

## Kittiwake

*Rissa tridactyla*

International threshold: 20,000\*\*

Great Britain threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 1,660 Jul  
NI max: 94 Sep

2007/08 was an unexceptional year for Kittiwakes recorded during WeBS Core counts, with a relatively low peak monthly total of 1,660 in July. The peak count at the site with the highest five-year average, Loch of Strathbeg, was the lowest for three years. It is important to note that because a

few key sites tend to be near breeding colonies, it is likely that breeding productivity on given stretches of coastline may affect WeBS counts at sites nearby. Apart from a single at Dundrum Inner Bay, all records in Northern Ireland were from Belfast Lough.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Loch of Strathbeg	6,300	152	1,130	3,282	785	Jun	2,330
Lunan Bay	3,400	100	250	133	67	Jun	790
Tay Estuary	(133)	(690)	(740)	(190)	300	Aug	577
Arran	290	340	701	400	1,000	Sep	546
Beadnell to Seahouses	350	140	512	850	(460)	May	463
Tees Estuary	1,492	(56)	61	112	133	Aug	450
Tweed Estuary	860	114	340	410	132	Jun	371
Durham Coast	(0)	(279)	(250)	(363)	(71)	Aug	(363)
Winterfield to Catcraig				285	430	Apr	358
Forth Estuary	(426)	170	(276)	(379)	(127)	Sep	313
Nigg Bay to Cove Bay		846	0	0	(0)		282
Otter Estuary to Kingsbridge Estuary					250	Jan	250
Dee Estuary (Scotland)	248	161	191	175	458	Jun	247
Glyne Gap			19	457	(233)	Feb	238
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	153	534	(165)	3	119	Jul	202

<sup>†</sup> as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 200 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

## Black-headed Gull

*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

International threshold: 20,000\*\*

Great Britain threshold: 19,000<sup>†</sup>

All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 209,081 Feb  
NI max: 14,493 Jan

Numbers of Black-headed Gulls recorded by WeBS in 2007/08 were similar to those in the previous year, with February again proving to be the peak month. Given that this species uses many non-wetland habitats and that counting of gulls remains optional, WeBS totals represent a small proportion of the British population estimate (Banks *et al.* 2009).

Four sites qualified as being of international importance, although this species has not been counted at several other important sites since the most recent Winter Gull Roost Survey in 2003/04 and hence are likely to not feature in the five-year table of future reports unless further counts are received. Such counts, particularly from the roost sites listed below, are therefore welcomed.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Bewl Water	31,000 <sup>38</sup>	69,000 <sup>38</sup>	55,600 <sup>12</sup>	67,840 <sup>12</sup>	48,400 <sup>12</sup>	Dec	54,368
Chew Valley Lake	29,800 <sup>38</sup>						29,800
Thames Estuary	43,601 <sup>38</sup>	40,048	13,848	10,712	(12,345)	Dec	27,052
Humber Estuary	21,450 <sup>38</sup>	(1,028)	(2,298)	(819)	(6,689)	Aug	21,450
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
The Wash	17,582 <sup>38</sup>	11,093	(15,595)	30,097	(18,679)	Sep	19,591 ▲
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 10,000 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Queen Mary Reservoir	16,836 <sup>38</sup>						16,836

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Fletton Brick Pits	15,770 <sup>38</sup>	(680)	(631)	(166)	(40)	Jan	15,770
Morecambe Bay	12,574	16,757	16,695	(15,232)	(9,435)	Aug	15,342
Church Wilne Reservoir	15,000 <sup>38</sup>						15,000
Grafham Water	14,470 <sup>38</sup>						14,470
Lower Derwent Ings	28,000		11,000	5,321	11,600	Jan	13,980 ▼
Hamilton Low & Strathclyde Parks	12,600 <sup>38</sup>						12,600
Winterset & Cold Hiendley Resrs				5,000	20,000	Jan	12,500
Southfield Reservoir	12,000 <sup>38</sup>						12,000
Breydon Water & Berney Marshes	17,700 <sup>38</sup>		5,745 <sup>38</sup>				11,723
Derwent Reservoir	(2,572)	30,000 <sup>12</sup>	10,000 <sup>12</sup>	3,700 <sup>12</sup>	3,000	Feb	11,675
Eyebrook Reservoir	11,300 <sup>38</sup>						11,300
Exe Estuary	17,950 <sup>12</sup>	11,577 <sup>12</sup>	10,734 <sup>12</sup>	8,224 <sup>12</sup>	7,040 <sup>12</sup>	Jan	11,105
Poole Harbour	17,707 <sup>38</sup>	(11,811)	(5,720)	(3,830)	3,581	Nov	11,033
Stewartby Lake	7,600 <sup>38</sup>	14,000 <sup>38</sup>					10,800
Cotswold Water Park (West)	6,467 <sup>38</sup>	(920)	(632)	15,000 <sup>12</sup>	10,500 <sup>12</sup>	Feb	10,656
Ribble Estuary	7,419 <sup>38</sup>	9,750 <sup>38</sup>	10,228	15,261	10,055	May	10,543
Severn Estuary	13,139 <sup>38</sup>	9,656 <sup>38</sup>	8,278 <sup>38</sup>	(3,589)	(4,851)	Aug	10,358
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland<sup>†</sup></b>							
Belfast Lough	7,095 <sup>11</sup>	7,515 <sup>11</sup>	9,936 <sup>11</sup>	(6,823)	4,971	Jan	7,379
Loughs Neagh and Beg	(1,593)	(2,267)	(3,472)	(3,978)	(2,610)	Mar	(3,978)
Outer Ards Shoreline	5,113	2,419	4,566	3,800	2,893	Mar	3,758
Strangford Lough	3,388	3,111	4,011 <sup>11</sup>	3,889 <sup>11</sup>	4,109 <sup>11</sup>	Feb	3,702
Lough Foyle	1,300 <sup>38</sup>	1,057	2,565	2,091	3,237	Nov	2,050
Larne Lough	831	1,396	591	2,245	1,989	Feb	1,410
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Eccup Reservoir	1,072 <sup>38</sup>	6,000			20,000	Dec	9,024
Pegwell Bay	5,600	2,500	2,700	4,800	16,000	Feb	6,320
Tophill Low Reservoirs	8,900	8,385	15,000 <sup>12</sup>	3,835 <sup>12</sup>	12,000 <sup>12</sup>	Feb	9,624
Doddington Pool	150	11,000 <sup>38</sup>	12,000	11,000	11,000	Nov	9,030
Inner Firth of Clyde	4,969	3,688	8,766	5,248	10,692 <sup>11</sup>	Jan	6,673
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	(664)	(933)	551	(509)	10,124 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	5,338
Rutland Water	21,000 <sup>38</sup>	300	5,500	12,000	10,000	Oct	9,760

