

Oystercatcher
Haematopus ostralegus

GB max: 234,868 Dec
NI max: 20,366 Oct

International threshold: 10,200
Great Britain threshold: 3,200
All-Ireland threshold: 500

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GB change o o o
NI change o o o

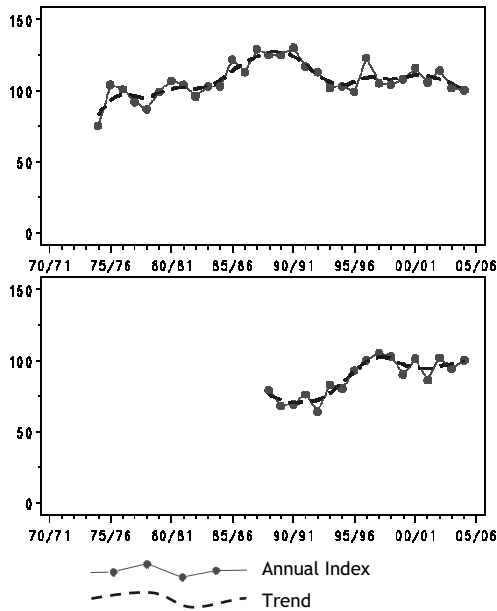


Figure 40.a, Annual indices & trend for Oystercatcher for GB (above) & NI (below).

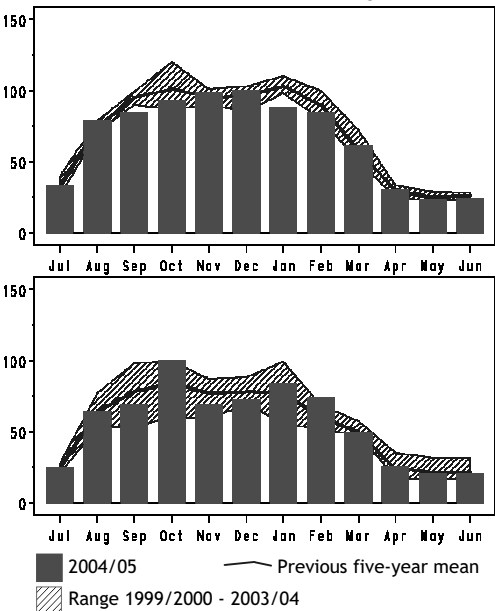


Figure 40.b, Monthly indices for Oystercatcher for GB (above) & NI (below).

The Oystercatcher remains one of the most numerous and widespread wintering wader species in the UK. Although the British annual index dropped slightly, the underlying trend seems fairly stable at the moment. Similarly, numbers wintering in Northern Ireland also seem stable.

There was no change in the sites qualifying as nationally or internationally important for Oystercatcher. At the top of the list remains Morecambe Bay, the 55,000 counted in December being the highest winter count here since 1997 and representing 23% of the British total in that month. Within the site, Oystercatchers are widespread but with a peak sectional count of nearly 20,000 birds between Morecambe and Arnside in December. Recent aerial surveys have looked into the low tide

distribution of waterbirds within Morecambe Bay and confirmed the species to be widely dispersed at low tide too, except for a gap around mouth of the Kent Estuary. At the two other major west coast sites, numbers were lower than usual on the Solway but a little higher than normal on the Dee. Amongst the other listed sites, proportionally high peaks were recorded from Swansea Bay and Lough Foyle but peaks at the Ribble Estuary, Duddon Estuary, Dengie Flats and Belfast Lough were on the low side.

During the autumn, most key sites supported similar peak numbers to those seen in winter, although substantially higher numbers were noted from Strangford and Belfast Loughs, and the Thames Estuary.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Morecambe Bay	50,831	47,286	48,752	(48,600)	55,072	Dec	50,485
Solway Estuary	(34,196)	(35,035)	(47,415)	(34,099)	(30,397)	Nov	(47,415)
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	21,326	31,851 ¹¹	20,373	23,906	25,956	Dec	24,682
Thames Estuary	(14,938)	18,814	26,803	23,858	(14,907)	Dec	23,158
Ribble Estuary	(17,784)	23,072	(12,395)	19,915	12,953	Mar	18,647
The Wash	13,457	13,371	16,760	14,684	16,395	Feb	14,933
Burry Inlet	13,347	15,253	14,570	13,831 ¹¹	16,219	Nov	14,644

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Forth Estuary	6,814	(6,631)	9,279	7,834	6,569	Dec	7,624
Lavan Sands	6,897	7,831	7,612	6,796	5,718	Nov	6,971
Duddon Estuary	(4,867)	6,907	(6,476)	8,683	5,272	Nov	6,954
Carmarthen Bay	(4,154)	(5,575)	(4,530)	(4,597)	6,736	Feb	6,736
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	6,049	5,153	6,087	7,624	4,681	Dec	5,919
Swale Estuary	5,427	6,270	5,058	5,858	5,225	Jan	5,568
Inner Firth of Clyde	5,060	5,488	5,386	4,627	4,737	Dec	5,060
Humber Estuary	3,834	(3,318)	(2,963)	3,305 ¹¹	(4,582)	Jan	3,907
North Norfolk Coast	3,755	3,990	3,011	3,858	3,778	Feb	3,678
Swansea Bay	3,500	3,563	3,797	2,857 ¹¹	4,605	Jan	3,664
Dengie Flats	2,033	7,061 ¹¹	3,034	(1,450)	1,865	Jan	3,498
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	7,149	8,298	8,625	7,412	6,454	Feb	7,588
Belfast Lough	5,647	4,276 ¹³	5,542 ¹¹	4,248 ¹¹	3,909 ¹¹	Nov	4,724
Lough Foyle	2,730	2,294	2,326	2,231	3,095	Jan	2,535
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,621		1,968	1,812	1,740	Jan	1,785
Dundrum Bay	1,707	(1,428)	(1,250)	(1,425)	(1,252)	Dec	1,707
Carlingford Lough	(1,184)	(986)	1,289	(1,414)	1,410	Dec	1,371
Sites surpassing international passage threshold in the UK in 2004/2005							
Morecambe Bay	40,978	Sep	Dee Estuary (England and Wales)			19,423	Oct
Solway Estuary	30,961	Oct	The Wash			15,699	Aug
Thames Estuary	20,393	Oct	Ribble Estuary			14,095	Oct
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005							
Forth Estuary	8,213	Sep	Inner Moray and Inverness Firth			5,376	Oct
Duddon Estuary	6,241	Oct	Inner Firth of Clyde			4,759	Oct
Burry Inlet	6,148	Aug	Swale Estuary			4,700	Aug
Carmarthen Bay	6,009	Sep	Lavan Sands			4,232	Aug
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Northern Ireland in 2004/2005							
Strangford Lough	9,018	Oct	Outer Ards Shoreline			1,666	Oct
Belfast Lough	5,299	Oct	Carlingford Lough			1,419	Sep
Lough Foyle	1,930	Oct					

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

Vagrant

Native Range: Worldwide

GB max: 1 Jul
NI max: 0

The long-staying bird at Titchwell on the North Norfolk Coast was recorded in each month from July to December, and then again

in April. This bird, which first appeared here in 1993, finally disappeared for good on 21st May 2005 and is presumed dead.

Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

International threshold: 730

Great Britain threshold: 35*

GB max: 5,760 Jan
NI max: 0

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GB change + ++ ++

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

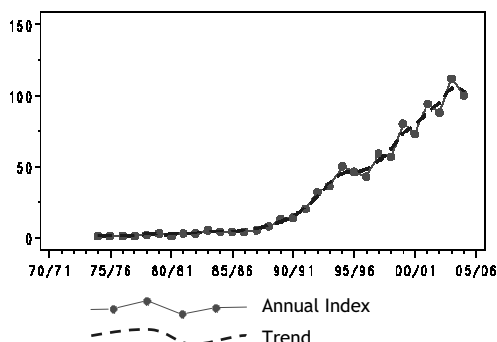


Figure 41.a, Annual indices & trend for Avocet for GB.

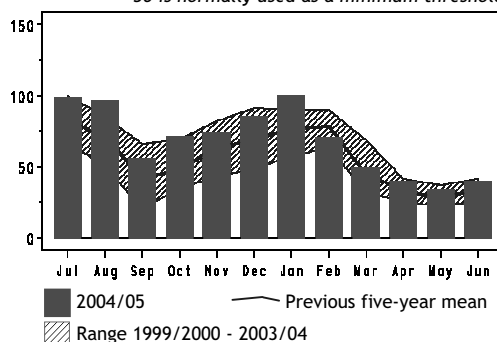


Figure 41.b, Monthly indices for Avocet for GB.

The British maximum in 2004/05 was slightly lower than during the previous year yet still represents the third highest ever total for this species. The national index witnessed a slight fall during 2004/05 but a pattern of ‘stepped’ increase has been evident during the past ten years and there is no reason yet to consider that the species will not continue to increase in the coming years. Monthly indices were above average throughout the year and reached their highest for over five years in August and January.

Internationally important numbers of Avocets were recorded from the same three sites as last year. Peak numbers were similar to recent levels at Poole Harbour and the Alde Complex and exceeded 1,000 for the second time ever at the Thames Estuary. However, the second highest site total of the year was made at the nearby Swale Estuary, with the highest ever count for this site. Elsewhere, higher than usual peaks were recorded at Hamford Water, Deben Estuary, Blackwater Estuary and Stour Estuary, whilst Low Tide Counts at the Crouch-Roach and Stour Estuaries were way in excess of anything recorded there during Core Counts previously. The Crouch-Roach Estuary does, however, have coincident

boundaries with the Foulness area of the Thames Estuary and movement presumably occurs between the two sites. Conversely, low peak counts were noted from the Exe Estuary and the Wash.

As seen during the last few years, the importance of Breydon Water for Avocets in late summer was highlighted, the August count being about four times the winter peak. Other sites substantially more important outside the winter period were the North Norfolk Coast, the Wash and the Humber Estuary, representing the northern edge of the British range and largely reflecting breeding populations. The count of over 400 on the Humber is particularly remarkable at a site that only eight years ago held the species as only an occasional visitor. However, it is notable that the listed sites are still confined to the south and southeast, between the Tamar and Humber. Away from here, there were double-figure peaks of 26 on the Severn Estuary (mostly from Bridgwater Bay and Goldcliff Saline Lagoons), 24 on the Ribble Estuary and 12 at WWT Martin Mere, numbers at the Lancashire sites peaking in the summer and representing breeding colonies.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Poole Harbour	1,491	1,893	1,007	(1,493)	1,480	Jan	1,473
Alde Complex	1,007	1,174	1,089	1,073	1,058	Mar	1,080
Thames Estuary	563	1,447	839	658	1,153	Jan	932
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Swale Estuary	(145)	532	318	451	1,290	Mar	648
Medway Estuary	301	860	(650)	(615)	309 ¹¹	Feb	547
Blyth Estuary	524	463					494
Hamford Water	242	485	(406)	433	520	Nov	420
Exe Estuary	366	528	436	353	297	Feb	396
Tamar Complex	452	277	317 ¹¹	394	438	Feb	376
Colne Estuary	351	465	(383)	205 ¹³	(90)	Jan	351
North Norfolk Coast	(72)	228	334	508	283	Mar	338
Deben Estuary	165	193	170	353	323	Jan	241
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	272	172	224	268	232	Mar	234
Blackwater Estuary	167	125	151 ¹¹	295	428	Mar	233
Humber Estuary	126	121	281	(271)	215	Mar	203
Crouch-Roach Estuary	0	(43)	(9)	(17)	288 ¹¹	Nov	144 ▲
The Wash	6	347	130	180	37	Mar	140
Minsmere	120	10	1	107	86	Mar	65
Sites surpassing international passage threshold in the UK in 2004/2005							
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	1,012	Aug	Poole Harbour			864	Oct
Alde Complex	1,004	Oct					
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005							
North Norfolk Coast	712	Apr	Swale Estuary			363	Oct
Hamford Water	663	Oct	Tamar Complex			216	Oct
Thames Estuary	571	Oct	Deben Estuary			183	Oct
The Wash	532	Aug	Exe Estuary			83	Oct
Medway Estuary	490	Oct	Ouse Washes			71	Apr
Humber Estuary	425	Apr	Orwell Estuary			68	Oct
Blackwater Estuary	373	Oct	Colne Estuary			64	Oct

Stone-curlew

Burhinus oedichnemus

Scarce

GB max: 2 May
NI max: 0

One was seen on the North Norfolk Coast in August, whilst two birds were recorded close

to a known breeding location in eastern England during May.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

GB max: 225 Apr
NI max: 0

The 2004 British peak of just over 200 Little Ringed Plovers was about average for the past ten years. As usual, there were none recorded in Northern Ireland. Note that as a summering species, this account refers to the calendar year 2004 rather than the 2004/05 WeBS year. During 2004 the birds were recorded from 149

International threshold: 2,400
Great Britain threshold: ?[†]
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

sites. Most records were of singles or groups of up to three, although ten or more were recorded at ten sites during single months. The peak spring at the Ouse Washes represents the highest ever count for the site, as does the peak for Nosterfield Gravel Pits, which is three times that of the previous year's peak.

Sites with ten or more birds in Great Britain in 2004[†]

Ouse Washes	18	Apr
Nosterfield Gravel Pits	18	Jun
Barn Elms Reservoirs	15	Jun
Belvide Reservoir	14	Jul
Thames Estuary	12	Jul

Upton Warren Local Nature Reserve	12	Jun
Barton Pits	10	Jun
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	10	Jun
Sandbach Flashes	10	Jul
Rutland Water	10	Jul

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

GB max: 18,317 Aug
NI max: 747 Oct

International threshold: 730
Great Britain winter threshold: 330
Great Britain passage threshold: 300
All-Ireland threshold: 125

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GB change	o	o	o
NI change	o	o	-

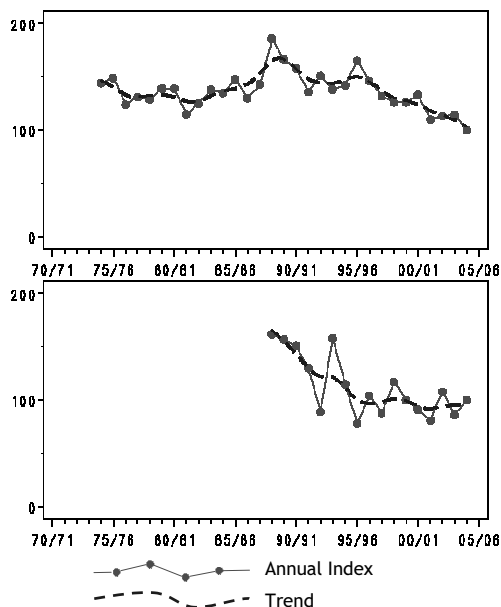


Figure 42.a, Annual indices & trend for Ringed Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

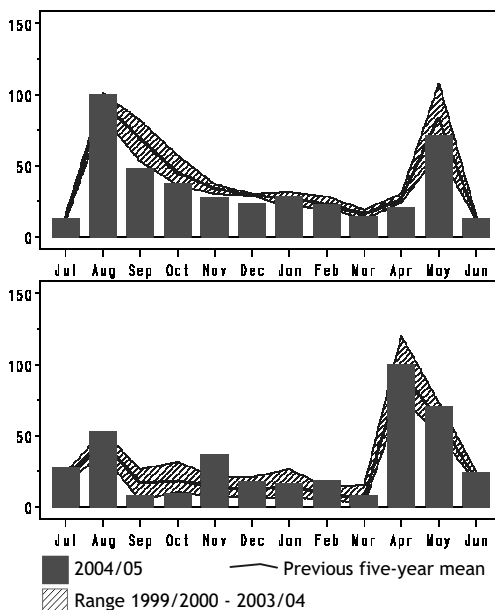


Figure 42.b, Monthly indices for Ringed Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

Continuing the decline seen in the British Ringed Plover population since the late 1980s, the annual index for Great Britain dropped to a new all-time low. However, the counted British maximum was average for the past 15 years. The monthly indices suggest that August passage numbers were a little higher than usual but numbers in most months then below average. May passage was about as expected. In Northern Ireland, the index remained more stable, although overall numbers involved are very much lower. An interesting feature of the Northern Ireland monthly indices is that spring passage seems to peak in April rather than May, perhaps as this involves more birds breeding in Iceland and

Greenland than British wintering birds that also includes Fennoscandian breeders.

