

PRINCIPAL SITES

Table 6 below lists the principal sites for non-breeding waterbirds in the UK as monitored by WeBS. All sites supporting more than 10,000 waterbirds are listed, as are all sites supporting internationally important numbers of one or more waterbird species. Naturalised species (e.g. Canada Goose and Ruddy Duck) and non-native species presumed to have escaped from captive collections have been excluded from the totals, as have gulls and terns since the recording of these species is optional (see *Analysis*). Table 7 lists other sites holding internationally important numbers of waterbirds, which are not routinely monitored by standard WeBS surveys but rather by the Icelandic Goose Census and aerial surveys.

A total of 244 sites are listed in tables 6 and 7. Of these 225 supported one or more species in internationally important numbers and 85 held a five-year mean peak of 10,000 or more birds. Typically there are few changes to the top twenty sites listed in the principal sites table, with the order of the top ten changing little from year to year.

The Wash remains as the key waterbird site in terms of absolute numbers and in 2007/08 held figures very similar to the average of the preceding five years. The

Ribble Estuary rises to second in the table following the highest total there for ten years. Decreases were noted at both Morecambe Bay and North Norfolk Coast (however some late data may still need to be included). A reassessment of the incorporation of some annual goose roost data, in order to minimise possible duplication, has lowered the longer-term average for the latter site. Total numbers at the Thames Estuary were very similar to the average for recent years, but those on the Humber Estuary and Dee Estuary fell for the second year in succession.

Totals at the two most important non-estuarine sites, namely Somerset Levels and Ouse Washes, were slightly higher and lower respectively compared to those of the previous year; representative of the trends for the two sites in recent years.

Overall, five-year averages of sites holding 10,000 or more waterbirds were relatively similar compared to the previous year, with 71 of the 85 sites undergoing changes of less than 10%. The greatest increases were experienced at Slains Lochs (29%) and Blyth Estuary (25%). The greatest decreases were seen at Loch Spynie (22%), Loch Leven and Morecambe Bay (both 12%), Nene Washes and Southampton Water (both 11%).

Table 6. Total number of waterbirds at principal sites in the UK, 2003/2004 to 2007/08 (includes data from all available sources) and species occurring in internationally important numbers at each. (Species codes are provided in Table 8.)

Site	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Average	Int.Imp.Species
The Wash	338,499	369,608	398,364	379,980	370,090	371,308	PG DB SU PT OC RP GP GV L. KN SS DN BW BA CU RK
Ribble Estuary	252,374	242,666	220,693	214,275	260,794	238,160	WS PG SU WN T. PT OC RP GV L. KN SS DN BW BA RK
North Norfolk Coast	215,912	221,281	241,314	215,353	139,655	206,703	PG DB WN PT RP KN RW RA
Morecambe Bay	249,255	206,066	205,568	194,368	131,200	197,291	PG SU PT OC RP KN DN RW RA CI I RK
Thames Estuary	160,189	172,446	186,370	226,113	186,393	186,302	DB T. SV OC AV RP GV KN DN RW RA RK
Humber Estuary	217,805	163,340	187,049	160,008	145,699	174,780	PG DB SU RP GP GV L. KN DN RW RA RK
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	171,912	115,303	130,352	125,319	103,468	129,271	SU PT OC KN DN BW RK
Solway Estuary	145,051	140,091	103,051	118,194	106,625	122,602	WS PG YS SU PT SP OC RP KN RK
Somerset Levels	85,165	99,775	87,827	108,161	114,247	99,035	MS WN GA T. SV L.
Breydon Wtr & Berney Mshs	75,833	110,697	106,432	96,836	100,556	98,071	PG WN SV AV GP L. BW

