

# WWT/JNCC/SNH Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme

## survey results 2012/13

### European White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*

#### 1. Abundance

The abundance of European White-fronted Geese in the UK during 2012/13 was monitored through the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). Results are presented in survey reports which are available on the WeBS website.

#### 2. Breeding success

During January 2013, European White-fronted Geese were aged at two locations in England; WWT Slimbridge in Gloucestershire and RSPB's North Warren nature reserve in Suffolk. Overall, 360 geese were aged and a total of 68 goslings (18.8%) was present in the flock counts.

At Slimbridge, 175 birds were aged with 35 goslings (20%) present (Figure 1), and at North Warren, a sample of 185 birds contained 33 goslings (17.9%). Brood size counts were carried out by the reserve wardens at Slimbridge, with 34 goslings counted among 15 broods, giving a mean brood size of 2.2 goslings per successful pair.

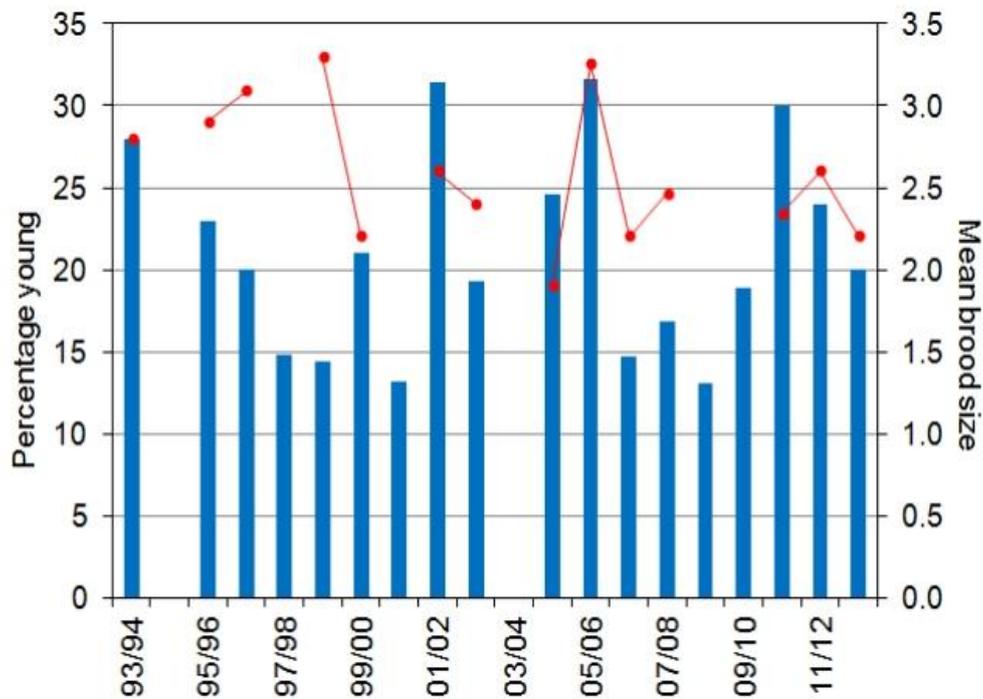


Figure 1. The proportion of young and mean brood size of European White-fronted Geese recorded at Slimbridge (where data have been collected regularly), 1993/94 – 2012/13. Note; no data were collected during 1994/95 or 2003/04.

Despite the fairly typical breeding success among birds wintering in Britain, 2012 seems to have been a poor breeding year for this population overall (K. Koffijberg pers. comm.). Although data are still being collated from various wintering countries, the provisional estimate is c. 11% young based on flocks assessed in Austria, Switzerland, Germany, The Netherlands and Belgium.

This report should be cited as:

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## Goose & Swan Monitoring