

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Key to symbols commonly used in the species accounts.

In headers and footnotes:

- ? population size not accurately known
- + population too small for meaningful threshold
- * where 1% of the national population is fewer than 50 birds, 50 is normally used as a minimum threshold for national importance
- ** a site regularly holding more than 20,000 waterbirds (excluding non-native species) qualifies as internationally important by virtue of absolute numbers
- † denotes that a qualifying level different to the national threshold has been used for the purposes of presenting sites in this report

In tables of important sites:

- no data available
- () incomplete count
- † same meaning as used for thresholds
- ▲ site was of a higher importance status in the previous five-year period
- ▼ site was of a lower importance status in the previous five-year period
- ^{1,2} count obtained using different survey methodology from WeBS Core Counts (see table below)

Sources of additional information used in compiling tables of important sites are listed below. Non-WeBS counts are identified in the tables by the relevant number below given in superscript following the count.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 RSPB/Talisman Energy studies, <i>e.g.</i> Stenning (1998) | 27 WWT report to DTI. Aerial survey of Greater Wash strategic area |
| 2 WWT studies, <i>e.g.</i> Rees <i>et al.</i> (2000) | 28 All Wales Common Scoter Survey. WWT reports to CCW |
| 3 Bean Goose Working Group | 29 All-Ireland Light-bellied Brent Goose Census |
| 4 RSPB <i>pers comm.</i> | 30 Cormorant Roost Survey 2003 |
| 5 Lancashire Goose Report, <i>e.g.</i> Forshaw (1998) | 31 Worden <i>et al.</i> 2004 |
| 6 SNH 'adopted' counts | 32 RSPB data |
| 7 WWT data | 33 SNH data |
| 8 Greenland White-fronted Goose Study, <i>e.g.</i> Fox and Francis (2004) | 34 WWT UK-breeding Greylag Goose Survey |
| 9 SOTEAG reports, <i>e.g.</i> Heubeck & Mellor (2005) | 35 Frank Mawby <i>in litt.</i> |
| 10 WeBS Low Tide Counts | 36 Shetland co-ordinated swan count |
| 11 Roost counts | 37 Supplementary counts |
| 12 Supplementary daytime counts | 38 Winter Gull Roost Survey |
| 13 WWT/JNCC National Grey Goose Census | 39 BTO/CCW Carmarthen Bay surveys |
| 14 Firth of Clyde Eider counts, <i>e.g.</i> Waltho, C.M. (2004) | 40 KOS Great Crested Grebe records |
| 15 R. Godfrey (<i>in litt.</i>) | 41 B McMillan (<i>in litt.</i>) |
| 16 SNH Greenland Goose Census | 42 C Langton (<i>in litt.</i>) |
| 17 R. MacDonald (<i>in litt.</i>) | 43 B Yates (<i>in litt.</i>) |
| 18 Little Egret Roost counts | 44 Three non-estuarine counts, per J Bowler |
| 19 C Hartley (<i>in litt.</i>) | 45 A Stevenson (<i>in litt.</i>) |
| 20 WWT unpublished data | 46 D Tate (<i>in litt.</i>) |
| 21 Dorset Bird Report | 47 Uist Greylag Goose Management Committee |
| 22 Judith Smith, Gr. Manchester County recorder | 48 Uists SPA wader survey (Ecology UK Ltd 2005) |
| 23 BTO/ Lucy Smith | 49 P Wilson / Lancs Bird Report |
| 24 Steve Percival's counts of Lindisfarne – Svalbard Light-bellied Brent Geese | 50 W Aspin (<i>in litt.</i>) |
| 25 JNCC report of aerial surveys for seaducks, divers and grebes | 51 Winter Swan Census |
| 26 WWT report to DTI. Aerial survey of Thames strategic area | 52 JNCC shore-based count |
| | 53 RSPB Bean Goose counts |
| | 54 SNH Argyll goose counts |
| | 55 WWT Dark-bellied Brent supplementary counts |

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

Escape

Native Range: C & S America, Africa, S Asia

GB max: 4 Nov

NI max: 0

There were four Fulvous Whistling Ducks recorded at Chichester Gravel Pits in November. This is the first time this species

has been recorded by WeBS at this site, although two were at nearby Chichester Harbour in 2003/04.

Lesser Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna javanica

Escape

Native Range: S & E Asia

GB max: 1 Sep

NI max: 0

A single Lesser Whistling Duck was recorded at Poole Harbour in September and again in January. The only previous WeBS record

was of one at the Severn Estuary in 1994/95.

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

International threshold (British population): 320

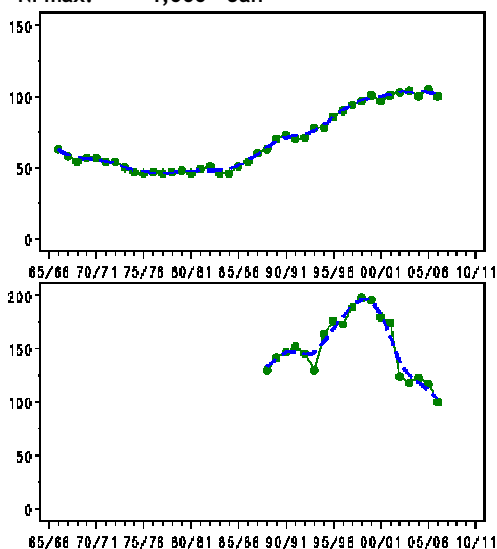
International threshold (Irish population): 100

Great Britain threshold: 375

All-Ireland threshold: 120

GB max: 20,415 Nov

NI max: 1,600 Jan



— Annual Index
--- Trend

Figure 3.a, Annual indices & trend for Mute Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

National totals of Mute Swan for both Britain and Northern Ireland were only slightly lower than in the previous year. The long-term trend in Britain has been one of steadily increasing numbers since about 1985/86. However, in the last five or so years numbers have been more stable and in 2006/07 showed a slight decline, albeit well within the expected range of fluctuation. Numbers were typical

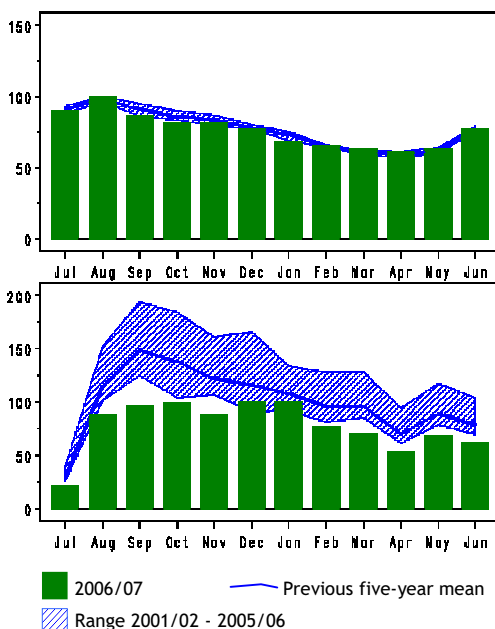


Figure 3.b, Monthly indices for Mute Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

throughout the year and only below average in September, October and January and even then only slightly. As would be expected for this long-lived and largely sedentary population, numbers at key sites varied little. Worthy of note is the count at the Inner Firth of Clyde, which was the highest ever recorded at this site. Also, numbers at Loch of Harray remained low for

the second year running after halving in 2005/06.

Figures from sites in Northern Ireland indicate that Mute Swan numbers have declined fairly dramatically since 1999/2000 and continued to do so in 2006/07, the index reaching a new low.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Fleet and Wey	1,368	1,092	1,118	1,147	1,013	Aug	1,148
Somerset Levels	(1,098)	(883)	1,076	1,024	1,164	Jan	1,091
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,510	920	949	1,024	770	Sep	1,035
Ouse Washes	782 ¹²	606	806 ¹²	427 ¹²	508 ¹²	Nov	626
Rutland Water	594	542	593	510	588	Jul	565
Tweed Estuary	414	582	614	460	583	Aug	531
Hornsea Mere	486	527 ¹²	520 ¹²	462	375	Jul	474
Loch of Harray	672	522	467	251	263	Dec	435
Loch Leven	550	526	202	319	542	Aug	428
Loch Bee (South Uist)	297	407	630	267	401	Dec	400
Severn Estuary	284	(318)	390	390	421	Feb	371
Abberton Reservoir	387	379	318	373	(399)	Aug	371
Tring Reservoirs	447	322	404	346	294	Jan	363
Upper Lough Erne	323	272	449	300	457	Jan	360
Lower Lough Erne	199	286	300	309	266	Mar	272
Strangford Lough	180	193	94	133	(59)	Mar	150
Upper Quoile River	71	108	108	134	121	Jan	108
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Inner Firth of Clyde	(122)	73	74	(82)	759	Dec	302

Black Swan

Cygnus atratus

Escape[†]
Native Range: Australia

GB max: 52 Mar
NI max: 1 Sep

Black Swans were recorded at 73 sites across Britain and at two, Loughs Neagh and Beg and Strangford Lough, in Northern Ireland. The British monthly maximum of 52 was slightly higher than for the previous year and the highest since 2000/01, albeit by just four birds. Just over half of all

reports were of single birds, although 16 sites held peaks of three or more. Whilst eight birds were present at Abberton Reservoir in August, Arnot Park Lake remains a regular site for this species with up to seven birds present here throughout the year.

Sites with three or more birds in 2006/07[†]

Abberton Reservoir	8 Aug	Blatherwyke Lake	3 Oct
Arnot Park Lake	7 Nov	Copgrove Lake	3 Mar
Ramsbury Lake	6 Mar	Fairburn Ings	3 Nov
Stour Estuary	5 Feb	Kingsmill Reservoir	3 Jul
Fleet and Wey	4 Aug	Little Paxton Gravel Pits	3 Sep
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	4 Dec	Ouse Fen & Pits (Hanson/RSPB)	3 Jun
River Kennet: R'bury-Chilton Foliat	4 May	Roath Park Lake	3 Jun
Avon Valley: S'bury-Fordingbridge	3 Dec	Walthamstow Reservoirs	3 Sep

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

Black-necked Swan

Cygnus melanocoryphus

Escape
Native Range: South America

GB max: 2 Oct
NI max: 0

Two Black-necked Swans were present at Ramsbury Lake in Wiltshire during October. The only previous record of this species

during WeBS was of four in 2004/05, again at Ramsbury Lake.

Bewick's Swan

Cygnus columbianus

GB max: 3,775 Dec
NI max: 1 Jan

International threshold (bewickii): 200
Great Britain threshold: 81
All-Ireland threshold: 20*

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

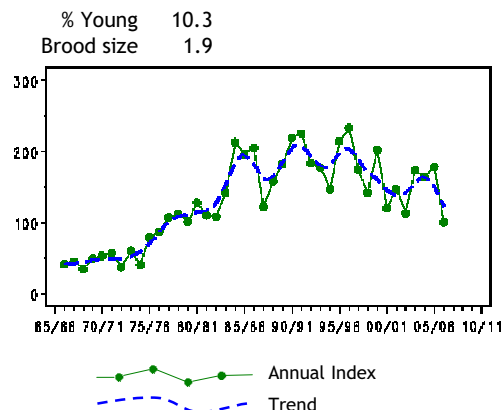


Figure 4.a, Annual indices & trend for Bewick's Swan for GB.

