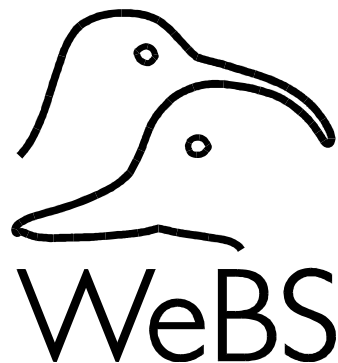


# Waterbirds in the UK 2009/10

## The Wetland Bird Survey

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## CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	2
The Wetland Bird Survey	3
WeBS Contacts	3
National Goose Censuses	3
Other National Waterbird Surveys	3
Errata to previous reports	3
<b>Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>
Aims, Objectives & Methods*	7
Weather in 2009/10	8
Coverage	10
<b>Total Numbers</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Species Accounts</b>	<b>24</b>
Swans	25
Geese	30
Ducks	48
Divers	84
Grebes	87
Cormorants	92
Hérons	94
Rails	99
Waders	104
Gulls	140
Terns	151
Kingfisher	154
<b>Principal Sites</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>WeBS Low Tide Counts</b>	<b>160</b>
Aims, Methods, Data presentation	160
Estuary Accounts	161
Acknowledgements	174
<b>References</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>181</b>
Appendix 1. International and National Importance	181
Appendix 2. Locations of Principal WeBS Count Sites	184

\* Details of WeBS Core Count survey methods, analysis, presentation of data, and interpretation of waterbird counts, are now available via the WeBS website at [www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs/publications/annual-reports](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs/publications/annual-reports)

# Black-tailed Godwit

*Limosa limosa*

International threshold: 470  
 Great Britain threshold: 430  
 All-Ireland threshold: 140

GB max: 34,977 Sep  
 NI max: 1,748 Sep

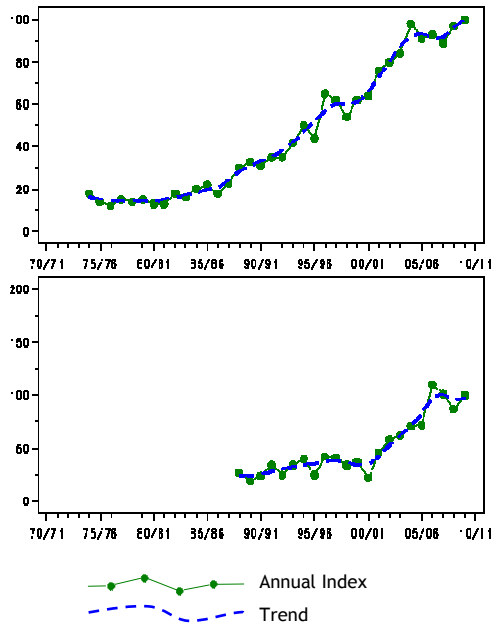


Figure 52.a, Annual indices & trend for Black-tailed Godwit for GB (above) & NI (below).

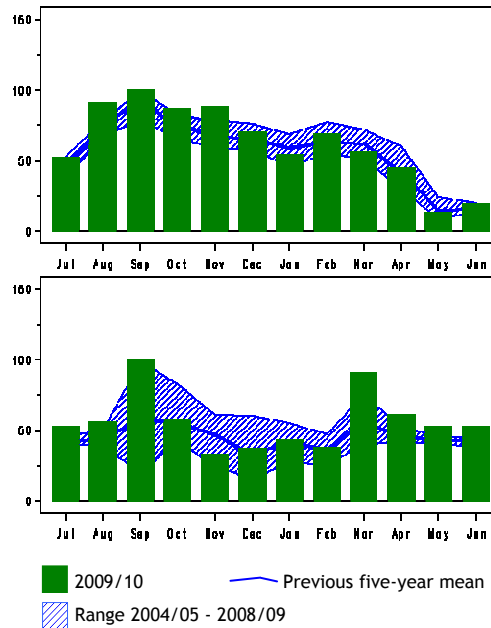


Figure 52.b, Monthly indices for Black-tailed Godwit for GB (above) & NI (below).

Most of the non-breeding Black-tailed Godwits that occur in Britain and Northern Ireland are of Icelandic origin, arriving in July and August and forming large moulting flocks at coastal sites that tend to peak in September. In addition, a small proportion of passage birds are of the nominate race which are mainly to be found in the south and east of England where a very small number breed.

After a brief period of apparent stability, the British index rose to its highest ever level in 2009/10, thereby continuing the long-term increase which this species has undergone over course of the last thirty years. This rise has occurred in line with that of the flyway population, considered partly attributable to higher productivity on the Icelandic breeding grounds and the high quality of stopover sites in Portugal (Gill *et al.* 2007, Lourenço & Piersma 2008).