The Thames Estuary remains the top site, both in winter and during passage, and is joined in the list of sites supporting internationally important wintering numbers by Hamford Water, although on the basis of mean numbers rather than by a particular increase in 2004/05. Elsewhere, higher than usual peaks were recorded at South Ford, Swansea Bay, Colne Estuary and the Duddon Estuary, the latter as a result of Low Tide Counts at the site. Particularly low site peaks were noted from the Thanet Coast, Outer Ards, Belfast Lough and the Forth Estuary.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Thames Estuary	954	765	794	(654)	872	Nov	846
Hamford Water	(678)	1,302 ¹¹	201	(576)	(333)	Nov	752 ▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Solway Estuary	(330)	(289)	(599)	(286)	(305)	Nov	(599)
North Norfolk Coast	369	(471)	262	464	411	Feb	395
Thanet Coast	528	407	412	389	123	Nov	372
Humber Estuary	409	350	225	418 ¹¹	(194)	Dec	351
South Ford	341		373	250	400	Feb	341
Swansea Bay	214	436	269	330	431	Jan	336 ▲
Morecambe Bay	(473)	298	246	303	357	Jan	335
Medway Estuary	(126)	(89)	(249)	(136)	332 ¹¹	Dec	332
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	494 ¹¹	618 ¹¹	236 ¹¹	277 ¹¹	342	Nov	393
Outer Ards Shoreline	313		315	(198)	142	Jan	257
Carlingford Lough	(116)	(203)	(240)	161	223	Dec	207
Belfast Lough	142	188	189	234 ¹¹	109 ¹¹	Nov	172
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005							
Langstone Harbour	413	268		201 ¹¹	254	Nov	306
Forth Estuary	(356)	266	343	303 ¹¹	172	Jan	288
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Great Britain							
Colne Estuary	224	244	(15)	212	466	Dec	287
Duddon Estuary	232	232	(227)	222	350 ¹¹	Feb	259
Sites surpassing international passage threshold in the UK in 2004/2005							
Thames Estuary	1,998	Aug	Severn Estuary			1,111	Aug
Ribble Estuary	1,459	Aug	Solway Estuary			970	May
North Norfolk Coast	1,301	Sep	Morecambe Bay			944	Aug
Humber Estuary	1,277	Aug	Dee Estuary (England and Wales)			756	Aug
The Wash	1,223	May					
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005							
Pegwell Bay	640	Aug	Ardivachar Point (South Uist)			360	Aug
Dyfi Estuary	600	Aug	Hayle Estuary			350	Aug
Tay Estuary	568	Oct	Swale Estuary			343	Aug
Duddon Estuary	567	Aug	Hamford Water			327	Sep
Stour Estuary	496	Aug	Forth Estuary			324	Oct
South Ford	466	Aug	Burry Inlet			321	Aug
Tynninghame Estuary	373	May					
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Northern Ireland in 2004/2005							
Outer Ards Shoreline	302	Oct	Carlingford Lough			251	Oct
			Belfast Lough			206	Sep

Killdeer

Charadrius vociferus

Vagrant
Native Range: N America

GB max: 0
NI max: 1 Feb

A single bird was present in February at Upper Lough Erne (east of Durnish Island). This is the first ever example of this transatlantic vagrant recorded by WeBS.

Kentish Plover

Charadrius alexandrinus

Scarce

GB max: 2 Apr
NI max: 0

Two records of single birds were both in April, with one at Breydon Water and the other on the Exe Estuary at Dawlish Warren.

Dotterel

Charadrius morinellus

Scarce

GB max: 2 May
NI max: 0

There were two records of Dotterel and as expected both referred to passage birds. Autumn passage was marked by a single bird in the Thames Estuary during October, and spring passage by two at Traeth Dulas during May.

Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

International threshold: 9,300
Great Britain threshold: 2,500
All-Ireland threshold: 2,000

GB max: 208,610 Jan
NI max: 16,252 Feb

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GB change o + ++
NI change o o o

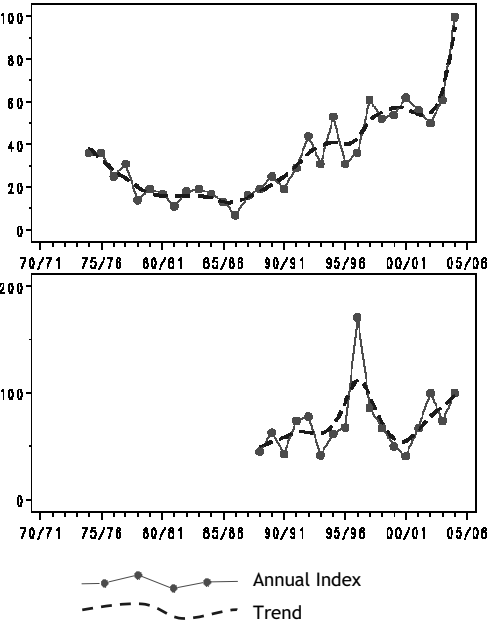


Figure 43.a, Annual indices & trend for Golden Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

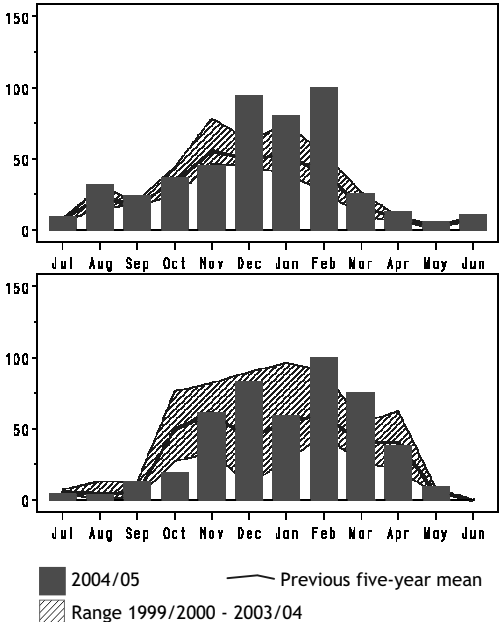


Figure 43.b, Monthly indices for Golden Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

The number of Golden Plover recorded at WeBS Core Count sites in Britain has shown a dramatic increase over the past couple of years. The British maximum surpassed 200,000 birds for the first time. Monthly indices were the highest in the past five years between December and February, yet were around average for the rest of the year. Numbers in the Netherlands fell during December and January (van Roomen 2005), coinciding with the rise in British indices and suggesting a response to cold weather. This corresponds with high counts at several east coast sites such as the Humber Estuary, The Wash, Breydon Water and Berney Marshes and the Blackwater Estuary.

Numbers remained high through to February, and into March in Northern Ireland; this matched the timing of wintry weather and might highlight local movements away from inland areas to wetland areas counted for WeBS. The forthcoming Winter Plover Survey will aim to assess the size of the population of this species on a range of habitats, including those not covered by WeBS.

The peak count from the Nene Washes was the highest ever recorded at the site, being twice that of the previous highest count. Other record counts were recorded at Breydon Water and Berney Marshes, North Norfolk Coast, Chichester Harbour, Middle Yare Valley, Cleddau Estuary, Dengie Flats and the Alde Complex. Peak counts at Hamford Water and Lough Foyle were the second highest for the sites, as was the Taw-Torridge Estuary count, which was the highest for over 30 years. Lower than average counts were received from Strangford Lough, Ribble Estuary and Clifford Hill Gravel Pits.

In general, the wintering populations surpass passage numbers; however, numbers at Loch of Strathbeg peaked during September with wintering numbers at the site averaging around 12% of the autumn peak. Both October and September counts at Breydon Water and Berney Marshes were the highest passage counts at the site to date, as was the Carmarthen Bay count. Passage numbers at Loughs Neagh & Beg were slightly above the average for the last ten years.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Humber Estuary	25,133	29,607	40,585	(50,662)	43,217	Jan	37,841
The Wash	13,740	14,109	19,089	25,817	34,900	Dec	21,531
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	13,280	10,200	8,900	10,464	30,940	Feb	14,757
Blackwater Estuary	18,826	(8,082)	12,455 ¹¹	6,986	12,747	Jan	12,754
Carmarthen Bay	(5,001)	(800)	(500)	(9,832)	(7,661)	Jan	(9,832)
Strangford Lough	6,948 ¹¹	11,726 ¹¹	8,766	15,988 ¹¹	4,578	Feb	9,601
Swale Estuary	(6,217)	13,898	3,282	10,935	(6,560)	Jan	9,372 ▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Morecambe Bay	(4,121)	(5,649)	(3,349)	(7,304)	(4,431)	Jan	(7,304)
Blyth Estuary	10,000	3,510					6,755
Pegwell Bay	4,000	7,000	7,229 ¹¹	8,000			6,557
Old Moor	4,700	5,500	(7,700)	7,000			6,225
Solway Estuary	8,065 ¹¹	(3,333)	(3,708)	4,459	6,145 ¹¹	Nov	6,223
Thames Estuary	7,911	3,538	(3,268)	(1,823)	6,440	Jan	5,963
Somerset Levels	(5,077)	5,169	1,260	8,609	8,136	Jan	5,794
Lynemouth Ash Lagoons				5,700			5,700
Stour Estuary	6,620 ¹¹	8,531 ¹¹	2,567 ¹¹	7,083 ¹¹	2,012 ¹¹	Nov	5,363
Taw-Torridge Estuary	(1,900)	(4,500)	(2,612)	3,300	(6,000)	Jan	4,600
Nene Washes	500	4,440	4,320	650	13,000	Feb	4,582 ▲
North Norfolk Coast	3,386	4,917	1,919	5,039	5,975	Dec	4,247
Hamford Water	4,164	2,464	2,384	3,204	5,606	Feb	3,564
Lindisfarne	(3,598)	2,881	(3,383)	3,822 ¹¹	3,920	Nov	3,555
Forth Estuary	1,027	2,419	(4,632)	6,940 ¹¹	2,658	Nov	3,535
St Mary's Island	(1,000)	(2,000)	3,000	3,200	3,000	Nov	3,067
Ribble Estuary	(4,341)	3,075	(2,671)	(3,300)	1,705	Jan	3,018
Crouch-Roach Estuary	3,889	2,602	2,165	1,354	4,771 ¹¹	Nov	2,956 ▲
Colne Estuary	4,045	1,820	(82)	(1,480)	(1,450)	Mar	2,933
Clifford Hill Gravel Pits	4,500	3,560	2,500	2,740	1,000	Jan	2,860
Chichester Harbour	2,941	(2,436)	2,237	(2,822)	3,048	Feb	2,762 ▲
Ouse Washes	216	4,035	2,828 ¹³	2,844	3,456	Dec	2,676

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	(7,621)	(2,817)	4,631	7,091	(3,447)	Nov	6,448
Lough Foyle	2,590	4,100	3,320	5,719	7,372	Feb	4,620
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005							
Stanwick Gravel Pits Consolidated		4,504		880	2,001	Dec	2,462
Mersey Estuary	(2,227)	(2,000)	(600)	(4,200)	1,000	Jan	2,357
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,411		3,164	1,369	206	Mar	1,538
Medway Estuary	(30)	(14)	(75)	(15)	(22)	Dec	(75)
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Great Britain							
Confidential SE England Site	1,600	2,600	500	600	6,500	Jan	2,360
Camel Estuary	1,500	800	727	515	4,750 ¹¹	Jan	1,658
Middle Yare Marshes	(95)	1,945	85	(96)	4,400	Mar	2,143
Cleddau Estuary	860	2,240	1,060	(2,664)	(4,273)	Dec	2,219
Dengie Flats	1,090	1,900	3,288	2,275	3,660	Mar	2,443
Alde Complex	648	793	1,444	(696)	3,346	Jan	1,558
Severn Estuary	(1,754)	806 ¹³	1,215 ¹¹	2,060	3,100	Jan	1,795
Wigtown Bay	1,134	2,000	(602)	(3,604)	2,500	Dec	2,310
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Northern Ireland							
Bann Estuary	807	1,660 ¹³	1,400	2,265	2,100	Mar	1,646
Sites surpassing international passage threshold in the UK in 2004/2005							
Humber Estuary	24,571	Oct	The Wash			12,945	Aug
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005							
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	6,100	Oct	Solway Estuary			3,593	Oct
Blackwater Estuary	4,298	Oct	Carmarthen Bay			2,900	Oct
Loch of Strathbeg	3,623	Sep	Forth Estuary			2,624	Oct
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Northern Ireland in 2004/2005							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	2,832	Oct					

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

GB max: 42,690 Oct
NI max: 977 Nov

International threshold: 2,500
Great Britain threshold: 530
All-Ireland threshold: 40*

S M L
GB change o o ++
NI change - o +

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

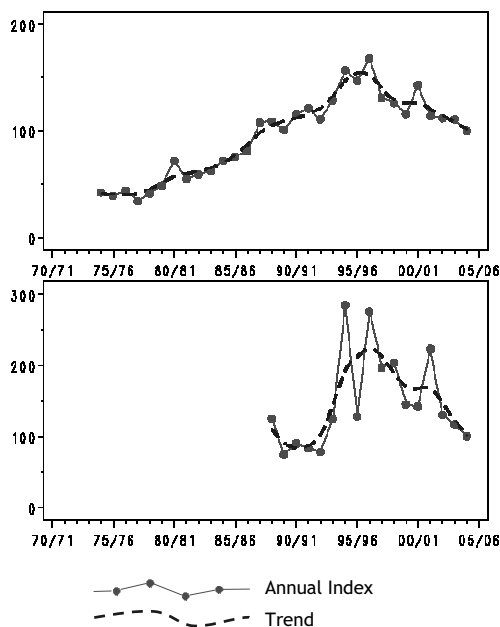


Figure 44.a, Annual indices & trend for Grey Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

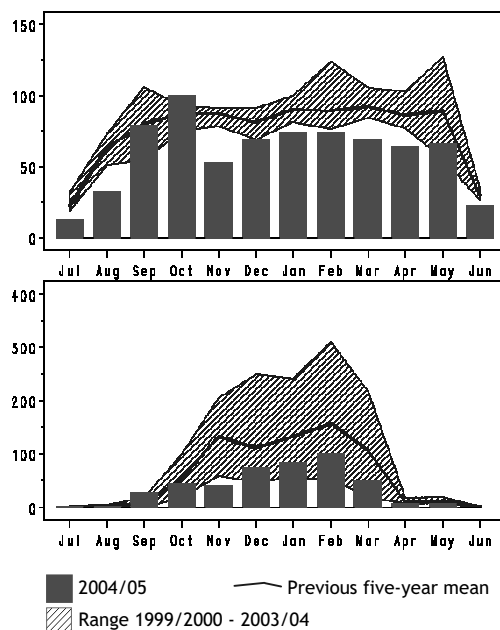


Figure 44.b, Monthly indices for Grey Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

Grey Plover have shown further decline on top of those of the past few years. The British index has shown signs that the species has been declining for the last eight years; current levels being similar to 18 years ago. A very similar pattern has been evident in Northern Ireland. British monthly indices were the lowest for the past 5 years in all except three months, and in only October was the value higher than average. Monthly indices in Northern Ireland were again below average throughout most of the year.

Much of these declines can be attributed to the eastwards shift in the wintering population as a result of milder winters, as has been

highlighted by Austin & Rehfish (2005). In agreement with this opinion numbers of birds wintering in the Netherlands have shown a steady increase over recent years (van Roomen *et al.* 2005).

