

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

Little Gull

Larus minutus

International threshold: 840

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 7,038 Sep

NI max: 1 Jan

The British maximum was the highest ever recorded, this was largely due to the large count at Hornsea Mere, which was the highest ever Core Count from a single site. This particular count, however, was carried out at dusk so will refer to roosting birds; still an

impressive number. With the Hornsea peak removed from the British maximum numbers are on a par with the past five years. Whilst the Forth Estuary count was also a site record, numbers at the majority of key sites were unremarkable.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Hornsea Mere	163	3,150 ¹²	1,350 ¹²	(940) ¹³	7,000	Sep	2,916
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain							
Alt Estuary	2	80	218	432	24	Sep	151
Forth Estuary	1	22	41	75 ³¹	321	Oct	92
Tophill Low Reservoirs	2	0	10	110 ¹³	75	Aug	39
Tay Estuary	(0)	(22)	50	36	28	Jul	38
North Norfolk Coast	(17)	70	9	38	4	Jul	30
Monikie Reservoirs	0		60	0	38	Aug	25
Eden Estuary	44	(1)			3	Oct	24
Minsmere	1	2	(15)	73	1	Mar	19
East Chevington Pools		4	29	12	18	Jul	16
Morecambe Bay	3	31	1	36	7	Jan	16
Benacre Broad	30		0				15
Lindisfarne	(0)	0	(0)	26	(0)		13
Humber Estuary	(10)	(0)	(2)	(12)	(0)		(12)
Outer Tay & St Andrews Bay				13 ³¹	4 ³¹	Dec	9
Moray Firth					8 ¹	Nov	8
St Andrews Bay		8			7	Sep	8
Tring Reservoirs	0	0	1	40	0		8
King George VI Reservoir		1	1	20			7
Thames Estuary	1	(3)	17	(2)	3	Apr	7
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(0)	(0)	3	(12)	3	Feb	6
Rescobie Loch		0	(11)				6
Staines Reservoirs	1	0	18	11	1	Sep	6
Dungeness Gravel Pits		(7)	(0)		2	Oct	5
Loch Fleet Complex	4	4	5	8	5	Oct	5
Walthamstow Reservoirs	22	1	0	0	0		5

Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2004/2005 in Great Britain

Lunan Bay	0	0	4	5	Oct	2
-----------	---	---	---	---	-----	---

[†] 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

Bonaparte's Gull

Larus philadelphia

Vagrant

Native Range: N America

GB max: 1 Sep

NI max: 0

Two sites hosted Bonaparte's Gull between July 2004 and June 2005. These were Thurso

Bay in September and January, and Traigh Luskentyre (Harris) in March.

Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: 19,000[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 208,015 Jan

NI max: 14,218 Feb

British maxima have surpassed 200,000 in every year since gulls were first regularly counted for WeBS in 1993/94. However, the current maximum is the lowest recorded, being almost 20% lower than the ten-year average. As with the rest of the gulls their inclusion in WeBS counts is optional so the number of sites at which they have been counted will influence these totals. The Northern Ireland total was in line with recent figures and was only slightly below the five-year average.

Many of the key sites listed below warrant their place due to Winter Gull Roost Survey figures, either from 2003/04 or 2004/05 counts. These figures provide additional

information for key sites where gulls are not normally recorded as part of standard WeBS counts, such as Chew Valley Lake, Grafham Water and Queen Mary, Church Wilne, Southfield and Eyebrook Reservoirs. The roost at Bewl Water was particularly large, as indeed it was for Common Gull. Mean numbers at The Wash have fallen below the international qualifying threshold; however, the current peak is similar to the past five-year mean of the Core Counts.

Numbers at Lower Lough Erne were the highest recorded at the site; however, this is only the second year that gulls have been widely covered.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Thames Estuary	(35,410)	(22,911)	(30,275)	43,601 ⁴⁵	40,048	Feb	41,825
Bewl Water	800	33,000 ¹²	63,000 ⁴⁵	31,000 ⁴⁵	69,000 ⁴⁵	Jan	39,360
Chew Valley Lake				29,800 ⁴⁵			29,800
Lower Derwent Ings			25,300	28,000			26,650
Humber Estuary	(3,264)	(2,217)	(363)	21,450 ⁴⁵	(1,028)	Sep	21,450 ▲
Sites with mean peak counts of 10,000 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Queen Mary Reservoir				16,836 ⁴⁵			16,836
The Wash	(9,008)	(16,136)	(15,999)	17,582 ⁴⁵	11,093	Aug	15,203 ▼
Church Wilne Reservoir				15,000 ⁴⁵			15,000
Morecambe Bay	(17,610)	7,795	(17,772)	12,574	16,757	Aug	14,502
Grafham Water				14,470 ⁴⁵			14,470
Forth Estuary	(16,521)	(2,343)	(2,195)	11,554 ⁴⁵	(3,039)	Nov	14,038
Poole Harbour	10,162	(7,386)	(12,461)	17,707 ⁴⁵	(11,811)	Mar	13,935
Ribble Estuary	(6,793)	(24,460)	(821)	7,419 ⁴⁵	9,750 ⁴⁵	Jan	13,876
Tophill Low Reservoirs	12,500	25,000	11,900	8,900	8,385	Sep	13,337
Southampton Water	9,751 ¹¹	(1,788)	(826)	14,822 ⁴⁵	(2,280)	Dec	12,287
Southfield Reservoir				12,000 ⁴⁵			12,000
Exe Estuary					11,577 ¹²	Jan	11,577
Eyebrook Reservoir				11,300 ⁴⁵			11,300
Severn Estuary	(4,478)	(5,725)	9,209 ¹¹	13,139 ⁴⁵	(3,017)	Jul	11,174
Portsmouth Harbour	(14,247)	4,881	15,311 ¹¹	14,836 ⁴⁵	6,192	Sep	11,093
Hurleston Reservoir		1,500	6,500	14,500 ⁴⁵	20,000 ⁴⁵	Dec	10,625
Pitsford Reservoir	10,000 ¹²	10,000 ¹²	12,000 ¹²	10,000 ⁴⁵			10,500
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	(375)		7,452 ¹¹	12,760 ⁴⁵	(210)	Feb	10,106
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Belfast Lough	7,496 ¹¹	8,986 ¹³	5,503 ¹¹	7,095 ¹¹	7,515 ¹¹	Feb	7,319
Loughs Neagh and Beg	(3,543)	(2,787)	(4,036)	(1,593)	(2,267)	Mar	(4,036)
Outer Ards Shoreline	3,290		4,945	5,113	2,419	Oct	3,942
Strangford Lough	3,588	3,503 ¹¹	3,518 ¹¹	3,388	3,111	Dec	3,422
Lough Foyle	1,214	1,627	2,780	1,300 ⁴⁵	1,057	Oct	1,596
Larne Lough	942	2,060	733	831	1,396	Mar	1,192
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2004/2005 in Great Britain[†]							
Blithfield Reservoir		0			16,500 ⁴⁵	Jan	8,250
Cropston Reservoir	195		50	282	15,000 ⁴⁵	Jan	3,882
Chasewater				3,500 ⁴⁵	14,000 ⁴⁵	Jan	8,750
Doddington Pool	300	0	600	150	11,000 ⁴⁵	Jan	2,410
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2004/2005 in Northern Ireland[†]							
Lower Lough Erne			(39)	10	1,615	Feb	813

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

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

Vagrant

Native Range: N America

GB max: 4 Jan
NI max: 2 Nov

Singles were recorded from ten sites, of which four held birds during more than one month. Both the Taw-Torridge and Thames Estuaries hosted birds in five months between August and September to March respectively. Another single was at Gerrans Bay in November and

January, while in Northern Ireland one was present at Belfast Lough in November, December and February. Other birds were at Cleddau Estuary, Lough Foyle, Par Sands Pools and St Andrews Road, Drift Reservoir, Hayle Estuary and Alt Estuary.

