

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

International threshold: 3,000
Great Britain threshold: 782
All-Ireland threshold: 150

GB max: 51,327 Feb
NI max: 5,330 Jan

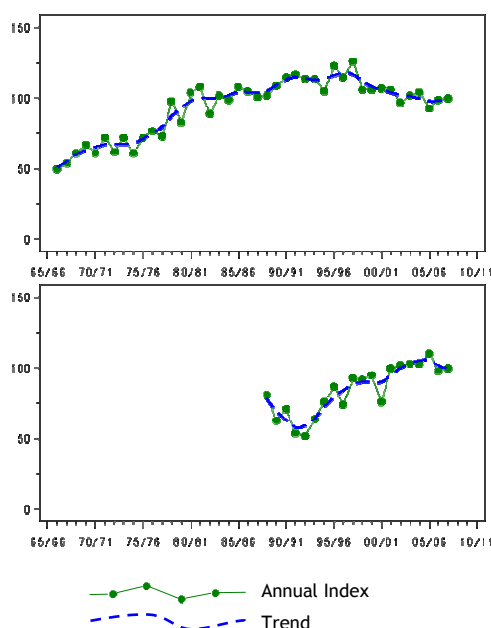


Figure 18.a, Annual indices & trend for Shelduck for GB (above) & NI (below).

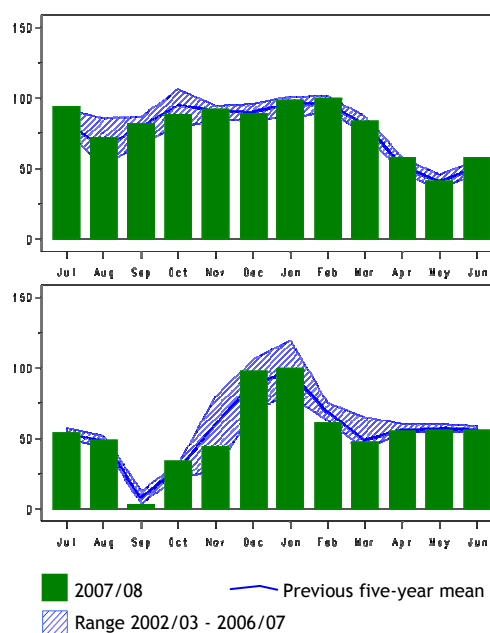


Figure 18.b, Monthly indices for Shelduck for GB (above) & NI (below).

The peak total count of 51,327 Shelduck in February represented a slight improvement on the previous two years; the trend now appears relatively stable after a period of decline that commenced in the mid 1990s. Ten sites remained of international importance and typically the peak count of the year, albeit incomplete, was from Mersey Estuary in July where large concentrations of birds gather to moult in late summer. Traditionally, a large proportion of Shelduck which breed in Britain and Ireland also migrate to the

Helgoland Bight of the Wadden Sea to moult from July through to September.

In general, counts from most key sites were similar to recent years. However the data for 2007/08 suggest a possible north-south split with respect to trends for wintering numbers. The reported maxima from several internationally important sites in northern England were notably lower than the respective five-year site averages; e.g. Morecambe Bay (-36%), Solway Estuary (-37%) and Ribble Estuary (-28%), while at most sites in the southern half of the country numbers were more stable.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Mersey Estuary	17,823	13,420	15,605	(16,721)	(10,644)	Jul	15,892
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	12,630	13,334	(8,872)	10,869	9,425	Sep	11,565
Morecambe Bay	8,228	7,728	(6,609)	8,880	(4,755)	Nov	8,279
The Wash	7,347	7,451	6,904	6,855	6,656	Dec	7,043
Humber Estuary	6,426 ¹¹	(4,188)	(5,223)	(4,576)	5,804	Oct	6,115
Strangford Lough	4,475	3,801	4,451 ¹¹	3,413 ¹¹	6,084 ¹¹	Dec	4,445
Severn Estuary	2,579	3,460	4,182	3,711	(5,400)	Nov	3,866
Forth Estuary	3,452	3,164 ¹²	3,063	(3,546)	3,283	Sep	3,302
Ribble Estuary	3,829	3,850	2,935	2,577	2,216	Mar	3,081
Solway Estuary	3,131	5,359	1,863	2,888	1,902	Nov	3,029

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Medway Estuary	(2,177)	2,360 ¹¹	1,949	(1,290)	(1,631)	Jan	2,162
Blackwater Estuary	1,904	2,073	(1,828)	(1,499)	(2,369)	Feb	2,115
Thames Estuary	1,584	2,318	1,968	1,870	2,099	Feb	1,968
Stour Estuary	1,483	(2,149)	(1,421)	1,641	2,402	Feb	1,919
Swale Estuary	1,818	2,207	2,140	1,406	2,003	Jan	1,915
Hamford Water	1,657	1,951	1,493	(1,496)	2,450	Jan	1,888
Poole Harbour	(2,072)	1,547	(1,857)	(1,043)	(788)	Feb	1,825
Colne Estuary	(804)	(701)	(471)	(326)	1,600 ¹¹	Feb	1,600
Lindisfarne	1,323 ¹¹	1,773 ¹¹	1,180 ¹¹	(1,868)	(1,091)	Dec	1,536
North Norfolk Coast	1,112	1,110	1,283	1,361	1,222 ¹¹	Jan	1,218
WWT Martin Mere	1,150	1,510 ¹²	965	1,075	780	Feb	1,096
Alde Complex	1,124	1,025	925	1,181	1,120	Feb	1,075
Montrose Basin	(1,240)	690	1,239 ¹¹	(1,106)	(1,098)	Dec	1,075
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(342)	1,661 ¹¹	(397)	577	823	Feb	1,020
Deben Estuary	802	883	707	837	754	Mar	797
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Larne Lough	633	808	880	832	486	Jan	728
Carlingford Lough	423	452	560	(349)	477	Feb	478
Belfast Lough	494 ¹¹	544 ¹³	347 ¹¹	(378)	265	Jan	413
Lough Foyle	(315)	250	392	264	322	Dec	309
Dundrum Inner Bay	138	330	96	70	188	Mar	164 ▲
Loughs Neagh and Beg	205	260	98	124	95	Mar	156
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008							
Chichester Harbour	810	825	793	643	449	Jan	704
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain[†]							
Wigtown Bay	496	705	750	751	880	Feb	716
Blyth Estuary	(67)	(226)	514	677	794	Jan	662

Muscovy Duck

Cairina moschata

Escape[†]

Native Range: S America

GB max: 56 Oct, Jan
NI max: 0

Muscovy Ducks were recorded at 34 sites in 2007/08, seven more than in the previous year. The monthly maximum of 56, noted in both October and January, was less than that for 2006/07 primarily due to the low

numbers recorded at Fort Henry Ponds & Exton Park Lakes, which has been the most important site for the species in recent years.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park Lakes	0	14	25	43	5	Dec	17
Brayford Pool Lincoln			0	26	17	Aug	14
Hesketh Park Lake					11	May	11
High Batts Recording Area	8	8					8
Dane Valley - Holmes Chapel to Swettenham				0	14	Dec	7
Derwent Water	6	11	7	5	3	Oct	6
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain							
Etherow Country Park	0	0	0		(9)	Nov	2
Sale Water Park and Broad Ees Dole	0		0	9	7	Oct	4
Balgone Ponds	(0)	(0)	0	0	6	Apr	2
Swinsty Reservoir	0	0			6	Mar	2
Gresford Flash	0	0	0	0	5	Jan	1

[†] 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

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

Escape
Native Range: N America

GB max: 9 Oct
NI max: 1 Feb

Wood Ducks were noted at fourteen sites in 2007/08, an increase on the ten in the previous two years. Stanton Lake remained the most important site for the species with up to four present throughout the year. Most of the remaining records were of

singles, with the exception of three at Stanwick Gravel Pits in November, and two at both the River Cam and Union Canal throughout the winter. In Northern Ireland, one was at Lower Lough Erne in February.