Site	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Average	Int.Imp.Species
Ouse Washes	85,735	112,897	133,465	72,208	66,960	94,253	MS BS WS WN GA T. PT SV RW
Strangford Lough	88,903	78,449	83,313	74,419	75,515	80,120	MS WS QN SU KN BW RA RK
Mersey Estuary	97,788	85,571	84,125	61,546	68,491	79,504	SU T. DN BW RK
Swale Estuary	86,974	73,831	82,907	61,645	91,446	79,361	PT GP BW
Forth Estuary	91,159	85,019	76,265	59,922	75,912	77,655	PG JI SU SZ KN BA RK
Loch of Strathbeg	79,231	81,644	84,269	51,234	52,063	69,688	WS PG YS
Severn Estuary	65,162	64,057	79,953	66,450	71,789	69,482	MS BS SU PT SV RP DN
Blackwater Estuary	64,533	78,259	70,060	30,264	70,890	62,801	DB GP GV KN DN BW
Inner Moray/Inverness Firth	76,826	63,704	73,248	47,199	43,378	60,871	PG JI
Loughs Neagh and Beg	59,026	56,261	58,256	50,735	56,271	56,110	MS WS PO SP CA
Alt Estuary	72,792	53,071	41,836	50,359	40,253	51,662	PG KN SS BA
Lindisfarne	56,841	55,413	59,257	47,958	37,867	51,467	PG YS QS BA
Dengie Flats	23,896	45,747	58,280	61,844	53,040	48,561	DB GV KN BA
Carmarthen Bay	47,103	55,753	45,075	52,860	39,639	48,086	CX SS
Burry Inlet	52,852	49,290	46,255	44,421	44,717	47,507	PT OC KN BW
Montrose Basin	35,461	50,184	57,114	45,569	45,839	46,833	PG
Chichester Harbour	43,737	43,380	47,679	44,027	54,118	46,588	DB DN BW
Hamford Water	37,993	39,943	43,468	34,133	44,843	40,076	DB GV
Stour Estuary	41,061	40,855	37,956	34,924	39,797	38,919	MS GV KN BW
Langstone Harbour	42,036	45,651	41,478	28,032	30,769	37,593	DB DN BW
Dungeness and Rye Bay	32,989	41,500	33,894	34,855	37,585	36,165	MS SV
Lough Foyle	37,294	33,080	38,651	35,250	34,120	35,679	WS QN BA
Cromarty Firth	41,774	37,955	35,799	23,332	39,053	35,583	PG JI BA
Lower Derwent Ings	32,627	34,619	38,498	37,610	33,237	35,318	
Dornoch Firth	38,256	37,057	34,311	28,356	30,936	33,783	WS JI
West Water Reservoir	34,210	.	28,244	43,252	27,960	33,417	PG
Loch Leven	37,340	33,773	40,355	34,279	19,699	33,089	MS PG
WWT Martin Mere	30,883	45,352	37,628	28,328	22,267	32,892	WS PG
Duddon Estuary	32,592	29,349	34,652	28,782	34,687	32,012	PT
Alde Complex	22,909	31,841	34,368	32,772	37,456	31,869	AV BW
Crouch-Roach Estuary	18,219	41,774	29,553	31,797	36,010	31,471	DB BW
Abberton Reservoir	31,385	24,135	50,319	12,675	30,137	29,730	MS GA SV
Medway Estuary	26,174	30,542	30,870	24,224	35,255	29,413	PT AV BW
Nene Washes	20,914	29,256	20,702	30,294	37,767	27,787	BS PT BW
Rutland Water	28,238	26,203	31,193	30,376	22,897	27,781	MS GA SV
Cleddau Estuary	20,386	27,748	33,417	19,643	23,331	24,905	
Tees Estuary	30,086	21,040	23,593	22,597	22,626	23,988	
Pegwell Bay	25,509	18,222	20,188	29,811	23,936	23,533	
Inner Firth of Clyde	23,741	19,915	23,161	24,258	22,171	22,649	
Orwell Estuary	26,298	20,758	26,377	23,322	16,376	22,626	BW
Tay Estuary	21,312	20,585	25,893	18,460	18,194	20,889	PG BA
Loch of Skene	13,696	18,835	24,764	24,339	20,620	20,451	PG JI
Lavan Sands	21,153	22,036	19,285	22,555	16,111	20,228	
Poole Harbour	24,862	26,364	17,686	15,976	15,752	20,128	AV BW
Belfast Lough	19,556	23,199	19,662	18,804	19,278	20,100	BW
Wigtown Bay	21,606	19,049	14,994	18,100	26,145	19,979	WS PG YS
Colne Estuary	19,342	18,425	19,105	16,669	25,977	19,904	DB
Exe Estuary	22,899	20,129	19,140	17,747	19,243	19,832	BW
Pagham Harbour	14,568	20,529	20,776	22,630	18,432	19,387	DB PT BW
Deben Estuary	17,878	19,054	19,060	17,171	21,364	18,905	BW
West Mainland	.	20,653	17,008	.	.	18,831	JJ
Loch Spynie	15,748	30,733	27,245	9,000	1,181	16,781	PG JI

