

Ringed Teal

Callonetta leucophrys

Escape

Native Range: S America

GB max: 3 Sep

NI max: 0

Ringed Teal were present at six sites in 2006/07 with records in September, October, January and March. These were Allington Gravel Pit, Coate Water, Elton

Reservoir, Lacock Gravel Pits, River Avon (Ringwood to Christchurch) and Vyne Flood. All records were of single birds.

Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina

International threshold: 500

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 287 Dec

NI max: 0

Following a period of relative stability during the mid-1990s to early-2000s the number of Red-crested Pochard in Britain has doubled in the past four years. In line with this increase the monthly maximum was the highest recorded by WeBS. Red-crested Pochard were noted at 55 sites during 2006/07, most in England although birds were also at Rosebush Reservoir in Wales and Loch Gelly and Loch of Lintrathen in Scotland. The majority of

records were of single birds although peaks of 10 or more were noted at 10 sites, all of which were in England. The key area for this species remains the Thames Valley, especially the Cotswold Water Park where peak numbers at both the West and East areas reached their highest ever. Other site records were noted at Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits, Colne Valley Gravel Pits and Bourton-on-the-Water Gravel Pits.

	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[†]							
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(74)	114	81	119	207	Dec	130
Cotswold Water Park (East)	40	33	48	70	106	Oct	59
Lower Windrush Valley GPs	5	6	19	41	26	Jan	19
Hanningfield Reservoir	6	(43)	2	21	17	Aug	18
Baston and Langtoft Gravel Pits	8	(23)					16
Arnot Park Lake	0	12	19	18	16	Jul	13
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	7	6	16	12	22	Dec	13
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain[†]							
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	2	2	3	8	23	Dec	8
Bourton-on-the-Water GPs	0	2	5	12	17	Mar	7
Rutland Water	3	1	3	1	10	Nov	4

[†] 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

Pochard

Aythya ferina

International threshold: 3,500

Great Britain threshold: 595

All-Ireland threshold: 380

GB max: 25,160 Dec

NI max: 9,320 Jan

The number of Pochard wintering in Britain has declined steadily over the past ten years and the national index is currently at its lowest ever level. The British maximum, although higher than in 2005/06, was the second lowest for 40 years. During 2006/07, numbers were lower than average throughout the year particularly in January which were the lowest of the past five years. Higher than average numbers were noted at Loch Leven, Chew Valley Lake, both east and west Cotswold Water Park

and the Ouse Washes (the latter in contrast to the picture for many dabbling ducks), whilst numbers were low at Hornsea Mere.

Following a dramatic decline in the three years up to 2003/04, Pochard numbers in Northern Ireland seem to be showing tentative signs of recovery, although they remain well below those prior to the crash. Peak numbers at the region's principal site for this species, Loughs Neagh and Beg, rose for the second year running. Numbers at Upper Lough Erne also rose in 2006/07,

although remain slightly below the site average.

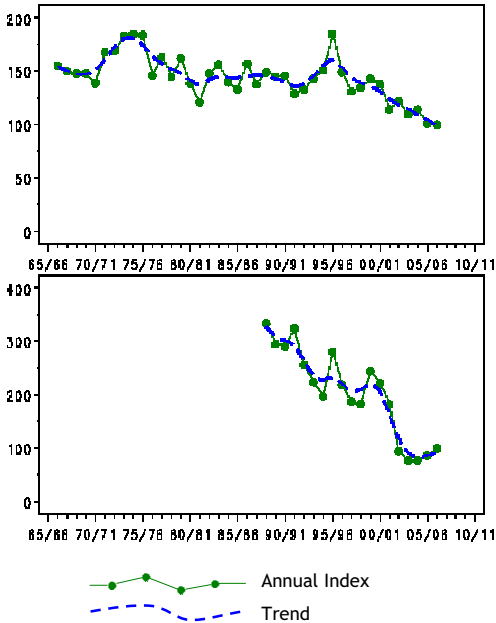


Figure 26.a, Annual indices & trend for Pochard for GB (above) & NI (below).

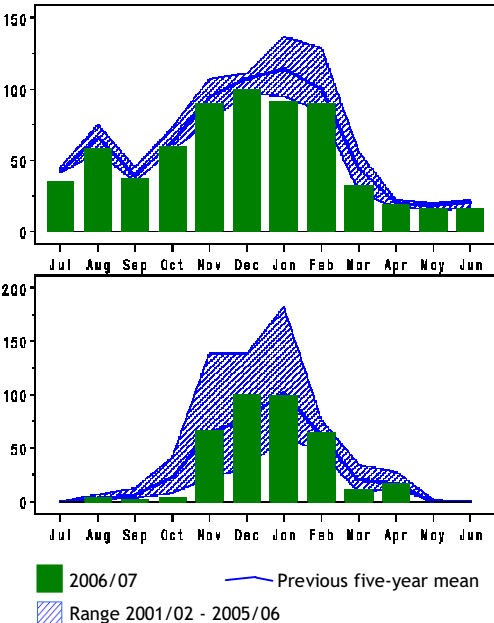


Figure 26.b, Monthly indices for Pochard for GB (above) & NI (below).

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	9,082	7,835	6,764	8,256	8,884	Jan	8,164
Abberton Reservoir	4,325	5,290	3,188	2,852	3,167	Nov	3,764
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Ouse Washes	4,583	3,304 ¹²	2,134 ¹²	1,227	4,197	Feb	3,089
Loch Leven	2,934	2,548	2,193	1,715	3,666	Oct	2,611
Hornsea Mere	1,415	1,325	1,150	1,150	710	Jan	1,150
Dungeness Gravel Pits	765	855	788	1,053	1,045	Aug	901
Chew Valley Lake	475	480	635	1,580	1,220	Dec	878
Fleet and Wey	926	850	746	682	879	Nov	817
Lower Derwent Ings	1,973	1,236	39	20			817
Severn Estuary	772	905	652	760	786	Jan	775
Brogborough Clay Pit	1,207	183					695
Loch of Boardhouse	605	705	770	709	623	Dec	682
Nene Washes	2,853	66	32	88	57	Mar	619
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Upper Lough Erne	916	801	473	329	503	Dec	604
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	(442)	(203)	(56)	(12)	(296)	Jan	(442)
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Cotswold Water Park (East)	371	629	410	524	993	Oct	585
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(377)	499	(571)	573	(641)	Jan	571

Ring-necked Duck

Aythya collaris

Vagrant
Native Range: N America

GB max: 8 Feb
NI max: 0

Ring-necked Ducks were noted at 11 sites in England and a further five in Scotland. Birds were recorded in every month between July and April, peaking at eight in February. All records were of single birds except for two at College Reservoir in November and Loch

Riaghain (Tiree) in February. Long-staying birds were at Avonmouth Sewage Works between July and February, Foxcote Reservoir between December and February and Bough Beech Reservoir between February and April.

Ferruginous Duck

Aythya nyroca

Vagrant and escape

Native Range: Europe, Africa & C Asia

GB max: 2 Nov

NI max: 0

Ferruginous Duck were present at four sites with records throughout 2006/07. A long-staying individual remained at Chew Valley Lake between August and November with another record there the following June.

Singles were also recorded at Leybourne and New Hythe Gravel Pits between November and February, William Girling Reservoir in March and Blagdon Lake in June.

