

Oystercatcher
Haematopus ostralegus

GB max: 216,308 Sep
NI max: 16,920 Oct

International threshold: 10,200
Great Britain threshold: 3,200
All-Ireland threshold: 680

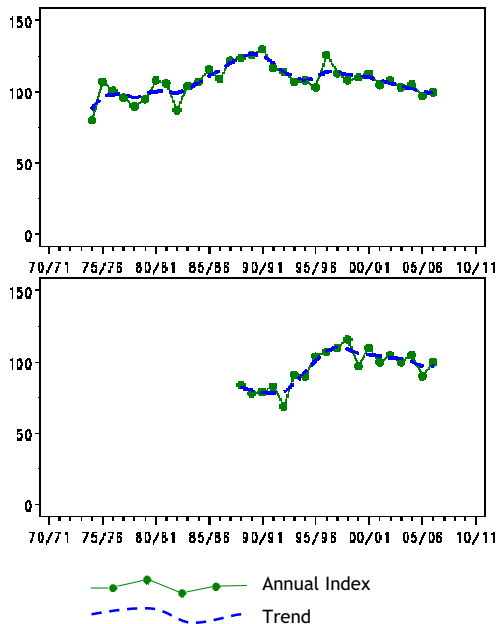


Figure 40.a, Annual indices & trend for Oystercatcher for GB (above) & NI (below).

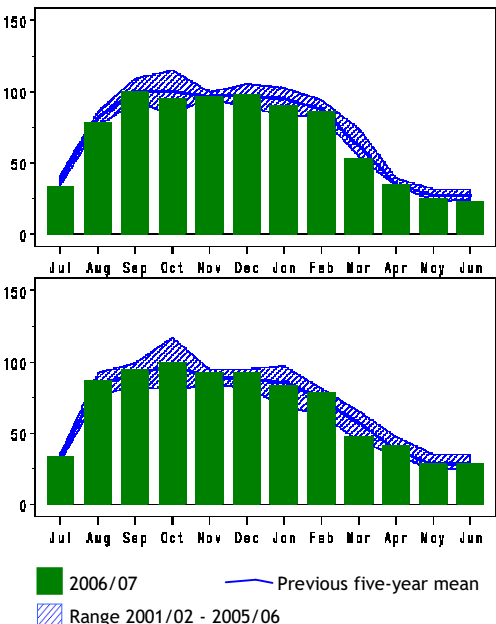


Figure 40.b, Monthly indices for Oystercatcher for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British maximum for this widespread and numerous species was only slightly higher than that of the previous year and was around 10% lower than the average of the past ten years. During this period there has been a slight but steady decline in the number of Oystercatchers in Britain. Numbers were a little below average in all months except December. A similar pattern of decline has been witnessed in Northern Ireland, the index again showing a fall of around 10% since 1996/97. However, numbers were similar to the mean of the past five years for most of the year,

although with an apparently more rapid than usual departure by March. Peak numbers at the country's key site, Morecambe Bay, were similar to the mean of the past five years. Lower than average counts were noted at the Dee Estuary (England and Wales), which were the lowest here for seven years, as well as at the Ribble Estuary and the Swale Estuary. Relatively high numbers were noted on the Thames Estuary and Lavan Sands. Peak numbers at most sites in Northern Ireland were similar to those of recent years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Morecambe Bay	72,653	56,745	55,072	46,760	55,874	Sep	57,421
Solway Estuary	(48,339)	37,907	30,961	(10,507)	(22,685)	Nov	39,069
Thames Estuary	26,803	23,858	20,393	22,956	27,836	Nov	24,369
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	21,727	23,906	25,956	22,847	15,808	Sep	22,049
The Wash	21,680	28,795	16,395	18,677	22,963	Aug	21,702
Ribble Estuary	23,881	19,915	14,095	(6,378)	10,872	Feb	17,191
Burry Inlet	14,570	13,831 <sup>10</sup>	16,219	11,728	15,110 <sup>12</sup>	Dec	14,292
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Carmarthen Bay	(4,530)	(5,747)	6,736	7,754	10,154 <sup>10</sup>	Feb	8,215
Forth Estuary	9,279	8,930	(8,213)	6,598	7,933	Sep	8,191

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Lavan Sands	7,612	6,796	5,718	5,926	9,587	Dec	7,128
Duddon Estuary	(6,476)	8,683	6,241	5,577	5,758	Dec	6,565
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	6,400	9,644	5,376	4,930	5,099	Feb	6,290
Inner Firth of Clyde	5,386	4,982	4,759	5,880	5,308	Oct	5,263
Swale Estuary	5,058	5,858	5,225	5,011	3,762	Dec	4,983
Swansea Bay	3,797	3,177	4,605	3,511	3,878 <sup>12</sup>	Oct	3,794
North Norfolk Coast	3,011	3,858	3,778	3,707	3,238	Feb	3,518
Humber Estuary	3,165	3,305 <sup>10</sup>	(4,582)	(3,468)	2,942	Sep	3,492
<b>Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland</b>							
Strangford Lough	8,557	7,459	9,018	6,861	(6,842)	Dec	7,974
Belfast Lough	5,542 <sup>10</sup>	4,321	5,299	4,756	(4,411)	Oct	4,980
Lough Foyle	2,999	(3,219)	3,095	1,805	2,347	Feb	2,693
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,993	1,822	1,740	1,747	1,825	Oct	1,825
Carlingford Lough	1,489	1,525	1,419	1,442	1,552	Nov	1,485
Dundrum Inner Bay	1,940	1,425	(1,252)	1,389	1,027	Jan	1,445
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007</b>							
Dengie Flats	3,034	(1,450)	1,865	1,595	2,925	Jan	2,355

## Black-winged Stilt

*Himantopus himantopus*

Vagrant

Native Range: Europe, Africa, Asia

GB max: 1 Sep

NI max: 0

A lone Black-winged Stilt was present at Carmarthen Bay in September.

