## Bar-tailed Godwit

*Limosa lapponica*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GB max:** | **61,563** | **Feb** |
| **NI max:** | **2,124** | **Jan** |

| | |
|---|---|
| **International threshold (N & W Europe):** | **1,200** |
| **Great Britain threshold:** | **380** |
| **All-Ireland threshold:** | **160** |

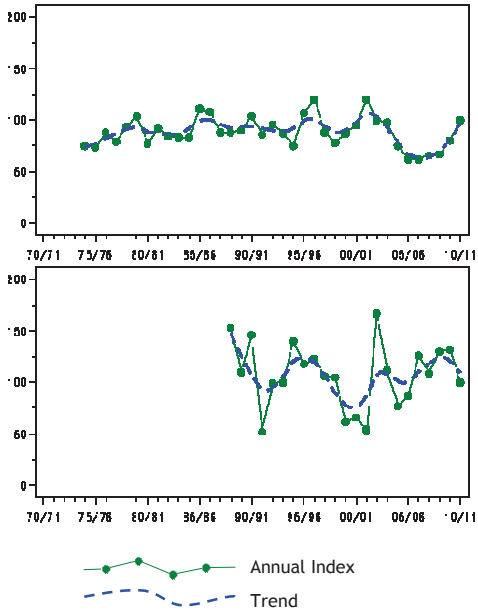


*Figure 55.a, Annual indices & trend for Bar-tailed Godwit in GB (above) & NI (below).*

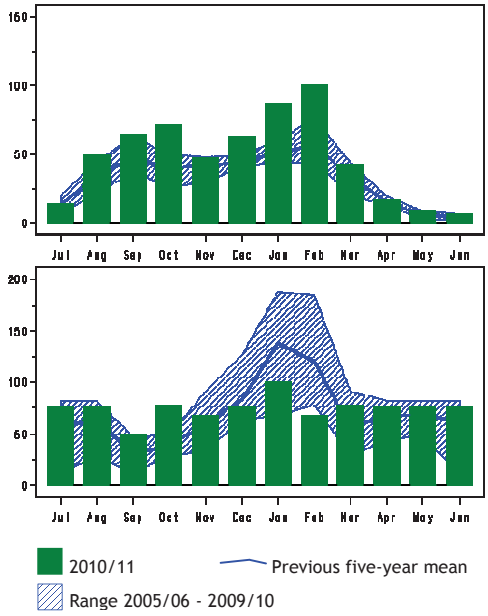


*Figure 55.b, Monthly indices for Bar-tailed Godwit in GB (above) & NI (below).*

Bar-tailed Godwits present in Britain during the winter months are of the nominate race *lapponica* whose breeding range extends from northeast Europe to western Siberia, while many passage birds are of the central Siberian race *taymyrensis*.

Following a concerning dip in the British trend during the mid 2000s, there appears to have been an equally marked recovery in the last couple of years. As speculated in last year's report it remains to be seen whether this will be maintained over the longer term; the British trend for this species over the last 15 years has typically been characterised by a succession of peaks and troughs. In contrast, the Netherlands has witnessed a steady rise in wintering numbers (Hornman *et al.* 2012), indicative of an eastward shift of the population in western Europe in response to climate change (Maclean *et al.* 2008). Therefore, the relative magnitude of the rise in the British index value during the very cold winter of 2010/11 may be especially pertinent, with the monthly indices showing that above average numbers were present in Britain during the core of the winter in January and February.

Eleven sites surpass the threshold for international importance, the top four of which all registered higher than expected maxima in 2010/11 (The Wash, Alt Estuary, North Norfolk Coast and Thames Estuary). In a similar story to 2009/10, the February count from The Wash represented one of the key features of the WeBS-year for this species; the total of 21,687 is second only to the 23,751 recorded there in March 2002 in terms of peak monthly WeBS counts.

The maxima recorded at Alt Estuary and North Norfolk Coast also stand out in the table below, representing record counts for these two sites. The maximum at North Norfolk Coast was especially impressive, being some 40% greater than the previous peak (7,429 in September 2003). In Northern Ireland, a drop in the index in comparison to 2009/10 was at least in part due to a decline in numbers at Strangford Lough.

| | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | Mon | Mean | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sites of international importance in the UK** | | | | | | | | |
| The Wash | 11,900 | 10,755 | 15,381 | 15,490 | 21,687 | Feb | 15,043 | |
| Alt Estuary | 4,100 | 2,939 | 8,171 | 5,265 | 12,412 | Jan | 6,577 | |
| Thames Estuary | 8,629 | 3,711 | 3,804 | 7,903 | 8,784 | Feb | 6,566 | |
| North Norfolk Coast | 2,990 | 1,783 | 1,382 | 5,010 | 10,455 | Oct | 4,324 | |
| Ribble Estuary | 4,628 | 5,162 | 2,762 | 3,419 [10] | 1,118 | Sep | 3,418 | |
| Humber Estuary | (1,871) | 1,490 | (5,926) | 2,056 | 2,972 | Aug | 3,111 | |
| Dengie Flats | 1,062 | (1,500) | 4,170 | 2,910 | 1,232 | Feb | 2,344 | |
| Lough Foyle | (2,672) | 2,300 | 2,789 | 1,501 | 1,473 | Oct | 2,147 | |
| Lindisfarne | 2,535 | (2,170) | 2,333 | (1,398) | 1,542 | Oct | 2,145 | |
| Morecambe Bay | (2,157) | (417) | 1,331 | (2,164) | 2,411 | Feb | 2,016 | |
| Forth Estuary | 1,502 | 921 | 1,270 | (1,293) | (1,382) | Jan | 1,274 | |
| **Sites of national importance in Great Britain** | | | | | | | | |
| Swale Estuary | 585 | 750 | 842 | 1,806 | 1,752 | Jan | 1,147 | |
| Cromarty Firth | 803 | (707) | 717 | 1,549 | 1,506 | Feb | 1,144 | |
| Hamford Water | (1,239) | 1,255 | 655 | (622) | (1,085) | Nov | 1,059 | |
| Dee Estuary (England and Wales) | 187 | 215 | 4,213 [10] | 65 | 367 | Feb | 1,009 | |
| Tay Estuary | 1,002 [10] | (1,000) | 482 | 815 | 1,495 | Oct | 959 | |
| Chichester Harbour | 630 | 1,228 | 802 | 1,006 | 890 | Jan | 911 | |
| Dornoch Firth | 541 | 301 | 871 | 749 | 869 | Jan | 666 | |
| Solway Estuary | 529 | 473 | (860) | 952 | 499 | Oct | 663 | |
| Eden Estuary | 555 | 605 | 682 | (348) | 756 | Feb | 650 | |
| South Ford | 782 | 454 | 574 | | 230 | Feb | 510 | |
| Pegwell Bay | 550 | 240 | 273 [10] | 193 [12] | 1,240 [12] | Apr | 499 | ▲ |
| Inner Moray and Inverness Firth | (785) | 390 | 311 | 464 | 493 | Feb | 489 | |
| Breydon Water and Berney Marshes | 653 [12] | 75 [12] | 10 | 118 [12] | 1,172 [12] | May | 406 | ▲ |
| **Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland** | | | | | | | | |
| Strangford Lough | 529 | (1,305) | 969 [10] | 1,158 | 436 | Jan | 879 | |
| Belfast Lough | (159) | 212 | 167 | (43) | (396) | Nov | 258 | |
| **Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain** | | | | | | | | |
| Ardivachar Point (South Uist) | 170 | 314 | 24 | | 460 | Feb | 242 | |
| Stour Estuary | 259 | 212 | 500 | 425 | (456) | Jan | 370 | |
| Loch Gruinart | 209 | 258 | 314 | 404 | 405 | Feb | 318 | |

