

# Red-throated Diver

*Gavia stellata*

International threshold: 3,000

Great Britain threshold: 170

All-Ireland threshold: 20\*

GB max: 699 Dec

NI max: 77 Mar

\*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

The British maximum of Red-throated Diver recorded by WeBS was around a third higher again than the 2005/06 total and was the highest for four years. Birds were noted at 158 sites throughout Britain and a further seven in Northern Ireland. Although Red-throated Divers are the most widespread divers in Britain, over half of all sites at which this species was recorded were in Scotland. A total of 11 sites qualified as nationally important during 2006/07, one more than during the previous year. The highest count from any site was of 226 at the North Norfolk Coast in December. A further three sites in Britain held peak numbers above the national threshold during 2006/07.

The Northern Ireland maximum was around half that of the previous year although very similar to the average of the past five years. The highest count here was of 64 at the Outer Ards Shoreline, which was the highest ever recorded at this site. However, it is important to recognise that many Red-throated Divers in UK waters occur far offshore, so WeBS counts do not include all of the birds present. Indeed, at individual sites, counts may vary more with the weather conditions during a count than with real variation in numbers.

Aerial surveys along the English east and southeast coasts, from Flamborough Head, Yorkshire, to Dover, Kent, estimated 3,300 divers to be present during February/March

2007 (WWT Consulting 2008). While this is notably lower than the 2005/06 peak of 7,998, coverage in 2007 was less extensive, particularly in the Thames area, where the majority of divers are usually observed; a peak counted total of 632 divers was recorded in the Greater Thames (covering the Suffolk, Essex and Kent coasts) in 2007, compared with 1,361 in 2005/06. Similarly, numbers in Liverpool Bay (Fleetwood to Anglesey) were lower than the previous winter, with an estimated total of 680 in February/March 2007, compared with 1,518 in 2005/06.

Aerial surveys of British nearshore waters have revealed the presence of a greater number of divers, with a far more widespread distribution, than was previously known. Consequently, a revised British wintering estimate for Red-throated Diver has recently been published, primarily using data from these surveys, supplemented with county records and WeBS counts (O'Brien *et al.* 2008). The total was estimated to be 17,166 individuals (13,198-21,034, 95% confidence intervals), of which 7,500 occurred in the Greater Thames; the previous British estimate was 4,850 individuals. Because of the change in the population estimate, the 1% threshold for national importance has now also increased, to 170 birds. Consequently, only Aberdeen Bay (offshore) now qualifies as nationally important.

## Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)	Ref
Greater Wash/Thames	Feb/Mar	726	3,268 (2,574 – 4,092)	WWT Consulting 2008
Liverpool Bay	Feb/Mar	117	680 (464 – 975)	WWT Consulting 2008

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Aberdeen Bay offshore		225 <sup>25</sup>	423 <sup>52</sup>	352 <sup>52</sup>	175 <sup>25</sup>	Sep	294
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain†</b>							
Inner Firth of Clyde	151	126	34	202	182	Feb	139
Moray Firth	126	166	117	81	46	Feb	107
Thames Estuary	(344) <sup>26</sup>	23	32	66	32	Feb	99
Forth Estuary	106	61	132	87	49	Oct	87
Loch Ryan	111 <sup>12</sup>	89	81	49	83	Oct	83
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	35	49	61	163			77
Lavan Sands	202 <sup>12</sup>	59 <sup>12</sup>	22	8	43	Feb	67
North Norfolk Coast	37	11	30	18	226	Dec	64 ▲
Dengie Flats	114	50	15	(2)	(10)	Feb	60
Glyne Gap	0	35	6	103	126	Dec	54 ▲

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland</b>							
Lough Foyle	29	147	21	98	13	Mar	62
Belfast Lough	31	13	16 <sup>12</sup>	30	22	Nov	22
Outer Ards Shoreline	1	6	14	8	64	Mar	19 ▲
Carlingford Lough	19	(4)	4	15	8	Feb	12
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007</b>							
Cardigan Bay	32	22	30	(67)	(46)	Dec	39
Pegwell Bay	215	0	10	5	0		46
Lade Sands	100	10	0	0	0		22
Strangford Lough	2	0	2	1	6	Dec	2
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain</b>							
Minsmere	3	57	3	2	56	Dec	24

<sup>†</sup> as few sites exceed the British threshold, a qualifying level of 50 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

## Black-throated Diver

*Gavia arctica*

International threshold: 3,750

Great Britain threshold: 7\*

All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 156 Feb

NI max: 3 Dec

Black-throated Diver were counted at 58 sites in Britain, the majority of these in Scotland. However, the highest single count was of 60 at Gerrans Bay, Cornwall, in January, where double figures were present from November until May. An additional four sites held in excess of 10 birds, with the count of 40 at Loch Ewe particularly

notable. A total of 12 sites held mean numbers over and above the threshold for international importance, one more than during the previous year. The British maximum was similar to that of the previous year. Only three Black-throated Diver were recorded in Northern Ireland, all at Strangford Lough in December.

### Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)			Ref	
Firth of Clyde	Mar	7	not available			Lewis 2008	
	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Gerrans Bay	53	37	47	70	60	Jan	53
Sound of Barra (Barra)	37 <sup>45</sup>	31 <sup>45</sup>		35 <sup>45</sup>			34
Loch Slapin		21 <sup>41</sup>	26 <sup>41</sup>				24
Broad Bay (Lewis)		21 <sup>45</sup>					21
Moray Firth	18	48	6	19	9	Feb	20
Loch Gairloch			28	6	14	Feb	16
Loch Ewe			0	3	40	Feb	14 ▲
Loch Roag	13 <sup>45</sup>						13
Girvan to Turnberry	20	19	(9)	5	1	Feb	11
Little Loch Broom			3	(10)	13	Feb	9
Applecross Bay			5	14	2	Feb	7
Red Point to Port Henderson			0	13 <sup>12</sup>	8	Feb	7
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of one or more birds in Northern Ireland<sup>†</sup></b>							
Strangford Lough	8	0	4	0	3	Dec	3
Outer Ards Shoreline	(0)	(0)	1	2	(0)		2
Belfast Lough	1	4 <sup>10</sup>	2 <sup>12</sup>	1	1 <sup>10</sup>	Dec	2
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007</b>							
Forth Estuary	9	5	3	10	3	Sep	6
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain</b>							
Poll Creadha			0	0	10	Feb	3
Glyne Gap	(0)	0	0	8	(9)	Feb	4

<sup>†</sup> as no All-Ireland threshold has been set, a qualifying level of 1 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

# Great Northern Diver

*Gavia immer*

International threshold: 50  
Great Britain threshold: 30\*†  
All-Ireland threshold: 7†

GB max: 401 Feb

NI max: 22 Mar

\*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

The British maximum was the highest to date and was a fifth higher again than the previous year's total. Great Northern Diver were noted at 108 sites in Britain and a further seven in Northern Ireland. Over twice as many were counted in Scotland as in England, although in both countries birds were recorded at 50 sites. Given the relative difficulty of surveying this marine and rather mobile species, it is sometimes difficult to assess the significance of individual site counts, although the peak of 62 at Uyea Sound was particularly notable. A further 10 sites held peak counts in excess of 10 birds, only two of which

(Gerrans Bay and Lough Foyle) were outside of Scotland. A total of five sites qualified as internationally important, although only one of these, Traigh Luskentyre, was counted during 2006/07.

This is a species for which many of the key sites are quite remote and monitoring benefits greatly from supplementary counts from a number of sources. In particular, the RAF Ornithological Society has carried out a number of expeditions to northwest Scotland in recent winters and have contributed a high proportion of the counts of this species.

## Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)	Ref
Sound of Gigha	Mar	171	not available	Lewis 2008
Outer Hebrides	Mar	128	not available	Lewis 2008
Scapa & North Orkney	Feb	115	not available	Lewis 2008
Luce Bay	Mar	40	not available	Lewis 2008
Moray Bay (extended)	Feb	31	not available	Lewis 2008

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Sound of Barra (Barra)	142 <sup>45</sup>	96 <sup>45</sup>	94 <sup>45</sup>				111
Outer Loch Indaal			20	108			64
South Uist West Coast	(57) <sup>45</sup>	(48) <sup>45</sup>	(63) <sup>45</sup>				(63)
Traigh Luskentyre	60 <sup>45</sup>	70 <sup>45</sup>	22		58	Feb	53 ▲
Loch Slapin		44 <sup>41</sup>	59 <sup>41</sup>				52
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain†</b>							
Moray Firth	60	(109)	37	14	2	Dec	44 ▼
Inner Loch Indaal	68	18					43 ▼
Kirkabister to Wadbister Ness	22 <sup>9</sup>	50 <sup>9</sup>	(2) <sup>9</sup>	37 <sup>9</sup>			36
Loch Ewe			19	33	53	Feb	35
Gruinard Bay			26	40	37	Feb	34
Scousburgh to Maywick				32 <sup>9</sup>			32
Sound of Harris	35 <sup>45</sup>	20 <sup>45</sup>	42 <sup>45</sup>				32
Broadford Bay	35	(43)	24	(20)	15	Dec	29
Pontillyfni to Aberdesach		28 <sup>12</sup>					28
Whiteness to Skelda Ness	34 <sup>9</sup>	27 <sup>9</sup>	30 <sup>9</sup>	11 <sup>9</sup>			26
Quendale to Virkie	22 <sup>9</sup>	24 <sup>9</sup>	22 <sup>9</sup>	27 <sup>9</sup>			24
Gualan and Balgarva		23 <sup>45</sup>					23
Rova Head to Wadbister Ness	19 <sup>9</sup>	30 <sup>9</sup>	4 <sup>9</sup>	17 <sup>9</sup>			18
Uyea Sound	10	5	5	7	62	Feb	18
Scalloway Islands		19 <sup>9</sup>	13 <sup>9</sup>	19 <sup>9</sup>			17
Island of Papa Westray	20	22	(1)	5			16
Gerrans Bay	17	15	14	16	15	Apr	15
Red Point to Port Henderson			17	22 <sup>12</sup>	4	Feb	14
Loch Eriboll			0	3	36	Feb	13
Little Loch Broom			8	(7)	16	Feb	12
Island of Egilsay	3	(0)	10	21	8	Dec	11
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Northern Ireland†</b>							
Lough Foyle	26	24	5	60	17	Mar	26
Carlingford Lough	(15)	25	2	17	4	Jan	13
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†</b>							
Loch Ryan	1 <sup>12</sup>	0	4	0	12	Dec	3
Kyle of Tongue			0	0	11	Feb	4

† as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set, a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

White-billed Diver

Gavia adamsii

Scarce

Native Range: N America, N Europe, N Siberia

GB max: 2 Mar  
NI max: 0

White-billed Divers were noted at the Hayle Estuary and The Houb (Whalsay) in March and Burra Firth (Head), Unst in April. There have been only two previous records of this

species during WeBS, in 1994/95 at the Forth Estuary and 2001/02 at the Farne Islands.

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

International threshold: 4,000  
Great Britain threshold: 78  
All-Ireland threshold: 25\*

GB max: 5,400 Oct  
NI max: 495 Sep

\*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

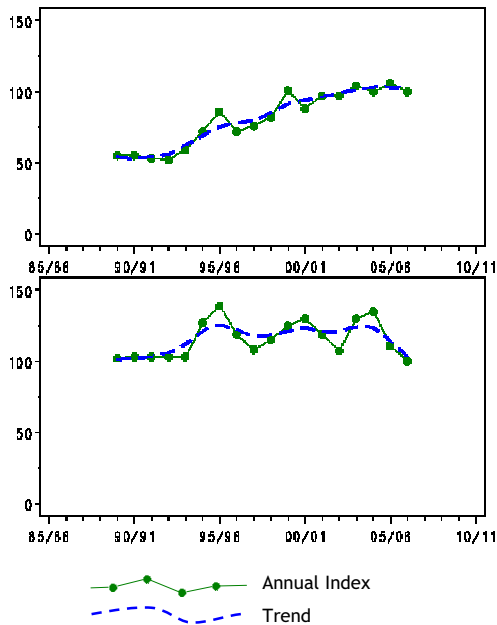


Figure 34.a, Annual indices & trend for Little Grebe for GB (above) & NI (below).

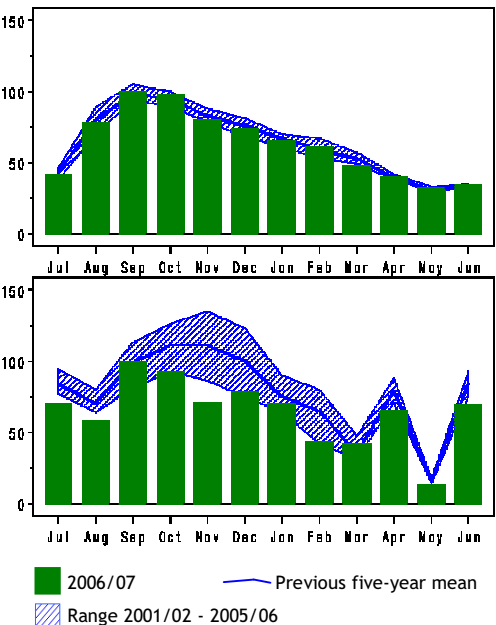


Figure 34.b, Monthly indices for Little Grebe for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British maximum was the highest ever recorded by WeBS albeit only slightly higher than the previous highest, which was recorded in 2005/06. The steady rise witnessed in the British index over the past decade has started to slow with numbers remaining similar over the past four years. Numbers were very similar to average throughout the year and as usual peaked in late autumn and fell slightly though the winter. Numbers peaked at the Thames Estuary at their highest-ever level; average numbers now exceed 400 birds for the first time. Similarly, numbers at Lee Valley Gravel Pits increased and were half as high

again as during the previous year, whilst the peak count at Cameron Reservoir was also especially notable. At Bewl Water, however, there appears to have been a steady decline and the site no longer qualifies as nationally important.

The Northern Irish trend fell for the second consecutive year to a similar levels as the early 1990s. Peak numbers were also below those of recent years, being the lowest ever recorded by WeBS. The key site in the province remained Loughs Neagh and Beg, although counts here were the lowest for around 15 years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Thames Estuary	378	(198)	444	377	499	Oct	425
Chichester Harbour	111	125	135	95 <sup>10</sup>	66	Jan	106
Holme Pierrepont Gravel Pits		55	120	114	105	Sep	99
Chew Valley Lake	70	110	110	95	80	Oct	93
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	71	83	102	77	126	Oct	92
Hamford Water	68	(92)	89	114	87	Jan	90
Alde Complex	54	(47)	109	112	76	Nov	88
Deben Estuary	73	76	74	90	82	Nov	79 ▲
Tees Estuary	104	70	54	88	78	Sep	79
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007</b>							
Rutland Water	58	87	70	96	67	Oct	76
Blagdon Lake	18	127	98	(69)	49	Sep	73
Bewl Water	136	94	80	43	28	Sep	76
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 30 or more birds in Northern Ireland<sup>†</sup></b>							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	438	433	466	330	278	Sep	389
Upper Lough Erne	75	131	104	78	106	Mar	99
Strangford Lough	113	83	76	75	80	Oct	85
Lower Lough Erne	39	57	53	54	78	Jan	56
Larne Lough	32	65	77	52	20	Oct	49
Lough Money	41	39	51	48	40	Nov	44
Hillsborough Main Lake	37	27	28	21	28	Oct	28
Lough Foyle	20	31	31	32	28	Sep	28
Upper Quoile River	13	28	35	33	20	Sep	26
Belfast Lough	37	30	28	23	12	Sep	26
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain</b>							
Cameron Reservoir	36	47	47	60	133	Oct	65
Pitsford Reservoir	37	57	50	86	96	Oct	65
Humber Estuary	(55)	(58)	60	64	94	Oct	73
The Wash	51	50	44	70	88	Jan	61
Severn Estuary	68	54	52	87	86	Sep	69

## Great Crested Grebe

*Podiceps cristatus*

International threshold: 3,600

Great Britain threshold: 159

All-Ireland threshold: 55

GB max: 8,517 Oct

NI max: 1,911 Oct

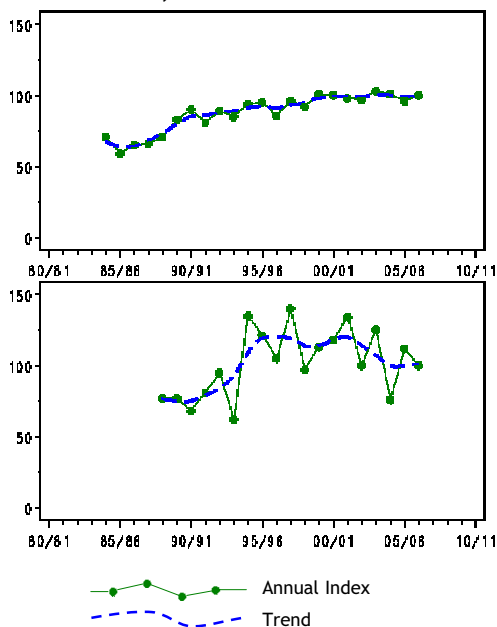


Figure 35.a, Annual indices & trend for Great Crested Grebe for GB (above) & NI (below).