## Avocet

*Recurvirostra avoetia*

International threshold: 730

Great Britain threshold: 35\*

GB max: 6,615 Feb

NI max: 0

\*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

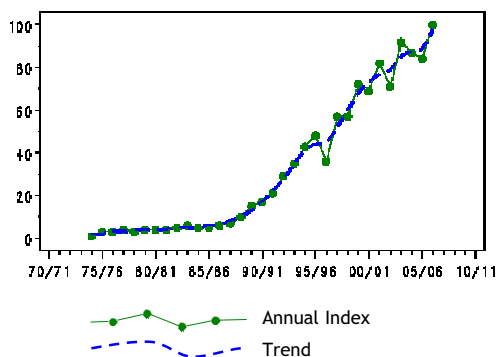


Figure 41.a, Annual indices & trend for Avocet for GB.

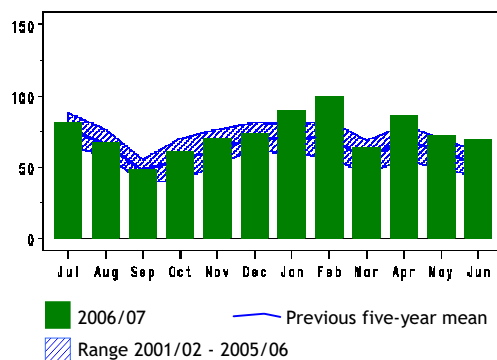


Figure 41.b, Monthly indices for Avocet for GB.

Avocet continued to increase in number as a wintering bird in Britain, the index reaching a record high during 2006/07, representing a rise of 16% on the previous year. The counted British maximum was also the highest ever recorded. Numbers were above the mean of the past five years throughout the year and especially high in January, February and April. Of the 53 sites

at which Avocet were recorded during 2006/07 all except three were in England, and most of these in the southern half of the country. Perhaps surprisingly, considering the increase nationally, there were few exceptional counts from key sites, perhaps suggesting that as numbers increase birds are spreading away from the key locations. Two proportionately high

peaks were at the Stour Estuary and the Humber Estuary, the latter forming the northern end of the core range on the east coast. Two other sites on the extremity of the range, the Ribble Estuary and WWT Martin Mere, also held record numbers. The late-summer peak at Breydon Water was lower than seen over the last few years.

The only record from Scotland was the Eden Estuary, at which a single bird was recorded during February. Away from the Severn Estuary the only record in Wales was of one at Carmarthen Bay in February. There have been no WeBS records of this species in Northern Ireland since 1993/94.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Poole Harbour	1,007	(1,493)	1,480 <sup>10</sup>	1,387	(1,303)	Feb	1,334
Alde Complex	1,089	1,073	1,058	1,392	1,031	Nov	1,129
Thames Estuary	839	658	1,153	1,663	1,312	Feb	1,125
Medway Estuary	(650)	(757)	(490)	(557)	(1,027)	Feb	(1,027)
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	1,027	1,069	1,012	1,044	706	Aug	972
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Swale Estuary	318	731	1,290	320	(344)	Feb	665
North Norfolk Coast	363	591	712	617	645	Apr	586
Hamford Water	491	461	663	488	(629)	Dec	546
The Wash	(390)	417	532	760	322	Jun	508
Blackwater Estuary	(158)	295	428	622	(125)	Dec	448
Humber Estuary	392	334	425	374	652	Feb	435
Blyth Estuary (Suffolk)	(168)	(2)	(409)	208	660	Jan	434
Tamar Complex	317 <sup>10</sup>	394	438	494	465	Jan	422
Exe Estuary	436	353	297	(500)	380	Nov	393
Deben Estuary	170	353	323	236	315	Nov	279
Colne Estuary	(383)	205 <sup>12</sup>	150 <sup>12</sup>	(285)	(30)	Jan	256
Minsmere	158	139	203	171	190	May	172
Orwell Estuary	162	(63)	68	162	105 <sup>10</sup>	Jan	125
Stour Estuary	3	0	26	(89)	428	Jan	114 ▲
Crouch-Roach Estuary	23	(17)	288 <sup>10</sup>	26	(20)	Feb	112
Ouse Washes	81	124	96 <sup>12</sup>	11 <sup>12</sup>	4 <sup>12</sup>	Mar	63
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain</b>							
Ribble Estuary	13	19	24	38	76	Apr	34
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	6	14	23	45	59	May	29
WWT Martin Mere	0	6	12	19	43	May	16

Little Ringed Plover  
*Charadrius dubius*

International threshold: 2,500  
Great Britain threshold: ?†  
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 178 May 2006  
NI max: 0

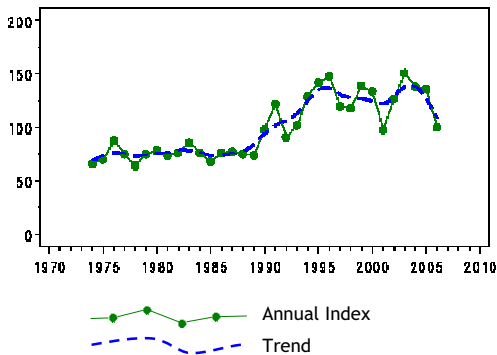


Figure 42.a, Annual indices & trend for Little Ringed Plover for GB.

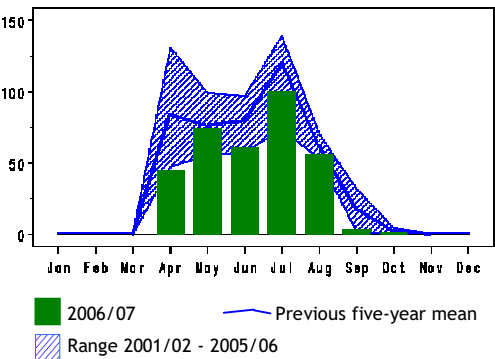


Figure 42.b, Monthly indices for Little Ringed Plover for GB.

