

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: ?†

All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 4,373 Jul

NI max: 303 Jan

The British maximum was the highest for several years with the count for the Loch of Strathbeg making up three-quarters of this total. Peak numbers at Beadnell to

Seahouses and Glyne Gap were above average. The Northern Irish maximum was the highest for nearly 10 years, involving mostly birds on the Outer Ards Shoreline.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Loch of Strathbeg	940	6,300	152	1,130	3,282	Jul	2,361
Lunan Bay	400	3,400	100	250	133	Jun	857
Tay Estuary	1,100	133	690	740	(190)	Aug	666
The Wash	(481) ²⁷						(481)
Tweed Estuary	470	860	114	340	410	Oct	439
Tees Estuary	30	1,492	(56)	61	112	Jun	424
Beadnell to Seahouses	160	350	140	512	850	May	402
Arran	185	290	340	701	400	Sep	383
Durham Coast	(0)	(0)	(279)	(250)	(363)	May	(363)
Loch a' Phuill (Tiree)	1,128	276	104	54	204	Jul	353
Forth Estuary	(453)	(426)	170	(276)	(128)	Nov	331
Winterfield to Catcraig					285	Sep	285
Nigg Bay to Cove Bay			846	0	0		282
Glyne Gap				19	457	Dec	238
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	0	153	534	(165)			229
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Morecambe Bay	(33)	77	150	159	329	Mar	179
Anstruther Bay	4	20	15 ¹²	550	263	May	170
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Northern Ireland†							
Outer Ards Shoreline	0	0	0	0	300	Jan	60

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

Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: 19,000†

All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 193,224 Feb

NI max: 12,733 Jan

In Britain, Black-headed Gulls are the most widespread and familiar of all gulls. The counted British maximum exceeded that of all other gulls combined. The highest Core Count from any single site was of just over 30,000 at The Wash in October and a further six sites held numbers in excess of 10,000 birds. Peak numbers at Bewl Water were twice those of the highest Core Count and were recorded during dusk roost counts. Peak numbers at the Blyth Estuary

in Suffolk were the highest ever recorded at the site, whilst those at the Ribble Estuary were the highest since 2000/01.

Numbers in Northern Ireland peaked in January but this peak total for the region was the lowest since 1997/98. A total of seven sites in Northern Ireland held numbers in excess of 1,000 birds, with relatively high numbers on Larne Lough but a lower core count peak than usual on Strangford Lough.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Bewl Water	63,000 ¹¹	31,000 ³⁸	69,000 ³⁸	55,600 ¹¹	67,840 ¹¹	Dec	57,288
Chew Valley Lake		29,800 ³⁸					29,800
Thames Estuary	(30,275)	43,601 ³⁸	40,048	13,848	9,138	Feb	27,382
Humber Estuary	(363)	21,450 ³⁸	(1,028)	(2,298)	(819)	Oct	21,450
Lower Derwent Ings	25,300	28,000		11,000			21,433 ▲
Sites with mean peak counts of 10,000 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
The Wash	(15,999)	17,582 ³⁸	11,093	15,595	30,097	Oct	18,592
Poole Harbour	(12,461)	17,707 ³⁸	(11,811)	(5,720)	(3,830)	Nov	17,707
Queen Mary Reservoir		16,836 ³⁸					16,836
Blithfield Reservoir			16,500 ³⁸				16,500
Morecambe Bay	17,772	12,574	16,757	16,695	(15,232)	Aug	15,950
Church Wilne Reservoir		15,000 ³⁸					15,000
Grafham Water		14,470 ³⁸					14,470
Hamilton Low & Strathclyde Pks		12,600 ³⁸					12,600
Southfield Reservoir		12,000 ³⁸					12,000
Blyth Estuary	(2,010)	7,000 ³⁸	(3,500)	4,203	23,700	Feb	11,634
Exe Estuary			11,577 ¹¹				11,577
Derwent Reservoir	4,300 ¹¹	(2,572)	30,000 ¹¹	10,000 ¹¹	1,723	Dec	11,506
Eyebrook Reservoir		11,300 ³⁸					11,300
Tophill Low Reservoirs	11,900	8,900	8,385	15,000 ¹¹	(0)		11,046
Ribble Estuary	(821)	7,419 ³⁸	9,750 ³⁸	10,228	15,261	May	10,665
Pitsford Reservoir	12,000 ¹¹	10,000 ³⁸	10,000 ¹¹	10,000 ¹¹			10,500
Severn Estuary	9,209 ¹⁰	13,139 ³⁸	9,656 ³⁸	8,278 ³⁸	(3,589)	Oct	10,071
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Belfast Lough	5,503 ¹⁰	7,095 ¹⁰	7,515 ¹⁰	9,936 ¹⁰	(6,823)	Dec	7,512
Outer Ards Shoreline	4,945	5,113	2,419	4,566	3,800	Jan	4,169
Loughs Neagh and Beg	(4,036)	(1,593)	(2,267)	(3,472)	(3,978)	Mar	(4,036)
Strangford Lough	3,518 ¹⁰	3,388	3,111	4,011 ¹⁰	3,889 ¹⁰	Nov	3,583
Lough Foyle	2,780	1,300 ³⁸	1,057	2,565	2,091	Nov	1,959
Upper Lough Erne	(65)	(595)	(439)	(405)	1,740	Mar	1,740
Larne Lough	733	831	1,396	591	2,245	Feb	1,159
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain[†]							
Haweswater Reservoir	300 ¹¹	726 ¹²	200 ¹¹	541 ¹¹	17,185 ¹¹	Mar	3,790
Rutland Water	1,000	21,000 ³⁸	300	5,500	12,000	Mar	7,960
Doddington Pool	600	150	11,000 ³⁸	12,000	11,000	Dec	6,950