Common Gull

Larus canus

International threshold: 17,000

Great Britain threshold: 9,000[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 57,817 Feb
NI max: 4,853 Dec

The British maximum was the lowest for ten years and was almost exactly 10,000 less than the previous year's peak. In Northern Ireland, however, the summed total was similar to the ten-year mean.

Several sites have merited inclusion in the list of key sites on the basis of Winter Gull Roost Survey counts; numbers at Tees Estuary and Willen Lake were particularly higher than the Core Count figures. The large numbers of

Common Gulls recorded roosting at Bewl Water were sustained for the second year running. The peak Core Count at Loch of Lintrathen was the highest for the site.

Numbers at Tophill Low Reservoirs were the lowest recorded by Core Counts and were 75% lower than the ten-year average. Peaks at Moray Firth, Dee Estuary and Eccup Reservoir were also lower than average.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Bewl Water	50	63,000 ¹²	52,000 ⁴⁵	75,000 ⁴⁵	75,000 ⁴⁵	Mar	53,010
Haweswater Reservoir	26,480 ¹²	16,566 ¹²	13,674 ¹²	27,986 ¹³			21,177
Tophill Low Reservoirs	24,500	33,000	23,100	16,530	6,500	Oct	20,726
Hallington Reservoir	19,000 ¹²	4	24,000 ¹²	25,000 ¹²			17,001
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Eyebrook Reservoir				16,100 ⁴⁵			16,100
Humber Estuary	(502)	(366)	(2,077)	29,000 ⁴⁵	2,005	Feb	15,503 ▼
Derwent Reservoir	41,000 ¹²	6,500	11,800 ¹²	(6,500) ¹²	1,714	Jan	15,254 ▼
Ullswater	(0)	(0)		11,470 ¹³	(0)		11,470
West Water Reservoir				10,050 ⁴⁵			10,050
Colt Crag Reservoir	16,000 ¹²		8,200 ¹²	4,700 ⁴⁵			9,633 ▲
Ribble Estuary	(3,077)	8,653	(146)	(6,036)	(9,817)	Feb	9,235 ▲
Chew Valley Lake	2	(0)		18,200 ⁴⁵			9,101 ▲
Sites with mean peak counts of 3,000 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Lower Derwent Ings			14,200	3,720 ⁴⁵			8,960
Rye Harbour and Pett Level				8,600 ⁴⁵			8,600
Solway Estuary	(2,247)	(1,398)	7,193	9,564 ⁴⁵	(2,275)	Oct	8,379
Blyth Estuary	2,750	(1,337)		12,000 ⁴⁵			7,375
Rutland Water	4,000	50 ¹²	100	12,080 ⁴⁵	14,500	Mar	6,146
Southwold Sole Bay				5,000 ⁴⁵			5,000
Tees Estuary	3,268	8,130	2,970	4,033	6,193 ⁴⁵	Jan	4,919
Forth Estuary	(2,197)	(1,658)	(1,356)	6,321 ⁴⁵	2,500 ⁴⁵	Jan	4,411
Moray Firth	4,494 ¹	5,961 ¹	5,037 ¹	5,208 ¹	809 ¹	Dec	4,302
Wigtown Bay	4,503	(4,277)	1,427	3,251	7,269	Jan	4,145
Loch of Skene	1,390	570	433	17,284 ⁴⁵	361	Dec	4,008
Morecambe Bay	4,860	3,632	3,194	4,358	3,633	Oct	3,935
Eccup Reservoir	3,500	9,000	5,000	579 ⁴⁵	1,200	Sep	3,856
Hule Moss	1,600 ¹³	2,200 ¹³	6,300 ¹³	5,600 ¹³	3,550	Oct	3,850
Lindisfarne	(630)	(2,920)	(370)	(3,644)	(580)	Mar	(3,644)
Thames Estuary	6,848	3,135	2,041	2,319 ⁴⁵	(3,669)	Feb	3,602

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(572)	(1,519)	4,182	5,311	692	Sep	3,395
Hamilton Low & Strathclyde Pks				3,200 ⁴⁵			3,200
The Wash	3,681	(1,784)	2,482	4,912 ⁴⁵	1,239	Jun	3,079
North Norfolk Coast	460	(1,420)	(1,283)	5,600 ⁴⁵	(2,163)	Mar	3,030
Pitsford Reservoir	2,000 ¹²	3,000 ¹²	4,000 ¹²	3,000 ⁴⁵			3,000

Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]

Lough Foyle	6,095	3,300	4,606	(5,930)	2,322	Sep	4,451
Belfast Lough	1,416	2,103 ¹³	2,718	2,644 ¹¹	1,937 ¹¹	Feb	2,164
Outer Ards Shoreline	706		772	2,543	1,171	Mar	1,298

Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2004/2005 in Great Britain[†]

Loch of Lintrathen	1	1,450		0	10,000	Oct	2,863
Cameron Reservoir	650	5,600	400	240	6,500	Oct	2,678
Chichester Harbour	618	2,062	4,142	3,389	3,778	Feb	2,798
Willen Lake	15	11	7	7	3,500 ⁴⁵	Jan	708
Loch of Boardhouse	650	430	1,080	1,550	3,000	Jan	1,342

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

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

International threshold: 5,300

Great Britain threshold: 500

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 45,841 Jul

NI max: 600 Oct

The British maximum was similar to the average of the past ten years. In total, average numbers at thirty-four sites surpassed the national qualifying level, six less than in the previous year. In addition, five sites surpassed the international qualifying level; the same sites as in as 2003/04. Three sites, Blithfield and Haweswater Reservoirs and Cotswold Water Park (East) attained nationally importance status; counts at the former were attained entirely though Winter Gull Roost

Survey data. Core Count totals were particularly high at Great Pool Westwood Park, Hule Moss, Thames Estuary and Longnewton Reservoir. Britain's top site for this species remains South Walney Island, where 97% of the birds in the Morecambe Bay site total were recorded.

The summed total across sites in Northern Ireland was half that of recent years, largely due to poor coverage at the region's main site Loughs Neagh & Beg.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Morecambe Bay	40,590	31,620	36,461	31,479	33,004	Jul	34,631
Theale Gravel Pits		(0)	(3)	20,000 ⁴⁵	1,152 ⁴⁵	Jan	10,576
Chew Valley Lake	(0)	(0)		7,015 ⁴⁵			7,015
Queen Mary Reservoir				6,656 ⁴⁵			6,656
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(203)	(687)	(25)	5,800 ⁴⁵	(44)	Mar	5,800

