

	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	Mon	Mean
Pugneys Country Park Lakes	50	65	94	51	35	Nov	59
Cropston Reservoir	33	156	16	1	47	Feb	51
Great Pool (Westwood Park)	(11)	29	51	77	47	Nov	51
Swillington Ings	130	82	7	18	9	Mar	49
Dungeness Gravel Pits	27	29	33	39	110	Jan	48
Church Wilne Reservoir	63	76	2	-	-		47
Worsborough Reservoir	90	29	-	21	-		47
Capheaton Reservoir	47	-	-	-	-		47
Knight & Bessborough Reservoirs	28	126	32	32	10	Nov	46
Thoresby Lake	-	20	63	19	74	Feb	44 ▲
Aqualate Mere	60	73	27	(20)	7	Aug/Mar	42
Bolton-on-Swale Gravel Pits	17	29	34	57	66	Jan	41
Belvide Reservoir	7	31	2	59	100	Mar	40
Blackwater Estuary	20	32	29	38	80	Nov	40 ▲
Angler's Country Park Lake	19	3	39	54	69	Feb	37 ▲
Hule Moss	³¹ 13	³¹ 14	³¹ 41	³¹ 73	39	Sep	36 ▲
Sutton/Lound Gravel Pits	45	25	36	-	38	Mar	36
Woolston Eyes	44	40	34	40	22	Sep	36
Swithland Reservoir	73	12	67	20	10	Mar	36
Old Moor Wetlands	56	25	42	32	21	Mar	35
Brent Reservoir	34	24	16	46	44	Sep	33 ▲
Cotswold Water Park (West)	38	16	42	33	34	Jan/Mar	33 ▲
Rufford Lake	14	51	28	48	22	Sep	33
King George VI Reservoir	92	20	50	2	0		33
Ellesmere Lakes	77	22	11	22	30	Sep/Oct	32
Houghton Green Pool	14	36	42	38	28	Sep	32

Sites with mean peak counts of 30 or more birds in Northern Ireland

Loughs Neagh & Beg	73	89	28	84	14	Oct	58
--------------------	----	----	----	----	----	-----	----

Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels

Hollowell Reservoir

Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in 1999-2000

Carsington Water	96	Mar	Hogganfield Lough	44	Sep
Hollowell Reservoir	60	Mar	Winterset & Cold Hiendley Rsr	41	Dec
Ravensthorpe Reservoir	58	Feb	Hampton & Kempton Reservoirs	40	Feb
Tees Estuary	56	Sep	Mickletown Ings	36	Sep
Humber Estuary	54	Sep	Walthamstow Reservoirs	32	Dec
Catchpenny Pool	52	Jan			

† as site designation does not occur and the 1% criterion is not applied, a qualifying level of 30 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

ARGENTINE BLUE-BILL

Oxyura vittata

Escape
Native range: South America

One was at Colwick Country Park in March.

WATER RAIL

Rallus aquaticus

International threshold: ?
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 452 Dec
NI max: 4 Jan

The peak count in 1999-2000 was the second highest recorded by WeBS, following the record total in the previous year. The higher counts in recent years are most probably due to an

increase in observer coverage rather than a true increase in the wintering population and remain considerable undercounts due to the secretive nature of this species.

For the second year running the Lower Derwent Valley held very few birds although numbers at Chew Valley Lake returned to normal after a

remarkably high count in 1998-99. Positions in the table remained relatively unchanged although three more sites were added to the table.