The counted British maximum was half that of the previous year and the lowest for over 30 years. This slump was reflected in the national index, which fell by around 45% and brought about a drop in the underlying trend. Much of the decline nationally was due to low numbers of Bewick's Swans in the East Anglian fens, with lower numbers recorded at the Ouse and the Nene Washes; both important night-time roost sites. Birds that roost here disperse during the day onto the surrounding farmland and as water levels at the Ouse Washes were particularly high during 2006/07 it might have been that fewer birds were gathering here. What seems more likely, however, is that birds are remaining further east and for longer, perhaps as a response to milder winters. There are also signs of a genuine decline at the population level (R. Hearn *pers. comm.*). Evidence for this can also be seen

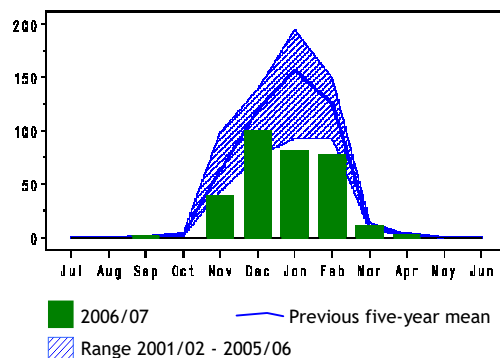


Figure 4.b, Monthly indices for Bewick's Swan for GB.

in The Netherlands, where fewer birds have been counted during the past two years and in 2006/07 many birds had started returning eastwards already by the end of December (K. Koffijberg *pers. comm.*). Numbers at Martin Mere and the Ribble Estuary were the lowest recorded.

Breeding success was assessed at sites throughout Britain including Slimbridge, the Ribble Estuary, Martin Mere and at several sites in eastern England. On average, young birds made up 10.3% of flocks and successful pairs raised an average of 1.9 young. The proportion of young recorded in Britain was similar to that in the Netherlands and was slightly below the average of the past five years.

Only one bird was recorded in Northern Ireland, at Loughs Neagh and Beg in January.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ouse Washes	5,177 ¹¹	6,330 ¹¹	7,491 ¹¹	5,449 ¹¹	3,407 ¹¹	Dec	5,571
Nene Washes	1,068 ¹¹	790 ¹¹	262 ¹¹	1,649 ¹¹	703 ¹¹	Jan	894
St Benet's Levels	287	280					284
Hickling Broad			282 ⁵¹				282
Severn Estuary	345 ⁷	230	223 ⁷	225	196	Feb	244
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	240	220	237	231	147 ¹¹	Feb	215
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Old Romney		184 ¹²					184
Martin Mere and Ribble Estuary	315	221	175	(132)	24	Nov	184 ▼
Walland Marsh	220	148	140	135	130	Jan	155
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(70)	(92)	(101)	63	55	Feb	76

Whooper Swan
Cygnus cygnus

GB max: 7,439 Nov
NI max: 2,944 Mar

% Young 15.4
Brood size 2.4

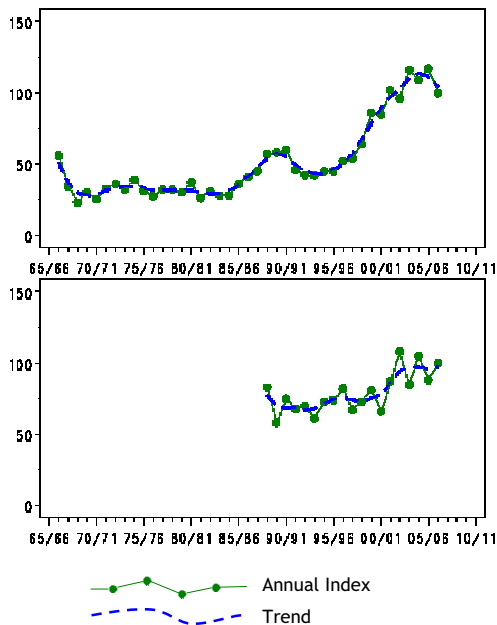


Figure 5.a, Annual indices & trend for Whooper Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

The counted maximum of Whooper Swan in Britain was around 8% lower than that of the previous year, while in Northern Ireland peak numbers rose by almost 7%. A slight drop was also noted in the British index; this however, follows a notable rise over the past few years. The Northern Ireland index rose slightly although the underlying trend suggests numbers have remained fairly stable here over the past few years. Peak numbers at the Ouse Washes, the country's key site for this species, were similar to those of recent years. Mean peak numbers at Martin Mere and Ribble Estuary were slightly below those of the previous

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ouse Washes	2,745 ¹¹	3,624 ¹¹	4,397 ¹¹	3,547 ¹¹	3,756 ¹¹	Jan	3,614
Martin Mere and Ribble Estuary	1,770 ⁷	1,597	2,081 ⁵¹	1,666	1,451	Dec	1,713
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,514	(867)	1,543	1,268	1,731	Mar	1,514
Lough Foyle	3,284	680	950 ⁵¹	1,030	1,042	Oct	1,397
Upper Lough Erne	658	855	1,123	822	956	Jan	883
Loch of Strathbeg	(67)	794	355	680	285	Dec	529

International threshold: 210
Great Britain threshold: 57
All-Ireland threshold: 130

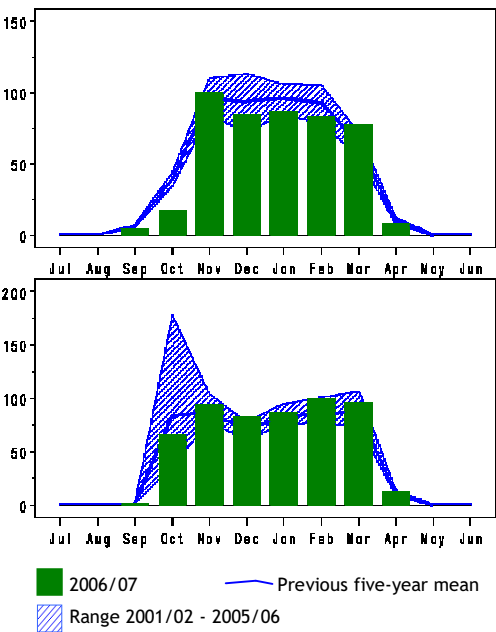


Figure 5.b, Monthly indices for Whooper Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

five-years. In Northern Ireland, Loughs Neagh and Beg held their highest numbers ever. Breeding success was assessed at sites throughout Britain and Ireland and on average flocks consisted of 15.4% young, while the average brood size of successful pairs was 2.4. Both of these values were slightly below average, which may be explained by a high number of non-breeding sub-adults following a good breeding season two years earlier, as well as poor breeding success in Icelandic birds as a consequence of a cold spring.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Solway Estuary	340 ⁷	(250)	508 ⁵¹	(150)	(194)	Feb	424
Dalreoch					264	Dec	264 ▲
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	141	322	275	518	61	Oct	263
Loans of Tullich			253 ⁵¹				253
Wigtown Bay	(135)	255	205	(165)	(164)	Jan	230 ▲
Bridge of Crathies			(220) ⁵¹				(220)
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Norham West Mains			184 ⁵¹	194 ¹²	196	Jan	191
Loch a' Phuill (Tiree)	168	118	194	259 ¹²	152 ¹²	Oct	178
River Nith: Keltonbank-Nunholm	(108)	165	(104)		(90)	Jan	165
Loch Heilen		24	60	360	(197)	Mar	160
Nene Washes	143 ¹¹	111 ¹¹	104 ¹¹	215 ¹¹	216 ¹¹	Jan	158
Lawers Pond				204 ¹²	101	Nov	153
R Clyde: Carstairs to Thankerton	(101)	91	110	220	188	Dec	152
Black Cart Wtr: Gryfe-White Cart	176 ²	151 ²	112	112	(78)	Nov	138
Lindisfarne	(90)	139	71	119 ¹⁰	(170)	Mar	125
Leven Cut			125 ⁵¹				125
River Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	116	109	75	132	162	Jan	119
Strathearn South Kinkell			111 ⁵¹				111
Tarbat Ness	0	44	306	202	0		110
East Fenton Farm Reservoir			89	156	65	Nov	103
Loch Insh and Spey Marshes	91	110	124	82	96	Mar	101
Loch of Lintrathen	166	93	69		54	Dec	96
Castron Quarry	67	164	96	66	65	Nov	92
Dornoch Firth	23	94	18	84	241	Dec	92 ▲
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	60	165	27	166	36	Feb	91
Vasa Loch Shapinsay	68	96	119	12	147	Nov	88
Folly Loch and Fairnington Fields	4	126	5	138 ¹²	156	Mar	86 ▲
Loch of Wester			128	56	70	Nov	85
St Benet's Levels	58	108					83
Loch of Spiggie	86	89	69	77	94	Nov	83
Lower Derwent Ings	91	52	102	74			80
River Eden: Grinsdale-Sandsfield				98	59	Dec	79
Montrose Basin	10	24	28	181	147	Jan	78 ▲
River Earn - Lawhill Oxbows	0	0	113	193	49	Jan	71
Kinnordy Loch	82	35	96	58	82	Feb	71
Tynninghame Estuary	3	135	31	53	128	Mar	70 ▲
Merryton Haughs				62	72	Dec	67
Loch Leven	13	19	66	17	220	Feb	67 ▲
Farmland near Monymusk			65 ⁵¹				65
Loch Moraig	20	121	87	37	55	Nov	64 ▲
Morecambe Bay	6	(20)	63	(100)	(84)	Nov	63
Loch Tuamister (Lewis)			63 ⁵¹				63
Farmland near Whitekirk			61 ⁵¹				61
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(5)	(8)	(17)	16	104	Feb	60 ▲
Warkworth Lane Ponds	128	47	0	0	125	Dec	60 ▲
Lower Teviot Valley	(29)	(30)	(58)	(13)	(36)	Dec	(58)
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	191	150	244	242	199	Nov	205
Lough McNea Lower			124	103	108	Mar	112
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Killmister Loch					51	Jan	51
Milldam and Balfour Mains Pools	41	86	0	84	45	Jan	51
Broubster Leans			75 ⁵¹	49	41	Feb	55
Drem Pools			8	115	0		41
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Whittledene Reservoirs	14	36	19	24	123	Mar	43
Loch of Mey	60	39	35	54	63	Feb	50
Lochwinnoch	(40)	36	20	25	63	Feb	37
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Northern Ireland							
Upper Quoile River	6	10	9	0	104	Nov	26

Chinese Goose

Anser cygnoides

Escape
Native Range: E Asia

GB max: 17 Oct
NI max: 2 Jan

The counted British maximum of Chinese Geese (the domestic strain of Swan Goose) was just two higher than during the previous year. Chinese Geese were recorded at eight sites in Britain and just one, the Outer Ards shoreline, in Northern Ireland. Diss Mere in Suffolk remains the

site holding the largest numbers of this species with up to five birds here throughout the year. Ellesmere Lakes and Oerley Reservoir, both in Staffordshire, also remain regular sites with peak counts of four and three respectively.