Sites of national importance in Great Britain

Severn Estuary	669	945	(3,072)	(8,073)	(8,064)	Jul	4,165
R. Avon: F'bridge-Ringwood	960	3,478	2,309	6,550 ⁴⁵	3,500	Oct	3,359
Llys-y-fran Reservoir	11,000 ¹²	6	2,000	90	650	Dec	2,749
Great Pool Westwood Park	2,000	1,350	2,000	3,800 ⁴⁵	2,500	Jan	2,330
Hule Moss	3,300 ¹³	3,090 ¹³	2,100 ¹³	250 ¹³	2,400	Sep	2,228
Rutland Water	600	2,000 ¹²	5,000	2,500	140	Mar	2,048
Thames Estuary	1,783	1,560	1,507	1,898 ⁴⁵	2,966	Oct	1,943
Alt Estuary	1,122	1,619	4,341	(945)	556	Sep	1,910
Alde Complex	(36)	767 ¹¹	4,474	388 ⁴⁵	1,833	Mar	1,866
Longnewton Reservoir	340	970	2,680	1,890	2,930	Sep	1,762
Lower Windrush Valley GPs	2,424	3,166	871	484	1,343	Jan	1,658
Roadford Reservoir		52	70	6,031 ⁴⁵	110	Dec	1,566
Belvide Reservoir				3,000 ⁴⁵	0		1,500
Hurleston Reservoir		65	700	1,500 ⁴⁵	3,500 ⁴⁵	Oct	1,441
Chelmarsh Reservoir	(300)	500	(34)	3,500 ⁴⁵	83	Dec	1,361
Blithfield Reservoir		0			2,620 ⁴⁵	Jan	1,310 ▲
Bartley Reservoir				1,200 ⁴⁵			1,200
Wellington Gravel Pits	(2,400)		(1,400)	750	100	Aug	1,163

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Pitsford Reservoir	1,000 ¹²	550 ¹²	1,000 ¹²	2,000 ¹³			1,138
The Wash	1,139	(582)	855	898	1,039	Aug	983
Solway Estuary	(195)	(243)	(673)	(971)	(154)	Jun	(971)
Portworthy Mica Dam	750	(2,000)	419	700	960 ⁴⁵	Jan	966
Llangorse Lake	1,050	1,170 ¹³	1,110 ¹²	1,140 ¹³	16	Sep	897
Cleddau Estuary	625	825	659	723	1,537	Dec	874
Frampton Pools	120	1,500	(250)				810
NE Glamorgan Moorland Pools	732						732
Hayle Estuary	852	(340)	130	940	980	Feb	726
Burghfield Gravel Pits				618 ⁴⁵			618
Cotswold Water Park (East)	(104)	299	(156)	(133)	821	Nov	560 ▲
Blyth Estuary	886	(93)		200 ⁴⁵			543
Inner Firth of Clyde	393	(557)	544	705	509	Jul	542
Haweswater Reservoir	15 ¹²	231 ¹²	400 ¹²	1,450 ¹³			524 ▲
Hollowell Reservoir				500 ⁴⁵			500
Farne Islands	500			(0)			500
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2004/2005							
Colliford Reservoir	52	140	144	92	455	Jan	177
Crowdy Reservoir	1,000	60	850	34	300	Jan	449
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(130)	(170)	(342)	648 ⁴⁵	259	Oct	454
Poole Harbour	565	(237)	285	997	116	Sep	491
Swithland Reservoir	2	2	36	2,050 ⁴⁵	70 ⁴⁵	Jan	432
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	425	(170)	(384)	(80)	(50)	Nov	425
Nosterfield Gravel Pits	70	94	1,560	218	32	Jul	395
Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,459	(228)	1,218	1,115	(434)	Oct	1,264
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2004/2005 in Great Britain[†]							
Heaton Park Reservoir	21	350 ¹³	920 ¹²	200 ⁴⁵	870 ⁴⁵	Oct	472
Fernworthy Reservoir	33	4	61	(139)	663	Oct	190
Willen Lake	2	12	3	4	650 ⁴⁵	Jan	134
Blucks Pool to Freshwater West	375	240	630	235	625	Sep	421
Ditchford Gravel Pits	240	146		276	534	Nov	299

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

Yellow-legged Gull / Caspian Gull

International threshold: 7,000[†]

Larus michahellis michahellis / *Larus (argentatus) cachinnans*

GB max: 165 Aug
NI max: 0

Following a recent taxonomic review by the British Ornithologists' Union Yellow-legged Gull has been promoted to specific rank after many years of classification as a subspecies of Herring Gull (Sangster et al. 2005). The status of 'Caspian Gull' remains unresolved and it is still officially considered a race of Herring Gull. However, as reports of 'Yellow-legged Gull' undoubtedly refer to individuals of both Yellow-legged Gull and Caspian Gull these are presented together for the purpose of this report.

Yellow-legged Gulls were reported from 38 sites, with Caspian Gulls specified as being at five of these. This was similar to during 2003/04, as was the British maximum, which was average for the past five years and consisted almost entirely of a count of Yellow-legged Gulls at Southampton Water (only one Caspian Gull was recorded in August). Caspian Gulls were reported every month between August and February, all singles except for two in the Thames Estuary in February. Other sites at which Caspian Gulls were recorded include Aston On Trent Gravel Pits, Clifford Hill Gravel Pits, Pegwell Bay and Welbeck Estate.

Yellow-legged Gulls were specified as being at four sites, the highest counts away from Southampton Water being at Thames Estuary (16) and Kingsbridge Estuary (10).

Between July and October monthly counts of 'unspecified' Yellow-legged Gulls exceeded 130 birds; this fell to double figures with a low of 11 in February to April. None were recorded in May but June counts totalled 56. However, as the recording of gulls is optional numbers, particularly outside the main winter period will largely be dependent on the amount of coverage.

Southampton Water remains the top WeBS site for Yellow-legged Gulls supporting the

highest ever site total in August. Peak counts at River Avon: Fordingbridge to Ringwood, Clifford Hill Gravel Pits, Hamford Water, King George VI Reservoir, Kinsham Pool,

Netherfield Gravel Pits, Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir, Staines Reservoirs and Thorpe Malsor Reservoir were also new records for the respective sites.

Sites with 5 or more birds in Great Britain†

Southampton Water	164	Aug	Kingsbridge Estuary	10	Apr
River Avon - Fordingbridge to Ringwood	72	Oct	Staines Reservoirs	7	Jul
Thames Estuary	36	Oct	Lower Windrush Valley Gravel Pits	6	Nov
Poole Harbour	16	Sep	Great Pool Westwood Park	6	Dec

† as no sites excdd the international threshold and no British or Northern Ireland thresholds have been set, a qualifying level of 5 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

International threshold: 13,000
Great Britain threshold: 4,500†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 88,754 Feb
NI max: 8,499 Nov

The British maximum was the highest recorded and was almost 70% higher than that of 2003/04. The Northern Ireland figure was more typical being only slightly down on the past three years' peaks. As with all gulls, however, the optional recording of this group means that numbers are largely dependent on the amount of coverage. The number of British sites at which five-year mean values exceeded 2,500 remained the same as in the previous year.

Numbers at Morecambe Bay have fallen

over the past few years and are currently the lowest since gulls were first regularly included as part of WeBS in 1993/94. As with Lesser Black-backed Gull the majority of birds at the site are at South Walney Island. In contrast, numbers at the Alt Estuary were the highest recorded at the site for over five years.

