

Green-winged Teal

Anas carolinensis

Vagrant

Native Range: N America

GB max: 3 Dec
NI max: 1 Mar

Green-winged Teal were recorded in eight months from October to June and from twelve sites. All records were of single birds and there were only three long-stayers. These were at Dee Estuary (England & Wales) from October

to June, Langford Lowfields Gravel Pits in November and December and Loch Gruinart Floods from December to March. The only record from Northern Ireland was a single at Belfast Lough in March.

Speckled Teal

Anas flavirostris

Escape

Native Range: S America

GB max: 2 Nov
NI max: 0

Two Speckled Teal were present at Bramshill Park Lake between November and February; in March only one was reported. Birds have

been recorded annually at this site since the first in early 1998.

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: 3,520†

All-Ireland threshold: 500

GB max: 131,200 Dec
NI max: 7,785 Sep

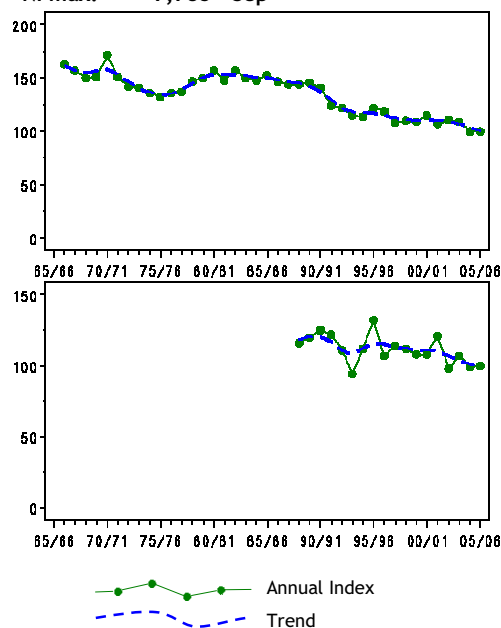


Figure 23.a, Annual indices & trend for Mallard for GB (above) & NI (below).

The long-term decline continued for this familiar species although totals were much the same as last year. This decline is reflected in the maximum count, which was lower than the maximum for 2004/05 for the same month. In the main winter period between September and January, monthly index values were below the

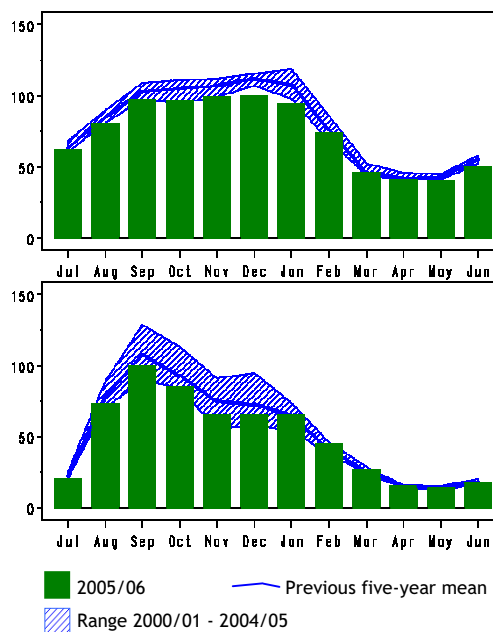


Figure 23.b, Monthly indices for Mallard for GB (above) & NI (below).

five-year mean, though from February through to June the values were largely the same as their recent averages. This could imply one or more of a number of reasons: a reduction in winter immigrants; poor breeding success leading to a lower 'surplus' of young; reduced numbers of birds released for shooting

purposes; or a mild winter meaning that many birds remained on smaller, uncounted, waterbodies rather than congregating on larger sites, however, further research would be needed. The Northern Ireland index showed a slight increase and the maximum count there was increased since the previous year, although the longer-term trend also continues to be one of decline.

The Ouse Washes still remains the only site in Britain supporting nationally important numbers of Mallards. Despite the record numbers of many other species of ducks at this

site during the 2005/06 winter, the Mallard peak was one of the lowest on record and at the current rate it is unlikely that average numbers will remain above the threshold for national importance for much longer. Only seven other sites in Great Britain had means in excess of 2,000 birds and, interestingly, four of these sites showed an increase in peak numbers from 2004/05. Peak counts for Northern Ireland were much the same as last year although at Loughs Neagh and Beg, and Lough Foyle peak counts were higher than for 2004/05.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Ouse Washes	4,457	3,580 ¹²	3,988 ¹²	3,505	2,454	Feb	3,597
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	4,243	4,763	4,774	4,027	4,612	Sep	4,484
Strangford Lough	2,227	1,851	1,568	1,621	1,586	Dec	1,771
Lough Foyle	1,181	705	791	1,025	1,133	Sep	967
Lower Lough Erne		533	(494)	754	556	Jan	614
Sites with mean peak counts of 2,000 or more birds in Great Britain†							
WWT Martin Mere	3,800	3,280	3,350	2,930	3,150	Oct	3,302
Ampton Water		2,535	3,735				3,135
Severn Estuary	2,761	2,936	2,701	3,353	3,884	Sep	3,127
The Wash	1,781	2,384	2,639	2,437	2,529	Dec	2,354
Humber Estuary	1,524	2,957	(2,347)	2,455	(1,621)	Nov	2,321
Tring Reservoirs	1,834	2,800	2,000	1,557	2,500	Jul	2,138
Morecambe Bay	(1,683)	2,455	2,208	1,891	1,740	Dec	2,074
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain†							
Swale Estuary	1,635	1,452	1,800	2,010	2,247	Dec	1,829

† as few sites exceed the British threshold a qualifying level of 2,000 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Chestnut Teal

Anas castanea

Escape
Native Range: S Australia

GB max: 2 Aug
NI max: 0

Two Chestnut Teal were recorded at Liden Lagoon, Wiltshire in August. Previously, two

birds were noted at this site in October 2003.

Pintail

Anas acuta

International threshold: 600
Great Britain threshold: 279
All-Ireland threshold: 60

GB max: 27,935 Dec
NI max: 591 Dec

The Great Britain annual index reached the highest level since the mid 1980s following a steady increase since a low point in 2000/01. This was reflected with a notably high maximum GB total count. The monthly indices were above the five year mean in all months and showed a peak in February, where as in previous years this peak has been earlier in the winter. Eighteen sites hold internationally important numbers of Pintail, though the River Avon (Ringwood-Christchurch) and Arun Valley no longer qualify. Following a high peak, Pagham Harbour now qualifies for this

status. The peak count on the Dee Estuary was the highest there since 1992 whilst relatively high numbers were also recorded from Burry Inlet, Ribble Estuary, Duddon Estuary, Lindisfarne, North West Solent, Foryd Bay, Chichester Harbour, Rutland Water and Lavan Sands. Conversely, peak counts from the Wash, Swale Estuary, Lower Derwent Ings, and in particular River Avon where the peak was of a single bird in February, were notably lower than usual, although at the last of these sites, numbers have always varied hugely depending upon the amount of winter flooding.