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

International threshold: 12,000

Great Britain threshold: 901

All-Ireland threshold: 370

GB max: 53,511 Dec

NI max: 8,851 Jan

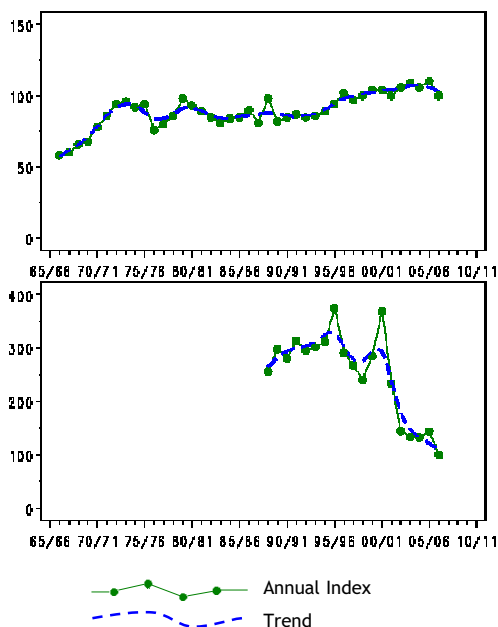


Figure 27.a, Annual indices & trend for Tufted Duck for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British trend showed a slight decline in 2006/07, following a slight but steady increase over the past decade and, as always, additional data will be required to verify if this drop represents the start of a genuine fall in numbers. The monthly indices suggest that numbers were lower than average throughout the year except in September. Although the British maximum was only slightly lower than in 2005/06, this was the lowest total for ten years.

Declines were noted at several key sites including Abberton Reservoir, Pitsford Reservoir, Hornsea Mere and Wraysbury Gravel Pits, whilst higher than average peaks were recorded at Rutland Water, Hanningfield Reservoir and the Ouse Washes

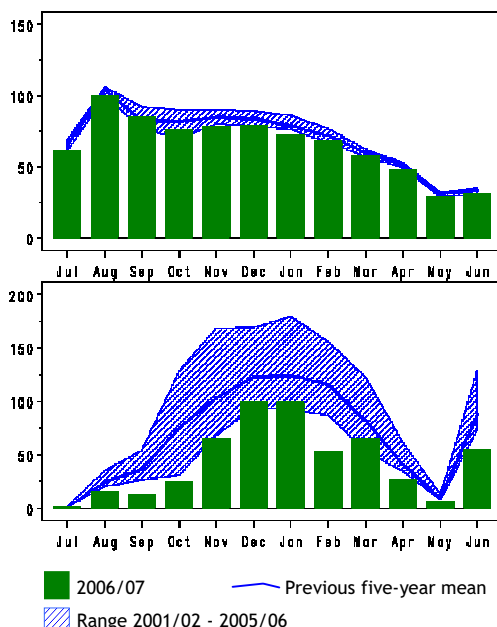


Figure 27.b, Monthly indices for Tufted Duck for GB (above) & NI (below).

(where numbers of many of the dabbling ducks were much lower than usual).

The decline in Tufted Ducks witnessed in Northern Ireland continued into 2006/07, with the index now at its lowest ever level. Numbers were well below average throughout the year and the largest declines were noted at Loughs Neagh and Beg; peak numbers here were the lowest for 20 years. The decline at Loughs Neagh and Beg, which holds the largest proportion of birds of any Northern Irish site monitored by WeBS, may be due to increased nutrient input that might have led to a change in the invertebrate community, which in turn are a major dietary component for this species (Maclean *et al* 2006). Whatever the reason

for the decline, the number of Tufted Duck wintering on the lough has fallen by over three quarters in the past ten years. In

contrast, numbers using Upper and Lower Lough Erne were at their highest of the last five years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Rutland Water	7,496	6,818	6,488	8,487	9,758	Sep	7,809
Loch Leven	4,872	3,913	3,826	3,802	3,553	Oct	3,993
Abberton Reservoir	2,487	2,067	5,112	(4,857)	1,187	Apr	3,142
Pitsford Reservoir	2,441	2,226	2,506	2,066	1,374	Sep	2,123
Hanningfield Reservoir	1,641	3,109	400	1,573	2,194	Aug	1,783
Walthamstow Reservoirs	1,867	1,772	1,771	1,828	1,516	Aug	1,751
Staines Reservoirs	1,971	1,133	792	2,844	1,865	Aug	1,721
Ouse Washes	1,192	973 ¹²	2,251 ¹²	1,140 ¹²	2,057	Feb	1,523
Chew Valley Lake	1,080	1,465	1,235	2,115	1,325	Nov	1,444
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	(915)	(325)	(129)	(64)	1,243	Feb	1,243
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	1,248	1,404	1,222	985	1,215	Nov	1,215
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(789)	1,199	960	1,199	1,372	Dec	1,183
Wraybury Gravel Pits	2,422	846	1,015	465	429	Dec	1,035
Alton Water	815	1,440	644	1,063	1,008	Nov	994
Hornsea Mere	1,225	1,050	900	840	600	Jan	923
Theale Gravel Pits	(502)	(198)	(212)	(193)	(918)	Jan	(918) ▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	9,771	8,999	9,277	7,871	6,441	Jan	8,472
Upper Lough Erne	1,065	1,236	1,295	1,457	1,478	Dec	1,306
Lower Lough Erne	635	580	674	575	705	Mar	634
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Thames Estuary	(436)	(461)	(584)	1,079	510	Nov	795
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Blagdon Lake	(123)	571	462	547	(1,131)	Aug	678
Chasewater	580		315	906	1,004	Oct	701

Scaup

Aythya marila

GB max: 3,038 Jan
NI max: 4,746 Jan

International threshold: 3,100
Great Britain threshold: 76
All-Ireland threshold: 45*

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

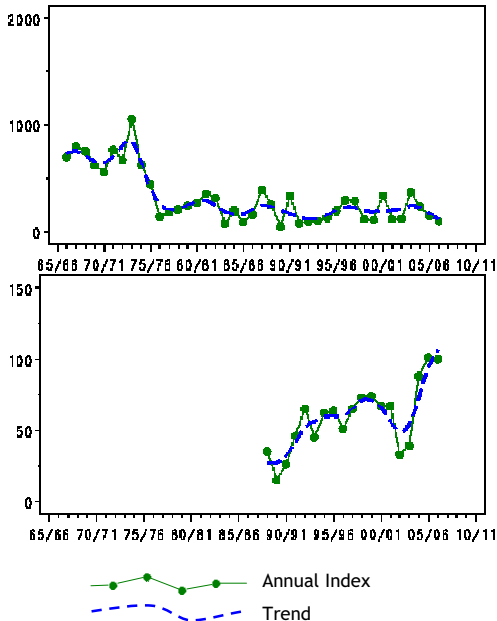


Figure 28.a, Annual indices & trend for Scaup for GB (above) & NI (below).