Thirty-five sites surpassed the threshold of international importance in 2009/10. Peaks at most of the sites towards the top of the table below were above recent

average. Notably, The Wash held over 9,600 birds in both August and November, a threshold that been surpassed only twice before (including last year). In northwest England, the maxima at Dee Estuary has only been surpassed in 2004/05, while the 5,714 at Ribble Estuary represents the most ever there, and Morecambe Bay again fared well after a record-breaking year in 2008/09.

Following the latest review of wintering waterbird populations in Britain, the 1% threshold for national importance for this species rose from 150 to 430 birds (Musgrove *et al.* 2011). As a consequence, fewer sites are listed compared to the number that readers will have become accustomed to seeing in recent years.

The trend for Northern Ireland follows a very similar trajectory to that for Britain. In 2009/10, the maximum at the main site, Strangford Lough, was the lowest for seven years, although a slight improvement compared to recent years was noted at Lough Foyle.

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
The Wash	8,205	8,090	(6,961)	10,839	9,925	Nov	9,265
Thames Estuary	5,221	4,893	8,081	4,709	5,783	Aug	5,737
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	5,379	3,713	5,278	3,923	5,763	Oct	4,811
Ribble Estuary	(2,921)	5,095	3,913	3,088	5,714	Nov	4,453
Humber Estuary	3,296	5,323	4,554	3,828	3,897	Oct	4,180
Nene Washes	156	1,120	3,800	3,530	3,500	Mar	2,421
Poole Harbour	(1,431)	1,907	(1,413)	(2,371)	(1,926)	Nov	2,068
Ouse Washes	4,154 <sup>12</sup>	1,790 <sup>12</sup>	761	2,067 <sup>12</sup>	809 <sup>12</sup>	Feb	1,916
Breydon Water / Berney Marshes	1,675	1,421 <sup>10</sup>	2,469 <sup>12</sup>	2,712 <sup>10</sup>	1,023 <sup>12</sup>	Nov	1,860
Blackwater Estuary	1,243	2,201	2,387	1,572	(1,712)	Mar	1,851
R.Avon: Ringwood - Christchurch	1	(3,000)	2,000	650	2,530	Feb	1,636
Swale Estuary	(1,389)	1,396	(1,186)	(1,545)	1,825	Mar	1,611
Stour Estuary	1,507	1,215	2,148	1,939	1,214	Aug	1,605
Mersey Estuary	2,510	420	(339)	(54)	(270)	Jul	1,465
Morecambe Bay	747	(928)	759	1,844	1,605	Apr	1,239
Medway Estuary	(190)	(1,120)	(490)	(603)	(384)	Jan	(1,120)
Alde Complex	1,181	1,385	774	(840)	1,114	Oct	1,114
Exe Estuary	1,090	999	913	943	980	Feb	985
Belfast Lough	642	(586)	708	690 <sup>10</sup>	1,510	Sep	888
Overcote Marina		850 <sup>12</sup>		1,400	373 <sup>12</sup>	Jan	874
North Norfolk Coast	940	645	1,139	804	809	Aug	867
Pagham Harbour	340	(764)	1,100	960	833	Feb	808
Orwell Estuary	975	523	845 <sup>10</sup>	813 <sup>10</sup>	816	Sep	794
R.Avon: Ford'bridge - Ringwood	0	(1,750)	888	(920)	381	Jan	788
Chichester Harbour	(995)	685	775	613	603	Sep	734
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(265)	(554)	754	627	764	Dec	715
Warton Floods			600	950	570	Nov	707
Deben Estuary	575	622	707	948	503	Apr	671
Colne Estuary	171	800 <sup>12</sup>	617 <sup>10</sup>	500 <sup>12</sup>	812 <sup>12</sup>	Mar	580
Langstone Harbour	665	562	674	422	574	Sep	579
Strangford Lough	717 <sup>10</sup>	535 <sup>10</sup>	645	707	193 <sup>10</sup>	Dec	559
Fen Drayton Gravel Pits	0	571	31	1,800	200	Mar	520
Portsmouth Harbour	(494)	(398)	371	666 <sup>10</sup>	(30)	Nov	519
North West Solent	474	353	469	525	640	Dec	492 ▲
Hamford Water	625	372	441	521 <sup>10</sup>	(440)	Feb	490 ▲
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Southampton Water	489	295	(374)	(490)	514	Aug	447 ▲
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2009/2010</b>							
Burry Inlet	994	300 <sup>10</sup>	40	200 <sup>10</sup>	343	Oct	375
Lough Foyle	397	60	52	25	113	Oct	129
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2009/10 in Great Britain</b>							
Abberton Reservoir	74	2	3	2	493	Nov	115
Forth Estuary	380	348	280	601	473	Sep	416



Black-tailed Godwits (*Jill Pakenham*)

The ratio of Bar-tailed to Black-tailed Godwits in Britain has fallen from 4:1 to less than 1:1 in a decade (Musgrove *et al.* 2011).