Mean peak numbers at the North Norfolk Coast have fallen below the national qualifying level. The highest single-site count was at Ribble Estuary and was one-and-a-half times the previous five-year mean of the site.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ribble Estuary	(9,032)	(9,767)	(209)	14,859 ⁴⁵	(31,090)	Feb	22,975 ▲
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	650		27,956 ¹¹	(2,341)	(2,003)	Feb	14,303 ▲
Morecambe Bay	20,530	12,170	14,373	10,551	8,311	Apr	13,187
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Forth Estuary	(3,828)	(1,868)	(1,925)	7,376 ⁴⁵	(15,434)	Dec	11,405
Queen Mary Reservoir				8,279 ⁴⁵			8,279
The Wash	10,003	(7,603)	7,640	10,703 ⁴⁵	3,258	Aug	7,901
Moray Firth	10,429 ¹	9,564 ¹	10,335 ¹	6,468 ¹	2,349 ¹	Dec	7,829
Rye Harbour and Pett Level				5,850 ⁴⁵			5,850
Hastings to Bexhill				5,700 ⁴⁵			5,700
Thames Estuary	4,180	2,867	3,330	(4,349)	8,504	Feb	4,720 ▲
Llandegfedd Reservoir					4,710 ⁴⁵	Jan	4,710 ▲
Sites with mean peak counts of 2,500 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(2,000)	(778)	3,602	4,052 ⁴⁵	4,244	Nov	3,966
Alt Estuary	3,967	1,440	3,153	3,825 ⁴⁵	7,155	Feb	3,908
North Norfolk Coast	3,895	5,062	3,964	3,047	2,684	Aug	3,730 ▼
Chew Valley Lake				3,400 ⁴⁵			3,400
Roughrigg Reservoir	133	47	1,121	15,144 ⁴⁵	416	Jan	3,372
Troon Meikle Craigs				3,174 ⁴⁵			3,174
Carmarthen Bay	(2,600)	(1,494)	(2,111)	(371)	(3,066)	Sep	(3,066)
Broadwater Lake: S. Harefield				3,000 ⁴⁵			3,000
Guernsey Shore	(3,525)	1,972	2,127	(2,759)	(3,744)	Aug	2,825
Caldey Island				2,800 ⁴⁵			2,800
Solway Estuary	(2,165)	(2,719)	3,281	2,189 ⁴⁵	(1,051)	Feb	2,735
Pegwell Bay	3,890	3,000	1,897 ¹¹	1,569 ⁴⁵	(106)	Sep	2,589
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Belfast Lough	6,749	9,157	7,046	7,536 ¹¹	7,903 ¹¹	Nov	7,678
Outer Ards Shoreline	898		1,001	(1,351)	1,179	Mar	1,107

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2004/2005 in Great Britain[†]							
Heaton Park Reservoir	2,300	700 ¹³	2,050 ¹²	1,755 ⁴⁵	3,400 ⁴⁵	Jan	2,041
Hayle Estuary	712	864	2,206	2,325	2,822	Aug	1,786

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

Iceland Gull

International threshold: 2,000

Larus glaucooides

GB max: 25 Feb
NI max: 11 Jan

Numbers of Iceland Gulls recorded during WeBS Core Counts rose following the low totals of the previous year. British maxima reached double figures during January to March with a peak of 25 in February; the Northern Irish peak was a month earlier. Birds were present at 36 sites including 18 in Scotland, 14 in England and four in Northern Ireland.

The majority of records were of single birds although eight were at Belfast Lough (Jan) and Scalloway Islands (Feb), seven at Thurso Bay (Jan), four at Larne Lough (Feb) and Burra and Trondra (Feb), three at Loch Innis Na Ba Buidhe (Feb) and two at Camel Estuary, Loch A Chairn Bhain, Loch Inver, Loch Shildaig, Lough Foyle, Moray Firth, Purfleet Chalk Pit, Thurso Bay and Traigh Luskentyre.

Glaucous Gull

International threshold: 10,000

Larus hyperboreus

GB max: 21 Feb
NI max: 15 Feb

Numbers of Glaucous Gulls were the highest ever recorded during WeBS. An influx during February saw the highest ever British maximum, as was the Northern Irish peak of 15, 11 of which were at Belfast Lough. Birds were reported from a record 29 sites across

Britain and six in Northern Ireland. Most reports were of single birds, except for two at Island of Papa Westray and Thurso Bay in January and The Ouse and Lairo Water in March.

Great Black-backed Gull

International threshold: 4,700

Larus marinus

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

GB max: 7,539 Oct
NI max: 1,348 Mar

The British maximum was the lowest since gulls were regularly included in WeBS in 1993/94 and was over a third down on the ten-year average. Conversely, the Northern Ireland maximum was the highest yet recorded. Twenty-six British sites surpassed national qualifying levels, one less than in 2003/04.

The Belfast Lough total was the highest Core Count there for over five years. Counts at the Tees and Thames Estuaries were the highest since 1994/95 and 1993/94 (when gulls were first included in WeBS) respectively, whereas counts at Tophill Low Reservoirs, Don Mouth to Ythan Estuary and North Norfolk Coast were well below average.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
The Wash	1,303	4,515	1,959	4,628	(1,480)	Oct	3,101
Humber Estuary	(313)	(83)	(113)	2,200 ⁴⁵	(226)	Oct	2,200
Tees Estuary	1,564	(1,038)	702	1,523	1,657	Dec	1,362
Thames Estuary	1,530	(412)	1,236 ¹¹	857 ⁴⁵	1,648	Jan	1,318
Tophill Low Reservoirs	1,880	900	3,030	223 ⁴⁵	120	Dec	1,231
Lynemouth Ash Lagoons				1,074			1,074
Grafham Water				1,050 ⁴⁵			1,050

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Dungeness Gravel Pits		(0)		1,000 ⁴⁵	(0)		1,000
Coquet Island				980 ⁴⁵			980
Pegwell Bay	1,050	1,000	1,305 ¹¹	305	(350)	Sep	915
Lower Derwent Ings			777	1,041 ⁴⁵			909
Ogston Reservoir				900 ⁴⁵			900
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	(1,225)	(67)	(55)	(200)	495	Jul	860
Durham Coast	(106)	(16)	(21)	(41)	(684)	Oct	(684) ▲
Loch of Strathbeg	1,280 ¹³	(129)	569	(606)	191	Feb	680
North Norfolk Coast	567	748	617	1,051	327	Oct	662
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	330		1,432 ¹¹	70	(93)	Dec	611
Hastings to Bexhill				520 ⁴⁵			520
Hanningfield Reservoir	(0)	(0)	1,098 ⁴⁵	437 ⁴⁵	0		512
Eyebrook Reservoir				500 ⁴⁵			500
Morecambe Bay	(716)	331	353	(322)	(296)	Nov	467
Guernsey Shore	(273)	(205)	353	(560)	404	Nov	439
Forth Estuary	575	(108)	(211)	286 ¹¹	(239)	Sep	431
Southfield Reservoir				408 ⁴⁵			408
Hoveringham & Bleasby GPs	0	0		1,600 ⁴⁵	2	Dec	401
Romney Sands				400 ⁴⁵			400

Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2004/2005

Portsmouth Harbour	1,028	54	304	206 ⁴⁵	130	Sep	344
--------------------	-------	----	-----	-------------------	-----	-----	-----

Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]

Belfast Lough	398	458	397	436 ¹¹	1,008	Mar	539
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-------------------	-------	-----	-----

Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2004/2005 in Great Britain

Alt Estuary	213	294	(375)	(275)	589	Feb	368
-------------	-----	-----	-------	-------	-----	-----	-----

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

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 1,117 Sep

NI max: 7 Sep

Kittiwakes are predominantly coastal, and this is reflected in the list of sites attaining a five-year mean peak of 200 or more. The highest numbers are typically recorded at Scottish sites with many of the summer peaks being recorded at sites near to breeding colonies.

Despite the numbers recorded during WeBS increasing over the previous few years the 2004/05 maximum was 80% down on the previous year and was the lowest for over ten years. Additionally, no four-figure counts made in 2004/05.