Mandarin

Aix galericulata

Naturalised introduction†
Native Range: E Asia

GB max: 456 Jan
NI max: 0

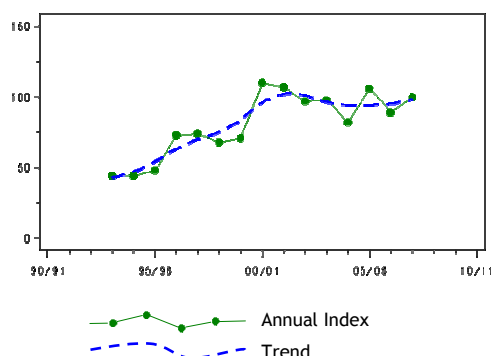


Figure 19.a, Annual indices & trend for Mandarin for GB.

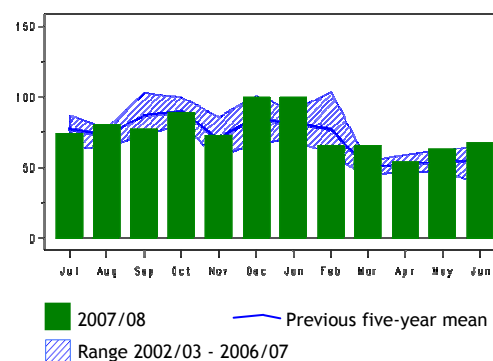


Figure 19.b, Monthly indices for Mandarin for GB.

Records of Mandarins were received from 133 sites in 2007/08. A mid-winter peak of 456 birds was slightly below average compared to recent years, although annual variation in numbers could be merely a result of year-to-year changes in coverage of habitats favoured by this unobtrusive species, namely small wooded lakes and ponds.

For the second year running, no details were received from Forest of Dean Ponds and Bradley Pools, both sites which

maintained five-year averages in excess of 100 birds but based on data now at least two years old. Most other sites with five-year averages of over 30 birds held numbers close to normal.

All records were from England with the exception of singles in Wales at Margam Park Ponds and Acton Park Lake, in Scotland at Loch of Lowes and Culzean Pond, and on Channel Islands at Queens Valley Reservoir.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Forest of Dean Ponds	160 ¹³	221 ¹⁶	66 ¹⁶				149
Bradley Pools	188	65	144				132
Headley Mill Pond	76	23	132	15	64	Jan	62
Bough Beech Reservoir	56 ⁴¹	60 ⁴¹	45 ⁴¹	60 ¹³	42	Sep	53
Wraysbury Pond	61	51	48	51 ¹³	53	Jan	53
Busbridge Lakes	72			41	31	Oct	48
Dee Flood Meadows	32	42	36	83	48	Oct	48
Cuttmill Ponds	59	61	66	27	22	Oct	47

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Darwell Reservoir	56	13	58	74	33	Dec	47
Arun Valley	37	37	47	25	53	Jan	40
Connaught Water (Epping Forest)	44	32	35	44	40	Aug	39
Passfield Pond	73	16	15	30	18	Oct	30
Strawberry Hill Ponds	23	15	32	44	33	Jan	29
Harewood Lake	35	31	15		25	Dec	27
Linacre Reservoirs	17	23	23	25	35	Nov	25
Stockgrove Country Park	43				3	Jun	23
Osterley Park Lakes	19	31	18	14	21	May	21
Fonthill Lake	20	38	22	4	10	May	19
Sutton Place	32	20	4				19
Allestree Park Lakes	5	5	37	16			16
Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve				9	23	Nov	16
Pen Ponds				17	11	Aug	14
Eversley Cross and Yateley Gravel Pits	9	25	4	8	21	Sep	13
Kedleston Park Lake	0	14	24				13
Panshanger Estate	12	11	16	8	19	Dec	13
Hampstead and Highgate Ponds	9	8	13	13	19	Nov	12
Bowood Lake	13	4	4	6	26	Oct	11
Longueville Marsh	6	25	13	0			11
Outwood Swan Sanctuary	19	12	2				11
Powdermill Reservoir	1	6	7	18	22	Dec	11
Woburn Park Lakes	8	6	18	11	11	Aug	11
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain[†]							
Hackness Lake	7	1	0	0	38	Nov	9
Blatherwyke Lake		2	0	3	21	Dec	7
Gatton Park	5	4	5	4	18	Mar	7
Weirwood Reservoir	0	0	0	0	18	Jan	4
Etherow Country Park	0	1	2		16	Dec	5
Mesnes Park Wigan	2	6	6	0	16	Nov	6
Tittesworth Reservoir		0	0	2	14 ¹³	Sep	4
Stratfield Saye	0	7	5	6	13	Feb	6
River Test - Leckford	0	2	10	5	10	Jun	5
Southill Lake	2	11	2	2	10	Oct	5

[†] 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



Mandarin (Neil Calbrade)

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

International threshold: 15,000
Great Britain threshold: 4,060
All-Ireland threshold: 820

GB max: 353,044 Jan
NI max: 5,857 Oct

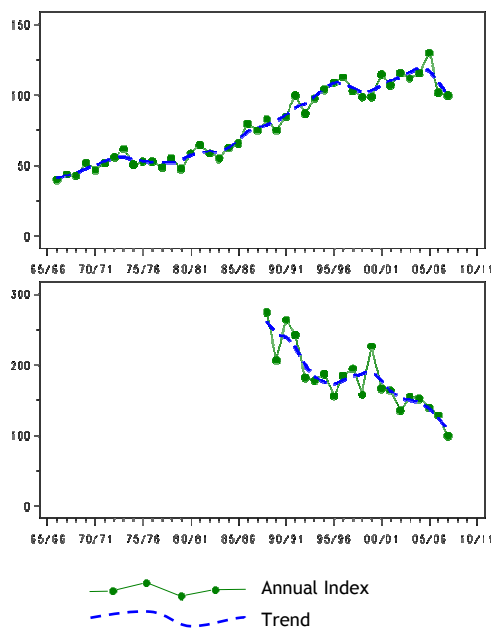


Figure 20.a, Annual indices & trend for Wigeon for GB (above) & NI (below).

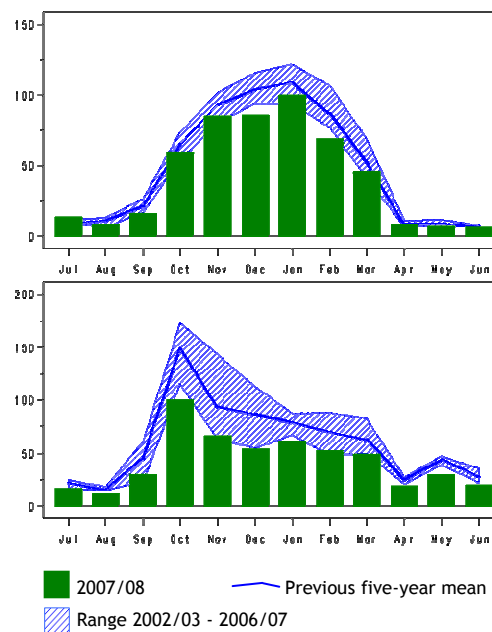


Figure 20.b, Monthly indices for Wigeon for GB (above) & NI (below).

