population (JNCC 2011).

Counting gulls at all sites, including at roost, is very much encouraged. The continued submission of supplementary counts from Glyne Gap yielded the highest count of the year - an impressive 14,000 birds in October. In the table below, The Wash joins Glyne Gap and three traditional strongholds of Ribble Estuary, Morecambe Bay and Forth Estuary, as the five WeBS sites now surpassing the threshold for international importance. The count of

8,657 at The Wash is one of the highest ever at the site; the historic peak being 12,649 birds in January 1998.

A number of sites of known importance for this species do not feature in the tables below, having not been counted for WeBS since the last Wintering Gulls Survey (WinGS) in 2003/04 (Banks *et al.* 2007). These include Queen Mary Reservoir and Hamilton Low & Strathclyde Parks.

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ribble Estuary	2,060	(25,336)	(11,086)	(19,024)	29,000 ¹⁰	Nov	18,855
Glyne Gap	1,486	(2,700)	6,800 ¹¹	11,500 ¹¹	14,000 ¹¹	Oct	8,447
Morecambe Bay	7,545	8,553	(10,258)	6,820	6,594	Aug	7,954
The Wash	(3,527)	6,212	(5,960)	(3,455)	(8,657)	Jan	7,435 ▲
Severn Estuary	(2,666)	(279)	(437)	6,332 ¹⁰	(481)	May	6,332
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
North Norfolk Coast	2,340	2,474	5,351	(3,113)	12,935	Jan	5,775 ▲
Isle of May	5,220 ²⁷						5,220
Guernsey Shore	2,362	5,704	4,432	7,360	(3,677)	Aug	4,965
Thames Estuary	3,680	4,456	6,655	(4,968)	(4,661)	Oct	4,940
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010							
Forth Estuary	(1,780)	(2,814)	(2,764)	(1,864)	(3,349)	Sep	(3,349)
Sites with mean peak counts of 2,500 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Alt Estuary	2,150	(1,005)	2,000	3,076	6,514	Oct	3,435
Dungeness and Rye Bay	7,000 ¹²	1,500 ¹²	5,000 ¹²	1,700	1,756	Mar	3,391
Forth Estuary	(1,780)	(2,814)	(2,764)	(1,864)	(3,349)	Sep	(3,349)
Burry Inlet	3,007	2,407	3,037 ¹⁰	3,648	2,869	Aug	2,994
Durham Coast	1,501	3,949	(300)	(629)	(983)	Feb	2,725
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	(3,000)	2,352	(274)	(643)	(348)	Dec	2,676
Exe Estuary	2,574 ¹¹	2,357 ¹¹	2,849 ¹¹	2,689 ¹²			2,617
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Belfast Lough	10,296 ¹⁰	6,655 ¹⁰	2,511	649	970 ¹⁰	Dec	4,216
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,304	1,602	1,053	1,520	2,306	Nov	1,557
Lough Foyle	1,480	443	535	1,350	1,331	Nov	1,028
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010 in Great Britain[†]							
Inner Firth of Clyde	1,313	1,202	1,355	1,477	3,095	Feb	1,688
Humber Estuary	(37)	(14)	183	234	(2,900)	Jan	1,106
Tees Estuary	1,227	1,765	1,948	1,660	2,605	Jan	1,841
Newtown Estuary	(40)	16	62	75	(2,500) ¹¹	Sep	663
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010 in Northern Ireland[†]							
Strangford Lough	670 ¹⁰	569	(658)	1,167 ¹⁰	1,091 ¹⁰	Dec	874

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

Yellow-legged Gull

Larus michahellis

International threshold: 7,000
Great Britain threshold: 11
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

'Western' Yellow-legged Gulls were recorded at 60 WeBS sites in England, two in Scotland and two in Wales, with a peak of 138 birds in September. However, a lack of WeBS coverage during July to September at several important localities for Yellow-

legged Gulls on the south coast of England means WeBS fails to yield a true picture of their numbers. Having collated information from recent county bird reports, Musgrove *et al.* (2011) estimate the population to now be in the order of 1,100 birds.

Sites with 11 or more birds in 2009/10

Kingsbridge Estuary	38	Jul	Poole Harbour	37	Sep
King George VI Reservoir	37	Jul	Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	25	Sep

Caspian Gull

Larus cachinnans

International threshold: 7,000
Great Britain threshold: 1

Caspian Gulls were noted at ten WeBS sites in 2009/10, with a monthly peak of six birds in December. This is the same showing as the previous year, and is likely to be at least partly due to particular observers'

confidence in being able to identify this difficult species. With the exception of a count of four at Ditchford Gravel Pits (Dec), all records related to singles in south-east or central England.