As a summer visitor, we report on Little Ringed Plover for the calendar year of 2006. The species was recorded at 124 sites during 2006, most of which were in England with five in Wales and three in Scotland. Birds were recorded in every month from March to October, most records being between May and August. The highest site

count was of 11 at Dolydd Hafren in March, a record for this site, with 11 also at Upton Warren Local Nature Reserve in July where birds were present from April through to October. The count of ten at Morecambe Bay in July was also noteworthy. Conversely, peak numbers at Rutland Water were a little lower than in recent years.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Nosterfield Gravel Pits	(7)	(6)	(18)	11			15
Rutland Water	23	18	10	14	8	Jul	15
Old Moor	(0)	20	7	14	10	Jun	13
London Wetland Centre	14	10	15	9			12
Thames Estuary	(8)	(4)	(12)	(8)	(3)	Jul	(12)
Belvide Reservoir			14	11	9	Jul	11
Upton Warren LNR	11	11	12	6	11	Jul	10
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2006 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Dolydd Hafren	4	7	5	5	11	Mar	6
Morecambe Bay	1	0	(5)	5	10	Jul	4

<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

## Ringed Plover

*Charadrius hiaticula*

International threshold: 730  
Great Britain threshold: 330  
All-Ireland threshold: 150

GB max: 11,377 Aug

NI max: 770 Oct

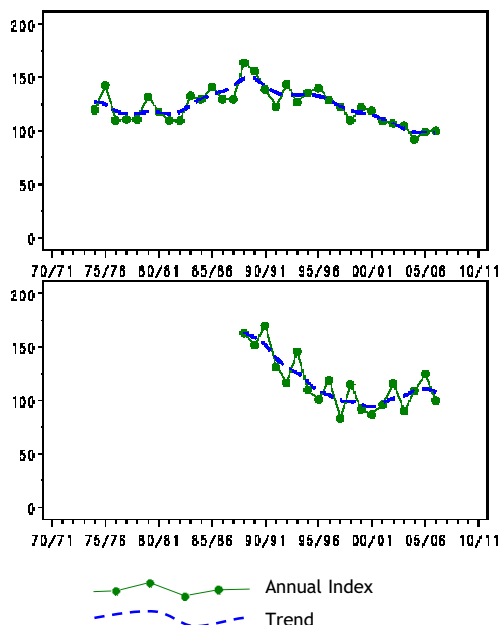


Figure 43.a, Annual indices & trend for Ringed Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

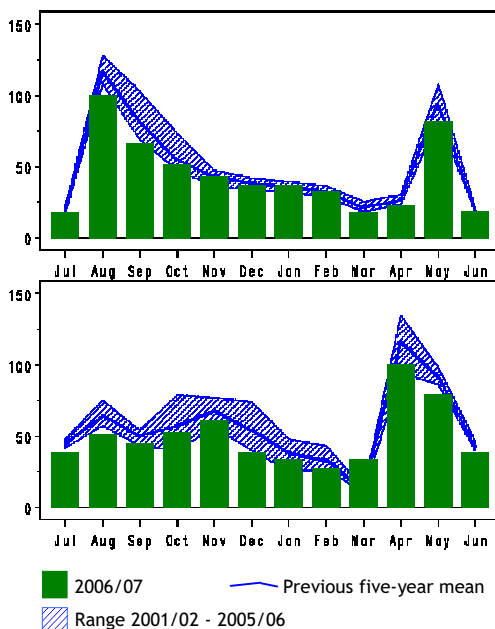


Figure 43.b, Monthly indices for Ringed Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

Given that the passage numbers of Ringed Plover moving through the UK each spring and autumn are substantially higher than those remaining to overwinter, the main

table of site counts presented here is limited to data from November to March, with key passage counts from the other months tabulated separately.

Following a decade and a half of steady decline, the British index has remained at a similar level for the past two years, suggesting that winter numbers might be beginning to stabilize. The winter trend for Northern Ireland has shown a decline throughout the 1990s followed by a rise about 2000. Although the 2006/07 index value represents a 20% fall compared to the previous year, there is much fluctuation between years and further data would be required to ascertain if this was a true decline or not. Numbers peaked in Northern Ireland in October.

Peak winter numbers at the Thames Estuary were the highest for six years and counts at the Orwell Estuary and Chichester Harbour were also notably high. Conversely, the peak winter count at Swansea Bay was very low and that at Morecambe Bay was the lowest for over 20 years. In Northern

Ireland, winter counts at Strangford Lough were low, but numbers nearby at the Outer Ards were at their highest since 1998/99.

During autumn 2006 and spring 2007, a total of 17 sites had counts in excess of at least the national importance threshold. Passage numbers at the Severn Estuary were over twice those of the previous year, whereas those at the Humber Estuary fell by almost 50%. As was the case for most sites in Northern Ireland, passage numbers peaked at Carlingford Lough during October, although it is worth stating that relatively few counts are made in Northern Ireland outside the September to March period. It is difficult to determine how significant year-to-year shifts in passage peaks might be. This is because the timing of peak passage may coincide better with recommended count dates in some years compared to others.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK in winter 2006/07 (Nov-Mar)</b>							
Thames Estuary	794	(654)	872	846	952	Nov	866
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain in winter 2006/07 (Nov-Mar)</b>							
Tiree				648 <sup>44</sup>			648
Solway Estuary	(599)	(286)	(305)	(162)	(180)	Jan	(599)
Duddon Estuary	(227)	222	350 <sup>10</sup>	757 <sup>10</sup>	(495)	Nov	456
Hamford Water	201	(576)	(333)	(361)	(328)	Dec	360 ▼
Morecambe Bay	246	303	357	587	212	Nov	341
North Norfolk Coast	262	464	411	231	322	Mar	338
Medway Estuary	(249)	(136)	332 <sup>10</sup>	(94)	(115)	Jan	332
<b>Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland in winter 2006/07 (Nov-Mar)</b>							
Strangford Lough	236 <sup>10</sup>	277 <sup>10</sup>	342	449	278 <sup>10</sup>	Nov	316
Outer Ards Shoreline	315	(198)	142	308	338	Mar	276
Carlingford Lough	(240)	(161)	223	247	183	Nov	223
Belfast Lough	189	234 <sup>10</sup>	109 <sup>10</sup>	168 <sup>10</sup>	180	Jan	176
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in winter 2006/2007 (Nov-Mar)</b>							
Humber Estuary	225	418 <sup>10</sup>	(194)	(241)	(175)	Nov	322
Swansea Bay	269	330	431	453	124	Nov	321
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain (Nov-Mar)</b>							
Orwell Estuary	234	291 <sup>10</sup>	160 <sup>10</sup>	330 <sup>10</sup>	475	Nov	298
Chichester Harbour	250 <sup>12</sup>	(129)	288	252	365	Jan	289
South Ford	373	250	400	250	340	Feb	323
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in winter 2006/2007 in Northern Ireland (Nov-Mar)</b>							
Dundrum Inner Bay	30	0	0	88	142	Nov	52
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK during autumn 2006 (Jul-Oct) and spring 2007 (Apr-Jun)</b>							
North Norfolk Coast	2,046	Aug	Ribble Estuary		1,016	May	
Severn Estuary	1,453	Aug	Humber Estuary		783	May	
Thames Estuary	1,197	Aug	South Ford		743	Sep	
The Wash	1,127	May					
<b>Sites of national importance in the UK during autumn 2006 (Jul-Oct) and spring 2007 (Apr-Jun)</b>							
Lindisfarne	581	May	Stour Estuary		390	Aug	
Swale Estuary	465	Sep	Orwell Estuary		359	Oct	
Solway Estuary	461	Sep	Morecambe Bay		355	May	
Tees Estuary	440	Aug					
<b>Sites of national importance in Northern Ireland during autumn 2006 (Jul-Oct) and spring 2007 (Apr-Jun)</b>							
Carlingford Lough	247	Oct	Belfast Lough		148	Oct	
Outer Ards Shoreline	198	Oct					