Wigeon wintering in Great Britain largely comprise breeding birds from Scandinavia, northern Europe and eastern Russia. Over the longer term, numbers have doubled over the course of the 42-year indexing period. However there is a tendency for the annual index to show a greater degree of fluctuation compared to many species, probably in association with the response of large flocks to weather conditions on the near continent.

The annual index for Wigeon in 2007/08 was at level similar to last year, thereby representing another disappointing year by the standards of the six years following the turn of the last decade.

Two sites previously of international importance for Wigeon - Swale Estuary and Lindisfarne - failed to reach the qualifying threshold in 2007/08 after two relatively unproductive years; five sites remain internationally important. The five-year mean for the premier site, Ribble Estuary, increased to a record level following

another year when the peak monthly count at the site was in excess of 80,000 birds. Elsewhere, numbers fell at Ouse Washes and North Norfolk Coast for the second year in succession, while Somerset Levels had a productive year for this species in common with other dabbling ducks at the site.

The trend for the number of Wigeon using sites in Northern Ireland shows no signs of recovery. Numbers continued to crash in 2007/08, reaching their lowest ever level. As demonstrated by several wader species (Maclean et al. 2008), this is likely to be an artefact of a shift in distribution, whereby an increased proportion of the European wintering population may now be utilising sites further east and north as a result of climatic amelioration resulting in a gradual north-eastward shift. For example, in Sweden where the species was formally very scarce except in the mildest winters, several thousand birds now regularly winter (Nilsson 2008).

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ribble Estuary	82,627	86,157	79,659	(57,385)	84,974	Nov	83,354
Ouse Washes	33,773 ¹³	34,853 ¹³	55,816	26,984	19,800	Jan	34,245
Somerset Levels	29,397	15,346	18,142	27,391	28,882	Jan	23,832
Breydon Water and Berney Marshes	16,811	19,019	22,134	18,184 ¹³	21,400 ¹³	Jan	19,510
North Norfolk Coast	20,694	17,444	18,426	16,750	11,998	Dec	17,062
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Swale Estuary	20,772	13,832	16,651	7,041	11,560	Nov	13,971 ▼
Lindisfarne	(12,321)	15,960	13,614	10,840	(6,400)	Nov	13,471 ▼
Dornoch Firth	12,485	14,861	13,811	9,763	11,115	Oct	12,407
Lower Derwent Ings	13,171	10,215	14,320	11,710	11,600	Jan	12,203
Cromarty Firth	12,877	13,487	12,652	8,510	10,510	Oct	11,607
Severn Estuary	9,110	8,058	6,249	9,343	9,978	Jan	8,548
Morecambe Bay	7,151	8,095	8,929	(6,201)	(5,654)	Jan	8,058
Cleddau Estuary	6,045	8,468	9,441	7,643	7,130	Nov	7,745
Nene Washes	8,190	4,998	5,380	8,180	10,497	Feb	7,449
Alde Complex	(4,956)	7,274	7,182	8,280	6,337	Dec	7,268
Blackwater Estuary	7,057	7,385	6,708	(2,474)	5,667	Jan	6,704
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	7,587	5,595	6,078	5,863	7,666	Oct	6,558
The Wash	3,476	(3,444)	5,887	6,612	8,961	Dec	6,234
Middle Yare Marshes	4,998	7,846	6,291	3,890	6,507	Jan	5,906
Thames Estuary	5,565	4,343	6,449	3,566	9,293	Oct	5,843
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	5,658	2,464	6,695	5,797	(2,461)	Nov	5,154
Dungeness and Rye Bay	4,564	4,937	6,285	5,193	4,010	Jan	4,998
Abberton Reservoir	436	573	13,954	654	6,572	Nov	4,438 ▲
Montrose Basin	5,488	(4,147)	5,065	3,047	3,608	Jan	4,302
Fleet and Wey	(5,105)	4,469	6,122	3,087	2,285	Nov	4,214
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Lough Foyle	3,978	4,589	6,559	5,406	2,835	Oct	4,673
Strangford Lough	4,299	3,281	2,636	3,476	1,582	Oct	3,055
Loughs Neagh and Beg	3,060	3,611	2,701	1,878	1,614	Mar	2,573
Upper Lough Erne	921	1,284	631	1,229	981	Jan	1,009
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008							
Arun Valley	5,074	2,956	3,375	3,082	4,006	Feb	3,699
Humber Estuary	4,734 ¹¹	(3,570)	3,662	2,805	3,289	Nov	3,623
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain							
Exe Estuary	4,492	4,318	2,917	2,993	4,131	Oct	3,770
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008 in Northern Ireland							
Dundrum Inner Bay	658	840	447	482	881	Dec	662

American Wigeon

Anas americana

Vagrant

Native Range: N & C America

GB max: 2 Feb
NI max: 0

Five American Wigeons were recorded in 2007/08, a typical showing for recent years. Long-staying birds were noted at Cleddau Estuary from September to February and

Loch Bee on South Uist from February to April. The other records were from Beaulieu Estuary in Hampshire, Dyfi Estuary in Cardigan, and Loch of Spiggie in Shetland.

Chiloe Wigeon

Anas sibilatrix

Escape

Native Range: S America

GB max: 5 Sep
NI max: 0

Three Chiloe Wigeon were at Gnoll Ponds in September and October, with two at

Severn Estuary in September. Singles were at three other sites later in the year.

Falcated Duck

Anas falcata

Escape and possible vagrant
Native Range: Asia

GB max: 2 Feb
NI max: 0

Two male Falcated Ducks were recorded in 2007/08, both initially associating with flocks of Eurasian Wigeon. One that resided at Copmere in Staffordshire from December to April was discovered to be an escape,

whereas one on the Exe Estuary in February and March was considered a better candidate to be a genuine vagrant. These represent the seventh and eighth WeBS records.

Gadwall

Anas strepera

GB max: 17,156 Jan
NI max: 138 Sep

International threshold: 600
Great Britain threshold: 171
All-Ireland threshold: 20*

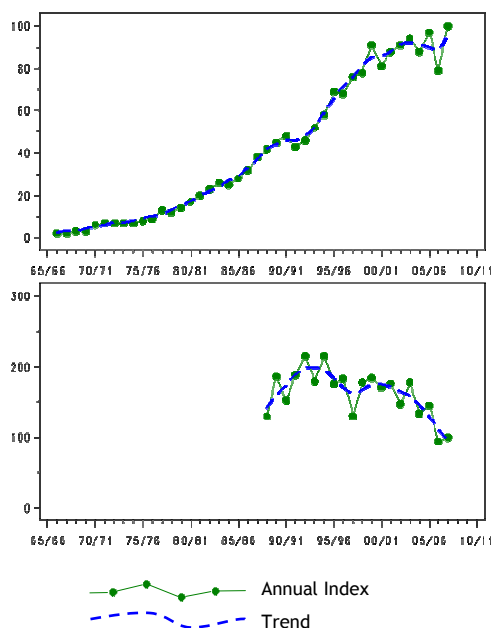


Figure 21.a, Annual indices & trend for Gadwall for GB (above) & NI (below).