## Whimbrel

***Numenius phaeopus***

**GB max:** **1,048** **Aug**
**NI max:** **7** **Jul**

**International threshold (Iceland, Faroes & Scotland, W Africa):** **6,700**
**Great Britain threshold:** **1+**†
**All-Ireland threshold:** **+**†

The majority of Whimbrel seen in Britain are en route to and from breeding sites in Iceland, Scandinavia and western Siberia, and the main wintering areas in West Africa. In 2010/11, the species was recorded at 137 sites across the UK, including five in Northern Ireland.

The short passage period in spring generally peaks in late April and early May. Outside the mid-month Core count priority dates, this tends to mean the spring passage is relatively poorly monitored by WeBS. Therefore, additional counts for use in the table below are welcomed.

Spring passage of Whimbrel tends to have a more westerly distribution than autumn passage (Grant 2002). This is illustrated by the site maxima shown in the table below; a highest Core count in spring of 209 at Severn Estuary and an autumn peak of 275 at The Wash.

A very small number of Whimbrel winter at favoured British estuaries. In 2010/11, just two sites hosted birds during the midwinter period of December to February, which may have been linked to the cold weather experienced across the UK.

| | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | Mon | Mean |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain** | | | | | | | |
| Barnacre Reservoir and Grizedale Lea | 477 [11] | 417 [11] | 372 [11] | 529 [11] | | | 449 |
| Brockholes Quarry | 210 [11] | 304 [11] | 246 [11] | 290 [11] | | | 263 |
| Severn Estuary | (186) | (85) | 331 [12] | 226 | 209 | May | 255 |
| The Wash | 233 | 324 | 151 | 150 | 275 | Aug | 227 |
| North Norfolk Coast | 70 | 257 | 123 | 97 | 197 | Aug | 149 |

| | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | Mon | Mean |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dungeness and Rye Bay | 246 [11] | 287 [11] | 23 | 28 | 14 | May | 120 |
| Chichester Harbour | 31 | 209 | 83 | 132 | 113 | Apr | 114 |
| Burry Inlet | 223 | 40 | 94 | 108 | 8 | May | 95 |
| Ribble Estuary | 9 | 7 | 58 | 390 [11] | 8 | Apr | 94 |
| Taw-Torridge Estuary | (42) | (17) | 93 | (76) | (40) | May | 93 |
| Morecambe Bay | (53) | (17) | 103 | 76 | 89 | May | 89 |
| Pegwell Bay | 76 | 19 | 51 | 191 [12] | 39 [12] | May | 75 |
| Langstone Harbour | 58 | 84 | 73 | 58 | 39 | Jul | 62 |
| Breydon Water and Berney Marshes | 40 [12] | 2 | 1 | 116 [12] | 148 [12] | Apr | 61 |
| Exe Estuary | 109 | 60 | 51 | 33 | 35 | Jul | 58 |
| Humber Estuary | 78 | 36 | 57 | 26 | 58 | Jul | 51 |
| **Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain** | | | | | | | |
| Tamar Complex | (29) | 17 | 33 | 59 | 79 | May | 47 |
| Blackwater Estuary | (14) | 8 | 20 | (22) | 71 | Apr | 33 |

## Eurasian Curlew

***Numenius arquata***

**International threshold (N Europe & W Africa): 8,400**
**Great Britain threshold: 1,400**
**All-Ireland threshold: 550**