	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain[†]							
Grouville Marsh	(40)	(20)	(20)	(10)	(40)	Nov	(40)
Somerset Levels	46	42	29	38	34	Jan	38
Rye Harbour & Pett Level	5	40	2	61	31	Aug	28
Stodmarsh NNR & Collards Lagoon	30	9	14	23	28	Oct/Mar	21
Leighton Moss	15	18	25	28	15	Aug	20
Longueville Marsh	(20)	(10)	(5)	(10)	(10)	Various	(20)
Lower Derwent Valley	29	26	27	7	8	Jan	19
Fleet Pond	15	20	20	15	20	Nov-Jan	18
Chew Valley Lake	0	9	19	42	4	Mar	15
Colwick Country Park	2	68	0	2	4	Dec-Feb	15
North Norfolk Coast	23	6	11	16	10	Nov	13
Severn Estuary	22	9	4	26	5	Nov/Jan	13
Rutland Water	(10)	10	6	10	20	Jan/Feb	12 ▲
Marston Sewage Treatment Works	-	-	-	5	18	Jan	12 ▲
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	5	10	6	10	22	Nov	11 ▲
Doxey Marshes	6	15	11	10	11	Sep	11
Knockshinnoch Lagoons	28	4	9	5	3	Dec	10

Internationally or nationally important sites not counted in last five years

Pannel Valley

Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels

Kilconquhar Loch

Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in 1999-2000

Colne Estuary	23	Dec
Brent Reservoir	22	Jan
Southampton Water	16	Jan
Poole Harbour	16	Nov
Kilconquhar Loch	14	Dec
Walland Marsh	11	Oct
Bosherston Lakes	11	Oct
R. Lune: Caton to Hornby	10	Jul
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	10	Nov
Fordwich & Westbere Gravel Pits	10	Nov

[†] as no British or all-Ireland threshold has been set, a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

SPOTTED CRAKE

Porzana porzana

GB max:

NI max:

Single birds were recorded at Stodmarsh NNR & Collards Lagoon in August and at Old Moor Wetlands and Filey Dams in September.

International threshold: ?

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

BAILLON'S CRAKE

Porzana pusilla

Vagrant

Native range: Europe, S Africa, Asia and Australasia

A male was present at Stodmarsh NNR & Collards Lagoon in July.

MOORHEN
Gallinula chloropus

International threshold: ?
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 14,375 Jan
NI max: 258 Jan

In 1999-2000 wintering Moorhen numbers in Great Britain increased to the highest ever levels recorded by WeBS, though the peak count in Northern Ireland was the lowest of the last five years. These numbers, however, are only a fraction of the true wintering population, and it is likely that WeBS records little over 1% of the total.

The top five British sites have remained the same for the previous three years, although

numbers fluctuate widely at each. Only the Severn Estuary and the North Norfolk Coast held peak numbers noticeably above their five year means and, due to annually increasing peak counts, Swanbourne Lake qualified for inclusion in the table. For the second year running the Lower Derwent Valley supported numbers well below the five year mean.

	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain †							
WWT Martin Mere	665	739	710	640	570	Nov	665
Lower Derwent Valley	³¹ 516	816	680	371	419	Feb	560
Severn Estuary	23	829	20	860	679	Jan	482
Somerset Levels	356	253	250	370	407	Oct	327
North Norfolk Coast	332	179	334	291	441	Feb	315
Durham Coast	176	175	256	269	307	Nov	237
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	194	234	191	215	278	Jan	222
Burry Inlet	121	220	281	198	213	Jan	207
Arun Valley	161	234	190	197	240	Dec	204
Ouse Washes	241	124	201	287	126	Mar	196
Thames Estuary	234	219	144	137	161	Feb	179
Chichester Gravel Pits	179	167	176	138	(138)	Feb	165
Rutland Water	178	71	119	160	229	Sep	151
Blackwater Estuary	113	181	165	126	138	Dec	145
Grouville Marsh	(130)	(100)	(70)	(80)	(140)	Nov	140 ▲
Chew Valley Lake	180	125	120	145	130	Sep	140
Bewl Water	196	119	60	170	122	Jul	133
Rye Harbour & Pett Level	90	67	111	222	162	Dec	130
R. Wye: Bakewell to Haddon	153	118	160	101	114	Nov	129
Lancaster Canal	147	106	207	88	85	Dec	127
Pitsford Reservoir	163	116	21	(123)	172	Sep	119
Marston Sewage Treatment Works	-	-	-	(110)	118	Jan	118
Tring Reservoirs	65	78	148	207	90	Dec	118
Sutton/Lound Gravel Pits	104	120	106	-	136	Feb	117
Leighton Moss	160	170	95	90	65	Jun	116
Fairburn Ings	³¹ 112	104	112	120	113	Jul	112
Swanbourne Lake	-	42	(60)	130	140	Jan	104 ▲
Thanet Coast	-	135	76	122	83	Jan	104
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland †							
Loughs Neagh & Beg	265	132	137	201	124	Sep	172
Upper Lough Erne	70	164	52	100	67	Mar	91
Broadwater Canal	-	83	71	69	-		74
Portavo Lake	43	-	-	-	-		43
Upper Quoile River	18	24	31	43	38	Feb	31
Important sites not counted in last five years							
Wantsum Marshes							
Ash Levels							
Little Stour Valley							

Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels

Chilham & Chartham Gravel Pits

Alde Complex

Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in 1999-2000

Orwell Estuary	³⁷ 157	Jan
Ribble Estuary	141	Dec
Brent Reservoir	141	Dec
Hope Carr Reserve	124	Sep
Dee Estuary (Eng/Wal)	120	Nov
R. Avon: R'wood to Christchurch	113	Dec
Dungeness Gravel Pits	110	Aug
Alton Water	110	Oct
Woolston Eyes	110	Sep
Stodmarsh NNR & Collards Lagoon	108	Oct
Ravensthorpe Reservoir	108	Sep
Belfast Lough	³⁷ 46	Nov

† as no British or all-Ireland thresholds have been set, qualifying levels of 100 and 30 have been chosen to select sites in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, respectively, for presentation in this report

COOT

Fulica atra

GB max: 112,089 Nov

NI max: 8,436 Nov

International threshold: 15,000

Great Britain threshold: 1,100

All-Ireland threshold: 250

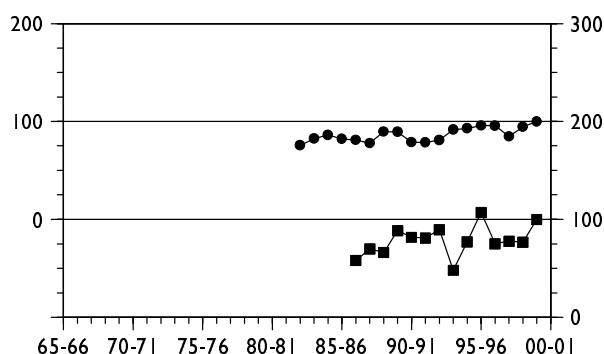


Figure 58. Annual indices for Coot in GB (circles, left axis) and NI (squares, right axis)

The annual indices in Great Britain and Northern Ireland rose to their highest and second highest ever levels, respectively. The former was 4% higher than the previous highest, while the latter was up by 20% on values for the previous three winters.

The peak British total was the highest recorded by WeBS, numbers typically building to a peak in October and November before a rapid decline after mid winter.

As expected, most departures from five year means in 1999-2000 involved higher counts. Counts at Abberton Reservoir, a site where

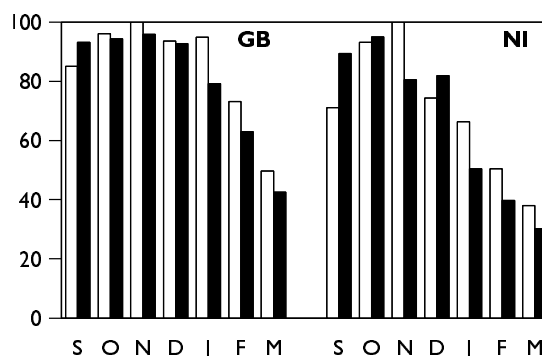


Figure 59. Monthly indices for Coot in GB and NI (white bars 1999-2000; black bars 1994-95 to 1998-99)

numbers appear to cycle over a short period of years, suggest another term of high counts is beginning following the very low numbers in the late 1990s. Peak counts at Loch Leven, Pitsford Reservoir and Dungeness Gravel Pits increased for the fifth consecutive year and large counts were also made at Alton Water, Hickling Broad (the second highest count at any site in 1999-2000) and at the Ouse Washes, the last coinciding with high counts of other waterbirds at this site in 1999-2000. Notably low counts were recorded at Rutland Water and Hanningfield and Stanford Reservoirs.