	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[†]							
Loch of Strathbeg	200	0	940	6,300	41	Jul	1,496
Lunan Bay		0	400	3,400	100	Oct	975
Farne Islands		920					920
Arran	225	1,700	185	290	340	Oct	548
Loch Linnhe: Camas Shallachain		500					500
Tweed Estuary		340	470	860	114	Aug	446
Tay Estuary	8	266	1,100	133	690	Sep	439
Tees Estuary	153	20	30	1,492	(56)	Jul	424
Loch a' Phuill (Tiree)	36	406	1,128	276	104	Jul	390
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	595	(18)	0	153	534	Jul	321
Forth Estuary	(254)	(274)	(453)	(426)	170	Oct	315
Dee Estuary (Scotland)	774	36	162	248	161	Aug	276
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	250						250
Solway Estuary	120	(574)	(300)	(47)	0		249
Broadford Bay		(0)	200	(20)	(50)	Sep	200
Loch Nan Gabhar			200				200

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

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

International threshold: 340

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 760 Jul

NI max: 0

Southern and eastern England remains the stronghold for breeding Little Terns in the UK with the majority of key sites occurring between The Wash and Dorset coasts. Numbers on the North Norfolk Coast were the lowest for some years, resulting in the five-year mean falling below the international threshold. Numbers at the Thames Estuary also remained low for a second year. As with all terns, however, the optional recording of the

group means that any changes in site peaks should be treated with caution. Moreover, this species is well known for shifting its breeding sites from year to year.

Outwith the southeast, numbers at both the Dee Estuary and the Duddon Estuary have increased, the Dee Estuary actually supporting the highest peak in summer 2004. Another high site total was recorded at the Tees Estuary and was the highest at this site for ten years.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
North Norfolk Coast	(241)	(265)	(280)	(405)	233	Jun	285 ▼
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	111	(0)	242	(256)	300	Jul	227
Thames Estuary	161	(1)	(100)	(28)	33	Aug	98
The Wash	(56)	(103)	(36)	68	(108)	Aug	93
Chichester Harbour	15	200 ¹³	42	28	36	May	64
Fleet and Wey	125	0	59	62	69	May	63
Langstone Harbour			(140)	50	0		63
Blackwater Estuary	(101)	(50)	(3)	(20)	28	Jun	60
Duddon Estuary	44		28	42	84	Jul	50

Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2004 in Great Britain[†]

Tees Estuary 64 0 26 16 (110) Jul 43

[†] 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

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

International threshold: 4,000

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 86 Aug

NI max: 0

Black Terns were noted at 40 sites between May and October 2004, with single records only in May to July; these were from North West Solent (May), Seaton and Murton Ponds (Jun) and Severn Estuary (Jul). Most records were during August and September with the

latest birds at Knight and Bessborough Reservoirs, Southampton Water (both singles) and Chichester Gravel Pits (three) in October. The British maximum was slightly higher than the previous year and was around average for the past five years.

Sites with 5 or more birds in 2004[†]

Taw-Torridge Estuary	30	Aug	Killington Reservoir	5	Sep
Dungeness Gravel Pits	22	Aug	Langstone Harbour	5	Aug

[†] 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

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

International threshold: 1,700

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 11,877 Jul

NI max: 289 Sep

Sandwich Terns were recorded in every month during 2004, being were noted at 101 sites in Britain and six in Northern Ireland. The British

peak was, as usual, recorded during July and was similar to the past few years.

The North Norfolk Coast remains the top site for Sandwich Tern with a record total this year. A second year of high reported summer counts saw Cemlyn Bay and Lagoon becoming the third site to support internationally important numbers; this is largely due to the inclusion of summer counts that have only been submitted during the past two years. Numbers recorded at the Duddon Estuary were

the highest since 1999. Counts at the top two Northern Irish sites were unexceptional; numbers at Belfast Lough were the lowest recorded at the site.

As with all terns the optional coverage of this group during WeBS counts means that numbers recorded will largely be dependent on coverage at each site.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
North Norfolk Coast	(5,015)	(3,365)	(4,600)	4,170	5,533	Jun	4,906
Forth Estuary	3,424	(994)	(2,317)	2,802	(1,526)	Aug	3,113
Cemlyn Bay and Lagoon		0		2,455	2,700	May	1,718 ▲
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Humber Estuary	1,329	(124)	(396)	(303)	(324)	Sep	1,329
Tees Estuary	897	35	974	2,601	(333)	Jul	1,127
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(672)	(11)	1,632	716	759	Jul	1,036
Duddon Estuary	994	(0)	704	955	1,144	Jul	949
Pegwell Bay	320	660	360	(930)	(680)	Jul	590
Solway Estuary	(78)	(235)	(206)	(548)	(282)	Jul	(548)
Ythan Estuary			930	150			540
Morecambe Bay	110	(0)	220	531	(500)	Apr	340
The Wash	310	512	150	223	208	Aug	281
Tay Estuary	132	167	461	310	(96)	Aug	268
Lindisfarne	(260)	(100)		(4)	(80)	May	(260)
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Dundrum Bay	166	296	722	264	173	Aug	324
Belfast Lough	195	409	357	136	99	Sep	239
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2004 in Great Britain†							
Lavan Sands	147	(7)	25	170	250	Aug	148
Exe Estuary	194	(116)	81	110	237	Jul	156
Lade Sands				85	232	Apr	159
Alt Estuary	47	19	41	178	219	Aug	101
Tynninghame Estuary	26	180	110	23	203	Aug	108

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

Common Tern		International threshold:	1,900
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		Great Britain threshold:	?†
		All-Ireland threshold:	?†
GB max:	5,222 Aug		
NI max:	10 Sep		

The British peak was below that of the previous year by around 15% and in Northern Ireland this figure fell by around 75%. As with all tern species, however, the national totals are dependent on coverage, as the recording of terns is optional. As usual peak numbers were recorded in July and August, the Northern Irish peak was later than usual. The species was recorded at 264 British sites and two in

Northern Ireland, compared to 325 and one in the previous year.

The top site remained the Humber Estuary, although mean peak numbers here have fallen below the threshold of international importance. Most sites' five year means remained similar to previous years, although increases were witnessed at the Tees and Thames Estuaries.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Humber Estuary	2,165	(6)	(291)	280	(160)	Aug	1,223
Tees Estuary	877	(12)	696	1,678	1,251	Aug	1,126
Alt Estuary	1,292	129	868	1,664	1,135	Aug	1,018
Thames Estuary	(284)	(190)	(158)	(224)	(553)	Aug	(553)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Mon	Mean
North Norfolk Coast	(611)	(213)	(321)	419	476	Jul	502
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(246)	(3)	422	(384)	(180)	Aug	422
Forth Estuary	356	(40)	(691)	193	(183)	Aug	413
Southampton Water	(238)	(300)	(50)	(7)	(63)	Aug	(300)
Chichester Harbour	209	500 ¹³	(167)	(314)	44	Jul	267
The Wash	262	(435)	(102)	122	199	Aug	255
Ythan Estuary			18	415			217

Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2004 in Great Britain[†]

Blackwater Estuary	81	(55)	(126)	43	(223)	Jun	118
--------------------	----	------	-------	----	-------	-----	-----

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

Roseate Tern

Scarce

Sterna dougallii

GB max: 39 Aug
NI max: 0

The peak for 2004 fell in August and was chiefly made up of totals from sites in northeast England, with 32 from St Mary's Island, three at the Tees Estuary, and one each at the Tyne Estuary and East Chevington

Pools. Other sites at which this species were recorded include the Forth (July and August), the Alt Estuary (August) and two at the Exe Estuary (May).