**GB max: 83,396 Oct**
**NI max: 5,272 Jan**

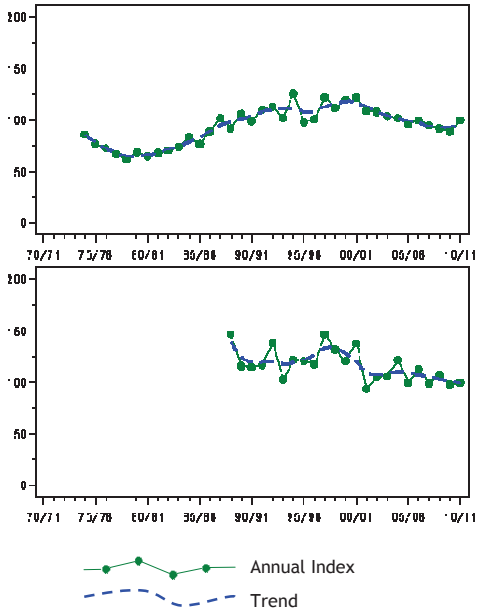


*Figure 56.a, Annual indices & trend for Curlew in GB (above) & NI (below).*

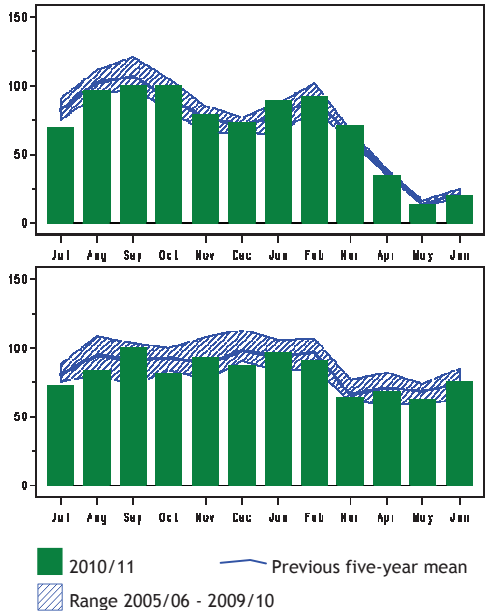


*Figure 56.b, Monthly indices for Curlew in GB (above) & NI (below).*

The wintering population of Curlew in UK comprises birds from the declining British breeding population (Baillie *et al.* 2012), augmented by birds of Scandinavian origin.

The WeBS trend indicates that numbers of wintering Curlew increased from the mid 1970s until the start of the 2000s. This was followed by a decade of consistent gradual decline, probably associated with a shift in wintering distribution (Maclean *et al.* 2008). The latter hypothesis is supported by evidence from The Netherlands, where numbers in the winter have increased, both on The Wadden Sea and in the wider countryside (Hornman *et al.* 2012). However, the national index value rose slightly in 2010/11, thereby interrupting the recent downward trend. Only time will tell if this represents a change in the longer term, or was merely a temporary response to the coldest winter in north-west Europe for 35 years.

Morecambe Bay and The Wash maintained their status as sites which surpass the threshold for international importance; the all-time record count of Curlew relates to 22,300 at the former site in August 1973. Counts at most of the other important sites were generally either similar to their recent average or somewhat down, such as at Dee Estuary and Humber Estuary (where the peak was the lowest for seven years). An exception was Severn Estuary, where this year's maximum of 4,176 represented the most since an all-time peak there of 5,307 in February 1995.

The trend in Northern Ireland illustrates a slow decline in recent years, epitomised by low maxima at the two principal sites (Lough Foyle and Strangford Lough) in 2010/11.

| | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | Mon | Mean | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sites of international importance in the UK** | | | | | | | | |
| Morecambe Bay | (14,027) | 11,530 | 13,136 | 11,167 | 11,203 | Oct | 12,213 | |
| The Wash | 9,710 | 7,664 | 7,548 | 12,811 | 10,475 | Oct | 9,642 | |
| **Sites of national importance in Great Britain** | | | | | | | | |
| Thames Estuary | 6,993 | 3,722 | 4,130 | 4,603 | (3,618) | Oct | 4,862 | |
| Dee Estuary (England and Wales) | 5,565 | 5,346 | 3,608 | 3,590 | 3,747 | Sep | 4,371 | |
| Forth Estuary | 4,567 | 3,568 | 4,023 | (2,939) | (2,552) | Feb | 4,053 | |
| Humber Estuary | 5,180 | 4,355 | (3,099) | 3,448 | 3,037 | Jan | 4,005 | |
| Severn Estuary | (3,230) | (2,560) | 3,396 | 3,731 | 4,176 | Oct | 3,768 | |
| Solway Estuary | 4,007 | (3,185) | (2,691) | 2,698 | 2,938 | Feb | 3,214 | |
| North Norfolk Coast | 2,190 | 2,884 | 2,318 | 2,293 | 2,109 | Sep | 2,359 | |
| Duddon Estuary | 2,113 | 2,145 | (2,315) | 1,716 | (1,576) | Nov | 2,072 | |
| Lavan Sands | 3,243 | 1,091 | 1,839 | 1,878 | 1,954 | Feb | 2,001 | |
| Lindisfarne | (1,174) | (1,441) | (1,260) | (2,102) | 1,464 | Jan | 1,783 | |
| Cleddau Estuary | (1,869) | 1,832 | 1,428 | 1,682 | 2,017 | Jul | 1,766 | |
| Inner Moray and Inverness Firth | (1,939) | 1,687 | 1,840 | 1,702 | 1,636 | Feb | 1,761 | |
| Swale Estuary | (1,516) | 1,357 | (1,433) | 1,808 | 2,097 | Oct | 1,754 | |
| Chichester Harbour | 2,052 | 1,760 | 1,481 | 1,763 | 1,685 | Nov | 1,748 | |
| Ribble Estuary | 1,497 | 1,419 | (1,308) | 1,926 | (1,653) | Oct | 1,624 | |
| Burry Inlet | 1,413 | 1,370 | 1,689 | 1,488 | (1,615) | Aug | 1,515 | |
| Stour Estuary | 1,424 | 1,669 | 1,231 [10] | 1,480 | 1,355 | Aug | 1,432 | ▲ |
| **Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland** | | | | | | | | |
| Lough Foyle | 2,681 | 2,510 | 2,588 | 1,834 | 1,656 | Jan | 2,254 | |
| Strangford Lough | 1,918 [10] | 1,552 | 1,571 | 2,040 | 1,504 | Sep | 1,717 | |
| Belfast Lough | 779 [10] | 821 | 567 | 824 | 503 | Oct | 699 | |
| Outer Ards Shoreline | 519 | 238 | 601 | 721 | 758 | Nov | 567 | ▲ |
| Carlingford Lough | 754 | (759) | 470 | 280 | (172) | Nov | 566 | |
| **Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2010/2011** | | | | | | | | |
| Blackwater Estuary | 1,296 | (1,267) | 1,481 | 1,249 | (1,521) | Mar | 1,387 | |
| Langstone Harbour | 1,343 | 1,279 | 1,228 | 1,469 | 1,506 | Oct | 1,365 | |
| Montrose Basin | 1,115 | 1,734 | 1,822 | 1,094 | 893 | Feb | 1,332 | |
| **Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain** | | | | | | | | |
| Alt Estuary | 1,270 | 1,257 | 997 | (810) | 1,952 | Oct | 1,369 | |
| Mersey Estuary | 1,379 | (982) | 1,038 | 1,051 | (1,719) | Jan | 1,297 | |
| Cromarty Firth | 1,373 | 1,318 | 1,147 | 1,447 | 1,556 | Dec | 1,368 | |
| Blackwater Estuary | 1,296 | (1,267) | 1,481 | 1,249 | (1,521) | Mar | 1,387 | |
| Langstone Harbour | 1,343 | 1,279 | 1,228 | 1,469 | 1,506 | Oct | 1,365 | |