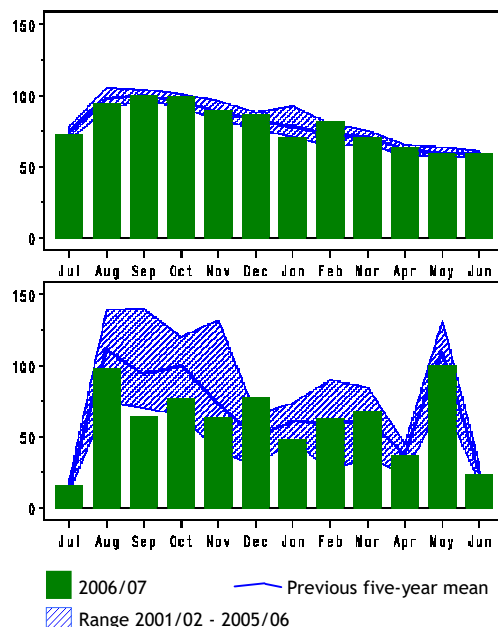


Figure 35.b, Monthly indices for Great Crested Grebe for GB (above) & NI (below).

The counted British maximum was very similar to that of the previous year. The trend has levelled slightly following a long period of steady increase. Numbers were close to average throughout the year, although dipped slightly in January. The count of zero from Lade Sands in Kent was notable, given the large numbers recorded offshore here in recent years; in view that counts were only available up to December further years' counts will be needed to determine if this is a real decline or simply of reflection of poor counting conditions during this winter. Other low offshore counts at Rye Harbour, Forth Estuary, Loch Ryan and Pegwell Bay are similarly difficult

to attribute. Elsewhere, relatively high numbers were noted at Chew Valley Lake and Lavan Sands, whereas counts were below average at Queen Mary Reservoir, Bewl Water (where Little Grebes also decreased) and Solway Firth.

In Northern Ireland, Belfast Lough remained the top site, although in 2006/07 peak numbers were around 10% below the mean of the past five years. A further seven Northern Irish sites currently qualify as nationally important, five of which held in excess of 100 birds during 2006/07. The Northern Ireland trend has remained fairly stable over the couple of years following a slight fall in the early 2000s.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Lade Sands	1,600	1,080 <sup>12</sup>	860	700	0		848
Rutland Water	607	619	815	771	655	Nov	693
Grafham Water	311	463	526	463			441
Chew Valley Lake	320	330	330	275	430	Oct	337
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(188)	(245)	283	354	284	Sep	307
Pitsford Reservoir	203	341	309	308	267	Oct	286
Lavan Sands	308	176 <sup>12</sup>	(446)	57	329	Feb	263
Queen Mary Reservoir	267	495	262	126	130	Jun	256
Bewl Water	356	190	330	204	188	Sep	254
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	48	365	186	621	44	Jan	253
Forth Estuary	(389)	295	(313)	123	95	Sep	243
Loch Ryan	(300)	210	299	193	77	Oct	216
Morecambe Bay	187	218	(91)	(138)	(62)	May	203
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	169	204	(147)	175	(124)	Oct	183
Pegwell Bay	604	20	233	38	0		179
Solway Firth	119	88	(333)	233	100	Jan	175
Draycote Water	255	151	98				168
Loch Leven	127	204	127	150	198	Oct	161
<b>Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland</b>							
Belfast Lough	1,214	1,832	1,577	2,095	1,482	Dec	1,640
Loughs Neagh and Beg	930	1,695	518	449	959	Oct	910
Lough Foyle	782	1,030	50	169	116	Sep	429
Carlingford Lough	174	184	232	246	116	Feb	190
Upper Lough Erne	110	112	191	147	206	Mar	153
Lower Lough Erne	71	66	117	48	123	Mar	85
Strangford Lough	(36)	(43)	(64)	(82)	(65)	Nov	(82)
Larne Lough	105	115	50	56	84	Sep	82
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007</b>							
Swale Estuary	(42)	316	63	(52)	51	Feb	143
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain</b>							
Glyne Gap	0	0	42	(116)	213	Dec	74
Hanningfield Reservoir	(42)	129	18	42	200	Nov	97
Bridlington Bay	(0)			123	189	Jan	156
Theale Gravel Pits	(53)	(49)	37	(33)	170	Feb	104

## Red-necked Grebe

*Podiceps grisegena*

International threshold: 510

Great Britain threshold: 2\*

All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 10 Dec

NI max: 0

\*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

The counted British maximum was the lowest recorded by WeBS and was a third of the previous year's total. Red-necked Grebe were noted at 16 sites in England and at five in Scotland. Birds were noted in all months between November and March. All records were of single birds except for peaks of four at Forth Estuary and North

Norfolk Coast and of two at Chichester Harbour, Glyne Gap and Lindisfarne. The count at the Fourth Estuary was the lowest at this site for some time due to the lack of counts from Port Seton to Craigielaw Point, which has held double-figures in recent years. However, this site remains the most important for this species.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Forth Estuary	44	16	24	32	4	Jan	24
North Norfolk Coast	2	2	1	6	4	Feb	3
Lindisfarne	4 <sup>10</sup>		1 <sup>10</sup>	3 <sup>10</sup>	2	Dec	3
Traeth Dulas		2	3				3
Poole Harbour	(2)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)		2
Loch Ryan	(0)	3	0	2	1	Oct	2
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007</b>							
Chichester Harbour	0	0	0	1	2	Nov	1
Moray Firth	1	1	2	2	1	Oct	1

## Slavonian Grebe

*Podiceps auritus*

International threshold: 55

Great Britain threshold: 7\*

All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>1</sup>

GB max: 268 Feb

NI max: 4 Mar

\*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

The British maximum was around a third higher than the previous year's total and the highest for five years. Slavonian Grebe were noted at a total of 82 sites in Britain, just over half of which were in Scotland. Most birds were recorded between October and February, with none noted in July and August. A total of 12 sites held ten or more birds. Peak numbers at the Forth Estuary were the lowest ever recorded at the site, although no counts were received from Port Seton to Craigielaw Point, a key area for this species. Conversely, numbers at Loch Ewe were the highest ever recorded, with

noteworthy double-figure counts also at Loch Watten and Loch of Stenness.

In Northern Ireland, Slavonian Grebe were noted at just two sites, Lough Foyle in October, February and March, and the Bann Estuary in October and November. All records were of single birds except for four at Lough Foyle in March. This represented a major decline since the peak here of 61 birds in 2003/04. The maximum for Northern Ireland was the lowest since 1999/2000 and was 38 lower than the previous year's total.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Forth Estuary	80	110	73	55	25 <sup>12</sup>	Feb	69
Moray Firth	69	62	55	42	50	Feb	56
Whiteness to Skelda Ness	55 <sup>9</sup>	55 <sup>9</sup>	59 <sup>9</sup>	52 <sup>9</sup>			55 ▲
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Inner Firth of Clyde	45	(20)	16	35	41	Feb	34
Sound of Gigha	51 <sup>11</sup>		20 <sup>11</sup>	30 <sup>11</sup>			34
Traigh Luskentyre	50 <sup>45</sup>	44 <sup>45</sup>	31		11	Oct	34
Loch Ryan	31 <sup>12</sup>	32	42	23	39	Oct	33
Inner Loch Indaal	31	30					31
Loch of Harray	25	23	49	24	16	Oct	27
Lindisfarne	23 <sup>10</sup>	(2)	30 <sup>10</sup>	22 <sup>10</sup>	18	Feb	23
Kirkabister to Wadbister Ness	13 <sup>9</sup>	17 <sup>9</sup>	(16) <sup>9</sup>	20 <sup>9</sup>			17