## Kentish Plover

*Charadrius alexandrinus*

Scarce

GB max: 1 May  
NI max: 0

The only Kentish Plover recorded during WeBS in 2006/07 was at the Fal Complex in

May. This is the first time that this species was recorded at this site for WeBS.

## American Golden Plover

*Pluvialis dominica*

Vagrant  
Native Range: America

GB max: 1 Oct  
NI max: 0

A single American Golden Plover was reported from the North West Solent in

October. This species has been noted at this site once before in November 1999.

## Pacific Golden Plover

*Pluvialis fulva*

Vagrant  
Native Range: SW & S Asia, E Africa, Russia

GB max: 1 Jul  
NI max: 0

A Pacific Golden Plover was found at the Thames Estuary in July. This was the third time that this species was recorded for

WeBS, previous records being in July 2000 at the Humber Estuary and August 1995 at the Tees Estuary.

## Golden Plover

*Pluvialis apricaria*

International threshold: 9,300  
Great Britain threshold: 2,500  
All-Ireland threshold: 1,700

GB max: 177,851 Dec  
NI max: 15,203 Nov

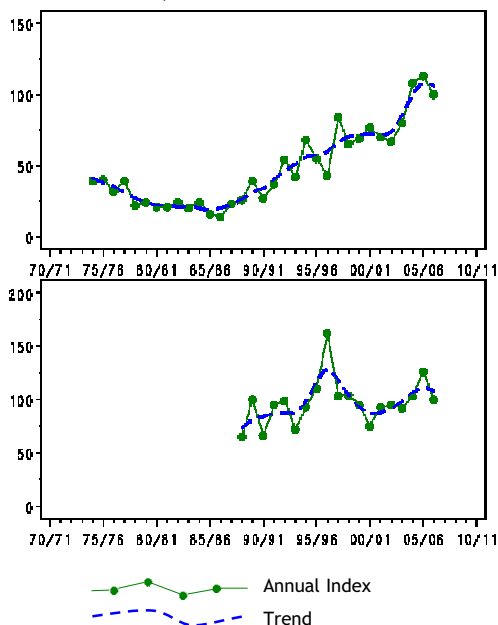


Figure 44.a, Annual indices & trend for Golden Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

The counted British maximum was about 25% lower than that of the previous year. However, as large numbers of Golden

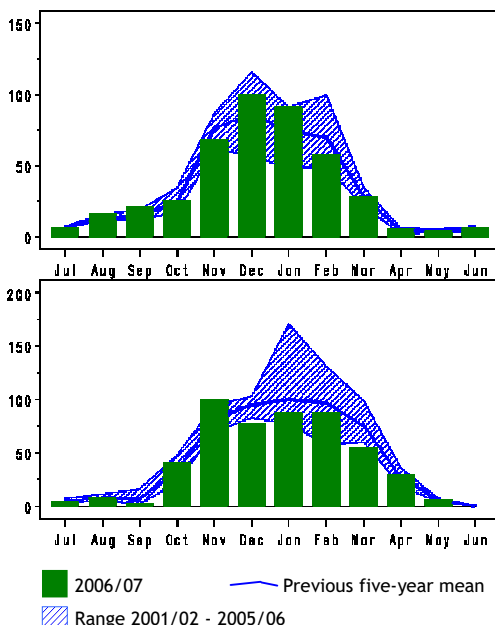


Figure 44.b, Monthly indices for Golden Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

Plover winter away from wetland habitats, this figure possibly represents less than half of the total wintering population. The trend

for Golden Plover on WeBS sites in Britain has increased considerably since the early 1980s though the index fell slightly during 2006/07 to slightly below those of the previous two years. Numbers were above average during December and January and similar to the mean of the previous five years for most of the remainder of the year. A total of six sites held in excess of 10,000 birds, the highest single count being of 47,088 at the Humber Estuary in November which was similar to other counts at this site in recent years. Notably high counts in 2006/07 were noted at Carmarthen Bay, Somerset Levels, Clifford Hill Gravel Pits, Ouse Fen, Pagham Harbour and Potteric Carr. Conversely, relatively

low counts were recorded at Breydon Water, Pegwell Bay, Chichester Harbour, St Mary's Island and, especially, the Cleddau Estuary.