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



Black-headed Gull (Mark Collier)

Little Gull

Larus minutus

International threshold: 1,230

Great Britain threshold: ?†

All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 246 Jul

NI max: 1 Sep

Little Gulls were noted at 45 sites across Britain and at a further two in Northern Ireland. The highest single-site total was of 206 at the Tay Estuary in Scotland, which was the highest recorded at this site. Whilst Hornsea Mere provided the second-highest peak, numbers were much lower than the huge count of two years earlier, and the

spring count at the Alt Estuary was also lower than usual. Most sites supported counts in single figures. There were just three records from Northern Ireland, these were all of single birds and were at Loughs Neagh and Beg in September and the Bann Estuary in March and June.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Hornsea Mere	1,350 ¹¹	(940) ¹²	7,000	160	195	Sep	2,176
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Alt Estuary	218	432	201 ¹¹	530 ¹¹	141	Apr	304
Tophill Low Reservoirs	10	110 ¹²	90 ¹²	375 ¹¹	0		117
Forth Estuary	41	75 ²⁵	321	(0)	25	Oct	116
Tay Estuary	50	36	28	26	206	Jul	69
North Norfolk Coast	9	38	8	32	176	Dec	53
Monikie Reservoirs	60	0	38	(0)			33
Lindisfarne	(0)	26	(0)	(0)	(0)		26
Minsmere	(15)	73	1	8	0		21
Alde Complex	0	0	(0)	49			16
East Chevington Pools	29	12	18	3	14	Jul	15
Morecambe Bay	1	36	7	3	14	Jan	12
Rescobie Loch	(11)						(11)
Yetholm Pond	0				20	Dec	10
Moray Firth			8 ¹	9 ¹			9
Outer Tay & St Andrews Bay		13 ²⁵	4 ²⁵				9
Dengie Flats		8	0	22	0		8
Humber Estuary	(2)	(12)	(0)	3	(0)		8
Tring Reservoirs	1	40	0	0	0		8
St Andrews Bay			7				7
Staines Reservoirs	18	11	1	1	6	Apr	7
Thames Estuary	17	(2)	3	1	(2)	Apr	7
King George VI Reservoir	1	20	1	1			6
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Tees Estuary	2	7	3	4	6	Jun	4

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

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

International threshold: 6,600†

Great Britain threshold: ?†

All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 295 Feb

NI max: 4 Mar

The counted British maximum was around 10% lower than during the previous year, although it was still the second highest recorded. Birds were noted at 105 sites in Britain and at four in Northern Ireland. A total of 30 sites held peak counts of five or more birds, two of which, Southampton Water and Wootton Creek, held a peak in excess of 100 birds. In Britain, most of the

key sites for Mediterranean Gull are along the south coast. Concentrations away from here included 33 at Swansea Bay and eight at Morecambe Bay.

Birds were recorded in September, October and March in Northern Ireland, where most records were of single birds, except for two at both Larne Lough and the Outer Ards Shoreline during March.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Folkestone: Copt Pt & East Wear Bay			157 ³⁸				157
Brading Harbour	126	57	92	148	91	Aug	103
Newtown Estuary	80	(15)	(42)	57	31	Feb	56
Pagham Harbour	16		2	60	71	Feb	37
Thames Estuary	20	27	27	30	71	Sep	35
Ryde Pier to Puckpool Point	45	9	47	45	22	Sep	34
Southampton Water	(0)	1 ³⁸	0	(2)	(112)	Apr	29
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes				27 ³⁸			27
Tamar Complex	30	0	(26)	39	34	Jul	26
Wootton Creek	2	1	3	12	102	Jul	24
Swansea Bay	16	19	12 ³⁸	28	33	Feb	22
Camel Estuary	8	25	26	18	11	Sep	18
Chichester Harbour	(16)	(14)	(8)	(22)	12	Mar	16
Foreland	1	4	4	50	20	Nov	16
Fleet and Wey	2	4	8	23	39	Feb	15
Glyne Gap				5	(15)	Feb	10
North Norfolk Coast	13	8	5	6	18	May	10
Taw-Torridge Estuary	7	(3)	(5)	12	11	Aug	10
The Wash	2	8	15	7	16	May	10
Blyth Estuary	5	0	18	5	13	Mar	8
Minsmere	5	2	12	10	10	May	8
Morecambe Bay	(4)	(4)	4	12	(8)	Oct	8
Poole Harbour	3	(7)	12	8	(4)	Mar	8
Portsmouth Harbour	5 ¹⁰	(1) ³⁸	(6)	7	11	Jan	8
Aberarth	0	0	6	22			7
Medway Estuary	(5)	(2)	2	(1)	(13)	Apr	6
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain[†]							
Fal Complex	1	(1)	1 ¹⁰	1	8	Nov	3
North West Solent	(0)	0	1 ¹⁰	0	8	Apr	2
Beaulieu Estuary		0	0	9	6	Feb	4
Belmont Reservoir			0	1	6	Mar	2
Alt Estuary	6	3	4	3	5	Aug	4
Guernsey Shore	0	(0)	(0)	(2)	5	Jan	3
Hamford Water	2	1	5	1	5	Feb	3
Hayle Estuary	2	1	2	2	5	Nov	2