A number of key sites saw their lowest winter peaks of at least the last five years. On the Wash, the winter peak was the second-lowest for 20 years, despite both autumn and spring passage numbers here being about average for recent years. Numbers at the Orwell Estuary have fallen below the national qualifying threshold whereas an exceptionally high count at the Deben Estuary has contributed to the site's inclusion in the table.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
The Wash	7,495	8,395	7,778	10,447	6,605	Mar	8,144
Thames Estuary	6,923	(5,160)	3,195	(3,812)	(2,681)	Dec	5,093
Ribble Estuary	5,139	6,285	1,658	5,568	3,529	Jan	4,436
Dengie Flats	7,826	3,640	3,768	2,943	2,466	Feb	4,129
Hamford Water	(2,803)	3,267	2,984	(1,746)	(2,915)	Dec	3,126
Blackwater Estuary	2,920	2,228	3,230	2,011	4,043	Nov	2,886
Stour Estuary	(3,130)	3,084	3,013	2,975	2,128	Mar	2,866
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Swale Estuary	(2,992)	1,745	2,181	1,892	1,389	Nov	2,040
Chichester Harbour	2,180	(3,180)	1,700	1,515	1,420	Mar	1,999
Alt Estuary	1,538	2,500	1,099	3,098	1,501	Nov	1,947
Humber Estuary	(1,320)	1,567	(1,300)	2,285 ¹¹	(964)	Jan	1,926
Medway Estuary	3,221	1,616	938	1,544	733	Nov	1,610
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(823)	2,201 ¹¹	966	(1,851)	758	Dec	1,444
North Norfolk Coast	1,382	1,720	1,374	1,316	1,386	Feb	1,436
Colne Estuary	1,331	1,357	(141)	(705)	(623)	Feb	1,344
Lindisfarne	(1,230)	1,016	(635)	(656)	775	Jan	1,007
Morecambe Bay	1,288	1,043	657	778	1,001	Mar	953
Langstone Harbour	1,405	504	982	1,119	701	Feb	942
Pagham Harbour	979	713	704	1,348	873	Dec	923
Eden Estuary	646	812	690	371	450	Dec	594
Solway Estuary	520 ¹¹	(482)	(466)	509	602 ¹¹	Nov	544
Deben Estuary	308	340	344	656	1,037	Jan	537 ▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	268	273	398 ¹¹	137	114	Feb	238
Carlingford Lough	(17)	45	52	(57)	33	Dec	47
Dundrum Bay	28	(19)	(72)	(27)	(32)	Dec	44 ▲
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005							
Orwell Estuary	484	323 ¹¹	413	710	350 ¹¹	Dec	456
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Great Britain							
Beaulieu Estuary	600	708	188	46	560	Feb	420
Sites surpassing international passage threshold in the UK in 2004/2005							
The Wash	13,480	Oct	Ribble Estuary		2,895	Apr	
Thames Estuary	3,975	Oct	Stour Estuary		2,507	Oct	
Dengie Flats	2,912	May					
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005							
Alt Estuary	2,234	Sep	Dee Estuary (England and Wales)		1,214	Oct	
Chichester Harbour	2,140	Oct	Lindisfarne		962	Aug	
Hamford Water	1,940	Oct	Morecambe Bay		904	Oct	
Humber Estuary	1,901	Oct	Langstone Harbour		782	Oct	
Swale Estuary	1,451	Sep	Medway Estuary		762	Oct	
Blackwater Estuary	1,441	Aug	Pagham Harbour		587	Oct	
North Norfolk Coast	1,359	Sep					

Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: 20,000**†
All-Ireland threshold: 2,500

GB max: 410,308 Jan
NI max: 21,055 Dec

S M L
GB change o o ++
NI change - o -

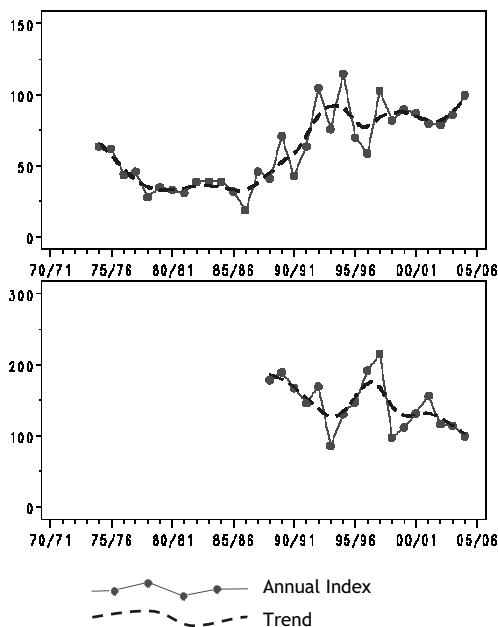


Figure 45.a, Annual indices & trend for Lapwing for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British index underwent a definite increase during 2004/05 with the underlying trend reaching its highest ever level. However, it is important to remember that this represents numbers of birds on wetland sites and does not take into account birds using agricultural or other types of habitats. In line with index figures the British maximum was the highest for five years and, typically for this species, was recorded during the core winter period. As the British index rose a very different picture was witnessed in Northern Ireland with the trend reaching its lowest ever level. This could perhaps indicate a shift eastwards in the wintering populations as suggested for other

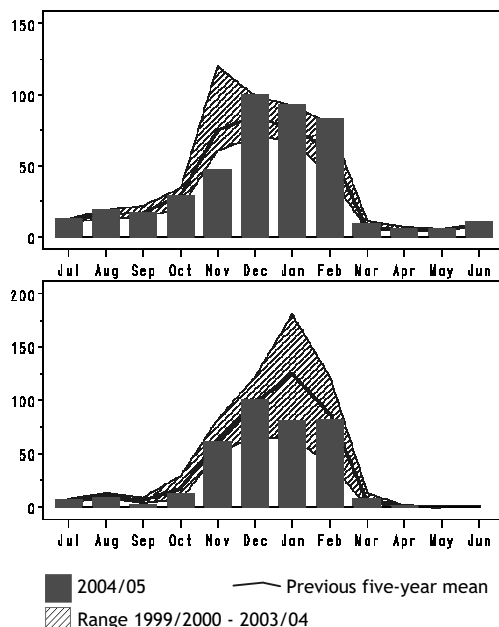


Figure 45.b, Monthly indices for Lapwing for GB (above) & NI (below).

species (Austin & Rehfish 2005) or perhaps instead a change in habitat use.

The forthcoming Winter Plover Survey will aim to assess the size of the population of this species on a range of habitats, including those not covered by WeBS.

In accordance with national figures counts at individual sites were on the whole higher than average. The peak at the Somerset Levels was the highest single site count since November 1999 and sees the Somerset Levels overtake The Wash at the top of the list of key sites. Numbers at the Ribble Estuary reached their second highest ever level, leading to this site surpassing the international qualifying level.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Somerset Levels	(50,328)	41,675	16,053	23,641	60,834	Jan	38,506
The Wash	31,165	43,558	43,672	29,350	43,822	Dec	38,313
Ribble Estuary	(12,405)	(9,579)	(14,500)	(15,374)	25,991	Jan	25,991 ▲
Humber Estuary	16,870	10,719	(36,309)	(39,865)	(16,856)	Dec	24,124
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	6,214	10,527	6,977	8,884 ¹¹	5,792	Dec	7,679
Loughs Neagh and Beg	(6,281)	(4,264)	3,090	6,282	7,584	Dec	5,809
Lough Foyle	(2,277)	(3,320)	2,629	4,240	3,606	Nov	3,492

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 5,000 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	18,300	19,380	15,230	15,890	29,136	Jan	19,587
Morecambe Bay	16,213	13,504	(13,714)	(20,750)	16,701	Dec	16,792
Swale Estuary	(13,585)	14,804	14,974	16,523	(13,270)	Jan	15,434
Thames Estuary	(19,073)	(10,282)	16,036	10,229	14,657	Jan	14,999
Mersey Estuary	(1,930)	(5,284)	(5,675)	(12,150)	(9,370)	Jan	(12,150)
Severn Estuary	(9,817)	(7,439)	12,129 ¹¹	(6,889)	11,312	Jan	11,721
Blackwater Estuary	20,309	(9,005)	11,053 ¹¹	7,472	6,785	Jan	11,405
Ouse Washes	1,289	19,219 ¹³	8,125 ¹³	13,577	12,240	Dec	10,890
Nene Washes	7,100	4,230	21,016	3,870	7,050	Feb	8,653
Solway Estuary	8,596 ¹¹	(5,211)	(7,340)	8,218	(5,989)	Dec	8,407
Pegwell Bay	5,900	6,000	10,282 ¹¹	10,000			8,046
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	6,270	9,206	6,470	7,853	7,512	Jan	7,462
North Norfolk Coast	5,799	7,830	5,124	7,358	7,833	Feb	6,789
Colne Estuary	6,430	(2,182)	(765)	(1,950)	(2,402)	Dec	6,430
Crouch-Roach Estuary	6,537	3,697	4,939	5,386	11,288 ¹¹	Nov	6,369
Confidential SE England Site	5,000	11,000	1,800	1,700	10,000	Jan	5,900
Tees Estuary	5,597	(3,196)	6,017	6,623	4,571	Dec	5,702
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Great Britain[†]							
Fiddlers Ferry Power Station Lgn	4,000	4,000	3,000	3,500	6,000	Jan	4,100
Camel Estuary	(1,405)	3,000	689	1,851	5,511 ¹¹	Jan	2,763
Alde Complex	4,026	2,241 ¹¹	4,358	(3,841)	5,472	Dec	4,024
Stodmarsh NNR and Collards Lagoon	3,375	4,000	1,200	3,400	5,000	Feb	3,395

[†] as few sites exceed the British threshold a qualifying levels of 5,000 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Knot

Calidris canutus

International threshold: 4,500

Great Britain threshold: 2,800

All-Ireland threshold: 375

GB max: 265,938 Nov

NI max: 5,919 Feb

S M L
GB change o o o
NI change (--) -- +

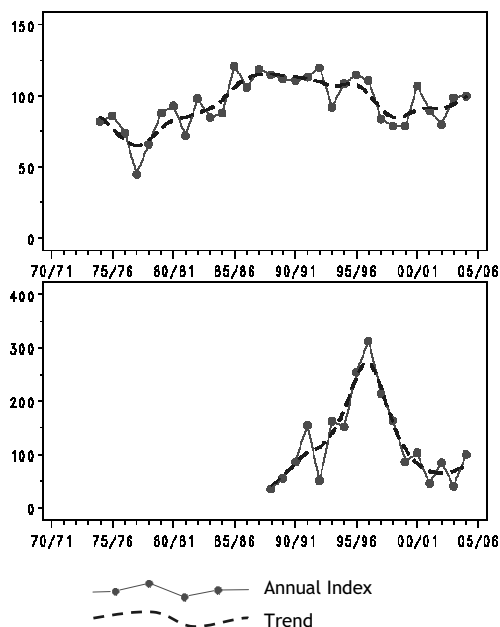


Figure 46.a, Annual indices & trend for Knot for GB (above) & NI (below).

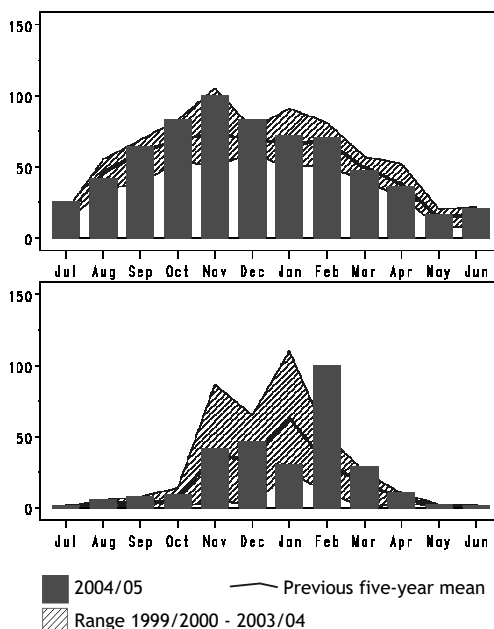


Figure 46.b, Monthly indices for Knot for GB (above) & NI (below).

Following a moderate decline in 1997/98 the underlying trend in the British index has increased for the sixth year running and is showing signs of recovery towards levels more akin to those of ten years ago. Over the past 15 years the British trend has shown a reverse pattern to that of the Dutch wintering population, providing evidence for interchange of birds between these areas. Furthermore, over the past two years monthly indices have been above average between October and December, a time when numbers in the Netherlands were lower than normal (van Roomen 2005).

The Northern Irish index showed a slight rise, largely due to higher than average numbers during February. Peak numbers at Strangford Lough, the most important site for Knot in Northern Ireland by far, were similar

to the five-year mean of the site; however, this was the highest Core Count since 2000/01.

Peak numbers at the Wash were the highest recorded since December 1992. Numbers at Dengie Flats were the highest ever recorded at the site while the Solway peak was the highest for ten years. Conversely, numbers at eight of the 11 remaining sites holding internationally important numbers have declined, some such as at the Dee Estuary by almost 75%. The current peak was the highest recorded at the Blackwater Estuary, which surpassed the international threshold for this species for the first time.

Only at North Norfolk Coast and Ribble Estuary did passage numbers exceed the wintering populations; both being slightly above average compared to the past five years.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
The Wash	72,939	80,452	51,642	48,372	105,912	Nov	71,863
Morecambe Bay	72,908	66,031	(61,968)	67,959	29,596	Dec	59,692
Ribble Estuary	(20,331)	36,202	(23,691)	44,947	(21,540)	Mar	40,575
Humber Estuary	34,888	49,991	18,936	50,557 ¹¹	(37,015)	Feb	38,593
Thames Estuary	(38,357)	27,425	30,060	43,873	33,024	Nov	34,548
Alt Estuary	31,219	44,012	25,045	30,000	19,006	Nov	29,856
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	5,672	52,792	26,769	38,070	10,243	Jan	26,709
Dengie Flats	19,400	13,600	10,550	8,000	22,700	Nov	14,850
North Norfolk Coast	29,636	16,214	9,224	7,523	6,735	Dec	13,866
Solway Estuary	9,159 ¹¹	(3,784)	(9,620)	8,725	13,142	Nov	10,342
Stour Estuary	8,036 ¹¹	6,998 ¹¹	8,648 ¹¹	6,564 ¹¹	8,454	Nov	7,740
Forth Estuary	5,807	7,232	8,936	6,907 ¹¹	5,077	Dec	6,792
Strangford Lough	5,863	4,000 ¹¹	10,340 ¹¹	4,058	5,730	Feb	5,998
Blackwater Estuary	(4,470)	(2,495)	1,700 ¹¹	(5,982)	6,273	Nov	4,606 ▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Burby Inlet	4,800	2,000	3,800	3,500	8,259	Feb	4,472
Lindisfarne	3,130 ¹¹	2,858	(4,512)	(6,751)	4,197	Jan	4,290
Cromarty Firth	5,050	2,621	3,132	4,932	5,000	Feb	4,147
Montrose Basin	2,800	5,000	5,800	(2,562)	1,990	Feb	3,898
Hamford Water	5,431	1,957	2,935	4,160	(2,481)	Jan	3,621
Swale Estuary	(4,200)	2,900	1,500	4,050	2,538	Mar	3,038
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	3,373	1,980	1,873	3,663	3,446	Dec	2,867
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Dundrum Bay	(981)	(555)	(603)	320	(475)	Dec	587
Lough Foyle	490	20	345	942	470	Mar	453
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005							
Medway Estuary	1,370	1,950	4,085	1,817	3,024 ¹¹	Jan	2,449
Tees Estuary	2,356	4,416	2,604	3,012	1,221	Nov	2,722
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Great Britain							
Carmarthen Bay	15	80	267	135	5,475	Jan	1,194
Medway Estuary	1,370	1,950	4,085	1,817	3,024 ¹¹	Jan	2,449
Sites surpassing international passage threshold in the UK in 2004/2005							
The Wash	92,938	Oct	Morecambe Bay			11,348	Oct
North Norfolk Coast	38,714	Oct	Thames Estuary			7,320	Oct
Ribble Estuary	36,200	May	Dee Estuary (England and Wales)			6,269	Oct
Humber Estuary	16,078	Aug	Solway Estuary			5,249	Oct
Alt Estuary	12,661	Sep					
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005							
Stour Estuary	3,410	Oct	Dengie Flats			3,200	May
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Northern Ireland in 2004/2005							
Strangford Lough	484	Oct					

Sanderling
Calidris alba

GB max: 11,836 Aug
NI max: 282 Apr

International threshold: 1,200
Great Britain winter threshold: 210
Great Britain passage threshold: 300
All-Ireland threshold: 35*
S M L
GB change o o o

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

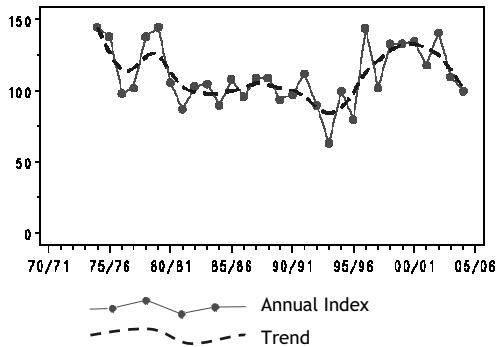


Figure 47.a, Annual indices & trend for Sanderling for GB.