The Northern Irish maximum was around 40% lower than in the previous year although remained similar to the average of the past five years. Except in November and October, numbers were slightly below the mean of the previous five years throughout 2006/07. Peak numbers at Lough Foyle were the highest ever recorded at this site. Conversely, at Strangford Lough numbers peaked at a level below that of the five-year mean for the site, which has now fallen below the threshold of international importance.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Humber Estuary	40,585	(50,662)	43,217	47,118	47,088	Nov	45,734
The Wash	19,587	25,817	34,900	26,996	31,350	Jan	27,730
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	8,900	10,464	30,940	28,220	17,700 <sup>10</sup>	Dec	19,245
Blackwater Estuary	12,455 <sup>10</sup>	6,986	12,747	11,949	(5,020)	Oct	11,034
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Swale Estuary	3,282	10,935	(6,560)	12,014	(10,520)	Feb	9,188 ▼
Carmarthen Bay	(500)	9,832	7,661	4,047	12,700	Jan	8,560
Somerset Levels	1,260	8,609	8,136	5,018	12,054	Jan	7,015
Pegwell Bay	7,229 <sup>10</sup>	8,000	5,330	7,000	3,730	Nov	6,258
Thames Estuary	(3,268)	(1,823)	6,440	7,401	4,781	Feb	6,207
Nene Washes	4,320	650	13,000	4,500	8,500	Feb	6,194
Old Moor	(7,700)	7,000	2,100	(6,200)	6,500	Dec	5,900
Lynemouth Ash Lagoons		5,700					5,700
Solway Estuary	(3,708)	5,063	6,145 <sup>10</sup>	(3,762)	5,744	Jan	5,651
Dengie Flats	3,288	2,275	3,660	12,678	5,520	Dec	5,484
Morecambe Bay	3,481	(7,304)	4,431	5,768	(3,429)	Dec	5,246
Hamford Water	2,384	3,204	5,606	8,859	(5,362)	Nov	5,083
Lindisfarne	(3,383)	3,822 <sup>10</sup>	3,920	(7,081)	(3,236)	Sep	4,941
Ouse Washes	2,828 <sup>12</sup>	2,844	5,450 <sup>12</sup>	10,069	3,312 <sup>12</sup>	Nov	4,901
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(2,165)	(1,354)	4,771 <sup>10</sup>	(3,718)	(1,687)	Feb	4,771
Forth Estuary	(4,632)	6,940 <sup>10</sup>	3,844	3,326	(1,167)	Oct	4,703
North Norfolk Coast	2,391	5,039	5,975	5,315	4,552	Feb	4,654
Taw-Torridge Estuary	(2,612)	3,300	(6,000)	2,550	(4,360)	Feb	4,053
Camel Estuary	727	515	4,750 <sup>10</sup>	9,000	(3,000)	Dec	3,748
Durham Coast		(0)	(2,000)	(3,704)	(2,800)	Oct	(3,704)
Cleddau Estuary	1,060	(2,664)	4,273	8,630	200	Dec	3,541
Lower Derwent Ings	890	2,005	4,130	6,776			3,450
Ribble Estuary	(2,671)	(3,300)	1,998	3,829	(3,950)	Dec	3,269
Walland Marsh	500	600	6,500	3,200	5,000	Feb	3,160
Clifford Hill Gravel Pits	2,500	2,740	1,600	3,000	4,500	Dec	2,868
Mersey Estuary	(600)	(4,200)	(1,000)	1,500 <sup>10</sup>	(1,000)	Oct	2,850
Severn Estuary	1,215 <sup>10</sup>	2,060	3,100	4,370	2,642	Dec	2,677 ▲
Loch of Strathbeg	2,364	(2,200)	3,623	1,176	3,500	Oct	2,666 ▲
Middle Yare Marshes	85	(96)	4,400	2,597	3,500	Feb	2,646 ▲
Wigtown Bay	605	(3,604)	(2,500)	3,175	(3,200)	Mar	2,617 ▲
Chichester Harbour	2,237	(2,822)	3,048	(3,586)	824	Nov	2,503
Bennerley Marsh					2,500	Feb	2,500 ▲
<b>Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland</b>							
Strangford Lough	8,766	15,988 <sup>10</sup>	4,578	7,970	8,513 <sup>10</sup>	Jan	9,163 ▼
Lough Foyle	3,320	7,647	7,372	7,640	9,534	Oct	7,103
Loughs Neagh and Beg	4,631	7,091	3,447	6,537	6,475	Feb	5,636
Bann Estuary	1,400	2,265	2,100	2,610	2,100	Feb	2,095
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007</b>							
St Mary's Island	3,000	3,200	3,000		650	Mar	2,463

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain</b>							
Ouse Fen & Pits (Hanson/RSPB)	(2,118)	150	1,500	3,000	5,011	Dec	2,415
Maer Lake	2,100	1,984	2,193	2,100	3,750	Dec	2,425
Potteric Carr	0	0	(0)	700	3,000	Feb	925
Pagham Harbour	156	595	423	1,554	2,651	Feb	1,076
Malltraeth Cob and Pools		0	0	2,000	2,600	Dec	1,150
Brandesburton Ponds West	2,000	230	(25)	2,000	2,500	Nov	1,683

## Grey Plover

*Pluvialis squatarola*

International threshold: 2,500  
Great Britain threshold: 530  
All-Ireland threshold: 65

GB max: 33,808 Jan  
NI max: 184 Feb

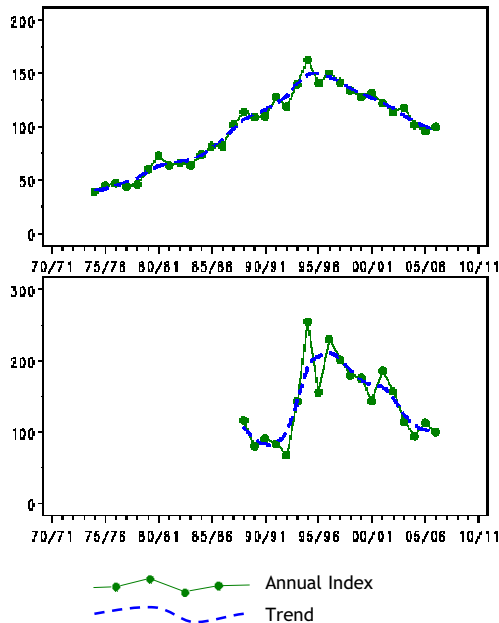


Figure 45.a, Annual indices & trend for Grey Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