<sup>†</sup> as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set qualifying levels of 10,000 and 1,000 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

## Little Gull

*Hydrocoloeus minutus*

International threshold: 1,230

Great Britain threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 113 Sep

NI max: 2 Sep

The coincidence of passage movements with the WeBS priority count dates has always been the major determinant of peak counts of Little Gulls. In 2007/08, the species was noted at 43 sites across Britain and at a further two in Northern Ireland, a very similar outcome as the previous year. The highest totals during WeBS Core counts were both in September; 55 at Anstruther

Bay, the most ever noted at this site, and 36 at Hornsea Mere. The latter is the only site in the UK classified as of international importance for this species. It traditionally supports large numbers of passage birds in autumn, exemplified by an exceptional supplementary count of 21,500 birds there in August.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Hornsea Mere	(940) <sup>13</sup>	7,000	160	(16,000) <sup>12</sup>	21,500 <sup>12</sup>	Aug	11,165
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Alt Estuary	432	201 <sup>12</sup>	530 <sup>12</sup>	141	8	Jun	262
Tophill Low Reservoirs	110 <sup>13</sup>	90 <sup>13</sup>	375 <sup>12</sup>	26 <sup>12</sup>	250 <sup>12</sup>	Jul	170
Forth Estuary	75 <sup>27</sup>	321	(0)	25	(9)	Oct	140
Tay Estuary	36	28	26	206	(3)	Jul	74
North Norfolk Coast	38	8	32	176	30	Jul	57
Humber Estuary	(12)	(0)	(3)	(0)	(33)	Aug	(33)

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Lindisfarne	26	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)		26
Minsmere	73	1	8	0	15	Jul	19
Monikie Reservoirs	0	38	(0)				19
Morecambe Bay	36	7	3	14	(0)		15
Alde Complex	0	(0)	49	0	0		12
Anstruther Bay	0	0	0	0	55	Sep	11
East Chevington Pools	12	18	3	14	7	May	11
Yetholm Pond				20	0		10
Moray Firth		8 <sup>1</sup>	9 <sup>1</sup>				9
Tring Reservoirs	40	0	0	0	0		8
St Andrews Bay		7					7
Dengie Flats	8	0	22	0	0		6
King George VI Reservoir	20	1	1		0		6
Tees Estuary	7	3	4	6	11	Jun	6
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Glyne Gap			1	0	(12)	Aug	4
Radwell Lakes	0			0	5	Apr	2

<sup>†</sup> as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of five has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

## Mediterranean Gull

*Larus melanocephalus*

International threshold: 6,600

Great Britain threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 380 Apr

NI max: 3 Sep

Mediterranean Gulls were recorded at 106 sites in Britain and five in Northern Ireland in 2007/08, a very similar distribution to the previous year. The peak monthly British total of 380 in April represents the highest ever recorded by WeBS, surpassing the previous maximum in August 2005.

Southampton Water and Pagham Harbour both held peak counts of 100+ birds, the

former holding a record WeBS site count of 309 in April. Twenty-nine other sites held at least five birds. The most notable concentrations away from the stronghold of the southern counties were 11 at Minsmere and 10 at the North Norfolk Coast in June.

In Northern Ireland, all were singles with the exception of two at Larne Lough in October.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Folkestone: Copt Pt & East Wear Bay		157 <sup>38</sup>					157
Southampton Water	1 <sup>38</sup>	(0)	(2)	(112)	(309)	Apr	106
Brading Harbour	57	92	148	91	64	Oct	90
Breydon Water & Berney Marshes			27 <sup>38</sup>		131 <sup>13</sup>	Aug	79
Pagham Harbour		2	60	71	(124)	Jan	64
Newtown Estuary	(15)	(42)	57	56	19	Mar	44
Thames Estuary	27	27	30	71	34	Sep	38
Ryde Pier to Puckpool Point	9	47	45	22	45	Aug	34
Tamar Complex	0	(26)	39	34	37	Aug	28
Fleet and Wey	4	8	23	39	61	Dec	27
Wootton Creek	1	3	12	102	16	Jul	27
Foreland	4	4	50	20	50	Nov	26
Swansea Bay	19	12 <sup>38</sup>	28	33	12	Jul	21
Chichester Harbour	(14)	(8)	(22)	12	(31)	Mar	20
Camel Estuary	25	26	18	11	6	Jan	17
Blyth Estuary	(0)	18	5	13	6	Mar	11
Poole Harbour	(7)	12	8	(4)	14	Feb	11
The Wash	8	15	7	16	10	May	11
North West Solent	0	1 <sup>11</sup>	(0)	8	29	Apr	10
Portsmouth Harbour	(1) <sup>38</sup>	(6)	7	11	(12)	Mar	10
Glyne Gap			5	(15)	8	Nov	9
Medway Estuary	(2)	2	(1)	(18)	(13)	Aug	9
Minsmere	2	12	10	10	11	Jun	9