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

Common Gull

Larus canus

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: 9,000[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 60,183 Feb

NI max: 4,094 Oct

Although the British maximum was a third higher than the 2005/06 total, it was similar to the average of the past five years. However, as the recording of all gulls and terns remains optional during WeBS, numbers counted often reflect the change in coverage as much as any fluctuation in actual numbers. Three sites, Bewl Water, Haweswater Reservoir and Rutland Water, held peaks in excess of 10,000 birds and a

further 19 sites held more than 1,000 birds. Mean numbers at Rutland Water have now surpassed the threshold for national importance and similarly, Hallington Reservoir has become of international importance. The key site in Northern Ireland was Lough Foyle where numbers peaked at a third lower than in the previous year.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Bewl Water	52,000 ¹¹	75,000 ³⁸	75,000 ³⁸	90,000 ¹¹	18,920 ¹¹	Dec	62,184
Derwent Reservoir	11,800 ¹¹	(6,500) ³⁸	80,000 ¹¹	40,000 ¹¹	5,030	Feb	34,208
Hallington Reservoir	24,000 ¹¹	25,000 ³⁸	13,300 ¹¹	34,000 ¹¹			24,075 ▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Chew Valley Lake		18,200 ³⁸		(0)	(0)		18,200
Haweswater Reservoir	13,674 ¹¹	27,986 ¹²	22,000 ¹¹	12,535 ¹¹	10,398 ¹¹	Feb	17,319
Tophill Low Reservoirs	23,100	16,530	6,500	21,600 ¹¹	(0)		16,933 ▼

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Eyebrook Reservoir		16,100 ³⁸					16,100
Humber Estuary	(2,077)	29,000 ³⁸	2,005	(120)	(74)	Oct	15,503
Ullswater		11,470 ¹²					11,470
West Water Reservoir		10,050 ³⁸					10,050
Rutland Water	100	12,080 ³⁸	14,500	10,000	10,000	Mar	9,336 ▲
Sites with mean peak counts of 3,000 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Rye Harbour and Pett Level		8,600 ³⁸					8,600
Solway Estuary	7,193	9,564 ³⁸	(2,275)	(285)	(2,463)	Aug	8,379
Ribble Estuary	(146)	6,036	9,817	(253)	(1,973)	Jan	7,927
Lower Derwent Ings	14,200	3,720 ³⁸		5,500			7,807
Colt Crag Reservoir	8,200 ¹¹	4,700 ³⁸	9,900 ¹¹				7,600
Loch of Lintrathen		(0)	10,000		2,250	Dec	6,125
Blyth Estuary	424	12,000 ³⁸	(822)	4,914	6,300	Feb	5,910
Southwold Sole Bay		5,000 ³⁸					5,000
Inner Firth of Clyde	1,106	(7,723)	2,304	2,463	6,234	Feb	3,966
St Mary's Island-N. Shields Fish Quay				3,900 ¹¹			3,900
Loch of Skene	433	17,284 ³⁸	361	370	889	Dec	3,867
Tees Estuary	2,970	4,033	6,193 ³⁸	2,103	3,518	Dec	3,763
Moray Firth	5,037 ¹	5,208 ¹	809 ¹				3,685
Forth Estuary	(1,356)	6,321 ³⁸	2,500 ³⁸	2,100 ³⁸	(500)	Dec	3,640
Hule Moss	6,300 ¹²	5,600 ¹²	3,550	1,850	40	Oct	3,468
Severn Estuary	746 ¹⁰	3,714 ³⁸	4,259 ³⁸	5,110 ³⁸	(1,076)	Jan	3,457
Wet Sleddale Reservoir	1,740 ¹¹	9,418 ¹²	2,330 ¹¹	1,765 ¹¹	2,020 ¹¹	Sep	3,455
Chichester Harbour	4,142	3,389	3,778	2,379	3,225	Jan	3,383
Morecambe Bay	3,194	4,358	3,633	2,802	2,322	Sep	3,262
Pitsford Reservoir	4,000 ¹¹	3,000 ³⁸	3,000 ¹¹	3,000 ¹¹			3,250
Hamilton Low & Strathclyde Park		3,200 ³⁸					3,200
North Norfolk Coast	1,283	5,600 ³⁸	(2,163)	4,342	1,550	Apr	3,194
Wigtown Bay	1,427	3,251	7,269	675	(3,291)	Jan	3,183
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	4,182	5,311	692	(309)	2,281	Feb	3,117
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Lough Foyle	4,606	(5,930)	2,322	4,354	2,836	Nov	4,010
Belfast Lough	2,718	2,644 ¹⁰	1,937 ¹⁰	2,156	1,405 ¹⁰	Feb	2,372
Outer Ards Shoreline	772	2,543	1,171	1,328	984	Jan	1,360
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Dee Flood Meadows	(750)	(1,350)	(400)	1,000	3,800	Feb	2,400
Longnewton Reservoir	2,800	4,400	1,300	2,700	3,400	Dec	2,920
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Northern Ireland†							
Larne Lough	338	514	(644)	84	1,194	Feb	555