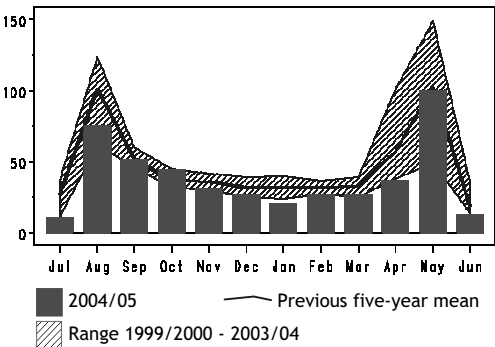


Figure 47.b, Monthly indices for Sanderling for GB.

Sanderling numbers in Britain continued to decline, the counted maximum being the lowest for four years. Nationally, numbers were below average throughout most of the year, only just surpassing the average in October. In contrast, numbers in the Netherlands have previously shown a strong increase and counts were particularly high from August to the following March (van Roomen 2005). The Northern Ireland maximum was the highest ever recorded and as usual this was during spring passage. Wintering numbers in Northern Ireland peaked at 56 in December, most of which were at Dundrum Bay and at the Bann Estuary.

Numbers at key sites were unexceptional; peak counts at the top four key sites being well below average. Additionally, the winter peak

for the Alt Estuary was the lowest for nearly ten years with the five-year mean falling below the international threshold. To compensate, numbers at Lindisfarne and North Bay (South Uist) have now surpassed the national threshold. Peaks recorded by Core Counts at these two sites are typically variable; numbers at Lindisfarne have been supplemented by recent Low Tide Counts.

Passage numbers were again slightly down on the previous year; as usual peak numbers were witnessed during August and then in the following May. Numbers at The Wash were the lowest since 2000/01 and were well below average, whereas numbers at Thames Estuary and Carmarthen Bay were above average. Passage numbers at Dee Estuary (England & Wales) were the highest for over 20 years.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ribble Estuary	1,290	3,004	2,680	2,400	(1,453)	Nov	2,344
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Carmarthen Bay	730	1,600	1,770	833	769	Mar	1,140
Alt Estuary	967	1,556	1,431	913	815	Mar	1,136 ▼
North Norfolk Coast	1,179	1,319	1,150	601	889	Nov	1,028
Thames Estuary	334	552	875	385	562	Jan	542
Duddon Estuary	606	486	287	585	361	Mar	465
Thanet Coast	677	434	444	342	418	Nov	463
Humber Estuary	546	358	440	370 ¹¹	(96)	Dec	429
The Wash	317	504	496	317	395	Mar	406
Solway Estuary	(117)	(218)	(266)	(370)	(302)	Mar	(370)
Jersey Shore	253	391					322
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	100	550	286	(379)	274	Nov	318
Ardivachar Point (South Uist)	0		398	460	400	Nov	315
Howmore Estuary SSSI Coast				312 ⁵⁵			312
Pegwell Bay	375	123	373 ¹¹	(115)			290
Morecambe Bay	391	275	240	306	225	Dec	287

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Swansea Bay	234	356	410	200	234	Jan	287
Forth Estuary	(262)	274	389	269 ¹¹	181	Dec	278
Tees Estuary	373	259	280	240	199	Feb	270
South Ford	228		120	250	430	Feb	257
Lindisfarne	58	321 ¹¹	283 ¹¹	221	388 ¹¹	Dec	254 ▲
North Bay (South Uist)	302 ¹³		67	235	340	Nov	236 ▲
Lade Sands	320 ¹³	236	140	118	350	Mar	233
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Dundrum Bay	(132)	(0)	(30)	(0)	(48)	Dec	(132)
Killough Harbour		76 ¹¹					76
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005							
Durham Coast	(0)	(0)		(0)	(54)	Feb	(54)
Sites surpassing international passage threshold in the UK in 2004/2005							
Ribble Estuary	4,830	Apr	Alt Estuary			2,278	May
The Wash	2,386	Aug	Thames Estuary			1,269	Sep
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005							
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	1,026	Oct	Carmarthen Bay			499	Sep
North Norfolk Coast	1,021	Apr	Solway Estuary			416	Apr
Morecambe Bay	765	Sep	Thanet Coast			404	Oct
Humber Estuary	589	Aug	Tees Estuary			307	May
Ardvachar Point (South Uist)	550	Sep					
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Northern Ireland in 2004/2005							
Bann Estuary	282	Apr					

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

GB max: 66 Sep
NI max: 0

International threshold: 2,000
Great Britain threshold: ?[†]
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

The national peak for Britain was slightly below that of the previous year and was the second lowest value since 1997/98. In line with this fall just three sites supported counts in excess of ten Little Stints compared to seven in 2003/04. For the second year running no Little Stints were recorded by WeBS in Northern Ireland, which might be due to short-

staying passage birds being absent on WeBS count days.

Little Stint were reported from 49 sites, 16 more than during the previous year. As usual peak numbers were during autumn passage and winter numbers peaked at 12 in January; the spring peak exceeded this by one, with 13 in April.

Sites with more than 10 birds during passage periods in Great Britain in 2004/2005[†]

Ribble Estuary	12	Apr
Severn Estuary	11	Oct
Thames Estuary	11	Sep

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Temminck's Stint

Calidris temminckii

Scarce

GB max: 2 May
NI max: 0

No Temminck's Stints were recorded during WeBS counts in autumn 2004, but there were records from three sites in spring 2005, with

singles at the Camel Estuary and Dungeness Gravel Pits in May, and at Lindisfarne in June.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis

Vagrant

Native Range: America

GB max: 1 Sep
NI max: 0

This species was recorded twice, with singles at Cley Marshes on the North Norfolk Coast in September and at Minsmere in October. All

individuals of this species recorded by WeBS have fallen in the period July to December.

Baird's Sandpiper

Calidris bairdii

Vagrant
Native Range: America

GB max: 1 Oct
NI max: 0

A single bird was recorded at Loch Paible, North Uist during October.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Calidris melanotos

Vagrant
Native Range: America, N Siberia, Australia

GB max: 4 Jul
NI max: 0

Pectoral Sandpipers were present at both ends of the country during July, with two at the Forth Estuary, one at Loch of Strathbeg and one at Dungeness. Four singles in September were at Blagdon Lake, Mersey Estuary, Siblyback Reservoir and Thames Estuary. The latest record for 2004/05 was at Blackwater Estuary in October.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

International threshold: 7,400
Great Britain threshold: ?[†]
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 316 Sep
NI max: 1 Sep

As usual peak numbers across Britain and Northern Ireland were recorded during September. The British peak was twice that of the previous year. However, as with all species that are routinely recorded during passage, numbers are subject to great variation due to daily turnover and a single monthly WeBS count cannot be considered a complete assessment of the total number of individuals at a site during the month.

Site peaks of 10 or more birds were recorded at 11 sites, all of which, except Seven Estuary and Morecambe Bay, were in on the east coast. The latest records of the autumn were of single birds at Burry Inlet, Tamar Complex and Swale Estuary in November. None were seen then throughout the winter, until the spring when five were present in March.

Sites with more than 10 birds during passage periods in Great Britain in 2004/2005[†]

Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	39	Sep	Blackwater Estuary	15	Sep
Severn Estuary	37	Sep	Humber Estuary	13	Sep
Swale Estuary	29	Sep	Morecambe Bay	12	Sep
Thames Estuary	28	Sep	Tees Estuary	10	Sep
Forth Estuary	26	Sep	The Wash	10	Aug
North Norfolk Coast	20	Sep			

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

International threshold: 750
Great Britain threshold: 180[†]
All-Ireland threshold: 10*

GB max: 1,298 Jan
NI max: 86 Mar

S M L
GB change 0 - --

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

With a drop of 8% from the previous winter, the British annual index for Purple Sandpiper continued the downward trend that has been apparent since the late 1980s. Examination of monthly indices suggests that numbers were especially low early in the winter, but picked

up after New Year. Perhaps birds remaining further north later into the autumn were forced south as the winter progressed. The maximum number of counted birds in Britain was down on the same figure for the previous year, whilst

the maximum count in Northern Ireland dropped for the second year running.

Only two sites now support numbers in excess of the threshold for national importance in Britain. The peak count for Papa Westray was the highest yet recorded there. No birds were picked up at Balranald during the winter. In Northern Ireland, whilst counts held up on the Outer Ards, being average compared to the past 20 years, the peak count at Belfast Lough fell to an all-time low.

As so few sites qualify for national importance, additional sites supporting a mean peak of over 100 birds are also listed. 2004/05

peak counts were low at Egilsay, Forth Estuary and between Seahouses and Budle Point, but were higher than average at the Dee Estuary (Aberdeen) and Ardivachar Point on South Uist, as well as at Thurso Bay. Supplementary counts carried out for specific monitoring projects are also included in the table, drawing attention to other noteworthy concentrations. However, as always this is a species that is very under-represented by WeBS and it will be extremely interesting to see what the next Non-estuarine Coastal Waterbird Survey (NEWS) in January 2007 reveals about its current status.

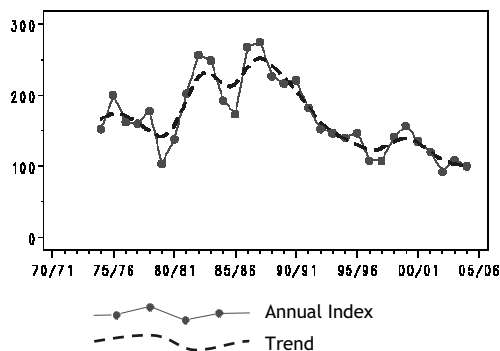


Figure 48.a, Annual indices & trend for Purple Sandpiper for GB.

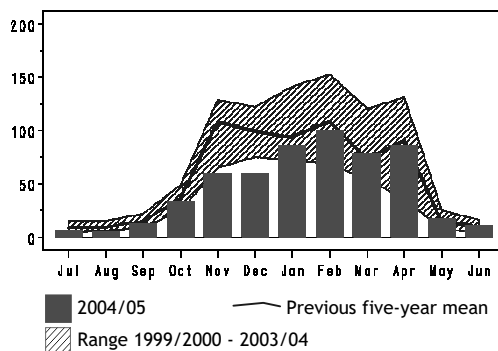


Figure 48.b, Monthly indices for Purple Sandpiper for GB.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Island of Papa Westray		330	120	216	385	Jan	263
Farne Islands	207	194	(185)				201
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Outer Ards Shoreline	82		122	83	84	Mar	93
Belfast Lough	(13)	16	15	17	6	Jan	14
Sites with mean peak counts of 100 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Island of Egilsay	334	4	141	195	81	Jan	151
Forth Estuary	(159)	172	248	72	93	Jan	149
Moray Coast	(158)	144	89	127	134	Dec	130
Balranald RSPB Reserve			190	180	0		123 ▼
Howmore Estuary SSSI Coast				120 ⁵⁵			120
Ardivachar Point (South Uist)	100		120	110	144	Dec	119
Bornish & Ormiclate Machairs				112 ⁵⁵			112
East Unst		110 ¹⁰					110
Dee Estuary (Scotland)	84	71	92	81	185	Feb	103
Seahouses to Budle Point	205	151	25	64	63	Nov	102
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Great Britain[†]							
Thurso Bay			37	97	120	Nov	85
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005							
Farne Islands		375				May	
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Northern Ireland in 2004/2005							
Outer Ards Shoreline		15				Oct	

[†] as few sites exceed the British threshold a qualifying level of 100 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Dunlin
Calidris alpina

GB max: 334,093 Jan
NI max: 9,185 Feb

International threshold: 13,300
Great Britain winter threshold: 5,600
Great Britain passage threshold: 2,000
All-Ireland threshold: 1,250
S M L
GB change o o o
NI change (-) - o

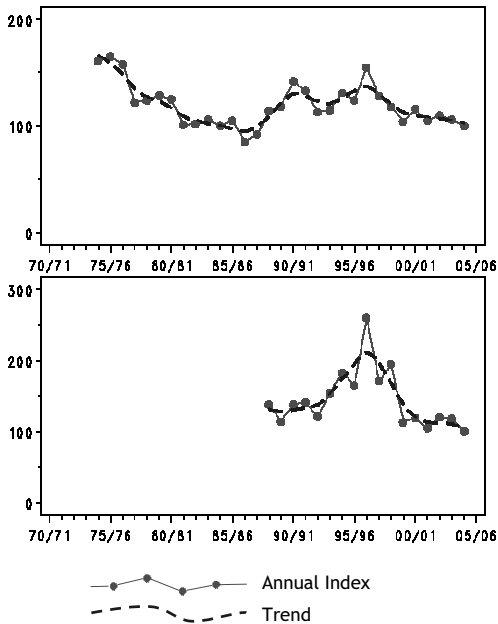


Figure 49.a, Annual indices & trend for Dunlin for GB (above) & NI (below).

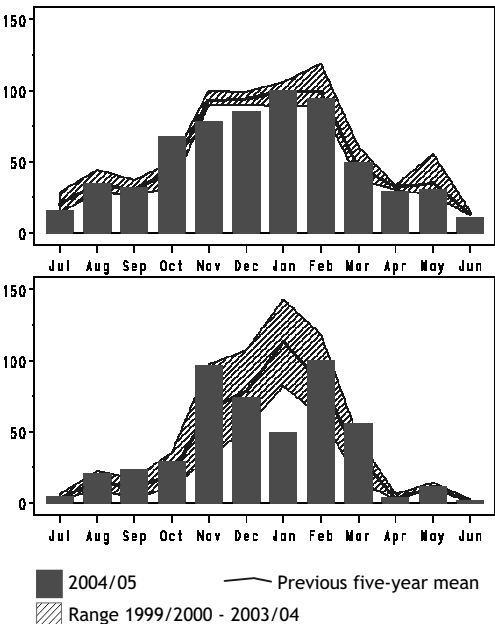


Figure 49.b, Monthly indices for Dunlin for GB (above) & NI (below).

The recent steady decline in numbers of British wintering Dunlin continued in 2004/05, the annual index reaching its lowest point for 17 years, albeit only declining 6% since 2003/04. The same was seen in Northern Ireland, the index here reaching its lowest ever value although numbers in the province have been roughly stable since the turn of the century. However, at only one site, the Stour Estuary, have mean peak numbers fallen below the international qualifying threshold. Amongst these key sites, the majority saw peak 2004/05 numbers lower than recent averages, with particularly low counts from the Dee Estuary, Thames Estuary, Lindisfarne, Dengie Flats (for the second year running) and the Colne Estuary. The site with the highest peak compared to normal was Langstone

Harbour, where numbers were the highest since 1992/93. Numbers in Langstone Harbour have increased over recent years, whereas at nearby Portsmouth and Chichester Harbours numbers have shown some declines; however, these numbers refer to roosting birds, which regularly move between the harbours during the tidal cycle (Bill & Hollins, 1989 in Clark & Eyre, 1993).

In Northern Ireland, the Core Count at Strangford Lough was the highest since February 1999 but the peak at Lough Foyle was very low.