Bean Goose

Anser fabalis

International threshold: 800
Great Britain threshold: 4*
All-Ireland threshold: +

GB max: 312 Dec
NI max: 0

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

% Young 18.2
Brood size 2.2

Almost the entire British wintering population of Taiga Bean Geese (*Anser fabalis fabalis*) can be found at just two sites, the Slamannan Plateau and the Middle Yare Marshes. Numbers at the Slamannan Plateau peaked slightly lower than the all-time high of the previous year, representing the first decline here for 15 years. Typically, most birds arrived during October, although many left a month earlier than usual and numbers had fallen by over one third by January.

A decrease was also witnessed at the Middle Yare Marshes as numbers fell to their lowest level since the late 1970s; this is more in line with the current trend, which has shown fewer birds using this site since the mid-1990s. The majority of birds arrived much later than usual, with the peak being in February. Consequently, numbers in February were five times higher than the month's average.

The low numbers of Taiga Bean Geese recorded at both of the key sites was possibly a consequence of mild winter temperatures across their wintering range. This might also explain the atypical timing of birds at both sites. During 2006/07, breeding success was assessed at the Slamannan Plateau, with 18.2% young and 2.2 young per successful pair.

Away from the two main sites Taiga Bean Geese were also noted at Loch of Elvister and the Orwell Estuary, where two were present in February. The majority of other records are most likely to be Tundra Bean Geese (*Anser fabalis rossicus*) and this race was certainly noted at North Warren and Thorpeness Mere, the Severn Estuary (one in December), Brading Harbour and the Colne Estuary (one in March). The six birds at the Ouse Washes in February were also most likely to be Tundra Bean Geese.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Slamannan Area	231 ³	235 ³	262 ³	300 ³	255 ³	Nov	257
Middle Yare Marshes	183 ⁴	140	156 ³²	169 ⁵³	111 ³²	Feb	152
Ouse Washes	8 ¹²	4	87 ¹¹	9 ¹²	6 ¹²	Feb	23
Walland Marsh	0	0	86	0	0		17
N. Warren & Thorpeness Mere	0	3 ¹²	38	10 ¹²	2	Dec	11
Somerset Levels	(0)	0	14	(0)	0		5
Balnakeil Bay		5 ¹²					5
Dungeness Gravel Pits	7	7	0		0		4
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Whitemoor Haye	0	0	17	0	0		3
Fleet and Wey	6	0	0	0	0		1
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Loch of Elvister	0	0	0	0	6	Oct	1
Brading Harbour	2	0	0	0	4	Jan	1

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

International threshold: 2,700

Great Britain threshold: 2,400

All-Ireland threshold: +

GB max: 203,167 Nov

NI max: 54 Oct

% Young 19.3

Brood size 2.2

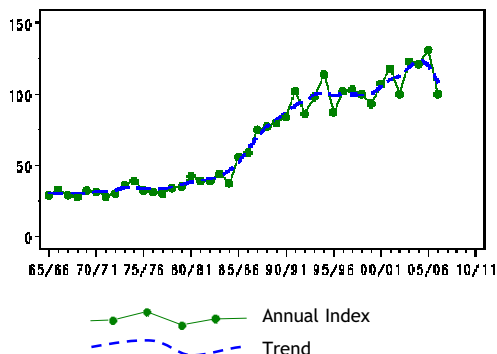


Figure 6.a, Annual indices & trend for Pink-footed Goose for GB.

During winter, Pink-footed Geese predominantly feed on farmland and generally only gather at waterbodies during overnight roosts. As such, this species is not well covered by standard WeBS counts so dedicated roost counts are undertaken at key sites, which add to coordinated census data collected through the Goose and Swan Monitoring Programme (www.wwt.org.uk/research/monitoring).

The national index for Pink-footed Goose, which is based on these roost data, fell by around 25% in 2006/07. Although fewer sites were counted than in the previous year, the total population estimate of 229,123, including estimated numbers for those sites not counted, was

also around 25% lower than the 2005/06 estimate. These data revealed that during October numbers were highest in east central Scotland and by November numbers here had declined but increased in eastern England, which held over half of all birds counted by December.

This pattern of movement within Britain was noted at a number of key sites. Peak numbers were recorded at many Scottish sites, such as Loch of Strathbeg, Montrose Basin, Loch Leven and the Ythan Estuary & Slains Lochs, during October, while numbers at sites such as Scolt Head, Holkham Marshes and Breydon Water & Berney Marshes peaked later in the winter. Peak numbers at Scolt Head on the North Norfolk Coast were around a third of those in the previous year and were the lowest recorded here for some time, although there is a great deal of interchange between the Norfolk roosts.

Breeding success was assessed at a number of locations throughout Scotland and England. The proportion of young birds in flocks was averaged at 19.3%, although this varied from 16.2% in east central Scotland to 21.7% in northeast Scotland. The mean brood size for pairs with any young was 2.2, which was equal to the mean of the preceding ten years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Scolt Head	62,500 ¹³	80,000 ¹¹	66,000 ¹²	55,000 ¹³	17,200 ¹³	Dec	56,140
Holkham Marshes	33,800 ¹³	47,750 ¹³	58,000 ¹²	70,000 ¹³	69,100 ¹³	Dec	55,730
Loch of Strathbeg	39,900	66,000 ¹³	65,000 ¹³	68,000 ¹³	37,396	Oct	55,259
West Water Reservoir	(40,000) ¹³	34,210 ¹³		57,382 ¹³	43,252 ¹³	Oct	44,948
Snettisham	37,050 ¹³	27,350 ¹³	35,360 ¹²	49,610 ¹³	33,485 ¹³	Nov	36,571
Southwest Lancashire	31,645 ¹³	27,025 ¹³	43,950 ⁵	31,860 ¹³	39,030 ¹³	Nov	34,702
Montrose Basin	11,500 ¹³	10,149 ¹³	31,896 ¹³	30,181 ¹³	25,000 ¹³	Oct	21,745
Morecambe Bay	14,600 ⁵	17,050 ⁵	26,910 ⁵	20,980 ¹³	(7,145)	Dec	19,885
Loch of Skene	(8,420) ¹³	(8,500) ¹³	12,000 ¹³	17,730 ¹³	22,930 ¹³	Nov	17,553
Aberlady Bay	22,200 ¹³	15,040 ¹³	18,430 ¹³	14,250 ¹³			17,480
Loch Leven	(12,874) ¹³	15,120 ¹³	14,750 ¹³	22,175 ¹³	14,600 ¹³	Oct	16,661
Loch Spynie	11,700 ¹³	11,100 ¹³	27,000 ¹³	23,000 ¹³	9,000 ¹³	Oct	16,360
Ythan Estuary and Slains Lochs	19,600 ¹³	19,200 ¹³	16,200 ¹³	(1,800)	10,360 ¹³	Oct	16,340
Findhorn Bay		25,000 ¹³	18,000 ¹³	9,400 ¹³	3,800 ¹³	Oct	14,050
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	7,100	17,100	12,784	11,213	17,800 ¹³	Jan	13,199
Solway Estuary	(4,075)	(10,243)	2,612 ¹³	(6,862)	23,313 ¹³	Feb	12,963
Carsebreck and Rhynd Lochs	10,320 ¹³	11,450 ¹³	8,770 ¹³	11,130 ¹³	12,600 ¹³	Apr	10,854

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Easterton - Fort George				10,000 ¹³			10,000
Loch of Lintrathen	(6,440) ¹³	11,100 ¹³	8,921 ¹³	9,790 ¹³	7,040 ¹³	Oct	9,213
Hule Moss	5,850 ¹³	14,200 ¹²	7,950 ¹³	6,000	2,250 ¹³	Oct	7,250
Dupplin Lochs	9,500 ¹³	14,100 ¹³	2 ¹³		1,450 ¹³	Nov	6,263
Horsley Mere	4,000 ¹³	8,200 ¹³	7,231 ¹²	6,240 ¹³	5,430 ¹³	Oct	6,220
Heigham Holmes				5,670 ¹³			5,670
Wigtown Bay	(4,747)	8,662 ¹³	(7,219)	802	(6,695)	Mar	5,625
Norton Marsh				4,500 ¹³	6,650 ¹³	Oct	5,575
Simonswood Moss				5,000 ¹³			5,000
Humber Estuary	4,620 ¹³	6,562	(5,638)	3,909	3,780 ¹³	Oct	4,901
Lindisfarne	(3,679)	1,496	5,300 ¹³	5,800 ¹³	(6,132)	Oct	4,682
Loch Tullybelton			6,500 ¹³		2,700 ¹³	Oct	4,600
Holme and Thornham				5,000 ¹³	4,000 ¹³	Dec	4,500
Rossie Bog			6,290 ¹³	2,250 ¹³			4,270
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	14,050 ¹³	546	900	3,226	1,116	Feb	3,968
Lake of Menteith	4,515 ¹³	4,026 ¹³	5,357 ¹³	11	5,129 ¹³	Oct	3,808
River Tay - Haughs of Kercock			4,000 ¹³	3,500 ¹³	3,702 ¹³	Dec	3,734
River Nith: Keltonbank -Nunholm	(470)	(3,710)	(950)		(2,525)	Feb	(3,710)
Holburn Moss	4,250 ¹³	6,500 ¹³	2,300 ¹³	2,950 ¹³	2,400 ¹³	Dec	3,680
R Clyde: Carstairs to Thankerton	3,350	5,300	(3,050)	4,500	1,540	Dec	3,673
Tay and Isla Valley	2,497 ¹³	4,134 ¹³	4,000	3,500	3,702	Dec	3,567
Cameron Reservoir	3,000	8,900 ¹³	2,692 ¹³	521	399	Dec	3,102
Skinflats	1,900 ¹³	3,250 ¹³	2,530 ¹³	3,980 ¹³	2,950 ¹³	Oct	2,922
Fala Flow	2,790 ¹³	5,450 ¹³	741 ¹³		2,170 ¹³	Oct	2,788
Strathearn (West)	4,100 ¹³				1,125 ¹³	Nov	2,613
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Folly Loch and Fairington Fields	32	5,500	4	4,563 ¹³	2,000	Nov	2,420 ▲
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Tay Estuary	2,700 ¹³	2,425 ¹³	4,560 ¹³	0	50	Nov	1,947
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Middlemuir (New Pitsligo Moss)					9,662 ¹³	Nov	9,662
Winter Loch (St Fergus)					6,620 ¹³	Nov	6,620
Floodwater south of Braco					3,290 ¹³	Mar	3,290
South Medwin Pools	1,500	1,000	3,000	700	3,000	Jan	1,840
Munlochy Bay	210 ¹³	2,800 ¹³	127	1,200 ¹³	2,600 ¹³	Nov	1,387
Clatto Reservoir	320	800 ¹³	170 ¹³	0	2,500	Feb	758
Cresswell Pond	100	1	149	1	3,000	Nov	650

European White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons albifrons

International threshold: 10,000

Great Britain threshold: 58

All-Ireland threshold: +

GB max: 1,341 Feb

NI max: 0

% Young 16.7

Brood size 1.9

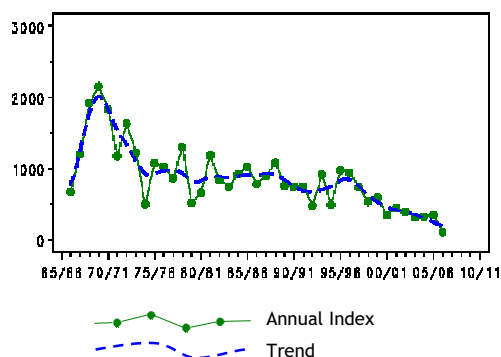


Figure 7.a, Annual indices & trend for European White-fronted Goose for GB.