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
North Norfolk Coast	8	5	6	18	10	Jun	9
Morecambe Bay	(4)	4	12	(8)	(3)	Aug	8
Taw-Torridge Estuary	(3)	(5)	12	11	2	Aug	8
Aberarth	0	6	22		0		7
Swale Estuary	1	0	2	(3)	22	Aug	6
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Chichester Gravel Pits	0	0	0	1	17	Mar	4
Bewl Water	2 <sup>38</sup>	1 <sup>38</sup>	2 <sup>12</sup>	2 <sup>12</sup>	6 <sup>12</sup>	Mar	3
Exe Estuary	4 <sup>12</sup>	3 <sup>12</sup>	1	3	5	Jan	3
Fal Complex	1	1 <sup>11</sup>	1	8	5	Dec	3

<sup>†</sup> as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of five has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

## Common Gull

*Larus canus*

International threshold: 20,000\*\*

Great Britain threshold: 9,000<sup>†</sup>

All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 71,276 Feb

NI max: 5,576 Sep

The peak monthly total of Common Gulls was the highest recorded by WeBS since January 2004. However as the counting of gulls remains optional during WeBS, numbers counted often reflect variation in coverage as much as fluctuation in actual numbers. Two sites qualified as being of

international importance; Bewl Water and Derwent Reservoir.

Counts, particularly from roost sites, are very much sought after. A number of key sites, including several of national importance, will be lost from the table below in future reports if current numbers are not documented.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Bewl Water	75,000 <sup>38</sup>	75,000 <sup>38</sup>	90,000 <sup>12</sup>	75,500 <sup>12</sup>	59,650 <sup>12</sup>	Mar	75,030
Derwent Reservoir	(6,500) <sup>38</sup>	80,000 <sup>12</sup>	40,000 <sup>12</sup>	18,500 <sup>12</sup>	5,000	Feb	35,875
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Haweswater Reservoir	27,986 <sup>13</sup>	22,000 <sup>12</sup>	12,535 <sup>12</sup>	17,185 <sup>12</sup>	17,560 <sup>12</sup>	Mar	19,453
Hallington Reservoir	25,000 <sup>38</sup>	13,300 <sup>12</sup>	34,000 <sup>12</sup>	700 <sup>12</sup>			18,250 ▼
Chew Valley Lake	18,200 <sup>38</sup>						18,200
Eyebrook Reservoir	16,100 <sup>38</sup>						16,100
Tophill Low Reservoirs	16,530	6,500	21,600 <sup>12</sup>	8,000 <sup>12</sup>	25,000 <sup>12</sup>	Feb	15,526
Humber Estuary	29,000 <sup>38</sup>	2,005	(120)	(74)	(298)	Aug	15,503
Rutland Water	12,080 <sup>38</sup>	14,500	10,000	10,000	13,500	Mar	12,016
Ullswater	11,470 <sup>13</sup>						11,470
West Water Reservoir	10,050 <sup>38</sup>						10,050
Solway Estuary	9,564 <sup>38</sup>	(2,275)	(1,692)	(2,463)	(2,504)	Sep	9,564 ▲
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 3,000 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Colt Crag Reservoir	4,700 <sup>38</sup>	9,900 <sup>12</sup>					7,300
Ribble Estuary	6,036	9,817	(253)	(1,973)	5,020	Nov	6,958
Blyth Estuary	12,000 <sup>38</sup>	(822)	4,914	6,300	228	Feb	5,861
Southwold Sole Bay	5,000 <sup>38</sup>						5,000
Forth Estuary	6,321 <sup>38</sup>	2,500 <sup>38</sup>	2,100 <sup>38</sup>	(603)	(7,801)	Feb	4,681
Inner Firth of Clyde	(7,723)	2,304	2,463	6,234	3,610 <sup>11</sup>	Feb	4,467
Severn Estuary	3,714 <sup>38</sup>	4,259 <sup>38</sup>	5,110 <sup>38</sup>	(1,076)	(65)	Oct	4,361
Stanford Reservoir	8,110 <sup>38</sup>	0					4,055
Loch of Skene	17,284 <sup>38</sup>	361	370	889	1,245	Feb	4,030
St Mary's Island - N. Shields Quay			3,900 <sup>12</sup>				3,900
Wigtown Bay	3,251	7,269	675	(3,291)	(727)	Feb	3,732
Adur Estuary				3,440 <sup>11</sup>			3,440
Longnewton Reservoir	4,400	1,300	2,700	3,400	5,400	Oct	3,440
North Norfolk Coast	5,600 <sup>38</sup>	2,163	4,342	1,550	(790)	Nov	3,414
Tees Estuary	4,033	6,193 <sup>38</sup>	2,103	3,523	1,170	Nov	3,404
Eccup Reservoir	579 <sup>38</sup>	1,200			8,000	Dec	3,260
Dungeness and Rye Bay	9,600 <sup>38</sup>	2,000	3,000 <sup>13</sup>	500	1,010	Jan	3,222
Wet Sleddale Reservoir	9,418 <sup>13</sup>	2,330 <sup>12</sup>	1,765 <sup>12</sup>	2,020 <sup>12</sup>	533 <sup>12</sup>	Sep	3,213

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Hamilton Low & Strathclyde Parks	3,200 <sup>38</sup>						3,200
Loch of Lintrathen	0	10,000		2,250	154	Mar	3,101
Thames Estuary	2,319 <sup>38</sup>	(3,669)	3,768	2,622	(1,442)	Nov	3,095
Morecambe Bay	4,358	3,633	2,802	2,322	2,059	Dec	3,035
Chichester Harbour	3,389	3,778	2,379	3,225	2,289	Nov	3,012
Moray Firth	5,208 <sup>1</sup>	809 <sup>1</sup>					3,009

**Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland<sup>†</sup>**

Lough Foyle	(5,930)	2,322	4,354	2,836	3,952	Oct	3,879
Belfast Lough	2,644 <sup>11</sup>	1,937 <sup>11</sup>	2,156	1,405 <sup>11</sup>	687	Jan	1,766
Outer Ards Shoreline	2,543	1,171	1,328	984	1,022	Jan	1,410

**Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup>**

Apex Pit - North Hykeham	750	500	2,000		(3,000)	Nov	1,563
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<sup>†</sup> as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set, qualifying levels of 3,000 and 1,000 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

## Ring-billed Gull

*Larus delawarensis*

Vagrant

Native Range: N America

GB max: 2 Sep

NI max: 1 Sep

Ring-billed Gulls were seen on WeBS counts in all months from September to March, with peak monthly totals of three in September and November. Eight sites were involved, four of which were in Northern

Ireland. Several traditional sites for this species featured, however birds at Bann Estuary and Burry Inlet were first WeBS records for those sites.

## Lesser Black-backed Gull

*Larus fuscus*

International threshold: 5,500

Great Britain threshold: 500

All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 49,392 Aug

NI max: 583 Sep

The monthly maximum of Lesser Black-backed Gulls was the highest since August 2002. However, as counting of gulls and terns remains optional during WeBS, summed national maxima may reflect changes in effort as much as actual numbers. Fives sites qualified as being of international importance, including Morecambe Bay which held more than at any time since July 1999. Traditionally, late

summer numbers at Morecambe Bay comprise adults and juveniles from nearby Walney Island; suggestive of a productive breeding season in 2007.

Counts are very much welcomed for this species. A number of key sites, including two of international importance and several of national importance, are at risk of being lost from the table below in future reports if numbers are not documented.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Morecambe Bay	31,479	33,004	21,932	29,576	41,312	Aug	31,461
Severn Estuary	(8,073)	(10,036)	4,696 <sup>38</sup>	(115)	(130)	Oct	7,602
Cotswold Water Park (West)	5,800 <sup>38</sup>	(44)	(141)	6,500 <sup>12</sup>	9,500 <sup>12</sup>	Jan	7,267 ▲
Chew Valley Lake	7,015 <sup>38</sup>						7,015
Queen Mary Reservoir	6,656 <sup>38</sup>						6,656
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Ribble Estuary	106	(113)	3,011	5,525	9,005	May	4,412
Theale Gravel Pits	20,000 <sup>38</sup>	1,152 <sup>38</sup>	74	1	8	Dec	4,247
R. Avon: Ford'bridge to Ringwood	6,550 <sup>38</sup>	3,500	5,100	3,160	500	Oct	3,762
Belvide Reservoir	3,000 <sup>38</sup>						3,000
Great Pool Westwood Park	3,800 <sup>38</sup>	2,500	2,500	2,000	3,500	Dec	2,860
Solway Estuary	971	(154)	(363)	4,701	(202)	Jun	2,836
Longnewton Reservoir	1,890	2,930	3,310	2,740	1,320	Sep	2,438
Hule Moss	250 <sup>13</sup>	2,900 <sup>13</sup>	2,500	550	1,750	Oct	1,590

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Thames Estuary	1,898 <sup>38</sup>	2,966	775	273	(328)	Nov	1,478
Lower Windrush Valley Gravel Pits	484	1,343	1,071	2,922	(750)	Dec	1,455
Alde Complex	388 <sup>38</sup>	1,833	1,162	2,990	453	Feb	1,365
Blithfield Reservoir		2,620 <sup>38</sup>			20	Feb	1,320
Roadford Reservoir	6,031 <sup>38</sup>	110	71	56	188	Jan	1,291
Rutland Water	2,500	200	1,200	50	2,500	Sep	1,290
Llys-y-fran Reservoir	90	650	600	(4,000)	700	Nov	1,208
Bartley Reservoir	1,200 <sup>38</sup>						1,200
Pitsford Reservoir	2,000 <sup>13</sup>	550 <sup>12</sup>	1,500 <sup>12</sup>	1,000 <sup>12</sup>	700 <sup>12</sup>	Sep	1,150
Alt Estuary	945	556	809	1,980	1,063	Aug	1,071
The Wash	898	1,039	1,075	1,027	1,184	Feb	1,045
Cleddau Estuary	723	1,537	552	786	1,614	Nov	1,042
Hurleston Reservoir	1,500 <sup>38</sup>	3,500 <sup>38</sup>	84	35	50	Nov	1,034
Haweswater Reservoir	1,450 <sup>13</sup>	1,796 <sup>12</sup>	337 <sup>12</sup>	775 <sup>12</sup>	700 <sup>12</sup>	Sep	1,012
Heathfield Gravel Pits	(1,000)						(1,000)
Chelmarsh Reservoir	3,500 <sup>38</sup>	83	56	47			922
Inner Firth of Clyde	705	509	769	1,253	1,233	Aug	894
Hayle Estuary	940	980	(552)	566			829
Carsington Water	1,160 <sup>38</sup>	97	68	1,450	1,200 <sup>12</sup>	Jan	795
Ouse Washes	760 <sup>38</sup>	256	2,305	44	5 <sup>13</sup>	Dec	674
Fernworthy Reservoir	(139)	663	548	664 <sup>12</sup>	744	Sep	655 ▲
Portworthy Mica Dam	700	960 <sup>38</sup>	469	475	654	Oct	652
Llangorse Lake	1,140 <sup>13</sup>	1,400 <sup>12</sup>	28	74	520	Dec	632
Lakenheath Fen			1,500	358	27	Dec	628
Kennington Park	1,200	50					625 ▲
Burghfield Gravel Pits	618 <sup>38</sup>						618
Heaton Park Reservoir	200 <sup>38</sup>	870 <sup>38</sup>					535
Hollowell Reservoir	500 <sup>38</sup>						500
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008</b>							
Wellington Gravel Pits	750	100		400 <sup>13</sup>	300	Nov	388
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Northern Ireland†</b>							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,115	(434)	997	1,136	387	Sep	909
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain†</b>							
Carsebreck and Rhynd Lochs	2	1	245 <sup>12</sup>	606 <sup>12</sup>	1,070 <sup>13</sup>	Sep	385
Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	26	3	6	862	693	Oct	318
Duddon Estuary	325	490	(205)	333	(628)	Jun	444
Fiddlers Ferry Power Stn Lagoons	(0)		(0)	0	600	Nov	300
Nocton and Dunston Fens	30	1	5	11	560	Jul	121
Cotswold Water Park (East)	133	700	404	48	500 <sup>12</sup>	Dec	357
Gresford Flash	41	173	(50)	200	(500)	Sep	229
Yare Valley: Marlford to Bawburgh				12 <sup>13</sup>	500	Oct	256