Site	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Average	Int.Imp.Species
Fleet and Wey	16,292	17,496	17,349	13,772	13,045	15,591	MS
Carsebreck and Rhynd Lochs	16,531	12,262	17,028	17,239	14,294	15,471	PG
Middle Yare Marshes	9,742	17,585	18,038	11,940	18,110	15,083	
WWT Caerlaverock (Inland)	14,142	16,137	16,298	14,199	13,931	14,941	WS YS
North West Solent	15,144	16,229	13,708	13,911	15,617	14,922	DB
Ythan Estuary	8,049	13,595	17,746	20,245	14,116	14,750	
Portsmouth Harbour	16,424	9,666	17,233	14,275	14,022	14,324	DB
Taw-Torridge Estuary	10,320	16,426	17,254	13,142	10,236	13,476	
Southampton Water	15,447	15,048	13,669	11,460	9,572	13,039	
Dyfi Estuary	11,524	12,418	12,016	13,116	12,323	12,279	
Eden Estuary	15,366	14,214	12,191	5,688	12,959	12,084	
Loch of Linrathen	16,417	11,067	10,330	10,937	11,156	11,981	PG
Slains Lochs (Meikle, Sand	576	17,309	12,614	11,408	17,603	11,902	PG
Cotswold Water Park (West)	12,474	10,178	12,156	12,151	12,438	11,879	
Firth of Clyde	15,276	13,042	8,055	9,590	.	11,491	
Arun Valley	12,161	9,981	9,599	13,500	11,595	11,367	
Mersehead RSPB Reserve	11,120	15,290	124	16,113	12,457	11,021	YS PT
Pitsford Reservoir	12,533	10,267	12,198	11,175	8,153	10,865	
Camel Estuary	5,426	12,962	16,420	10,046	8,152	10,601	
Outer Ards Shoreline	12,748	9,551	9,952	12,291	8,420	10,592	QN
Carlingford Lough	10,282	10,949	10,165	9,691	10,705	10,358	QN
Blyth Estuary	1,384	4,831	11,769	13,432	19,188	10,121	
Stodmarsh NNR/Collards	8,346	10,477	12,053	9,310	10,379	10,113	
Chew Valley Lake	10,110	9,285	13,540	8,017	7,403	9,671	SV
Loch of Harray	12,330	8,501	7,566	12,639	7,250	9,657	MS JI
Upper Lough Erne	9,239	9,369	9,152	8,711	7,396	8,773	MS WS
Dundrum Inner Bay	7,058	7,490	8,433	6,559	13,580	8,624	QN
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	9,005	8,403	8,823	7,432	9,011	8,535	GA
Hule Moss	15,908	9,009	6,955	2,647	7,092	8,322	PG
R.Nith: Keltonbnk-Nunholm	10,008	5,976	.	8,116	.	8,033	PG YS
Tiree	7,452	8,411	15,171	974	4,196	7,241	NW JH YN
R.Avon: Fordingbr'-Ringwd	6,790	6,405	6,308	8,523	8,078	7,221	GA BW
Loch Fleet Complex	6,857	5,177	7,971	7,142	7,755	6,980	JI
Horse Mere	8,465	7,231	6,240	5,430	.	6,842	PG
R.Avon: Ringwd-Christhurch	4,767	2,799	2,796	12,591	9,024	6,395	BW
Loch of Boardhouse	7,111	5,904	7,159	5,983	4,941	6,220	JI
Loch Eye	4,474	8,352	15,004	1,087	1,667	6,117	WS JI
Hornsea Mere	7,354	7,064	6,337	4,244	4,559	5,912	MS
Loch of Stenness	5,638	5,069	6,475	6,039	5,993	5,843	JI
Heigham Holmes	.	.	5,670	.	.	5,670	PG
East Mainland	.	7,325	8,589	424	.	5,446	JI
R.Clyde: Carstairs-Thank'tn	6,623	4,510	5,785	3,666	6,283	5,373	PG
East Chevington Pools	5,927	4,802	4,465	4,911	5,617	5,144	PG
Milldam/Balfour Mains Pools	6,216	3,917	4,838	4,200	4,909	4,816	JI
Larne Lough	5,297	4,991	5,548	4,109	4,050	4,799	QN
Holburn Moss	10,502	5,398	3,000	2,400	2,300	4,720	PG
Loch Heilen	1,180	6,698	7,862	2,563	4,898	4,640	JI
Dupplin Lochs	14,110	2	.	1,450	2,100	4,416	PG
Loch a` Phuille (Tiree)	3,356	3,114	6,836	4,547	3,964	4,363	JH
Loch Bee (South Uist)	3,454	4,973	4,365	4,814	4,159	4,353	MS JH
Orchardton & Auchencairn	8,144	3,072	3,570	4,170	2,798	4,351	YS
R.Tay: Haughs of Kercock	799	6,029	6,254	5,045	3,622	4,350	PG JI
Kilconquhar Loch	5,869	2,985	3,731	1,189	7,622	4,279	JI