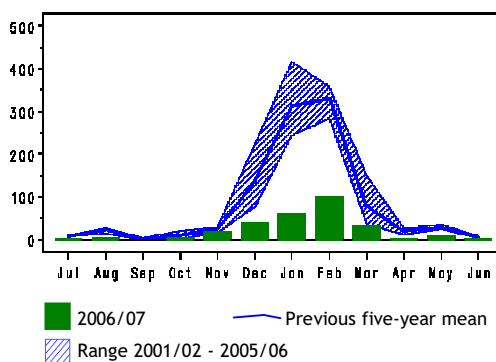


Figure 7.b, Monthly indices for European White-fronted Goose for GB.

The number of European White-fronted Geese wintering in Britain has declined dramatically over the past 35 years and in 2006/07 numbers fell by around 70% to their lowest level thus far. Peak numbers in Britain reached only 57% of the previous year's total and were the lowest ever recorded. As highlighted by the monthly indices, winter numbers were clearly well below any recorded in recent years. With the exception of the Swale Estuary, peak numbers at key sites were well below any recorded during the previous five years, and even here they only surpassed one count during this period. Furthermore, it was the first time in twenty years that no birds were recorded at Breydon Water and Berney Marshes.

Breeding success was assessed at a total of four sites in east and west England and on average flocks comprised of 16.7% young, while the average brood size of successful pairs was 1.9. Both of these values were considerably below the average of the past ten years and were possibly due to low rodent abundances in Arctic breeding areas, which increases predation pressure on the geese. However, whilst lower breeding success will have had an influence on the low numbers seen in 2006/07, it is likely that a continuing shift of the wintering range eastwards onto the continent, because of milder winter weather, is the most important factor driving this change.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Severn Estuary	990 ¹⁰	780 ¹²	745 ⁷	750	542 ⁷	Jan	761
Swale Estuary	655	327	(398)	430	355	Feb	442
North Norfolk Coast	347	540	340	404	200	Feb	366
N. Warren & Thorpeness Mere	310 ¹²	190 ¹²	302	330 ¹²	180	Feb	262
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	181	455	267	290	0		239
Dungeness Gravel Pits	460	205 ¹²	110	250	1	Jan	205
Walland Marsh	300	140	137	310	127	Feb	203
Alde Complex	385	54	25	12	0		95
Middle Yare Marshes	89	120	109	76	66	Jan	92
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Thames Estuary	89	42	(16)	86	0		54
Minsmere	1	175	9	2	0		37

Greenland White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons flavirostris

International threshold:	270
Great Britain threshold:	209
All-Ireland threshold:	110

GB max: 12,536 Mar
NI max: 89 Dec

% Young 10.2
Brood size 3.36

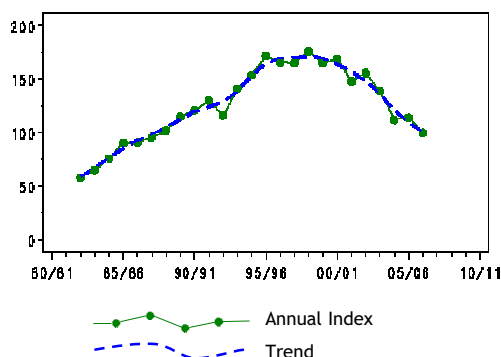


Figure 8.a, Annual indices & trend for Greenland White-fronted Goose for GB.

The annual census by the Greenland White-fronted Study was carried out in Britain

during December 2006 and March 2007, when totals of 12,271 and 12,536 were recorded, respectively. During both surveys the vast majority of geese were found in Scotland and around half of these were on the island of Islay. Although no figures were available for many sites in Ireland, March totals for Wexford Slobs were unusually high.

These figures represent a further decline in this population within Britain of around 12%. In autumn 2006, the decision to ban the hunting of Greenland White-fronted Geese on migration in Iceland took effect. In the first winter of this ban there is little sign that the population decline has slowed, although it might be a few years before increased juvenile survival is evident in the

breeding population.

The key site for this species remains the island of Islay and peak numbers here rose slightly compared to the previous year, but remain below the five-year mean. Other sites at which current peaks were below average were Tiree, Rhunahaorine and Isle of Colonsay. Numbers on Bute peaked higher than during the past five years. Up

to 90 birds remained on the Dyfi Estuary throughout the winter.

Breeding success was assessed within a number of flocks on both Islay and elsewhere. The percentage of young within flocks varied from 0% to almost 24% and although the average of 10.2% was slightly above that of recent years it was still lower than the long-term average.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Island of Islay	12,254 ⁶	11,272 ⁶	8,350 ⁸	7,456 ⁸	7,902 ⁸	Mar	9,447
Machrihanish	1,501 ⁸	1,377 ⁶	1,407 ⁸	1,433 ⁸	1,716 ⁸	Dec	1,487
Tiree	1,093 ⁸	1,093 ¹⁶	1,133 ³²	1,112 ⁸	974 ⁸	Feb	1,081
Rhunahaorine	1,450 ⁸	1,156 ⁶	894 ⁸	955 ⁸	940 ⁸	Mar	1,079
Isle of Coll	611 ⁸	495 ⁸	814 ⁸	778	687 ⁸	Dec	677
Isle of Colonsay	87 ⁸	79 ⁶	1,718 ⁶	111 ⁵⁴	76 ³³	Dec	414
Keills Peninsula & Isle of Danna	411 ⁸	377 ⁶	338 ⁸	344 ⁸	350	Nov	364
Stranraer Lochs	365 ⁸	281 ⁸	257 ⁸	282	360	Dec	309
Isle of Lismore	310 ⁸	290 ⁸	310 ⁸	320 ⁸	273 ⁸	Mar	301
Loch Lomond	450 ⁸	260 ⁸	240 ⁸	210 ⁸	210 ⁸	Mar	274
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Loch Ken	275 ⁸	300 ⁸	215 ⁸	220 ⁸	206 ⁸	Mar	243 ▲
Clachan and Whitehouse	250 ⁸	215 ⁶	209 ⁸	193 ⁸	186 ⁸	Mar	211 ▲
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Bute	186 ⁸	183 ⁸	206 ⁸	190 ⁸	209 ⁸	Mar	195

Lesser White-fronted Goose

Anser erythropus

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: Scandinavia, E Europe, Asia

GB max: 2 Dec
NI max: 0

Lesser White-fronted Geese were present at four sites during 2006/07. All records were of single birds and were at Testbourne Estate between September and May, Tundry

Pond in October, Middle Yare Marshes in December and Llyn Traffwll from April to June.

Greylag Goose

Anser anser

Icelandic Population

International threshold: 870
Great Britain threshold: 819
All-Ireland threshold: 50

GB max: 73,740 Dec
NI max: **0

% Young 20.6
Brood size 1.9
** although small numbers of Icelandic Greylag Geese do occur in Northern Ireland these remain difficult to distinguish from the re-established population.

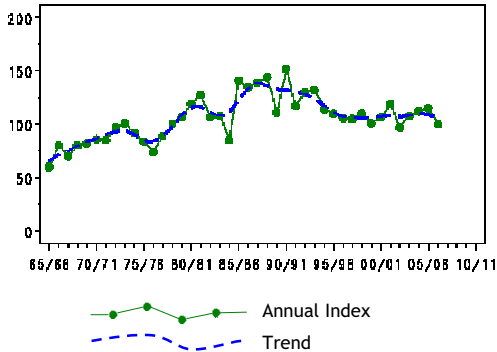


Figure 9.a, Annual indices & trend for Icelandic Population for GB.

Greylag Geese from the Icelandic breeding population winter almost solely in northern Britain, with smaller numbers in Ireland, the Faeroes, Norway and Iceland. The British counted maximum was around 5% lower than that of the previous year; this decline was evident in the index, which fell slightly following around ten years of relative stability. The peak number recorded by the Icelandic-breeding Goose Census (IGC) was 80,042, which was recorded over the period 11th-12th November; this includes counts from

Iceland, the Faeroes and Ireland. A population estimate of 82,339 was derived from this figure, which took into account missing sites and overlap with birds assumed not to be of Icelandic origin. This figure was around 16% lower than that of the previous year, although was thought to have included undercounts from several areas including Iceland and Shetland.

Typically, very few birds arrived in Britain by mid-October and those that had were concentrated at sites around north and eastern Scotland. The majority of the remaining birds arrived between mid-October and early November, by which time almost three-quarters were in northern Scotland and most of the remainder in east central Scotland, although by December many had dispersed from this latter area.

Counts in Orkney were particularly high in December, while numbers at Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth were lower than usual, the peak being recorded in November. Numbers recorded at Caithness Lochs were also much lower than the high counts of the previous two seasons. Other sites at which relatively high numbers were recorded include the Dornoch Firth, Dalreoch and Strathearn (West). Overall, the continuing trend is that of a concentration of Icelandic Greylag Geese on Orkney, where the largest numbers are found on West Mainland.