† as no All-Ireland threshold have been set a qualifying level of 500 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

## Herring Gull

*Larus argentatus*

International threshold: 5,900

Great Britain threshold: 4,500†

All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 64,643 Feb

NI max: 4,175 Jan

The counted British maximum of Herring Gulls was only slightly lower than the total for 2006/07. However, as the counting of gulls remains optional during WeBS, any summed national maxima will reflect changes in effort as much as actual numbers.

Six sites qualified as being of international importance, one less than the previous year. Away from England, these

sites included Forth Estuary in Scotland and Belfast Lough in Northern Ireland.

As with other gull species, counts are very much welcomed for this species. A number of key sites, including one of international importance, are at risk of being lost from the table below in future reports if current numbers are not documented.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Ribble Estuary	14,859 <sup>38</sup>	(31,090)	2,060	25,336	(11,086)	Mar	18,336
Morecambe Bay	10,551	8,311	7,545	8,553	10,239	Aug	9,040
Queen Mary Reservoir	8,279 <sup>38</sup>						8,279
Forth Estuary	7,376 <sup>38</sup>	15,434	1,780	(2,814)	(2,764)	Sep	8,197
Belfast Lough	7,536 <sup>11</sup>	7,903 <sup>11</sup>	10,296 <sup>11</sup>	6,655 <sup>11</sup>	2,511	Jan	6,980
The Wash	10,703 <sup>38</sup>	3,258	(3,527)	6,212	5,960	Sep	6,533
Dungeness and Rye Bay	12,000 <sup>13</sup>	6,000 <sup>13</sup>	7,000 <sup>13</sup>	1,500 <sup>13</sup>	5,000 <sup>13</sup>	Sep	6,300
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Thames Estuary	(4,349)	8,504	3,680	4,456	6,655	Sep	5,824
Hastings to Bexhill	5,700 <sup>38</sup>						5,700
Isle of May			5,220 <sup>38</sup>				5,220
Hamilton Low and Strathclyde Parks	4,600 <sup>38</sup>						4,600
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008</b>							
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	2,341	2,003	(3,000)	2,352	(274)	Dec	2,424
Moray Firth	6,468 <sup>1</sup>	2,349 <sup>1</sup>					4,409
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 2,500 or more birds in Great Britain</b>							
Glyne Gap			1,486	(2,700)	6,800 <sup>12</sup>	Feb	4,143
North Norfolk Coast	(3,047)	5,307	2,340	2,474	5,351	Jul	3,868
Guernsey Shore	2,759	3,744	2,362	5,704	(2,450)	Mar	3,642
Severn Estuary	3,500 <sup>38</sup>	(3,164)	(2,666)	(279)	(437)	Dec	3,500
Chew Valley Lake	3,400 <sup>38</sup>						3,400
Roughrigg Reservoir	15,144 <sup>38</sup>	416	210	135	489	Oct	3,279
Alt Estuary	3,825 <sup>38</sup>	7,155	2,150	1,005	2,000	Feb	3,227
Troon Meikle Craigs	3,174 <sup>38</sup>						3,174
Pegwell Bay	1,569 <sup>38</sup>	5,450	440	3,200	4,500	Feb	3,032
Caldey Island	2,800 <sup>38</sup>						2,800
Exe Estuary	4,130 <sup>12</sup>	2,074 <sup>12</sup>	2,574 <sup>12</sup>	2,357 <sup>12</sup>	2,849 <sup>12</sup>	Jan	2,797
Durham Coast	(62)	(618)	1,501	3,949	(300)	Aug	2,725
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	4,052 <sup>38</sup>	4,244	1,210	(2,613)	1,360	Apr	2,717
Heaton Park Reservoir	1,755 <sup>38</sup>	3,400 <sup>38</sup>					2,578
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland</b>							
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,351	1,179	1,304	1,602	1,053	Jan	1,298
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Afan Estuary & Port Talbot Harbour	712 <sup>12</sup>	306	298	222	4,000	Jan	1,108
Burry Inlet	1,904	1,089	3,007	2,407	3,037 <sup>11</sup>	Nov	2,289
Loch Spynie	1,600	1	2,240		(2,800)	Feb	1,660

<sup>†</sup> as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set, qualifying levels of 2,500 and 1,000 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

## Yellow-legged Gull

*Larus michahellis*

International threshold: 7,000

Great Britain threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 96 Aug

NI max: 1 Jan

'Western' Yellow-legged Gulls were recorded at 50 sites in England, three in Wales, and single sites in Scotland, Channel Islands and Northern Ireland. Birds were noted in every month, with a peak of 96 in August; a similarly low monthly maximum as recorded during the previous year.

