

RESULTS OF PINK-FOOTED AND GREYLAG GOOSE COUNTS, 15TH/16TH MARCH 1986

The count weekend was dominated by moderate to strong southerly winds. Conditions were overcast but mild; the earlier snow had melted. Visibility was fair to good in most areas except the extreme north and south-west of Scotland, where there was heavy rain on the 16th. The totals counted were 97,000 Pinkfeet (the same as in March 1985, but 31,000 fewer than in November 1985) and 51,000 Greylags (21,000 fewer than in March 1985 and less than half the number counted in November). The numbers of Pinkfeet in southern Scotland were generally lower than usual for March, despite the presence of 17,000 in Wigtown Bay. In the north there were remarkable concentrations along the coast above Aberdeen, with 15,350 at the Loch of Strathbeg and 13,550 on the Ythan Estuary and adjacent Slains Lochs. The numbers of Greylags at Strathbeg and around the Ythan were low, however: just 600 and 860 respectively. The largest counts of Greylags were at Drummond Pond, Perth & Kinross (5,000) and the Isle of Bute (3,100).

Table 1 (below) shows the regional distribution of both species, expressed as percentages of the total counts; Table 2 (overleaf) shows the numbers counted in each region.

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Table 1. Regional distribution, November 1984 to March 1986

	PINKFEET				GREYLAGS			
	Nov. 1984	Mar. 1985	Nov. 1985	Mar. 1986	Nov. 1984	Mar. 1985	Nov. 1985	Mar. 1986
North Scotland	19.4	19.8	20.2	30.9	42.0	46.7	42.4	37.9
East-central Scotland	32.0	33.6	28.7	29.0	26.4	26.0	38.0	34.5
South-east Scotland	12.6	11.5	30.2	5.6	5.0	4.2	4.5	1.1
South-west Scotland	6.7	31.4	5.9	26.4	20.1	17.9	11.1	23.5
North England	18.4	3.6	11.7	8.1	6.5	5.2	3.9	3.0
East England	10.9	0.1	3.2	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL COUNT (x1,000)	86	97	128	97	64	71	107	51

Table 2. Nos of Pinkfeet and Greylags counted, November 1984 to March 1986

	PINKFEET				GREYLAGS			
	Nov 1984	Mar 1985	Nov 1985	Mar 1986	Nov 1984	Mar 1985	Nov 1985	Mar 1986
Orkney	-	-	-	-	310	980	630	821
Highland								
Caithness	-	-	-	10	1700	1950	3330	1920
Sutherland/W Ross	-	-	-	-	-	-	110	30
Easter Ross	410	1030	-	-	5530	1190	5370	140
Inverness	-	3500	-	1100	-	600	80	430
Badenoch/Strathspey	-	-	-	-	1360	2800	510	510
Nairn	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	30
Grampian								
Moray	-	-	-	-	1860	1550	6140	2860
Banff & Buchan	8850	3250	12100	15370	2230	10750	4620	3300
Gordon	7400	11400	13800	13550	6920	10140	9440	4860
Kincardine & Dee	-	50	-	-	7000	3000	15000	4600
Tayside								
Angus	11860	4840	15300	9090	4530	3700	4140	2740
Perth & Kinross	11780	18190	15230	11300	12060	12390	34390	10980
Central	1350	5630	1230	2770	350	530	1030	70
Fife	2500	4000	5000	5000	-	1750	1000	3000
Lothian								
West Lothian	490	4500	10	1550	580	-	960	100
Midlothian	70	2020	4600	1370	220	-	130	-
East Lothian	4580	160	10400	-	250	530	510	150
Borders								
Tweeddale	2700	4550	10590	2120	-	-	10	-
Roxburgh	3000	7	8700	-	1260	2430	2100	280
Berwickshire	-	-	4430	400	930	10	1080	30
Strathclyde								
Argyll & Bute	-	-	-	-	4170	2760	4570	3130
Cunningham	-	-	-	-	170	150	-	190
Dunbarton	-	-	-	-	2000	1000	1000	1000
Strathkelvin	-	-	-	-	300	-	300	1160
Lanark	1140	1430	780	1560	-	150	-	110
Renfrew	-	-	-	-	150	420	-	350
Kyle & Carrick	-	-	-	-	580	310	190	310
Dumfries & Galloway								
Wigtown	-	12200	-	17000	2580	2770	2940	100
Stewartry	-	50	-	-	2280	1360	1350	1150
Nithsdale	4630	10370	6830	3450	720	3750	450	2050
Cumbria	-	6500	-	3560	630	850	1090	1150
Lancashire	15610	3550	15000	7840	-	70	-	-
Northumberland	190	-	-	-	3520	2750	4200	1540
Humberside	-	-	250	-	-	-	-	-
Lincolnshire	320	10	30	-	-	-	-	-
Norfolk	9000	10	3850	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	86000	97000	128000	<u>97040</u>	64000	71000	107000	<u>51480</u>

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