Breeding success was assessed at several sites across Scotland and revealed an average of 20.6% young; this was slightly above average. Brood size of successful pairs, estimated at 1.9, was lower than in recent years but was based on only a small sample.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Orkney	26,505 ¹³	43,097 ¹³	42,697 ¹³	40,403 ¹³	55,521 ¹³	Dec	41,645
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	(7,028) ¹³	6,523 ¹³	8,313 ¹³	13,269	2,463 ¹³	Nov	7,642
Caithness Lochs	2,792 ¹³	2,971 ¹³	11,755 ¹³	8,727 ¹³	2,734	Mar	5,796
Easterton - Fort George				3,500 ¹³			3,500
Loch of Skene	(1,021) ¹³	(2,600) ¹³	4,500 ¹³	4,700 ¹³	500 ¹³	Nov	2,664
Dornoch Firth	2,916	2,259	1,720	1,632 ¹³	2,858	Dec	2,277
Loch Spynie	3,200 ¹³	2,200 ¹³	1,000 ¹³	2,600 ¹³	500 ¹³	Oct	1,900
Tay and Isla Valley	(1,700)	2,425 ¹³	1,930	2,155	700	Nov	1,803
Bute	1,380 ¹³	2,000 ¹³	1,780 ¹³	2,110 ¹³	1,051	Nov	1,664
Dalreoch					1,580	Dec	1,580 ▲
Loch Fleet Complex	817 ¹³	905 ¹³	990 ¹³	3,000	1,762	Oct	1,495
Loch Garten	1,000 ¹³	1,000 ¹³	2,100 ¹³	1,700 ¹³	1,150	Nov	1,390
Forth Estuary	1,564	792	802	2,107	(471)	Mar	1,316
Kilconquhar Loch	1,552	1,620	1,200 ¹³	1,500 ¹³	5	Oct	1,175
Lower Teviot Valley	(1,800)	525	(833)	1,250	310	Dec	944
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Strathearn (West)	1,050 ¹³	1,050 ¹³			3,170 ¹³	Nov	1,757
Gadloch	994	650	650	1,020 ¹³	1,100	Feb	883 ▲
Beaully Firth	2,010 ¹³	280 ¹³	600 ¹³	1,380 ¹³	35 ¹³	Dec	861
Munlochy Bay	3,130 ¹³	110 ¹³	20 ¹³	1,000 ¹³	40 ¹³	Dec	860
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Loch Ken	(1,106)	(1,280)	1,023	380 ¹³	211	Jul	800
Loch of Strathbeg	415 ¹³	295 ¹³	801 ¹³	(853) ¹³	285 ¹³	Nov	530
Lochs Davan and Kinord	2,700 ¹³	920 ¹³	135	105	300 ¹³	Dec	832
Inner Firth of Tay		754 ¹³	842 ¹³	850 ¹³	157 ¹³	Nov	651
Haddo House Lakes	975	1,100 ¹³	603	520	435 ¹³	Dec	727
Findhorn Bay		190 ¹³	1,100 ¹³	200 ¹³	1,200 ¹³	Nov	673
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Summerston and Millichen Flood	453	600	405	(340)	1,058	Dec	629
East Chevington Pools	1,500	650	400	480	1,000	Oct	806

Northwest Scottish Population

GB max: ****8,246** Sep
NI max: **0**

% Young 31.2
Brood size 2.8

International threshold: 100
Great Britain threshold: 90

***Includes counts from Tiree undertaken in August*

The counted British maximum, which was slightly lower than that of the previous year, was derived from counts obtained during the August Greylag Goose Census. However, as the Uists were counted in early September we have nevertheless included these counts in the national total so that counts are comparable with those of previous years.

Numbers on the Uists were around 10% lower than during the previous year. Nevertheless, the September count was thought to have been an undercount as the February census revealed that numbers were only around 5% below those of the previous year. The August census for Tiree revealed that numbers had increased by around 14% compared to the previous year;

this represents an average increase of around 7.5% per annum over the past ten years.

Breeding success was assessed on Tiree and Coll and was deemed to have been good. Of the flocks assessed, 31.2% were young birds, post fledging, and 2.8 young per successful pair was recorded. Both of these figures were slightly above the average of the previous five years.

A full census of Greylag Geese in Scotland is scheduled for August 2008. However, as the northwest Scotland and re-established populations of Greylag Geese have both expanded in range and in areas of overlap are indistinguishable, difficulties are likely to occur in assigning birds to each population.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Tiree	3,516 ³²	3,563 ³²	4,005 ³²	3,892 ³²	4,005 ³²	Aug	3,796
North Uist	2,261 ¹⁷	2,642 ¹⁷	2,970 ⁴⁷	2,671 ³⁴	2,318 ³⁴	Sep	2,572
South Uist	2,095 ¹⁷	2,102 ¹⁷	2,111 ⁴⁷	2,119 ³⁴	1,719 ³⁴	Feb	2,029
Isle of Coll	675 ¹⁶	740	960	980 ⁵⁴	856 ⁵⁴	Mar	842
Benbecula	488 ¹⁷	319 ¹⁷	414 ⁴⁷	473 ⁴⁷	224	Jan	384
Machrihanish				272 ⁵⁴			272
Moine Mhor and Add Estuary				254 ⁵⁴			254
Isle of Islay		16	42	509	166 ⁵⁴	Mar	183
Tayinloan				141 ⁵⁴			141
Kentra Moss & Lower Loch Shiell	93	102	136	107	90	Jan	106
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Melbost / Tong / Broad Bay		4	(86)	137	99	Feb	82
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Loch Ewe			70	25	110	Feb	68
Melbost / Tong / Broad Bay		4	(86)	137	99	Feb	82

Re-established Population

Naturalised re-establishment[†]

GB max: **27,746** Nov
NI max: **1,992** Mar

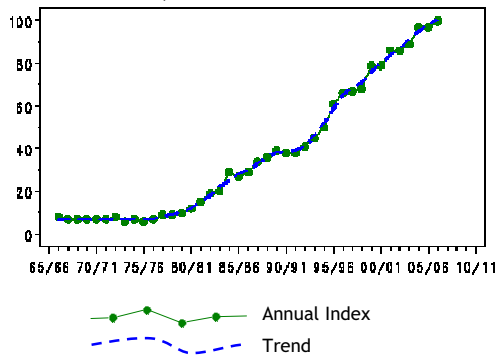


Figure 10.a, Annual indices & trend for Re-established Population for GB.

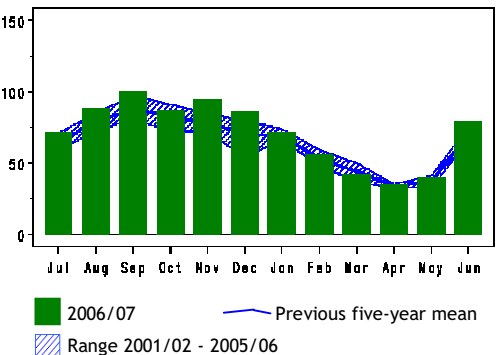


Figure 10.b, Monthly indices for Re-established Population for GB.

The counted British maximum was very similar to that of the previous year and was the second-highest on record. The British index, which has increased dramatically over the past 25 years continued to rise in 2006/07 to a new all-time high. The index has now doubled in just 12 years. Numbers were above average throughout the year and higher than those of the past five years in August, September, November, December and June.

The second-highest count at any single site was of 1,338 at King's Dyke Pit Whittlesey, which was almost four times that of the previous year and the highest ever recorded there. Another huge increase was noted at Gunthorpe Gravel Pits / River

Trent, at which numbers peaked at 11 times those of the previous year. Higher than average counts were also noted at Alton Water, Middle Yare Marshes and Point of Ayre Gravel Pit, whereas low totals were noted at Breydon Water & Berney Marshes and Lavan Sands.

The Northern Ireland maximum was around 10% lower compared to the figure of the previous year. Peak numbers at the top three sites in the regions, Loughs Neagh and Beg, Lough Foyle and Strangford Lough, were all considerably lower than their five-year means. Most other sites in the region held similar numbers to average, although the February count at Tullyratty Lake was the highest ever recorded here.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Nosterfield Gravel Pits	1,746	(1,338)	2,215	1,663			1,875
North Norfolk Coast	1,657	(1,767)	(1,371)	(1,435)	1,725	Aug	1,716
Lower Derwent Ings	1,219	1,047	927	1,401			1,149
The Wash	895	1,011	1,038	1,005	1,337	Oct	1,057
Tophill Low Reservoirs	828	683	867	1,400	1,190	Sep	994
Livermere and Ampton Water	806	543	1,176	879			851
Eccup Reservoir	1,000	1,084	750	546	825	Sep	841
Kirkby-on-Bain Gravel Pits	900	1,072	925	387	724	Nov	802
Humber Estuary	1,053	(769)	821	525	(778)	Oct	800
Swale Estuary	760	718	625	1,062	(548)	Nov	791
Bolton-on-Swale Gravel Pits	1,060	710	729	774	615	Aug	778
Ouse Washes	691 ¹²	883 ¹²	782	671	810	Oct	767
Morecambe Bay	(741)	629	786	881	(617)	Oct	765
Hornsea Mere	465	642	785	1,145	615	Aug	730
Tattershall Pits	730	1,015	445	950	400	Jan	708
Baston and Langtoft Gravel Pits	600	803					702
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	1,176	407	950	424	494	Dec	690
Hickling Broad	28	1,106	831	909	529	Sep	681
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	723	720	1,148	491	279	Oct	672
Llyn Traffwll	769	891	341	395	941	Jul	667
Alton Water	577	571	419	612	1,056	Dec	647
Dungeness Gravel Pits	(502)	667	529	676	661	Aug	633
Little Paxton Gravel Pits	746	652	518	511	672	Oct	620
Orwell Estuary	587 ¹⁰	677 ¹⁰	543	(618)	671	Sep	620
Medway Estuary	(135)	(146)	589 ¹⁰	(122)	(449)	Jan	589
WWT Martin Mere	580	600	620	530	532	Sep	572
Lavan Sands	1,037	623	406	560	214	Nov	568
Ardleigh Reservoir	560						560
River Cam - Kingfishers Bridge	223	(193)	(248)	800	580	Dec	534
Middle Yare Marshes	569	473	396	444	772	Sep	531
Welbeck Estate	(248)	(196)	(418)	480	549	Oct	515
Point of Ayre Gravel Pit	185	402	550	530	900	Aug	513
Scorton Quarry		460	800	196	590	Mar	512
Llyn Alaw	538	557	273	765	409	Sep	508
Hardley Flood	515	487	515				506
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,179	1,270	1,005	(630)	662	Feb	1,029
Lough Foyle	1,207	518	1,291	1,129	974	Mar	1,024
Strangford Lough	577	373	307	355	277 ¹⁰	Dec	378
Belfast Lough	144	132	125	137	196 ¹⁰	Nov	147
Lower Lough Erne	(71)	(54)	137	140	140	Mar	139
Ballysaggart Lough	70	66					68
Tullyratty Lake	0	57	29	0	213	Feb	60
Upper Lough Erne	18	(15)	52	62	73	Jan	51

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain[†]							
King's Dyke Pits Whittlesey		78	68	366	1,338	Nov	463
Gunthorpe GPs & River Trent	64	15	17	114	1,254	Sep	293
Windermere	683	12	32	488	985	Jun	440
Langtoft West End Gravel Pits	441	54	330	207	850	Dec	376
Hay-a-Park Gravel Pits	183	560	472	132	825	Dec	434
Ouse Fen & Pits (Hanson/RSPB)	338	432	368	272	669	Jun	416
Clifford Hill Gravel Pits	292	571	422	367	634	Sep	457
Ripon Race Course Gravel Pit		333	640	400	594	Nov	492
Selset Reservoir	221	215	102	47	540	Jun	225
Wicken Fen	270	204		149	530	Nov	288
Seaton Gravel Pits and River	185	365	110	683	512	Jan	371
Scaling Dam Reservoir	315	377	405	503	500	Jul	420

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set qualifying levels of 500 and 50 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

Bar-headed Goose

Anser indicus

Escape
Native Range: Asia

GB max: 28 Oct
NI max: 1 Sep

Bar-headed Geese were noted at 45 sites throughout Britain as well as at Belfast Lough in Northern Ireland and Grouville Marsh in the Channel Islands. The peak total of 28 in October was slightly higher than in the last two years. The highest site total was 12 at the Deben Estuary in October. Up to four birds were seen throughout the year

at Kilmardinny Loch and three were at Blenheim Park Lake in July and August. A single bird was at Belfast Lough in September and November, only the second time that this species has been noted for WeBS in Northern Ireland, the first being at Larne Lough in 2001/02.

