

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

International threshold: 6,800

Great Britain threshold: +[†]

All-Ireland threshold: +[†]

GB max: 1,551 May

NI max: 7 May

The majority of Whimbrels seen in Britain are en route to and from breeding sites in Iceland, Scandinavia and western Siberia, and the main wintering areas in West Africa. Largest gatherings tend to be noted in spring, often at roost sites close to rich feeding areas (Swartz 1990), during the short period of passage which generally peaks during a short a period in late April and early May. This timing, outside the mid-month Core count priority dates, tends to result in the species being poorly monitored by WeBS. Therefore, any additional counts for use in the table below of birds at wetland sites are particularly welcomed. It is estimated that as many as 800,000 to 1,100,000 Whimbrels pass through Western Europe each autumn and spring; however very few major staging areas have been located so it is likely that many birds migrate to West Africa in single non-stop flights (Delany *et al.* 2009). Preliminary satellite tracking has been carried out on this species (www.whimbrel.info/Wally%202005.htm), but further work would no doubt generate a greater understanding of the species' migration strategies.

During 2008/09, Whimbrels were recorded at 144 across the UK, including five in Northern Ireland. Typically, numbers peaked in spring, with a monthly maximum of 1,551 noted in May. Spring passage of Whimbrels has a more westerly distribution than autumn passage (Grant 2002). This is illustrated by the sites where the highest numbers were seen in May; Severn Estuary (241), Morecambe Bay (103) and Taw-Torridge Estuary (93), while the highest numbers in July were seen at The Wash (151) and North Norfolk Coast (123).

A very small number of individuals winter on favoured British estuaries. In 2008/09, twelve sites held birds during the core winter period of December to February, involving a maximum of 20 birds. The majority were at coastal sites, including the winter's peak count of four at Chichester Harbour in February. Elsewhere, two inland at Somerset Levels in February were noteworthy, while birds were also seen further north at Forth Estuary, Solway Firth and Cambois to Newbiggin. None were seen during the winter in Northern Ireland.

	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Barnacre Reservoir and Grizedale Lea	553 ⁴⁶	270 ⁴⁷	477 ⁴⁶	417 ⁴⁶			429
The Wash	(414)	292	233	324	(151)	Jul	316
Brockholes Quarry	289 ⁴⁷	154 ⁴⁷	210 ¹³	304 ¹³			239
Dungeness and Rye Bay	373 ⁴⁰	222 ⁴⁷	246 ¹³	287 ¹³	18	Apr	229
Severn Estuary	(197)	101	(186)	(85)	241	May	171
North Norfolk Coast	166	129	70	257	123	Jul	149
Burry Inlet	175	111	223	40	94	Aug	129
Morecambe Bay	(182)	60	(53)	(16)	103	May	115
Chichester Harbour	143	78	31	209	83	Aug	109
Taw-Torridge Estuary	(45)	(89)	(42)	(17)	93	May	93
Langstone Harbour	78	96	58	84	73	May	78
Humber Estuary	(82)	107	78	36	57	Jul	72
Exe Estuary	42	(48)	109	60	51	Apr	66
Southampton Water	(29)	63	(27)	(7)	(46)	May	63
Lower Derwent Ings	139 ⁴³	95 ⁴⁷	0	1			59
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2008/09 in Great Britain[†]							
Camel Estuary	26	26	12	40	83 ¹²	May	37
Ribble Estuary	15	0	9	7	58	Apr	18
Gerrans Bay	1	3	4	4	52	Apr	13
Pegwell Bay	26	27	76	19	51	Apr	40

[†] 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

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

International threshold: 8,500
Great Britain threshold: 1,500
All-Ireland threshold: 550

GB max: 73,674 Feb
NI max: 5,411 Feb

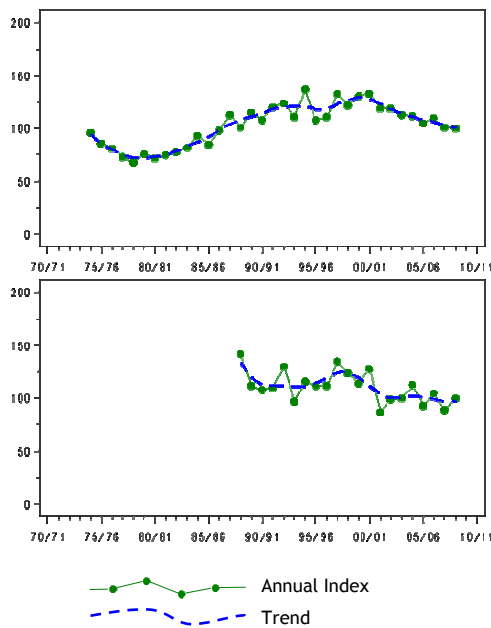


Figure 52.a, Annual indices & trend for Curlew for GB (above) & NI (below).