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Blackwater Estuary	9 <sup>10</sup>	41	11	2 <sup>10</sup>	(2)	Dec	16
Loch Na Keal	12 <sup>11</sup>	18 <sup>11</sup>					15
Rova Head to Wadbister Ness	11 <sup>9</sup>	6 <sup>9</sup>	18 <sup>9</sup>	22 <sup>9</sup>			14
Loch of Swannay	10	11	19	10	15	Dec	13
Gualan and Balgarva	12 <sup>45</sup>		11 <sup>45</sup>				12
Pagham Harbour	6	28	8	8	3	Feb	11
Loch Ewe			0	13	18	Feb	10
Broadford Bay	10	6	10	(7)	13	Feb	10
Gerrans Bay	3	4	5	26	5	Dec	9
Lavan Sands	15 <sup>12</sup>	6	14 <sup>12</sup>	2	6	Feb	9
South Yell Sound		9 <sup>9</sup>					9
Sound of Harris	8 <sup>45</sup>	5 <sup>45</sup>	10 <sup>45</sup>				8
Sullom Voe	6 <sup>9</sup>	6 <sup>9</sup>	13 <sup>9</sup>	7 <sup>9</sup>			8
Goring	(1)	(0)	(7)				(7) ▲
Hornish	4 <sup>45</sup>	10 <sup>45</sup>					7 ▲

#### Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007

Jersey Shore					4	Jan	4
Upper Loch Torridon			0	17	0		6

#### Sites with mean peak counts of 4 or more birds in Northern Ireland†

Lough Foyle	13	61	10	42	4	Mar	26
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#### Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain

Loch of Stenness	6	2	1	2	11	Feb	4
Loch Watten	1	1	3	2	10	Nov	3
Glyne Gap	0	0	0	4	(8)	Jan	2
Little Loch Broom			0	(0)	7	Feb	4

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

## Black-necked Grebe

*Podiceps nigricollis*

International threshold: 2,200  
Great Britain threshold: 1\*†  
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 65 Apr  
NI max: 0

\*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

The British maximum for Black-necked Grebe was the lowest for three years, although similar to the average of the past five years. Birds were noted at 59 sites in England and one each in Scotland, Wales and the Channel Islands. The January count at Langstone Harbour was the highest at

this site for ten years, but winter numbers at the Fal Complex were very low. Several sites featured in the key sites table have been kept confidential following the advice of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel and/or local counters.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain†</b>							
William Girling Reservoir	16	21	27	21	26	Dec	22
Woolston Eyes	6	23	35	13	(35)	Apr	22
Fal Complex	15	7	19	56	4	Dec	20
Langstone Harbour	15	11	16 <sup>10</sup>	20	24 <sup>12</sup>	Jan	17
Confidential Northumberland Site	11	10	11	16	10	Apr	12
Lower Derwent Ings	0	1	47	0			12
Confidential Hertfordshire Site	7	17	12	10	9	Mar	11
Teignmouth to Berry Head		4	18				11
Staines Reservoirs	5	1	6	11	9	Mar	6

† as the British threshold is so low and no All-Ireland threshold has been set a qualifying level of five has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

## Great White Pelican

*Pelecanus onocrotalus*

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

GB max: 1 Aug  
NI max: 0

Single Great White Pelicans were at Bough Beech Reservoir in August and the Tay Estuary in September. The only previous record of this species during WeBS was of one at Wigtown Bay in 1998/99.



# Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

GB max: 18,116 Oct

NI max: 2,830 Oct

International threshold: 1,200

Great Britain threshold: 230

All-Ireland threshold: 140

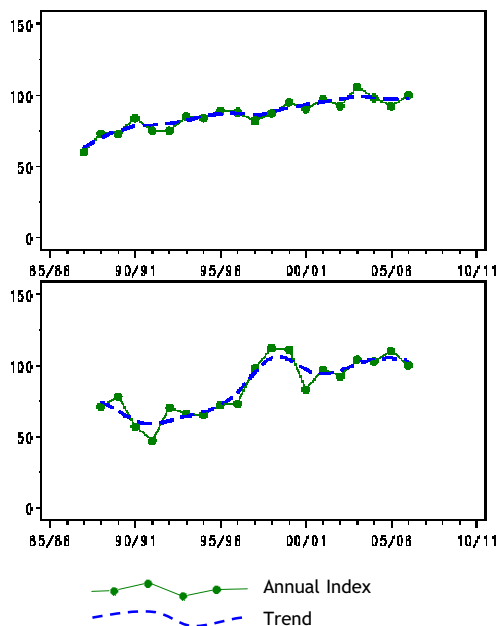


Figure 36.a, Annual indices & trend for Cormorant for GB (above) & NI (below).

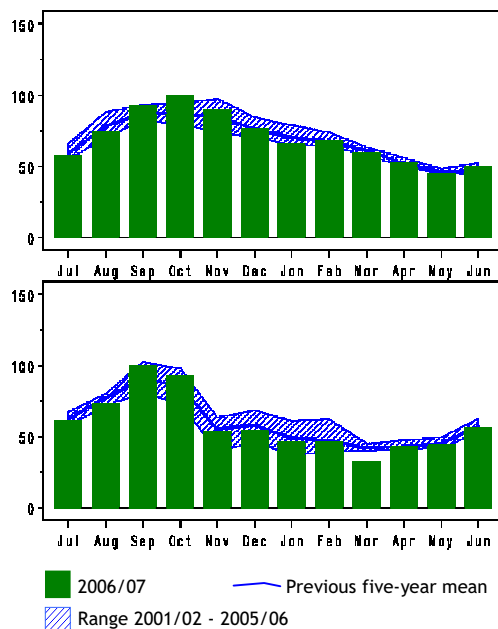


Figure 36.b, Monthly indices for Cormorant for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British index for Cormorant has shown a steady increase over the past 20 years, although over the past five years numbers have remained more stable. This levelling might be explained by an increase in the licences issued for culling since 2004/05. As in recent years, numbers peaked during autumn, with the October peak being higher than those of the preceding five years, before tailing off through the winter. On the whole, numbers were similar to those of the past five years although were slightly below average in January.

The Northern Irish trend has remained fairly stable following a rise in the late 1990s. The annual pattern is similar to that of Britain with the highest numbers typically recorded during autumn. In

2006/07 the peaks in September and October were higher than average, while numbers during March were lower than during the previous five years.

Peak numbers at the UK's key site, Loughs Neagh and Beg, were the highest since 1998/99. Higher than average numbers were also noted at the Alt Estuary, the Dee Estuary (England and Wales), Hanningfield Reservoir, Wraysbury Gravel Pits and the Tay Estuary. An extraordinarily high count at King George VI Reservoir in October was balanced by below average counts at Staines Reservoirs and Queen Mary Reservoir, and relatively low peaks were also noted at the Tees Estuary and the Ouse Washes. Numbers at the other main Northern Irish sites were similar to average.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,383	1,468	1,591	1,490	1,665	Sep	1,519
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Alt Estuary	569	739	984	1,079	1,168	Nov	908
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	668	718	780	623	1,003	Nov	758
Rutland Water	529	788	697	825	918	Sep	751
Forth Estuary	(982)	631	669	713	613	Sep	722
Morecambe Bay	(657)	(539)	681	655	(641)	Sep	668
Thames Estuary	736	596	654	526	434	Dec	589
Inner Firth of Clyde	553	425	452	(740) <sup>11</sup>	514	Oct	537
Tees Estuary	438	773	471	511	329	Aug	504
Walthamstow Reservoirs	570	505	453	306	640	Jul	495
Dungeness Gravel Pits	235 <sup>30</sup>	251	870	622	415	Sep	479
Solway Estuary	500	(594)	(454)	270	(526)	Dec	469
The Wash	502	449	538	371	467	Jan	465
Poole Harbour	558	(412)	431	408	374	Sep	443
Abberton Reservoir	600	480	450	324	342	May	439
Ribble Estuary	398	(456)	543	293	316	Feb	401
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	340	382	446	466	362	Jun	399
Wraysbury Reservoir	132	899	83				371
Grafham Water	349	193	344	531			354
Besthorpe & Gorton GP & Fleet	415	372	336	363	274	Apr	352
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	181	607	119	306	533	Nov	349
North Norfolk Coast	581	276	242	272	265	Aug	327
Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir	308 <sup>30</sup>	340	295	360	295	Oct	320
Ouse Washes	347	252 <sup>11</sup>	294	254 <sup>12</sup>	454 <sup>12</sup>	Mar	320
Medway Estuary	(136)	305	(68)	(93)	(30)	Nov	305
Hanningfield Reservoir	189 <sup>30</sup>	411	109	318	500	Nov	305
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	293	(168)	(256)	(93)	(48)	Nov	293
Rostherne Mere	293	306	256	273	273	Jun	280
Queen Mother Reservoir	91	850	25	252	120	Oct	268
Pagham Harbour	240	303	225	308	258	Jul	267
Queen Mary Reservoir	342	768	44	85	88	May	265
Staines Reservoirs	41	773	21	436	49	Sep	264
Ranworth and Cockshoot Broads	270 <sup>11</sup>	324 <sup>11</sup>	257 <sup>11</sup>	310 <sup>11</sup>	151	Feb	262
Drakelow Gravel Pit	261	253 <sup>11</sup>	230 <sup>11</sup>	303	212 <sup>12</sup>	Sep	252
Blackwater Estuary	104	473	191	224	(46)	Nov	248
Tay Estuary	233	236	(243)	198	310	Sep	244 ▲
Durham Coast	(13)	(2)	(52)	236	(63)	Aug	236
Alde Complex	84	(106)	549	99	206	Dec	235
Ayr to North Troon	169	(110)	292	(97)	(51)	Feb	231
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007</b>							
Loch Leven	68	310	222	180	255	Sep	207
Colne Estuary	(29)	423	297	81	47	Jan	212
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 130 or more birds in Northern Ireland†</b>							
Outer Ards Shoreline	652	563	350	455	397	Oct	483
Strangford Lough	358	400	405	455	422	Oct	408
Belfast Lough	388	348	350 <sup>12</sup>	378	350	Nov	363
Carlingford Lough	206	154	221	238	230	Sep	210
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain</b>							
King George VI Reservoir	11	8	104	93	872	Oct	218
Island of Egilsay	287	57	104	72	310	Oct	166
Loch Leven	68	310	222	180	255	Sep	207
Fairburn Ings	219	187		265	241	May	228
Somerset Levels	149	(123)	180	156	235	Nov	180