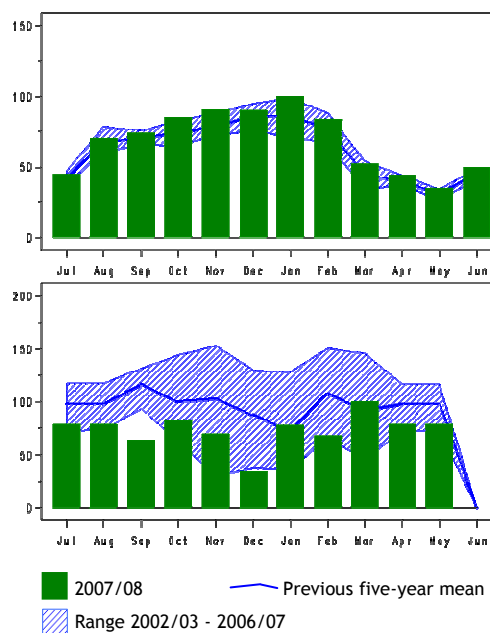


Figure 21.b, Monthly indices for Gadwall for GB (above) & NI (below).

The status of the Gadwall in Britain is a true success story of the last forty years. The wintering population includes birds from north and east Europe, while some of the small British breeding population winter in southern Europe. It would appear that the fall in numbers in 2006/07 reported in the previous 'Waterbirds in the UK' has proved to have been something of an anomaly (probably owing much to the unfavourable water levels at Britain's key site during that winter). In 2007/08, the species increased significantly, with the

British index and counted monthly maximum both rising to record levels - thereby continuing the trend of a steady increase exhibited since the mid 1970s. Six sites continued to be of international importance, the top five of which all supported numbers in excess of their five-year averages. A further 40 sites are classified as being nationally important, many of which are also seeing their five-year averages increasing year on year. Exceptions include the remarkable decline at Wraysbury Gravel Pits (where not a

single Gadwall was seen in 2007/08) and sharp falls at Blagdon Lake and Fairburn Ings.

The small wintering population in Northern Ireland has been in decline since the early 1990s and was at a similar level to 2006/07.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ouse Washes	889 ¹³	1,799 ¹³	2,289 ¹³	220	970	Feb	1,233
Rutland Water	1,096	491	670	904	992	Aug	831
River Avon - Fordingbridge to Ringwood	701	708	678	755	725	Jan	713
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	560	622	878	518	703	Dec	656
Somerset Levels	(430)	729	704	424	706	Jan	641
Abberton Reservoir	519	425	1,024	(535)	483	Nov	613
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Thames Estuary	554	471	377	451	(320)	Mar	463
Pitsford Reservoir	898	124	482	444	264	Nov	442
Loch Leven	635	360	392	309	284	Sep	396
Fen Drayton Gravel Pits	219	400	378	553	387	Dec	387
Tees Estuary	231	(289)	(332)	433	464	Nov	376
Cotswold Water Park (West)	375	327	427	330	(217)	Nov	365
Minsmere	239	309	398	410	468	Dec	365
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	198	307	(304)	425	437	Jan	342
Woolston Eyes	297	470	196	(84)	397	Sep	340
Dungeness and Rye Bay	224	340	268	362	485	Nov	336
Orwell Estuary	446	234 ¹¹	347 ¹¹	340 ¹¹	268	Jan	327
Hickling Broad	(200)	216	340	356			304
Little Paxton Gravel Pits	339	225	315	215	324	Feb	284
Chew Valley Lake	410	315	200	150	245	Aug	264
Alton Water	360	182	495	166	109	Jan	262
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	(255)	(69)	(74)	(131)	(108)	Sep	(255)
Severn Estuary	292	194	297	241	240	Jan	253
North Norfolk Coast	262	231	262	186	314	May	251
Eversley Cross and Yateley Gravel Pits	230	256	315	226	216	Jan	249
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	516	706	21	2	0		249
Fairburn Ings	367		278	266	63	Jun	244
Burghfield Gravel Pits	325	255	156	261	206	Dec	241
Alde Complex	(244)	352	172	171	221	Jan	232
Hornsea Mere	219	235	315	162	215	Oct	229
Stodmarsh NNR and Collards Lagoon	264	217	252	136	250	Dec	224
Meadow Lane Gravel Pits	190	153	354	165			216
North Warren and Thorpeness Mere	113	353	170 ¹³	220	218	Feb	215
Hoveton Great Broad	667		49	13	117	Jan	212
Theale Gravel Pits	(222)	(86)	(169)	(207)	205	Jan	211
Thrapston Gravel Pits	207						207
Chichester Gravel Pits	319	176	149	148	186	Jan	196
Tring Reservoirs	217	252	107	238	151	Jan	193
Lower Derwent Ings	215	147	108	319	171	Feb	192
Potteric Carr	(114)	(36)	(216)	182	176	Sep	191
Blagdon Lake	335	204	287	52	73	Jul	190
Ditchford Gravel Pits	192	180	178	184	176	Feb	182
Earls Barton Gravel Pits	124	(146)	73	281	226	Jan	176
Welbeck Estate	103	(98)	186	215	(183)	Sep	172 ▲
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	247	144	160	130	176	Feb	171 ▲
Lakenheath Fen	263	139	113	189	151	Sep	171
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	173	130	172	143	132	Sep	150
Strangford Lough	73	48	113 ¹¹	68 ¹¹	86 ¹¹	Jan	78
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008							
Humber Estuary	(104)	(82)	(112)	(179)	143	Jan	161
Lackford Lakes Nature Reserve	(225)	118	206	122	129	Jan	160
Whitlingham Country Park	358	72	149	111	114	Jan	161
Staines Reservoirs	126	455	126	47	91	Feb	169
Edderthorpe Flash				237	81	Jun	159
Redgrave Lake				253	75	Nov	164
Bainton Pits	168	200	206	(71)	65	Dec	160

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Blunham Gravel Pit	152						152
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain							
Blackwater Estuary	39	126	66	(5)	395	Jan	157
Trinity Broad	(13)	41	2	73	291	Dec	102
Nene Washes	168	58	64	151	277	Feb	144
Leighton Moss	16	22	155	205	246	Nov	129
Old Moor	111	36	168	165	239	Jun	144
Apex Pit - North Hykeham	3	7	13	(0)	219	Jan	61
Ouse Fen and Pits (Hanson/RSPB)	(94)	104	152	49	203	Jan	127
Winchester Sewage Treatment Works	68	72	49	90	201	Nov	96
Tophill Low Reservoirs	152	117	91	106	180	Sep	129
Holme Pierrepont Gravel Pits	(166)	(123)	(179)	90	173	Dec	152
Poole Harbour	35	53	40	38	173	Jan	68



Gadwall (Neil Calbrade)

Teal

Anas crecca

International threshold: 5,000
Great Britain threshold: 1,920
All-Ireland threshold: 450

GB max: 129,974 Jan
NI max: 5,155 Dec

The majority of Teal which spend the winter in Great Britain breed either on the near continent, in Iceland, or in Scandinavia.

The species has exhibited fluctuations in annual indices probably more than any of the other regular and abundant dabbling ducks. This annual variation may be partly as a result of cold weather movements, combined with the species' sensitivity to water levels which may alter the attractiveness of particular sites from year to year.

The current trend in Britain based on the last two years is downward. The peak monthly total was similar to the low total from the previous year and the index remains at a level comparable with that of ten years ago.