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

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

Vagrant

Native Range: N America

GB max: 3 Nov

NI max: 0

With the exception of September, Ring-billed Gulls were recorded in all months between July and April. All records were of single birds, although multiple counts were noted at Portsmouth Harbour between October and February and at the Thames

Estuary between August and March. Nationally, the highest monthly totals were three in both November and February. Birds were present at six sites in England, one (Llys-y-fran Reservoir) in Wales and at the Guernsey Shore in the Channel Islands.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

International threshold: 5,500

Great Britain threshold: 500

All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 39,035 Aug

NI max: 1,891 Sep

The British counted maximum was higher than in 2005/06 although slightly below the average of the past five years. It is

important to remember, however, that as the counting of gulls and terns remains optional during WeBS national totals reflect

changes in counting effort as much as in actual numbers. Morecambe Bay remains the principal site for this species and holds mean numbers four times higher than any other site counted by WeBS, largely due to the breeding colony at Walney Island. A further 12 sites held peak numbers in

excess of 1,000 birds, the same as during the previous year. Peak numbers at Llys-y-fran Reservoir were the second highest ever recorded at this site. The highest count at a single site in Northern Ireland was of 1,136 at Loughs Neagh and Beg in October; this figure was similar to the mean for the site.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Morecambe Bay	36,461	31,479	33,004	21,932	29,576	Aug	30,490
Severn Estuary	(3,072)	(8,073)	(10,036)	4,696 ³⁸	(115)	May	7,602 ▲
Chew Valley Lake		7,015 ³⁸		(0)	(0)		7,015
Queen Mary Reservoir		6,656 ³⁸					6,656
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Theale Gravel Pits	3	20,000 ³⁸	1,152 ³⁸	74	(1)	Jan	5,307
Solway Estuary	(673)	(971)	(154)	(253)	4,701	May	4,701
R. Avon: Fordingbridge-Ringw'd	2,309	6,550 ³⁸	3,500	5,100	3,150	Sep	4,122
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(25)	5,800 ³⁸	(44)	(141)	314	Nov	3,057 ▼
Belvide Reservoir		3,000 ³⁸					3,000
Ribble Estuary	(244)	106	(113)	3,011	5,525	May	2,881
Longnewton Reservoir	2,680	1,890	2,930	3,310	2,740	Sep	2,710
Blithfield Reservoir			2,620 ³⁸				2,620
Great Pool Westwood Park	2,000	3,800 ³⁸	2,500	2,500	2,000	Dec	2,560
Rutland Water	5,000	2,500	200	1,200	50	Feb	1,790
Alt Estuary	4,341	945	556	809	1,980	Aug	1,726
Hule Moss	2,100 ¹²	250 ¹²	2,900 ¹²	2,500	550	Sep	1,660
Alde Complex	4,474	388 ³⁸	1,833	1,162	134	Dec	1,598
Thames Estuary	1,507	1,898 ³⁸	2,966	775	273	Aug	1,484
Llys-y-fran Reservoir	2,000	90	650	600	(4,000)	Feb	1,468
Lower Windrush Valley GPs	871	484	1,343	1,071	2,756	Oct	1,305
Roadford Reservoir	70	6,031 ³⁸	110	71	56	Jul	1,268
Pitsford Reservoir	1,000 ¹¹	2,000 ¹²	550 ¹¹	1,500 ¹¹			1,263
Bartley Reservoir		1,200 ³⁸					1,200
Hurleston Reservoir	700	1,500 ³⁸	3,500 ³⁸	84	35	Oct	1,164
The Wash	855	898	1,039	1,075	1,027	Sep	979
Haweswater Reservoir	400 ¹¹	1,450 ¹²	1,796 ¹¹	337 ¹¹	775 ¹¹	Sep	952
Lakenheath Fen			(0)	1,500	358	Nov	929
Chelmarsh Reservoir	(34)	3,500 ³⁸	83	56	47	Oct	922
Cleddau Estuary	659	723	1,537	552	786	Mar	851
Inner Firth of Clyde	544	705	509	769	1,253	Jul	756
Llangorse Lake	1,110 ¹¹	1,140 ¹²	1,400 ¹¹	28	74	Dec	750
Ouse Washes	104	760 ³⁸	256	2,305	44	Feb	694
Wellington Gravel Pits	(1,400)	750	100		400 ¹²	Mar	663
Heaton Park Reservoir	920 ¹¹	200 ³⁸	870 ³⁸				663
Hayle Estuary	130	940	980	(552)	566	Mar	654
Heathfield Gravel Pits	300	(1,000)					650
Burghfield Gravel Pits		618 ³⁸					618
Portworthy Mica Dam	419	700	960 ³⁸	469	475	Dec	605
Carsington Water	194	1,160 ³⁸	97	68	1,450	Dec	594 ▲
Nosterfield Gravel Pits	1,560	218	328	80			547 ▲
Hollowell Reservoir		500 ³⁸					500
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Dee Flood Meadows	(0)	(4)	(0)	600	360	Jan	480
Frampton Pools	(250)						(250)
Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,218	1,115	(434)	997	1,136	Oct	1,117
Belfast Lough	279	310	246	792	(935)	Sep	512
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	13	26	3	6	862	Sep	182
Doddington Pool	3	10	80	400	700	Dec	239
Ditchford Gravel Pits		276	534	367	662	Nov	460
Winterset & Cold Hiendley Res	1				580	Oct	291
Colliford Reservoir	144	92	455	172	557	Jan	284