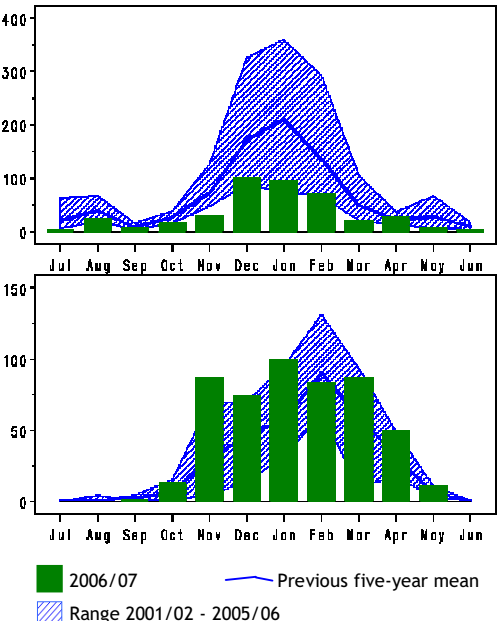


Figure 28.b, Monthly indices for Scaup for GB (above) & NI (below).

Scaup are one of the few species that are counted by WeBS in greater numbers in Northern Ireland than in Britain; in 2006/07 the British maximum was two-thirds that of the Northern Ireland total. The British trend has remained fairly stable over the past few decades and the decline seen in the past few years is within the range of fluctuation over this period. However, compared to the past five years numbers were below average throughout most of the year and in particular between November and February. In contrast, numbers in Northern Ireland were above average in all months except February. As a result, the national index was similar to that of 2005/06. Peak

numbers at the primary site, Loughs Neagh and Beg, were slightly above average, while core counts at Belfast and Carlingford Loughs were slightly below. Numbers at the top British site, the Solway Estuary, were half that of the five-year mean and as a consequence peak numbers have fallen below the internationally important threshold. It is important to recognise that getting accurate counts of this species at the larger coastal sites can be very dependent upon weather and sea-conditions on count dates. Even so, the numbers on the Forth Estuary have remained consistently low for some years now.

Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)			Ref	
Firth of Clyde	Jan	232	not available			Lewis 2008	
	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	2,565	2,674	5,144	5,826	4,349	Jan	4,112
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Solway Estuary	(1,077)	(1,782)	(4,610)	(575)	1,060	Nov	2,132 ▼
Loch Ryan	907 ¹²	986	1,577	1,020	1,047	Dec	1,107
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	923	518	2,641 ¹	576	690	Feb	1,070
Inner Loch Indaal	755	1,003					879
Loch of Harray	(185)	420	490	360	306	Dec	394
Loch of Stenness	309	266	315	306	429	Nov	325
Cromarty Firth	160 ¹	13	47	400	401	Jan	204
Dornoch Firth	163	70	150 ¹²	77	222	Dec	136
Ayr to North Troon	120	(12)	(14)				120
Auchenharvie Golf Course		145	107	97	98	Feb	112
Rough Firth	0	107	204 ¹⁰				104
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Belfast Lough	642	669 ¹⁰	1,224 ¹⁰	833	849 ¹⁰	Feb	843
Carlingford Lough	168	(158)	233	222	225	Jan	212
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Forth Estuary	130	14 ¹⁰	22	(12)	13	Dec	45
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	10	(3)	3	0	70	Jan	21

Lesser Scaup

Aythya affinis

Vagrant

Native Range: N America

GB max: 7 Feb
NI max: 0

Lesser Scaup were noted at three sites in England and eight in Scotland. Birds were noted in every month between November and April. All records were of single birds except for two at Loch Leven in February and two at Loch a` Chinn Uacraich (Coot

Loch) in Benbecula in February and March; followed by a single bird in March. The only other site at which Lesser Scaup was noted in more than one month was at Baleshare (North Uist) in January and February.

Eider
Somateria mollissima

GB max: 21,556 Jan
NI max: 2,612 Jan

International threshold: 12,850
Great Britain threshold: 730
All-Ireland threshold: 30*

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

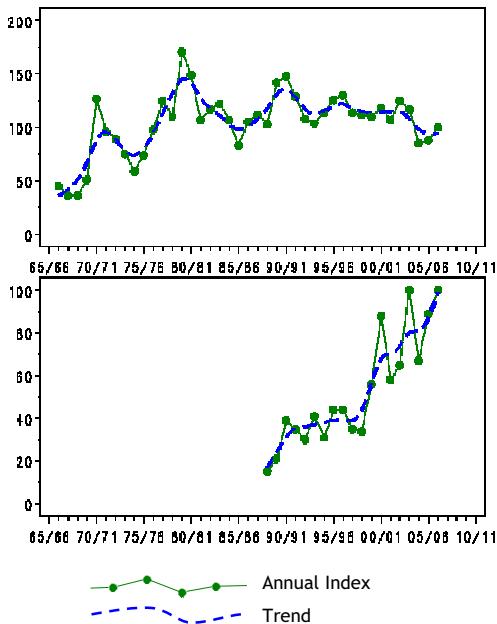


Figure 29.a, Annual indices & trend for Eider for GB (above) & NI (below).

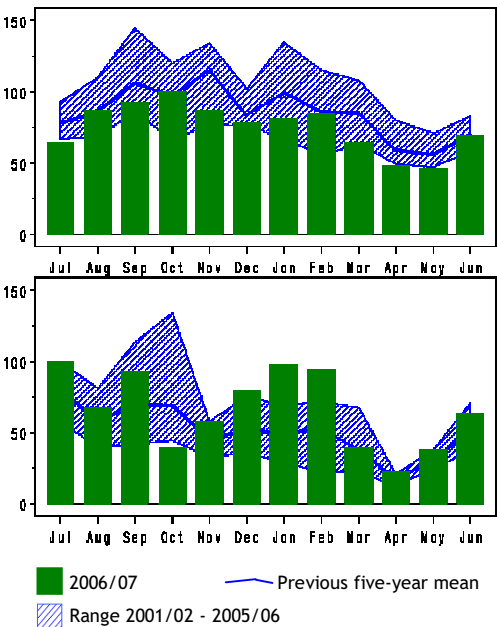


Figure 29.b, Monthly indices for Eider for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British index rose slightly, although still remains slightly below that during the period of stability between the mid-1990s and 2003/04. Numbers remained below the average of the previous five years for most of the year, only surpassing the average in August and October. The British maximum was almost a third lower than the unusually high figure recorded in the previous year, although was in line with the average of the past five years.

The Northern Ireland maximum was the second highest ever recorded by WeBS being just ten birds short of the all-time peak counted in 2003/04. This was reflected in the national index, which reached its highest level to date continuing a sharp increase since 1998/99.

This increase was noted throughout the year with numbers being above the average of the preceding five years in all months except October and with especially high numbers between December and February.

Peak numbers recorded at the greater Firth of Clyde area (again tabulated in whole and as its constituent parts) were below average for the second year running and the mean of the peak numbers here has fallen below the threshold for international importance. Similarly, the peak count at Lindisfarne was the lowest since WeBS began. The peak numbers recorded at Strangford Lough have been increasing steadily over the past four years and in 2006/07 reached their highest-ever level.

Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)	Ref
Firth of Clyde	Mar	829	not available	Lewis 2008
Moray Bay (extended)	Feb	791	not available	Lewis 2008
Scapa & North Orkney	Feb	789	not available	Lewis 2008

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
FIRTH OF CLYDE	14,297 ¹⁴	15,276 ¹⁴	13,042 ¹⁴	8,055 ¹⁴	9,590 ¹⁴	Sep	12,052 ▼
Tay Estuary	6,000	4,700	5,636	11,500	(9,164)	Jan	7,400
Forth Estuary	7,616	7,014	4,750	5,047	5,080	Aug	5,901
Aberdeen Bay offshore		1,756 ⁵²	6,003 ⁵²	5,302 ⁵²	6,269 ²⁵	Aug	4,833
Inner Firth of Clyde	4,730	6,194	4,152	3,837	4,881	Sep	4,759
Morecambe Bay	4,541	3,950	5,300 ¹⁴	3,815	3,374	May	4,196
Killantringan Bay			3,600 ¹⁴				3,600
Ythan Estuary	2,082	3,417	(4,212)	3,580	2,315	Jul	3,121
Gare Loch	2,619 ¹⁴	3,263 ¹⁴	2,713 ¹⁴	2,582 ¹⁴	2,782 ¹⁴	Sep	2,792
Montrose Basin	3,051	2,075	1,754	4,322	2,584	Dec	2,757
Irvine Bay			1,547 ¹⁴				1,547
Loch Long and Loch Goil	1,459 ¹⁴	1,390 ¹⁴	1,614 ¹⁴	1,458 ¹⁴	796 ¹⁴	Sep	1,343
Moray Firth	747	1,639	1,673	1,390	1,199	Feb	1,330
Lindisfarne	2,043	1,241	1,202 ¹⁰	1,097 ¹⁰	469	Feb	1,210
Holy Loch to Toward Point	1,146 ¹⁴	1,114 ¹⁴	2,225 ¹⁴	766 ¹⁴	634 ¹⁴	Sep	1,177
Loch Ryan	1,188 ¹⁴	1,803	1,150 ¹⁴	539	(385)	Sep	1,170
Gourock to Largs	1,773 ¹⁴	2,220 ¹⁴	614 ¹⁴	370 ¹⁴	755 ¹⁴	Sep	1,146
Dee Estuary (Scotland)	874	852	865	1,673			1,066
Inner Loch Fyne	1,358 ¹⁴	956 ¹⁴	868 ¹⁴	759 ¹⁴	817 ¹⁴	Sep	952
Lower Loch Long			914 ¹⁴				914
The Wash	2,546	703	91	557	491	Oct	878
Hacosay, Bluemull & Colgrave Sds	631 ⁹	790 ⁹	855 ⁹	992 ⁹			817 ▲
Girvan to Turnberry	1,198	330	1,500 ¹⁴	415	370 ¹⁴	Sep	763 ▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Belfast Lough	1,016 ¹⁰	1,813	1,490 ¹⁰	1,839 ¹⁰	1,482	Jan	1,528
Lough Foyle	551	645	431	164	528	Sep	464
Outer Ards Shoreline	428	256	271	335	976	Jan	453
Strangford Lough	165	259	282	480	728	Feb	383
Larne Lough	120	55	69	67	76	Sep	77
Port Stewart - Portrush			34 ¹⁴				34
Ballycastle - Fair Head			26 ¹⁴				26
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Ayr to North Troon	458 ¹⁴	1,064	225 ¹⁴	(380)	349 ¹⁴	Sep	524
Bann Estuary	21	10	26	11	6	Mar	15



Eider (Howard Lacey)

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: 160†

All-Ireland threshold: +†

GB max: 11,433 Feb

NI max: 17 Jan

The British maximum was the second highest on record, being only 5% lower than that of the previous year and 40% higher than the mean of the past ten years. The Northern Ireland total was not dissimilar to those of recent years. As usual, most records were from sites in Scotland, the highest counts away from here were nine on the North Norfolk Coast in February and six at Hell's Mouth on the Lley Peninsula in April. The Moray Firth remains by far the most important site for Long-tailed Duck in

the UK with numbers exceeding 10,000 for the second year running and the second highest at any site after the 2005/06 counts here. Counts from other key sites were few and far between, highlighting the difficulty of monitoring this, and other species regularly occurring offshore, through standard WeBS Core Counts; counts are strongly influenced by the sea conditions on the day affecting both visibility and the actual location of the birds.

Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)	Ref
Scapa & North Orkney	Feb	393	not available	Lewis 2008
Moray Bay (extended)	Feb	250	not available	Lewis 2008

	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							
Moray Firth	3,585 ¹	5,446 ¹	6,402 ¹	11,565	10,878	Feb	7,575
Sound of Harris		230 ⁴⁵	500 ⁴⁵				365
South Uist West Coast	411 ⁴⁵	440 ⁴⁵	185 ⁴⁵				345
Scapa Flow, Shapinsay & Deer Sds				300 ²⁵			300
Forth Estuary	435	249	(240)	237	213	Feb	284
Loch Branahue (Lewis)			272				272
Branahue Banks (Lewis)			196				196
Hacosay, Bluemull & Colgrave Sds	59 ⁹	249 ⁹	303 ⁹	160 ⁹			193
Broad Bay (Lewis)	72 ⁴⁵	200 ⁴⁵					186
South Yell Sound	108 ⁹	301 ⁹	91 ⁹	169 ⁹			142
Scapa Flow	43 ²⁵	210 ²⁵	146 ²⁵				133
Island of Papa Westray	182	184	102	10			120
Loch of Stenness	182	105 ¹²	89	96	107	Jan	116
Sound of Barra (Barra)		132 ⁴⁵	80 ⁴⁵				106
Burra and Trondra		97 ⁹	117 ⁹	99 ⁹			104
Outer Tay & St Andrews Bay	116 ²⁵	159 ²⁵	32 ²⁵				102
Scarp to Watersay offshore	183 ²⁵	84 ²⁵	54 ²⁵	75 ²⁵			99
Quendale to Virkie	122 ⁹	103 ⁹	100 ⁹	57 ⁹			96
Bressay Sound	176 ⁹	66 ⁹	90 ⁹	44 ⁹			94
St Andrews Bay	97	107	232	17	0		91
Allasdale Bay to Borge (Barra)		112 ⁴⁵	68 ⁴⁵				90
West Coast (Benbecula)	63 ⁴⁵	92 ⁴⁵					78
Water Sound	155	80	60	37	51	Mar	77
Thurso Bay	30	43	(40)	30	200	Nov	76
Traigh Luskentyre	50 ⁴⁵		100 ⁴⁵		37	Feb	62
Dee Mouth to Don Mouth			84	37	(2)	Feb	61
Kirkabister to Wadbister Ness	21 ⁹	73 ⁹	(4) ⁹	78 ⁹			57
Gulberwick Area				56 ⁹			56
Rova Head to Wadbister Ness	63 ⁹	34 ⁹	21 ⁹	87 ⁹			51
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Melbost Sands, Tong Saltings & Broad Bay		0	0	11	121	Nov	33

[†] as few sites exceed the British threshold and no Northern Ireland threshold has been set qualifying levels of 50 and 30 have been chosen to select sites, respectively, for presentation in this report

Common Scoter

Melanitta nigra

International threshold: 16,000

Great Britain threshold: 500

All-Ireland threshold: 230

GB max: 11,466 Feb

NI max: 12 Dec

Common Scoters were recorded at 94 sites across Britain and at two in Northern Ireland. In Britain, the highest site total during WeBS was 4,960 at the North Norfolk Coast in December. Five sites held peak totals in excess of 1,000 birds, with 100 or more birds recorded at a further 10 sites. A number of sites, including the Moray Firth and the Forth Estuary, held notably fewer birds than in previous winters. Peak numbers at The Wash, however, were the highest for five years, but as may be the case at many coastal sites, numbers recorded during WeBS are dependent on the actual location of the flocks and the visibility during the day. Peak counts at sites in Northern Ireland were of 12 at Belfast Lough in December and three at Carlingford Lough in March.