Currently, WeBS coverage at several important localities for Yellow-legged Gulls on the south coast of England does not appear to be deriving a true picture of their numbers which traditionally peak in late summer.

### Sites with 10 or more birds in 2007/08<sup>†</sup>

King George VI Reservoir	31	Aug	Southampton Water	14	Sep
Queen Mary Reservoir	18	Aug	Glyne Gap	14	Oct
Rutland Water	17	Sep	Pagham Harbour	12	Aug
Thames Estuary	17	Sep	Humber Estuary	11	Jul

<sup>†</sup> 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

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## Caspian Gull

*Larus cachinnans*

International threshold: 7,000

Great Britain threshold: ?

All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 6 Mar

NI max: 0

Caspian Gulls were noted at eight sites in 2007/08. With the exception of Scotland's first WeBS record at Lossie Estuary in July, all related to typical records of birds in

England in winter. Both London Wetland Centre and Minsmere held two individuals in March.

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## Iceland Gull

*Larus glaucoides*

International threshold: 2,000

Great Britain threshold: ?

All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 34 Feb

NI max: 1 Feb

2007/08 was another excellent year for records of Iceland Gull during WeBS counts. They were seen in every month from November to April with a marked peak in February when a total of 35 were counted, largely due to the efforts of RAF Ornithological Society in north-west Scotland.

Records were received from 35 sites, including 22 in Scotland and one in Northern Ireland. Most were single birds, notable exceptions being seven at Loch A Chairn Bain, five at Loch Eriboll and three at Loch Gairloch, all in February.

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## Glaucous Gull

*Larus hyperboreus*

International threshold: 10,000

Great Britain threshold: ?

All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 23 Feb

NI max: 2 Feb

Glaucous Gulls were reported during the period September to April from 26 sites. As with Iceland Gull, peak numbers were in February when a total of 25 were counted. Site maxima for 2007/08 were seven at

North Bay (South Uist) in February, three at both Ardivachar Point (South Uist) and Lower Derwent Ings in February-March, and three at Ditchford Gravel Pits in November.

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## Great Black-backed Gull

*Larus marinus*

International threshold: 4,400

Great Britain threshold: 400

All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 12,500 Oct

NI max: 544 Jan

Unusually, three sites recorded maximum counts in excess of 2000 Great Black-backed Gulls in 2007/08. These counts from The Wash, Thames Estuary and East Chevington Pools were all in October, and as a consequence contributed to a particularly high counted maximum for that month.

In Northern Ireland, the counted maximum was less than half the total of the

previous year, largely due to low numbers recorded at the most important site in the country, Belfast Lough.

As with the other gulls, counts are very much welcomed for this species. This is especially the case with respect to a number of important sites that have not been counted since the last Winter Gull Roost Survey in 2003/04.



	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
The Wash	4,628	(1,480)	1,773	1,186	(2,131)	Oct	2,529
Humber Estuary	2,200 <sup>38</sup>	(226)	(66)	(20)	(165)	Aug	2,200
Thames Estuary	857 <sup>38</sup>	1,648	1,972	1,096	2,107	Oct	1,536
Dungeness and Rye Bay	2,000 <sup>13</sup>	1,500 <sup>13</sup>	1,000 <sup>13</sup>	700 <sup>13</sup>	1,200 <sup>13</sup>	Dec	1,280
Tees Estuary	1,523	1,657	(366)	1,028	668	Nov	1,219
Lynemouth Ash Lagoons	1,074						1,074
Grafham Water	1,050 <sup>38</sup>						1,050
Brogborough Clay Pit	997 <sup>38</sup>						997
Coquet Island	980 <sup>38</sup>						980
Ogston Reservoir	900 <sup>38</sup>						900
Lower Derwent Ings	1,041 <sup>38</sup>		500	1,030	870	Jan	860
Durham Coast	(41)	(684)	776	(659)	(35)	Aug	776
Pegwell Bay	305	610	1,190	700	850	Oct	731
East Chevington Pools	120	(80)	230	400	2,000	Oct	688 ▲
Glyne Gap			355	655	(800) <sup>12</sup>	Jan	603
Hastings to Bexhill	520 <sup>38</sup>						520
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	519 <sup>38</sup>	(169)	(58)	(176)	(152)	Sep	519
Guernsey Shore	560	404	477	619	(114)	Jun	515
Moray Firth	674 <sup>1</sup>	336 <sup>1</sup>					505
Tyne Estuary	(166)	(221)	367	358	719	Dec	481
Poole Harbour	476 <sup>38</sup>	(66)	(43)	(26)	(40)	Sep	476 ▲
North Norfolk Coast	1,051	327	471	262	251	Sep	472
Loch of Strathbeg	(606)	191	795	525	171	Nov	458
Fleet and Wey	200 <sup>38</sup>	142	873	111	897	Dec	445 ▲
Heaton Park Reservoir	494 <sup>38</sup>	340 <sup>38</sup>					417
Linton Pond Ellington	62 <sup>38</sup>	18	14	1,900	52	Mar	409
Southfield Reservoir	408 <sup>38</sup>						408
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008</b>							
Tophill Low Reservoirs	223 <sup>38</sup>	120	17	0	300 <sup>12</sup>	Jan	132
Morecambe Bay	(322)	(296)	(313)	466	280	Jun	373
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	70	(93)	(4)	(5)	(45)	Dec	82
Hoveringham and Bleasby GPs	1,600 <sup>38</sup>	2	0	0	4	Dec	321
Eyebrook Reservoir	500 <sup>38</sup>				2	Nov	251
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Northern Ireland<sup>†</sup></b>							
Belfast Lough	436 <sup>11</sup>	1,008	1,281	(827)	333	Jan	777

<sup>†</sup> as no All-Ireland threshold have been set a qualifying level of 500 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

## Little Tern

*Sternula albifrons*

International threshold: 490  
Great Britain threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>  
All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 946 Jun 2007  
NI max: 0

Little Terns were recorded at 40 sites in 2007 most of which were in England, with the counted maximum representing a slight increase on the recent average. Typically, all records were in the period of April to September.