## Common Sandpiper

***Actitis hypoleucos***

**International threshold (W & C Europe, W Africa): 17,500**
**Great Britain threshold: 1†**
**All-Ireland threshold: ?†**

**GB max: 1,190 Jul**
**NI max: 8 Jul**

For the fifth year in succession, the peak count of the year was at Pegwell Bay, an exceptional 163 in August. This equals the previous maximum noted at the site five years earlier, and is only just short of the all-time peak WeBS count of the species; 180 at Morecambe Bay in July 1988. In 2010/11, autumn passage appears to have been reasonably well spread across July and August, with the maxima at Cleddau Estuary (54), Montrose Basin (54) and Morecambe Bay (73) being particularly notable. Numbers traditionally peak at sites in Wales and Scotland in July rather than August, when they

presumably attract post-breeding birds from nearby breeding areas.

A small, but slowly increasing, number of Common Sandpipers have over-wintered in Britain in recent years. Musgrove *et al.* (2011) estimated the total to be in the order of 75 birds, the majority typically being singles at coastal sites, primarily in the south. In 2010/11, during the mid-winter period of December to February the species was seen at 26 WeBS sites. This total is nine less than the previous year, which may be associated with the cold winter, and included a peaks of six at Severn Estuary (Jan) and five at Avon Estuary (Dec). The only inland record during this period was one at Stretton Sugwas Sand Pit (Feb).

| | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | Mon | Mean |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sites with mean peak counts of 30 or more birds in Great Britain†** | | | | | | | |
| Pegwell Bay | 163 [10] | 106 | 122 | 84 | 163 | Aug | 128 |
| Morecambe Bay | 48 | (38) | 21 | 48 | 73 | Jul | 48 |
| Dungeness and Rye Bay | 37 | 30 | 72 | 35 | 60 | Aug | 47 |
| Thames Estuary | 50 | 41 | (15) | (14) | (5) | Aug | 46 |
| Humber Estuary | (14) | 46 | (19) | (12) | (10) | Jul | 46 |
| Severn Estuary | (12) | (20) | (40) | 42 | 38 | Aug | 40 |
| Cleddau Estuary | (47) | 33 | 14 | 27 | 54 | Jul | 35 |
| Abberton Reservoir | (41) | 31 | 46 | 15 | 22 | Aug | 31 |
| **Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2010 in Great Britain†** | | | | | | | |
| Montrose Basin | 14 | 15 | 4 | 23 | 54 | Jul | 22 |
| North Norfolk Coast | 18 | 14 | 35 | 16 | 43 | Aug | 25 |

† *as all sites exceed the British winter threshold (1) and no All-Ireland thresholds has been set, a qualifying level of 30 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report*

## Spotted Sandpiper

**Vagrant**

***Actitis macularius***

One was at Exe Estuary in September; the fifth successive year that the species has been recorded by WeBS.

## Green Sandpiper

***Tringa ochropus***

**International threshold (Europe & W Africa):** **15,500**
**Great Britain threshold:** **9†**
**All-Ireland threshold:** **?†**

**GB max:** **768 Aug**
**NI max:** **1 Aug**

Green Sandpipers were recorded during Core counts at 287 WeBS sites in 2010/11. Widely distributed, particularly across England, during the autumn period, the monthly maximum typically fell in August when a high total of 768 was logged. The peak count of 67 at North Norfolk Coast represents the highest WeBS count ever there, almost surpassing the all-time high of 82 at Thames Estuary in August 1973.

During the November to February period, when sites with flowing freshwater such as streams and cress beds tend to be favoured, the species was noted at 128 WeBS sites. This total is 17% less than the previous year, which is presumably attributable to the frozen conditions prevalent across much of the UK during the midwinter period reducing the suitability of a number of sites.

Typifying recent years, the two top sites for wintering birds were River Avon (Salisbury to Fordingbridge) and Beddington Sewage Farm, where maxima of ten and 12 birds, respectively, were noted. Elsewhere, seven at Thorpe Water Park was also particularly noteworthy.

| **Sites with 20 or more birds during passage periods in 2010/11†** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| North Norfolk Coast | 67, Aug | Beddington Sewage Farm | 25, Jul |
| Rutland Water | 32, Aug | William Girling Reservoir | 23, Jul |
| Dungeness and Rye Bay | 30, Aug | Swale Estuary | 22, Aug |
| Blackwater Estuary | 29, Aug | The Wash | 20, Aug |

† *a qualifying level of 20 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report*

## Spotted Redshank

*Tringa erythropus*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GB max:** | **243** | **Aug** |
| **NI max:** | **0** | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **International threshold (Europe, N & W Africa):** | **850** |
| **Great Britain threshold:** | **1**[†] |
| **All-Ireland threshold:** | **+**[†] |

Spotted Redshank breed from Scandinavia through sub-arctic Russia, with most wintering in equatorial Africa and a small proportion remaining in western Europe. In general, very little is known about population trends in the species, although breeding populations appear to be stable (Delany *et al.* 2009).

In 2010/11 in the UK, typically the majority were recorded in autumn and winter, with a smaller number in spring. Overall, numbers during the course of the year were disappointing and the year was one of the poorest on record. The 64 sites where the species was recorded represents a relatively low number, but similar to that of the previous year. The British peak monthly count was 243 in August. The peak site count of 34 at The Wash in August was only a slight improvement on the maximum recorded there in 2009/10. On a more positive note, 27 at Abberton Reservoir in October represents the most there since the end of the 1990s when a brief period of high counts of this species included a historical site maximum of 45 (in September 1997).