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

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

International threshold: 5,900
Great Britain threshold: 4,500[†]
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 71,238 Jan
NI max: 6,701 Dec

The counted British maximum of Herring Gull was the second highest of the last six years and was half as much again as the 2005/06 total. However, as the counting of gulls and terns remains optional during WeBS summed national maxima reflect changes in counting effort as much as in actual numbers. The peak at the Ribble Estuary in January was by far the highest site total, with only a further four sites holding peaks in excess of 5,000 birds. As in

the previous year, a total of seven sites qualify as internationally important for this species and five sites, one fewer than in 2005/06, qualify as nationally important in Great Britain. In Northern Ireland only one site, Belfast Lough, is of international importance. Numbers here during 2006/07 were the lowest for some time but this was due, at least in part, incomplete coverage of the site.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ribble Estuary	(209)	14,859 ³⁸	(31,090)	2,060	25,336	Jan	18,336
Forth Estuary	(1,925)	7,376 ³⁸	(15,434)	(1,780)	(1,419)	Sep	11,405
Morecambe Bay	14,373	10,551	8,311	7,545	8,553	Aug	9,867
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	27,956 ¹⁰	2,341	2,003	(3,000)	2,352	Oct	8,663
Queen Mary Reservoir		8,279 ³⁸					8,279
Belfast Lough	7,046	7,536 ¹⁰	7,903 ¹⁰	10,296 ¹⁰	6,655 ¹⁰	Nov	7,887
Moray Firth	10,335 ¹	6,468 ¹	2,349 ¹				6,384
The Wash	7,640	10,703 ³⁸	3,258	3,527	6,212	Jan	6,268
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Rye Harbour and Pett Level		5,850 ³⁸					5,850
Hastings to Bexhill		5,700 ³⁸					5,700
Isle of May				5,220 ³⁸			5,220
Thames Estuary	3,330	(4,349)	8,504	3,680	4,456	Oct	4,993
Hamilton Low & Strathclyde Park		4,600 ³⁸					4,600
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Llandegfedd Reservoir			4,710 ³⁸		10	Nov	2,360 ▼
Sites with mean peak counts of 2,500 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Guernsey Shore	2,127	2,759	(3,744)	(2,362)	(5,704)	Sep	3,584
North Norfolk Coast	3,964	(3,047)	5,307	2,340	2,474	Mar	3,521
Alt Estuary	3,153	3,825 ³⁸	7,155	2,150	1,005	Aug	3,458
Roughrigg Reservoir	1,121	15,144 ³⁸	416	210	135	Nov	3,405
Chew Valley Lake		3,400 ³⁸					3,400
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	3,602	4,052 ³⁸	4,244	1,210	(2,613)	Jan	3,277
Severn Estuary	2,981 ¹⁰	3,500 ³⁸	(3,164)	(2,666)	(279)	Oct	3,241
Troon Meikle Craigs		3,174 ³⁸					3,174
Caldey Island		2,800 ³⁸					2,800
Solway Estuary	3,281	2,189 ³⁸	(1,051)	(480)	(1,009)	Aug	2,735
Durham Coast	(31)	(62)	(618)	1,501	3,949	Sep	2,725
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,001	(1,351)	1,179	1,304	1,602	Oct	1,287
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain[†]							
Linton Pond Ellington	642	320	92	1,750	4,000	Jan	1,361
Carmarthen Bay	(2,111)	(371)	(3,066)	1,423	2,860	Sep	2,450
Glyne Gap				1,486	(2,700)	Feb	2,093
Tweed Estuary	1,120	1,540	1,240	1,210	2,570	Oct	1,536

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

Yellow-legged Gull

Larus michahellis

International threshold: 7,000

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 100 Oct

NI max: 0

Yellow-legged Gulls were recorded at 40 sites in England, two in Scotland and two in Wales; there were no records from Northern Ireland. Birds were noted in every month except April, with the peak of 100 in October. This total was the lowest recorded by WeBS for some years and although Caspian Gull is now recognised as a full species, and therefore not included in this

total any longer, this only accounts for a small proportion of this total. Much of the variation in the British total can be explained by figures at the top few sites. In 2006/07, fewer birds than in recent years were at the Lower Test Marshes in Southampton Water, which accounts for nearly all of this year's change.

Sites with 5 or more birds in 2006/07[†]

Southampton Water	60	Aug	North Norfolk Coast	10	Jul
River Avon - Fordingbridge to Ringwood	30	Oct	Queen Mary Reservoir	8	Dec
Thames Estuary	22	Oct	Orwell Estuary	8 ¹⁰	Jan
Glyne Gap	14	Oct	Portworthy Mica Dam	6	Aug
Rutland Water	14	Oct			

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 5 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Caspian Gull

Larus cachinnans

International threshold: 7,000

Great Britain threshold: ?