Site	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Average	Int.Imp.Species
South Ford	4,487	5,084	3,244	4,476	3,475	4,153	JH
Rossie Bog	.	6,410	3,060	.	2,645	4,038	PG
Loch Tullybelton	.	6,500	.	2,757	2,800	4,019	PG
Loch Gruinart Floods	5,024	4,319	4,651	3,684	2,048	3,945	JH
Island of Egilsay	3,548	5,401	3,610	3,051	.	3,903	JI
Island of Papa Westray	4,106	3,320	4,069	.	.	3,832	JI
St Benet's Levels	3,763	.	.	.	.	3,763	BS
Loch Gruinart	3,472	4,688	3,806	3,042	3,297	3,661	JH
Lake of Menteith	4,639	6,462	732	5,645	805	3,657	PG
Dee Flood Meadows	2,860	2,235	4,110	5,533	3,449	3,637	PT
Tweed Estuary	4,180	3,525	3,521	3,672	2,786	3,537	MS
North Uist	2,642	5,806	2,671	2,318	.	3,359	JH YN
Loch Scarmclate	3,197	2,699	3,868	3,637	2,501	3,180	JI
Loch of Skail	3,053	2,649	4,310	2,542	2,785	3,068	JI
Warton Floods	.	.	.	.	3,049	3,049	BW
Loch of Swannay	2,660	2,910	2,779	3,075	3,730	3,031	JI
Fala Flow	5,450	741	.	2,170	3,650	3,003	PG
Lower Lough Erne	2,486	3,343	2,878	2,999	3,245	2,990	MS
Islands of Shapinsay	.	3,469	5,200	178	.	2,949	JI
Isle of Coll	2,767	4,267	4,818	687	1,245	2,757	NW JH YN
Killough Harbour	1,158	2,736	4,164	2,837	.	2,724	QN
Sanday	.	2,365	2,990	.	.	2,678	JI
Balranald Nature Reserve	2,377	3,288	1,844	1,829	2,569	2,381	JH
Loch Paible (North Uist)	2,767	2,996	1,757	2,191	1,474	2,237	JH
Loch Hempriggs	.	3,891	1,240	2,127	1,153	2,103	JI
South Uist	2,102	2,111	2,119	1,719	.	2,013	JH
Loch nan Capull (S.Uist)	1,736	.	.	.	.	1,736	JH
Upper Quoile River	1,241	977	4,394	1,177	653	1,688	MS
Machrihanish	1,523	1,487	2,106	1,831	1,345	1,658	NW
Melbost Sands (Lewis)	398	1,894	1,664	1,924	2,263	1,629	JH
Loch Garten and Mallachie	.	.	1,472	.	.	1,472	JI
Baleshare (North Uist)	1,530	1,201	834	1,742	1,850	1,431	JH
Loch Garten	1,151	2,416	1,715	1,573	284	1,428	JI
Stronsay (Whole Island)	41	1,775	2,393	.	.	1,403	JI
Broubster Leans	.	75	1,123	2,979	.	1,392	JI
Loch Ussie	667	458	3,603	447	1,514	1,338	JI
Ceann a Bhaigh	.	1,367	1,099	1,268	1,409	1,286	JH
Loch Bhasapoll (Tiree)	1,241	1,318	1,736	961	753	1,202	JH
Colonsay/Oronsay	.	.	.	.	1,200	1,200	YN
Scapa Flow and Shapinsay	.	.	1,177	.	.	1,177	ND
Scarp to Vatersay offshore	1,467	740	1,228	.	.	1,145	ND
Loch Gorm	.	191	2,049	.	.	1,120	NW JH
Rhunahaorine	1,337	894	955	940	1,451	1,115	NW
Scapa Flow	1,282	793	.	.	.	1,038	ND
North Sutherland	.	.	.	.	1,037	1,037	YN
Island of Eday	.	890	1,060	.	.	975	JI
Balnakiel Farm	.	.	1,195	288	1,109	864	YN
Loch Sandary (North Uist)	1,180	826	942	559	748	851	JH
Loch Riaghain (Tiree)	764	922	690	770	1,068	843	JH
Loch An Eilein (Tiree)	656	846	1,208	588	910	842	JH
Keills Peninsula and Isle of	1,017	1,051	816	300	913	819	NW YN
Loch Eaval and Loch Hosta	650	978	479	848	805	752	JH
Loch Fada (Benbecula)	.	.	454	982	732	723	JH