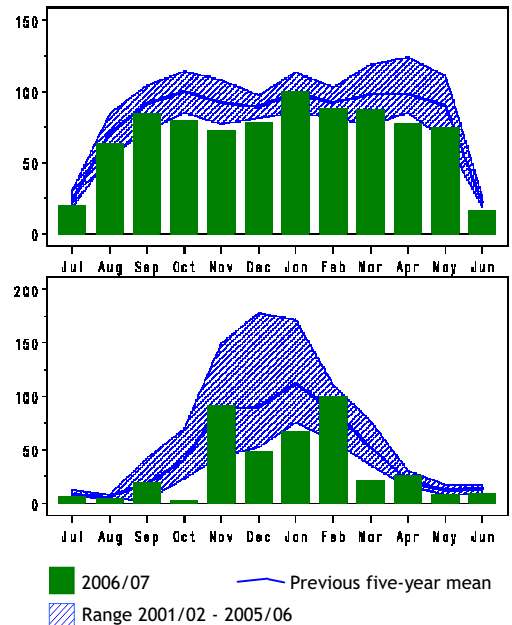


Figure 45.b, Monthly indices for Grey Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

Although the British index increased slightly, the underlying trend in Grey Plover numbers remains downwards, as it has been since the mid-1990s. With the exception of January, monthly figures were well below average throughout the year. The counted British maximum was around 20% lower than in the previous year and was the lowest since 1987/88. Much of this decline has been attributed to an eastward shift in the wintering population (Maclean *et al. in press*) and this has also been evident through increasing numbers in the Waddenzee and southern delta of The Netherlands (van Roomen *et al. 2007*).

Numbers on the Dengie Flats peaked at their highest level for six years and Lindisfarne also held higher numbers than in recent years. There has also been a sustained rise in numbers on the Crouch-

Roach Estuary, which will be interesting to follow in the future following the extensive habitat creation scheme here at Wallasea Island. Peak counts at most other key sites were either similar to recent years or slightly lower. Numbers at The Wash, however, were almost 20% below the five-year mean for the site whilst the Deben Estuary peak was also relatively low compared to recent years.

The decline in the Northern Irish trend has started to slow over the past few years and figures were similar to the three previous winters. This trend, however, is based on only a couple of hundred birds, the majority of which occur at Strangford Lough. Figures here were lower than in the previous year yet similar to those for the two previous seasons.



	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
The Wash	15,056	12,442	13,480	8,604	9,750	Sep	11,866
Thames Estuary	3,195	(3,812)	3,975	13,028	5,664	Feb	6,466
Dengie Flats	4,170	2,943	2,912	4,909	7,239	Jan	4,435
Ribble Estuary	(4,580)	5,568	3,529	(3,813)	3,518	Feb	4,299
Humber Estuary	(6,135)	2,285 <sup>10</sup>	(1,901)	(2,792)	1,923	Nov	3,284
Blackwater Estuary	3,230	2,415	4,043	2,650	(2,248)	Feb	3,085
Hamford Water	2,984	(1,746)	(2,915)	(2,198)	(2,685)	Dec	2,984
Stour Estuary	3,013	2,975	2,507	3,263	2,355	Nov	2,823
Alt Estuary	3,756	3,098	2,234	2,837	1,244	May	2,634
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Swale Estuary	2,181	1,953	(1,451)	(1,244)	(1,186)	Mar	2,067
Chichester Harbour	1,700	1,515	2,140	2,017	1,592	Dec	1,793
Lindisfarne	(1,412)	(1,786)	(962)	1,361	2,171	Jan	1,773
North Norfolk Coast	2,535	1,421	1,386	1,483	1,626	Aug	1,690
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	966	1,851	1,214	1,091	1,214	Dec	1,267
Medway Estuary	938	1,544	(762)	989	(467)	Nov	1,157
Morecambe Bay	1,270	778	1,001	1,074	1,065	Feb	1,038
Pagham Harbour	704	1,348	873	1,067	902	Feb	979
Jersey Shore					939	Feb	939 ▲
Langstone Harbour	982	1,119	782	(879)	701	Jan	896
Colne Estuary	(141)	(705)	(623)	(800)	(840)	Jan	(840)
Deben Estuary	402	656	1,037	(719)	342	Sep	631
<b>Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland</b>							
Strangford Lough	398 <sup>10</sup>	137	114	249 <sup>10</sup>	141	Nov	208
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007</b>							
Eden Estuary	690	410	450	(356)	400	Jan	488
Solway Estuary	(466)	509	602 <sup>10</sup>	(475)	319	Jan	477
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain</b>							
Crouch-Roach Estuary	282	212	518	595	815	Mar	484
Beaulieu Estuary	188	46	560	381	640	Feb	363
Burry Inlet	774	236	254	327	577	Jan	434



Grey Plover (Jill Pakenham)

## Blacksmith Lapwing

*Vanellus armatus*

Escape  
Native Range: S & E Africa

GB max: 1 Jul  
NI max: 0

The report of a Blacksmith Lapwing present at Southampton Water in July undoubtedly refers to an escaped individual. This was

the first time that this species has been recorded for WeBS.

# Lapwing

*Vanellus vanellus*

GB max: 327,897 Feb  
NI max: 12,295 Jan

International threshold: 20,000\*\*  
Great Britain threshold: 20,000\*\*†  
All-Ireland threshold: 2,100

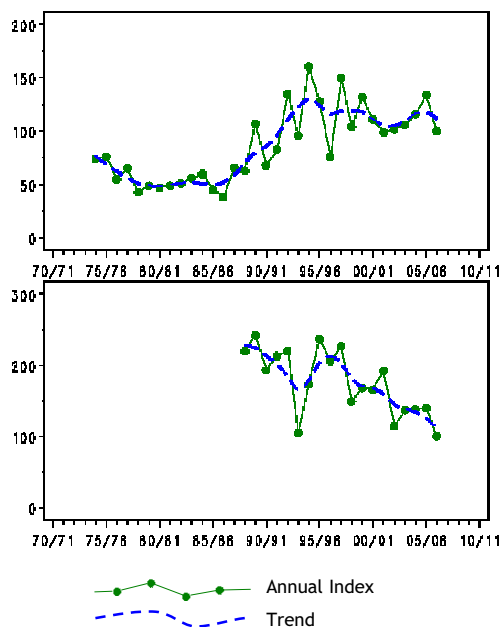


Figure 46.a, Annual indices & trend for Lapwing for GB (above) & NI (below).