In Northern Ireland, the index rose sharply to a new high following two years of small declines, largely due to the increased numbers at Strangford Lough and Lough Foyle. The

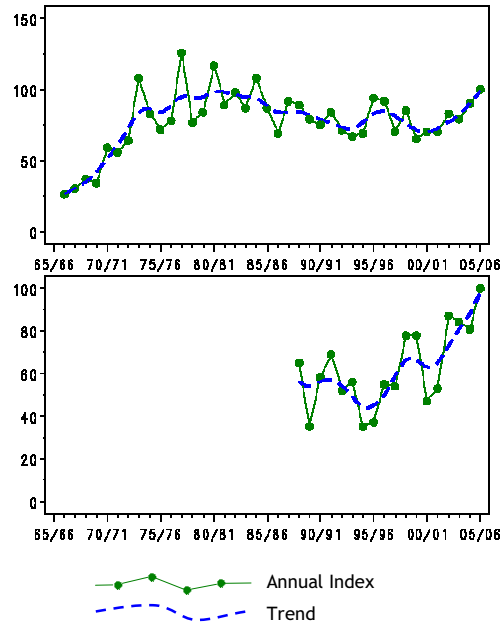


Figure 24.a, Annual indices & trend for Pintail for GB (above) & NI (below).

Northern Ireland maximum in December was also much higher than 2004/05, helped considerably by record numbers at Strangford Lough.

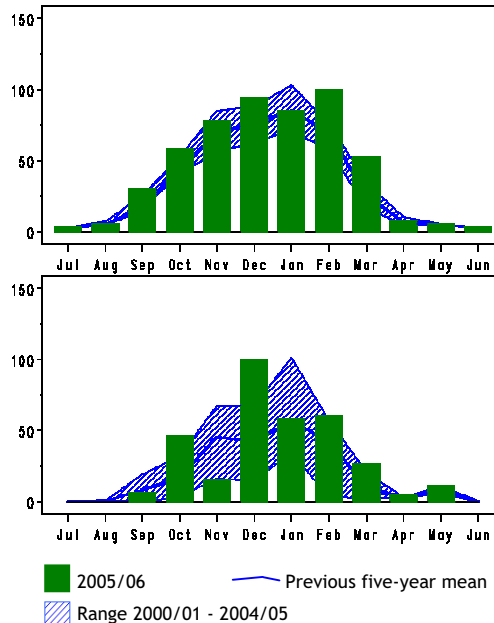


Figure 24.b, Monthly indices for Pintail for GB (above) & NI (below).

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	6,023	6,000 ¹²	6,317	4,312	6,330	Nov	5,796
Solway Estuary	(8,070)	(3,357)	4,183	(4,352)	(1,575)	Nov	5,535
Burby Inlet	1,305	4,410	5,772	2,745	4,837	Feb	3,814
Morecambe Bay	3,471	3,628	(3,942)	3,620	3,045	Oct	3,541
Ouse Washes	2,606 ¹²	2,844 ¹²	2,277 ¹²	3,330	2,848	Feb	2,781
Ribble Estuary	619	1,405	(2,562)	(3,058)	3,579	Dec	2,245
Nene Washes	1,250	3,478	1,779	327	281	Mar	1,423
Duddon Estuary	391	(415)	(1,299)	1,626 ¹⁰	2,210 ¹⁰	Feb	1,409
Severn Hams	2,000 ¹²	(80)	(250)	70	(101)	Dec	1,035
Medway Estuary	(1,118)	(333)	(95)	812 ¹⁰	(809)	Feb	965
Severn Estuary	(780)	(891)	(354)	(784)	905	Jan	905
North Norfolk Coast	1,296	(475)	(768)	712	657	Feb	888
The Wash	516	1,253	1,086	915	567	Jan	867
Swale Estuary	998	946	962	672	579	Dec	831
Mersehead RSPB Reserve	410	1,140	480	970			750
Somerset Levels	1,084	(1,315)	494	261	333	Dec	697
Dee Flood Meadows	1,050	(628)	580	250	(329)	Mar	627
Pagham Harbour	587	304	477	834	893	Jan	619 ▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
WWT Martin Mere	635	487	463	710 ¹¹	(535)	Mar	574
River Avon: Ringwood/Christch	280	2,013	25	46	1	Feb	473 ▼
Blackwater Estuary	352	498	461	555	(387)	Dec	467
Wigtown Bay	(195)	(320)	(359)	(654)	349	Nov	454
Arun Valley	(413)	(775)	403	293	290	Dec	435 ▼
Alde Complex	705	403	(330)	313	307	Jan	432
Lower Derwent Ings	411	660	573	296	167	Jan	421
Blyth Estuary	368						368
Lindisfarne	272 ¹⁰	330	384	301	536	Oct	365
North West Solent	233	96	391	412	670	Mar	360 ▲
Stour Estuary	629	193	111	(263)	473	Dec	352

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Malltraeth Cob and Pools			207	421	397	Dec	342
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	313	310	258	518	281	Jan	336
Orwell Estuary	473 ¹⁰	372 ¹⁰	325 ¹⁰	165 ¹⁰	308 ¹⁰	Nov	329
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	329	571	271 ¹⁰	248	202	Dec	324
Otmoor	160 ¹²	481 ¹²		(156)	(46)	Jan	321
Poole Harbour	424	191	316	338	(208)	Feb	317
Crouch-Roach Estuary	192	385	267	(281)	380	Dec	306
Fleet and Wey	281	149	(281)	420	360	Feb	303 ▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	348	378	582	349	643 ¹⁰	Dec	460
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006							
Thames Estuary	(223)	355	(126)	(100)	162	Oct	259
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain							
Foryd Bay	132	248	80	136	449	Feb	209
Chichester Harbour	190	69	233	297	375	Feb	233
Rutland Water	190	120	145	61	327	Oct	169
Lavan Sands	(80)	101	236	(144)	283	Nov	207
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Northern Ireland							
Lough Foyle	21	21	22	52	94	Mar	42

Bahama Pintail

Anas bahamensis

Escape
Native Range: S America

GB max: 3 May
NI max: 0

Bahama Pintails were reported from just two sites in 2005/06. Two were present at Stanton Lake in August with singles present in May and June. Single birds were recorded at

Doddington Pool between February and June. This species has been recorded by WeBS in almost every year since 1993.