Iceland Gull

Larus glaucoideus

International threshold: 2,000
Great Britain threshold: 2

Iceland Gulls were seen during WeBS Core counts at just 14 sites in 2009/10, evenly divided between Scotland and England. Records were spread from November through to May, with a monthly

maximum of just four birds in December. All were single birds, perhaps the most notable of which were at Tamar Lakes in March and Blyth Estuary in May.

Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

International threshold: 10,000
Great Britain threshold: 2

2009/10 was a very poor year for records of Glaucous Gull; the species was recorded at just seven WeBS sites, with a monthly maximum of four birds in January. Following an unseasonal third-ever WeBS record for the month of July, from Lossie Estuary, singles were seen at Loch Spynie, Forth Estuary, Ditchford Gravel Pits, Albert Village Pit, Alde Complex and Guernsey Shore during the more typical winter and early spring period.



Glaucous Gull (Peter M Wilson)

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

International threshold: 4,400
Great Britain threshold: 760
All-Ireland threshold: ?ⁱ

GB max: 10,513 Oct
NI max: 385 Nov

Counts of 1,000+ Great Black-backed Gulls were received from five sites during the course of 2009/10, a good showing compared to recent years. The largest counts were scattered throughout the period of September to March, and the overall counted monthly maximum proved to be 10,513 birds in October. The national trends based on WeBS data are included here for the first time, indicating an apparent decline over the course of the last fifteen or so years. The breeding population

is estimated to have declined by 14% between 2000 and 2010 (JNCC 2011).

A number of sites of known importance for this species do not feature in the tables below, having not been counted for WeBS since the last Wintering Gulls Survey (WinGS) in 2003/04. These include Lynmouth Ash Lagoons, Grafham Water, Brogborough Clay Pit, Ogston Reservoir and Southfield Reservoir. Submission of counts from these sites, as well as from gull roosts

more generally, is therefore particularly encouraged.

In Northern Ireland, the recent fall in numbers reported from Belfast Lough is again apparent. A peak of just 24 was reported in October; as recently as four years ago, over 1,000 were reported.

Reasons for this are unknown, but implications for the national indices and associated trend are obvious and demonstrate that care should be taken if interpreting trends based on data from relatively few sites.

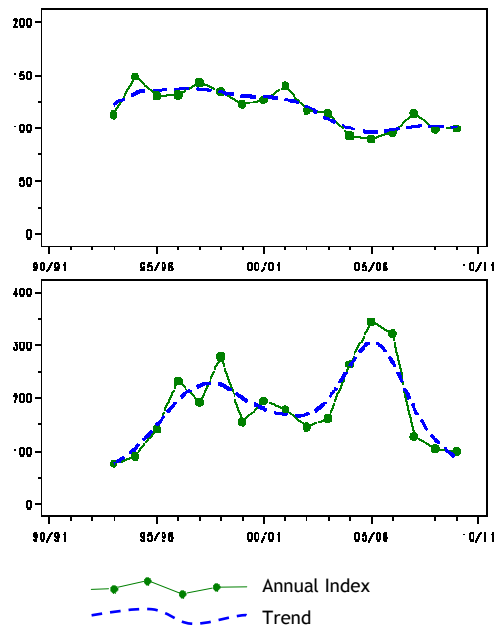


Figure 63.a, Annual indices & trend for Great Black-backed Gull for GB (above) & NI (below).

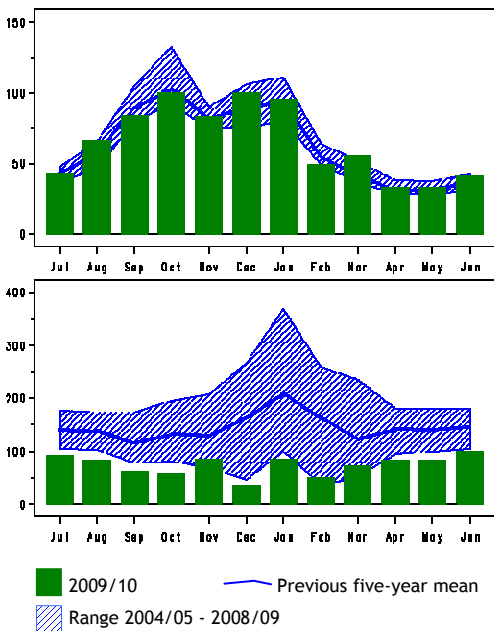


Figure 63.b, Monthly indices for Great Black-backed Gull for GB (above) & NI (below).