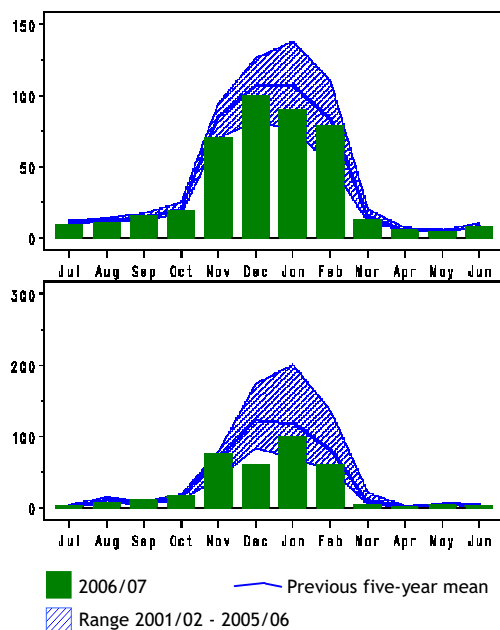


Figure 46.b, Monthly indices for Lapwing for GB (above) & NI (below).

The counted British maximum was two-thirds that of the previous year and the lowest for four years. This was reflected in the index, which fell slightly, although the underlying trend has remained at a fairly similar level for the past decade. Numbers remained below the average of the preceding five years throughout the year. As Lapwing frequently occur in large numbers away from wetland habitats, especially on agricultural land, it is important to remember that a large proportion of the wintering population will be overlooked by WeBS. When available, the results from the 2006/07 Winter Plover Survey should provide an improved population estimate for this species.

Numbers at Breydon Water and Berney Marshes were the lowest since 1989/90 and have pulled the five-year mean number below the threshold of international importance. During 2006/07, peak numbers at the Ribble Estuary, Morecambe Bay,

Pegwell Bay, the Tees Estuary and the Alde Complex were all much lower than their recent means. Conversely, numbers at the North Norfolk Coast were the second highest there, after those of 2005/06.

The Northern Irish maximum was almost half that of the previous year and the lowest since 1983/84. Again, this decline was reflected in the index for the regions, which revealed a further drop in the underlying trend. Numbers were below average for much of the year, particularly between December and March. All three of the most important sites for this species in the region witnessed considerable declines. Peak core count numbers at Strangford Lough were the lowest ever recorded at this site and were half those of the low tide count peak. The number of Lapwing at Loughs Neagh and Beg and Lough Foyle were 19% and 46% lower than during the previous year, respectively.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
The Wash	43,672	29,350	43,822	36,327	36,998	Dec	38,034
Somerset Levels	16,053	23,641	60,834	48,116	38,388	Feb	37,406
Humber Estuary	(36,309)	(39,865)	(16,856)	27,421	(17,481)	Dec	34,532
Ribble Estuary	(14,500)	(15,374)	25,991	24,265	13,821	Feb	21,359
<b>Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland</b>							
Strangford Lough	6,977	8,884 <sup>10</sup>	5,792	6,635	5,154 <sup>10</sup>	Jan	6,688
Loughs Neagh and Beg	3,090	6,282	7,584	6,684	5,421	Jan	5,812
Lough Foyle	2,629	4,240	3,606	4,745	2,543	Nov	3,553
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 5,000 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	15,230	15,890	29,136	25,140	14,110 <sup>10</sup>	Feb	19,901 ▼
Morecambe Bay	(13,714)	(20,750)	16,701	19,192	13,484	Jan	17,532
Ouse Washes	8,125 <sup>12</sup>	13,577	26,072 <sup>12</sup>	25,835	13,026	Nov	17,327
Swale Estuary	14,974	16,523	(13,270)	14,913	(10,840)	Feb	15,470
Thames Estuary	16,036	10,229	14,657	18,662	15,676	Feb	15,052
Severn Estuary	12,129 <sup>10</sup>	(6,889)	11,312	19,434	9,895	Feb	13,193
Mersey Estuary	(5,675)	(12,150)	(9,370)	10,098 <sup>10</sup>	(2,280)	Dec	11,124
North Norfolk Coast	5,124	7,358	7,833	13,305	11,560	Feb	9,036
Nene Washes	21,016	3,870	7,050	6,070	4,720	Feb	8,545
Solway Estuary	(7,340)	8,218	(5,989)	(8,681)	(7,420)	Jan	8,450
Blackwater Estuary	11,053 <sup>10</sup>	7,472	6,785	6,766	(2,800)	Feb	8,019
Pegwell Bay	10,282 <sup>10</sup>	10,000	5,420	(8,100)	4,600 <sup>12</sup>	Dec	7,680
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	6,470	7,853	7,512	8,800	6,775	Jan	7,482
Crouch-Roach Estuary	4,939	5,386	11,288 <sup>10</sup>	8,464	7,236	Jan	7,463
Lower Derwent Ings	3,986	5,119	7,920	7,520			6,136
Walland Marsh	1,800	1,700	10,000	5,000	8,000	Feb	5,300
Tees Estuary	6,017	6,623	4,571	5,334	3,146	Dec	5,138
Alde Complex	4,358	(3,841)	5,472	7,843	2,509	Dec	5,046
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Arun Valley	2,280	2,326	3,430 <sup>12</sup>	1,818	5,505	Feb	3,072
Forth Estuary	(5,293)	(3,800)	4,170	4,369	5,465	Sep	4,824
Medway Estuary	(1,755)	(661)	3,442 <sup>10</sup>	(3,019)	5,184	Feb	4,313
Pagham Harbour	1,450	2,718	3,589	4,660	5,177	Feb	3,519

<sup>†</sup> as the international and British national thresholds are equal, a qualifying level of 5,000 has been chosen to select further sites for presentation in this report

## Knot

*Calidris canutus*

International threshold: 4,500  
Great Britain threshold: 2,800  
All-Ireland threshold: 190

GB max: 331,734 Dec  
NI max: 5,281 Jan

The counted British maximum was the highest since 1971/72 and, unusually, exceeded the peak national total of Dunlin. The British index, however, declined by just under 10% while the underlying trend revealed that numbers remained relatively stable. With the exception of November numbers were above average between August and January and slightly below average from February onwards. Numbers at The Wash peaked at their second-highest level for almost 15 years, the October count being around 25% higher than the mean for the site. The December count at the Thames Estuary was the highest ever recorded here and was almost double the mean for the site. Relatively low peaks

were recorded at Morecambe Bay, North Norfolk Coast, Dee Estuary (England and Wales) and Montrose Basin. Such large between-year fluctuations are quite typical for this very mobile species.