# Shag

*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

International threshold: 2,000

Great Britain threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 2,188 Feb

NI max: 636 Oct

The counted maximum of Shag in Britain was around 20% higher than in the previous year, although was similar to the average of the past five years. The Northern Irish total was the highest ever recorded by WeBS and was again around 20% higher than the previous year's figure. However, as WeBS only records a small proportion of the total number of Shag present around the country, it is unlikely that any changes detected by WeBS truly reflect actual changes in the Shag population.

Shag were recorded at 187 sites around Britain and a further 11 in Northern Ireland. The highest single-site total was from the Forth Estuary, at which 605 were present in October, however, this figure was around half that of the five-year mean of the site. Below average peak counts were also noted at Inner Moray and Inverness Firth, whilst above average peaks were recorded at Widewall Bay, Loch Ewe, Island of Egilsay, Thurso Bay and Loch Ryan. Peak counts in Northern Ireland were relatively average.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 100 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Forth Estuary	2,315	(1,664)	(760)	420	605	Oct	1,251
South Yell Sound	710 <sup>9</sup>	893 <sup>9</sup>	558 <sup>9</sup>	790 <sup>9</sup>			738
Moray Firth		413 <sup>1</sup>	995 <sup>1</sup>	308 <sup>1</sup>			572
Hacosay, Bluemull & Colgrave Snds	423 <sup>9</sup>	709 <sup>9</sup>	232 <sup>9</sup>	625 <sup>9</sup>			497
Burra and Trondra		476 <sup>9</sup>	441 <sup>9</sup>	287 <sup>9</sup>			401
Kirkabister to Wadbister Ness	172 <sup>9</sup>	778 <sup>9</sup>	(97) <sup>9</sup>	198 <sup>9</sup>			383
Scalloway Islands		424 <sup>9</sup>	255 <sup>9</sup>	448 <sup>9</sup>			376
North Bressay	53 <sup>9</sup>		728 <sup>9</sup>	128 <sup>9</sup>			303
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	636 <sup>1</sup>	108 <sup>1</sup>	663 <sup>1</sup>	31	22	Oct	292
Widewall Bay	68	580	140	150	390	Nov	266
Scousburgh to Maywick				245 <sup>9</sup>			245
Quendale to Virkie	123 <sup>9</sup>	176 <sup>9</sup>	97 <sup>9</sup>	503 <sup>9</sup>			225
Inner Firth of Clyde	(213)	(159)	190	(115)	197	Feb	200
Loch Ewe			197	115	261	Feb	191
Gulberwick Area				189 <sup>9</sup>			189
Ayr to North Troon	184	(26)	(30)	(6)	(2)	Dec	184
Rova Head to Wadbister Ness	166 <sup>9</sup>	132 <sup>9</sup>	126 <sup>9</sup>	299 <sup>9</sup>			181
South Unst		206 <sup>9</sup>	63 <sup>9</sup>	246 <sup>9</sup>			172
Easter Ross Coast		214 <sup>1</sup>	122 <sup>1</sup>				168
Arran	100	(151)	131	304	123	Dec	165
Moray Coast (Consolidated)	121	180	251	33	193	Oct	156
Broadford Bay	150	(100)	150	152	150	Dec	151
Red Point to Port Henderson			92	246	105	Feb	148
Bressay Sound	114 <sup>9</sup>	100 <sup>9</sup>	272 <sup>9</sup>	97 <sup>9</sup>			146
Whiteness to Skelda Ness	149 <sup>9</sup>	169 <sup>9</sup>	138 <sup>9</sup>	115 <sup>9</sup>			143
Loch Ryan	(110)	79	144	127	179	Oct	132
Island of Papa Westray	107	210	50	150			129
Winterfield to Catcraig					120	Oct	120
Helmsdale to Lothbeg			103 <sup>1</sup>				103
Sullom Voe	106 <sup>9</sup>	104 <sup>9</sup>	133 <sup>9</sup>	68 <sup>9</sup>			103
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 100 or more birds in Northern Ireland<sup>†</sup></b>							
Outer Ards Shoreline	227	(187)	280	236	284	Jan	257
Strangford Lough	189	226	218	295	291	Oct	244
Belfast Lough	215	194 <sup>10</sup>	133 <sup>12</sup>	49	191 <sup>10</sup>	Dec	156
Carlingford Lough	48	(37)	60	55	57	Feb	55
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Island of Egilsay	78	62	67	47	230	Feb	97
Lindisfarne	156 <sup>10</sup>	48 <sup>10</sup>	104 <sup>10</sup>	40 <sup>10</sup>	122	Sep	94
Thurso Bay		100	80	20	170	Dec	93

<sup>†</sup> as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 100 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Bittern

Botaurus stellaris

International threshold: 65  
Great Britain threshold: ?  
All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 23 Feb  
NI max: 0

During 2006/07, Bittern were noted at 34 sites across England and an additional four in Wales; none were recorded from Scotland or Northern Ireland. Birds were recorded in all months except July with most records being of single birds. Up to two birds were present at Leybourne and New Hythe Gravel Pits, Potteric Carr, Pugneys Country Park Lakes, River Cam - Kingfishers Bridge, Stodmarsh NNR and

Collards Lagoon and The Hen Reedbeds between November and March. Three were at Upton Warren Local Nature Reserve in November and the Humber Estuary in May, while four were at Minsmere in May (although this represents only a proportion of the birds known to be present). The British maximum of 23 was similar to that of the previous year.

Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Vagrant and escape  
Native Range: Worldwide

GB max: 1 Sep  
NI max: 0

Cattle Egrets were recorded from three sites in four months. All reports were of single birds, which were at Christchurch

Harbour in September, the North Norfolk Coast in October and the Otter Estuary in March and April.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

International threshold: 1,300  
Great Britain threshold: ?†  
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 3,437 Sep  
NI max: 20 Sep

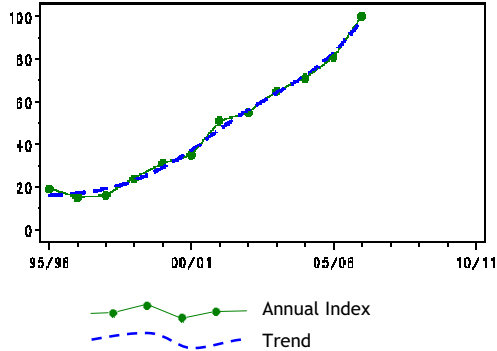


Figure 37.a, Annual indices & trend for Little Egret for GB.