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

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

GB max: 922 Jul
NI max: 0

In Britain Arctic Terns breed mostly in the north. Peak numbers are often recorded in Scotland, indeed only two sites outside of this region, the Farne Islands and Morecambe Bay, hold mean peak numbers above table qualifying levels. The British maximum in 2004 was the second lowest recorded during

WeBS. This was reflected in the site totals, the highest single site total being the lowest since 2000. However, as with all terns recording is optional so peak numbers will largely be dependent on the sites at which the group is counted.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Farne Islands		(600)	(0)		(0)		(600)
Ythan Estuary			106	860			483
Forth Estuary	76		(1,214)	197	(186)	Aug	335
Loch a' Phuill (Tiree)	0	473	477	150	120	May	244
Tay Estuary	80	32	660	290	0		212
Eden Estuary	220	(53)	125	320	4	Jun	167
Morecambe Bay	(103)		94	(178)	(59)	May	125
The Houb (Whalsay)	100	0	120	82	300	Jul	120
St Andrews Bay	170	44	29	(0)	192	Jul	109
Loch of Clumlie	250	150	0	0			100
Loch of Brow	200	100	0	0			75
Loch of Tankerness	75						75
Braewick Loch	45	70	170	50	30	Jul	73
Cambois to Newbiggin	0	5	246	0			63
Loch Indaal	61		51	76			63
Loch of Beith	5		150 ¹³	31			62
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2004 in Great Britain[†]							
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	34	0	0	0	146	Jul	36
Balta Sound	26	7	9	0	55	May	19

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

Kingfisher
Alcedo atthis

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

GB max: 456 Nov
NI max: 5 Oct

With the majority of the UK population occurring away from surveyed WeBS sites, Kingfishers are not well monitored by the scheme. The Great Britain peak fell slightly from the previous year's figure and is similar to that of 2002/03. Thirty sites held five-year mean peaks of five or more, three less than in the previous year. However, it should be noted that the table qualifying level has been raised from five to seven.

Despite the often-elusive nature of Kingfishers, the key sites do tend to remain the

same from year to year. The Somerset Levels remained at the top of the list, with the count of 20 being the highest for a single site ever recorded by WeBS. High counts at Ditchford Gravel Pits during the past two years have helped to elevate the mean peak of the site. Many of the sites with the highest numbers of Kingfishers are large gravel pit complexes, allowing a large area of often tree-fringed shorelines along which the species can forage.

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 7 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Somerset Levels	(10)	16	(14)	(12)	20	Nov	18
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	8	14	19	12	18	Dec	14
Ditchford Gravel Pits	8	7		13	12	Aug	10
Pitsford Reservoir	5	11	9	11	(3)	Sep	9
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	(11)	(3)	(4)	(4)	5	Sep	8
Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	6	11	8	10	6	Oct	8
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	(6)	12	4	10	6	Sep	8
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	(8)	(3)	(5)	(4)	(3)	Oct	(8)
Deben Estuary	7	5	10	(7)	4	Nov	7
Lower Derwent Ings			11	3			7
Old Moor	8	4	(8)	7			7
Southampton Water	(8)	5	(5)	6	9	Dec	7
Stour Estuary	4	6	(11)	6	(6)	Oct	7
Thames Estuary	(6)	3	9	(7)	7	Dec	7
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2004/2005 in Great Britain[†]							
Chichester Gravel Pits	5	3	4	7	9	Dec	6
North Norfolk Coast	3	4 ¹¹	7	(6)	8	Oct	6

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



Kingfisher (Dawn Balmer)

PRINCIPAL SITES

Table 6 below lists the principal sites for non-breeding waterbirds in the UK as monitored by WeBS. All sites supporting more than 10,000 waterbirds are listed, as are all sites supporting internationally important numbers of one or more waterbird species. Naturalised species (e.g. Canada Goose and Ruddy Duck) and non-native species presumed to have escaped from captive collections have been excluded from the totals, as have gulls and terns since the recording of these species is optional (see *Analysis*). Table 7 lists other sites holding internationally important numbers of waterbirds, which are not routinely monitored by standard WeBS surveys but rather by the Icelandic Goose Census and aerial surveys.

A total of 220 sites are listed in tables 6 and 7. Of these 208 supported one or more species in internationally important numbers and 84 held a five-year mean peak of 10,000 or more birds. Typically there are few changes to the top twenty sites listed in the principal sites table, with the order of the top ten rarely changing. The Wash remains as the key waterbird site with regard to numbers and in 2004/05 held the highest numbers of the preceding five years. Numbers on the Ribble Estuary again exceeded those on Morecambe Bay and for the first time since 1999/2000 the

five-year mean surpassed that of Morecambe Bay to become the second most important site in the UK in terms of numbers of waterbirds. Numbers on the Thames Estuary rose on the previous year, and combined with lower than average figures from the Humber Estuary, the Thames Estuary climbs back into the top five sites. Total numbers on the Mersey Estuary continue to fall and are now the lowest for over ten years. Following a low total during 2003/04 current numbers at the Somerset Levels were similar to the average of the past five-years. The recent decline in the numbers of diving ducks at Loughs Neagh and Beg that have contributed to the fall in numbers at the site seem not to be as severe as first thought. Scaup were again present at the site in internationally important numbers and total numbers at the site remained similar to those of the past few years.

Five-year averages of sites holding 100,000 or more waterbirds were relatively similar compared to the previous year, with 74 of the 84 sites undergoing changes of less than 10%. Six sites witnessed an increase and four sites a decrease of 10% or more. The greatest increase was experienced at Loch Spynie (35%). The greatest decreases were seen at Hule Moss (17%) and the Medway Estuary (15%).

Table 6. Total number of waterbirds at principal sites in the UK, 2000/2001 to 2004/05 (includes data from all available sources) and species occurring in internationally important numbers at each. (Species codes for those listed are provided in Table 8.)

Site	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Average	Int.Imp.species
The Wash	291,311	332,637	343,462	338,379	369,518	335,061	PG DB SU PT OC RP GP GV L. KN SS DN BW BA CU RK TT
Ribble Estuary	220,066	210,305	255,011	252,372	245,093	236,569	WS PG SU WN T. PT OC RP GV L. KN SS DN BW BA RK
Morecambe Bay	246,841	211,417	250,768	249,247	203,855	232,426	PG SU PT OC KN DN BW BA CU RK
North Norfolk Coast	182,596	185,125	212,438	284,591	234,310	219,812	PG DB WN T. PT RP KN BW BA RK
Thames Estuary	182,103	169,953	197,458	160,179	172,352	176,409	DB GA T. SV OC AV RP GV KN DN BW BA RK
Humber Estuary	163,061	159,693	174,920	217,792	163,055	175,704	PG SU RP GP GV L. KN DN BW BA RK
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	135,078	195,680	127,007	171,906	115,259	148,986	SU T. PT OC KN DN BW BA CU RK
Solway Estuary	150,642	124,127	153,364	145,052	140,961	142,829	WS YS SU PT KN BA
Somerset Levels	114,207	115,001	102,741	85,154	103,894	104,199	MS WN GA T. PT SV L.
Mersey Estuary	109,877	102,666	108,736	97,784	85,554	100,923	SU T. DN BW RK
Forth Estuary	95,622	88,204	109,401	91,992	83,304	93,705	PG SU SZ KN BA RK
Swale Estuary	81,239	88,524	86,101	86,965	73,828	83,331	WN T. PT SV RP GP BW RK
Blackwater Estuary	122,134	66,473	81,684	64,533	78,182	82,601	DB GP GV KN DN BW RK
Breydon Wtr/Berney Mshs	70,962	78,423	64,804	75,823	110,614	80,125	PG WN T. SV AV GP BW RK
Strangford Lough	66,164	80,345	79,352	88,429	78,610	78,580	MS QN SU GP KN BA RK
Ouse Washes	48,585	76,165	66,409	85,698	87,945	72,960	MS BS WS WN GA T. PT SV PO BW
Alt Estuary	58,651	90,066	63,501	72,792	50,073	67,017	GV KN SS BA