Most key sites supported wintering populations well in excess of their peak passage numbers, whereas passage numbers at the Mersey, Solway and Thames Estuaries were much higher than normal.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Mersey Estuary	60,330	45,756	58,463	40,170	43,020	Dec	49,548
Thames Estuary	44,907	48,104	54,205	(27,318)	40,838	Dec	47,014
The Wash	35,080	31,069	42,794	31,624	39,041	Feb	35,922
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	41,656	34,448 ¹¹	21,266	41,679	16,878	Feb	31,185
Severn Estuary	(17,417)	20,401	25,734	23,801	(16,069)	Dec	23,312

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Langstone Harbour	23,790	17,500	17,320	24,286	28,239	Feb	22,227
Humber Estuary	18,502	24,378	24,168	19,182 ¹¹	(14,733)	Mar	21,558
Ribble Estuary	(36,473)	11,141	11,423	24,445	24,024	Jan	21,501
Morecambe Bay	27,645	18,947	18,214	18,847	(17,848)	Feb	20,913
Blackwater Estuary	(37,550)	15,004	18,806	13,958	(16,007)	Dec	20,265
Chichester Harbour	16,773	17,947 ¹¹	15,661	12,552	12,651	Dec	15,117
Solway Estuary	15,093	12,861	12,850	17,576	(14,628)	Nov	14,602
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Stour Estuary	15,822	16,469 ¹¹	12,863 ¹¹	9,268	11,974 ¹¹	Jan	13,279 ▼
Forth Estuary	11,900	13,296	12,143	7,840 ¹¹	9,132	Dec	10,862
Swale Estuary	(7,795)	11,280	14,761	5,034	9,181	Feb	10,064
Alt Estuary	5,026	8,438	6,885	12,743	8,540	Nov	8,326
Lindisfarne	5,777	9,085	(9,991)	(9,503)	5,885	Jan	8,048
Dengie Flats	9,700	15,720	7,710	2,700	3,040	Nov	7,774
Medway Estuary	(5,118)	5,872	6,901	8,086	9,373 ¹¹	Dec	7,558
Burby Inlet	5,401	6,654	4,955	10,150	6,318	Dec	6,696
Poole Harbour	4,852	(6,929)	(6,323)	(5,463)	(7,026)	Jan	6,119
Duddon Estuary	(4,258)	5,415	3,942	7,680 ¹¹	6,970 ¹¹	Nov	6,002
Colne Estuary	9,100	6,823	(350)	4,411	3,359	Jan	5,923
Hamford Water	5,625	10,686 ¹¹	3,064	(3,476)	4,290	Dec	5,916
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	2,733 ¹¹	3,352	4,408 ¹¹	4,967 ¹¹	4,934	Feb	4,079
Lough Foyle	5,800	2,804	4,209	4,212	1,688	Nov	3,743
Carlingford Lough	(1,390)	(2,090)	(2,872)	(2,339)	2,238	Jan	2,483
Belfast Lough	1,366 ¹¹	1,278	1,193	1,461 ¹¹	1,136 ¹¹	Dec	1,287
Sites surpassing international passage threshold in the UK in 2004/2005							
The Wash	42,361	Sep	Thames Estuary		27,003	Oct	
Mersey Estuary	29,600	Oct	Solway Estuary		13,324	Oct	
Ribble Estuary	27,847	May					
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005							
Morecambe Bay	12,094	Oct	Forth Estuary		5,255	Oct	
Humber Estuary	10,814	Jul	Chichester Harbour		4,690	Oct	
Severn Estuary	10,812	Oct	Lindisfarne		4,047	Oct	
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	10,407	Oct	Solway Estuary		4,005	May	
Langstone Harbour	9,580	Oct	Duddon Estuary		3,152	Oct	
Dengie Flats	8,254	May	Swale Estuary		2,921	Oct	
Blackwater Estuary	7,968	Oct	North Norfolk Coast		2,613	Aug	
Alt Estuary	7,588	May	Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes		2,230	May	
Stour Estuary	6,621	Oct	Medway Estuary		2,142	Oct	

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

International threshold: ?
Great Britain threshold: 7*
All-Ireland threshold: +[†]

GB max: 884 Jan
NI max: 24 Oct

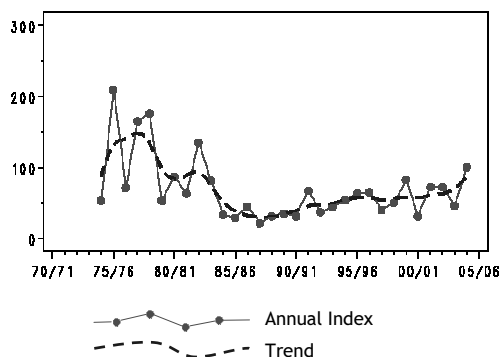


Figure 50.a, Annual indices & trend for Ruff for GB.

The British annual index for wintering Ruff rose during 2004/05, largely due to high

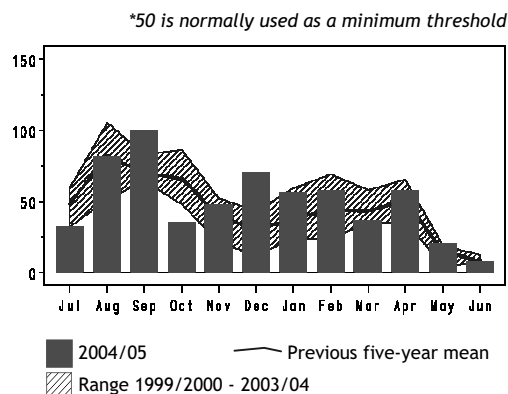


Figure 50.b, Monthly indices for Ruff for GB.

numbers on the Ouse Washes during January (416) and February (431). Unusually, the

British maximum was recorded in January, the summed total being two-thirds higher than during the autumn peak. Low autumn numbers were mostly due to site coverage, as the monthly indices show a higher than usual occupancy in September, although falling rapidly in October. Winter indices were also above average between November and February.

Typically peak numbers are recorded during autumn passage, which can start as early as the end of June. Ruff colour-marked in the Netherlands during spring have been sighted in the Britain during autumn passage, mostly on

the east coast although one bird turned up in northwest England as early as late June, and one was in Kent during the following winter.

The highest site counts were at the Ouse Washes, where counts exceeded 100 birds in every month from October though until March. Other three-figure counts were made at the North Norfolk Coast and the Swale Estuary. High numbers recorded during Low Tide Counts at the Crouch-Roach Estuary helped the site attain national importance status for this species. The highest count in Northern Ireland was of 16 on Lough Foyle in October.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Ouse Washes	189	334	359	232 ¹³	(431)	Feb	309
Lower Derwent Ings			179	99			139
WWT Martin Mere	116	190	151	86	83	Mar	125
North Norfolk Coast	103	66	105	155	140	Nov	114
Nene Washes	38	30	275	128	16	Dec	97
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	52 ¹³	155	55	43	86	Dec	78
Needingworth Quarry Lakes			(106)		2	Jan	69
RSPB Hanson Wetland Creation	126			42			69
Swale Estuary	29	46	95	41	128	Mar	68
Middle Yare Marshes	(33)	37	82	(17)	53	Nov	57
Blackwater Estuary	10	49	82	19	24	Mar	37
Ribble Estuary	63	5	76	21	5	Feb	34
Arun Valley	28	29	22	52	24	Jan	31
Thames Estuary	7	34	35	43	28	Dec	29
Somerset Levels	(15)	(15)	29	33	10	Jan	24
Dungeness Gravel Pits	55	0	42	7	10	Jan	23
Crouch-Roach Estuary	2	(0)	(4)	(0)	42 ¹¹	Jan	22 ▲
Holland Marshes	23	41	6	12	14	Mar	19
Hamford Water	12	6 ¹¹	26	20	17	Dec	16
Sandbach Flashes	8		26	11	13	Dec	15
Humber Estuary	4	20 ¹³	25	5 ¹¹	(7)	Mar	14
Confidential SE England Site	9	32	0	7	16	Mar	13
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	8	(12)	5	10	29	Jan	13
Stodmarsh NNR & Collards Lgn	25	15	11	7	0		12
Cresswell Pond	15	(32)	1	12	0		12
Abberton Reservoir	0	0	2	51	2	Nov	11
Fen Drayton Gravel Pits	46	0	0	7	0		11
Severn Estuary	1 ¹³	3	21	(0)	13	Jan	10
Hardley Flood	0		33	7	0		10
Hagnaby Lock Fen	0	6	19	9	11	Feb	9
Fairfield SSSI	12	9	12	0	0		7
Minsmere	8	8	5	6	9	Mar	7
Rutland Water	9	8	4	10	2	Nov	7
Tees Estuary	10	6	8	9	4	Jan	7
East Chevington Pools	1	14	(0)	7	4	Feb	7
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005[†]							
Druridge Pool	0	21	0	8	0		6
Eyebrook Reservoir	25	2	0	0	0		5
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Great Britain							
North West Solent	0	4	(3)	3	9	Mar	4
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	0	0	12	5	9	Jan	5
Sites with more than 50 birds during passage periods in Great Britain in 2004							
North Norfolk Coast	Sep	270	Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes		Jul		69
Ouse Washes	Oct	181					

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

Jack Snipe

Lymnocyptes minimus

International threshold: ?

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: 250[†]

GB max: 183 Dec

NI max: 1 Sep

The number of Jack Snipe recorded during WeBS Core Counts is widely variable as the species is difficult to detect and often overlooked. Nevertheless, national maxima were not too dissimilar to previous years. Chat Moss remained top of the table, largely due to supplementary counts of this species supplied

for this site, as well as for Bickershaw Colliery Area. In total 21 sites held mean peaks of five or more, one less than in 2003/04. Numbers at other sites were unexceptional, although 2004/05 peaks of five or more were recorded at four additional sites.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Chat Moss		68 ²⁷	46 ²⁷	28 ²⁷	34 ²⁷	Dec	44
Doxey Marshes SSSI	6	64	(30)	16	61	Dec	37
Dornoch Firth		25 ¹¹					25
Chichester Harbour	31 ¹³	16	39	7	6	Feb	20
Lower Derwent Ings			11	22			17
Bickershaw Colliery Area		10 ²⁷	17 ²⁷	11 ²⁷	14 ²⁷	Nov	13
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	9	22 ¹¹	13	(9)	3	Dec	12
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	(3)	19	13	8	5	Feb	11
Waulkmill Glen & Littleton Res	15	6	10	12	10	Dec	11
Humber Estuary	(4)	5	13	(5) ¹¹	(2)	Dec	9
Kemerton Lake				9			9
Severn Estuary	12	9	7 ¹³	5	10	Mar	9
Fiddlers Ferry Power Station Lgn	4	32	6	0	0		8
Ardrossan-West Kilbride	(2)	6	8	2	6	Nov	6
Boat of Garten Pools					6	Nov	6
Morecambe Bay	(2)	10	5	3	6	Jan	6
Stour Estuary	6	12	2	6 ¹¹	2	Feb	6
Upton Warren	12	5	6	3	5	Jan	6
Langstone Harbour	2	0	13	0	12	Mar	5
North Cave Wetlands	3	15	4	3	2	Jan	5
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Great Britain[†]							
Hill Ridware Lake	4	4	3	4	7	Dec	4
Langford Lowfields Gravel Pits	0	7	1	4	7	Dec	4
Coombe Hill Canal	0	0	3	2	5	Mar	2
Henfield Brooks	0	0	1	0	5	Mar	1

[†] as few sites exceed the All-Ireland threshold and no British threshold has been set a qualifying level of 5 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report



Jack Snipe (Tommy Holden)

Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: ?†

All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 8,167 Nov

NI max: 135 Nov

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

Despite their abundance and wide distribution, Snipe are inevitably under-recorded during WeBS, being difficult to detect. Peak counts are generally recorded when counters make a particular effort to concentrate on this (and the previous) species. The British maximum has risen a third on the previous year yet this value has fluctuated around the 8,000 mark for the past ten years. The Northern Ireland maximum has declined by two-thirds since 2003/04 although as for Britain, it is difficult to put this

down to anything but variable detection of the species during counts. The Somerset Levels remained top of the list of sites holding mean peak counts of 200 or more; the January peak of 1,513 was the highest single site count during 2004/05. Annual peaks exceeding 200 were recorded at an additional nine sites, and the 2004/05 peak counts at Malltraeth RSPB, Adur Estuary and Woolmer Common Ponds were the highest ever for each site.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Somerset Levels	1,817	854	972	308	1,513	Jan	1,093
Lower Derwent Ings			997	269			633
Severn Estuary	(301)	(217)	(240)	(519)	(349)	Mar	(519)
Ouse Washes	62	1,685 ¹³	126	233	302	Mar	482
Doxey Marshes SSSI	149	544	(239)	390	716	Jan	450
North Norfolk Coast	207	1,169 ¹¹	92	121	77	Dec	333
Maer Lake	280	510	0	403	378	Jan	314
Middle Yare Marshes	(217)	(545)	257	124	(210)	Nov	271
Cleddau Estuary	215	189	283	311	144	Jan	228
Arun Valley	335	166	242	134	153	Nov	206
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	189	334 ¹¹	154	(52)	127	Dec	201
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	33	(16)	129	151	22	Nov	84
Belfast Lough	65	61	48	86 ¹¹	45 ¹¹	Nov	61
Strangford Lough	31	29	97 ¹¹	55	56	Mar	54
Ballysaggart Lough			51	53			52
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Great Britain†							
Malltraeth RSPB	10	55	131	54	570	Nov	164
Adur Estuary	144	54	148	147	273	Feb	153
Morecambe Bay	(218)	109	101	(147)	(265)	Nov	168
Woolmer Common Ponds		1	1	12	205	Jan	55

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set qualifying levels of 200 and 50 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

Woodcock

Scopox rusticola

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: ?

All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 41 Nov

NI max: 0

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

The preference for non-wetland habitats and its secretive nature mean that Woodcock are inevitably grossly under-recorded during WeBS. This is stressed by the peak national total of just 41 in November; a tiny fraction of the total numbers present in the country.

Although most records were of single birds, site peaks of five were noted at River Cam - Kingfishers Bridge and Traeth Melynog, both in November, and Longueville Marsh in March. Two of these sites were also named as holding the highest counts during 2003/04.

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

GB max: 35,666 Sep

NI max: 1,715 Sep

International threshold: 350

Great Britain threshold: 150

All-Ireland threshold: 90

	S	M	L
GB change	+	++	++
NI change	+	+	++

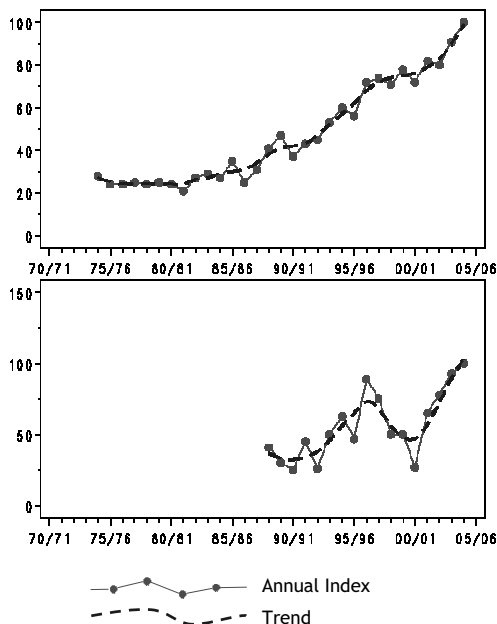


Figure 51.a, Annual indices & trend for Black-tailed Godwit for GB (above) & NI (below).

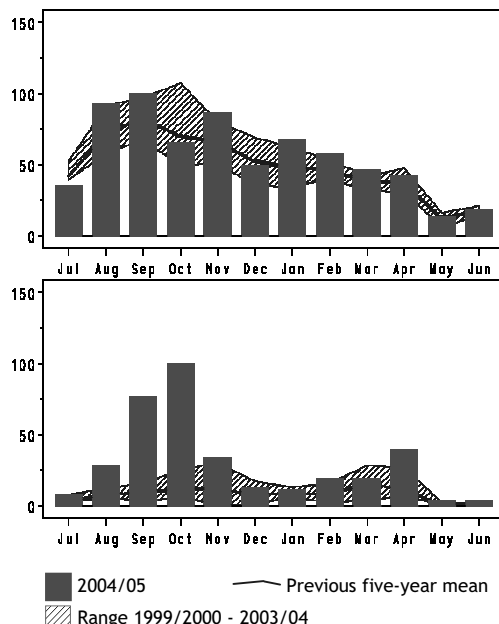


Figure 51.b, Monthly indices for Black-tailed Godwit for GB (above) & NI (below).

The increase in the Icelandic race of the Black-tailed Godwit *islandica* shows no signs of abating. The annual British and Northern Ireland indices increased by 10% and 7% respectively to their highest ever values. If the current rate of increase continues into 2005/06 then this species will out-number Bar-tailed Godwit, which itself is decreasing, as has already happened in Northern Ireland this year.

Although sites are compared with national and international thresholds, both of these figures are clearly now well out of date, with the peak British count in September 2004 exceeding the nominal international population estimate for *islandica*. Population estimates and threshold values are due to be updated shortly. However, based on the existing thresholds, a further six sites now qualify as supporting internationally important numbers compared to the year before, and a further three support nationally important numbers. The increase has been particularly great in Wales, on the Dee Estuary, Severn Estuary, Burry Inlet and Carmarthen Bay, whilst other

sites with proportionally large increases include the Dee Estuary, North Norfolk Coast, Morecambe Bay, Firth Estuary, Eden Estuary, Portsmouth Harbour, Tamar Complex and Lough Foyle. A Low Tide Count on the Crouch-Roach Estuary located far higher numbers than have been recorded on recent Core Counts, suggesting local movement between different parts of the Essex coast here. The only sites apparently experiencing declining numbers seem to be the Stour Estuary, Mersey Estuary, Southampton Water and Hamford Water. Whilst the count was very low on the River Avon: Ringwood to Christchurch, and at Meadow Lane and Fen Drayton Gravel Pits, such fluctuations are typical for inland sites that depend upon winter flooding.