Snow Goose

Anser caerulescens

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: N America

GB max: 16 Nov
NI max: 0

The British maximum of 16 in November was the lowest ever recorded by WeBS and was just over a quarter of the previous year's total. Lower numbers than in recent years at the Lower Windrush Valley and the Isle of Coll contributed to this; these two sites held over 50 birds between them in 2005/06. The highest single site total in 2006/07 was 14 at Blenheim Park Lake in

September, which was followed by a count of 13 in October. Although most records refer to escaped individuals, possible candidates for being genuine vagrants were at Martin Mere in January, East Fortune Ponds in October to December, Loch of Skail in December and Loch of Strathbeg in October.

Ross's Goose

Anser rossii

Escape and possible vagrant
Native Range: N America

GB max: 2 Sep
NI max: 0

The only record of Ross' Goose was of two at Stiffkey Fen on the North Norfolk Coast in September. Up to two birds have

regularly been recorded in this area in since 2002/03.

Emperor Goose

Anser canagicus

Escape

Native Range: Alaska, NE Siberia

GB max: 22 Jul

NI max: 0

The usual flock of Emperor Geese was present at South Walney Island in Morecambe Bay throughout 2006/07, peaking at 21 throughout the latter half of

2006. The only records away from Morecambe Bay were of singles at Derwent Water in July and Lackford Lakes Nature Reserve in October.

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Naturalised introduction†

Native Range: N America

GB max: 52,486 Nov

NI max: 1,036 Jan

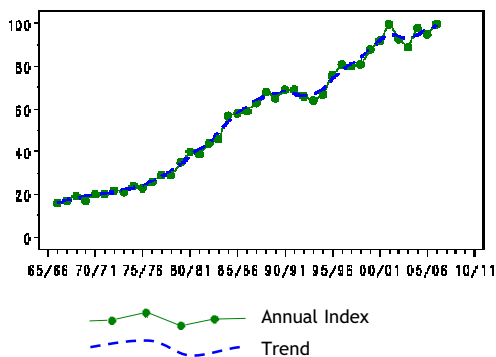


Figure 11.a, Annual indices & trend for Canada Goose for GB.

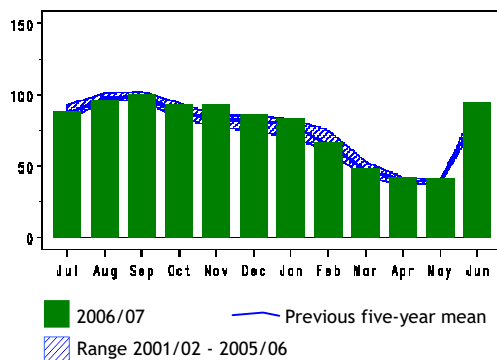


Figure 11.b, Monthly indices for Canada Goose for GB.

The long-term increase in Canada Geese in Britain looks set to continue with the index rising to its highest level to date. Numbers were above average in every month during 2006/07 and were higher than during the preceding five-years in November, December and June.

Higher than average counts were received from Osberton, Ribble Estuary, Stormont Loch & Haremyre and River Avon - Ringwood to Christchurch, whilst the peak count at Colliford Reservoir was the highest ever recorded at the site and was a third

higher again than the five-year mean. Numbers at both the Stour Estuary and Bewl Water were lower than during recent years, both being the lowest at each site since 2000/01.

The Northern Ireland maximum was slightly higher than during the previous year with nearly all of this total being made up of birds at Upper and Lower Lough Erne. Peak numbers at Strangford Lough were only slightly below average while those at Lough McNea Lower were two-thirds lower than during the previous year.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 600 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Dyfi Estuary	3,029	2,437	2,380	2,947	2,420	Nov	2,643
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(2,568)	1,529	2,316	1,987	2,087	Jun	2,097
Mersey Estuary	1,437	1,177	2,088	2,188	1,923	Nov	1,763
Colliford Reservoir	1,884	1,284	1,477	841	2,439	Jun	1,585
Rutland Water	1,276	1,369	1,244	1,070	1,118	Jun	1,215
Fairburn Ings	823	893		2,509	609	Jul	1,209
Arun Valley	(1,754)	866	1,236	742	1,076	Dec	1,135
Taw-Torridge Estuary	1,179	526	(912)	(1,109)	986	Jan	942
Alde Complex	(514)	(896)	1,246	780	684	Dec	903
Ellesmere Lakes	751	812	1,348	668	873	Sep	890

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Doxey Marshes SSSI	(637)	881	893	(601)	802	Jan	859
Stour Estuary	983	1,135	978	622	569	Jan	857
Bewl Water	885	960	986	900	548	Jan	856
Osberton				427	1,212	Nov	820
Harewood Lake	700	686	870	888			786
Pitsford Reservoir	967	727	441	682	832	Aug	730
Ribble Estuary	443	(493)	552	626	(1,245)	Dec	717
Tring Reservoirs	962	560	1,550	308	186	Feb	713
Medway Estuary	(150)	(234)	365 ¹⁰	935 ¹⁰	823	Jan	708
Cleddau Estuary	765	655	622	585 ¹⁰	890	Dec	703
Chew Valley Lake	830	785	810	650	435	Jun	702
Somerset Levels	1,378	555	432	778	367	Dec	702
Walthamstow Reservoirs	945	837	784	278	636	Jun	696
College Lake Reserve	444	773	919	973	260	Jan	674
King's Bromley Gravel Pits	712	776	721	586	542	Jul	667
Thames Estuary	(706)	(329)	786	672	494	Dec	665
Watermead Country Park South	610	632	723	648	668	Jul	656
Foulridge Reservoirs					633	Dec	633
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	678	699	577	564	(488)	Jun	630
Humber Estuary	(456)	525	868	729	363	May	621
Exe Estuary	510	617	772	680	502	Nov	616
Roadford Reservoir	501	611	763	650	552	Jan	615
Carsington Water	848	680	500	490	546	Sep	613
Southampton Water	609	777	(548)	(674)	384	Dec	611
Llangorse Lake	700	415	936	537	450	Jan	608
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Upper Lough Erne	293	263	384	484	665	Jan	418
Lower Lough Erne	110	(343)	217	532	365	Jan	313
Strangford Lough	323	307	229	260 ¹⁰	247	Oct	273
Lough McNea Lower			40	147	44	Mar	77
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain[†]							
Stormont Loch and Haremyre	66	6	2	518	1,000	Sep	318
R. Avon: Ringwood-Christchurch	408	424	289	316	(917)	Nov	471
Eccup Reservoir	300	478	90	969	905	Jan	548
River Cam - Kingfishers Bridge	328	(385)	317	660 ¹²	800	Sep	526
Nevern Estuary	0	16	70	323	780	Sep	238
Windermere	584	(433)	376	505 ¹²	747 ¹²	Oct	553
Tamar Lakes		400	45	675	732	Aug	463
The Wash	896	368	376	384	677	Nov	540
Croxall Pits	513	511	309	460	665	Jan	492
Fal Complex	53	132	(6) ¹⁰	204	655	Oct	261
Bar Mere	480	400	473	600	625	Jan	516
Gunthorpe GPs & River Trent	279	33	168	103	622	Sep	241
Severn Estuary	371	(655)	409	580	606	Nov	524
Grimley New Workings		75	682	(420)	(600)	Jan	444

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set qualifying levels of 600 and 50 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

Cackling Goose

Branta hutchinsii

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: N America

GB max: 2 Jan
NI max: 0

Cackling Goose has been formally recognised as a species since the 2004/05 report following taxonomic changes suggested by Sangster *et al.* (2005). Cackling Geese were noted at just two sites during 2006/07, Bothal Pond in January and

February and Pennington Flash from September to March. As the Bothal Pond bird arrived in Northumberland with a flock of wild Barnacle Geese this bird at least was suspected to be of wild origin.

Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis

Greenland Population

GB max: **66,102 Mar
NI max: 0

Barnacle Geese that breed along the east coast of Greenland winter exclusively in northwest Scotland and Ireland. Due to the dispersed nature of the winter population a full census is carried out every five years (with the most recent undertaken in spring 2008). However, many of the main sites are surveyed annually by SNH and the Uists Greylag Goose Management Committee.

The counted British maximum was around 17% higher than that of the previous year. Although the majority of counts from which this total was derived were undertaken in March, those on North Uist were actually carried out in February but as

International threshold: 560
Great Britain threshold: 450
All-Ireland threshold: 90

** includes counts from North Uist undertaken in February

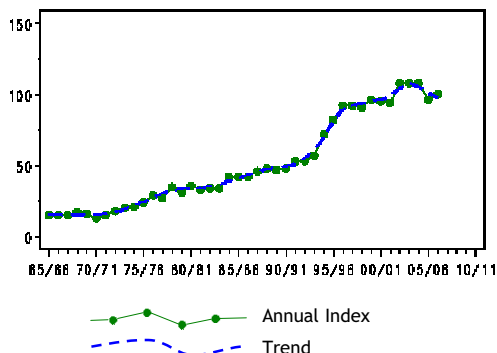
little or no interchange was thought to have taken place between the counts these figures have been combined. Islay held around 80% of the Greenland Barnacle Geese counted in 2006/07; numbers here have increased by around 10% per year over the past five years to the current record level. This increase was reflected at several other key sites including Tiree, Isle of Coll and Colonsay/Oronsay. Outside of the main wintering areas a flock of 198 birds, assumed to be from this population, was recorded at the Dyfi Estuary in December. Breeding success data for 2006/07 are not yet available.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Island of Islay	36,478 ³³	40,018 ⁶	44,186 ⁶	47,303 ⁵⁴	52,709 ³³	Mar	44,139
Tiree	2,786 ³²	2,796 ³²	3,273 ³²	3,474 ³²	4,323 ³³	Mar	3,330
North Uist	2,732 ¹⁷	560	2,836 ⁴⁷	4,648 ⁴⁷	2,119 ⁴⁷	Feb	2,579
South Walls (Hoy)	1,800 ³³		1,920 ³³	2,000 ³³	1,710 ³³	Nov	1,858
Isle of Coll	1,010 ³²	792 ⁶	1,297	2,240 ⁵⁴	2,456 ³³	Mar	1,559
Colonsay/Oronsay	510 ³²	793 ⁶	1,000 ⁶	716 ³³	1,332 ³³	Dec	870
Sound of Harris (NW) (Harris)	706 ³¹						706
North Sutherland	669 ³¹						669
Balnakeil Bay		826 ¹²		970	130	Feb	642
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Keills Peninsula and Isle of Danna	400 ⁶	640 ⁶	708 ⁶	468 ⁵⁴	627 ³³	Mar	569

Svalbard Population

GB max: 29,635 Dec
NI max: 0
% Young 14.6
Brood size 2.2

International threshold: 270
Great Britain threshold: 220



Peak numbers at the country's key site, the Solway Firth, were recorded in December and although counts were coordinated across this site they were carried out over a particularly high tide and unusually high levels of movements within the site were noted. Hence, the total recorded may have incorporated some double counting and for this reason the national index is based on an adopted population estimate of 25,000. Nonetheless, this still represents an increase of about 5% on the estimate for the previous year. This increase means that the underlying trend has remained fairly

stable over the past ten years, only increasing by around 5% since 1997/98.