Common Scoters winter in large flocks offshore and consequently, most areas are poorly monitored by WeBS. This point is demonstrated at Carmarthen Bay, the first site to be classified as a marine SPA, on the basis of its importance for Common Scoter; only two birds were recorded here during November 2006 during WeBS, in comparison to over 14,000 birds during specific scoter surveys in February 2007. Although the number recorded during these specific surveys in 2006/07 means the five-year mean remained above 20,000, the peak was considerably lower than in previous years,

and for the first time since the late 1990s fell below the 1% threshold of 16,000.

A review of the status of Carmarthen Bay ten years after the *Sea Empress* oil spill indicates that numbers of Common Scoter have recovered to a similar level to that prior the spill (Banks *et al.* 2008). Following the incident in 1996, fewer than 5,000 birds were recorded at the site but by 1999/2000 numbers had fully recovered, and birds had returned to feeding areas previously affected by oil. Continued monitoring at this key site will be crucial in future years.

A recent summary of the status of Common Scoters in Welsh Waters and Liverpool Bay highlighted the importance of the British coast for the species (Smith *et al.* 2007). Based on peak estimated numbers (calculated by applying *Distance* analysis to counts from aerial surveys), the five-year mean for 2001/02 to 2005/06 was 51,400, which qualifies the site as internationally important. Aerial surveys of Liverpool Bay in 2006/07 recorded an estimated 63,400 Common Scoters (WWT Consulting 2008). This is the third time since aerial surveys began in 2000/01, that numbers at the site have surpassed 60,000: peak of 79,100 in February 2003 and 60,200 in February 2006. The importance of Liverpool Bay is currently being assessed regarding possible designation as a SPA (Webb *et al.* 2006).

Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)					Ref
Liverpool Bay	Feb/Mar	26,329	63,387 (39,318-92,340)					WWT Consulting 2008
Carmarthen Bay	Jan	7,028	13,447 (8,609-21,004)					Banks <i>et al.</i> 2007
	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of international importance in the UK								
Carmarthen Bay	23,288 ²³	20,271 ³⁹	24,460 ³⁹	20,287 ³⁹	14,412 ³⁹	Feb	20,544	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Moray Firth	8,351	7,987	4,265	6,842	1,908	Feb	5,871	
North Norfolk Coast	5,051	2,252	4,866	6,830	4,960	Dec	4,792	
Alt Estuary	1,818	2,169	3,000	4,300	3,288	Feb	2,915	
Aberdeen Bay offshore		2,992 ²⁵	3,475 ²⁵	3,514 ²⁵	1,525 ²⁵	May	2,877	
Forth Estuary	3,255	1,349	(985)	1,495	576	Feb	1,669	
Towyn to Llanddulas	975	(1,737)	(252)	(1,680)	1,800	Sep	1,548	
Cardigan Bay	(4,219)	198	183	339	(69)	Dec	1,235	
St Andrews Bay	584	1,170	2,660	447	0		972	
Durham Coast	(151)	(0)	(40)	685	(181)	Nov	685	
The Wash	452	(15)	372	100	1,810	Feb	684	▲
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007								
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	5	26	17	40	2,009	Oct	419	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain								
Glyne Gap	1	0	0	117	(533)	Feb	130	

Black Scoter

Melanitta americana

Vagrant

Native Range: N America

GB max: 1 Mar

NI max: 0

The Black Scoter that has spent the past few winters at Lavan Sands was recorded

again in 2006/07, albeit only once in March off Llanfairfechan Saltings.

Surf Scoter

Melanitta perspicillata

Vagrant

Native Range: N America

GB max: 5 Feb

NI max: 0

Surf Scoter were recorded at just three sites, all of which were in Scotland. Up to two birds were present at Inner Moray and Inverness Firth between October and January and two were at Forth Estuary

between January and March. The highest count was at Traigh Luskentyre where four birds were present in February and two in both April and May.

Velvet Scoter

Melanitta fusca

International threshold: 10,000

Great Britain threshold: 30*

All-Ireland threshold: +

GB max: 1,035 Dec

NI max: 0

During 2006/07, Velvet Scoter were noted at 18 sites, nine of which were in Scotland and nine in England. Most records were of single birds, although numbers at the Forth Estuary were regularly in treble figures and peaked at 926 in November. Numbers at the Moray Firth peaked at 743, which was far

lower than in recent years. Nationally, numbers were considerably lower than in recent years and although this may be in part due to a lack of counts from several offshore areas of Scotland it could also indicate a genuine drop in numbers.

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Moray Firth	4,398	2,103	1,169	1,261	743	Dec	1,935
Forth Estuary	1,487	1,008	1,007	775	(926)	Nov	1,069
St Andrews Bay	2	90	1,050	8	0		230
Lunan Bay	105	(300)	125	120	2	Jun	130
Aberdeen Bay offshore		17 ⁵²	50 ⁵²	89 ⁵²			52
Dee Mouth to Don Mouth			6	(60)	(0)		33
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
North Norfolk Coast	55	14	45	25	3	Oct	28

Bufflehead

Bucephala albeola

Vagrant and escape

Native Range: N America

GB max: 1 Dec

NI max: 0

A single Bufflehead was present at Uyea Sound throughout December and January.

This was the fourth record of this species during WeBS and the first for two years.

Barrow's Goldeneye

Bucephala islandica

Vagrant and escape

Native Range: N Europe, N America

GB max: 1 Nov

NI max: 0

A Barrow's Goldeneye was found during a WeBS count on the River Teith at Callander in November and was also seen at nearby Loch Venachar in December. This was the

second record of this species during WeBS, the first being at Strangford Lough in 2005/06.

Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula

GB max: 12,171 Feb
NI max: 3,390 Jan

International threshold: 11,500
Great Britain threshold: 249
All-Ireland threshold: 95

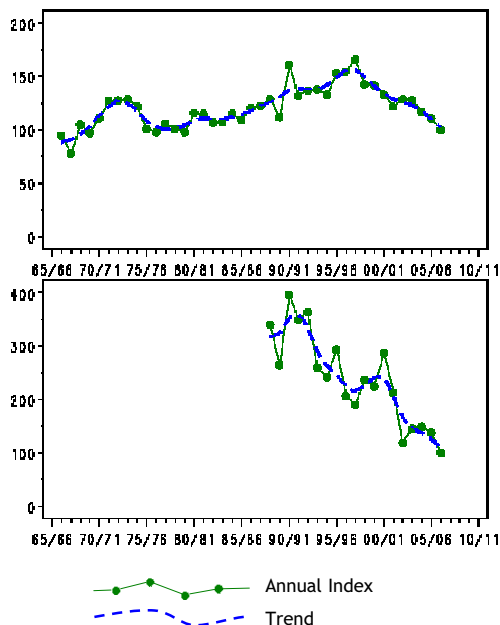


Figure 30.a, Annual indices & trend for Goldeneye for GB (above) & NI (below).