As demonstrated for several waders (Maclean *et al.* 2008), this species may be one of several affected by "short stopping", with a greater proportion of the wintering population potentially remaining at sites across the North Sea as a result of milder winters.

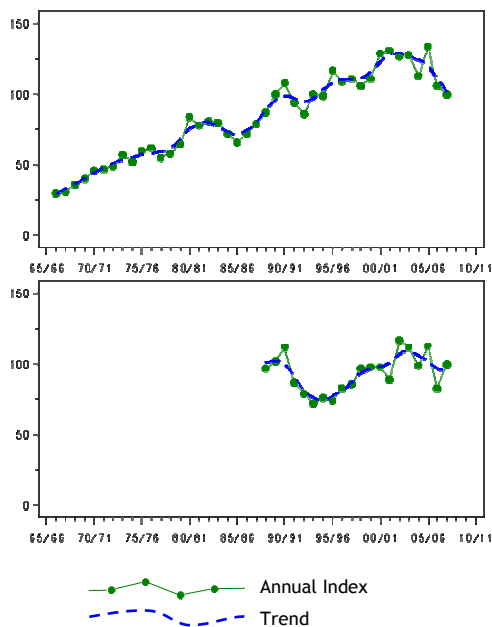


Figure 22.a, Annual indices & trend for Teal for GB (above) & NI (below).

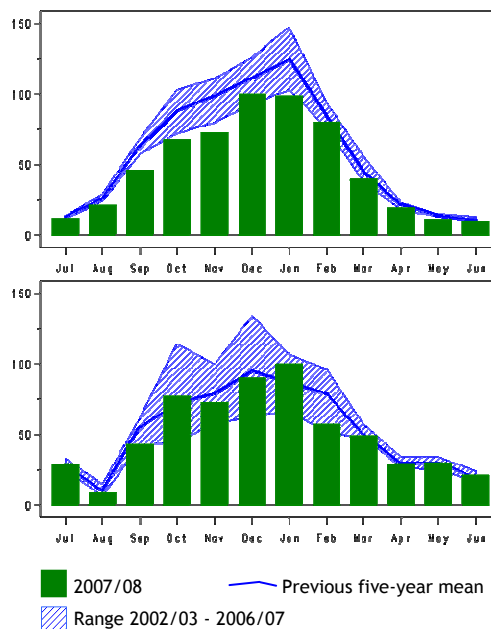


Figure 22.b, Monthly indices for Teal for GB (above) & NI (below).

Following a sharp fall in the previous year, the Northern Ireland index showed a recovery and was close to the average of the last ten years. Five sites in the UK qualified as being of international importance for Teal in 2007/08, one less than the previous year - following a drop in the five-year average for the Swale Estuary

to below the 5,000 threshold. The Somerset Levels supported high numbers for the second successive year with a peak monthly count of 17,663 in February representing the highest count from any site in the UK during the year. Compared to recent years, lower numbers were present at Ouse Washes and particularly WWT Martin Mere.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Somerset Levels	17,225	7,161	8,719	21,581	17,663	Feb	14,470
Ribble Estuary	7,421	8,688	9,571	(6,959)	6,895	Dec	8,144
Mersey Estuary	8,364	6,023	9,200 ¹¹	2,249	(2,072)	Jan	6,459
Ouse Washes	5,102	7,014 ¹³	9,772	4,333 ¹³	3,135	Oct	5,871
Thames Estuary	6,691	5,433	5,361	3,940	(3,041)	Feb	5,356
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Swale Estuary	5,428	4,187	(5,783)	(3,728)	4,470	Oct	4,967 ▼
Loch Leven	4,847	6,060	4,840	2,527	4,920	Oct	4,639
Severn Estuary	3,006	(3,466)	5,293	4,233	5,258	Jan	4,448
Lower Derwent Ings	4,061	3,476	4,479	4,221	3,714	Feb	3,990
WWT Martin Mere	5,100	8,300	3,800	1,430	1,200	Jan	3,966
Hamford Water	6,579	2,164	3,276	(1,969)	3,255	Nov	3,819
North Norfolk Coast	3,436	3,730	4,994	3,638	3,278 ¹¹	Jan	3,815
Abberton Reservoir	3,863	1,224	7,741	2,662	3,410	Dec	3,780
Breydon Water and Berney Marshes	1,982	4,733	2,372	3,620 ¹³	5,612 ¹³	Jan	3,664
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	5,459	2,752	2,854	4,429	2,144	Nov	3,528
Alde Complex	(2,530)	3,028	3,913	3,560	3,334	Nov	3,459
Humber Estuary	(5,111)	2,349	(3,739)	(1,775)	2,137	Jan	3,334
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	3,439	3,397	2,995	(1,890)	(2,208)	Oct	3,277
Holburn Moss	3,500	3,000					3,250
The Wash	4,251	2,590	4,107	2,138	2,537	Dec	3,125
Morecambe Bay	2,808	(3,699)	2,538	2,338	2,716	Jan	2,820
Hickling Broad	1,814	2,400	4,550	2,000			2,691
Mersehead RSPB Reserve	2,850	2,900		3,900	1,045	Nov	2,674

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Blackwater Estuary	(2,873)	(2,064)	2,751	(1,275)	2,207	Feb	2,610
Solway Estuary	(1,286)	1,941	3,152	(2,265)	(839)	Sep	2,547
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(1,129)	2,981 ¹¹	(1,926)	1,455	(1,900)	Dec	2,218 ▲
Forth Estuary	(2,511)	1,880	2,130	2,531	1,852	Feb	2,181
Stodmarsh NNR / Collards Lagoon	1,183	2,500	3,633	831	2,508	Jan	2,131 ▲
Minsmere	4,381	1,984	1,796	1,252	1,155	Dec	2,114
Dornoch Firth	2,655	2,571	2,174	(1,312)	1,055	Oct	2,114
Cleddau Estuary	2,129	2,269	2,435	1,389	1,991	Dec	2,043
Arun Valley	1,912	1,229	2,390	2,129	(2,343)	Jan	2,001
Loch Gruinart Floods	2,476	2,549	2,058	1,467	1,232	Nov	1,956
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	2,232	2,015	2,573	1,724	1,752	Jan	2,059
Loughs Neagh and Beg	2,732	2,019	1,427	1,049	1,297	Oct	1,705
Lough Foyle	582	1,038	1,405	915	1,562	Dec	1,100
Belfast Lough	667 ¹¹	544	573 ¹¹	488	713 ¹¹	Nov	597
Carlingford Lough	498	647	710	440	565	Feb	572
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008							
Nene Washes	2,730	726	584	1,677	2,078	Feb	1,559
Poole Harbour	2,357	1,806	1,402	(874)	(1,923)	Dec	1,872
Otmoor	(2,561)	(2,138)	519	1,625 ¹³	1,291	Dec	1,627
Upper Lough Erne	407	723	174	416	217	Jan	387
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain							
Nene Washes	2,730	726	584	1,677	2,078	Feb	1,559
Poole Harbour	2,357	1,806	1,402	(874)	(1,923)	Dec	1,872

Green-winged Teal

Anas carolinensis

Vagrant
Native Range: N America

GB max: 4 Feb
NI max: 2 Dec

Green-winged Teals were recorded at ten sites in Britain and one in Northern Ireland. Interestingly, the four sites which held long-staying birds also hosted two

together for one month; Ribble Estuary in November, Belfast Lough in December, Wigan Flashes in January and Dee Estuary, perhaps most unusually, in June.