During the winter period, Spotted Redshank were recorded at 35 WeBS sites, with peaks of 12 at Northwest Solent (Dec) and 14 at North Norfolk Coast (Jan). There were no records from Northern Ireland during the year.

| | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | Mon | Mean |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain**[†] | | | | | | | |
| The Wash | 86 | 40 | 48 | 28 | 34 | Aug | 47 |
| North Norfolk Coast | 42 | 29 | 26 | 18 | 19 | Jul | 27 |
| Blackwater Estuary | 8 | 32 | 26 | 9 | 23 | Jul | 20 |
| Humber Estuary | 25 | 13 | 13 | 25 | 19 | Sep | 19 |
| Abberton Reservoir | (0) | 14 | 4 | 23 | 27 | Oct | 17 |
| Minsmere | 3 | 6 | 47 | 23 | 3 | Apr | 16 |
| Dee Estuary (England and Wales) | 14 | 12 | 14 [10] | 11 | 11 | Apr | 12 |
| **Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain**[†] | | | | | | | |
| Beaulieu Estuary | 10 | 0 | (1) | 14 | 13 | Oct | 9 |
| North West Solent | 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 12 | Dec | 7 |

[†] *a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report*

## Greenshank

*Tringa nebularia*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GB max:** | **1,470** | **Aug** |
| **NI max:** | **119** | **Oct** |

| | |
|---|---|
| **International threshold (Europe & W Africa):** | **2,300** |
| **Great Britain threshold:** | **6*** |
| **All-Ireland threshold:** | **20*** |

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

The numbers of Greenshank present during winter in Britain has increased over the last two decades, probably at least in part due to milder climatic conditions (Austin & Rehfisch 2005, Maclean *et al.* 2008), although this trend appears to have stabilised.

In 2010/11, numbers of Greenshank at most of the major sites were close to average, with the peak counts typically noted during autumn when birds migrate from their breeding grounds in northern Europe (including some sites in northern Scotland) to wintering areas in southwest Europe, and North and West Africa.

Four sites held autumn passage peaks of over 100 birds; typically The Wash, Chichester Harbour and North Norfolk Coast, and more notably Humber Estuary (for the first time since 1999).

The highest counts received during the December to February period in Britain were from Fal Complex (58, Feb), Chichester Harbour (24, Jan) and Jersey Shore (20, Feb). In Northern Ireland, where the recent upward trend has now dipped, the midwinter maxima were notably lower than recent years.

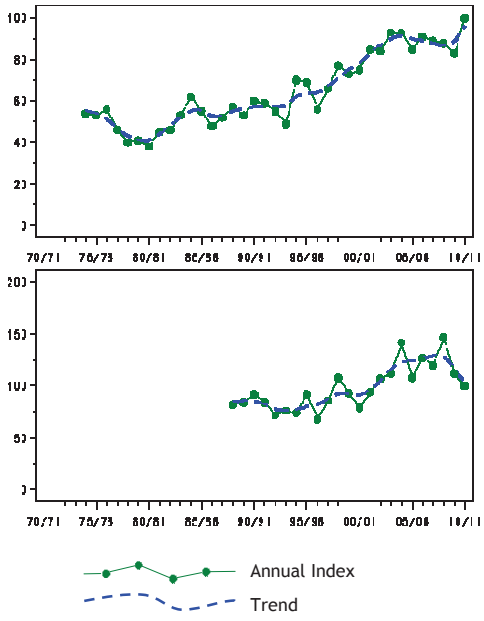


*Figure 57.a, Annual indices & trend for Greenshank in GB (above) & NI (below).*

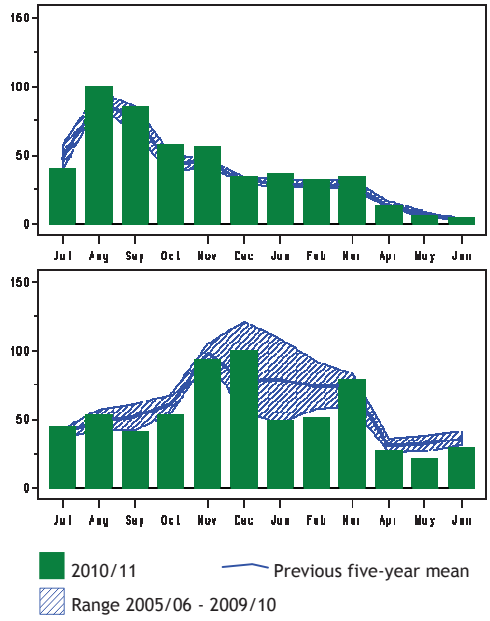


*Figure 57.b, Monthly indices for Greenshank in GB (above) & NI (below).*

| | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | Mon | Mean |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sites with mean peak counts of 30 or more birds in Great Britain†** | | | | | | | |
| The Wash | 201 | 252 | 301 | 173 | 179 | Sep | 221 |
| Thames Estuary | 196 | 132 | 130 | 129 | (69) | Aug | 147 |
| Chichester Harbour | 132 | 77 | 82 | 88 | 140 | Sep | 104 |
| North Norfolk Coast | 118 | 87 | 71 | 118 | 124 | Aug | 104 |
| Stour Estuary | 106 | 103 | 110 | 84 | 92 | Sep | 99 |
| Blackwater Estuary | (73) | (119) | (86) | (59) | 73 | Oct | 88 |
| Fal Complex | 59 | 66 | 52 | 67 | 60 | Sep | 61 |
| Humber Estuary | 21 | (47) | 52 | 65 | 106 | Aug | 58 |
| Morecambe Bay | 59 | (28) | 44 | 38 | 86 | Sep | 57 |
| Exe Estuary | 71 | 41 | 34 | 61 | 70 | Sep | 55 |
| Medway Estuary | (10) | (9) | (4) | (50) | (9) | Aug | (50) |
| Pegwell Bay | 42 [12] | 40 | 64 [12] | 50 | 31 [12] | May | 45 |
| Hamford Water | 79 | 86 | 31 | 8 | 10 | Oct | 43 |
| Dee Estuary (England & Wales) | 32 | 50 | 67 | 31 | 28 | Aug | 42 |
| Langstone Harbour | 51 | 37 | 26 | 26 | 48 | Aug | 38 |
| Cleddau Estuary | 25 | 25 | 39 | 40 | 49 | Oct | 36 |
| Montrose Basin | 19 | (19) | 36 | 73 | 15 | Jul | 36 |
| Tamar Complex | 29 | 32 | 31 | 34 | 43 | Sep | 34 |
| Kingsbridge Estuary | 27 | 45 | 48 | 5 | 28 | Mar | 31 |
| **Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland** | | | | | | | |
| Strangford Lough | 85 | 65 | 95 | 70 | 71 | Sep | 77 |
| Lough Foyle | 34 | 65 | 48 | 47 | 31 | Oct | 45 |
| Carlingford Lough | 40 | 66 | (17) | (14) | (15) | Nov | 34 |
| Dundrum Inner Bay | 24 | 20 | 28 | 26 | 30 | Jul | 26 |
| **Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain†** | | | | | | | |
| Camel Estuary | (20) | 16 | 19 | 48 | 30 | Sep | 27 |
| Breydon Water and Berney Marshes | 8 | 10 | 3 | 25 [12] | 67 [12] | May | 23 |
| Dungeness and Rye Bay | 13 | 10 | 15 | 21 | 40 | Aug | 20 |