High counts compared to recent years were received from Norfolk; with a maximum of 496 recorded in July, the North Norfolk Coast overtook Dee Estuary (where numbers remained consistent compared to 2006) as the top site on average for the species. Numbers at The Wash also increased, three-fold, compared to last year.



Little Tern (Jill Pakenham)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
North Norfolk Coast	405	233	246	284	496	Jul	333
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	(256)	300	411	250	251	Jul	303
The Wash	68	108	(182)	83	255	Aug	139
Thames Estuary	(28)	33	74	154	101	Aug	91
Duddon Estuary	42	84	92	52	56	May	65
Durham Coast		(0)	67	39	49	Jun	52
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Dengie Flats	(2)	5	(18)	2	(67)	Aug	23

<sup>†</sup> as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 50 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

## Whiskered Tern

*Chlidonias hybrida*

Vagrant  
Native Range: Worldwide

GB max: 1 May 2007  
NI max: 0

In 2007, a Whiskered Tern was at Old Moor in South Yorkshire in May; the fourth record for WeBS.

## Black Tern

*Chlidonias niger*

International threshold: 7,500  
Great Britain threshold: ?  
All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 6 Oct 2007  
NI max: 0

In 2007, Black Terns were recorded during WeBS counts at just 14 sites, including Forth Estuary and Lunan Bay in Scotland. The monthly maximum was a

mere six in October, when the largest count of the year, three, was at Chichester Gravel Pits.

## Sandwich Tern

*Sterna sandvicensis*

International threshold: 1,700  
Great Britain threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>  
All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 7,970 Aug 2007  
NI max: 321 Sep 2007

Sandwich Terns were noted at 130 sites in 2007, seven of which were in Northern Ireland. The majority of records were for April though to October, although records were received for all other months too. Pegwell Bay and Guernsey Shore hosted wintering birds at both ends of the year.

The British maximum fell in comparison to 2006 largely due to there being no

repeat of that year's record count from the North Norfolk Coast, and was more similar to the longer term average for the last ten years. For the second successive year, the breeding colony at Cemlyn Bay and Lagoon was not counted, resulting in a low count for that site.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
North Norfolk Coast	4,170	5,533	3,228	8,062	2,873	Jun	4,773
Forth Estuary	(2,802)	(1,526)	(1,243)	(1,037)	(680)	Jul	(2,802)
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Summer 2007</b>							
Cemlyn Bay and Lagoon	2,455	2,700	2,000	12	208	Apr	1,475
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Cemlyn Bay and Lagoon	2,455	2,700	2,000	12	208	Apr	1,475
Humber Estuary	(303)	(324)	(325)	(957)	(805)	Aug	(957)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Mon	Mean
Tees Estuary	2,601	(333)	221	490	438	Aug	938
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	716	759	829	530	1,334	Jul	834
Duddon Estuary	955	1,144	604	843	460	Jul	801
Pegwell Bay	(930)	(680)	824	650 <sup>13</sup>	520	Jul	721
Solway Estuary	(548)	(282)	(209)	(339)	(162)	Aug	(548)
Tay Estuary	(310)	(96)	(126)	(377)	545	Aug	545
Morecambe Bay	531	500	110	190	(201)	Jul	333
Eden Estuary	112	139	33	766	460	Sep	302
The Wash	223	208	307	164	338	Aug	248
Alt Estuary	178	219	116	207	348	Aug	214
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Northern Ireland<sup>†</sup></b>							
Dundrum Inner Bay	264	173	133	311	233	Jun	223
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	3	158	(254)	58	298	Aug	154
Exe Estuary	110	237	95	155	285	Jul	176
Ribble Estuary	(42)	(14)	(32)	7	256	Aug	132
Lavan Sands	(170)	250	(235)	28	247	Aug	190

<sup>†</sup> as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 200 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

## Common Tern

*Sterna hirundo*

International threshold: 1,900

Great Britain threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 6,022 Jul 2007

NI max: 79 Jul 2007

For Common Tern, the British maximum for 2007 was the highest recorded since 2003. The species was recorded at 302 sites, with all but a very small number between April and October. Numbers at the two key English sites, the Alt and Tees Estuaries, although retaining five-year mean peaks of more than 1,000 birds, continued on recent downward trends. In contrast, the principal sites in Scotland and the Dee Estuary in Wales all showed increases. In Northern Ireland most records

were from Dundrum Inner Bay where a maximum of 79 was recorded in July.

Typically August provided the largest number of peak counts, none more so than a supplementary count of 8,720 birds at Breydon Water and Berney Marshes which constituted a record aggregation in Norfolk (G.Dunmore pers. comm.). This count alone is greater than any previous maximum monthly WeBS total, and may represent a phenological occurrence arising from breeding success or failure (see Arctic Tern).