Silver Teal

Anas versicolor

Escape
Native Range: S America

GB max: 1 Jul
NI max: 0

A Silver Teal was seen at Diss Mere in July; the first record for WeBS since August 2002.

Speckled Teal

Anas flavirostris

Escape
Native Range: S America

GB max: 1 Nov
NI max: 0

November saw the first WeBS record of Speckled Teal for Kirkby-on-Bain Gravel

Pits. The last year without any sightings was 2003/04.

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

GB max: 116,292 Oct
NI max: 6,930 Oct

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: 3,520†
All-Ireland threshold: 380

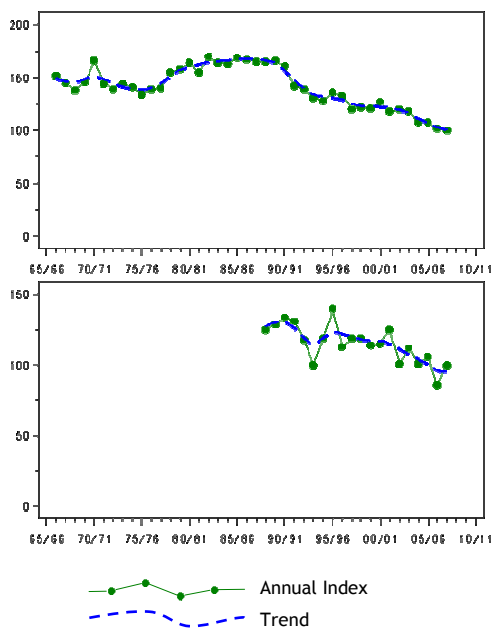


Figure 23.a, Annual indices & trend for Mallard for GB (above) & NI (below).

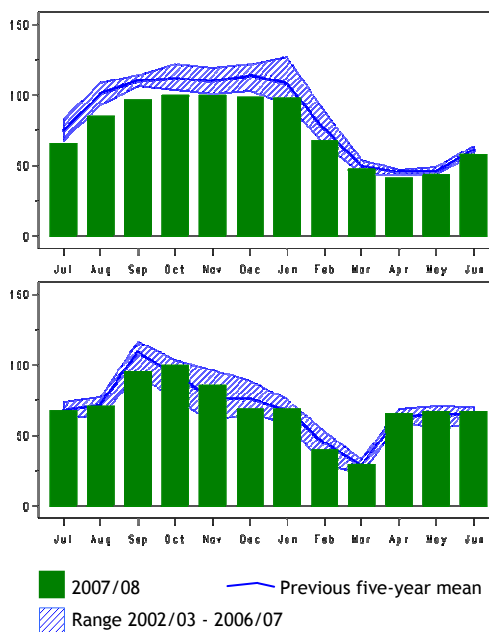


Figure 23.b, Monthly indices for Mallard for GB (above) & NI (below).

The UK's most ubiquitous and familiar duck has a widespread distribution across a range of wetland habitats. Yet in a recurring theme of recent annual reports, the long-term decline continued in 2007/08. The national index for Britain fell to its lowest ever level and that for Northern Ireland recovered compared to last year but remained below average.

It is considered likely that the recent trend of milder winters has enabled an increased proportion of the wintering population to utilise wetland sites further north and east on the continent. Such sites now have a greater tendency to be ice-free during the winter months. For example, the January population in Sweden had increased from 68,000 in 1971 to at least 150,000 in 2004 (Nilsson 2008).

The five-year average declined at most of the principal sites in the UK, including Loughs Neagh & Beg in Northern Ireland, where the peak count was the lowest since

1993/94; the most recent year in which the monthly maxima fell below 4,000.



Mallards (Thelma Sykes)

Continued declines were also apparent at Severn Estuary, Ouse Washes, WWT Martin Mere, The Wash and Humber Estuary - the five sites which hold a large proportion of the British wintering 'non-released' population. Consequently for the second year running no sites in Britain qualified as being of national importance. In contrast, at Somerset Levels the peak count increased for the fifth successive year and the maximum count surpassed the threshold of 2,000 for the first time since 2002/03.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	4,774	4,027	4,612	4,351	3,767	Oct	4,306
Strangford Lough	1,568	1,621	1,586	(1,010)	1,950	Oct	1,681
Lough Foyle	791	1,025	1,133	1,036	830	Nov	963
Lower Lough Erne	(494)	754	556	551	702	Dec	641
Belfast Lough	359	371 ¹¹	346	(344)	457	Nov	383 ▲
Sites with mean peak counts of 2,000 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Severn Estuary	2,836	3,353	3,884	3,661	2,954	Sep	3,338
Ouse Washes	3,988 ¹³	3,595 ¹³	2,454	2,606 ¹³	2,918 ¹³	Oct	3,112
WWT Martin Mere	3,350	2,930	3,150	2,211	2,000	Nov	2,728
The Wash	2,649	(2,453)	2,534	2,417	2,166	Jan	2,444
Livermere and Ampton Water	3,735	2,517	1,106		2,279	Oct	2,409
Humber Estuary	(2,347)	2,455	2,155	(1,752)	2,166	Jan	2,281
Swale Estuary	1,800	2,010	2,247	(1,301)	2,972	Jan	2,257
Clifford Hill Gravel Pits Consolidated	2,784	2,143	1,686	2,027	1,733	Nov	2,075
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain[†]							
Somerset Levels	1,335	1,345	1,557	1,646	2,029	Jan	1,582

[†] as no sites exceed the British threshold a qualifying level of 2,000 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Pintail

Anas acuta

International threshold: 600
Great Britain threshold: 279
All-Ireland threshold: 20*

GB max: 26,120 Jan
NI max: 465 Nov

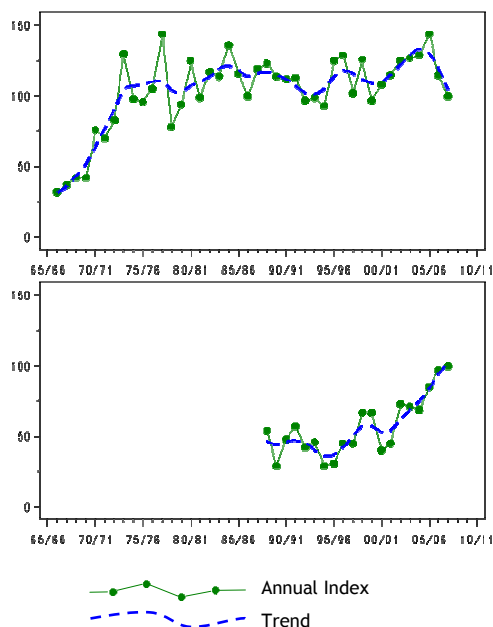


Figure 24.a, Annual indices & trend for Pintail for GB (above) & NI (below).