Site	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Average	Int.Imp.Species
Sound of Barra (Barra)	891	1,181	37	.	.	703	ND
Isle of Colonsay	195	2,152	111	76	.	634	NW
Loch Mor (Benbecula)	.	.	504	703	581	596	JH
Loch Ewe	.	544	377	844	609	594	JH
Whiteness to Skelda Ness	650	543	521	538	699	590	SZ
Loch na Meallaird	.	.	477	676	555	569	JH
Stranraer Lochs	281	257	282	1,105	877	560	NW
Coll and Tiree offshore	743	374	.	.	.	559	ND
Sound of Gigha	95	696	1,143	105	194	447	ND
Claish Moss and Lower Loch	379	499	413	352	491	427	JH
South Uist West Coast	510	286	.	.	.	398	ND
Coll & Tiree & west Mull	.	.	340	.	.	340	ND
Back Pools	183	506	328	194	356	313	JH
Lch Shawbost/Lch A` Bhaile	.	284	.	.	.	284	JH
Loch Broom	.	40	112	253	602	252	JH
Outer Loch Indaal	.	57	279	.	.	168	ND
Steinish Canal	.	168	5	.	.	87	JH

Table 7. Other sites in the UK holding internationally important numbers of waterbirds in 2007/08 which are not routinely monitored by standard WeBS surveys. (Species codes are provided in Table 8.)