Little Egrets increased in number yet again, with the British index rising by around 25% during 2006/07 to its highest ever level. This increase was reflected in the maximum counted numbers, in September, also the highest yet to be recorded by WeBS. Interestingly, in August 2006 the number of Little Egret counted by WeBS outnumbered those of Grey Heron for the first time (although, of course, there are many more Grey Herons dispersed away from WeBS sites in the UK than there are Little Egrets). With Little Egret becoming a regular sight

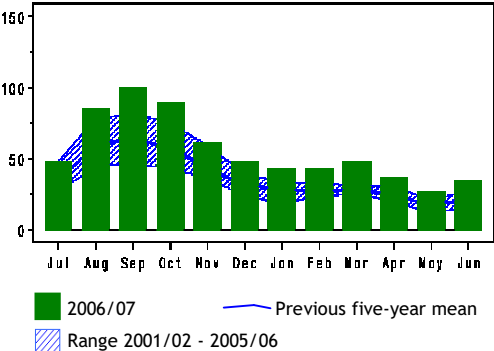


Figure 37.b, Monthly indices for Little Egret for GB.

in many parts of the country throughout the year it is unsurprising that numbers were the highest recorded in every month in 2006/07. Whilst there are still no official 1% thresholds for Little Egret, we have increased the table-qualifying level, to select sites for presentation in this report, from 30 to 50. A further 19 sites held mean peak numbers of 30 or more and a further 28 held mean peaks of 10 or more.

Little Egrets were noted at an incredible 265 sites in 2006/07. Most peak counts were in single figures although ten sites hosted

numbers in excess of 100. Given the national pattern, it is unsurprising that many individual sites hosted their highest numbers to date, with particularly notable counts at the Wash, Stour Estuary, Hamford Water, Lavan Sands, Dee Estuary (England and Wales) and Grouville Marsh.

The Northern Ireland maximum was twice that of the previous year and the highest to date. Birds were recorded here at four sites between August and May with the highest count of 13 at Dundrum Inner Bay in September.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain†</b>							
Medway Estuary	(125)	413 <sup>11</sup>	(76)	(62)	(32)	Nov	413
Thames Estuary	201	(262)	295	260	316	Sep	268
Chichester Harbour	218	228	129	(206)	192	Sep	195
Poole Harbour	(140)	(179)	(116)	(112)	(84)	Nov	(179)
North Norfolk Coast	81	149 <sup>11</sup>	228 <sup>11</sup>	170 <sup>11</sup>	193	Sep	164
Blackwater Estuary	(51)	(66)	(159)	133	(58)	Sep	146
The Wash	29	72	92	139	323	Oct	131
Tamar Complex	129	143	120	(129)	97	Sep	124
Swale Estuary	(59)	131	95	(100)	(72)	Oct	113
Burry Inlet	87	(141)	103	108	86	Sep	105
Exe Estuary	67	131	93	107	116	Sep	103
Jersey Shore					98	Feb	98
Kingsbridge Estuary	105	(99)	86	85	89	Mar	93
Langstone Harbour	88	90	87	91	77	Oct	87
Taw-Torridge Estuary	(60)	(74)	(56)	93	78	Aug	86
Longueville Marsh	145	105	102	60	12	Mar	85
Stour Estuary	32	57	87	102	143	Oct	84
Pagham Harbour	76	63	(60)	94	90	Sep	81
Branston Fen				80 <sup>11</sup>			80
Southampton Water	(19)	(51)	(39)	(44)	(80)	Aug	(80)
Lavan Sands	15	67	71	107	133	Oct	79
Portsmouth Harbour	110 <sup>11</sup>	(34)	51	45	96	Oct	76
Camel Estuary	64	65	71	96	80	Aug	75
Fal Complex	55	(52)	89	60	82	Oct	72
Hamford Water	20	53	81	72	135	Sep	72
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	20	32 <sup>11</sup>	59 <sup>11</sup>	112 <sup>11</sup>	132 <sup>11</sup>	Aug	71
Severn Estuary	41	47	66	104	74	Oct	66
Cleddau Estuary	48	36	71	83	(68)	Sep	61
Crouch-Roach Estuary	42	43	73 <sup>10</sup>	(35)	57	Oct	54
Avon Valley: Salisbury-Fordingbr'	(79)	19	57	48	57	Jan	52
North West Solent	(25)	42	(51)	56	53	Oct	51

**Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in 2006/07†**

Grouville Marsh	2	2	2	50	165	Nov	44
Pegwell Bay	23	26	(48)	56	71	Sep	45
Fowey Estuary	48	35	33	37	64	Oct	43
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	19	22	42	61	64	Oct	42
Somerset Levels	26	(12)	24	(35)	64	Feb	38
Fleet and Wey	38	25	46	56	59	Dec	45
Carmarthen Bay	(9)	23	35	41	57	Sep	39
Orwell Estuary	37 <sup>11</sup>	56 <sup>11</sup>	9 <sup>10</sup>	27	54	Sep	37
Dart Estuary	20	44	34	(39)	52	Sep	38
Newtown Estuary	22	41	(21)	(30)	52	Sep	38
Dengie Flats	15	(27)	31	45	51	Nov	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

## Great White Egret

*Ardea alba*

Vagrant

Native Range: Worldwide

GB max: 1 Nov

NI max: 0

A single Great White Egret was present at River Avon - Fordingbridge to Ringwood in October, November and January. This individual was noted on many of the count

sections of this site and the presence of colour-rings helped identify it as having been ringed in Lac de Grand-Lieu in France in May 2003 (M. Grantham *pers. comm.*).

Grey Heron
Ardea cinerea

GB max: 4,200 Oct
NI max: 517 Sep

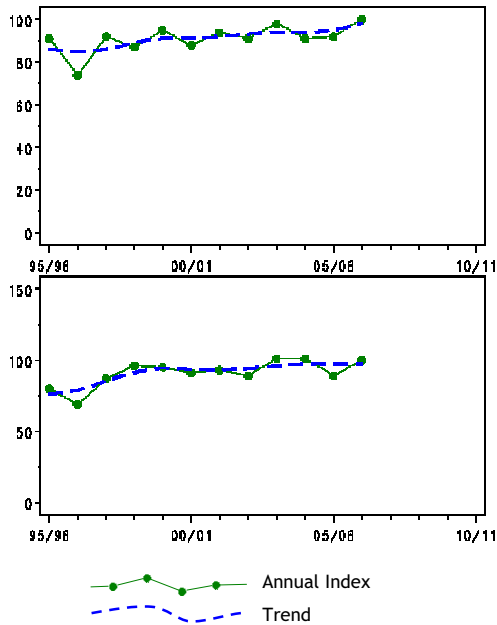


Figure 38.a, Annual indices & trend for Grey Heron for GB (above) & NI (below).

The number of Grey Heron recorded by WeBS has remained fairly stable over the past decade with an average of around 4,100 counted in Britain and a further 400 in Northern Ireland. The British trend showed a slight upturn in 2006/07 and monthly indices revealed that numbers were above average throughout the year. Interestingly, data from the BTO Heronry Census has revealed a long-term increase in breeding Grey Herons with a notable increase during the past ten years from fewer than 12,000 to over 13,000 pairs (Baillie et al. 2007). This rate of increase has not been detected by WeBS, perhaps

International threshold: 2,700
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: 30\*

\*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

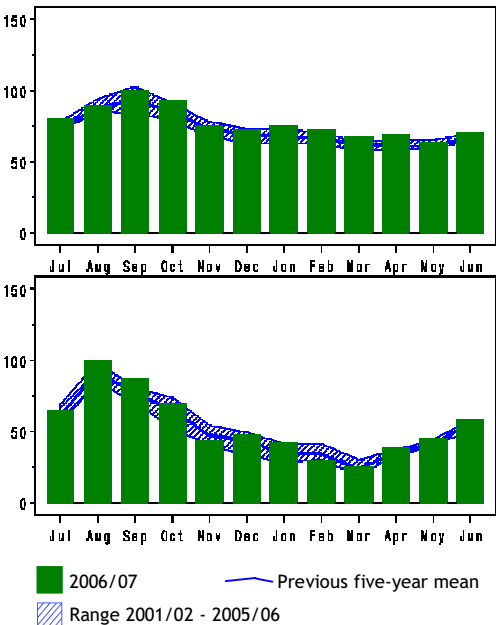


Figure 38.b, Monthly indices for Grey Heron for GB (above) & NI (below).

indicating that birds are dispersing onto smaller waterways that are not comprehensively covered by WeBS.