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Breydon Water and Berney Marshes					8,720 <sup>13</sup>	Aug	8,720 ▲
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Alt Estuary	1,664	1,135	2,010	1,503	1,074	Aug	1,477
Tees Estuary	1,678	1,251	(521)	869	618	Jun	1,104
Tay Estuary	(23)	(40)	(123)	(100)	600	Aug	600
North Norfolk Coast	419	476	450	606	894	Aug	569
Thames Estuary	(224)	(553)	(219)	(206)	(198)	Aug	(553)
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	(384)	(180)	(109)	454	579	Aug	517
Ythan Estuary	415						415
The Wash	122	199	129	1,092	(342)	Aug	386
Loch of Strathbeg	199	151	449	326	554	Jul	336
Humber Estuary	(280)	(160)	(61)	(19)	(330)	Aug	(330)
Chichester Harbour	(314)	(44)	(102)	(54)	(25)	Aug	(314)
Forth Estuary	(193)	(183)	(287)	(216)	(207)	Jul	(287)
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Don Estuary	7	39	260	35	500	Jul	168

<sup>†</sup> as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 200 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

## Roseate Tern

*Sterna dougallii*

Scarce

GB max: 12 May 2007  
NI max: 0

Roseate Terns were reported from eight sites in 2007. Counts of eight and four on the Exe and Beaulieu Estuaries respectively in May are the highest ever recorded during WeBS counts in southern England.

Elsewhere, during June to August, 1-3 were seen at East Chevington Pools, Alnmouth, Spittal to Cocklawburn, Pegwell Bay and Humber Estuary.

## Arctic Tern

*Sterna paradisaea*

International threshold: 0  
Great Britain threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>  
All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 4,664 Jul 2007  
NI max: 10 May 2007

The counting of terns remains optional during WeBS, therefore any summed national maxima may reflect changes in effort as much as actual numbers.

Typically most of the largest counts of Arctic Terns in 2007 were from sites in Scotland, particularly the traditionally important sites of Tay Estuary and Loch of Strathbeg. In total, birds were reported from 102 sites, the majority between May and September. A small number were seen in April and October-November, the last of which were three at Camarthen Bay and 1+ in Essex at Hamford Water, Holland Marshes and Stour Estuary. Records were received from three sites in Northern Ireland.

The British maximum of 4,664 in July was the highest ever, double that of the previous largest in 2005. The size of summer flocks on Scottish Estuaries is likely to be sensitive to the outcome of breeding attempts at colonies, such as those on Shetland and Orkney. The well-documented breeding failures in recent years have tended to lead to abandonment of breeding colonies during the summer, and therefore could have resulted in displacement to such estuaries. Interestingly, and perhaps linked, recent summers have seen an increased number of birds in first-summer ('*portlandica*') plumage in north-east Scotland (C.Gibbins pers. comm.).

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Tay Estuary	(290)	(0)	(10)	(50)	1,841	Jul	1,841
Loch of Strathbeg	(68)	40	2,100	164	1,210	Jul	879
Ythan Estuary	860						860
Loch of Beith	31		1,000	45	250	Jul	332
Loch An Duin (Aird Point) (Lewis)			300				300
Eden Estuary	320	4	0	209	617	Jul	230
Morecambe Bay	(178)	(59)	(16)	(11)	(30)	May	(178)
The Houb (Whalsay)	82	300	3	200	275	Jul	172
St Andrews Bay	(0)	192	70	110	(0)		124
Forth Estuary	197	(186)	7	32	28	Jul	90
Loch a' Phuill (Tiree)	150	120	58	37	77	Jun	88
Ness of Sound				90	80	Aug	85
Inner Loch Indaal	76						76
Nor Wick and Skaw	32	(10)	9	214	23	Jul	70
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Nigg Bay to Cove Bay			0	0	94	Aug	31
Braewick Loch	50	30	47 <sup>13</sup>	18	80	May	45
Alt Estuary	16	15	15	9	78	Aug	27
North Norfolk Coast	12	(16)	(65)	10	71	Jun	40
Loch Mor (Benbecula)			0	60	70	Jun	43

<sup>†</sup> as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 70 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

## Kingfisher

*Alcedo atthis*

International threshold: ?  
Great Britain threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>  
All-Ireland threshold: ?<sup>†</sup>

GB max: 564 Oct  
NI max: 9 Oct

Owing to its ubiquitous, yet relatively elusive, nature the Kingfisher is a difficult species to monitor by WeBS methods. The British counted maximum of 564 in October was slightly higher than in recent years. In general, gravel pit complexes continue to be those WeBS sites where the species is most frequently encountered. Peak numbers at such inland sites are frequently

in autumn before any winter dispersal to more coastal sites. Maxima this year were 11 at Wraysbury Gravel Pits in August, and nine at both Gunthorpe Gravel Pits in August and Pitsford Reservoir in October.

The Northern Ireland maximum has never exceeded single figures, and birds were recorded at just four sites in 2007/08.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 7 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Somerset Levels	(12)	20	(18)	17	22	Oct	20
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	12	18	16	17	14	Aug	15
Ditchford Gravel Pits	13	12	13	12	19	Oct	14
North Norfolk Coast	6	8	10	14	20 <sup>11</sup>	Nov	12
Southampton Water	(6)	9	(11)	(8)	(4)	Oct	10
Chichester Gravel Pits	7	9	11	7	9	Oct	9
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	10	6	9	(13)	(9)	Aug	9
The Wash	(1)	(0)	(0)	(0)	9	Sep	9
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	(4)	5	9	9	7	Aug	8
Thames Estuary	(7)	7	10	9	6	Aug	8
Avon Valley: Salisbury-Fordingbr'	(6)	(5)	(7)	(4)	(3)	Sep	(7)
Humber Estuary	6	6	9	(3)	(8)	Feb	7
Orwell Estuary	(2)	(5)	(7)	(3)	(5)	Oct	(7)
Pitsford Reservoir	11	(3)	6	3	9	Oct	7
Stour Estuary	6	(6)	6	4	12	Oct	7
<b>Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Gunthorpe GPs & River Trent	2	(2)	5	7	9	Aug	6
Old Moor	7	5	(5)	4	8	May	6
Hamford Water	3	(5)	7	6	7	Feb	6

<sup>†</sup> as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of seven has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report



Kingfisher (John Harding)