Site	Int.Imp.species	Site	Int.Imp.species
Benbecula	JH	Holme and Thornham	PG
Berney Marshes	PG	Norton Marsh	PG
Bute	JI,JH	Scot Head Roost	PG
Caithness Lochs	JI	Snettisham Roost	PG
Colonsay/Oronsay	YN	Wells-next-the-Sea	PG
Cromarty Firth	JI	North Uist	JH,YN
Dingwall Bay	JI	Baleshare and Carinish (Grimsay)	JH
Nigg Bay	JI	Balmartin To Vallay	JH
Dalreoch	WS,JI	Balranald Cletraval and Tigharry	JH
East Mains Flood	JI	Berneray	JH,YN
Floodwater South Of Braco	PG	Boreray and Lingay	JH
Forth Estuary	PG	Malacate To Grenitote	JH,YN
Aberlady Bay	PG	Oronsay	JH
Forth Grangemouth to Kincardine	PG	Paible	JH
Hule Moss (West)	PG	Trumisgarry Clachan and Newton	JH
Read's Island Flats	PG	Trumisgarry to Newton	JH
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	PG,JI	Orkney	JI, YN
Easterton - Fort George	PG,JI	Isle of South Ronaldsay	JI
Findhorn Bay	PG	South Walls (Hoy)	YN
Island of Islay	NW,JH,YN	Simonswood Peat Moss	PG
Isle of Oronsay	YN	Solway Firth	YS
Isle of Lismore	NW	South Uist	
Loans of Tullich	WS	Askernish To Smerclate	JH
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	WS,JI	Bornish To Askernish	JH
Loch Fleet	JI	Drimore To Howmore	JH
Lune Estuary	PG	Howbeg To Bornish	JH
Martin Mere and Ribble Estuary	WS	Lochdar, Gerinish and Drimsdale	JH
Meikle Loch - Slains Cotehill)	PG	Southwest Lancashire	PG
Moray Firth	ND	Strathearn (West)	PG,JI
Morecambe Bay	PG	Tay and Isla Valley	PG,JI
Wyre to Cockerham	PG	Tayinloan	NW,JH
Wyre Estuary	PG	The Wash	PG
Wyre Estuary to Arm Hill	PG	Winter Loch, St Fergus Gas Term.	PG
North Norfolk Coast & The Wash	PG	Ythan Estuary and Slains Lochs	PG
Holkham Bay Roost	PG		
Holkham and Burnham Overy	PG		

Table 8. Species codes for species listed in tables 6., 7. and 9.

AV	Avocet	JH	Greylag Goose	RH	Svalbard population
BA	Bar-tailed Godwit		Northwest Scotland population	RK	Red-throated Diver
BS	Bewick's Swan	JI	Greylag Goose	RM	Redshank
BV	Black-throated Diver		Icelandic population	RP	Red-breasted Merganser
BW	Black-tailed Godwit	KN	Knot	RU	Ringed Plover
CA	Cormorant	L.	Lapwing	RU	Ruff
CO	Coot	LG	Little Grebe	SP	Scaup
CU	Curlew	MA	Mallard	SS	Sanderling
CX	Common Scoter	MS	Mute Swan	SU	Shelduck
DB	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	ND	Great Northern Diver	SV	Shoveler
DN	Dunlin	NW	Greenland White-fronted Goose	SZ	Slavonian Grebe
E.	Eider	OC	Oystercatcher	T.	Teal
EW	European White-fronted Goose	PG	Pink-footed Goose	TT	Turnstone
GA	Gadwall	PO	Pochard	WN	Wigeon
GG	Great Crested Grebe	PS	Purple Sandpiper	WS	Whooper Swan
GK	Greenshank	PT	Pintail	YN	Barnacle Goose
GP	Golden Plover	QN	Light-bellied Brent Goose		Nearctic population
GV	Grey Plover	QS	Light-bellied Brent Goose		