Site	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Average	Int.Imp.species
Loch of Strathbeg	55,470	68,134	49,356	79,231	81,614	66,761	WS PG YS
Loughs Neagh and Beg	101,142	63,479	53,401	59,026	56,261	66,662	MS WS PO TU SP GN CA
Inner Moray / Inverness Firth	56,580	59,615	60,386	80,199	65,877	64,531	PG JI RK
Severn Estuary	62,768	60,723	68,649	64,668	63,861	64,134	SU T. PT DN RK
Lindisfarne	61,271	63,463	64,138	56,842	53,325	59,808	PG YS QS WN BA RK
Stour Estuary	59,566	59,772	50,227	48,642	46,852	53,012	RP GV KN BW RK
Montrose Basin	49,767	63,742	37,019	35,461	50,147	47,227	PG RK
Chichester Harbour	47,412	51,567	44,824	43,732	43,369	46,181	DB DN BW RK
Burry Inlet	39,105	41,432	43,830	52,852	49,185	45,281	PT OC
Dengie Flats	48,665	55,927	39,325	23,895	40,229	41,608	GV KN BA
Hamford Water	42,671	44,224	40,135	37,990	39,938	40,992	DB RP GV BW RK
Langstone Harbour	42,703	33,738	37,453	43,773	45,637	40,661	DB DN BW
Carmarthen Bay	34,175	31,358	36,917	47,069	42,392	38,382	GP
Cromarty Firth	39,151	36,643	26,278	41,307	37,956	36,267	JI BA RK
Loch Leven	31,865	38,128	39,588	37,334	33,773	36,138	MS PG T. SV
Dornoch Firth	35,954	35,227	37,151	35,851	35,087	35,854	WN
WWT Martin Mere	22,408	37,479	39,104	30,880	45,272	35,029	WS PG T.
Lough Foyle	37,207	29,448	34,153	37,291	33,078	34,235	WS QN BA RK
West Water Reservoir	26,500	23,276	40,000	34,210	.	30,997	PG
Nene Washes	32,179	19,344	52,880	20,910	29,269	30,916	BS PT
Alde Complex	26,534	29,355	29,649	22,907	31,838	28,057	AV BW RK
Medway Estuary	23,452	29,829	27,329	26,174	27,066	26,770	PT BW
Duddon Estuary	23,559	25,065	22,185	32,592	29,117	26,504	PT RK
Poole Harbour	24,474	24,637	25,953	24,857	26,362	25,257	AV BW
Abberton Reservoir	25,920	20,620	20,675	31,375	24,021	24,522	SV PO
Rutland Water	19,182	22,140	26,169	28,216	26,165	24,374	MS GA SV
Tees Estuary	23,194	22,192	25,350	30,079	20,859	24,335	RK
Crouch-Roach Estuary	24,729	21,024	21,376	18,218	34,219	23,913	DB BW RK
Inner Firth of Clyde	23,697	22,904	23,200	23,740	19,838	22,676	RK
Orwell Estuary	20,044	21,530	24,842	25,284	19,981	22,336	BW RK
Exe Estuary	21,162	24,754	20,589	22,893	20,093	21,898	BW
Tay Estuary	21,432	25,699	20,724	21,303	19,847	21,801	PG JI BA RK
Colne Estuary	36,322	25,745	4,183	19,334	18,288	20,774	DB BW
Lavan Sands	19,060	17,282	21,779	21,062	22,025	20,242	RK
Cleddau Estuary	15,548	18,585	17,879	20,487	27,752	20,050	
Belfast Lough	21,042	18,841	18,789	19,436	20,080	19,638	BW RK
Loch Spynie	15,998	15,467	19,524	15,748	30,736	19,495	PG JI
Pegwell Bay	17,453	21,463	28,815	25,509	3,720	19,392	
Deben Estuary	18,877	16,970	17,082	17,873	19,047	17,970	RK
Carsebreck / Rhynd Lochs	23,454	19,941	15,252	16,529	12,262	17,488	PG
Loch of Skene	25,163	17,136	11,004	13,693	18,833	17,166	PG JI
Southampton Water	21,490	16,875	16,684	15,440	15,037	17,105	BW
Wigtown Bay	9,583	18,028	14,473	21,604	19,074	16,552	PG YS
Fleet and Wey	14,126	19,703	14,552	16,289	17,241	16,382	MS
Blyth Estuary	18,876	13,713	.	.	.	16,295	BW RK
Pagham Harbour	16,057	14,312	13,217	14,565	20,506	15,731	DB BW
Eden Estuary	15,441	15,071	15,124	15,366	14,110	15,022	
Mersehead RSPB	14,508	13,464	15,666	11,117	15,251	14,001	YS PT
WWT Caerlaverock	7,952	11,815	19,416	14,144	16,132	13,892	WS YS
Walland Marsh	9,713	21,016	5,111	5,951	23,639	13,086	
Taw-Torridge Estuary	12,240	14,195	11,847	10,314	16,374	12,994	
North West Solent	10,847	12,306	10,071	15,136	16,145	12,901	BW
Arun Valley	17,399	10,719	15,686	11,911	8,653	12,874	PT
Middle Yare Marshes	10,575	13,853	10,686	9,741	17,520	12,475	
Dungeness Gravel Pits	14,750	11,072	13,884	11,665	10,974	12,469	
Old Moor	13,251	12,091	12,437	11,855	.	12,409	
Rye Harbour / Pett Level	10,156	11,452	10,846	16,911	9,710	11,815	
Loch of Harray	17,058	9,129	10,010	12,330	8,501	11,406	MS JI
Hule Moss	15,245	9,727	7,110	15,858	8,994	11,387	PG
Beaulieu Estuary	16,975	11,774	11,147	6,140	10,775	11,362	BW
Dyfi Estuary	10,952	9,419	11,608	11,646	12,405	11,206	
Portsmouth Harbour	6,036	8,190	15,004	16,420	9,651	11,060	
Cotswold Water Park (W)	11,544	10,032	9,173	12,476	10,178	10,681	
Thanet Coast	9,956	9,640	16,146	7,964	8,412	10,424	TT
Loch of Lintrathen	4,537	10,476	9,241	16,418	11,068	10,348	PG
R. Avon: R'wood/ C'church	13,817	5,035	24,594	4,766	2,795	10,201	PT BW
Carlingford Lough	8,431	9,763	10,762	10,516	11,235	10,141	QN RK
Lower Derwent Ings	113	92	24,458	23,427	139	9,646	PT
Outer Ards Shoreline	11,647	210	12,694	12,748	9,552	9,370	QN TT
Cameron Reservoir	6,454	18,249	4,495	11,225	4,825	9,050	PG
Chew Valley Lake	8,189	8,775	8,369	10,109	9,261	8,941	SV