† *as many sites exceed the British winter threshold, a qualifying level of 30 has been used to select sites for presentation in this report*

## Lesser Yellowlegs

***Tringa flavipes***

**Vagrant**
**Native Range: America**

Two were recorded in 2010/11; a typical showing for recent years. They were at Port Meadow (Oct) and Fal Complex (Mar-Apr).

## Wood Sandpiper

***Tringa glareola***

**International threshold (NW Europe & W Africa): 10,400**
**Great Britain threshold: +†**
**All-Ireland threshold: +†**

Wood Sandpipers were seen at 39 WeBS sites in 2010/11; almost twice as many as had featured in each of the previous two years. A monthly peak of 34 birds was noted in August. Autumn produced records from six sites in July, 16 in August and three in September. WeBS totals for this species are highly dependent on Core count dates coinciding with fluxes of passage; in autumn 2010, most sites held one or two birds with the exception of the four locations listed below. A fair spring passage produced singles at 17 sites in the April to June period, the majority in May, and all in England with the exception of one at Conwy Estuary.

**Sites with 3 or more birds during passage periods in 2010/11†**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Blackwater Estuary | 6, Aug | Dungeness and Rye Bay | 3, Aug |
| North Norfolk Coast | 4, Aug | Loch of Strathbeg | 3, Sep |

† *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*

## Common Redshank

***Tringa totanus***

**International threshold (Iceland & Faroes, W Europe): 2,400**
**Great Britain threshold: 1,200**
**All-Ireland threshold: 310**

**GB max: 88,627 Oct**
**NI max: 6,191 Nov**

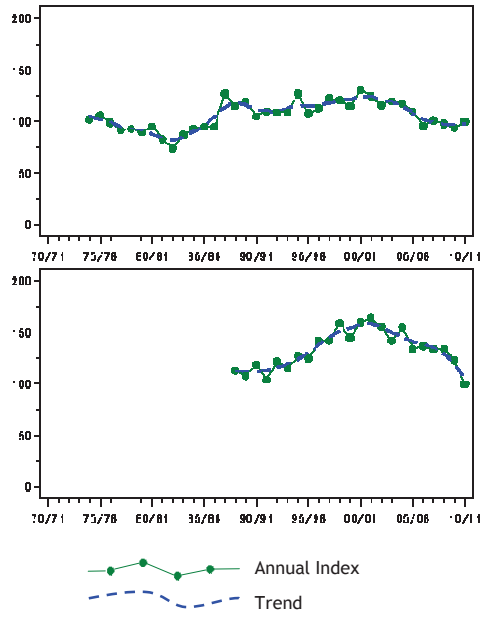


*Figure 58.a, Annual indices & trend for Redshank in GB (above) & NI (below).*

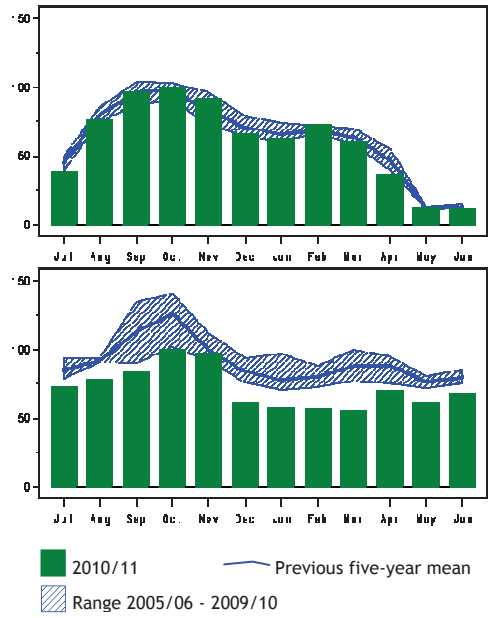


*Figure 58.b, Monthly indices for Redshank in GB (above) & NI (below).*

Predominantly found on the coast in the UK, the non-breeding population of Redshank is considered to comprise local breeders and birds from Iceland and nearby European populations. Maclean *et al.* (2008) demonstrated a northwesterly shift in core wintering range of Redshank in recent decades, suggestive of a degree of short-stopping towards Icelandic breeding grounds.

Redshanks wintering in both Britain and Northern Ireland have shown downward trends during the last decade, but their respective indices contrasted somewhat in 2010/11. Whereas a further decline occurred in Northern Ireland, there was a slight rise in the British index. However, it remains to be seen whether this proves to be the start of a change in fortunes for the species in Britain. The size of the *robusta* population of Redshank has been revised downwards by 14% (Wetlands International 2012). Fourteen sites surpass the associated threshold for international importance, the peaks at most of which were close to the respective five-year means, notable exceptions being Morecambe Bay and The Wash. At Morecambe Bay, the November peak of 12,979 represents the most there since over 21,000 were logged in September 1989. For the second year in succession, numbers at The Wash were considerably higher than normal in August and September, peaking at a record 10,052 in the latter month. Elsewhere, maxima at other sites were generally slightly below average, an obvious exception being the Severn Estuary where the November total was the highest ever monthly peak in winter (and just 30 birds less than a count of 3,379 in July 1974). Notably, more than 2,300 were also present during January, February and March, following the cold conditions experienced in midwinter. In Northern Ireland, the peak at the principal site, Strangford Lough, was the lowest since 2001/02.