During passage, numbers exceeded the winter peak at 15 sites of national or international importance and at Mersey Estuary, Humber Estuary, Langstone Harbour, Thames Estuary, Stour Estuary and North

Norfolk Coast passage numbers were at least twice that of the peak winter count.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
The Wash	3,555	9,163	2,773	3,031	5,492	Nov	4,803
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	2,366	4,624 ¹¹	3,955	4,493	5,362	Dec	4,160
Ouse Washes	268	3,273	3,468	3,137 ¹³	3,424	Mar	2,714
Blackwater Estuary	(2,094)	(926)	(2,939)	1,232	2,356	Mar	2,155
Stour Estuary	2,846 ¹¹	2,593	1,927	1,607	1,151	Jan	2,025
Ribble Estuary	3,271	1,733	975	1,385	2,629	Jan	1,999
Poole Harbour	1,134	(2,115)	(2,691)	(2,133)	(1,732)	Jan	1,961
Thames Estuary	2,306	1,967	1,584	1,380	1,931	Nov	1,834
Swale Estuary	2,153	1,580 ¹¹	1,045	1,511	1,782	Nov	1,614
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	1,376	1,607	1,142	1,277	1,566	Mar	1,394
R. Avon: R'wood to Christchurch	2,630 ¹³	3	3,002	170	26	Feb	1,166
Exe Estuary	880	737	890	(1,079)	1,054	Dec	928
Humber Estuary	545	921	1,311	914 ¹¹	(629)	Feb	923
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(272)	(260)	(162)	(261)	729 ¹¹	Nov	729 ▲
Medway Estuary	(0)	(662)	(199)	(154)	(518)	Nov	(662)
Mersey Estuary	810	313	1,002	740	241	Jan	621
Chichester Harbour	136	552	715	1,050	545	Nov	600
Southampton Water	1,265	(358)	196	(434)	291	Dec	584
Pagham Harbour	248	252	826	541	664	Jan	506
North Norfolk Coast	108	233	477	631	998	Mar	489 ▲
Belfast Lough	383 ¹¹	492	545	367 ¹¹	479	Jan	453
Hamford Water	601	366 ¹¹	490	414	314	Jan	437
Morecambe Bay	219	(117)	(143)	(403)	655	Nov	437 ▲
North West Solent	323	452	(261)	373	(300)	Jan	383
Colne Estuary	450	344	(190)	253	472	Mar	380 ▲
Newtown Estuary	(86)	231	510	(173)	(113)	Feb	371 ▲
Beaulieu Estuary	495	725	147	116	326	Jan	362 ▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Langstone Harbour	(97)	442	314	245 ¹¹	290	Mar	323
Alde Complex	30	113	355	600	298	Mar	279
Orwell Estuary	73 ¹¹	260 ¹¹	407 ¹¹	389 ¹¹	255 ¹¹	Dec	277
Blyth Estuary	271	244					258
Deben Estuary	114	260	304	258	305	Nov	248
Forth Estuary	55	232	243	291	348	Feb	234
Burry Inlet	7	30	60	222	845	Feb	233 ▲
Eden Estuary	170	221 ¹¹	206	220	305	Nov	224
Portsmouth Harbour	(70)	(84)	246 ¹¹	78	340	Feb	221
Carmarthen Bay	2	(8)	(29)	(331)	307	Mar	213 ▲
Meadow Lane Gravel Pits	800	0	(3)	0	0		200
Severn Estuary	5	141	193	200	(450)	Nov	198 ▲
Fen Drayton Gravel Pits	780	1	0	0	0		156
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	83	153	189 ¹¹	267	176	Feb	174
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Great Britain							
Nene Washes	281	39	51	185	188	Feb	149
Fal Complex	(103)	87	163	105	176	Jan	133
Tamar Complex	(130)	106	53 ¹¹	80	175	Nov	109
Christchurch Harbour	1	18	7	174	169	Feb	74
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Northern Ireland							
Lough Foyle	0	0	32	161	213	Nov	81
Sites surpassing international passage threshold in the UK in 2004/2005							
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	6,452	Sep	Belfast Lough			857	Sep
The Wash	5,546	Sep	Ouse Washes			800	Apr
Thames Estuary	3,757	Oct	Nene Washes			770	Apr
Mersey Estuary	2,950	Sep	Langstone Harbour			758	Oct
Ribble Estuary	2,936	Sep	Morecambe Bay			722	Apr
Humber Estuary	2,435	Sep	Exe Estuary			706	Sep
Stour Estuary	1,972	Sep	Burry Inlet			700	Sep
Swale Estuary	1,705	Jul	Blackwater Estuary			645	Apr
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	1,612	Aug	Chichester Harbour			533	Oct
North Norfolk Coast	1,577	Apr	Eden Estuary			374	Apr
Poole Harbour	1,210	Sep	Portsmouth Harbour			360	Sep
Lough Foyle	983	Oct					

Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005

North West Solent	311	Apr	Carmarthen Bay	239	Oct
Medway Estuary	301	Oct	Crouch-Roach Estuary	219	Apr
Deben Estuary	298	Apr	Southampton Water	206	Oct
Severn Estuary	294	Oct	Dengie Flats	205	Oct
Forth Estuary	288	Sep	Colne Estuary	197	Apr
Alde Complex	286	Oct	Beaulieu Estuary	154	Apr
Orwell Estuary	277	Apr	Sandbach Flashes	151	May
Solway Estuary	275	Aug			

Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Northern Ireland in 2004/2005

Carlingford Lough	100	Aug
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Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

International threshold: 1,200

Great Britain threshold: 620

All-Ireland threshold: 175

GB max: 37,497 Jan

NI max: 1,494 Feb

	S	M	L
GB change	o	o	o
NI change	o	o	o

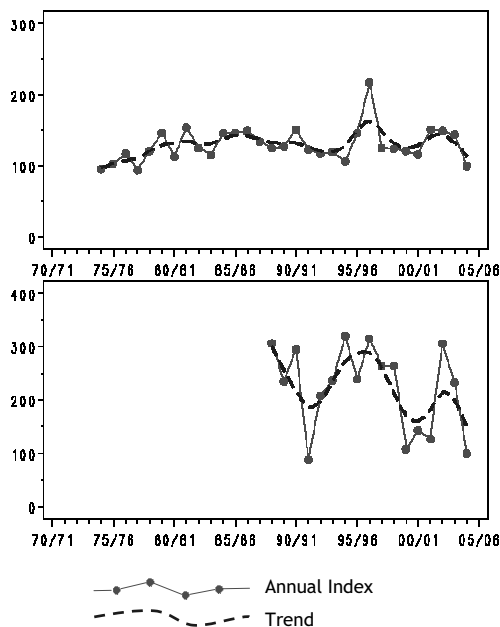


Figure 52.a, Annual indices & trend for Bar-tailed Godwit for GB (above) & NI (below).

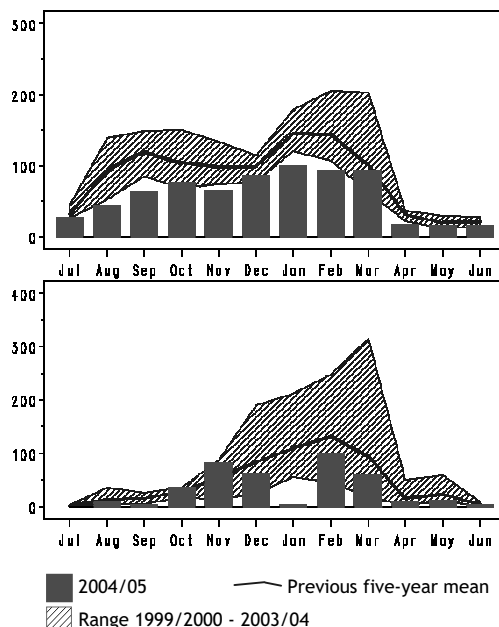


Figure 52.b, Monthly indices for Bar-tailed Godwit for GB (above) & NI (below).

The 2004/05 winter saw a substantial decline in the Bar-tailed Godwit British annual index, of about 30% since the previous year. At the same time, the peak counted number in Britain fell by over 8,000 birds. Monthly indices suggest that numbers were low through most of the winter. Over the longer-term, this species has displayed overall stability since the 1970s and it is probably too soon to make any judgements based on this one low year, but the results for 2005/06 will be of interest. Moreover, numbers across the North Sea in the Netherlands have increased sharply in recent years (van Roomen *et al.* 2006). This backs up other work showing how certain species,

including Bar-tailed Godwit, are basically shifting their wintering areas in response to warmer winters (Maclean *et al.* in press).

Numbers in Northern Ireland typically fluctuate to a far greater extent than in Britain, due to the fewer birds present, but there was also a major decline in 2004/05 to the second-lowest level yet for the Northern Ireland index.

Much of the decline was due to the lowest ever numbers on the two key sites of the Wash and Ribble Estuary, whilst low peaks were also recorded from the Alt, Morecambe, Dee, Solway and Lough Foyle, all in the west. At no key sites, except for the Dornoch Firth and

Swale Estuary, were peak counts substantially higher than average.

At the majority of sites passage numbers

peak during the autumn, with much lower numbers during spring. Passage numbers at The Wash were the lowest for 15 years.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
The Wash	17,223	23,751	18,374	16,280	11,268	Jan	17,379
Ribble Estuary	(4,118)	20,950	(3,111)	11,301	4,657	Jan	12,303
Alt Estuary	6,146	12,098	7,103	8,120	3,900	Jan	7,473
Thames Estuary	(3,019)	(6,460)	3,941	8,989	6,595	Mar	6,508
Lindisfarne	4,066	5,237	(3,000)	(4,078)	2,900	Dec	4,070
Morecambe Bay	1,685	(938)	5,718	4,424	1,752	Jan	3,395
Humber Estuary	2,065	3,669	2,688	4,291 ¹¹	(2,460)	Jan	3,178
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	990	12,163 ¹¹	127	1,209	132	Jan	2,924
Dengie Flats	1,388	4,970	3,112	1,550	1,250	Mar	2,454
Cromarty Firth	2,193	1,044	2,212	3,439	2,311	Feb	2,240
Solway Estuary	(1,434)	(2,106)	1,761	1,572	1,050	Feb	1,622
Strangford Lough	1,543	1,949 ¹¹	1,079	2,019	1,422	Feb	1,602
Forth Estuary	(1,542)	964	1,793	1,750 ¹¹	1,599	Jan	1,530
North Norfolk Coast	1,676	1,678 ¹¹	1,555	1,271	1,203	Jan	1,477
Lough Foyle	208	1,328	4,108	1,019	630	Mar	1,459
Tay Estuary	1,400	1,944	1,351	910	1,680	Feb	1,457
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Dornoch Firth	406	1,136 ¹¹	1,561	1,068	1,495	Dec	1,133
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	1,510	995	997	830	901	Dec	1,047
Chichester Harbour	925	910	872	(910)	863	Feb	896
South Ford	1,042		549	950	1,040	Feb	895
Loch Bee SSSI Coast				713 ⁵⁵			713
Swale Estuary	(700)	595	606	462	922	Feb	657 ▲
Hamford Water	334	1,002	485	803	(431)	Dec	656
Sites surpassing international passage threshold in the UK in 2004/2005							
The Wash	6,165	Sep	Ribble Estuary		1,761	Oct	
Thames Estuary	4,673	Oct	Forth Estuary		1,545	Sep	
Alt Estuary	4,138	Sep	North Norfolk Coast		1,360	Oct	
Humber Estuary	1,825	Oct	Lindisfarne		1,294	Oct	
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005							
Tay Estuary	1,083	Oct	Inner Moray and Inverness Firth		760	Oct	
Lindisfarne	997	Aug	Hamford Water		647	Oct	
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Northern Ireland in 2004/2005							
Strangford Lough	470	Oct					

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

International threshold: 6,100
Great Britain threshold: +[†]
All-Ireland threshold: +[†]

GB max: 1,790 May
NI max: 20 Jul

As is typical for this species, national maxima were recorded during spring, when birds that have over-wintered in western Africa return to their breeding grounds in Iceland and Scandinavia. As usual, spring peaks were higher than during autumn, although this is due to autumn passage occurring over a longer time period, therefore, the numbers of birds recorded at a single site at anyone time are likely to represent only a small proportion of the total number using the area. WeBS counts actually underestimate spring passage as for most sites this passage tends to peak around the end of April and beginning of May, away from the usual recommended mid-month

WeBS Core Count dates. As a result, supplementary peak spring counts from four key passage sites have also been presented; all of these supplementary peaks were recorded between 29th April and 2nd May 2005.

The British maximum was the highest for four years, and in Northern Ireland the highest for seven years. However, these figures were in line with the expected variation for the species. As usual, small numbers of birds were recorded during mid-winter months, mostly from south coast sites but with singles also on Montrose Basin (December) and the Solway Estuary (February).

Sites with more than 50 birds during passage periods in Great Britain in 2004/2005[†]

Barnacre Resr. & Grizedale Lea	553 ⁵⁶	Apr	Lower Derwent Ings	139 ⁵³	Apr
The Wash	414	Aug	Llyn Alaw	120	May
Rye Harbour & Pett Level	338 ⁵⁰	Apr	Morecambe Bay	106	May
Brockholes Quarry	289 ⁵⁷	May	Humber Estuary	82	Jul
Severn Estuary	197	May	Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	74	May
Burry Inlet	175	May	Langstone Harbour	69	Jul
North Norfolk Coast	166	May	Foryd Bay	67	May
Chichester Harbour	143	Aug			

[†] 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

Curlew

Numenius arquata

International threshold: 4,200
Great Britain threshold: 1,500
All-Ireland threshold: 875

GB max: 75,140 Jan

NI max: 7,653 Jan

	S	M	L
GB change	o	o	+
NI change	o	o	o

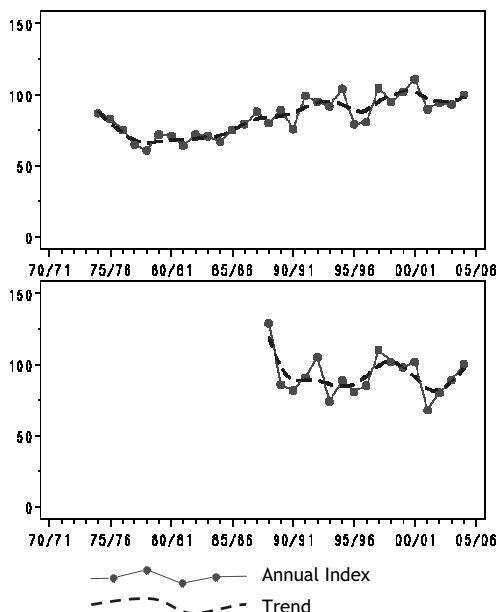


Figure 53.a, Annual indices & trend for Curlew for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British annual index for Curlew increased by 7% as part of a long run of steady increase in the wintering population. Similarly, in Northern Ireland the index increased for the third consecutive year. Curlew numbers in Britain peak in August as birds rapidly leave the moorland breeding grounds and head to the coast.

Two sites continue to support internationally important mean peak numbers of Curlews, but the peak at the Wash, which had been consistent for several years, dropped sharply in 2004/05 meaning that the site now only supports numbers exceeding the national importance threshold. Elsewhere, higher than expected peaks were recorded at the Inner

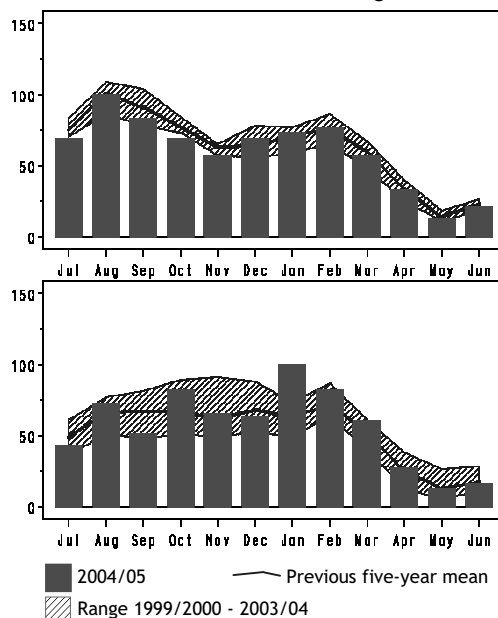


Figure 53.b, Monthly indices for Curlew for GB (above) & NI (below).