Garganey

Anas querquedula

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: +[†]
All-Ireland threshold: +[†]

GB max: 52 May
NI max: 0

As a summer visitor, Garganey are considered here for the calendar year 2005. The peak count was recorded during May and was one less than the previous British maximum. None were recorded in Northern Ireland. The highest single site total was again recorded at Wraybury Gravel Pits where 12 were present in September. The only other double-figure count was at Ouse Washes in April. In Britain Garganey are rarely found in any

concentrations and birds are most visible during spring and autumn. Garganey were recorded at a total of 61 sites during 2005, with most records between April and October, although there was an exceptional record of a single bird at Northward Hill RSPB Reserve (Thames Estuary) in January. The latest record was of one at Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve in November.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 4 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Wraybury Gravel Pits	0	15	12	14	12	Sep	11
Stodmarsh NNR & Collards Lagn	30	5	7	0	2	Apr	9
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	7	9	2	3	8	Apr	6
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	4	4	4	8	4	Jul	5
Dungeness Gravel Pits	12	(0)	3	4	2	Jul	5
North Norfolk Coast	(4)	(4)	(3)	4	5	Apr	5
Ouse Washes	3	7	2	4	10	Apr	5
Thames Estuary	(2)	(5)	(2)	(3)	(2)	Apr	(5)
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2005 in Great Britain[†]							
Humber Estuary	0	2	2	1	6	Sep	2
Loch of Strathbeg	0	0	(0)	1	6	Aug	2
Chew Valley Lake	2	1	3	1	4	Aug	2
Nene Washes	2	0	8	0	4	Apr	3
Pitsford Reservoir	2	0	1	0	4	Sep	1

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

Blue-winged Teal

Anas discors

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: Americas

GB max: 1 Jun
NI max: 0

The only Blue-winged Teal recorded during 2005/06 was a single at the Avon Estuary in June, the first time that this species has been noted at this site. Although many other vagrant

ducks are most frequent in winter, summer Blue-winged Teal records are not especially unusual.

Shoveler

Anas clypeata

International threshold: 400
Great Britain threshold: 148
All-Ireland threshold: 65

GB max: 12,396 Oct
NI max: 183 Nov

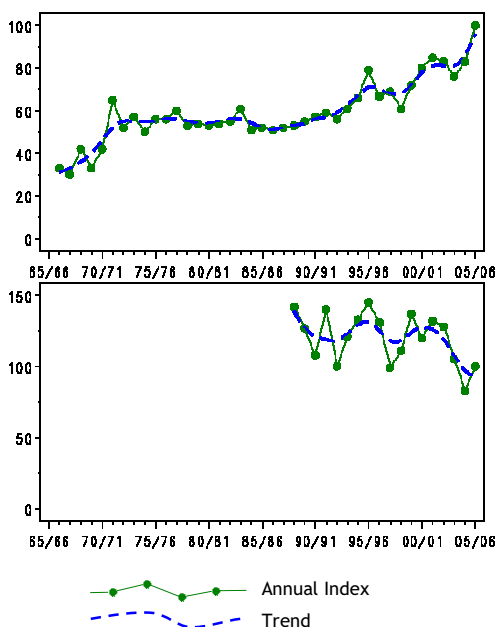


Figure 25.a, Annual indices & trend for Shoveler for GB (above) & NI (below).

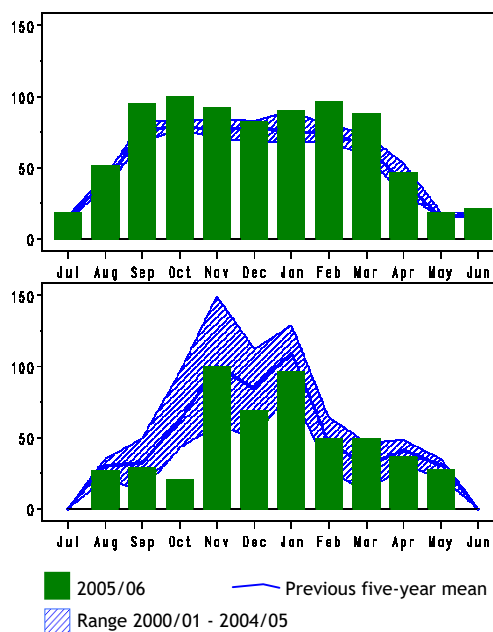


Figure 25.b, Monthly indices for Shoveler for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British index jumped to its highest ever level following a steady rise seen since the early 1990s; the maximum counted total was also the highest on record. The Northern Ireland index and the maximum count showed a slight rise too, though the overall trend there remains one of decline.

The Ouse Washes has now replaced the Somerset Levels as the most important site in the UK for Shoveler, following a fourth consecutive four-figure count at the former and a third successive below-average count at the latter. Two sites, Swale Estuary and Loch Leven, no longer qualify as sites supporting

internationally important numbers of Shoveler following a succession of decreasing counts, although following a record high count, Dungeness Gravel Pits now does qualify for this status. The peak count on the Severn Estuary was also a record WeBS total, whilst counts at Abberton Reservoir, Burry Inlet, Staines Reservoirs, Stodmarsh NNR & Collards Lagoon, Grafham Water and Woolston Eyes were also high. There was a particularly low peak at Wraysbury Gravel Pits, as also noted for Gadwall at this site and was potentially due to an increase in disturbance (V Chambers *pers. comm.*)