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Thames Estuary	1,972	1,096	2,107	(1,236)	(1,431)	Nov	1,725
The Wash	1,773	1,186	(2,131)	(1,011)	1,726	Oct	1,704
Lower Derwent Ings	500	1,030	870	1,000	1,740	Mar	1,028
Tees Estuary	(366)	1,028	668	971	1,169	Jan	959
Ribble Estuary	(27)	(200)	(365)	211	1,700 ¹⁰	Nov	956 ▲
Humber Estuary	(66)	(20)	(165)	176	(1,441)	Dec	809 ▲
Pegwell Bay	1,190	700	850	821 ¹⁰	420 ¹²	Dec	796
Durham Coast	776	(659)	(35)	(99)	(139)	Feb	776
Dungeness and Rye Bay	1,000 ¹²	700 ¹²	1,200 ¹²	305	601	Dec	761
Sites with mean peak counts of 400 or more birds in Great Britain							
Glyne Gap	355	655	(800) ¹¹	1,100 ¹¹	850 ¹¹	Oct	752
Fleet and Wey	873	111	897	711	491	Nov	617
East Chevington Pools	230	400	2,000	190	200	Oct	604
Cambois to Newbiggin	(600)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)		(600)
Guernsey Shore	477	619	424	633	(180)	Dec	538
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(58)	(176)	(152)	(465)	(147)	Nov	(465)
Sites with mean peak counts of 400 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Belfast Lough	1,281	(827)	333	52	57 ¹⁰	Nov	510
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010 in Great Britain							
Camel Estuary	492	75	159	189	492	Jan	281
Morecambe Bay	313	466	280	(411)	487	Oct	391
North Norfolk Coast	471	262	251	383	424	Sep	358
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	(347)	33	27	(17)	420	Aug	207

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

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

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

GB max: 1,254 Jul
NI max: 0

Little Terns were recorded at 37 WeBS sites in 2009. Typically the majority of sites were in England, although nine in Scotland is another slight increase for there.

All records were in the period of April to August. Maxima from the principal WeBS sites for Little Terns were similar to those in 2008, with North Norfolk Coast and Dee

Estuary consolidating their respective positions in the table below. The peak count was again high at Morecambe Bay in July, indicative of improved summer coverage and hopefully a productive breeding season.

Inland, one was at Fen Drayton Gravel Pits in April.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
North Norfolk Coast	246	284	496	593	491	Jul	422
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	411	250	251	309	300	Jul	304
The Wash	(182)	83	255	(80)	153	Jul	168
Morecambe Bay	(1)	(4)	42	156	152	Jul	117
Thames Estuary	74	154	101	57	(125)	Aug	102
Durham Coast	67	39	(49)		(38)	Jul	53
Humber Estuary	(22)	(59)	(8)	44	(12)	May	52
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2009 in Great Britain[†]							
Pegwell Bay	1	0	3	12	75 ¹³	May	18
North West Solent	0	4	(4)	(14)	57	May	20

[†] 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 Europe

A Gull-billed Tern was recorded at Tamar Complex in July. There have now been five

WeBS records, the last three of which have occurred in either Devon or Cornwall.

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

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

GB max: 273 Aug
NI max: 0

In 2009, Black Terns were seen during Core counts at 26 WeBS sites in England, half the total of the previous year. In spring, maxima among records from nine sites comprised eight birds at Buckden & Stirtloe Pits and seven at Wellington Gravel Pits, both in May. Similar to Little Gull, numbers recorded by WeBS tend to be dependent on Core count dates coinciding

with fluxes of passage; exemplified in August 2009 by events at Thames Estuary where an impressive 142 birds were noted. Elsewhere the same movement yielded counts of 41 at Grafham Water, 26 at Pegwell Bay, 24 at Tring Reservoirs, 14 at Hanningfield Reservoir and 12 at Humber Estuary. The species was seen at 15 other sites in the August-September period.

White-winged Black Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

Vagrant
Native Range: S Europe

Four White-winged Black Terns graced WeBS sites in 2009. These comprised adults at Fen Drayton Gravel Pits (July) and

Thames Estuary (Aug) followed by two juveniles at Brading Harbour (Aug).