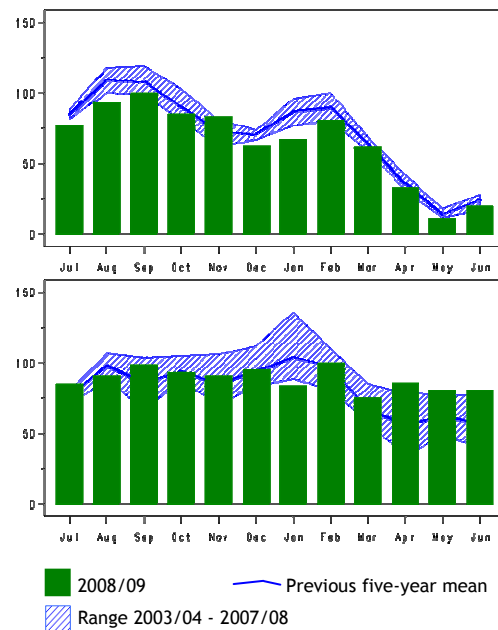


Figure 52.b, Monthly indices for Curlew for GB (above) & NI (below).

The wintering population of Curlews in the UK comprises both British and Scandinavian breeding birds. While the British breeding population has declined in recent years (Baillie *et al.* 2010), numbers in Scandinavia appear to have stabilised, in contrast to those of other common waders such as Lapwing, Snipe and Redshank (e.g. Heldbjerg & Eskildsen 2009). In the UK, studies in response to this decline in breeding numbers have focussed on factors affecting productivity, particularly with respect to predation. Amar *et al.* (2010) found a weak link between increasing Raven abundance and the breeding decline of Curlews in the uplands of UK. Furthermore, Fletcher *et al.* (2010) showed that predator control of predators (Red foxes and crows) led to subsequent increases in numbers and breeding success of Lapwing, Curlew and Golden Plover, all of which declined in the absence of predator control.

Numbers of wintering Curlew increased from the mid 1970s until the start of the 2000s, since when the trend has been one

of a steady decline. This fall continued in 2008/09, and the index is now at its lowest level for over twenty years. Reasons for this decline are likely to be associated with shifts in wintering distribution (Maclean *et al.* 2008) as much as an artefact of the overall decline in breeding numbers however; supported by evidence from The Netherlands where numbers of wintering birds continue to increase steadily (Hustings *et al.* 2009).

In 2008/09, Morecambe Bay became the UK's sole site of international importance for Curlew. This follows the relegation of The Wash (which, in recent years, had been surviving above the qualifying threshold largely due to the site's maximum count of 15,336 there in 2003/04). On a more positive note, the maximum monthly count of 13,136 from Morecambe Bay in November represents the second highest there in the last six years. However, this is still some way short of the all-time record count for this species of 22,300 there in August 1973 - the likes of which may never be seen again

if the recent downward trend for this species in the UK continues. Counts at most of the other major sites were largely similar to recent years. Exceptions were the lowest number reported from Dee Estuary since 1993/94 and the highest total recorded at Severn Estuary since 1994/95.

The trend for Northern Ireland indicates a slow decline in recent years, with

numbers in 2008/09 at the four principal sites largely in keeping with the respective five-year means for each site. Outer Ards Shoreline re-qualified as a site of national importance (the lowest ever peak monthly count having been noted there in the previous year).