Numbers at Northern Ireland's key site, Strangford Lough, rose from 2004/05 but remained well below the five-year mean.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ouse Washes	968 ¹²	1,125	1,104 ¹²	2,414	1,279	Mar	1,378
Somerset Levels	1,170	(2,190)	784	(902)	845	Feb	1,247
Chew Valley Lake	805	535	565	395	660	Dec	592
Rutland Water	608	504	475	663	680	Sep	586
Thames Estuary	(605)	697	415	402	357	Nov	495
Abberton Reservoir	440	422	488	355	(674)	Nov	476
Breydon Wtr & Berney Marshes	679	415	322	468	333	Mar	443
Dungeness Gravel Pits	504	320	378	340	574	Sep	423 ▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Severn Estuary	366	368 ¹⁰	325	266	603	Jan	386
Swale Estuary	587	440	330	292	199	Mar	370 ▼
Loch Leven	400	550	295	386	204	Sep	367 ▼
Staines Reservoirs	356	377	261	308	469	Sep	354
Burry Inlet	215	397	327	344	437	Dec	344
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	321	308	246	275	282	Oct	286
Lower Derwent Ings	241	442	319	314	107	Jan	285
Alde Complex	(407)	229	(106)	175	253	Mar	266
Stodmarsh NNR & Collards Lagn	206	244	202	272	384	Oct	262
Nene Washes	374	262	200	177	213	Mar	245
Chichester Gravel Pits	317	238	321	173	165	Dec	243
North Norfolk Coast	289	182	212	234	278	Jan	239
Llynau Y Fali	176	337	233	232	210	Mar	238
Morecambe Bay	380	(82)	184	167	159	Nov	223
Ribble Estuary	179	197	231	219	286	Nov	222
Pitsford Reservoir	153	91	378	70	347	Oct	208
Minsmere	207	233	180	227	183	Nov	206
Fairburn Ings	153	159	221		288	Feb	205
River Avon: Fordingbridg/Ringwd	117	361	188	149	195	Feb	202
Blagdon Lake	400	75	146	160	(220)	Sep	200
Arun Valley	227	259	195	175	98	Dec	191
Walland Marsh	520	125	120	120	60	Dec	189
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	282	167	204	162	120	Jan	187
Walthamstow Reservoirs	179	135	212	265	142	Nov	187
Grafham Water	143	51	112	266	357	Mar	186 ▲
Medway Estuary	(280)	(20)	(26)	19 ¹⁰	248	Jan	182 ▲
Hampton & Kempton Reservoirs	208	(88)	165	(134)	144	Feb	172
Tees Estuary	114	245	181	(145)	145	Sep	171
Middle Yare Marshes	(151)	(169)	(96)	(111)	(170)	Oct	(170)
Trinity Broads	(142)	55	137	304			165 ▲
Woolston Eyes	103	71	175	157	317	Sep	165 ▲
Malltraeth RSPB	145	186	124	173	147	Dec	155
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	260 ¹²	221	97	172	21	Dec	154
Hickling Broad	153	307	81	108	100	Jan	150 ▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	182	199	201	119	147	Nov	170
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006							
Fen Drayton Gravel Pits	157	128	115	135	80	Mar	123
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain							
Belvide Reservoir	79		50	160	283	Sep	143
Swithland Reservoir	66 ¹²	99	92	139	241	Sep	127
Tring Reservoirs	135	128	43	99	225	Sep	126
WWT Martin Mere	92	43	162	198	217	Oct	142
Llyn Traffwl	21	60	58	58	178	Apr	75
Holme Pierrepont Gravel Pits			14	69	176	Mar	86
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	120	38	96	154	173	Feb	116
Hollowell Reservoir	56	43	77	27	169	Oct	74
North West Solent	92	82	89	88	164	Feb	103
Cotswold Water Park (West)	88	(218)	91	126	163	Feb	137
Brent Reservoir	230	125	20	129	155	Oct	132

Ringed Teal

Callonetta leucophrys

Escape

Native Range: S America

GB max: 1 Jul
NI max: 0

Single Ringed Teal were present at Liden Lagoon in July and August, Vyne Floods in

October and December and Coate Water in February and March.

Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina

International threshold: 500
Great Britain threshold: ?[†]
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 270 Jan
NI max: 1 Feb

The origin of Red-crested Pochards in the UK is mixed and, to a great extent, confused. Whilst wild birds presumably arrive from time to time from the continent, most birds seen here are resident and derive from escapes from captivity. Escaped birds in earlier years have formed the nucleus of a naturalised population, based largely in the upper Thames valley, whilst new birds still appear to be escaping from collections and adding to these numbers, with new nuclei appearing elsewhere around the country. Moreover, the picture is likely to be clouded further by the deliberate release of large numbers of birds in north Suffolk for shooting purposes from 2005 onwards (S. Piotrowski *pers. comm.*). The peak monthly British total increased dramatically in 2005/06,

by over 50% above the previous year. As usual, most of the birds (and indeed most of the increase) related to birds in the upper Thames Valley, with the combined total for both “halves” of the Cotswold Water Park reaching a record 188 in January 2006, and the Lower Windrush peak also reaching a new high. Away from there, a steady rise has been apparent at Ouse Fen & Pits and Bourton-on-the-Water Gravel Pits, but the count of 17 at Grimley New Workings in Worcestershire was a surprise. Overall, Red-crested Pochards were noted at 79 sites in Britain during 2005/06. There was just one record in Northern Ireland of a single bird at Upper Lough Erne in February.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Cotswold Water Park (West)	58	(74)	114	81	119	Oct	93
Cotswold Water Park (East)	72	40	33	48	70	Jan	53
Baston and Langtoft Gravel Pits	16	8	(23)				16
Lower Windrush Valley GPs	8	5	6	(19)	41	Dec	16
Hanningfield Reservoir	6	6	(43)	2	0		11
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain[†]							
Ouse Fen & Pits (Hanson/RSPB)		2	4	7	18	Jan	8
Grimley New Workings				0	(17)	Dec	9
Bourton-on-the-Water GPs	1	0	2	5	12	Mar	4
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	3	7	6	16	12	Apr	9

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

Pochard

Aythya ferina

International threshold: 3,500
Great Britain threshold: 595
All-Ireland threshold: 400

GB max: 23,857 Dec
NI max: 8,664 Jan

Numbers in Northern Ireland showed tentative signs of revival following the steep declines recorded since 2000/01, although numbers were still below average through most of the year. The monthly maximum for the region was 20% higher than the previous year but similar to that of 2003/04. Figures shown in this report for Northern Ireland largely reflect those at the principal site for this species in the

UK, Loughs Neagh and Beg, which in 2005/06 held over 95% of all Pochard recorded in the province. Peak numbers at Loughs Neagh and Beg were higher than in the two preceding years but still remain just half those of 2001/02.

The British maximum fell by some 20% between 2004/05 and 2005/06. This was reflected in the annual index, which fell to its

lowest ever level. The underlying trend is one of decline and a clear fall in numbers over the past ten years is illustrated. The monthly indices show how low numbers were recorded through the year and only in September, October and March were numbers within the range recorded during the previous five seasons. Numbers at the top two English sites each showed signs of decline and mean peak numbers at the Ouse Washes no longer surpass the international threshold for this species. Loch Leven remains the key site in Scotland, despite numbers falling to their lowest level

since 2000/01. Some sites, such as the Lower Derwent Valley and the Nene Washes, can clearly correlate numbers with the degree of winter flooding on the sites, and thus fluctuate greatly. The only sites that seem to be experiencing increases in recent years are Dungeness Gravel Pits, Chew Valley Lake and Wraybury Gravel Pits. Apparent low numbers at the Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits in recent years have resulted from a lack of counts from the favoured lakes within this complex.

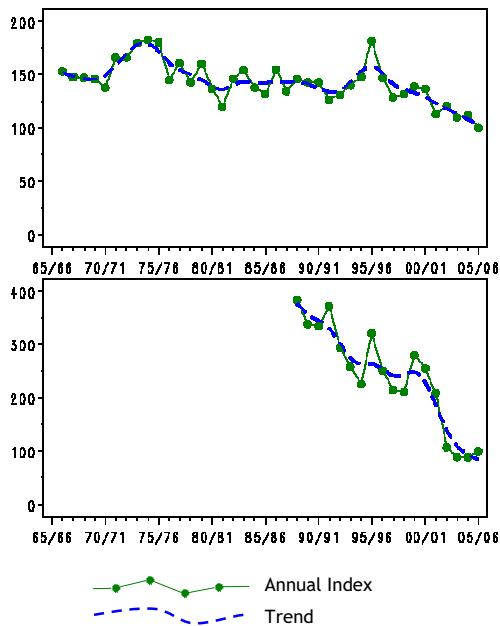


Figure 26.a, Annual indices & trend for Pochard for GB (above) & NI (below).