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

International threshold: 1,700

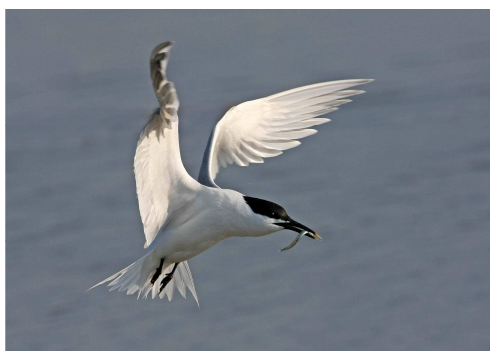
Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 5,358 Aug

NI max: 193 Sep

Sandwich Terns were recorded at 126 WeBS sites across the UK in 2009, a very similar distribution to the previous year. The majority of records were for April through to October, although the regular occurrence of a small number of winterers continued; consequently there were records for all months of the year.



Sandwich Tern (Jill Pakenham)

Pegwell Bay, Guernsey Shore and Fishguard Harbour all hosted birds in January and February, while in December the species featured on the south coast of England at Chichester Harbour, Portsmouth Harbour, Southampton Water and Poole Harbour. Several of these winter records at re-occurring sites may relate to returning adults.

The British maximum was similar to the average for the last ten years, as was the maximum from North Norfolk Coast where a peak of 4,687 Sandwich Terns was recorded in June. Elsewhere, a notable site maximum at Minsmere in July represents the highest WeBS count ever there.

The peak count from the principal site in Northern Ireland, Dundrum Inner Bay, was fairly typical of recent years.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
North Norfolk Coast	3,228	8,062	2,873	5,729	4,687	Jun	4,916
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Forth Estuary	1,243	(1,037)	680	(448)	(312)	Jul	987
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	829	530	1,334	953	(1,235)	Aug	976
Pegwell Bay	824	650 ¹³	520	1,060	1,050 ¹³	Jul	821
Duddon Estuary	604	843	460	886	877	May	734
Humber Estuary	325	(957)	805	(383)	349	Aug	609
Cemlyn Bay and Lagoon	2,000	12	208	22	42	Apr	457
Tay Estuary	126	(377)	545	373	648	Aug	423
Tees Estuary	221	(490)	438	(108)	249	Aug	350
The Wash	(307)	164	(338)	(498)	(213)	Jul	304
Lindisfarne	(7)	(300)	(30)	(126)	(140)	Apr	(300)
Eden Estuary	33	766	460	90	53	Sep	280
Solway Estuary	(209)	(339)	(162)	(227)	211	Jul	259
Alt Estuary	116	207	348	112	293	Apr	215
Minsmere	13	50	24	104	847	Jul	208
Peterhead Bay					206	Sep	206
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Dundrum Inner Bay	133	311	233	276	179	Jun	226
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2009 in Great Britain[†]							
Morecambe Bay	110	190	201	216	280	Apr	199
Ribble Estuary	(32)	7	256	148	(220) ¹³	Aug	158
Traeth Bach	0	30		15	218	Sep	66
Montrose Basin	140	13	43	22	204	Aug	84
Loch Ryan	107	(80)			200 ¹³	Jul	154

[†] 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: 5,308 Aug

NI max: 8 May

Common Terns were recorded at 330 WeBS sites during 2009, exactly the same number of sites as the previous year. All were between April and October, featuring records from nine sites during the latter month (which included groups of 20 birds at The Wash and 17 at Eden Estuary).

The highest counts of the year were from Humber Estuary and Alt Estuary, both sites again exceeding 1,000 birds. At most sites,

peak counts were generally as expected, although the maxima from both North Norfolk Coast and Loch of Strathbeg were somewhat reduced compared to recent years. This year saw no exceptional aggregations reported such as those of recent years at Humber Estuary (in 2008) and Breydon Water & Berney Marshes (in 2007 and 2008).