	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Morecambe Bay	8,328	9,515	14,027	9,402	13,136	Nov	10,882
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
The Wash	6,978	5,140	9,710	7,664	7,548	Sep	7,408 ▼
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	6,933	4,666	5,565	5,346	3,608	Oct	5,224
Thames Estuary	3,352	(3,611)	6,993	3,722	4,130	Sep	4,549
Humber Estuary	3,768	(4,818)	5,180	3,993	(3,071)	Feb	4,440
Solway Estuary	(3,328)	(3,456)	4,007	(3,185)	(2,691)	Oct	4,007
Forth Estuary	(2,827)	3,599	4,567	3,568	4,023	Sep	3,939
Severn Estuary	(2,613)	2,514	(3,230)	(2,560)	3,396	Sep	3,047
Poole Harbour	(2,472)	(1,013)	(1,135)	(908)	(866)	Dec	(2,472)
North Norfolk Coast	1,835	2,284	2,190	2,884	2,318	Jul	2,302
Lavan Sands	2,413	1,955	3,243	1,091	1,839	Oct	2,108
Duddon Estuary	1,883	1,816	2,113	2,145	(2,315)	Feb	2,054
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	2,137	1,838	(1,939)	1,687	1,840	Jan	1,888
Burry Inlet	1,831	2,587	1,413	1,370	1,689	Sep	1,778
Chichester Harbour	1,628	1,889	2,052	1,760	1,481	Aug	1,762
Blackwater Estuary	1,848	1,914	1,296	(1,267)	1,481	Oct	1,635
Inner Firth of Clyde	1,301	1,417	2,017	1,673	1,716	Sep	1,625
Mersey Estuary	1,830	1,792	1,379	(982)	1,038	Nov	1,510
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Lough Foyle	3,115	2,038	2,681	2,510	2,588	Feb	2,586
Strangford Lough	1,594	1,523	1,918 ¹¹	1,552	1,571	Oct	1,632
Belfast Lough	730 ¹³	494 ¹¹	779 ¹¹	821	567	Sep	678
Carlingford Lough	732	576	754	(759)	470	Nov	658
Outer Ards Shoreline	838	632	519	238	601	Nov	566 ▲
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2008/09							
Cleddau Estuary	(789)	1,246	(1,869)	1,832	967	Sep	1,479
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2008/09 in Great Britain							
Montrose Basin	604	1,536	1,115	1,734	1,822	Aug	1,362



Curlew (John Harding)

Terek Sandpiper

Xenus cinereus

Vagrant

Native Range: Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia

One was at Tees Estuary in July; the seventh WeBS record and first since November 1994.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

International threshold: 17,500

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 929 Jul

NI max: 13 Aug

Away from upland breeding areas, Common Sandpipers are seen at a range of wetland habitats throughout Britain during passage periods. A study of the migration strategies within the breeding range in northern England demonstrated that breeding birds did not join passage birds of more northern origin that were using sites nearby for refuelling (Holland 2009).



Common Sandpiper (Jill Pakenham)

At most sites, the highest numbers of passage birds in 2008/09 were noted in August, when Pegwell Bay again hosted over

100 birds. Other favoured sites also held relatively high numbers; the counts from both Dungeness & Rye Bay and Severn Estuary were the highest at both of those sites since August 1999.

A small, but increasing, number of birds have over-wintered in the UK in recent years. During the period December to February, approximately 60 birds were recorded at WeBS sites, with, typically, the majority relating to singles at coastal sites primarily in the south. Maxima during that mid-winter period involved four at Roadford Reservoir, Avon Estuary and Pegwell Bay, while in November there were six at Pegwell Bay and Camel Estuary, and in March there were five at Cleddau Estuary. Aside from those at Roadford Reservoir, the only other inland site to hold multiple birds was Walthamstow Reservoirs where two were seen in February.

In Northern Ireland, one was at Loughs Neagh & Beg in February, the first winter record there.

Sites with 30 or more birds in 2008/09[†]

Pegwell Bay	122	Aug	Severn Estuary	40	Jul
Dungeness & Rye Bay	72	Aug	North Norfolk Coast	35	Aug
Abberton Reservoir	46	Aug	Ribble Estuary	33	Aug

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 30 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

International threshold: 17,000

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 485 Aug

NI max: 0 0

Green Sandpipers were recorded during WeBS Core counts at 258 sites in 2008/09, but there were none in Northern Ireland. Typically, the species was widely

distributed, particularly across England, during the autumn passage period with a monthly maximum of 485 recorded in August. The peak count of 32 noted at

North Norfolk Coast in August was the highest WeBS count there since 49 during the same month in 1995. The historical maximum is 82 at Thames Estuary in August 1973. Peak counts from Scotland and Wales were five at Loch of Strathbeg and four at Malttraeth RSPB, respectively.

During the core winter period, when sites with flowing freshwater such as streams and watercress beds, tend to be favoured,

the species was noted at 134 WeBS sites. Typifying recent years, the two premier sites were River Avon (Salisbury to Fordingbridge) and Beddington Sewage Farm, which held up to ten and 15 individuals, respectively, during the course of the winter. Away from England, counts of more than one wintering bird were received from just one site in Scotland and two in Wales.

Sites with 15 or more birds in 2008/09[†]

North Norfolk Coast	32	Aug	Colne Estuary	17	Aug
Arun Valley	24	Aug	Pegwell Bay	17	Aug
R.Cam:Upware-Dimmocks Cote	24	Jul	Beddington Sewage Farm	16	Jul

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 15 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

International threshold: 900
Great Britain threshold: +[†]
All-Ireland threshold: +[†]

GB max: 118 Oct
NI max: 1 Sep

Spotted Redshanks breed from Scandinavia through sub-Arctic Russia, most wintering in equatorial Africa, with a small proportion remaining in Western Europe. In general, very little is known about population trends in the species, although there are considered to be no major threats to breeding populations and numbers appear to be stable (Delany *et al.* 2009).