	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Abberton Reservoir	11,319	6,897	4,784	6,493	9,673	Sep	7,833
Rutland Water	6,184	3,935	4,663	3,971	3,759	Oct	4,502
Hanningfield Reservoir	4,540	4,986	3,181	3,337	2,809	Aug	3,771
Cotswold Water Park (West)	3,946	3,110	3,560	3,714	3,976	Nov	3,661
Hickling Broad	(294)	-	-	2,136	4,993	Oct	3,565
Cotswold Water Park (East)	5,199	2,268	2,094	3,612	2,948	Nov	3,224
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	1,812	3,023	2,913	2,708	3,559	Nov	2,803
Ouse Washes	³¹ 1,858	³¹ 1,661	3,082	2,611	3,565	Feb	2,555
Cheddar Reservoir	2,381	3,100	2,300	2,400	2,500	Nov	2,536
Lower Windrush Valley GP	1,802	2,068	2,629	2,619	2,188	Nov	2,261
Chew Valley Lake	1,880	2,500	2,260	2,650	1,980	Aug	2,254
Windermere	2,077	2,310	2,029	-	-		2,139
Alton Water	2,845	1,142	2,135	1,465	3,090	Nov	2,135
Fleet/Wey	2,417	2,501	1,562	1,777	1,862	Oct	2,024
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	1,781	(2,804)	1,196	(1,348)	1,362	Jan	1,786
Loch Leven	1,020	1,546	1,551	2,285	2,340	Oct	1,748
Fen Drayton Gravel Pits	1,528	1,675	1,709	1,948	1,719	Dec	1,716
Pitsford Reservoir	1,177	1,222	1,310	2,281	2,415	Oct	1,681
R. Avon: F'bridge to Ringwood	1,445	1,529	1,749	1,354	1,495	Nov	1,514
Blithfield Reservoir	101	1,109	1,717	2,305	1,946	Sep	1,436
Sutton/Lound Gravel Pits	1,360	1,716	1,072	-	1,325	Jan	1,368
Dungeness Gravel Pits	977	997	1,166	1,350	2,085	Aug	1,315
Fairburn Ings	1,784	1,572	959	1,100	1,106	Nov	1,304
Little Paxton Gravel Pits	1,314	2,173	485	853	1,235	Dec	1,212
Baston/Langtoft Gravel Pits	1,210	1,328	900	1,204	1,249	Jan	1,178
Stanford Reservoir	(1,200)	1,270	(1,865)	1,358	157	Jul	1,170
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	1,126	1,382	1,385	1,022	869	Dec	1,157
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Loughs Neagh & Beg	8,788	8,262	5,890	5,568	7,307	Nov	7,163
Upper Lough Erne	166	441	414	562	646	Mar	446
Strangford Lough	254	378	407	328	703	Nov	414
Internationally or nationally important sites not counted in last five years							
Ballysaggart Lough							
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in 1999-2000							
Tophill Low Reservoirs	1,789	Nov					
Thrapston Gravel Pits	1,429	Dec					
Hornsea Mere	1,350	Nov					
Grafham Water	1,344	Oct					
Blagdon Lake	1,229	Aug					
Slapton Ley	1,173	Nov					
Chichester Gravel Pits	(1,133)	Jan					

CRANE

Grus grus

Scarce

Two were found on the Ouse Washes in March and remained until April. A single bird was at Loch of Strathbeg in September.