Following several years of increase the Northern Irish index also fell. Numbers were well above average in October, January and February although lower than average during the rest of the winter. The highest single site total in the province was of 5,193 at Strangford Lough in January, which was lower than the current mean for the site. Peak counts at both Lough Foyle and Dundrum Inner Bay were the lowest for five years.

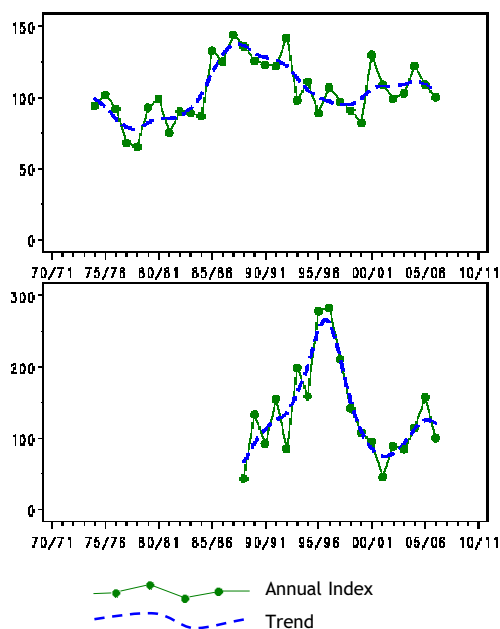


Figure 47.a, Annual indices & trend for Knot for GB (above) & NI (below).

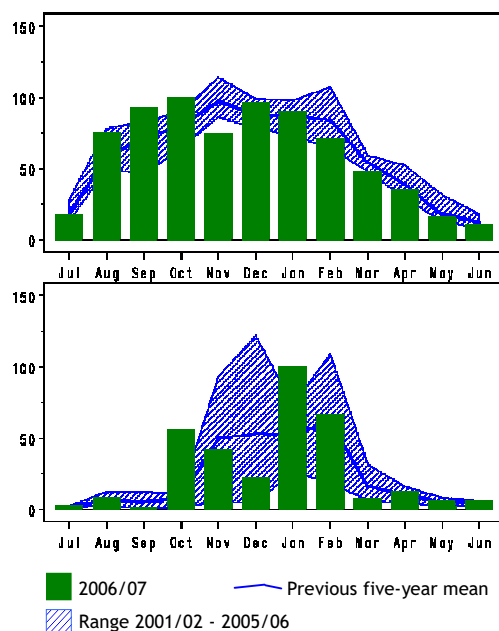


Figure 47.b, Monthly indices for Knot for GB (above) & NI (below).

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
The Wash	62,801	76,346	105,912	139,270	135,889	Oct	104,044
Morecambe Bay	(61,968)	67,959	(24,749)	31,245	19,635	Dec	45,202
Thames Estuary	30,060	43,873	33,024	24,254	83,716	Dec	42,985
Ribble Estuary	45,989	44,947	36,200	(26,106)	(41,681)	Oct	42,379
Humber Estuary	18,936	50,557 <sup>10</sup>	(37,015)	35,004	(33,529)	Aug	35,378
North Norfolk Coast	40,832	37,124	38,714	25,551	22,928	Sep	33,030
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	26,769	38,070	10,243	24,505	12,937	Nov	22,505
Alt Estuary	25,045	30,000	19,006	12,454	15,011	Oct	20,303
Dengie Flats	10,550	8,000	22,700	15,650	30,500	Dec	17,480
Solway Estuary	(9,620)	8,725	13,142	(7,662)	(8,893)	Jan	10,934
Strangford Lough	10,340 <sup>10</sup>	4,058	5,730	8,014 <sup>10</sup>	5,380 <sup>10</sup>	Jan	6,704
Forth Estuary	8,936	6,907 <sup>10</sup>	5,077	4,685	(3,542)	Jan	6,401
Stour Estuary	(4,746)	(4,964)	8,454	6,701	3,028	Nov	6,061
Burry Inlet	3,800	3,500	8,259	4,301	4,300	Dec	4,832
Blackwater Estuary	1,700 <sup>10</sup>	(5,982)	6,273	(5,326)	(2,055)	Nov	4,820
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Lindisfarne	(4,512)	(6,751)	4,197	(4,172)	1,475	Jan	4,221
Cromarty Firth	3,132	4,932	5,000	3,132	1,104	Jan	3,460
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	1,873	3,663	3,446	5,146	2,762	Jan	3,378
Swale Estuary	1,500	4,050	2,538	4,060	4,506	Feb	3,331
Hamford Water	2,935	4,160	2,481	3,185	3,550	Jan	3,262
Medway Estuary	4,085	1,817	3,024 <sup>10</sup>	3,574	(550)	Feb	3,125
Orwell Estuary	3,172 <sup>10</sup>	4,021	2,115 <sup>10</sup>	3,569 <sup>10</sup>	1,825	Feb	2,940
Montrose Basin	5,800	(2,562)	1,990	3,360	505	Feb	2,914
<b>Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland</b>							
Lough Foyle	345	942	470	470	225	Oct	490
Dundrum Inner Bay	603	320	475	270	100	Oct	354
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007</b>							
Dornoch Firth	2,960	1,500	2,680	4,215	1,400	Feb	2,551