In the UK in 2008/09, typically the majority were recorded in autumn and winter, with a smaller number in spring. It proved to be a typical year for the species; noted at the same number of sites (75) as in 2007/08, and peak counts at the three main sites were all very similar to the five-year averages. There appears to be temporal variation in the selection of these sites by

this species; The Wash tends to be favoured during the main autumn passage period, while counts on North Norfolk Coast often peak later in the autumn and those at Blackwater Estuary during early winter.

The British peak monthly count of Spotted Redshanks was 118 in October. This peak count was 40% lower than the monthly maximum for the previous year, and included a count of 26 at North Norfolk Coast. During the subsequent winter months the largest counts were 26 at Blackwater Estuary in November, nine at North Norfolk Coast in December, and 10 at Dee Estuary in January.

A single at Dundrum Inner Bay in December was one of just two records in Northern Ireland during the WeBS-year.

	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain [†]							
The Wash	39	39	86	40	48	Aug	50
North Norfolk Coast	34	35	42	29	26	Oct	33
Blackwater Estuary	42	24	8	32	26	Nov	26
Humber Estuary	21	10	25	13	13	Aug	16
Minsmere	3	14	3	6	47	Jul	15
Abberton Reservoir	0	26	(0)	14	4	Oct	11
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	12	8	7	12	14	Jul	11

[†] 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

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

GB max: 1,475 Aug
NI max: 152 Dec

International threshold: 2,300
Great Britain threshold: 6*
All-Ireland threshold: 20*

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

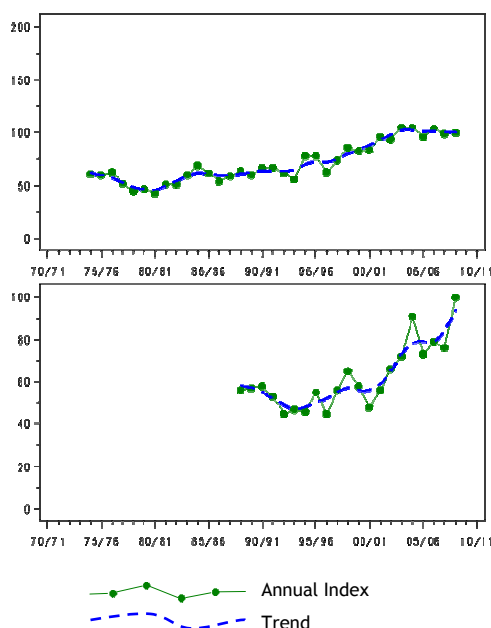


Figure 53.a, Annual indices & trend for Greenshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

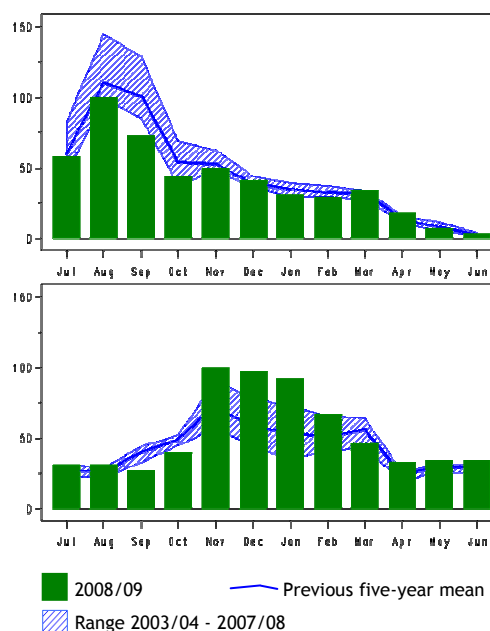


Figure 53.b, Monthly indices for Greenshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

Greenshanks were recorded at 207 WeBS sites during Core counts throughout 2008/09. Typically, peak counts occurred during autumn passage when birds migrate from breeding grounds in northern Europe (including sites in Scotland) to wintering areas in south-west Europe, and north and western Africa. The record of 301 at The Wash in August represents the most noted at the site for five years.

The number over-wintering in Britain has increased over the last twenty-five or so years, probably as a result of milder climatic conditions (Austin & Rehfish 2005, Maclean *et al.* 2008). In Britain, the winter

peak was 25 at Chichester Harbour in November; a site where wintering numbers have increased at a slow but steady rate in recent years - epitomising the national situation. The trend for the last five years suggests that the British population has now stabilised.