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Humber Estuary	(61)	(19)	(330)	7,000 ¹²	(1,126)	Aug	7,000
Breydon Water and Berney Marshes			8,720 ¹³	2,520 ¹²			5,620
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Alt Estuary	2,010	1,503	1,074	1,655	1,513	Jun	1,551
Tees Estuary	(521)	869	618	558	536	Jun	645
The Wash	129	1,092	(342)	(688)	(179)	Jul	636
North Norfolk Coast	450	606	894	782	385	Jun	623
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	(109)	454	677	(327)	(249)	May	566
Tay Estuary	(123)	(100)	600	105	410	Aug	372
Thames Estuary	219	(206)	(198)	514	(132)	Aug	367
Loch of Strathbeg	449	326	554	174	61	Jul	313
Southampton Water	(62)	(133)	(2)	(310)	(260)	Aug	(310)
Dungeness and Rye Bay	(0)	(1)	(0)	(62)	302	Apr	302
Pegwell Bay	26	5	173	474	440 ¹³	Aug	224
Forth Estuary	287	(216)	207	169	(131)	May	221
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2009 in Great Britain†							
Glyne Gap	(0)	31	(1)	105	(264)	Aug	133
Minsmere	111	84	136	165	210	Jul	141
Chichester Harbour	(102)	(54)	(25)	64	(202)	Aug	123

† 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

Sterna dougallii

Scarce

Roseate Terns were reported from eight WeBS sites during 2009. Sites in north-east England predominated, accounting for the

peak counts in both spring (four at Cresswell to Newbiggin in June) and autumn (six at St Mary's Island in August).

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

International threshold: ?

Great Britain threshold: ?†

All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 917 Jul

NI max: 3 Oct

Counting of terns is optional during WeBS counts therefore any summed national maxima reflect changes in effort as much as actual numbers. The British maximum in 2009 of just 917 in July was one of the

lowest ever. Typically, largest counts were from sites in Scotland, although maxima at the traditionally important sites of Tay Estuary and Loch of Strathbeg, like those of Kittiwake (page 142), were both low.

In total, birds were reported from 91 WeBS sites across the UK, a typical showing. The majority were seen between May and September, with small numbers in both April (including a group of 113 birds at Alt Estuary) and October. This was followed by a particularly late report from Lower Lough Erne in November, one of four records in Northern Ireland during the year.

The UK supports 3.1% of the global breeding population of Arctic Terns. A decline of 31% was estimated between seabird censuses carried out in 1985-1988 and 1998-2002, although an increase of 7% between 2000 and 2010 is estimated from trends derived from colonies sampled annually through the Seabird Monitoring Programme (JNCC 2011).

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Tay Estuary	(10)	(50)	1,841	1,100	200	Aug	1,047
Loch of Strathbeg	2,100	164	1,210	883	38	Jul	879
Loch of Beith	1,000	45	250	200	100	Jul	319
Loch An Duin, Aird Point (Lewis)	300						300
Eden Estuary	0	209	617	25	7	Jul	172
The Houb (Whalsay)	3	200	275	80	150	Jun	142
Morecambe Bay	(16)	(11)	(30)	123	122	Jul	123
St Andrews Bay	70	110	(0)	(0)			90
Ness of Sound		90	80	100	60	Jul	83
Loch a' Phuill (Tiree)	58	37	77	101	135	Jun	82
Hamna Voe and Galtagarth	50	50	100	150	50	Jul	80
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2009 in Great Britain[†]							
Montrose Basin	12	21	2	90	144	Jun	54
Loch Inver	0	18	0	80	120	Jun	44
Alt Estuary	15	9	78	11	113	Apr	45

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set, a qualifying level of 70 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

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

GB max: 493 Sep
NI max: 14 Oct

The Kingfisher is a difficult species to monitor accurately, owing to its widespread distribution and preference for linear waterways; a habitat which is relatively poorly covered by WeBS. Although breeding numbers declined up to the mid 1980s, the species seems to have recovered since (Baillie *et al.* 2010).

Kingfishers were recorded at 644 WeBS sites in 2009/10, which represents a very

similar showing to the previous year. However, the British counted maximum of 493 in September was lower than both of the previous two years.

Somerset Levels, Ditchford Gravel Pits and Wraysbury Gravel Pits continue to vie for top spot in the table of WeBS sites below, the maximum during the year being 16 at Ditchford in October.

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 7 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Somerset Levels	(18)	17	22	14	15	Mar	17
Ditchford Gravel Pits	13	12	19	17	16	Oct	15
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	16	17	14				15
Southampton Water	(11)	(8)	(8)	(6)	(6)	Aug	(11)
North Norfolk Coast	10	14	20 ¹⁰	5	7	Nov	11
Chichester Gravel Pits	11	7	9	(0)	(2)	Dec	9
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	9	(13)	(9)	7	6	Nov	9
The Wash	(0)	(0)	9	8	9	Oct	9
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	9	9	7	10	4	Sep	8

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 8 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report