Moray Firth, Poole Harbour and Lough Foyle, whilst the peak at Breydon Water and Berney Marshes was a new record for the site. Apart from the Wash, the lowest counts compared to recent peaks were recorded from the Duddon Estuary, Lavan Sands and Inner Firth of Clyde, whilst three sites no longer support nationally important numbers on the basis of five-year mean peak counts.

Sites from which much higher counts were recorded during passage, compared to winter, included the Wash and the Dee Estuary. At the Wash, the autumn passage peak fell sharply from that seen in autumn 2003. Conversely, at the Dee, the autumn peak was the highest for about 30 years.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Morecambe Bay	13,756	9,522	10,868	(10,866)	(7,338)	Jan	11,382
Solway Estuary	(4,497)	(4,311)	(3,701)	(4,561)	(3,328)	Dec	(4,561)
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	4,583	4,305 ¹¹	3,270	4,978	3,668	Jan	4,161
The Wash	4,058	4,339	4,774	4,036	2,937	Feb	4,029 ▼
Humber Estuary	4,044	4,277	3,941	3,530 ¹¹	3,751	Jan	3,909
Thames Estuary	(3,160)	(2,354)	4,093	(2,651)	2,786	Mar	3,440
Forth Estuary	(2,524)	(3,638)	3,229	(2,897)	2,669	Mar	3,179
Severn Estuary	(1,695)	(2,164)	3,615 ¹¹	2,528	(2,545)	Dec	3,072
Duddon Estuary	2,516	2,041	2,280	2,756	1,326	Nov	2,184
Lavan Sands	2,240	2,381	1,922 ¹¹	1,433	1,212	Jan	1,838
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	1,698	1,473	1,961	1,809	2,137	Jan	1,816
Poole Harbour	1,484	1,577	1,605	1,427	(2,472)	Nov	1,713
North Norfolk Coast	1,686	2,302 ¹¹	1,430	1,539	1,523	Mar	1,696
Mersey Estuary	1,976	1,562	1,270	1,804	1,632	Jan	1,649
Lindisfarne	1,636	1,822 ¹¹	1,338 ¹¹	(1,072)	1,715 ¹¹	Dec	1,628
Inner Firth of Clyde	(1,604)	(1,294)	(1,455)	(1,485)	(1,133)	Mar	(1,604)
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Lough Foyle	2,682	1,358	1,956	2,127	3,115	Jan	2,248
Strangford Lough	2,305	1,676	1,200	1,342 ¹¹	1,594	Jan	1,623
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005							
Chichester Harbour	1,501	1,511	1,414	1,670	1,262	Nov	1,472
Ribble Estuary	(1,709)	990	1,553	(1,857)	1,248	Jan	1,471
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,270		357	282	838	Jan	687
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Great Britain							
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	1,029	1,366	981	857	1,593	Jan	1,165
Stour Estuary	1,378	1,673	(1,042)	1,118 ¹¹	1,511	Feb	1,420
Sites surpassing international passage threshold in the UK in 2004/2005							
Morecambe Bay	8,328	Aug	Dee Estuary (England and Wales)			6,933	Aug
The Wash	6,978	Aug					
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005							
Thames Estuary	3,352	Oct	North Norfolk Coast			1,835	Aug
Solway Estuary	3,086	Sep	Burry Inlet			1,831	Sep
Forth Estuary	2,827	Sep	Mersey Estuary			1,830	Sep
Humber Estuary	2,661	Sep	Eden Estuary			1,731	Aug
Severn Estuary	2,613	Sep	Inner Moray and Inverness Firth			1,648	Oct
Lavan Sands	2,413	Sep	Chichester Harbour			1,628	Sep
Duddon Estuary	1,883	Aug	Alt Estuary			1,601	Aug
Blackwater Estuary	1,848	Aug	Langstone Harbour			1,525	Aug
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Northern Ireland in 2004/2005							
Lough Foyle	2,194	Oct					
Strangford Lough	1,531	Oct					

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

International threshold: 1,000

Great Britain threshold: +[†]

All-Ireland threshold: +[†]

GB max: 129 Oct

NI max: 0

Peak counts of Spotted Redshank were lower than during the previous year. The British maximum of 129 occurred in autumn as usual but was the lowest of the last 25 years; no birds were recorded from Northern Ireland at all in 2004/05. Mid-winter numbers, for example 56 in January, were also a little on the low side compared to other recent years. There was little evidence of spring passage and numbers fell to their lowest in May, but

increased again in June due to early-returning birds.

Due to the nature of WeBS numbers recorded during passage at individual sites remain variable as turnover may be high and numbers can vary day-to-day. Saying this, peak numbers at The Wash, North Norfolk Coast, Humber and Blackwater Estuaries were similar to past years.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in winter in Great Britain†							
Severn Estuary	(19)	15	6 ¹¹	6	(13)	Dec	12
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	9	14	12	4	12	Feb	10
North Norfolk Coast	11	6	6	11	16	Nov	10
Tamar Complex	(7)	15	8 ¹¹	(3)	7	Dec	10
Thames Estuary	0	(10)	26	3	(3)	Feb	10

Sites with more than 10 birds during passage periods in Great Britain in 2004/2005†

Blackwater Estuary	42	Oct	North Norfolk Coast	34	Aug
The Wash	39	Aug	Humber Estuary	21	Aug

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Redshank

Tringa totanus

International threshold: 1,300

Great Britain threshold: 1,200

All-Ireland threshold: 245

GB max: 93,619 Oct

NI max: 10,498 Oct

S M L
GB change o o o
NI change o o o

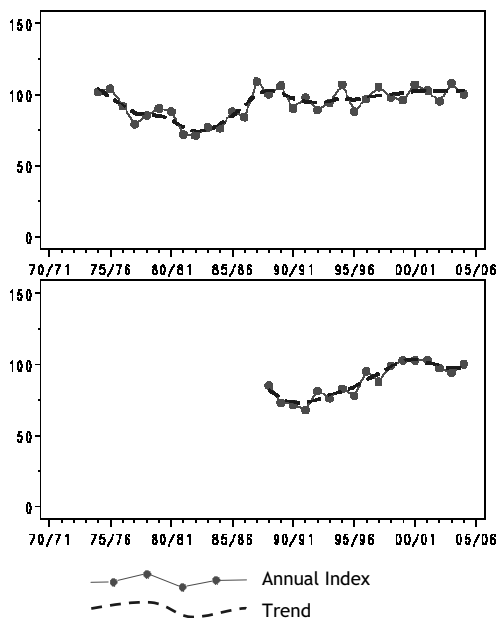


Figure 54.a, Annual indices & trend for Redshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

Both the British and Northern Irish maxima were in line with those of recent years. Similarly, national indices showed little variation from previous years, the British trend being broadly stable although there has been a very slight increase over the past ten or so years. The Northern Irish index has risen slightly since 2003/04, although again this is fairly trivial. Monthly indices for both regions were comparable to the past five years.

Thirty-five sites held internationally important numbers during 2004/05, two more than in the previous year. Numbers recorded during Low Tide Counts at the Crouch-Roach Estuary were well in excess of those seen

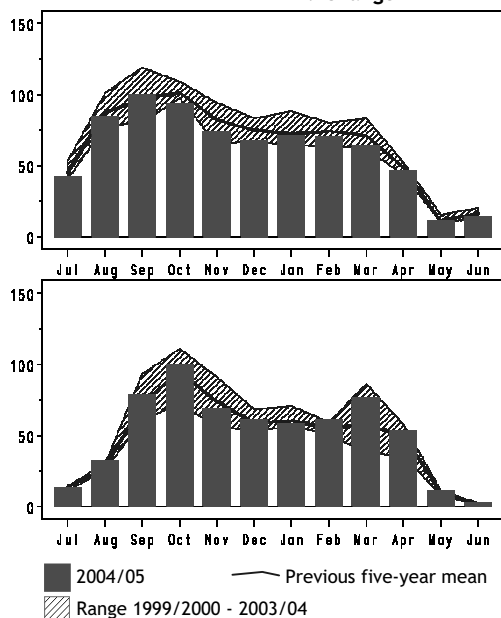


Figure 54.b, Monthly indices for Redshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

during Core Counts and brought up the five-year mean to exceed the international threshold; presumably birds move in off the adjacent high tide roosts at Foulness and Dengie Sands to feed at low tide. Numbers of Redshank at both Lavan Sands and Lindisfarne have risen over the international threshold while numbers on the Outer Ards Shoreline and the Alt Estuary have just fallen below this level. Peak numbers at the Mersey Estuary were the lowest for over 10 years. Passage numbers exceeded the international threshold at 28 sites across the Britain and two in Northern Ireland. In general, passage numbers were similar to past years.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Morecambe Bay	8,604	6,274	6,650	6,715	7,106	Feb	7,070
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	5,893	8,579 ¹¹	5,847	5,736	5,812	Jan	6,373
Humber Estuary	4,990	4,526	4,787	8,229 ¹¹	(5,247)	Nov	5,633
Mersey Estuary	6,045	4,690	4,143	6,050	3,290	Nov	4,844
Forth Estuary	4,040	4,204	4,194	4,587	5,501	Dec	4,505
Thames Estuary	(4,168)	4,479	3,763	(4,383)	3,735	Nov	4,106
Blackwater Estuary	(4,199)	(3,539)	(2,849)	(1,818)	3,034	Mar	3,591
The Wash	3,286	4,501	3,619	3,410	2,902	Feb	3,544
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(742)	(1,220)	(592)	(496)	3,299 ¹¹	Nov	3,299 ▲
Strangford Lough	2,729	3,273 ¹¹	2,879 ¹¹	3,146 ¹¹	2,692	Nov	2,944
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	2,862	2,714	2,942	2,317	2,846	Dec	2,736
Ribble Estuary	(1,734)	1,877	3,882	(1,911)	2,211	Jan	2,657
Severn Estuary	(1,528)	2,616	2,439 ¹¹	(1,865)	2,516	Dec	2,524
Solway Estuary	(3,023)	1,668 ¹¹	(2,528)	(2,324)	(2,786)	Dec	2,466
Inner Firth of Clyde	(2,324)	(2,433)	(1,589)	1,974	1,964	Dec	2,174
Deben Estuary	2,881	1,999	2,017	1,869	1,707	Jan	2,095
Duddon Estuary	2,816	1,596	1,849	2,508	1,658	Feb	2,085
Chichester Harbour	1,702	2,422	1,829	2,450	1,695	Nov	2,020
Hamford Water	1,473	2,575 ¹¹	2,334	1,892	1,699	Jan	1,995
Stour Estuary	2,038 ¹¹	2,261 ¹¹	1,769 ¹¹	2,010 ¹¹	1,773 ¹¹	Dec	1,970
Alde Complex	2,742	2,071 ¹¹	1,456	1,430	1,957	Nov	1,931
Orwell Estuary	1,637 ¹¹	2,279 ¹¹	1,825 ¹¹	1,939 ¹¹	1,799	Jan	1,896
North Norfolk Coast	1,412	3,915 ¹¹	1,299	1,416	1,180	Nov	1,844
Montrose Basin	1,509	2,511	1,830	1,803	1,349	Feb	1,800
Cromarty Firth	1,157	1,849	1,604	2,569	1,784	Dec	1,793
Belfast Lough	1,677	2,261	1,540	1,452	1,547 ¹¹	Dec	1,695
Colne Estuary	1,342	1,871	(97)	(868)	(797)	Jan	1,607
Swale Estuary	1,569	2,481	959	(1,352)	974	Dec	1,496
Lough Foyle	1,974	1,104	1,606	1,198	1,404	Mar	1,457
Tees Estuary	1,441	1,332	1,398	1,926	1,183	Nov	1,456
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	1,456 ¹¹	1,207	1,497 ¹¹	1,630 ¹¹	1,406	Mar	1,439
Lavan Sands	1,270	1,126	1,525 ¹¹	1,248	(1,947)	Nov	1,423 ▲
Lindisfarne	975	1,825	(1,371)	1,503	1,365	Dec	1,417 ▲
Blyth Estuary	1,265	1,481					1,373
Medway Estuary	(858)	(1,537)	(972)	(814)	1,068 ¹¹	Dec	1,303
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,428		1,351	1,228	1,121	Jan	1,282 ▼
Carlingford Lough	1,325	1,525	1,211	1,027	1,324	Nov	1,282
Dundrum Bay	1,051	(696)	(530)	(942)	(256)	Nov	1,051
Larne Lough	379	363	427	356	462	Mar	397
Bann Estuary	422	260	324	240	290	Feb	307
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005							
Alt Estuary	1,470	1,090	931	945	931	Feb	1,073
Sites surpassing international passage threshold in the UK in 2004/2005							
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	10,208	Aug	North Norfolk Coast		1,845	Aug	
Humber Estuary	8,494	Aug	Ythan Estuary		1,797	Sep	
Morecambe Bay	6,846	Aug	Lindisfarne		1,737	Sep	
The Wash	6,760	Sep	Alde Complex		1,727	Oct	
Forth Estuary	5,136	Oct	Tees Estuary		1,723	Aug	
Thames Estuary	5,081	Oct	Swale Estuary		1,715	Oct	
Strangford Lough	4,505	Oct	Belfast Lough		1,667	Sep	
Mersey Estuary	3,618	Oct	Montrose Basin		1,641	Sep	
Solway Estuary	3,617	Oct	Chichester Harbour		1,600	Sep	
Severn Estuary	2,440	Oct	Lavan Sands		1,504	Oct	
Cromarty Firth	2,094	Oct	Deben Estuary		1,494	Sep	
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	2,072	Oct	Carlingford Lough		1,471	Oct	
Inner Firth of Clyde	1,977	Oct	Hamford Water		1,449	Oct	
Duddon Estuary	1,956	Oct	Ribble Estuary		1,388	Aug	
Blackwater Estuary	1,941	Sep	Tay Estuary		1,347	Sep	
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005							
Eden Estuary	1,238	Oct	Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes		1,229	Apr	
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Northern Ireland in 2004/2005							
Lough Foyle	940	Oct	Bann Estuary		290	Apr	
Outer Ards Shoreline	881	Oct	Larne Lough		255	Oct	
Dundrum Bay	594	Oct					

Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

GB max: 1,630 Aug

NI max: 170 Nov

International threshold: 3,100

Great Britain threshold: 6*†

All-Ireland threshold: 9*†

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

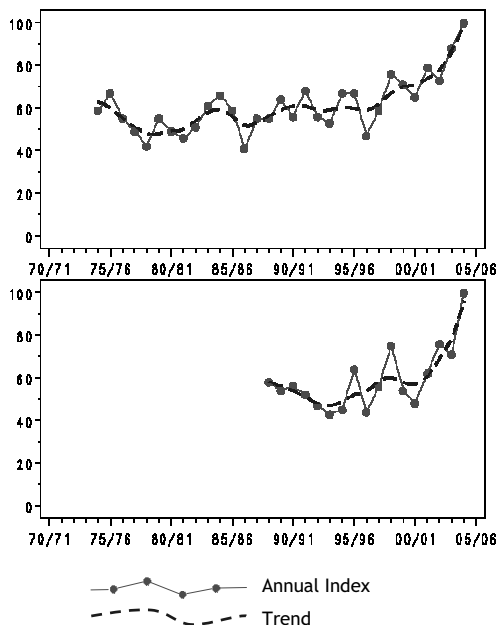


Figure 55.a, Annual indices & trend for Greenshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

As illustrated by the annual index the numbers of Greenshank over-wintering in Britain have reached their highest ever level. In contrast autumn passage numbers were low, the peak of 1,630 being the second lowest for over ten years. Wintering numbers in Northern Ireland also increased since the previous year and were at their highest since 1998/99. Monthly indices in Northern Ireland were above or near to average throughout the year. Mean peak

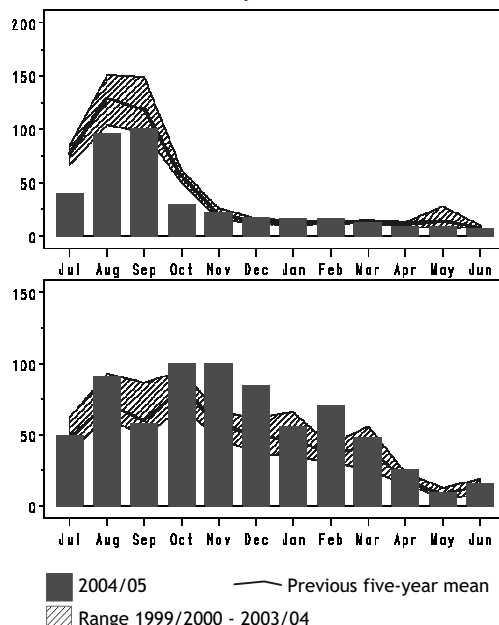


Figure 55.b, Monthly indices for Greenshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

winter numbers at Carmarthen Bay, Hunterston Sands and Forth and Eden Estuaries have risen above the national threshold during 2004/05, whilst the winter peak on the Tamar Complex was a new record for the site. During passage periods, the highest counts on individual count sections were 188 at Crouchside on the Thames Estuary in August and 115 at Frampton South on the Wash in September.