However, wetlands in Northern Ireland typically host the majority of Greenshanks recorded in winter in the UK and in 2008/09 the index there rose to its highest point. Maxima were 95 at Strangford Lough in December and 48 at Lough Foyle in February.

	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 20 or more birds in Great Britain†							
The Wash	204	258	201	252	301	Aug	243
Thames Estuary	259	144	196	132	(125)	Aug	183
Blackwater Estuary	147	(84)	(73)	(119)	(86)	Aug	147
North Norfolk Coast	118	147	118	87	71	Jul	108
Stour Estuary	88	78	106	103	110	Aug	97
Chichester Harbour	80	91	132	77	82	Aug	92
Hamford Water	69	104	79	86	31	Sep	74
Fal Complex	52	58	59	66	52	Oct	57

	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	Mon	Mean
Morecambe Bay	94	33	59	(28)	44	Sep	52
Exe Estuary	56	38	71	41	34	Oct	48
Pegwell Bay	(6)	36	42 ¹²	40	64 ¹³	Aug	46
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	36	(16)	32	50	67	Sep	46
Kingsbridge Estuary	50	35	27	45	48	Sep	41
Langstone Harbour	44	38	51	37	26	Aug	39
Humber Estuary	(34)	33	21	(47)	(52)	Sep	37
Medway Estuary	(35)	(4)	(10)	(9)	(4)	Jul	(35)
Tamar Complex	42	36	29	32	31	Sep	34
Taw-Torridge Estuary	11	29	22	34	39	Nov	31
Cleddau Estuary	26	42 ¹¹	25	25	39	Sep	31
North West Solent	(16)	(17)	29	31	24	Aug	28
Jersey Shore			26	28			27
Swale Estuary	(24)	(55)	(15)	(7)	9	Nov	26
Solway Estuary	(24)	(4)	(6)	(5)	(6)	Aug	(24)
Camel Estuary	32	(21)	(20)	16	19	Oct	22
Poole Harbour	17	(9)	(19)	(24)	11	Nov	20
Tophill Low Reservoirs	10	(2)	4	62 ¹³	3	Aug	20
Montrose Basin	(6)	5	19	(19)	36	Aug	20
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	117	84	85	65	95	Dec	89
Lough Foyle	37	74	34	65	48	Feb	52
Carlingford Lough	26	39	40	66	(17)	Aug	43
Dundrum Inner Bay	18	22	24	20	28	Aug	22
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2008/09 in Great Britain[†]							
Ribble Estuary	(11)	17	10	14	26	Aug	17
Forth Estuary	(18)	17	9	11	24	Sep	16
Yealm Estuary	16	21	6	11	20	Oct	15
R.Eden: Grinsdale to Sandsfield			0	8	20	Aug	9

[†] as the British threshold is low a qualifying level of 20 has been used to select sites for presentation in this report

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

International threshold: 10,500

Great Britain threshold: +[†]

All-Ireland threshold: +[†]

GB max: 34 Aug

NI max: 0 0

During the course of 2008/09, Wood Sandpipers were seen at 21 WeBS sites in England and four in Wales.

Autumn records involved four birds in July, 34 in August and 11 in September - as ever, such totals will have been highly dependent on Core count dates coinciding with fluxes of passage. There were three spring records, all in May, at Loch of Hillwell, Camel Estuary (2) and Tees Estuary (2).



Wood Sandpiper (Ben Green)

Sites with 3 or more birds in 2008/09[†]

Breydon Water & Berney Marshes

Aug

Arun Valley

Aug

Abberton Reservoir

Aug

Thames Estuary

Aug

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 3 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

International threshold: 2,800
Great Britain threshold: 1,200
All-Ireland threshold: 310

GB max: 92,838 Oct
NI max: 9,399 Sep

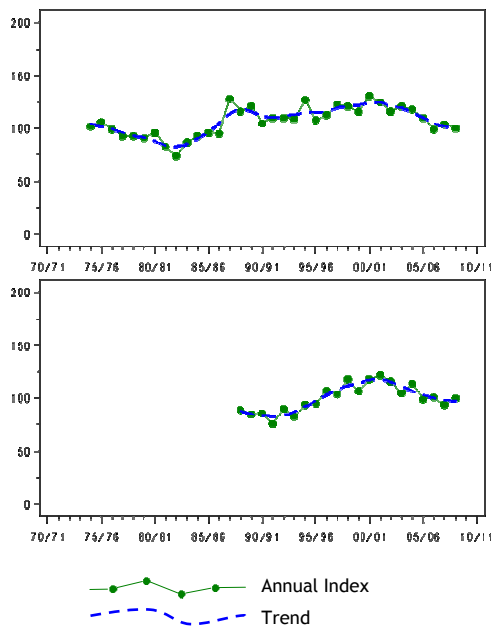


Figure 54.a, Annual indices & trend for Redshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