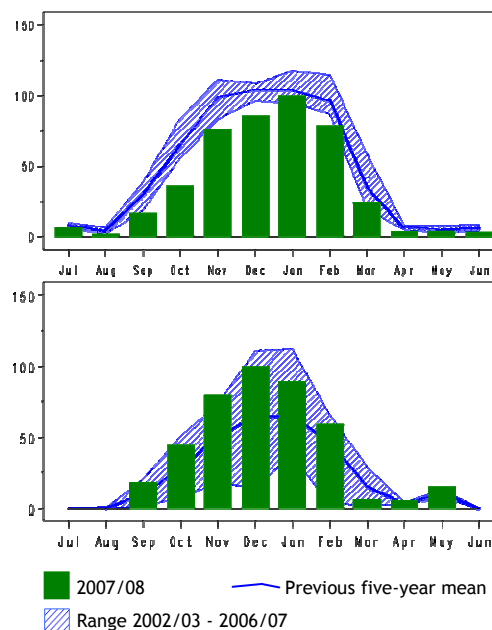


Figure 24.b, Monthly indices for Pintail for GB (above) & NI (below).

The national index for Pintail in Britain fell for the second year in succession and was 30 % lower than the high point reached in 2005/06. Sixteen sites remained of international importance for Pintail following 2007/08, and five tabulated sites

now have five-year means in excess of 3,000 birds.

For the first time since 1999/2000, the monthly maximum for Burry Inlet exceeded that received for Dee Estuary. The five-year average for the latter is some 20% greater than that for Burry Inlet, but the general

trend over the last twenty or so years has been for a steady increase at Burry Inlet whereas the Dee Estuary has remained largely stable. Elsewhere, Morecambe Bay experienced a decline for the fourth successive year and this year's count from Solway Estuary was some 75% lower than the five-year average, apparently not as a

result of poor coverage. In contrast, the December maximum noted at Ribble Estuary represented the highest monthly count there since January 1999.

In Northern Ireland, the index was at a similarly high level to last year, thereby consolidating the species' recent strong performance in the country.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	6,317	4,312	6,330	6,172	(4,334)	Nov	5,783
Burry Inlet	5,772	2,745	4,837	4,692	6,244	Jan	4,858
Ribble Estuary	(2,562)	(3,058)	3,579	(1,094)	3,609	Dec	3,594
Solway Estuary	4,183	4,352	(1,575)	(2,429)	1,047	Nov	3,194
Morecambe Bay	(3,942)	3,620	3,045	2,609	2,112	Feb	3,066
Ouse Washes	2,277 ¹³	3,557 ¹³	3,343 ¹³	1,823 ¹³	1,713 ¹³	Feb	2,543
Duddon Estuary	(1,299)	1,626 ¹¹	2,210 ¹¹	(2,317)	(1,153)	Oct	2,051
Nene Washes	1,779	327	281	1,931	1,267	Feb	1,117
Mersehead RSPB Reserve	480	970		1,010	1,445	Jan	976
The Wash	1,088	917	(567)	1,215	652	Dec	968
Severn Estuary	(354)	(784)	905	(1,161)	668	Dec	911
Medway Estuary	(95)	812 ¹¹	(809)	(582)	663	Jan	761
North Norfolk Coast	(768)	712	657	753	697 ¹¹	Jan	718
Swale Estuary	962	672	579	731	597	Dec	708
Pagham Harbour	477	834	893	566	(464)	Jan	693
Dee Flood Meadows	(580)	300 ¹³	(329)	916	750	Jan	655
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
WWT Martin Mere	463	710 ¹²	(535)	580	380	Jan	534
Somerset Levels	494	261	333	530	985	Feb	521
Blackwater Estuary	461	555	(387)	(68)	(201)	Oct	508
Wigtown Bay	(359)	(654)	349	166	834	Jan	501
North West Solent	391	412	670	484	407	Jan	473
Lower Derwent Ings	573	296	167	656	674	Feb	473
Lindisfarne	384	301	536	445	(327)	Feb	417
Stour Estuary	467	289	473	467	303	Nov	400
Arun Valley	403	293	290	574	(322)	Jan	390
Alde Complex	(330)	313	307	441	447	Jan	377
Orwell Estuary	325 ¹¹	165 ¹¹	308 ¹¹	753 ¹¹	192 ¹¹	Jan	349
Blyth Estuary	(40)	425 ¹³	(209)	394	185	Dec	335
Fleet and Wey	(281)	420	360	188	360	Nov	332
Poole Harbour	316	338	(208)	(140)	(155)	Nov	327
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	258	518	281	314	232	Feb	321
Malltraeth Cob and Pools	207	421	397	287	146	Jan	292
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	582	349	643 ¹¹	496	591 ¹¹	Dec	533
Lough Foyle	22	52	94	123	157	Feb	90
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008							
River Avon - Ringwood to Christchurch	25	46	1	(456)	507	Feb	207
Breydon Water and Berney Marshes	271 ¹¹	248	202	269 ¹¹	179	Feb	234
Crouch-Roach Estuary	267	(281)	380	221	161	Nov	262
Dungeness and Rye Bay	219	334	266	317	133	Jan	254
Otmoor	(374)	168 ¹³	63	(329)	(67)	Feb	234
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain							
River Avon - Ringwood to Christchurch	25	46	1	(456)	507	Feb	207
Fen Drayton Gravel Pits	149	1	16	554	391	Feb	222
Traeth Bach	82	80	65	325	341	Jan	179
Ribble Valley at Long Preston				185	300	Feb	243

Yellow-billed Pintail

Anas georgica

Escape
Native Range: S America

GB max: 2 Mar
NI max: 0

Two at Beddington Sewage Farm in March were the first for WeBS since December 2004.

White-cheeked Pintail

Anas bahamensis

Escape
Native Range: S America

GB max: 2 Jun
NI max: 0

In addition to single White-cheeked Pintails at the favoured sites of Stanton Lake (January to June) and Doddington Pool

(June), two at Birnie Loch in August represented a new WeBS species for that site.

Garganey

Anas querquedula

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

GB max: 52 May 2007
NI max: 13 Sep 2007

Being summer visitors, Garganey are reported here for the calendar year of 2007. Records were received from 61 sites, a third fewer than during 2006. These included four locations in Scotland, three in Wales and one in Northern Ireland. In Wales, May birds were noted at Cors Crugyll, Dyfi Estuary (2) and Burry Inlet, while in Scotland singles were seen at Balranald RSPB Reserve, Inner Firth of Clyde and Loch of Strathbeg in May to June, and at Mersehead RSPB Reserve in both May and August.

In Northern Ireland, birds were noted at Loughs Neagh & Beg for the second successive year, with a peak of 13 in

September representing the highest single count of the year anywhere in the UK. This is particularly notable considering that the records from there in 2006 were the first ever for WeBS in Northern Ireland.

Numbers were approximately evenly split between spring and autumn, with the monthly peak occurring in May rather than the more typical September. Away from Loughs Neagh & Beg, the highest counts were 11 at North Norfolk Coast in September, nine at Dungeness & Rye Bay in May, five at Tees Estuary in May, and five at Blackwater Estuary in August; the first to be recorded there since five in May 2002.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 4 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	12	14	12	6	2	Aug	9
Dungeness and Rye Bay	3	4	8	9	9	May	7
Middle Yare Marshes	(7)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)		(7)
North Norfolk Coast	3	4	5	1	11	Sep	5
Tophill Low Reservoirs	1	7 ¹³	2	2	11 ¹³	Aug	5
Sites with mean peak counts of 4 or more birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	0	0	0	6	13	Sep	4
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain[†]							
Blackwater Estuary	0	0	0		5	Aug	1
Tees Estuary	2	(4)	(2)	2	5	May	3

[†] 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

Shoveler

Anas clypeata

GB max: 13,283 Feb
NI max: 212 Dec

International threshold: 400
Great Britain threshold: 148
All-Ireland threshold: 20*

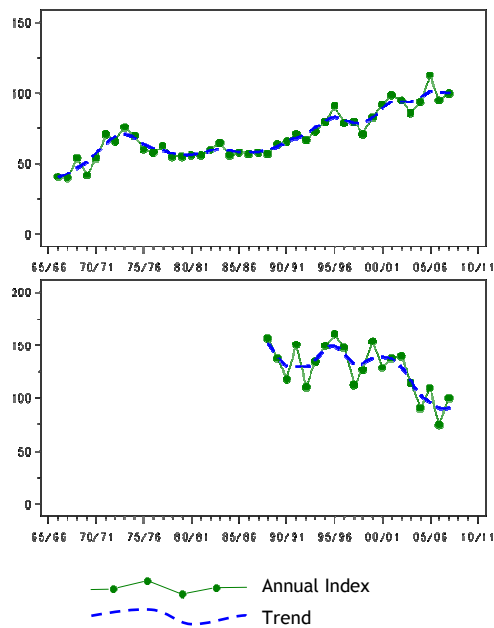


Figure 25.a, Annual indices & trend for Shoveler for GB (above) & NI (below).