All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 5 Dec

NI max: 0

Caspian Gulls were noted at six sites during 2006/07, all of which were in England. Birds were recorded in August and in every month

from October to March. All records were of single birds except for two in October and four in December at Ditchford Gravel Pits.

Iceland Gull

Larus glaucooides

International threshold: 2,000

Great Britain threshold: ?

All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 28 Feb

NI max: 6 Jan

The British maximum was the highest ever recorded by WeBS, surpassing the 2004/05 record by two. Birds were recorded in every month from November to May in Britain and from December to April in Northern Ireland. The highest total at a single site was eight

at Loch A Chairn Bhain in February; however, most counts were of single birds. Iceland Gulls were noted at 30 sites in Britain, 22 of which were in Scotland, and an additional three sites in Northern Ireland.

Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

International threshold: 10,000

Great Britain threshold: ?

All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 7 Feb

NI max: 1 Nov

As usual, most records of Glaucous Gulls were of birds in Scotland with birds being noted at ten sites around the region. All Scottish records were of single birds and were at Applecross Bay, Bay of Clachtoll, Braewick Loch, Loch A Chairn Bhain, Loch a' Phuill (Tiree), Loch Eriboll, Loch Fleet, Loch Inver, Loch of Skail and Scourie Bay.

The earliest records were from Dundrum Inner Bay and Middle Yare Marshes in November and the latest was from Braewick Loch in June. Other birds, all singles, were at, Belfast Lough, Ribble Estuary, North Norfolk Coast, Camel Estuary and Guernsey Shore.

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

International threshold: 4,400
Great Britain threshold: 400
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 8,155 Jan
NI max: 1,140 Dec

The British maximum was the second lowest since gulls were first counted for WeBS in 1993/94. However, as the recording of all gulls and terns remains optional during WeBS, numbers counted often reflect the change in coverage as much as any fluctuation in actual numbers. The highest single site total during 2006/07 was of 1,900 at Linton Pond Ellington, the most ever recorded at this site. An additional three sites - The Wash, Thames Estuary and

Tees Estuary - held numbers in excess of 1,000 birds.

The counted maximum for Northern Ireland was lower than that of the previous year but was only the fourth time that this total has surpassed 1,000 birds. The highest single site total from the region was recorded at Belfast Lough, where numbers were low compared to those of 2005/06 (although there was incomplete coverage of the whole site), but slightly higher than the five-year mean.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
The Wash	1,959	4,628	(1,480)	1,773	1,186	Sep	2,387
Humber Estuary	(113)	2,200 ³⁸	(226)	(66)	(20)	Mar	2,200
Thames Estuary	1,236 ¹⁰	857 ³⁸	1,648	1,972	1,096	Nov	1,362
Tees Estuary	702	1,523	1,657	(366)	1,027	Jan	1,227
Lynemouth Ash Lagoons		1,074					1,074
Grafham Water		1,050 ³⁸					1,050
Coquet Island		980 ³⁸					980
Ogston Reservoir		900 ³⁸					900
Durham Coast	(21)	(41)	(684)	776	(659)	Nov	776
Lower Derwent Ings	777	1,041 ³⁸		500			773
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	1,432 ¹⁰	70	(93)	(4)	(5)	Dec	751
Pegwell Bay	1,305 ¹⁰	305	610	1,190	163	Oct	715
Tophill Low Reservoirs	3,030	223 ³⁸	120	17	0		678
Moray Firth	1,001 ¹	674 ¹	336 ¹				670
Guernsey Shore	(353)	(560)	(404)	(477)	(619)	Jan	(619)
North Norfolk Coast	617	1,051	327	471	262	Oct	546
Loch of Strathbeg	569	(606)	191	795	525	Jan	537
Brogborough Clay Pit	59	997 ³⁸					528 ▲
Hastings to Bexhill		520 ³⁸					520
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(169)	519 ³⁸	(169)	(58)	(176)	Oct	519 ▲
Glyne Gap				355	655	Sep	505 ▲
Eyebrook Reservoir		500 ³⁸					500
Southfield Reservoir		408 ³⁸					408
Heaton Park Reservoir	380 ¹¹	494 ³⁸	340 ³⁸				405 ▲
Hoveringham & Bleasby GPs		1,600 ³⁸	2	0	0		401
Linton Pond Ellington	10	62 ³⁸	18	14	1,900	Jan	401 ▲
Romney Sands		400 ³⁸					400
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Hanningfield Reservoir	1,098 ³⁸	437 ³⁸	0	140	15	Dec	338
Dungeness Gravel Pits		1,000 ³⁸	0		1	Feb	334
Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Belfast Lough	397	436 ¹⁰	1,008	1,281	(827)	Feb	790
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Morecambe Bay	353	(322)	296	(313)	466	Jan	372
East Chevington Pools	240	120	(80)	230	400	Nov	248
Llyn Coron	0	0	1	0	400	Nov	80

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

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

International threshold: 490
Great Britain threshold: ?[†]
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 811 Jul 2006
NI max: 0