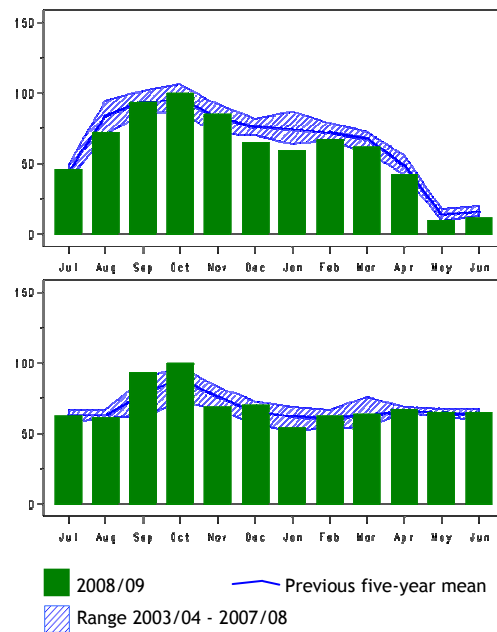


Figure 54.b, Monthly indices for Redshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

Predominantly found on the coast in the UK, the non-breeding population of Redshanks is considered to comprise local breeders and birds from Iceland and nearby European populations. In 2008/09, twelve sites qualified as internationally important for the species in Britain, and a further 21 as nationally important. The majority of monthly maxima at the sites of international importance were in the late autumn period, spanning September to November, typical for this species. Scrutiny of the monthly indices indicate that numbers in the passage periods were close to average, but wintering totals, particularly those in December and January, were markedly down compared to recent years. This is suggestive of a geographical shift in wintering distribution of the nominate *totanus* population, supported by the fact that numbers of Redshanks in The Netherlands have slowly increased since the mid 1990s (Hustings *et al.* 2009). Consequently, the downward trend in the British index continues; a

similar pattern to that shown by other species considered to have undergone an eastward shift in core wintering range.

No obvious marked reductions in peak numbers were noted at most of the principal sites compared to the previous year, although there were contrasting fortunes for the two most important. At Dee Estuary, numbers have been slowly declining since 1990, and the peak Core count of 9,203 in September was the lowest autumn count for nine years. In contrast, the 10,000+ birds at Morecambe Bay in October and November represents the first time that particular threshold had been passed at the site since an exceptional peak of 21,158 recorded in September 1989.

In Northern Ireland, numbers at most sites were similar to those of recent years and the trend has shown a slight fall in the last ten years. Further years of data will show whether the numbers in Northern Ireland continue to drop in the same way as those in Britain.