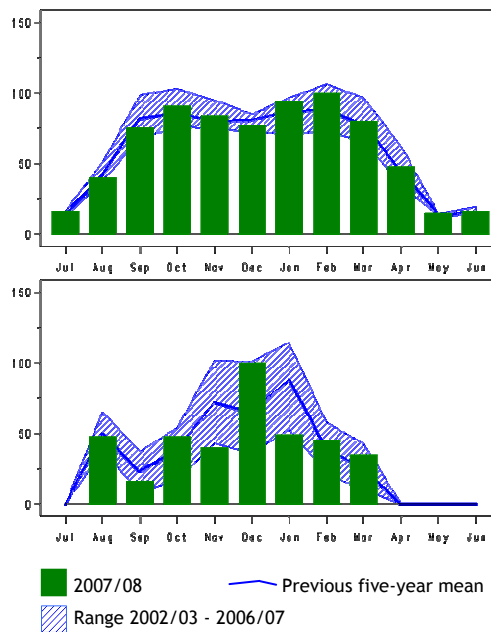


Figure 25.b, Monthly indices for Shoveler for GB (above) & NI (below).

The annual index for Shoveler in Great Britain has shown a gradual increase in numbers over the last fifteen years. Traditionally, numbers peak at most sites during the autumn period. However, examination of the monthly indices for this recent period suggest that the increase may be associated with a greater proportion of birds remaining here for the winter, as opposed to continuing further south to France and Spain.

In contrast, numbers in Northern Ireland have declined since the mid 1990s. Counts at Strangford Lough in 2007/08 were again low, being half those of the five-year mean.

Nine sites held internationally important numbers of Shoveler, the two most important of which were Ouse Washes and Somerset Levels. Numbers at the former returned to normal levels following the dip in 2006/07 as a result of unfavourable water levels. The count from Somerset Levels was the most there since January 2003 when 2,190 were seen, and the third highest single Core count ever received.

Four new sites (plus the newly consolidated Dungeness & Rye Bay complex) qualified as being of national importance, whereas notably lower counts than normal were received from Walthamstow and Staines Reservoirs, and Fairburn Ings.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ouse Washes	1,104 ¹²	2,725 ¹²	1,548 ¹²	696 ¹²	1071	Mar	1429
Somerset Levels	784	(902)	845	1,520	1806	Jan	1216
Rutland Water	475	663	680	495	620	Oct	587
Dungeness and Rye Bay	453	451	626	553	581	Nov	533 ▲
Abberton Reservoir	488	355	(674)	(152)	604	Nov	530
Chew Valley Lake	565	395	660	300	180	Sep	420
Thames Estuary	415	402	357	524	(113)	Sep	425
Severn Estuary	325	266	603	600	796	Jan	518

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	322	468	333	540 ¹⁰	754	Feb	476
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Medway Estuary	(26)	19 ¹⁰	248	(509)	(68)	Jan	379
Burry Inlet	327	344	437	101	309	Jan	304
Alde Complex	(106)	175	253	441	295	Nov	291
Ribble Estuary	231	219	286	532	188	Mar	291
Swale Estuary	330	292	199	(144)	331	Jan	288
Nene Washes	200	177	213	448	384	Feb	284
Stodmarsh & Collards Lagoon	202	272	384	400	147	Feb	281
Lower Derwent Ings	319	314	107	301	341	Mar	276
Loch Leven	295	386	204	279	205	Oct	274
North Norfolk Coast	212	234	278	380	258	Feb	272
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(43)	(51)	(32)	(78)	(259)	Dec	(259) ▲
Pitsford Reservoir	378	70	347	329	148	Oct	254
Staines Reservoirs	261	308	469	149	65	Feb	250
Blagdon Lake	146	160	(220)	542	137	Oct	246
Grafham Water	112	266	357				245
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	246	275	282	164	184	Jan	230
Tees Estuary	181	(145)	145	309	170	Sep	201
R. Avon: Fordingbridge-Ringw'd	188	149	195	153	312	Feb	199
Fairburn Ings	221		288	226	54	Mar	197
London Wetland Centre	132	160	176	185	327	Dec	196
Trinity Broad	137	304	(0)	(27)	338	Mar	195 ▲
Arun Valley	195	175	98	278	217	Feb	193
Minsmere	180	227	183	218	138	Dec	189
Woolston Eyes	175	157	317	(109)	91	Nov	185
Llynnau Y Fali	233	232	210	135	59	Feb	174
Middle Yare Marshes	(96)	(111)	(170)	(84)	(174)	Sep	(174)
Malltraeth RSPB	124	173	147	250	156	Oct	170
Walthamstow Reservoirs	212	265	142	155	64	Feb	168
Chichester Gravel Pits	321	173	165	67	78	Dec	161
Otmoor	(68)	(150)	95	(224)	(175)	Mar	161
WWT Martin Mere	162	198	217	35	150	Nov	152 ▲
Cotswold Water Park (West)	91	126	163	222	(133)	Mar	151
Tring Reservoirs	43	99	225	130	256	Oct	151 ▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	201	119	147	139 ¹⁰	73	Dec	122
Loughs Neagh and Beg	42	51	55	34	90	Dec	54
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008							
Edderthorpe Flash				210	68	Dec	139
Chetwynd Pool	156	220	57	150	33	Oct	123
Morecambe Bay	184	167	159	174	22	Feb	141
Hickling Broad	81	108	100	163			113
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain							
Bardney Pits			84	68	267	Oct	140
Fleet and Wey	54	106	(101)	137	193	Feb	123
Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	50	61	110	74	189	Feb	97
Llyn Traffwl	58	68	178	207	185	Mar	137
Swillington Ings	72	135	68	62	184	Oct	104
Cotswold Water Park (East)	21	25	147	65	177	Mar	87
Humber Estuary	(127)	(99)	(128)	92	171	Dec	132
North Warren / Thorpeness Mere	54	166	96	151	171	Feb	128
Aqualate Mere	74	20	44	49	164	Oct	70
Tophill Low Reservoirs	44	44	119	115	163	Aug	97
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	108	150	(68)	152	148	Sep	140
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Northern Ireland							
Belfast Lough	21	22	12	15	28	Dec	20

Ringed Teal

Callonetta leucophrys

Escape
Native Range: S America

GB max: 1 Apr
NI max: 0

One was at Clennon Valley in April.