Typically, monthly maxima at many of the other sites of importance were also in the autumn/early winter period. Scrutiny of the monthly indices suggests a clear response to the cold weather. A pronounced drop is particularly apparent in the monthly indices for Northern Ireland. In Britain, after the presence of higher numbers in November, a drop in the monthly indices during the freeze in December and January was followed by an equally marked increase to higher than typical numbers during the milder conditions in February.

*Tommy Holden*

| | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | Mon | Mean | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sites of international importance in the UK** | | | | | | | | |
| Morecambe Bay | (8,254) | (5,802) | 10,302 | 8,814 | 12,979 | Nov | 10,698 | |
| Dee Estuary (England and Wales) | 9,384 | 12,994 | 9,576 [10] | 11,235 | 9,494 | Sep | 10,537 | |
| The Wash | 5,605 | 4,407 | 5,367 | 11,017 | 10,052 | Sep | 7,290 | |
| Forth Estuary | 4,689 | 4,374 | 5,141 | 4,244 | 4,524 | Sep | 4,594 | |
| Strangford Lough | 3,632 | 4,028 | 4,969 | 4,488 | 3,286 | Nov | 4,081 | |
| Humber Estuary | 3,886 | (4,059) | 4,716 | 4,169 | 3,204 | Nov | 4,007 | |
| Solway Estuary | (1,822) | (3,213) | (2,739) | 3,918 | (2,311) | Nov | 3,918 | |
| Thames Estuary | 4,134 | 3,512 | 4,243 | 3,701 | 3,284 | Oct | 3,775 | |
| Alde Complex | 1,673 | 9,246 | 1,213 | 2,289 | 2,636 | Nov | 3,411 | |
| Ribble Estuary | 1,491 | 3,559 | 3,414 | 4,339 | 3,640 | Nov | 3,289 | |
| Blackwater Estuary | 2,514 | (3,586) | 3,752 | (1,926) | 2,591 | Oct | 3,111 | |
| Severn Estuary | (2,362) | (1,962) | 2,997 | 2,433 | 3,349 | Nov | 2,926 | ▲ |
| Duddon Estuary | 3,122 | 2,562 | 3,213 | 2,102 | 2,401 | Oct | 2,680 | |
| Mersey Estuary | (2,455) | (2,069) | (1,228) | (1,520) | (1,108) | Jan | (2,455) | |
| **Sites of national importance in Great Britain** | | | | | | | | |
| Montrose Basin | 1,794 | (1,860) | 2,198 | 2,770 | 1,951 | Oct | 2,178 | |
| Deben Estuary | 2,710 | 2,080 | 1,856 | 1,992 | 2,064 | Oct | 2,140 | |
| Chichester Harbour | (2,535) | 2,403 | 1,810 | 2,028 | 1,873 | Sep | 2,130 | |
| North Norfolk Coast | 1,786 | 2,899 [10] | 2,109 | 1,333 | 1,595 | Aug | 1,944 | |
| Stour Estuary | 1,988 | 1,948 | 2,176 [10] | 1,779 [10] | 1,661 | Nov | 1,910 | |
| Crouch-Roach Estuary | 1,202 | 1,361 | 2,403 | 1,791 | 2,601 [10] | Oct | 1,871 | |
| Inner Moray and Inverness Firth | (1,658) | 2,040 | 1,988 | 1,731 | 1,617 | Jan | 1,844 | |
| Orwell Estuary | 2,075 [10] | 1,375 [10] | 1,908 | 1,737 [10] | 1,996 | Jan | 1,818 | |
| Ythan Estuary | 1,481 | 1,497 | (2,308) | (1,706) | 1,398 | Aug | 1,678 | |
| Cromarty Firth | 1,491 | 1,514 | (1,402) | 1,613 | 2,061 | Oct | 1,670 | |
| Tees Estuary | 1,865 | 1,383 | 1,471 | 1,331 | 1,646 | Oct | 1,539 | |
| Lindisfarne | 1,267 | (1,746) | 1,367 | (1,026) | 1,459 | Oct | 1,460 | |
| Hamford Water | 1,266 | 1,538 | 1,366 | (1,127) | 1,207 | Mar | 1,344 | |
| Lavan Sands | 1,016 | 1,794 | 1,058 | 1,221 | 1,182 | Feb | 1,254 | |
| Breydon Water and Berney Marshes | 1,310 | 1,405 | 1,117 [12] | 1,189 [12] | 1,160 [12] | Apr | 1,236 | |
| Colne Estuary | 742 | 1,442 [10] | 730 | 1,107 | (2,150) | Nov | 1,234 | ▲ |
| Swale Estuary | 1,139 | (1,384) | (1,049) | 910 | 1,375 | Oct | 1,202 | |
| **Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland** | | | | | | | | |
| Belfast Lough | (1,698) | 1,303 | 1,432 | 1,769 | 1,377 | Oct | 1,516 | |
| Carlingford Lough | 1,128 | 1,174 | 1,818 | 801 | (608) | Dec | 1,230 | |
| Outer Ards Shoreline | 1,160 | 1,124 | 1,145 | 1,183 | 1,055 | Nov | 1,133 | |
| Lough Foyle | 1,177 | 905 | 1,239 | 1,305 | 495 | Oct | 1,024 | |
| Dundrum Inner Bay | 759 | 1,284 | 1,105 | 897 | 695 | Jul | 948 | |
| Larne Lough | 379 | 383 | 397 | 253 | 355 | Jan | 353 | |
| **Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2010/2011** | | | | | | | | |
| Medway Estuary | (307) | (668) | (874) | (497) | (1,073) | Nov | (1,073) | |
| Blyth Estuary | 1,031 | 2,002 | (1,012) | 789 | 458 | Nov | 1,070 | |
| Bann Estuary | 261 | 392 | 230 | 290 | 246 | Aug | 284 | |
| **Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain** | | | | | | | | |
| Alt Estuary | 1,157 | 805 | 1,025 | 628 | (1,450) | Feb | 1,013 | |