Greenshank (John Bowers)

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Chichester Harbour	43	44	35 ¹³	42	20	Nov	37
Tamar Complex	29	30	31 ¹¹	26	42	Jan	32
Kingsbridge Estuary	14	26	41	(36)	45	Nov	32
Fal Complex	26	26	27	32	37	Nov	30
Cleddau Estuary	27	34	28	20	(23)	Dec	27
Queens Valley Reservoir	17	20	19		22	Nov	20
Grouville Marsh	15	11	31	25	15	Feb	19
Blackwater Estuary	(17)	(12)	27 ¹¹	12	12	Jan	17
Exe Estuary	14	14	18	14	22	Nov	16
Taw-Torridge Estuary	19	14	16	19	11	Nov	16
Camel Estuary	9	(6)	(17)	17	15	Jan	15
Southampton Water	8	15	13	19	(14)	Dec	14
Inner Firth of Clyde	13	(12)	14	10	9	Dec	12
North West Solent	8	11	(5)	11	(13)	Nov	11
Jersey Shore	7	(13)					10
Yealm Estuary	6	7	15	8	15	Jan	10
Morecambe Bay	(5)	7	6	15	12	Nov	10
Foryd Bay	9	8	10	16	9	Nov	10
Solway Estuary	11	11	8	6	(6)	Nov	9
Carmarthen Bay	(2)	(1)	(0)	2	15	Nov	9 ▲
Tynningham Estuary	8	7	11	9	11	Nov	9
Lavan Sands	5	7	9	9	9	Jan	8
Loch nan Capull (South Uist)				8			8
Poole Harbour	4	6	11	(6)	7 ¹¹	Jan	7
Thames Estuary	(3)	8	(3)	6	6	Nov	7
Hunterston Lagoon		3		9	10	Nov	7
Broadford Bay		(8)	(7)	6	7	Nov	7
Brading Harbour	7	5	6	8	4	Jan	6
North Norfolk Coast	7	9	3	(3)	3	Jan	6
The Wash	0	3	18	7	4	Nov	6
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	8	6	3	9	5	Nov	6
Rough Firth	9	7	2	6	7	Nov	6
Hunterston Sands			8	3			6 ▲
Forth Estuary	(7)	2	(6)	7 ¹¹	9	Feb	6 ▲
Eden Estuary	3	(0)	6	9	7	Jan	6 ▲
Ceann a Bhaigh		4	8		5	Mar	6
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	41	56	72	61	117	Nov	69
Lough Foyle	16	20	22	27	37	Feb	24
Carlingford Lough	13	18	14	16	21	Dec	16
Dundrum Bay	11	18	15	15	11	Nov	14
Larne Lough	9	(15)	15	11	11	Nov	12
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005							
Helford Estuary	5	6	4	5	7	Nov	5
Burry Inlet	2	4	4	6	4	Dec	4
Medway Estuary	3	8	(1)	5	(0)		5
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Great Britain							
Avon Estuary	5	(6)	3	6	7	Feb	5
Helford Estuary	5	6	4	5	7	Nov	5
Sites with more than 50 birds during passage periods in Great Britain in 2004/2005[†]							
Thames Estuary	259	Aug	Stour Estuary		88	Aug	
The Wash	204	Sep	Chichester Harbour		80	Sep	
Blackwater Estuary	147	Sep	Hamford Water		69	Sep	
North Norfolk Coast	118	Sep	Exe Estuary		56	Sep	
Morecambe Bay	94	Aug	Fal Complex		52	Aug	
Sites with more than 50 birds during passage periods in Northern Ireland in 2004/2005[†]							
Strangford Lough	93	Oct					

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

Lesser Yellowlegs

Tringa flavipes

Vagrant

Native Range: N & S America

GB max: 1 Sep
NI max: 0

A long-staying bird was present at Stiffkey on the North Norfolk Coast, being noted on six counts between September and April. This

species has now been recorded by WeBS for four consecutive years.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

International threshold: 14,500

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 478 Aug
NI max: 1 Jul

As usual, Green Sandpiper numbers peaked in Britain in August, the 478 birds recorded being about average compared to the past five years. Wintering numbers remained just below 100 between December and February before rising to an early spring peak of 109 in March.

As usual, site peaks were all in the early autumn. In the winter, between November and March, birds were noted from 124 sites, average for the past five years, with five or more at five sites. Spring passage is typically

much less obvious than autumn passage, birds moving through more rapidly towards the breeding grounds. Birds were recorded from 45 sites between April and June; a peak of eight was at Tophill Low Reservoirs in June may well have involved early returning birds however.

The one in Northern Ireland, at Lough Foyle, was the first recorded here since 1999/2000.

Sites with more than 15 birds during passage periods in Great Britain in 2004/2005

King George V Reservoirs	28	Aug	Tophill Low Reservoirs	22	Aug
North Norfolk Coast	26	Aug	Rutland Water	21	Aug
Swale Estuary	23	Aug	Abberton Reservoir	19	Aug
Thames Estuary	23	Aug	Blackwater Estuary	19	Aug

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 15 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

International threshold: 10,400[†]

GB max: 72 Aug
NI max: 0

Whilst there were very few birds recorded during July 2004 compared to 2003, the August peak of Wood Sandpipers was the highest ever recorded by WeBS and was made up of counts from 25 sites. Following this glut of records, there were then just two in September and no more until a handful of

spring birds in May and June. All of the sites holding three or more birds were in south and eastern England.

Obviously, counts from a single date per month during passage periods do not fully reflect the true numbers of individuals passing through.

Sites with more than 2 birds during passage periods in Great Britain in 2004/2005[†]

Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	19	Aug	Thames Estuary	7	Aug
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	8	Aug	Staines Reservoirs	6	Aug
Blackwater Estuary	7	Aug	North Norfolk Coast	3	Aug

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 2 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

International threshold: 17,000

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 1,058 Aug
NI max: 4 Aug

As usual, peak numbers of Common Sandpipers were recorded during late summer passage. Numbers in Britain were a little higher than in 2003/04 and around average for

the past five years. The peak of four in Northern Ireland was also about average for this species. Most of the sites with the largest

numbers were in the southeast corner of Britain.

Small numbers remained to overwinter, with birds recorded from 105 sites between November and March; the summed maxima for these sites totalled 154. This was slightly below the numbers recorded during the same period of the previous winter, which totalled 170 at 110 sites. The highest numbers of birds

in the winter period of 2004/05 were seven recorded at Camas Rudh a` Mhurain in March, although these could have been early spring arrivals. There were also counts of four at Walthamstow Reservoirs in January and Loch Leven in December. Numbers then increased in April and to a peak in May that was only about 25% of the autumn peak. The highest count in May was of 14 at Abberton Reservoir.

Sites with more than 40 birds during passage periods in Great Britain in 2004/05†

The Wash	48	Aug	Morecambe Bay	45	Jul
North Norfolk Coast	46	Aug	Thames Estuary	45	Aug
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	46	Aug	Abberton Reservoir	43	Aug

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 40 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Spotted Sandpiper

Actitis macularius

Vagrant
Native Range: America

GB max: 1 Sep
NI max: 0

A single Spotted Sandpiper was reported during the September WeBS count at Darwell

Reservoir, East Sussex. This was the first during a WeBS count since December 2001.

Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

International threshold: 1,000
Great Britain threshold: 500
All-Ireland threshold: 225

GB max: 13,287 Oct
NI max: 1,940 Oct

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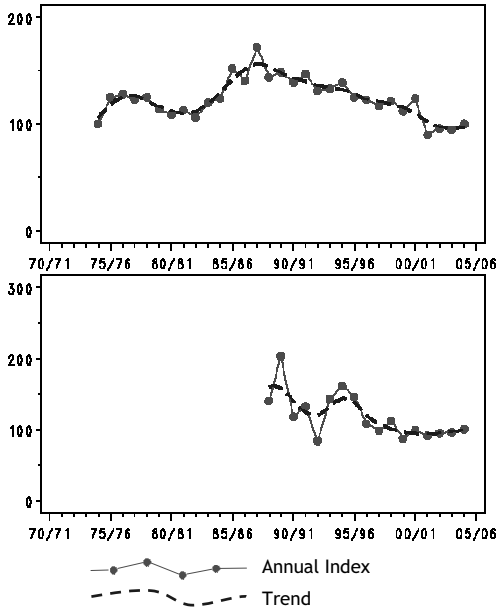


Figure 56.a, Annual indices & trend for Turnstone for GB (above) & NI (below).

After a long period of decline in wintering Turnstone numbers in Great Britain, there was an indication that trends were levelling off, with the annual index at its highest point for

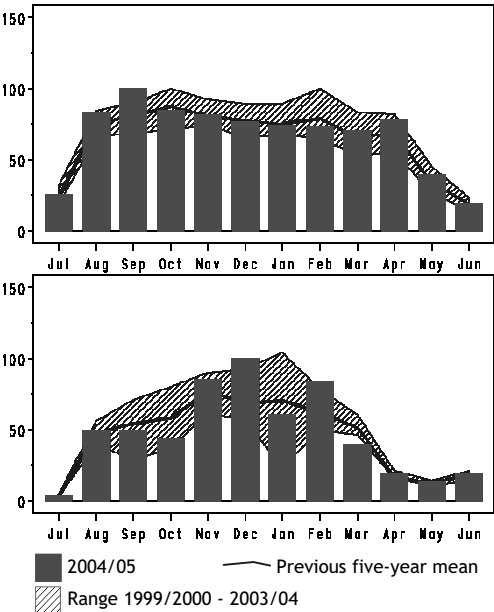


Figure 56.b, Monthly indices for Turnstone for GB (above) & NI (below).

the last four years. Likewise, Turnstones numbers also appear to be level in Northern Ireland. However, this is predominantly a species of rocky coasts, a habitat not well

covered by WeBS, and so the relationship of the trends recorded here to the wider picture is not readily discernible. The forthcoming Non-estuarine Coastal Waterbird Survey (NEWS) in January 2007 should help to provide further detail on the status of this wader.

Reflecting the slight up-turn in national fortunes, peak numbers were above average at the Thanet Coast, Swale Estuary, Stour Estuary, Solway Estuary and, particularly, at Carlingford Lough where the March peak was over three times the previous highest count here. Peak numbers were relatively low,

however, on the Forth Estuary, Dee Estuary and Belfast Lough, whilst the five-year mean at the Outer Ards means that the numbers at this site no longer exceed the international threshold.

Although the monthly indices indicate that numbers tend to be very stable throughout the whole non-breeding season from August to April, passage numbers at some sites exceed those seen in the winter. In autumn 2004 this was particularly the case at the Wash, Morecambe Bay and the North Norfolk Coast.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Thanet Coast	827	964	694	1,192	1,130	Dec	961
Morecambe Bay	1,175	825	588	766	691	Jan	809
Forth Estuary	989	610	940	701	619	Nov	772
Thames Estuary	632	(879)	488	(465)	702	Dec	675
Stour Estuary	708	614	(640)	537	705	Feb	641
North Norfolk Coast	461	744	833	473	655	Nov	633
Humber Estuary	659	499	(529)	723 ¹¹	(570)	Jan	627
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	791	(405)	726	415	421	Jan	588
Solway Estuary	(165)	(308)	(300)	(259)	(509)	Jan	(509) ▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Outer Ards Shoreline	879		1,086	1,081	923	Mar	992 ▼
Belfast Lough	(524)	432	401	485	305	Jan	429
Carlingford Lough	125	140	157	181	624	Mar	245 ▲
Strangford Lough	248	227	206	225	(235)	Dec	228
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005							
The Wash	515	(270)	579	354	488	Nov	484
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2004/2005 in Great Britain							
Swale Estuary	(387)	389 ¹¹	476	(244)	(515)	Feb	460
Sites surpassing international passage threshold in the UK in 2004/2005							
The Wash	1,244	Aug	North Norfolk Coast			1,028	Aug
Morecambe Bay	1,054	Oct	Thanet Coast			1,025	Oct
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,035	Oct					
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Great Britain in 2004/2005							
Forth Estuary	760	Oct	Thames Estuary			711	Oct
Sites surpassing national passage threshold in Northern Ireland in 2004/2005							
Belfast Lough	508	Oct					
Carlingford Lough	368	Apr					

Wilson's Phalarope

Phalaropus tricolor

Vagrant

Native Range: America

GB max: 1 Jan
NI max: 0

The first Wilson's Phalarope reported during a WeBS count for over five years was a single bird in January at Seaton Common in the Tees Estuary. This was a very unusual time of year

for this transatlantic vagrant, all previous WeBS records falling between August and October.

Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus

Scarce

GB max: 1 Jul
NI max: 0

All three records of Red-necked Phalarope referred to passage birds; early autumn singles at Loch Ken in July and Blithfield Reservoir in

August, and a late spring (or very early autumn bird) at Norton Marsh on the North Norfolk Coast in the following June.

Grey Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicarius

Scarce

GB max: 2 Jan
NI max: 0

Three were recorded during WeBS counts in 2004/05. A single bird was present during October at Frensham Great Pond, Surrey,

while two were recorded at Filey Bay, North Yorkshire during January.

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

International threshold: 8,400[†]

GB max: 136 Aug
NI max: 3 Sep

Mediterranean Gulls have increased in number and range over the past ten years. With the exception of 2003/04, maximum counts from WeBS Core Counts in Britain have surpassed 100 in every year since 2000/01. The current British maximum was slightly higher than average for the previous five years and is the second highest to date. This total is likely to include post-breeding as well as juvenile birds. Peak numbers in Northern Ireland equaled the previous record in January 2004 and were maintained from September through to November, most were recorded at Lough Foyle.

Birds were recorded at 83 sites in Great Britain with peak counts of five or more birds recorded at a record 17 sites, the majority of which were along the south coast. The largest count was at Folkestone and was part of the Winter Gull Roost Survey. The Brading Harbour total was the second-highest single site Core Count total, being second only to the 2002/03 count at the same site.

Away from the south coast numbers remained high at sites in Wales and along the east coast. The Ribble remained the only key site in northern Britain.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Folkestone: Copt Pt/E. Wear Bay					157 ⁴⁵	Jan	157
Brading Harbour	35	28	126	57	92	Aug	68
Newtown Estuary	2	65	80	(15)	(42)	Apr	49
Thames Estuary	13	(13)	20	27	27	Dec	22
Camel Estuary	(3)	(1)	8	25	26	Oct	20
Ryde Pier to Puckpool Point	16	8	45	9	23	Jul	20
Tamar Complex	28	14	30	0	(26)	Aug	20
Swansea Bay	11	20	16	19	12 ⁴⁵	Jan	16
Chichester Harbour	36 ¹³	4 ¹³	(16)	(14)	4	Jul	15
North Norfolk Coast	(4)	(6)	(13)	8	(3)	Nov	11
Ribble Estuary	(0)	9	7	8	(2)	Mar	8
The Wash	(0)	1	2	8	15	Jul	7
Poole Harbour	2	(2)	3	(7)	(12)	Mar	6
Llanon and Llansantffraid		6	3				5
Medway Estuary	(0)	(6)	(10)	(2)	2	Nov	5
Pagham Harbour	1	0	16		1	Jan	5
Southampton Water	12 ¹¹	2	0	(1)	(0)		5
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2004/2005 in Great Britain[†]							
Fleet and Wey	3	(2)	2	4	8	Jan	4
Aberarth			0	0	6	Feb	2
Portsmouth Harbour	(0)	2	5 ¹¹	1	6	Mar	4
Hamford Water	0	4	2	1	5	Nov	2
Kenfig Pool	0	2	3	3	5	Dec	3
Taw-Torridge Estuary	2	3	7	(3)	5	Jul	4

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