Site	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	Average	Int.Imp.species
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	8,118	9,579	9,312	8,989	8,394	8,878	GA
Upper Lough Erne	7,800	7,717	8,777	9,239	9,369	8,580	MS WS
Dundrum Bay	10,016	9,257	6,859	6,959	8,311	8,280	QN
Loch Fleet Complex	8,986	11,677	8,275	6,489	5,177	8,121	JI
R. Clyde: Carstairs/ Thankertn	8,043	14,501	4,683	6,623	4,510	7,672	PG
R. Nith: Keltonbnk/Nunholm	7,883	7,487	6,665	10,005	5,973	7,603	PG YS
R. Avon: F'bridge- R'wood	7,416	7,420	10,022	6,781	6,094	7,547	GA
Hornsea Mere	6,047	5,737	8,926	7,347	6,906	6,993	MS
Loch of Stenness	5,553	9,130	7,099	5,636	5,072	6,498	JI
Holburn Moss	6,066	1,774	6,375	10,501	5,398	6,023	PG
Loch of Boardhouse	5,620	5,096	5,257	7,111	5,907	5,798	JI
Horsey Mere	3,620	5,000	4,000	8,465	7,231	5,663	PG
Orchardton/Auchencairn Bays	3,107	.	5,563	8,146	3,070	4,972	YS
Larne Lough	4,674	4,462	5,043	5,299	4,989	4,893	QN
R. Eden: Warcop/Little Salkeld	4,760	.	.	.	.	4,760	JI
Slains Lochs	2,093	2,832	360	575	17,215	4,615	PG
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	4,256	4,970	6,262	3,361	3,716	4,513	GA
Loch Eye	2,205	5,211	1,926	4,474	8,354	4,434	JI
Lake of Menteith	5,327	732	4,958	4,639	6,462	4,424	PG
Kilconquhar Loch	3,777	3,285	3,941	5,870	2,891	3,953	JI
Tweed Estuary	3,926	3,806	3,516	4,180	3,501	3,786	MS
Loch Ken	3,905	2,887	4,216	4,030	2,301	3,468	JI
Dee Flood Meadows	4,130	4,603	3,888	2,859	1,551	3,406	PT
Lochs Davan and Kinord	5,327	5,568	3,124	1,336	881	3,247	JI
Loch Watten	1,596	5,356	3,023	2,199	3,102	3,055	JI
Loch Bee (South Uist)	3,944	1,416	3,048	2,672	4,037	3,023	JH
Lower Lough Erne	.	.	2,931	2,485	3,342	2,919	MS
Dornoch Firth	2,050	6,571	1,955	1,965	1,236	2,755	WN
Loch of Wester	1,129	5,776	.	.	1,129	2,678	WS JI
Lower Teviot Valley	4,828	1,134	2,780	.	1,621	2,591	JI
Heigham Holmes	.	2,500	.	.	.	2,500	PG
Balranald (RSPB Reserve)	1,328	3,445	2,792	2,136	2,739	2,488	JH
(North Uist)							
Loch a` Phuill (Tiree)	1,551	2,170	2,643	3,075	1,271	2,142	JH
Killough Harbour	.	1,832	2,731	1,158	2,736	2,114	QN
Loch Garten	2,700	2,804	1,000	1,133	2,417	2,011	JI
Loch Paible (North Uist)	1,626	1,169	2,253	2,609	2,287	1,989	JH
Haddo House Lakes	1,104	1,639	1,675	1,816	.	1,559	JI
Melbost Sands, Broad Bay & Tong Saltings (Lewis)	1,542	1,729	.	394	1,804	1,367	JH
Loch of Tankerness	5,680	4	1	1	1	1,137	JI
Loch Mor Baleshare	792	686	789	1,354	1,014	927	JH
Loch Bhasapoll (Tiree)	1,090	1,229	777	1,136	190	884	JH
Loch Sandary (North Uist)	659	1,188	767	1,071	652	867	JH
Loch Riaghain (Tiree)	1,016	408	647	604	306	596	JH
Rispond Bay	.	.	.	.	581	581	YN
Loch Ashie	481	.	.	.	.	481	SZ
Loch An Eilein (Tiree)	708	321	570	492	224	463	JH
Branahuie Saltings	.	324	.	.	.	324	JH
Kentra Moss & Lower Loch Shiel (Moidart)	252	207	216	277	340	258	JH
Loch Broom	367	.	.	.	42	205	JH
Loch Urrahag	203	27	.	.	87	106	JH
Balranald Nature Reserve	18	44	23	31	112	46	JH

Table 7. Other sites in the UK holding internationally important numbers of waterbirds in 2004/05, which are not routinely monitored by standard WeBS surveys. (Species codes for those listed are provided in Table 8.)

Site	Int.Imp.species	Site	Int.Imp.species
Aberlady Bay Roost	PG	Balranald Cletraval and Tigharry	JH
Beaully Firth Roost	JI	Berneray	JH YN
Benbecula	JH	Boreray and Lingay	JH YN
Bridge of Crathies	WS	Clachan Na Luib to Bayhead	JH
Bute	JI	Malacate To Grenitote	JH
Caithness Lochs	JI	Oronsay	JH
Coll and Tiree offshore	ND	Paible	JH
Dingwall Bay	JI	Trumisgarry Clachan and Newton	JH
Dupplin Lochs	PG	Trumisgarry to Newton	JH
East Mainland	JI	Orkney	JI YN ND
East Mains Flood	JI	Deer and Shapinsay Sounds	ND
Fala Flow	PG	South Walls (Hoy)	YN
Findhorn Bay Roost	PG	Pilling to Cockerham	PG
Hule Moss (West)	PG	Read's Island Flats	PG
Island of Islay	NW YN	Rhunahaorine	NW
Islands of Shapinsay	JI	Sanday	JI
Isle Of Oronsay	YN	Scapa Flow	ND
Isle of Coll	NW JH YN	Scarp to Vatersay offshore	ND
Isle of Colonsay	NW JH	Severn Hams	PT
Isle of South Ronaldsay	JI	Skinflats Roost	PG
Keills Peninsula and Isle of Danna	NW	Sound of Barra (Barra)	YN ND
Loans of Tullich	WS	Sound of Gigha	ND
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	WS PG JI	Sound of Harris (NW) (Harris)	YN
Loch Slapin	ND	Sound of Taransay (Harris)	SZ
Loch Tullybelton	PG	South Uist	JH YN ND
Lochhill	PG	Askernish To Smerclate	JH
Machrihanish	NW	Bornish To Askernish	JH
Martin Mere and Ribble Estuary	WS	Drimore To Howmore	JH
Moray Firth	ND SZ	Howbeg To Bornish	JH
Munlochy Bay Roost	JI	Lochdar, Gerinish To Drimore	JH
North Norfolk Coast & The Wash	PG	West Coast	ND
Holbeach St Matthew Roost	PG	Southwest Lancashire	PG
Holkham Bay Roost	PG	Stranraer Lochs	NW
Scolt Head Roost	PG	Strathearn (West)	PG JI
Snettisham Roost	PG	Stronsay (Whole Island)	JI
Thornham Roost	PG	Tay and Isla Valley	PG JI
Wells-next-the-Sea	PG	Tiree	NW JH YN TT
North Sutherland	YN	West Mainland	JI
North Uist	JH YN	Whiteness to Skelda Ness	SZ
Baileshare and Carinish (Grimsay)	JH	Wyre Estuary	PG
Balmartin To Vallay	JH		

Table 8. Species codes for species listed in tables 6, 7 and 10.

AV	Avocet	PO	Pochard
BA	Bar-tailed Godwit	PT	Pintail
BS	Bewick's Swan	QN	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Nearctic population)
BW	Black-tailed Godwit	QS	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Svalbard population)
CA	Cormorant	RK	Redshank
CU	Curlew	RP	Ringed Plover
DB	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	SP	Scaup
DN	Dunlin	SS	Sanderling
GA	Gadwall	SU	Shelduck
GN	Goldeneye	SV	Shoveler
GP	Golden Plover	SZ	Slavonian Grebe
GV	Grey Plover	T.	Teal
JH	Greylag Goose (Northwest Scotland population)	TT	Turnstone
JI	Greylag Goose (Icelandic population)	TU	Tufted Duck
KN	Knot	WN	Wigeon
L.	Lapwing	WS	Whooper Swan
MS	Mute Swan	YN	Barnacle Goose (Nearctic population)
ND	Great Northern Diver	YS	Barnacle Goose (Svalbard population)
NW	Greenland White-fronted Goose		
OC	Oystercatcher		
PG	Pink-footed Goose		