	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	10,208	12,367	9,384	12,994	9,576 ¹¹	Nov	10,906
Morecambe Bay	7,106	7,283	(8,254)	(4,805)	10,302	Nov	8,236
The Wash	6,760	6,052	5,605	4,407	5,367	Oct	5,638
Humber Estuary	(8,494)	4,682	3,886	(4,059)	4,716	Oct	5,445
Forth Estuary	5,501	6,039	4,689	4,374	4,950	Sep	5,111
Thames Estuary	5,081	4,811	4,134	3,512	4,025	Oct	4,313
Strangford Lough	4,505	4,099	3,632	4,028	4,969	Oct	4,247
Solway Estuary	3,617	(1,595)	(1,822)	(3,213)	(2,739)	Nov	3,617
Blackwater Estuary	3,034	(2,472)	2,514	(3,586)	3,752	Oct	3,222
Ribble Estuary	2,211	4,078	1,491	3,559	3,414	Sep	2,951
Mersey Estuary	3,618	3,622	1,535	(2,069)	(1,228)	Oct	2,925
Duddon Estuary	1,956	3,698	3,122	2,562	3,213	Feb	2,910 ▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Severn Estuary	(2,516)	1,930	(2,362)	(1,962)	2,970	Nov	2,472
Ythan Estuary	(1,797)	(5,274)	1,481	1,497	(2,308)	Sep	2,471
Crouch-Roach Estuary	3,299 ¹¹	(556)	(1,202)	1,361	2,403	Oct	2,354
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	2,846	1,910	(1,658)	2,040	1,988	Jan	2,196
Deben Estuary	1,707	2,037	2,710	2,080	1,856	Oct	2,078
North Norfolk Coast	1,845	1,608	1,786	2,899 ¹¹	2,109	Sep	2,049
Chichester Harbour	1,695	1,754	(2,535)	2,403	1,810	Nov	2,039
Montrose Basin	1,641	2,237	1,794	(1,860)	2,198	Sep	1,968
Inner Firth of Clyde	1,977	1,984	1,915	1,901	1,965	Nov	1,948
Stour Estuary	1,431	1,814	1,988	1,948	2,176 ¹¹	Feb	1,871
Cromarty Firth	2,094	2,266	1,491	1,514	(1,402)	Oct	1,841
Orwell Estuary	1,799	1,813 ¹¹	2,075 ¹¹	1,375 ¹¹	1,908	Nov	1,794
Tees Estuary	1,723	1,731	1,865	1,383	1,471	Sep	1,635
Swale Estuary	1,715	(1,727)	1,139	(1,384)	(1,049)	Nov	1,527
Alde Complex	1,957	1,608	1,673	1,139	1,213	Jan	1,518
Hamford Water	1,699	1,695	1,266	1,538	1,366	Nov	1,513
Lavan Sands	(1,947)	1,644	1,016	1,794	1,058	Nov	1,492
Lindisfarne	1,737	1,104	(1,267)	(1,746)	1,367	Sep	1,489
Colne Estuary	(797)	(1,013)	(742)	1,442 ¹¹	(730)	Feb	1,442
Blyth Estuary	(483)	1,134	1,031	2,002	(1,012)	Oct	1,389
Breydon Water & Berney Marshes	1,406	1,663 ¹¹	1,310	1,405	1,117 ¹³	Mar	1,380
Medway Estuary	1,068 ¹¹	(1,405)	(307)	(639)	(874)	Oct	1,237
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Belfast Lough	1,667	1,754	(1,698)	1,303	1,432	Mar	1,571
Carlingford Lough	1,471	1,554	1,128	1,174	1,818	Nov	1,429
Lough Foyle	1,404	1,314	1,177	905	1,239	Mar	1,208
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,121	1,307	1,160	1,124	1,145	Mar	1,171
Dundrum Inner Bay	(594)	723	759	1,284	1,105	Sep	968
Larne Lough	462	737	379	383	397	Dec	472
Bann Estuary	290	400	261	392	230	Feb	315
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2008/09							
Tay Estuary	(1,347)	(1,950) ¹³	849	979	683	Sep	1,162
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2008/09 in Great Britain							
Eden Estuary	1,238	600	415	1,500	1,401 ¹¹	Nov	1,031



Turnstones (Laurel Tucker)

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

International threshold: 1,500
Great Britain threshold: 500
All-Ireland threshold: 120

GB max: 12,645 Nov
NI max: 1,913 Nov

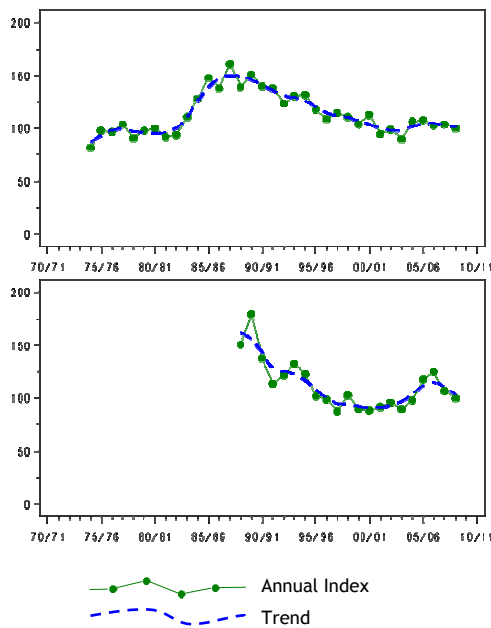


Figure 55.a, Annual indices & trend for Turnstone for GB (above) & NI (below).

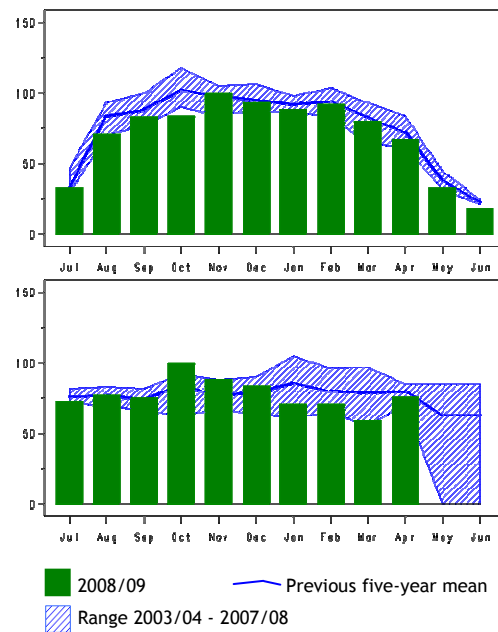


Figure 55.b, Monthly indices for Turnstone for GB (above) & NI (below).