Goldeneye in Britain showed a steady increase from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s, after which time numbers have fallen steadily and have now reached levels akin to those prior to the period of increase. The current decline was evident throughout the winter with numbers below those of the past five years between December and April.

The Northern Ireland index also fell again in 2006/07; a pattern that has been witnessed since the early 1990s. As in Britain, numbers in Northern Ireland remained well below average throughout

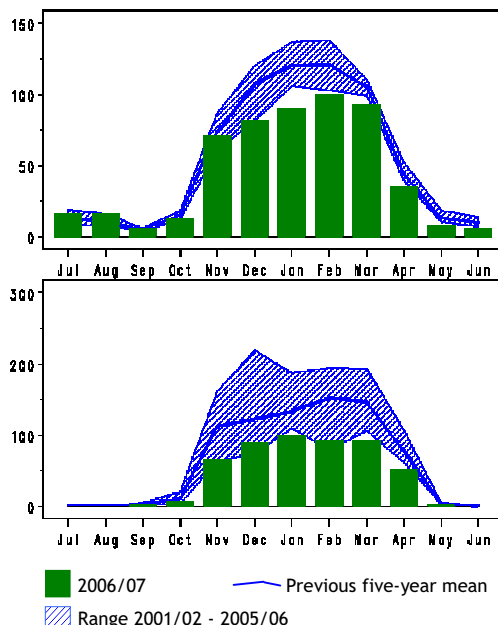


Figure 30.b, Monthly indices for Goldeneye for GB (above) & NI (below).

the winter and in January, March and April were the lowest of the past five years. Peak numbers at all the key sites in Northern Ireland were below average, with a particularly major drop in numbers at Loughs Neagh and Beg. Similarly, some British sites witnessed their lowest peak for some time; these included the Forth Estuary and Hornsea Mere. Elsewhere, peak counts were higher than average at Inner Firth of Clyde and Loch Leven, the latter site now supporting nationally important numbers as a result.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Forth Estuary	1,241	(753)	879	(379)	328	Jan	816
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	1,352 ¹⁰	709 ¹	1,165 ¹	186	221	Feb	727
Abberton Reservoir	469	431	394	588	478	Feb	472
Humber Estuary	618	296	595	449	401	Jan	472
Inner Firth of Clyde	264	514	159	636	688	Feb	452
Rutland Water	428	511	420	521	356	Feb	447
Loch Leven	153	86	385	289	517	Nov	286 ▲
Hornsea Mere	(480) ¹²	235	325	280	91	Dec	282
Morecambe Bay	(280)	204	(297)	(249)	(191)	Feb	258
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	3,661	4,497	5,787	5,688	2,780	Jan	4,483
Lower Lough Erne	218	337	319	254	169	Mar	259
Strangford Lough	295	253	161	187	83 ¹⁰	Nov	196
Belfast Lough	249	242 ¹⁰	164 ¹⁰	103	(108)	Jan	190
Larne Lough	130	95	73	155	97	Feb	110

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Tweed Estuary	240	390	273	140	174	Dec	243
Stour Estuary	573	262	88	139	146	Feb	242
Loch of Skene	(192)	298	207	334	128	Nov	242
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Loch of Strathbeg	(126)	294	86	202	334	Dec	229
Windermere	224	185	226	256 ¹²	271 ¹²	Feb	232

Smew

Mergellus albellus

International threshold: 400

Great Britain threshold: 4*

All-Ireland threshold: +

GB max: 100 Feb

NI max: 1 Jan

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

The counted British maximum was the lowest since 1991/92 and was less than half that of the previous year's figure. During 2006/07, Smew were recorded at 59 sites, 13 of which were in Scotland and the remainder in England. Most records were of one or two birds, although double-figure counts were noted at Walthamstow Reservoirs, Cotswold Water Park (West), Dungeness Gravel Pits and Wraysbury Gravel Pits. The count of 19 at Wraysbury Gravel Pits in January constituted the highest

single-site total in 2006/07, although was the lowest peak at this site for over ten years.

Counts at most regular wintering sites for this species were lower than in recent years, especially at Rye Harbour and Pett Level, Thorpe Water Park and Seaton Gravel Pits. In contrast, the peak recorded at Walthamstow Reservoirs was the highest since January 1996. Only one bird was noted in Northern Ireland, at Loughs Neagh and Beg in January.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	63	55	68	38	19	Jan	49
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(32)	20	(18)	33	13	Feb	25
Dungeness Gravel Pits	18	33	14	17	17	Feb	20
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	29	23	8	9	7	Jan	15
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	28	19	10	8	3	Jan	14
Thorpe Water Park	11	18	10	20	3	Jan	12
Twyford Gravel Pits	12						12
Seaton Gravel Pits and River	7 ¹²	14	8	11	1	Feb	8
Fen Drayton Gravel Pits	11	16	4	5	3	Dec	8
Rutland Water	8	8	4	14	5	Feb	8
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	6	8	7	6	8	Feb	7
Thrapston Gravel Pits	2	11					7
Little Paxton Gravel Pits	8	4	12	5	4	Jan	7
Belhus Woods Country Park	7	10	6	0			6
Ouse Fen & Pits (Hanson/RSPB)	(0)	2	10	10	0		6
Marsh Ln GPs Hemingford Grey	6		9	5	2	Dec	6
Tophill Low Reservoirs	5	6	7	9 ¹²	2	Feb	6
Grange Waters Complex	11	0	5	5			5
Sonning Eye & Henley Rd GPs	9	0	9		2	Dec	5
Pitsford Reservoir	2	3	3	11	4	Feb	5
Deeping St James	5	6	2	8	2	Dec	5
Bedfont and Ashford Gravel Pits	(6)				1	Feb	4
Abberton Reservoir	4	5	9	2	2	Feb	4
Cassington & Yarnton GPs	(0)	10	1	5	0		4
Earls Barton Gravel Pits	7	7	0	6	0		4
Blunham Gravel Pit	3	4					4 ▲
Meadow Lane Gravel Pits St Ives	17	3	0	0	0		4
Eyebrook Reservoir	1	3	3	7	4	Jan	4
Fairburn Ings	6	4		1	(1)	Feb	4
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	(5)	1	(0)		0		2
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Walthamstow Reservoirs	1	0	0	0	10	Feb	2
Loch Leven	0	0	0	0	6	Jan	1
Bray Gravel Pits	0	1	0	1	4	Feb	1

