

IN GREAT BRITAIN, 11th NOVEMBER, 1962

On 11th November, 1962 there were about 37,000 Greylag Geese Anser anser and 58,000 Pink-footed Geese Anser brachyrhynchus in Great Britain. These numbers may be compared with 36,000 Greylags and 56,000 Pinkfeet on 12th November, 1961 and 30,000 Greylags and 47,000 Pinkfeet on 13th November, 1960.

The table below shows how the geese were distributed in different counties. Where birds were roosting in one county and feeding in another they have been assigned to the roosting place. The counties are listed from north to south. All county figures are rounded to the nearest ten birds, while the national total is given to the nearest thousand.

	GREYLAGS			PINKFEET		
	1962	1961	1960	1962	1961	1960
SCOTLAND						
Caithness	-	100	-	-	-	-
Sutherland	10	-	-	-	-	-
Ross & Cromarty	(440)	310*	4150	-	-	190
Inverness	160	0*	-	-	-	-
Nairn	230	200*	-	-	-	-
Moray	850	470	1220	-	-	-
Aberdeen	1610	2220	1050	1270	1720	820
Angus	3800	6400	3680	3100	600	3100
Perth	16910	14400	9140	12430	17400	6730
Fife	420	2300	2130	9170	5700	4500
Kinross	1500	350	240	650	50	1300
Stirling & Clackmannan	20	20	310	970	1560	460
Dunbarton	380	340	400	-	-	-
Renfrew	-	10	60	-	-	-
Lanark	400	290	760	460	580	1700
Midlothian	480	240	310	4760	4990	1300
E. Lothian	-	-	-	680	250	1400
Berwick	290	210	100	3500	3800	3700
Peebles	-	-	-	1450	5000	300
Argyll	1060	500	860	10	10	-
Bute & Arran	(1840)	1870*	2650	-	-	-
Ayr	240	60	60	-	-	-
Dumfries	810	340	740	2000	1020	7000
Kirkcudbright	1130	790*	440	-	-	40
Wigtown	(3900)	4650*	1360	-	10	-
Total SCOTLAND	36480	36070	30070	44450	42830	32540
ENGLAND						
Northumberland	120	40	30	-	-	-
Cumberland	150	70	-	860	750	50
Westmorland	210	-	-	-	-	-
Lancashire	-	120	140	4150	4700*	3200
Yorkshire	-	-	30	2060	1840	5340
Lincolnshire	-	-	-	6000	5520	5900
Gloucester	-	-	-	50	40	110
others	-	-	-	-	-	60
Total ENGLAND	480	230	200	13120	12850	14460
BRITISH TOTAL	37000	36000	30000	58000	56000	47000

Entries marked * in 1961 columns show considerable departures from the figures used in the provisional report for November 1961.

GREYLAG. Sample counts show that the proportion of young birds in the population is about 32%, with an average brood size of 3.1. Both these figures are below the corresponding ones for 1961 (40% and 3.9) and 1960 (46% and 3.4) but are not as low as I had expected on the basis of weather reports from Iceland in May and June.

The totals for Ross & Cromarty, Bute & Arran and Wigtonshire are subject to correction when (if) late reports are received from five places. In these provisional figures I have used the 1961 counts for these places in 1962 also: the number of geese interpolated in this way is 5100. The general impression is of little change in Britain as a whole between the numbers in November 1961 and November 1962.

The resident breeding population of N.W. Scotland and the Outer Hebrides and the feral stocks elsewhere are being investigated separately and are not included in the totals shown.

PINKFOOT. The data are believed to be nearly complete. At the level of accuracy attainable in a survey of this kind the result is "no change" from 1961. The proportion of young birds found in sample counts is 20%, far less than last year's 37% and well below the average since 1950. Nevertheless the breeding season was evidently not a very poor one, since the spring population must have contained an unusually high proportion of geese not yet old enough to breed. It looks as if bad weather in the early summer delays, rather than prevents, nesting in both Greylags and Pinkfeet breeding in Iceland.

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