## Ruddy Turnstone

*Arenaria interpres*

**International threshold**

**(NE Canada & Greenland, W Europe & NW Africa): 1,400**

**Great Britain threshold: 480**

**All-Ireland threshold: 120**

**GB max: 11,157 Oct**

**NI max: 1,628 Nov**

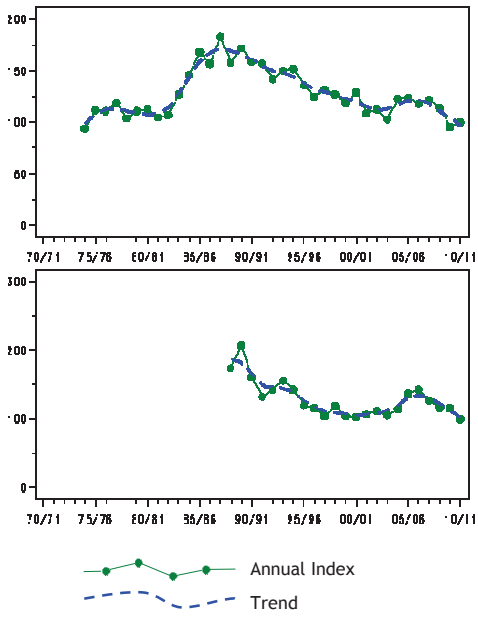


*Figure 59.a, Annual indices & trend for Turnstone in GB (above) & NI (below).*

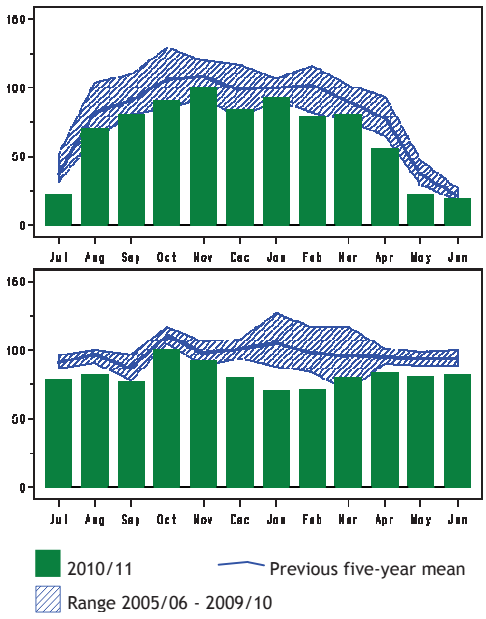


*Figure 59.b, Monthly indices for Turnstone in GB (above) & NI (below).*

Turnstone from two distinct breeding populations occur in the UK. The majority of those which winter 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 West Africa. The UK is of considerable importance for Turnstone, supporting in excess of 50% of the flyway population during the winter (Delany *et al.* 2009).

Following a sharp drop in the British national index in 2009/10, this year proved to be little better. The downward trend that has characterised the last 25 years appears to be continuing, both in Britain and Northern Ireland. Pertinently, rocky shores and the associated specialist waders, such as Turnstone and Purple Sandpiper, are considered especially vulnerable to the effects of changing climate, both due to loss of habitat as a result of rising sea levels, as well as changes to invertebrate communities (Kendall *et al.* 2004, Rehfisch *et al.* 2004). With relatively poor coverage of the rocky shores around the UK through WeBS, particularly in Scotland, it can be difficult to interpret WeBS trends with certainty, as any distributional shifts around the coastline may not be detectable. The species is therefore dependent on monitoring through NEWS, last undertaken in 2006/07 (Austin *et al.* 2007), to derive the most reliable picture of its status in the UK.

In 2010/11, the peak at Morecambe Bay (1,071, Dec) was close to average, but there was variation in the fortunes of this species at other sites of national importance. The maxima at two of these sites were markedly lower than their preceding five-year averages; Thanet Coast (50% lower) and Forth Estuary (37% lower). In contrast, peaks at The Wash and Stour Estuary represented the most at those sites since 2005/06 and 2000/01, respectively. Historically, The Wash has held a monthly peak of 2,596 in July 1988, but even that total compares poorly with the all-time WeBS maximum of 3,795 at Morecambe Bay in August 1972.

The peak count at Outer Ards Shoreline, consistently the most important site in Northern Ireland, exhibited a marked drop compared to preceding years. In contrast, the count at Belfast Lough was the most since 1998/99.

| | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | Mon | Mean |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sites of national importance in Great Britain** | | | | | | | |
| Morecambe Bay | 1,163 | (709) | 973 | 1,394 | 1,071 | Dec | 1,150 |
| Thanet Coast | 1,477 | (783) | 722 | 624 | 529 | Nov | 838 |
| Thames Estuary | 680 | 1,090 | 1,060 | 382 | 703 | Jan | 783 |
| North Norfolk Coast | 678 | 913 | 774 | 741 | 746 | Aug | 770 |
| Forth Estuary | (778) | (934) | (855) | (699) | 553 | Jan | 764 |
| Blackwater Estuary | 527 | 676 | 1,102 | 502 | (377) | Mar | 702 |
| The Wash | 657 | 478 | 685 | 547 | 789 | Aug | 631 |
| Stour Estuary | 569 | 617 | 525 | 459 [10] | 710 | Nov | 576 |
| Humber Estuary | 542 | (344) | 447 | (553) | (379) | Oct | 514 |
| Farne Islands | (445) | 556 | 580 | 349 | (455) | Oct | 495 |
| **Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland** | | | | | | | |
| Outer Ards Shoreline | 1,292 | 930 | 937 | 949 | 742 | Mar | 970 |
| Belfast Lough | 436 | 419 | 503 | 537 | 612 | Oct | 501 |
| Strangford Lough | 382 | 344 | 589 | 391 | 406 | Nov | 422 |
| Carlingford Lough | 480 | 315 | 155 | (150) | 124 | Feb | 269 |
| **Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2010/2011** | | | | | | | |
| Langstone Harbour | 450 | 488 | 550 | 299 | 415 | Oct | 440 |

*Rob Robinson*

## Wilson's Phalarope

***Phalaropus tricolor***

**Vagrant**
**Native Range: America**

Singles graced Stodmarsh in September and Ouse Washes in October.

## Red-necked Phalarope

***Phalaropus lobatus***

**Scarce**

A single Red-necked Phalarope was seen in 2010/11, at North Norfolk Coast in September.