OYSTERCATCHER

Haematopus ostralegus

International threshold: 9,000

Great Britain threshold: 3,600

All-Ireland threshold: 500

GB max: 252,412 Oct

NI max: 15,062 Jan

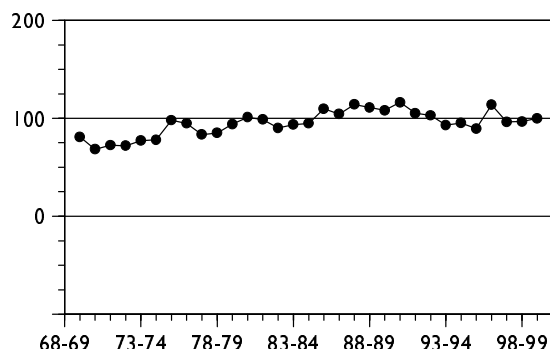


Figure 60. Annual indices for Oystercatcher in UK

During 1999-2000 there was little change to the UK annual index. The Northern Ireland maximum fell compared to 1998-99, partly as a consequence of lower than normal numbers at Dundrum Bay following the high in the previous winter, although numbers at other key sites in the province remained around average.

In Great Britain, counts at most sites were remarkably similar to their five year means, and only that Traeth Lafan was marginally higher than normal. The Dee Estuary (Eng/Wal) and Inner Moray Firth were the only sites to witness relatively low counts.

	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Morecambe Bay	34,811	57,670	56,511	52,780	50,990	Nov	50,552
Solway Estuary	31,031	(47,729)	34,446	42,038	36,752	Jan	38,399
Dee Estuary (Eng/Wal)	21,800	³⁷ 28,800	25,142	18,932	12,506	Jan	21,436
Ribble Estuary	12,048	20,846	28,701	15,491	19,535	Feb	19,324
Burry Inlet	20,461	19,067	9,423	13,344	(17,867)	Dec	16,032
Wash	(14,233)	(16,363)	17,126	12,068	15,701	Nov	15,315
Thames Estuary	12,251	14,681	14,615	(12,162)	12,755	Nov	13,576
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Forth Estuary	6,956	6,826	8,045	6,726	7,462	Jan	7,203
Duddon Estuary	6,046	5,630	9,314	6,499	6,890	Dec	6,876
Inner Moray Firth	(5,178)	5,261	8,334	5,550	4,785	Feb	5,983
Clyde Estuary	5,303	5,414	4,781	4,197	4,878	Dec	4,915
Carmarthen Bay	(2,202)	3,474	3,926	6,423	³⁷ (4,851)	Nov	4,686
Swale Estuary	3,122	5,780	3,349	5,042	5,539	Jan	4,566
Traeth Lafan	³⁷ 4,520	5,780	(3,163)	2,062	(5,781)	Jan	4,536
Medway Estuary	(3,704)	3,162	(5,521)	(4,152)	(4,452)	Feb	4,378
Exe Estuary	4,733	4,215	3,078	3,349	-		3,844
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	³⁷ 6,597	7,276	6,904	6,661	6,175	Jan	6,723
Belfast Lough	³⁷ 6,883	³⁷ 6,153	³⁷ 6,974	³⁷ 6,653	³⁷ 6,216	Nov	6,576
Lough Foyle	2,590	(3,352)	(2,865)	3,609	3,087	Dec	3,160
Dundrum Bay	1,553	1,660	1,763	3,328	1,103	Jan	1,881
Outer Ards	1,390	1,523	(1,385)	1,761	1,872	Nov	1,637
Carlingford Lough	938	(812)	902	(1,184)	1,289	Feb	1,078
Dundrum Outer Bay	505	-	-	-	-		505
Carlingford to Newcastle	510	-	-	-	-		510

Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels

Cromarty Firth

Sites surpassing table qualifying levels in 1999-2000

North Norfolk Coast 3,980 Jan

BLACK-WINGED STILT

Himantopus himantopus

Vagrant

Native range: worldwide distribution

The resident bird remained on the North Norfolk Coast throughout the year.