As usual, Grey Herons were recorded on almost three quarters of all sites counted during 2006/07. Just six sites held peak numbers in excess of 100 birds, compared to seven in the previous year. The highest single-site total was of 225 at Loughs Neagh and Beg, which was slightly higher than the site average. Peak numbers at Coombe Country Park were the lowest for seven years, being just a quarter of those in 2005/06.

	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†							
Avon Valley: Salisbury-Fordingbr	(83)	150	(80)	(106)	(114)	Mar	150
Somerset Levels	136	130	151	119	143	Jan	136
Coombe Country Park	159	159	105	120	30	Jan	115
Thames Estuary	(124)	(94)	100	117	89	Dec	108
Forth Estuary	62	78 <sup>10</sup>	104	108	108	Sep	92
Morecambe Bay	101	91	68	88	105	Sep	91
Inner Firth of Clyde	87	81	90	93	(100)	Oct	90
Ouse Washes	104 <sup>12</sup>	78	163 <sup>12</sup>	36	55 <sup>12</sup>	Mar	87
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(111)	87	67	(48)	61	Jul	82
Solway Estuary	(69)	(70)	72	(28)	(32)	Oct	72
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	91	67	55	68	68	Oct	70

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Severn Estuary	104 <sup>10</sup>	81	69	55	43	Jul	70
Walthamstow Reservoirs	133	64	60	16	75	Jan	70
Tees Estuary	66	64	56	62	81	Sep	66
The Wash	54	76	50	52	59	Oct	58
Cromarty Firth	44	73	47	58	64	Oct	57
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	44	76	56	62	36	Feb	55
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	34	22	58	96	64	Dec	55
R.Avon: Fordingbridge-Ringwood	46	28	56	73	65	Oct	54
Tamar Complex	53 <sup>10</sup>	52	49	67	48	Oct	54
Taw-Torridge Estuary	(41)	77	30	29	72	Jul	52
<b>Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland</b>							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	226	208	172	202	225	Sep	207
Strangford Lough	102	102	90	121 <sup>10</sup>	95 <sup>10</sup>	Nov	102
Lough Foyle	31	45	54	34	42	Sep	41
Belfast Lough	35	29 <sup>10</sup>	36	36	(32)	Sep	34
Carlingford Lough	20	23	30	41	51	Sep	33
Larne Lough	19	34	47	19	30	Sep	30
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Besthorpe & Gorton GPs & Fleet	8	(23)	(16)	(19)	(96)	Apr	32
Tring Reservoirs	32	31	35	32	78	Feb	42
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	37	56	33	(32)	60	Mar	47
Radnor Mere	44	46	42	35	60	Mar	45
Bewl Water	7	23	21	12	56	Sep	24
Durham Coast	41	41	42	42	55	May	44
Montrose Basin	24	54	(40)	32	55	Sep	41
Bough Beech Reservoir	27	17	25	13	54	Apr	27

<sup>†</sup> as no British threshold has been set a qualifying level of 50 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

## White Stork

*Ciconia ciconia*

Vagrant and escape

Native Range: Europe, Africa, Asia

GB max: 2 Apr

NI max: 0

The only records of White Stork were both were at Castle Howard Lake and the of single birds and were both in April; these Humber Estuary.

## Glossy Ibis

*Plegadis falcinellus*

Vagrant

Native Range: Worldwide

GB max: 1 Jun

NI max: 0

A single Glossy Ibis was noted at Freckleton Marsh in the Ribble Estuary during June. during WeBS was a single bird at the Exe Estuary that was present between The only previous record of this species November 2002 and April 2004.

## Spoonbill

*Platalea leucorodia*

International threshold: 110

Great Britain threshold: ?

All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 20 Nov

NI max: 0

Spoonbill were recorded in every month from November to May. Spoonbill were during 2006/07 and the maximum of 20 in present at eight sites in England, most November was similar to the average of the counts being of one or two birds although past five years. Most birds were recorded seven were at the Taw-Torridge Estuary from sites in England although one was at in November, December and February, eight the Forth Estuary in Scotland in November were at the North Norfolk Coast in May and December, while in Wales singles were 11 were at Poole Harbour in November. at the Dyfi Estuary in May and Foryd Bay

**Water Rail**  
*Rallus aquaticus*

International threshold: 10,000  
Great Britain threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>  
All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 453 Dec  
NI max: 4 Dec

Despite their secretive nature, which makes them difficult to detect using standard WeBS methodology, Water Rail were recorded at 331 sites in Britain during 2006/07 plus an additional three in Northern Ireland. The British maximum was only slightly lower than the average of the past five years; however, numbers counted by WeBS only represent a tiny fraction of the birds present in the country.

Numbers at most key sites were fairly similar to recent years, although numbers

at Kenfig Pool, Loe Pool and Lee Valley Gravel Pits were slightly lower than the mean of the peak counts during the past five years. In contrast, peak counts at Woolston Eyes, West Myre and Inner Firth of Clyde were higher than usual for these sites. Typically, only a handful of birds were recorded in Northern Ireland, these were at Belfast Lough and Upper and Lower Lough Erne; again this represents only a tiny proportion of the birds actually present.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Somerset Levels	(45)	45	63	50	58	Nov	54
Grouville Marsh	25	20	20	30	(10)	Oct	24
Poole Harbour	24	(10)	(12)	(6)	(6)	Nov	24
Kenfig Pool	39	27	17	12	14	Dec	22
Longueville Marsh	15	15	20	20	(10)	Oct	18
Middle Yare Marshes	17	18	(4)	(5)	(5)	Sep	18
Stodmarsh & Collards Lagoon	28	20	15	9	14	Mar	17
Thames Estuary	21	(8)	11	(10)	16	Jan	16
Burry Inlet	10	18	16	(0)	(0)		15
River Cam - Kingfishers Bridge	22 <sup>12</sup>	7	8	22	15	Feb	15
Southampton Water	18	(7)	11	20	10	Dec	15
Chichester Harbour	16	6	13	14	15	Nov	13
Loe Pool	19	(16)	10	12	8	Dec	13
Severn Estuary	15	5	6	25	13	Feb	13
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	13	(5)	16	10	8	Dec	12
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	18	12	(7)	11	7	Feb	12
Ingrebourne Valley	14	12	7	10			11
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Woolston Eyes	4	0	3	3	15	Dec	5
West Myre	0	0	0	0	14	Feb	3
Inner Firth of Clyde	2	3	3	10	13	Nov	6
Malltraeth RSPB	5	5	8	(4)	11	Dec	7
Minsmere	7	6	5	4	10	Oct	6
Rutland Water	10	8	8	9	10	Nov	9

<sup>†</sup> 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



Water Rail (John Harding)



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## Spotted Crake

*Porzana porzana*

Scarce

GB max: 2 Aug  
NI max: 0

Spotted Crake were noted at three sites during 2006/07, all records being during late summer and autumn. Singles were

noted at the Humber Estuary and Camel Estuary in August and at the Exe Estuary in September.

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## Little Crake

*Porzana parva*

Vagrant

Native Range: Europe, Africa, Asia

GB max: 1 Jun  
NI max: 0

A single Little Crake was present at Burra Firth (Head) on Unst in June. This is only the second time this species has been

recorded by WeBS. This first was in 2005/06 at the Severn Estuary.

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## Corncrake

*Crex crex*

Scarce

GB max: 3 May  
NI max: 0

Corncrake were noted at three sites during 2006/07; all were in the Uists and were

during the summer months.

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## Moorhen

*Gallinula chloropus*

International threshold: 20,000\*\*

Great Britain threshold: 7,500<sup>†</sup>

All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 12,993 Nov  
NI max: 261 Jan

The counted British maximum was the lowest since 1998/99 albeit only 10% lower than the average of the past five years. With Moorhen being extremely widespread and found in even very small wetland areas the numbers recorded by WeBS only represent a small proportion of total number of birds actually present in the country. A total of 28 sites held peak numbers in excess of 100 birds and six of these held peak counts exceeding 300 birds. The highest single site total was 546 at the

Severn Estuary in January, this was the highest count at this site for five years. Peak numbers at Pitsford Reservoir were the highest recorded at the site. Lower than average peak counts were noted at the Burry Inlet and the Thanet Coast.