The vast majority of birds arrived back in Britain during October and small flocks were noted at Tynninghame Estuary, Carnbee Reservoir, East Chevington Pools and the Forth Estuary, but none of these birds remained for long. Elsewhere, however, small numbers remained at Loch of Strathbeg all winter and at Lindisfarne

Sites of international importance in the UK	02/03	03/04
	28,447 ⁷	27,510 ⁷
Solway Firth	138	95
Loch of Strathbeg	(140)	786
Lindisfarne		

until January, though it cannot be certain that the latter were not Russian breeding birds that normally winter on the continent.

Breeding success was assessed throughout the winter at Caerlaverock with an average of 14.6% of birds being first-year birds. This was the highest proportion since 1998/99 and, along with an average brood size of 2.2 per pair with young, suggested a good breeding season in 2006.

04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
28,270 ⁷	28,450 ⁷	29,370 ⁷	Dec	28,409
1,100 ³²	2,168	181	Oct	736
160	300	1,202	Oct	612

Naturalised Population

Naturalised establishment[†]

GB max: 1,077 Feb
NI max: 279 Oct

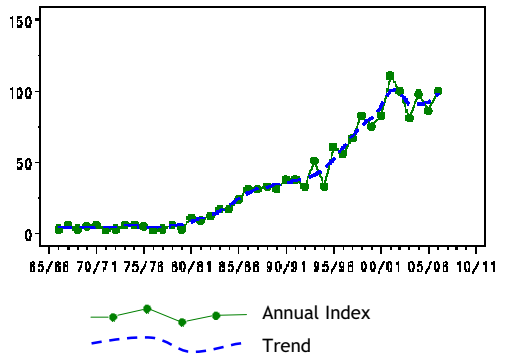


Figure 13.a, Annual indices & trend for Naturalised Population for GB.

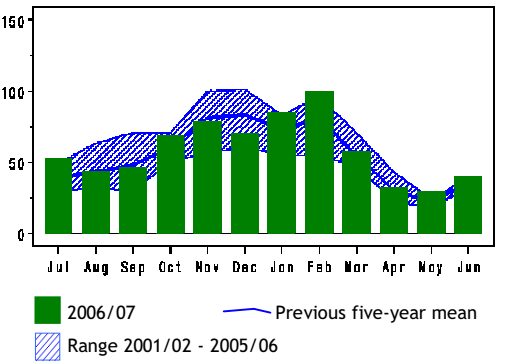


Figure 13.b, Monthly indices for Naturalised Population for GB.

Following a notable increase in the 20 years up to 2000/01, the index for the naturalised population of Barnacle Goose has remained relatively stable. Numbers were similar to average throughout the year, although in January and February were higher than those of the previous five years. The maximum counts for both Britain and Northern Ireland were higher than those of the previous year by around 12% in both cases. Strangford Lough remains the key site in Northern Ireland for naturalised Barnacle Geese, and numbers here have increased over the past few years, reaching their highest level to date in October.

In Britain, the highest total at any single site during 2006/07 was 359 at Benacre Broad in September. Only one other site, the Humber Estuary, held in excess of 300

birds, while a further six sites held in excess of 100 birds. Numbers at both Ullswater and the Severn Estuary have increased in recent years and reached their highest and second-highest levels, respectively. Peak numbers at Lound Waterworks were a quarter of those of the previous year. Site peaks in East Anglia vary greatly as the birds use a wide network of lakes, many of which are small and not counted for WeBS.

Counts of Barnacle Geese are assigned as naturalised birds purely on the basis of geographical location and as a result some extralimital birds from the Svalbard and Greenland populations (or North Russia/East Baltic birds from the wintering flocks in the Netherlands) may have been incorrectly assigned.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Lound Waterworks				393	104	Feb	249
Willington	84	298					191
Benacre Broad	120	250	130	52	359	Sep	182
Humber Estuary	(74)	80	(200)	88	318	Feb	172
Roxton Gravel Pits	107	262	120	195	128	Apr	162
Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	219	158	107	62	49	Oct	119
Ullswater	2	135	110	143	186	Mar	115
Severn Estuary	96	(94)	101	111	126	Jan	109
Derwent Water	90	82	98	105	137	Jun	102
Frampton Pools	79	98	52	113	114	Mar	91
Hornsea Mere	132	96	73	71	72	Feb	89
Duddon Estuary	(1)	(65)	(0)	(88)	(10)	Dec	(88)
Minsmere	62	73	4	249	17	May	81
Middle Yare Marshes	104	72	82	74	70	Oct	80
The Hen Reedbeds		(0)	(0)	(68)	(0)		(68)
Barcombe Mills Reservoir	64	73	52	47	53	Nov	58
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Strangford Lough	223	232	248	251	279	Oct	247
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain[†]							
N. Warren & Thorpeness Mere	5	57	5	1	90	Nov	32
Osberton				4	68	Oct	36

[†] 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

Dark-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla bernicla

International threshold: 2,000

Great Britain threshold: 981

All-Ireland threshold: +[†]

GB max: 88,738 Feb

NI max: 0

% Young 2.07
Brood size 1.6

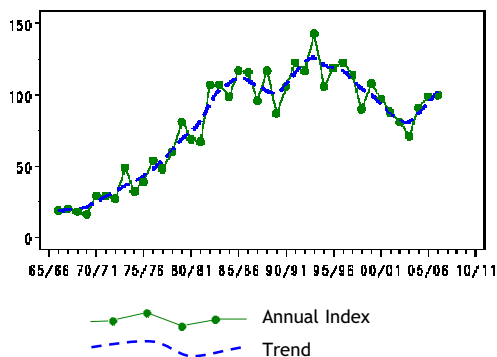


Figure 14.a, Annual indices & trend for Dark-bellied Brent Goose for GB.

The counted British maximum was around 5% higher than in the previous year and the highest since 2000/01. This increase was evident in the national index, which rose for the third consecutive year and shows clear signs of recovering following the ten year decline during the 1990s. Between November and January, numbers were higher than during the previous five years. As in 2005/06, a total of 13 sites qualified as internationally important and an additional 13 as nationally important.

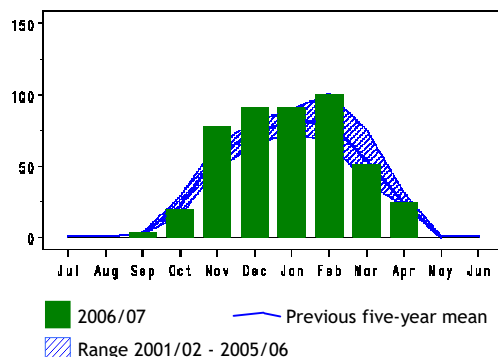


Figure 14.b, Monthly indices for Dark-bellied Brent Goose for GB.

Almost all of the key sites for this species are on the south and east coasts of England, with the only outlier being the Burry Inlet.

Peak numbers at The Wash were slightly lower than during the previous two years, although very similar to the five-year mean. However, numbers at the Humber Estuary were the highest ever recorded at this site, perhaps suggesting some redistribution out of the Wash. Numbers at Chichester Harbour peaked at their highest level since 1995/96 and numbers at nearby Langstone

Harbour fell slightly, while those at Portsmouth Harbour rose. Interestingly, the difference between the peak totals at these three sites between 2005/06 and 2006/07

was just 14 birds. Away from the Solent, counts at Dengie Flats and both the Stour and Swale Estuaries were the highest for at least 10 years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
The Wash	20,314	18,734	21,969	24,490	20,870	Feb	21,275
Thames Estuary	(8,908)	(6,741)	9,455	12,567	8,100	Nov	10,041
Chichester Harbour	7,358	8,290	7,436	9,018	9,605	Dec	8,341
North Norfolk Coast	9,180	5,722	6,607	8,831	7,091	Nov	7,486
Blackwater Estuary	6,100	4,892	7,178	5,946	(2,217)	Feb	6,029
Hamford Water	3,567	3,336	5,890	5,952	4,089	Jan	4,567
Langstone Harbour	4,686	1,765	5,069	5,496	4,650	Feb	4,333
Crouch-Roach Estuary	3,083	2,914	4,635 ¹⁰	3,520	(4,312)	Feb	3,693
Humber Estuary	(2,351)	2,118 ¹⁰	(2,667)	(2,636)	4,586	Feb	3,352
Portsmouth Harbour	(2,185)	(2,293)	1,725	2,925	3,162	Feb	2,604
Pagham Harbour	2,252	1,210	2,654	2,819	2,744	Dec	2,336
Colne Estuary	(409)	(1,959)	(2,538)	2,123	(1,296)	Feb	2,331
Dengie Flats	1,160	1,507	(1,538)	2,445	2,901	Dec	2,003 ▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
North West Solent	1,500	1,790	(2,208)	2,377	1,808	Jan	1,937 ▼
Beaulieu Estuary	1,512	835	1,498	2,173	3,439	Mar	1,891
Stour Estuary	1,753	1,914	1,782	1,617	2,063	Feb	1,826
Newtown Estuary	1,779	(1,235)	(1,444)	2,033	1,662	Feb	1,825
Swale Estuary	1,278	1,210	2,111	1,861	2,310	Jan	1,754
Deben Estuary	1,251	2,234	984	(1,449)	1,759	Jan	1,557
Exe Estuary	1,714	1,368	1,645	1,531	1,374	Nov	1,526
Fleet and Wey	398	1,337	2,625	1,436	1,554	Nov	1,470
Medway Estuary	(1,179)	836	1,834 ¹⁰	(1,515)	(1,076)	Feb	1,395
Southampton Water	1,326	1,274	1,386	(783)	1,115	Jan	1,275
Orwell Estuary	1,525 ¹⁰	1,396 ¹⁰	976	1,477	1,500 ¹⁰	Jan	1,375
Poole Harbour	(740)	(868)	(772)	1,160	1,146	Feb	1,153
Burry Inlet	917	(1,255)	811	1,121	937	Feb	1,008

Light-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla hrota

East Canadian High Arctic Population

International threshold: 260
Great Britain threshold: +[†]
All-Ireland threshold: 220

GB max: 208 Jan
NI max: 26,673 Oct

% Young 1.96
Brood size Not available

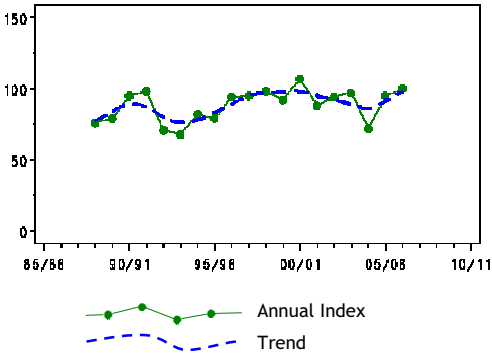


Figure 15.a, Annual indices & trend for East Canadian High Arctic Population for NI.