The British counted maximum was similar to those of the past few years; as usual no birds were recorded in Northern Ireland. Birds were present at 44 sites in Britain, most of which were in England with a few in Scotland and one in Wales. The highest count during 2006 was of 284 at the North Norfolk Coast in June, similar to the five-

year mean for the site. Peak numbers at the Dee Estuary (England and Wales) were lower than in recent years, although this site remains the top site on average for the species. Higher than average counts were noted at the Thames Estuary, while those on The Wash were the lowest for three years.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	242	(256)	300	411	250	Jul	301
North Norfolk Coast	280	405	233	246	284	Jun	290
The Wash	(36)	68	(108)	182	83	Aug	111
Thames Estuary	(100)	(28)	33	74	154	Aug	90
Duddon Estuary	28	42	84	92	52	May	60
Fleet and Wey	59	62	69	24	66	May	56
Durham Coast	(6)		(0)	(67)	39	Jul	53
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2006 in Great Britain[†]							
Humber Estuary	(25)	(14)	27	(22)	(59)	Jul	43

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

Gull-billed Tern

Gelochelidon nilotica

Vagrant

Native Range: S & E Europe, America, Asia

GB max: 1 May 2006
NI max: 0

A single Gull-billed Tern was reported at the Taw-Torridge Estuary (Caen to Whitehouse section) during May. This was

the fourth record for WeBS, the last being at Drift Reservoir in September 2002.

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

International threshold: 7,500
Great Britain threshold: ?
All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 69 Sep 2006
NI max: 2 Sep 2006

During 2006, Black Terns were recorded on WeBS counts from 29 sites. Just four were noted in May, with the remainder of records typically in the autumn period from August to November. As usual, the species was most widespread in September, with most records in England but a handful in Scotland (Castle Loch Lochmaben and Loch a`

Phuill), Wales (Llynau Y Fali and Dyfi Estuary) and Northern Ireland (Bann Estuary). Whilst most records involved one or two birds, more notable flocks were recorded from Chew Valley Lake (18) and Deeping St James (16). The last were two on the Ribble Estuary in November.

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

International threshold: 1,700

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 12,316 Jul 2006

NI max: 352 Aug 2006

The British maximum was the highest ever recorded by WeBS, being a third higher again than that of the previous year. The Northern Ireland maximum was similar to that of the past few years. The majority of birds were present between April and October although a few records were received outside of this period. Birds were noted at around 130 sites, eight of which were in Northern Ireland. The highest single-site total was 8,062 at the North Norfolk Coast in July, this was the highest ever recorded at any site. The numbers counted at the Forth Estuary remain well

below the five-year mean for the site, although this is largely due to incomplete coverage of the site. Lower than average counts were noted at Cemlyn Bay and Lagoon (although no colony counts were received), the Tees Estuary and the Dee Estuary (England and Wales).

Most records from Northern Ireland were of birds at Dundrum Inner Bay, with a total of 311 birds present here in August. Belfast Lough held 126 in October and birds were noted in every month at the Bann Estuary between May and September.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
North Norfolk Coast	4,600	4,170	5,533	3,228	8,062	Jul	5,119
Forth Estuary	(2,317)	2,802	(1,526)	(1,243)	(1,018)	Aug	2,802
Cemlyn Bay and Lagoon		2,455	2,700	2,000	12	Apr	1,792
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Tees Estuary	974	2,601	(333)	221	490	Jul	1,072
Humber Estuary	(396)	(303)	(324)	(325)	(957)	Jul	(957)
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	1,632	716	759	829	530	Jul	893
Duddon Estuary	704	955	1,144	604	843	May	850
Pegwell Bay	360	(930)	(680)	824	650 ¹²	Jul	689
Solway Estuary	(206)	(548)	(282)	(209)	(339)	Aug	(548)
Ythan Estuary	930	150					540
Morecambe Bay	(220)	531	500	110	190	Apr	333
Tay Estuary	461	310	96	126	(377)	Aug	274
Eden Estuary	124	112	139	33	766	Aug	235
The Wash	150	223	208	307	164	Sep	210
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Dundrum Inner Bay	722	264	173	133	311	Aug	321
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2006 in Great Britain[†]							
Lindisfarne		4	80	(7)	300	May	128
St Andrews Bay	16	18	15	37	242	Aug	66
Inner Firth of Clyde	(85)	(160)	116	195	216	Aug	176
Alt Estuary	41	178	219	116	207	Jul	152

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

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

International threshold: 1,900

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 5,610 Aug 2006

NI max: 77 Aug 2006

The British maximum for 2006 was similar to those of the past few years. Birds were recorded at nearly 300 sites across Britain and Northern Ireland and the majority of counts were in single figures, although totals of ten or more birds were noted at a third of these sites. Most birds were present

between April and October, with only a handful recorded outside this period.

Peak numbers at the country's key site, the Alt Estuary, were lower than in the previous year, although similar to the average of the past few years. The peak count for The Wash was the highest ever

recorded at the site, being almost three times the site average. Higher than average totals were also noted nearby at the North Norfolk Coast. A few sites held fewer birds than usual; these included the Tees Estuary and the Humber Estuary, although

incomplete coverage at the latter may explain some of this figure. In Northern Ireland almost all records of Common Tern were of birds at Dundrum Inner Bay, with 77 here in August.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Alt Estuary	900 ¹¹	1,664	1,135	2,010	1,503	Aug	1,442
Tees Estuary	696	1,678	1,251	(521)	866	Jul	1,123
North Norfolk Coast	321	419	476	450	606	Jul	454
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	422	(384)	(180)	(109)	454	Jun	438
Forth Estuary	(691)	193	(183)	287	(176)	Aug	390
The Wash	(102)	122	199	129	1,092	Aug	386
Thames Estuary	(158)	(224)	(553)	219	(206)	Aug	332
Humber Estuary	(291)	280	(160)	(61)	(19)	Aug	286
Loch of Strathbeg	108	199	151	449	326	Jul	247
Tay Estuary	700	23	40	123	(100)	Aug	222
Ythan Estuary	18	415					217
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2006 in Great Britain[†]							
Rutland Water	120	100	112	120	228	Jul	136

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

Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

Scarce

GB max: 2 Sep 2006

NI max: 0

Roseate Terns were reported from only two sites during 2006, the lowest number of records to date. Two were at Lindisfarne in

September and a late bird was recorded at Pagham Harbour in October.

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

International threshold: ?

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 1,126 Jul 2006

NI max: 10 Aug 2006

Of the 84 sites at which Arctic Terns were recorded at during 2006 there was roughly an equal split of sites in Scotland and England. However, the larger counts were recorded at sites in Scotland and northern England with most records from southern England being of one or two birds. The British maximum was half that of the previous year, but for any species that is largely recorded during passage or at a few breeding locations the total recorded during

WeBS counts can be highly variable. The highest single-site total of 214 at Nor Wick and Skaw was around a tenth that of the previous year's top count. The majority were recorded between May and September with only a handful of birds in April and October.

The only records from Northern Ireland were of ten at Dundrum Inner Bay in August.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Loch of Strathbeg	35	(68)	40	2,100	164	May	585
Ythan Estuary	106	860					483
Forth Estuary	(1,214)	197	(186)	7	32	Sep	327
Loch of Beith	150 ¹²	31		1,000	45	May	307
Loch An Duin (Aird Point) (Lewis)				300			300
Tay Estuary	660	290	0	10	(50)	Aug	240
Loch a' Phuill (Tiree)	477	150	120	58	37	Jun	168

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Mon	Mean
The Houb (Whalsay)	120	82	300	3	200	Jul	141
Morecambe Bay	94	(178)	(59)	(16)	(11)	Jun	136
Eden Estuary	125	320	4	0	209	Jul	132
Cambois to Newbiggin	246	0					123
St Andrews Bay	29	(0)	192	70	110	Jul	100
Ness of Sound					90	Aug	90
Nor Wick and Skaw	32	32	(10)	9	214	Jul	72
Inner Loch Indaal	51	76					64
Braewick Loch	170	50	30	47 ¹²	18	May	63
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2006 in Great Britain[†]							
Loch Bhasapoll (Tiree)	22	36	9	50	80	Jun	39
Beadnell to Seahouses	0	1	0	53	62	Sep	23
Loch Mor (Benbecula)				0	60	Jun	30
Harold's Wick	20	10	4	5	51	Jul	18

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

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

International threshold: ?

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 473 Sep

NI max: 9 Oct

The British counted maximum for Kingfisher was similar to the average of the past five years. However, it is important to remember that the WeBS methodology is not ideal for monitoring species as widespread and elusive as Kingfisher. Fourteen sites held mean peak counts of seven or more birds during 2006/07; this was a similar number to the past few years. The highest single site totals were at the

Somerset Levels and Wraysbury Gravel Pits, other double-figure counts were at Lee Valley Gravel Pits and Ditchford Gravel Pits.

The Northern Irish maximum has always been in single figures and the 2006/07 total was the highest to date. Birds were noted at eight sites in the province, the highest counts being of four at Loughs Neagh and Beg in both September and October.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 7 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Somerset Levels	(14)	(12)	20	(18)	17	Feb	19
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	19	12	18	16	17	Oct	16
Ditchford Gravel Pits		13	12	13	12	Aug	13
Southampton Water	(5)	(6)	9	(11)	(8)	Nov	10
North Norfolk Coast	7	6	8	10	14	Sep	9
Thames Estuary	9	(7)	7	10	9	Oct	9
Chichester Gravel Pits	4	7	9	11	7	Nov	8
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	(4)	(4)	5	9	9	Feb	8
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	4	10	6	9	(13)	Oct	8
Avon Valley: Salisbury-Fordingbr'	(4)	(6)	(5)	(7)	(4)	Oct	(7)
Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	8	10	6	8	5	Sep	7
Lower Derwent Ings	11	3	6	7			7
Pitsford Reservoir	9	11	(3)	6	3	Aug	7
Stour Estuary	(11)	6	(6)	6	4	Apr	7
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain[†]							
Grand Western Canal	3	6	4	6	9	Aug	6
Camel Estuary	(3)	(7)	3 ¹⁰	6	7	Dec	6
Barton Broad	4	5	3	3	7	Oct	4
Gunthorpe GPs & River Trent	3	2	(2)	5	7	Oct	4
River Test - Broadlands Estate	1	0	2	3	7	Sep	3

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