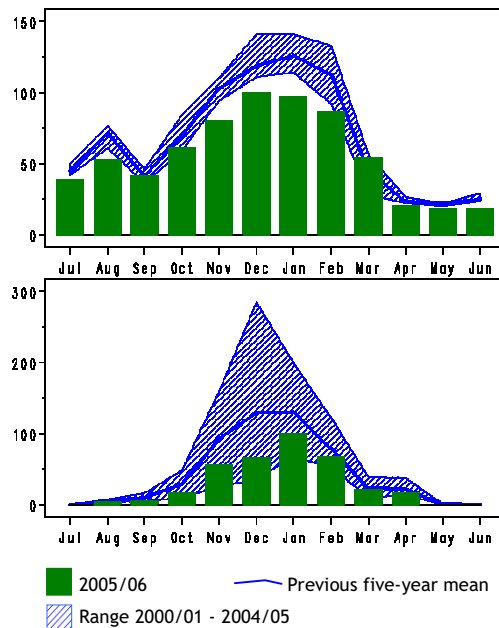


Figure 26.b, Monthly indices for Pochard for GB (above) & NI (below).

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	16,168	9,082	7,835	6,764	8,256	Jan	9,621
Abberton Reservoir	3,125	4,325	5,290	3,188	2,852	Dec	3,756
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Ouse Washes	4,206	4,583	3,304 ¹²	2,099	1,227	Feb	3,084 ▼
Loch Leven	4,074	2,934	2,548	2,193	1,715	Sep	2,693
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	1,423	(442)	(203)	(56)	(12)	Oct	1,423
Hornsea Mere	1,115	1,415	1,325	1,150	1,150	Dec	1,231
Fleet and Wey	1,072	926	850	746	682	Dec	855
Severn Estuary	1,064	772	(905)	652	760	Feb	831
Dungeness Gravel Pits	595	765	855	788	1,053	Aug	811
Chew Valley Lake	735	475	480	635	1,580	Jan	781 ▲
Lower Derwent Ings	437	1,973	1,236	39	20	Jan	741
Loch of Boardhouse	822	605	705	770	709	Nov	722
Nene Washes	48	2,853	66	32	88	Mar	617
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Upper Lough Erne	780	916	801	473	329	Feb	660
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006							
Cotswold Water Park (West)	512	(377)	499	(571)	573	Feb	539
Lower Windrush Valley GPs	600	(384)	505	(423)	(410)	Jan	553

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
WWT Martin Mere	860	750	565	472	322	Jan	594
Woolston Eyes	570	637	663	620	321	Feb	562
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain							
Rutland Water	630	411	645	282	693	Sep	532
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	358	516	409	423	648	Dec	471

Ring-necked Duck

Aythya collaris

Vagrant

Native Range: N America

GB max: 7 Apr
NI max: 1 Dec

Ring-necked Ducks were noted at a total of 11 sites in England and one in Northern Ireland. Most records were of single birds although two were at Chew Valley Lake from December to April and the Tees Estuary from January to

April. There were records in every month from August to April with birds present at a total of five sites in both March and April. The only record from Northern Ireland was of one at Upper Lough Erne in December.

Ferruginous Duck

Aythya nyroca

Vagrant and escape

Native Range: Europe, Africa & central Asia

GB max: 2 Feb
NI max: 0

Records of Ferruginous Duck were received from five sites and all but one were of single birds. Singles were at Fen Drayton Gravel Pits in July, Tittesworth Reservoir in December,

Leybourne and New Hythe Gravel Pits in January and February and Grimley New Workings in February. The peak count was of two at Chew Valley Lake in June.

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

International threshold: 12,000

Great Britain threshold: 901

All-Ireland threshold: 400

GB max: 55,148 Dec
NI max: 10,138 Jan

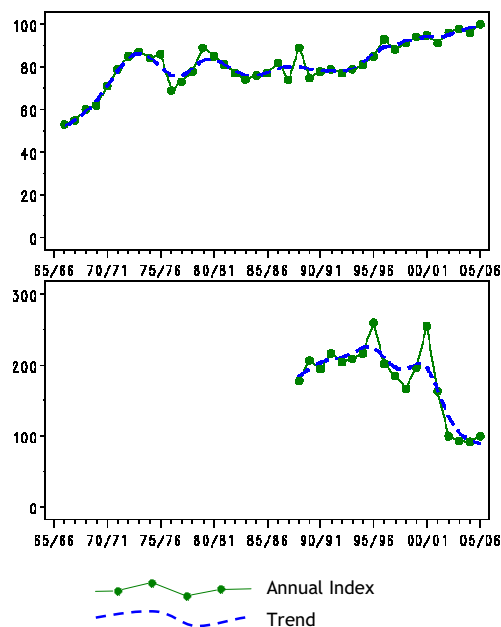


Figure 27.a, Annual indices & trend for Tufted Duck for GB (above) & NI (below).

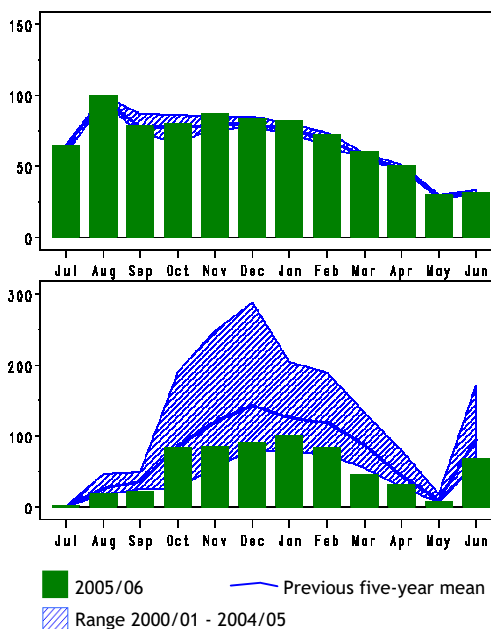


Figure 27.b, Monthly indices for Tufted Duck for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British long-term trend continues to rise, although the maximum count was slightly lower than for 2004/05 with the monthly index showing largely average counts throughout the year. Rutland Water became the first British site on record to hold in excess of 8000 Tufted Ducks (and for the first time, counts there exceeded those at Loughs Neagh and Beg), whilst Chew Valley Lake, Staines Reservoirs, Grafham Water and King George V Reservoir also supported notably high peak counts. Conversely, as with other species such as Gadwall, Shoveler and Smew, counts of

Tufted Ducks from Wraysbury Gravel Pits were very much reduced.