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

International threshold: 1,700

Great Britain threshold: 98

All-Ireland threshold: 35*

GB max: 3,425 Feb

NI max: 523 Oct

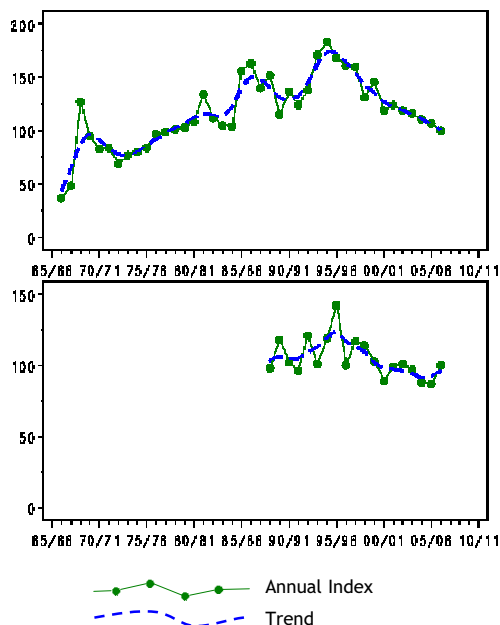


Figure 31.a, Annual indices & trend for Red-breasted Merganser for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British index has declined steadily since the all-time peak of the mid-1990s and continued to do so in 2006/07. Numbers were lower than those of the past five years and only surpassed the average in February. The Northern Ireland index showed signs of an increase following a period of decline since the mid-1990s, although future years' data will need to be considered before the significance of this year's rise can be assessed. On the whole, numbers were above those of the past five years throughout much of the year, although

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

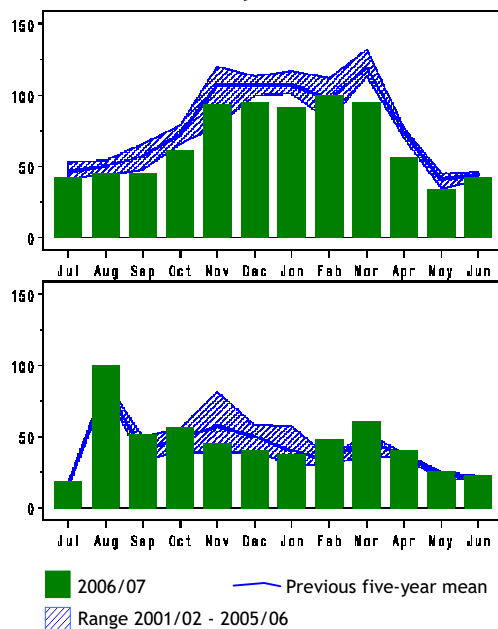


Figure 31.b, Monthly indices for Red-breasted Merganser for GB (above) & NI (below).

were lower than average from November to January.

The highest single site total of 347 at the Forth Estuary was the lowest here for 15 years and was just over half of the five-year site mean. Other sites at which lower than average counts were noted included Fleet and Wey, Poole Harbour, Moray Firth, Duddon Estuary and Lavan Sands, whilst higher counts than in recent years were recorded at the Isle of Arran and the Exe Estuary. In Northern Ireland, the region's total was boosted by high counts at the Outer Ards and Carlingford Lough.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Forth Estuary	769	791	544	489	347	Oct	588
Fleet and Wey	358	425	413	438	284	Feb	384
Poole Harbour	469	(392)	315	(250)	213	Jan	347
Moray Firth	355	338	300	254	211	Oct	292
Morecambe Bay	(265)	(170)	167	263	(118)	Mar	232
Chichester Harbour	184	191	194	212	217	Feb	200
Lavan Sands	170	264	(211)	196	81	Aug	184
Inner Firth of Clyde	141	(164)	107	252	195	Aug	174
Duddon Estuary	220	167	152	(121)	106	Oct	161
Inner Loch Indaal	172	138					155
Langstone Harbour	158	127	128	187	159	Dec	152
Loch Ryan	133 ¹²	74	179	180	106	Dec	134
Loch Lomond	(4)	(14)	(4)	(129)	(8)	Jun	(129)

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Jersey Shore					126	Feb	126 ▲
Montrose Basin	33	139	(39)	163	135	Jun	118 ▲
North Norfolk Coast	109	105	126	132	92	Feb	113
Arran	126	103	90	113	(129)	Aug	112
Loch of Tankerness			222	1			112
Exe Estuary	112	(132)	82	78	139	Jan	109
Sound of Barra (Barra)	97 ⁴⁵		106 ⁴⁵				102 ▲
Loch Nan Gabhar	100						100 ▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	187	188	189	263	390 ¹⁰	Dec	243
Larne Lough	123	135	211	151	196	Sep	163
Belfast Lough	228	216	91 ¹²	104	110	Feb	150
Carlingford Lough	106	40	154	118	171	Aug	118
Lough Foyle	37	122	52	169	35	Sep	83
Outer Ards Shoreline	62	48	54	31	108	Mar	61
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Goring	35	(35)	(102)				57
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Eden Estuary	64	72	73	73	118	Aug	80
Cardigan Bay	(47)	(88)	(93)	76	104	Feb	91

Goosander

Mergus merganser

International threshold: 2,700
Great Britain threshold: 161[†]
All-Ireland threshold: +

GB max: 2,643 Feb
NI max: 1 Nov

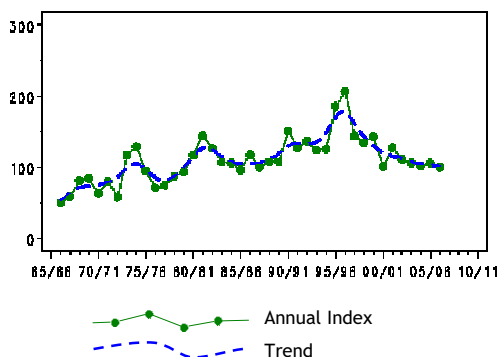


Figure 32.a, Annual indices & trend for Goosander for GB.

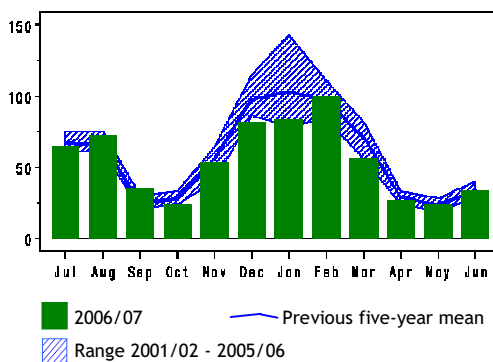


Figure 32.b, Monthly indices for Goosander for GB.

The British trend has shown signs of levelling off following the decline that started in 1997/98. The index is currently at a similar level to that during the period of stability in the mid-1980s. In general, numbers were slightly below average for most of the year, although in August, September, February and June surpassed the mean of the preceding five years. The monthly indices followed the usual pattern of high numbers in late summer, which fall in September and October (as birds leave the country for moulting areas in Scandinavia) before rising again to peak in winter and then tailing off in spring as birds disperse to breed. The winter peak, recorded in February, was slightly lower

than that of the previous year and the average of the past five years.

In general, Goosanders are poorly recorded by WeBS. Although a distinctive species and easily detected when on larger waterbodies, many winter on rivers, which are presently under represented by WeBS.

The highest single-site total in 2006/07 was recorded at the Tay Estuary and was the highest since 1973/74. The peak at Loch Lomond was a site record; the last time peak numbers exceeded 200 was in 1997/98. Peak counts at Spittal to Cocklawburn and the Tweed Estuary were also the highest for some time, while numbers at the Solway Estuary were the lowest for five years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Loch Lomond	(84)	(23)	(15)	(19)	(261)	Sep	(261)
Tay Estuary	248	192 ¹²	263	153	313	Jul	234
Sites with mean peak counts of 70 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Tynninghame Estuary	97	177	189	69	157	Aug	138
R.Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	179	61	112	113	74	Dec	108
Eccup Reservoir	95	137	94	115	82	Nov	105
Yetholm Loch	(13)	(16)	(54)	167	32	Dec	100
Castle Loch Lochmaben	82	137	88		85	Nov	98
Forth Estuary	(89)	53	81	119	(60)	Jun	86
Spittal to Cocklawburn	7	92	86	72	116	Aug	75
Tweed Estuary	78	42	65	64	123	Aug	74
Solway Estuary	72	(105)	84	(47)	29	Sep	73
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain[†]							
Audenshaw Reservoirs	70 ¹¹	60	40	40	91	Oct	60
Windermere	24	(70)	48	127	76 ¹²	Feb	69

[†] as few sites exceed the British threshold and no Northern Ireland threshold has been set a qualifying level of 70 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

Naturalised introduction[†]
Native Range: N & S America

GB max: 2,078 Dec
NI max: 42 Jan

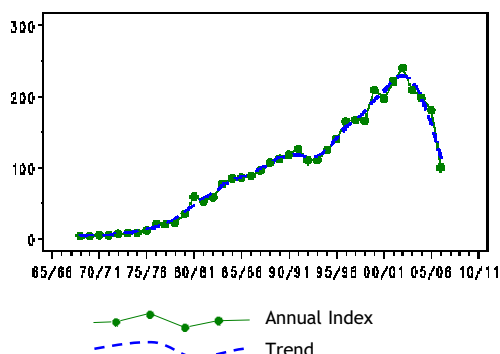


Figure 33.a, Annual indices & trend for Ruddy Duck for GB.

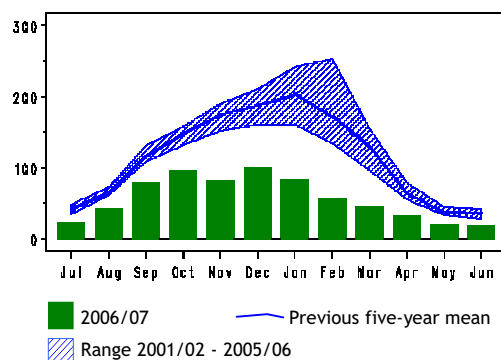


Figure 33.b, Monthly indices for Ruddy Duck for GB.

The number of Ruddy Duck in Britain continues to decline with the monthly maximum at similar levels to those of 1985/86. This decline is also clearly evident in the British index, which fell around 45% to levels akin to those of the late 1980s. This trend has been driven by the control programme intended to reduce numbers with the aim of aiding the conservation of the White-headed Duck in southern Europe. However, the species was still widespread in 2006/07, with over 30 recorded from 34 sites during the season.

As would be expected, the peak numbers at most key sites were lower than in recent years. This was most notable at Staines Reservoirs, Abberton Reservoir, Chew Valley Lake, Blagdon Lake and Rutland Water. Exceptions to this trend were Hilfield Park Reservoir and the Tees Estuary, where numbers surpassed those of the past five years. The only birds recorded in Northern Ireland were at Loughs Neagh and Beg, where numbers peaked at 42 in January.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 30 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Staines Reservoirs	(696)	694	695 ³⁷	521 ³⁷	277	Sep	577
Abberton Reservoir	493	678	403	455	261 ³⁷	Dec	458
Hanningfield Reservoir	(664)	285 ³⁷	412 ³⁷	330	276	Dec	393
Chew Valley Lake	427 ¹²	488 ³⁷	220 ³⁷	257 ³⁷	(130)	Dec	348
Dungeness Gravel Pits	264	222	287	250	189	Dec	242
Blagdon Lake	394	249	151 ³⁷	172	85	Nov	210
Pitsford Reservoir	358	103	178	311 ³⁷	102	Feb	210
Rutland Water	482	200	251	57	17	Oct	201
Hilfield Park Reservoir	125	187	241 ³⁷	176	263	Oct	198
Blithfield Reservoir	187	180 ³⁷	401	59 ³⁷	23 ³⁷	Dec	170
Holme Pierrepont Gravel Pits		115	189	202	106	Jan	153
King George V Reservoirs	135	268	(23)	83	45	Dec	133
Anglers Country Park Lake	76	78	180 ³⁷	185	34	Oct	111
Tophill Low Reservoirs	89	110 ³⁷	124	131	85 ³⁷	Jan	108
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	(120)	96	58 ³⁷	126 ³⁷	(16)	Feb	100
Carsington Water	132	0	82 ³⁷	182	101	Dec	99
Stanford Reservoir	97	277 ³⁷	76	29	6 ³⁷	Dec	97
Walthamstow Reservoirs	(67)	118	90	86 ³⁷	74	Feb	92
Thames Estuary	106	(82)	85	85	77 ¹²	Jan	88
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(60)	127	125	59	34	Nov	86
Brent Reservoir	104	25	133	77	85	Sep	85
Humber Estuary	55	116	84	(27)	59 ³⁷	Dec	79
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	12	16	33	215 ³⁷	99 ³⁷	Dec	75
Tees Estuary	77	70	37	63	108	Aug	71
Llyn Traffwll	80	83	78	52	55	Sep	70
Colwick Country Park		88 ³⁷	100 ³⁷	51	37 ³⁷	Dec	69
Wigan Flashes	49	60	86		73 ³⁷	Dec	67
Fairburn Ings	94	115	5 ³⁷	49	(30)	Feb	66
Bolton-on-Swale Gravel Pits	108	118 ³⁷	55 ³⁷	37	6	Sep	65
Hollowell Reservoir	39	191	53	19	21	Dec	65
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	26	46	175	13	64	Oct	65
Llyn Alaw	44	2	45	95	92	Dec	56
Clumber Park Lake	72	76	16 ³⁷	41	66	Dec	54
Llynau Y Fali	86	57	70	39	16	Apr	54
Blackwater Estuary	53	69	71	39	25 ³⁷	Dec	51
London Wetland Centre	36	43	59	49 ³⁷	40 ³⁷	Dec	45
Hurworth Burn Reservoir	34		9	130	3 ³⁷	Dec	44
Newsham Park		42 ³⁷					42
Thoresby Lake	3 ³⁷	69 ³⁷	46 ³⁷	42 ³⁷	52 ³⁷	Jan	42
Hampton & Kempton Reservoirs	(30)	39	14	76	33	Sep	41
Knight & Bessborough Res	29	23	46	45	58	Dec	40
Old Moor	47	28	24	71	20	Sep	38
Swithland Reservoir	10	61	62	38	18	Dec	38
Hornsea Mere	18	11	98	11	(18)	Dec	35
Pugneys Country Park Lakes	7	63	27	50 ³⁷	25	Jan	34
Sites with mean peak counts of 30 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	67	56	33	36	42	Jan	47
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain[†]							
Attenborough Gravel Pits		4	22	43	40	Jan	27
Aqualate Mere	21	11	4	7	35	Oct	16
Mere Farm Quarry - Chelford	0	0	0	10	35	Sep	9
Fleet and Wey	18	11	24	25	34	Dec	22

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 30 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Lake Duck

Oxyura vittata

Escape
Native Range: S America

GB max: 1 Feb
NI max: 0

A single Lake Duck was noted at Dulwich Park Lake in February. This was the first time this species had been noted at this site during WeBS counts.