Turnstones from two distinct breeding populations occur in the UK. The majority of those which winter originate from Greenland and east Canada, while Siberian and Scandinavian breeders pass through in spring and autumn en route to and from wintering sites in western Africa.

The peak monthly total of 12,645 in November was similar to recent years, which have seen an apparent levelling-off of the decline in numbers exhibited from the mid 1980s through to the early 2000s. This has produced a trend similar to that of Purple Sandpiper, with which it frequently shares favoured habitats. Rocky shores and associated specialists have been identified as being especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, both due to loss of habitat *per se* as a result of rising sea levels as well as changes to invertebrate communities (Kendall *et al.* 2004, Rehfish *et al.* 2004). The UK holds over 50% of the North-east Canada and Greenland population during the winter (Delany *et al.* 2009), and the non-estuarine coast is of

considerable importance, with the sites covered by WeBS accounting for approximately only 20% of the current UK population estimate. This emphasises the need for more regular coverage and effective protection of the relatively poorly monitored non-estuarine habitats, the most recent survey of which took place in 2007 (Austin *et al.* 2008).

Five of the current thirteen sites of national importance for Turnstone are located in the south-east corner of England, and at two of these, Thames Estuary and Blackwater Estuary, peak counts have been especially high in recent years. In 2008/09, the count of 1,103 at Blackwater Estuary in September represented the highest ever there, while the 1,000+ threshold surpassed at Thames Estuary in each of the last two years had been reached only twice previously during WeBS monitoring there. At the other major sites, fortunes appear to be more mixed. In particular, the recent declines noted at Thanet Coast and The Wash perhaps provide the greatest causes

for concern. However, it is not known the extent to which Turnstones on Thanet Coast may also utilise other sites adjacent to the Outer Thames area, and hence it remains to be seen whether the declines noted may merely represent redistribution of birds elsewhere. Compared to some other waders, Turnstones tend to be diffusely distributed among wader roosts and not concentrated in exceptionally high numbers at individual roost sites (Peters & Otis 2007). As a consequence, they may be able

to utilise alternative sites more readily (Burton *et al.* 1996).

The peak monthly count at Outer Ards Shoreline, consistently the most important site in Northern Ireland, was at a similar level to that in 2007/08, thereby representing a decline compared to the previous years. In contrast, the highest number ever was reported from Strangford Lough, which perhaps indicates local redistribution between these adjacent sites.

	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Tiree		1,191 ⁴¹					1,191
Morecambe Bay	1,054	1,269	1,163	(683)	973	Nov	1,115
Thanet Coast	1,130	949	1,477	(783)	722	Nov	1,070
North Norfolk Coast	1,028	928	678	913	774	Oct	864
Forth Estuary	778	847	(778)	(934)	(776)	Oct	853
The Wash	1,244	1,169	657	478	685	Sep	847
Thames Estuary	711	680	680	1,090	1,060	Nov	844
Blackwater Estuary	380	498	527	676	1,102	Sep	637 ▲
Stour Estuary	705	655	569	617	525	Jan	614
Humber Estuary	(570)	(183)	(542)	(344)	(447)	Nov	(570)
Farne Islands	438	606	(445)	556	580	Aug	545 ▲
Langstone Harbour	459	742	450	488	550	Sep	538 ▲
Swale Estuary	(515)	(480)	(456)	(432)	(268)	Mar	(515)
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,035	1,203	1,292	930	937	Nov	1,079
Belfast Lough	508	418	436	419	503	Nov	457
Strangford Lough	235	435	382	344	589	Oct	397
Carlingford Lough	624	356	480	315	155	Sep	386
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2008/09 in Great Britain							
Severn Estuary	272	461	274	(256)	629 ¹¹	Nov	409

Wilson's Phalarope

Phalaropus tricolor

Vagrant

Native Range: America

An adult was at Grindon Lough in August; the 21st WeBS record, of which seven have now been in north-east England.

Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus

Scarce

Two passage Red-necked Phalaropes brightened up Core counts at The Wash and North Norfolk Coast in September.

Grey Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicarius

Scarce

Grey Phalaropes were recorded at twelve sites. Six were seen in September; at Carmarthen Bay, Dyfi Estuary, Fleet & Wey, Gannel Estuary, Guernsey Shore and Traeth Bach (2), followed by a single at Colne

Estuary in November. A small influx in January comprised records from Cheddar Reservoir, Cleddau Estuary, Filey Bay, Newgale Marsh and Gerrans Bay (2).