In Northern Ireland, although the index increased slightly, there was little sign of recovery with the peak at the key site of Loughs Neagh and Beg, previously the only internationally important site for this species in the UK, now the lowest on record. Indeed this decline has been so marked that the site no longer qualifies for international importance; it was the only site to do so in recent years. Numbers on both Upper and Lower Lough Erne remained relatively stable however.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Rutland Water	5,115	7,496	6,818	6,488	8,487	Oct	6,881
Loch Leven	3,650	4,872	3,913	3,826	3,802	Sep	4,013
Abberton Reservoir	1,418	2,487	2,067	5,112	(4,857)	Nov	3,188
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	2,164	(915)	(325)	(129)	(64)	Sep	2,164
Pitsford Reservoir	1,263	2,441	2,226	2,506	2,066	Sep	2,100
Walthamstow Reservoirs	1,838	1,867	1,772	1,771	1,828	Aug	1,815
Hanningfield Reservoir	1,160	1,641	3,109	400	1,573	Aug	1,577
Staines Reservoirs	1,026	1,971	1,133	792	2,844	Aug	1,553
Chew Valley Lake	1,020	1,080	1,465	1,235	2,115	Oct	1,383
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	2,091	2,422	846	1,015	465	Jan	1,368
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	1,027	1,248	1,404	1,222	985	Dec	1,177
Ouse Washes	1,395 ¹²	1,192	973 ¹²	1,330	966	Mar	1,171
Thames Estuary	(537)	(436)	(461)	(584)	1,079	Dec	1,079 ▲
Cotswold Water Park (West)	736	(792)	1,199	960	1,199	Feb	1,024
Alton Water	961	815	1,440	644	1,063	Feb	985
Hornsea Mere	866	1,225	1,050	900	840	Nov	976 ▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	13,318	9,771	8,999	9,277	7,871	Jan	9,847 ▼
Upper Lough Erne	998	1,065	1,236	1,295	1,457	Feb	1,210
Lower Lough Erne		635	580	674	575	Feb	616
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain							
Grafham Water	(913)	473	815	824	1,337	Dec	872
King George V Reservoirs	347	503	636	184	1,078	Nov	550



Tufted Duck (John Harding)

Scaup *Aythya marila*

GB max: 2,392 Feb
NI max: 6,495 Feb

International threshold: 3,100
Great Britain threshold: 76
All-Ireland threshold: 30*

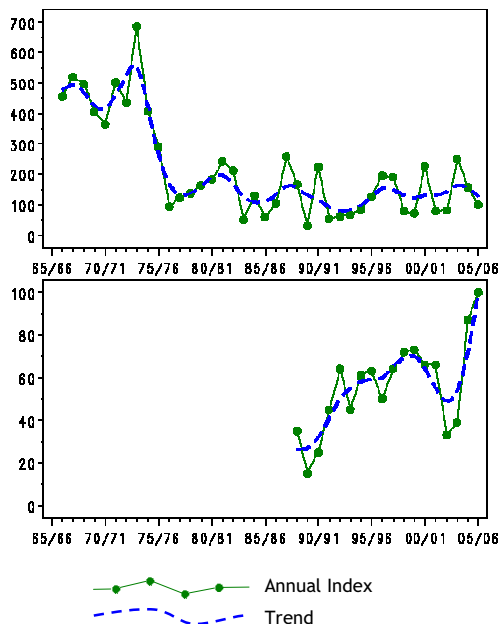


Figure 28.a, Annual indices & trend for Scaup for GB (above) & NI (below).

Following a decline in the early 1970s, Scaup numbers in Great Britain have remained relatively stable ever since, albeit with substantial between-year fluctuations. These fluctuations are to be expected for a species, which can be difficult to count on its favoured estuarine and sea-loch habitats. The British index fell for the second consecutive year, whilst the counted maximum was at its lowest level since 2001/02. Conversely, the Northern Ireland trend continues to rise, and this is also reflected in the monthly index, which shows counts for most months to be much higher than the five year mean. This large rise in the past two years is largely due to an increase in peak numbers at the key site of Loughs Neagh and

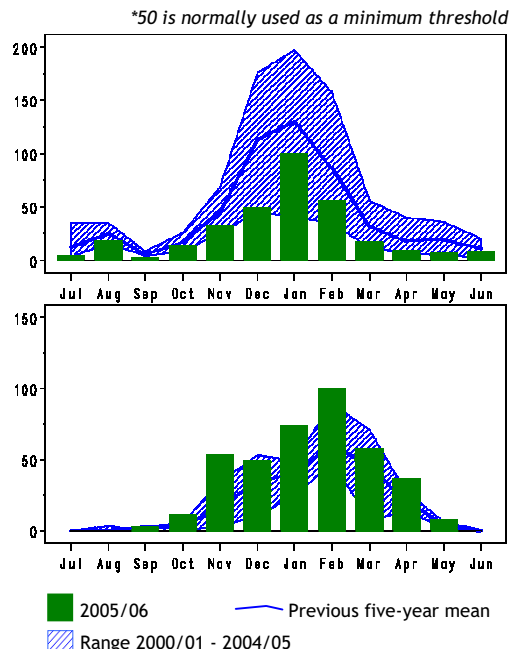


Figure 28.b, Monthly indices for Scaup for GB (above) & NI (below).

Beg, which, in contrast to the low numbers of Pochard and Tufted Duck at the site in recent years, were again much higher than average. Numbers at Belfast Lough remained high, although were down slightly on the peak count of 2004/05. Despite a low count in 2005/06, the Solway Estuary becomes a site of international importance on the basis of its five-year mean. Numbers at several sites of national importance were also much lower than average; this was especially true on the Inner Moray and Inverness Firth although numbers there have fluctuated markedly in recent years; it may not be unconnected that counts on the nearby Cromarty Firth were at their highest for over five years.