The Northern Irish maximum was very similar to those of recent years. The highest site total during 2006/07 was of 98 at Loughs Neagh and Beg. Numbers at Upper Lough Erne peaked at their highest level for eight years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 100 or more birds in Great Britain <sup>†</sup>							
Severn Estuary	476	465	409	465	546	Jan	472
WWT Martin Mere	490	440	420	490	438	Oct	456
Lower Derwent Ings	463	444	321	366			399
Thames Estuary	472	324	371	383	(323)	Feb	388
Somerset Levels	325	276	327	410	430	Mar	354
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	312	340	301	292	(300)	Oct	311

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Pitsford Reservoir	209	326	133	266	389	Sep	265
North Norfolk Coast	243	280	192	281	223	May	244
Arun Valley	202	176	146	175	246	Dec	189
Rutland Water	189	191	192	188	157	Nov	183
Humber Estuary	215	224	(170)	142	136	Dec	179
Chichester Gravel Pits	149	161	167	228	139	Jan	169
Bowl Water	254	215	165	61	100	Sep	159
Avon Valley: Salisbury-Fordingbr'	(56)	143	112	178	(92)	Dec	144
Burry Inlet	175	169	202	(104)	8	Apr	139
London Wetland Centre	131	137	135				134
Chew Valley Lake	105	245	125	80	90	Nov	129
Durham Coast	160	(0)	(158)	133	57	Nov	127
Grand Western Canal	80	103	132	137	178	Dec	126
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(116)	(121)	(86)	(97)	(78)	Nov	(121)
Tring Reservoirs	106	115	135	110	138	Nov	121
Fairburn Ings	73	154		134	116	Sep	119
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	118	112	94	108	158	Dec	118
Old Moor	(131)	116	45	(80)	(171)	Jun	116
Ouse Washes	70	95	102 <sup>12</sup>	111	201	Dec	116
Hamford Water	134	(156)	90	(91)	71	Feb	113
River Wye - Bakewell to Haddon	131	126	109	104	90	Dec	112
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	71	116	117	151	101	Feb	111
Grantham Canal: Cotgrave-Gamston				97	122	Oct	110
Tees Estuary	115	110	103	102	116	Dec	109
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(49)	(89)	73	132	117	Nov	107
Thanet Coast	123	169	133	65	42	Mar	106
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	(112)	(58)	(122)	86	95	Nov	104
Orwell Estuary	100 <sup>10</sup>	164 <sup>10</sup>	109 <sup>10</sup>	90 <sup>10</sup>	55 <sup>10</sup>	Aug	104
R. Cam: Owlstone Rd-Baits Bite Lk	93	76	117	126	105	Dec	103
Southampton Water	(81)	125	83	114	81	Dec	101
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 30 or more birds in Northern Ireland<sup>†</sup></b>							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	211	177	124	143	98	Oct	151
Upper Lough Erne	46	32	46	60	75	Jan	52
Belfast Lough	62	27	65 <sup>12</sup>	54	43	Dec	50
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Medway Estuary	(21)	(10)	19 <sup>10</sup>	84	131	Jan	78
Welbeck Estate	70	(74)	52	86	126	Dec	84
Alton Water	61	47	12	90	105	Sep	63
R. Avon: Fordingbridge-Ringw'd	(33)	43	(35)	(35)	105	Sep	74
Carsington Water	65	30	43	93	101	Nov	66

<sup>†</sup> as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set qualifying levels of 100 and 30 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

## Coot

*Fulica atra*

International threshold: 17,500

Great Britain threshold: 1,730

All-Ireland threshold: 330

GB max: 98,679 Nov

NI max: 3,523 Jan

The counted British maximum fell below 100,000 for the first time since 1992/93. This fall was reflected in the national index, which fell by around 15% since the previous year. Numbers were low throughout the year being the lowest of the past five years in all months. Indeed, between November and January numbers were between 15% and 20% lower than the average of the previous five years.

The highest total at any single site was of 6,233 at Rutland Water in December and

this was the second highest peak ever recorded at this site. Peak numbers at many key sites were similar to those of recent years although numbers at the Ouse Washes peaked at just over a third of those recorded during the previous year. The December count at Carsington Water was the highest ever for the site.

Following a sharp fall since 2000/01 the decline in the Northern Ireland index appears to be slowing. However, the current value represents a decline of

around 55% in that time. Numbers here remained below average throughout most of the year; only in December were figures above the mean of the previous five years.

Peak numbers at Loughs Neagh and Beg were the second lowest for the site and were over 20% lower than the five-year mean.

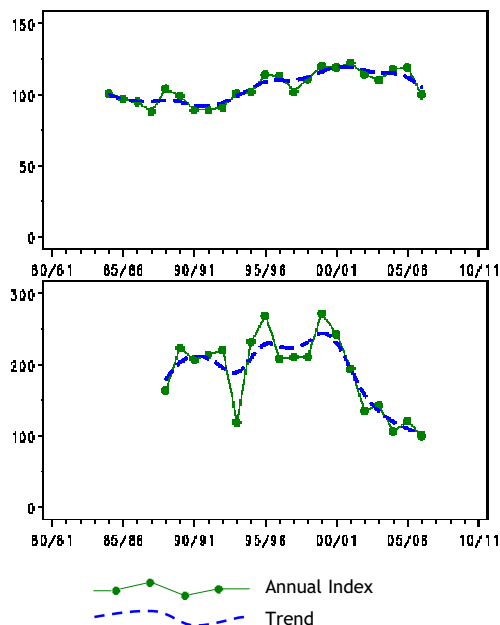


Figure 39.a, Annual indices & trend for Coot for GB (above) & NI (below).

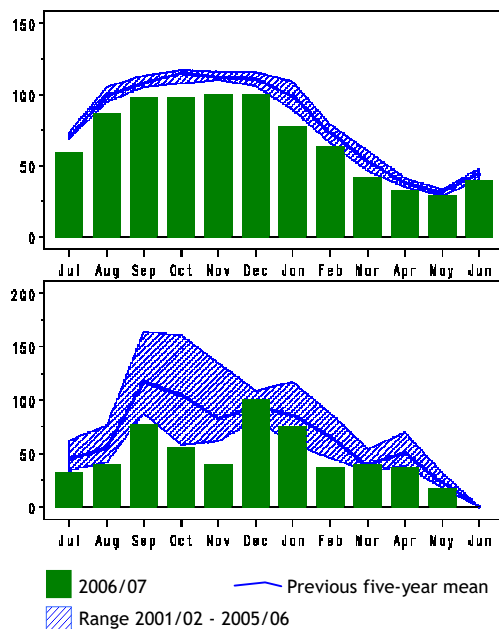


Figure 39.b, Monthly indices for Coot for GB (above) & NI (below).

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Abberton Reservoir	6,885	6,166	9,697	10,965	(2,088)	Aug	8,428
Rutland Water	3,969	4,021	4,733	3,490	6,233	Dec	4,489
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(2,528)	4,042	4,077	4,548	4,001	Dec	4,167
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	3,250	3,213	3,435	3,459	(2,417)	Nov	3,339
Cheddar Reservoir	2,975	3,100	3,873	3,140	3,380	Dec	3,294
Chew Valley Lake	3,715	3,285	3,335	2,205	2,360	Aug	2,980
Fleet and Wey	2,353	(2,923)	3,275	2,699	2,650	Nov	2,780
Ouse Washes	1,349	2,039	4,229	4,354	1,834	Feb	2,761
Loch Leven	3,205	2,650 <sup>12</sup>	2,375	1,610	2,820	Sep	2,532
Hanningfield Reservoir	3,426	3,791	463	2,000	1,692	Aug	2,274
Lower Windrush Valley GPs	2,016	2,341	2,075	(1,338)	(1,179)	Nov	2,144
Pitsford Reservoir	1,949	1,823	2,354	2,212	2,287	Sep	2,125
Cotswold Water Park (East)	2,365	2,296	1,850	2,045	1,835	Nov	2,078
Blagdon Lake	628	1,993	2,080	3,151	1,400	Sep	1,850
<b>Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland</b>							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	4,344	4,124	1,890	2,506	2,371	Sep	3,047
Upper Lough Erne	1,447	2,062	1,462	2,023	1,696	Dec	1,738
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007</b>							
Chichester Gravel Pits	2,213	1,250	1,393	1,266	601	Oct	1,345
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	(1,284)	(559)	(393)	(15)	(388)	Jan	(1,284)
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain</b>							
Carsington Water	1,332	526	1,731	1,614	2,136	Dec	1,468
Tees Estuary	1,463	1,638	1,498	1,632	1,925	Nov	1,631
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	1,531	835	1,626	(1,718)	1,903	Oct	1,523