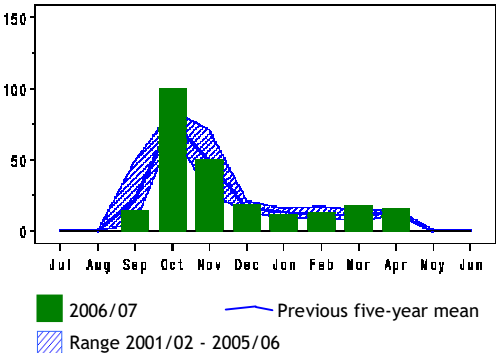


Figure 15.b, Monthly indices for East Canadian High Arctic Population for NI.

The all-Ireland Light-bellied Brent Goose census was carried out at all known sites in October 2006. A total of 28,940 was counted and over 80% of these were in Strangford Lough. The only other count that exceeded 1,000 was of 1,778 at Lough Foyle. The all-Ireland census detected a slight decline in this population, although over the long-term it has remained stable.

The Northern Ireland maximum was higher than during the previous year and although the index rose slightly the long-term trend has remained fairly stable for the past 12 years. Numbers peaked during October and were higher than during the

past five years. Average numbers were recorded throughout the rest of the year.

Strangford Lough remains the key site for this species and in October numbers recorded during core counts were above the five-year mean for this site. Peak numbers at Lough Foyle were below average, although numbers here have fluctuated over the past five years and in 2006/07 were not dissimilar to recent figures.

The highest site total from Britain was 104 at the Dee Estuary (England & Wales) in January; slightly fewer than in the past two years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Strangford Lough	17,520 ²⁹	21,500 ²⁹	26,250 ²⁹	21,885 ²⁹	24,658	Oct	22,363
Lough Foyle	1,563 ²⁹	3,277 ²⁹	1,603 ²⁹	3,968	1,850	Oct	2,452
Outer Ards Shoreline	700	642	762	618	577	Mar	660
Carlingford Lough	319	(570)	538	508	542	Feb	495
Killough Harbour	472	383	434	516	282	Mar	417
Dundrum Inner Bay	242	188	302	640	575	Feb	389
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Larne Lough	139	235	254	218	256	Dec	220
Sites with mean peak counts of 25 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Traeth Melynog		117	146	262			175
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	25	66	121	138	104	Jan	91
Inland Sea & Alaw Estuary	76	95			79	Nov	83
Loch Gruinart	2	0	284	76	1	Oct	73
Foryd Bay	9	96	115	54	47	Nov	64
Loch Ryan	25	45	67	89	37	Jan	53
Morecambe Bay	62 ¹⁰	53	31	22	65	Nov	47

† as no British threshold has been set a qualifying level of 25 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Svalbard Population

International threshold: 70
Great Britain threshold: 30*

GB max: 3,352 Oct
NI max: 0

% Young 2.5
Brood size 2.5

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

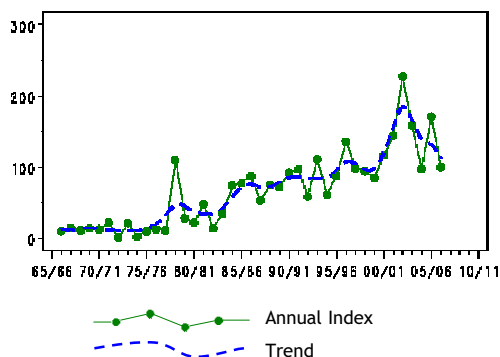


Figure 16.a, Annual indices & trend for Svalbard Population for GB.

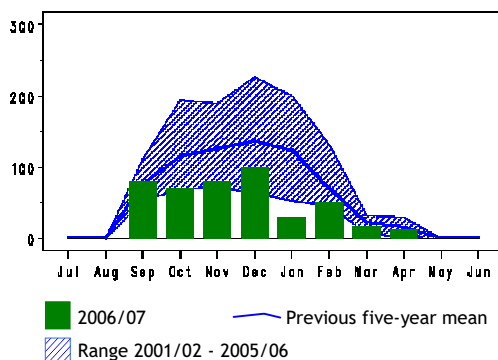


Figure 16.b, Monthly indices for Svalbard Population for GB.

This population of Light-bellied Brent Geese breed in Svalbard, Franz Josef Land and northeast Greenland and are also referred to as the East-Atlantic population. The counted British maximum of Svalbard breeding Light-bellied Brent Geese was just over 10% lower than that of the previous year. This change was due to numbers recorded at Lindisfarne, which accounts for almost the entire national total. Following a peak in the trend in 2002/03 numbers have fallen to levels more akin to those of the late 1990s. Numbers were lower than average throughout the winter, particularly

in January when numbers were lower than those of the previous five years.

Lindisfarne held peak numbers slightly below those of 2005/06, although these were similar to the five-year mean for the site. Elsewhere along the British east coast, Light-bellied Brent Geese are generally assumed to be from the Svalbard population, whereas those along the west coasts are assigned to the East Canadian High Arctic population. Other flocks of note along the east coast were at Inner Moray and Inverness Firth in January and Seahouses to Budle Point in March.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Lindisfarne	(3,150)	3,716	2,505 ¹⁰	3,688	3,350	Oct	3,315
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	100	55	18	81	43	Jan	59
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Seahouses to Budle Point	0	(0)	23	48	18	Mar	22

Black Brant

Branta bernicla nigricans

Vagrant

Native Range: N America and E Asia

GB max: 6 Feb
 NI max: 2 Nov

Black Brant were recorded in every month from November to April and at a total of ten sites in Britain and a further two in Northern Ireland. All records were of single birds except for two at Pagham Harbour in both January and February. The majority of

records were from sites along the English coast between The Wash and Portsmouth Harbour, although in November singles were at Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle in Northern Ireland.

Red-breasted Goose

Branta ruficollis

Vagrant and escape

Native Range: SE Europe, Central Asia

GB max: 4 Nov
 NI max: 0

Red-breasted Geese were noted at six sites throughout England, from Windermere in the north down through Martin Mere, the Humber Estuary and into East Anglia at the North Norfolk Coast, Middle Yare Marshes and North Warren and Thorpeness Mere. All records seem likely to have referred to escaped birds, with the exception of the

two birds seen at the Humber Estuary and later the North Norfolk Coast. First noted with Brent Geese in the Netherlands, this well-watched pair was noted at Somercotes-Donna Nook in October, Saltfleet in November and December, Grainthorpe Haven in January and then at Wells-next-the-Sea in March.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Naturalised introduction[†]

Native Range: Africa

GB max: 518 Oct
 NI max: 0

Egyptian Geese were first regularly recorded by WeBS in 1993/94, since when numbers have shown a striking increase. Nationally the index for Britain has reached

its highest-ever level, roughly doubling since 2000/01. This increase was also reflected in the British maximum, which was the highest ever recorded. Incidentally,

this species has yet to be recorded in Northern Ireland; the real stronghold remains eastern England. Despite the noticeable upsurge in the number of Egyptian Geese nationally there were few obvious increases at the key sites; 69 at Eversley Cross and Yateley Gravel Pits being one exception. Furthermore, new site records were reached at The Wash and

Theale Gravel Pits. As Egyptian Geese are regularly found near small inland waterbodies and relatively large numbers sometimes gather on flooded farmland the actual numbers present in the country far exceeds those recorded by WeBS; the British population was estimated between 2,520 and 3,160 in 2007 (Banks *et al.* 2007).

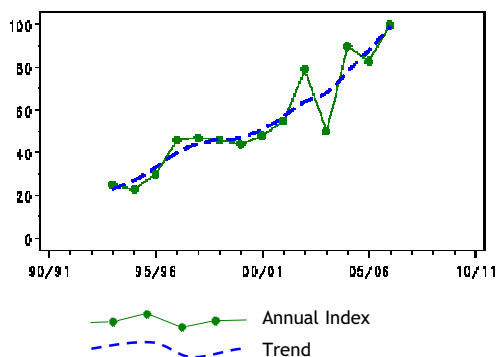


Figure 17.a, Annual indices & trend for Egyptian Goose for GB.

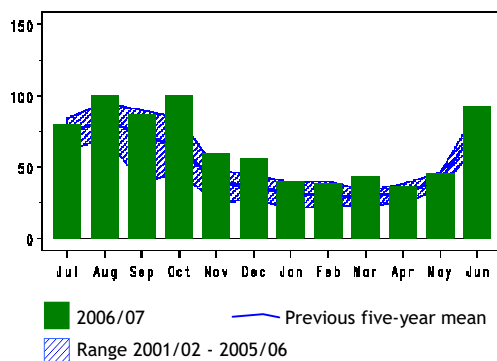


Figure 17.b, Monthly indices for Egyptian Goose for GB.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
North Norfolk Coast	233	(126)	(144)	(126)	211	Oct	222
Sennowe Park Lake Guist	98	85					92
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	63	65	82	85	55	Jul	70
Rutland Water	58	70	46	53	64	Jul	58
St Benet's Levels	88	23					56
Yare Valley: Marlingford- Bawburgh					52 ¹²	Jun	52
Middle Yare Marshes	(72)	24	(47)	(26)	(65)	Sep	47
Nunnery Lakes	21	51	36	31	36	Jun	35
Cranwich Gravel Pits	34						34
Weybread Pits	31	30	41				34
Spade Oak GP (Little Marlow)	33	6	37	49	11	Sep	27
Whitlingham Country Park	7	18	59	27	24	Jul	27
Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	2	9	6	24	69	Oct	22
Lynford Gravel Pit					(21)	Dec	(21)
The Wash	12	6	21	10	39	Nov	18
Hickling Broad	0	(0)	21	42	5	Sep	17
Lound Waterworks				16	14	Dec	15
Barton Broad	18	14	13	16	8	Jul	14
Wimbledon Park Lake	18	16	7				14
Livermere and Ampton Water	(6)	29	8	2			13
Trinity Broads	20	10	22	7	8	May	13
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain[†]							
Theale Gravel Pits	0	0	(4)	(9)	22	Dec	8
Busbridge Lakes	0	5			17	Oct	7
Bedfont and Ashford Gravel Pits	0				12	Aug	6
Salhouse Broad	9	6	11	9	11	Jun	9
Tattershall Pits	4	7	10	11	11	Oct	9
Petworth Park Lakes	1	2	3	7	10	Jan	5

[†] 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