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	3,389	2,565	2,674	5,144	5,826	Feb	3,920
Solway Estuary	2,367 ¹⁰	(1,077)	(1,782)	(4,610)	(185)	Dec	3,489 ▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Loch Ryan	766 ¹²	907 ¹²	986	1,577	1,020	Dec	1,051
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	323	923	518	2,641 ¹	576	Feb	996
Inner Loch Indaal	241	755	1,003				666
Loch of Stenness	513	309	266	315	306	Nov	342
Loch of Harray	97	(185)	420	490	360	Feb	342
Cromarty Firth	353 ¹²	160 ¹	13	47	400	Jan	195
Ayr to North Troon	200	120	(12)	(14)			160

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Auchenharvie Golf Course			145	107	97	Feb	116
Dornoch Firth	107	163	70	150 ¹²	77	Feb	113
Rough Firth	88	0	107	204 ¹⁰			100
Forth Estuary	189	130	14 ¹⁰	22	(12)	Jan	89
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Belfast Lough	270	642	669 ¹⁰	1,224 ¹⁰	833	Jan	728
Carlingford Lough	618	168	(158)	233	222	Jan	310
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain							
Alt Estuary	(65)	84	24	67	84	Feb	65

Lesser Scaup

Aythya affinis

Vagrant
Native Range: N America

GB max: 3 Feb
NI max: 0

Lesser Scaup were recorded from seven sites with all records being of single birds. Birds were at Drift Reservoir in November, December and February, Hornsea Mere in

December, Reclamation Pond (Tees Estuary) in January, Grimley New Workings and Ouse Washes in February, College Reservoir in March and April and Rutland Water in April.

Eider

Somateria mollissima

International threshold: 12,850
Great Britain threshold: 730
All-Ireland threshold: 20*

GB max: 30,984 Feb
NI max: 2,103 Sep

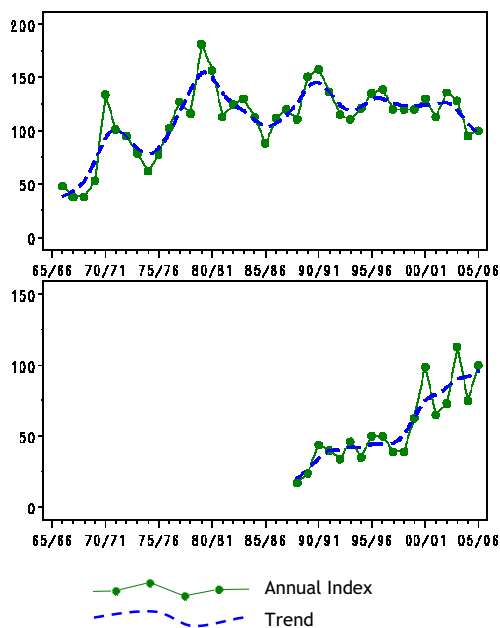


Figure 29.a, Annual indices & trend for Eider for GB (above) & NI (below).

The Great Britain index rose slightly, though the general trend since the early 1990s continues to be level or slightly declining. Conversely, the Northern Ireland trend continues to rise though the index has seen sharp fluctuations in recent years. Despite the index only rising slightly, the British

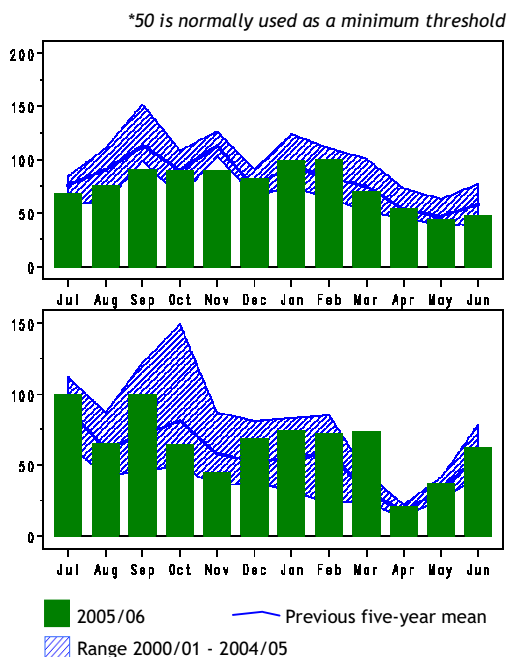


Figure 29.b, Monthly indices for Eider for GB (above) & NI (below).

maximum core count was at its highest level since 1991/92.

Dedicated counts from the greater Firth of Clyde area (again tabulated in whole and as its constituent parts) were incomplete along the Ayrshire coast but the long-term pattern of decline was still very evident, with all areas from Glasgow out to Arran and Kintyre seeing

declines on the previous year. However, due to a re-evaluation of the international threshold level, the greater Clyde area now qualifies as a site of international importance.

Counts for the Tay Estuary were much higher than in recent years, although the main flock at this site can often be difficult to view satisfactorily. Counts on Montrose Basin and the Dee Estuary (Scotland) were also at their highest for many years and there was a high count from the dedicated boat-based survey of Hacosay/Bluemull/Colgrave Sounds in Shetland. The decline of Eiders along the Northumberland coast continues with the

Farne Islands no longer qualifying as a site of national importance, whilst the peak count from Lindisfarne, which came from low tide data, was also the lowest on record.

In Northern Ireland, many sites recorded higher numbers than in 2004/05, with the count from the key site at Belfast Lough, which was a low tide count, being one of the highest yet recorded at the site. Strangford Lough and Outer Ards Shoreline also supported notably high counts. Conversely, counts from Lough Foyle and Larne Lough were notably lower than their five year means.

Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate	Ref			
Outer Hebrides	Jan	948	not available	Söhle <i>et al.</i> 2006			
Scapa/Deer/Shapinsay	Feb	720	not available	Söhle <i>et al.</i> 2006			
Sound of Gigha	Dec	623	not available	Söhle <i>et al.</i> 2006			
Clyde/Loch Ryan	Mar	589	not available	Söhle <i>et al.</i> 2006			
Moray Firth	Jan	393	not available	Söhle <i>et al.</i> 2006			
Aberdeen Bay	May	283	not available	Söhle <i>et al.</i> 2006			
Coll/Tiree/West Mull	Feb	267	not available	Söhle <i>et al.</i> 2006			
Luce Bay	Feb	145	not available	Söhle <i>et al.</i> 2006			
	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
FIRTH OF CLYDE	15,692 ¹⁴	14,297 ¹⁴	15,276 ¹⁴	13,042 ¹⁴	(8,055) ¹⁴	Sep	14,577
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Tay Estuary	7,500 ¹²	6,000	4,700	5,636	11,500	Feb	7,067
Forth Estuary	5,684	7,616	7,014	4,750	5,047	Sep	6,022
Inner Firth of Clyde	3,901	4,730	6,194	4,152	3,837	Aug	4,563
Morecambe Bay	3,903	4,541	(3,940)	5,300 ¹⁴	3,815	Apr	4,390
Aberdeen Bay offshore			1,756 ⁵⁶	6,003 ⁵⁶	5,302 ⁵⁶	Aug	4,354
Killantringan Bay				3,600 ¹⁴			3,600
Ythan Estuary	3,531	2,082	3,417	(4,212)	2,239	Oct	3,096
Montrose Basin	3,013	3,051	2,075	1,754	4,322	Feb	2,843
Gare Loch	3,252 ¹⁴	2,619 ¹⁴	3,263 ¹⁴	2,713 ¹⁴	2,582 ¹⁴	Sep	2,886
Irvine Bay				1,547 ¹⁴			1,547
Lindisfarne	2,024	2,043	1,241	1,202 ¹⁰	1,097 ¹⁰	Nov	1,521
Loch Long and Loch Goil	1,299 ¹⁴	1,459 ¹⁴	1,390 ¹⁴	1,614 ¹⁴	1,458 ¹⁴	Sep	1,444
Gourock to Largs	1,097 ¹⁴	1,773 ¹⁴	2,220 ¹⁴	614 ¹⁴	370 ¹⁴	Sep	1,213
Girvan to Turnberry	(151)	1,198	(330)	1,500 ¹⁴	(415)	Dec	1,349
Moray Firth	749	747	1,639	1,673	1,390	Jan	1,240
Holy Loch to Toward Point	615 ¹⁴	1,146 ¹⁴	1,114 ¹⁴	2,225 ¹⁴	766 ¹⁴	Sep	1,173
Loch Ryan	(1,031)	1,188 ¹⁴	1,803	1,150 ¹⁴	539	Aug	1,170
Inner Loch Fyne	1,647 ¹⁴	1,358 ¹⁴	956 ¹⁴	868 ¹⁴	759 ¹⁴	Sep	1,118
The Wash	1,344	2,546	703	91	557	Feb	1,048
Dee Estuary (Scotland)	408	874	852	865	1,673	Jul	934
Ayr to North Troon	1,203 ¹⁴	458 ¹⁴	1,064	225 ¹⁴	(380)	Feb	738
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Belfast Lough	906	1,016 ¹⁰	1,813	1,490 ¹⁰	1,839 ¹⁰	Dec	1,413
Lough Foyle	344	551	645	431	164	Nov	427
Outer Ards Shoreline		428	256	271	335	Jan	323
Strangford Lough	283	165	259	282	480	Nov	294
Larne Lough	107	120	55	69	67	Sep	84
Port Stewart - Portrush				34 ¹⁴			34
Ballycastle - Fair Head				26 ¹⁴			26
Bann Estuary	32	21	10	26	11	Jul	20
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006							
Bute	1,143 ¹⁴	944 ¹⁴	457 ¹⁴	451 ¹⁴	490 ¹⁴	Sep	697 ▼
Farne Islands	(671)	(293)	(183)	380	99	Jun	361
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/2006 in Great Britain							
Hacosay, Bluemull & Colgrave Snds	183 ⁹	631 ⁹	790 ⁹	855 ⁹	992 ⁹	Jan	690

King Eider

Somateria spectabilis

Vagrant

Native Range: Arctic

GB max: 1 Feb

NI max: 0

A single King Eider was present at Nairn Bar on the Inner Moray Firth in February. This is the first WeBS record from this area since one on the Moray Coast in October 1994.

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: 160[†]

All-Ireland threshold: +[†]

GB max: 12,094 Feb

NI max: 22 Mar

The counted British maximum far exceeded that of 2004/05 being the highest on record by some margin, although the total in Northern Ireland was typically very much smaller. The Moray Firth remains by far the most important site in the UK for Long-tailed Ducks with the huge count in January largely due to a flock of 9,000 birds off the Fort George-Delnies stretch, plus over 1,000 more off both Culbin Bar and Findhorn Bay. However, counts at most other sites were average or lower than average, with particularly low numbers at St Andrews Bay and Papa Westray. In Northern Ireland, Belfast Lough remains the key site though numbers here were again below the

five-year average. It should be noted, however, that as with all seaducks, divers and grebes on inshore waters, counts are dependent on sea conditions on the day of the count, which can affect both visibility and location of birds.

Supplementary counts from Shetland on behalf of the Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group (SOTEAG) again provide a useful picture away from standard WeBS sections. In Shetland, South Yell Sound recorded the highest peak, though numbers in Hacosay, Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds were nearly half the total recorded in 2004/05.

Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate	Ref			
Moray Firth	Jan	524	not available	Söhle <i>et al.</i> 2006			
Scapa/Deer/Shapinsay	Jan	300	not available	Söhle <i>et al.</i> 2006			
Outer Hebrides	Jan	75	not available	Söhle <i>et al.</i> 2006			
Sound of Gigha	Dec	35	not available	Söhle <i>et al.</i> 2006			
	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Moray Firth	1,501	3,585 ¹	5,446 ¹	6,402 ¹	11,565 ¹	Jan	5,700
South Uist West Coast		411 ⁴⁹	440 ⁴⁹	185 ⁴⁹			345
Forth Estuary	413	435	249	(240) ⁴⁹	246	Feb	336
Sound of Harris	117 ⁴⁹		230 ⁴⁹	500 ⁴⁹			282
Branahuie Banks (Lewis)				196			196
Hacosay, Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	201 ⁹	59 ⁹	249 ⁹	303 ⁹	160 ⁹	Jan	194
Broad Bay (Lewis)		72 ⁴⁹	300 ⁴⁹				186
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
West Whalsay and Sounds	152 ⁹						152
South Yell Sound	136 ⁹	108 ⁹	201 ⁹	91 ⁹	169 ⁹	Feb	141
Loch of Stenness	226	182	105 ¹²	89	96	Mar	140
Loch Branahuie (Lewis)	4			272			138
Sound of Barra (Barra)	150 ⁴⁹		132 ⁴⁹	80 ⁴⁹			121
Burra and Trondra	109 ⁹		97 ⁹	117 ⁹	99 ⁹	Jan	106
Bressay Sound	130 ⁹	176 ⁹	66 ⁹	90 ⁹	44 ⁹	Jan	101
Quendale to Virkie	117 ⁹	122 ⁹	103 ⁹	100 ⁹	57 ⁹	Feb	100
Island of Papa Westray	4	182	184	102	10	Jan	96
St Andrews Bay	10	97	107	232	17	Nov	93
Traigh Luskentyre	126	50 ⁴⁹		100 ⁴⁹			92
Water Sound	68	155	80	60	37	Nov	80
West Coast (Benbecula)		63 ⁴⁹	92 ⁴⁹				78
Allasdale Bay to Borve (Barra)	30 ⁴⁹		112 ⁴⁹	68 ⁴⁹			70
Rova Head to Wadbister Ness	131 ⁹	63 ⁹	34 ⁹	21 ⁹	87 ⁹	Dec	67
Kirkabister to Wadbister Ness	90 ⁹	21 ⁹	73 ⁹	(4) ⁹	78 ⁹	Dec	66
Gulberwick Area					56 ⁹	Jan	56
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2005/06 in Great Britain[†]							
Deveron Estuary	0	0	0	4	50	Nov	11

[†] as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set, qualifying levels of 50 and 30 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively.