

Firth of Clyde Eider News

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Introduction

Coverage in 2019 was again very good, thanks to another great effort by more than 40 observers.

Numbers recorded in 2019 continued the ongoing decline, reaching a new low point, below 4500 for the first time.

The 4429 birds counted in 2019 is now less than 23% of those counted in 1997 (representing a greater than 77% decline over 23 years).

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2019 counters - a special thanks to everybody who took part.

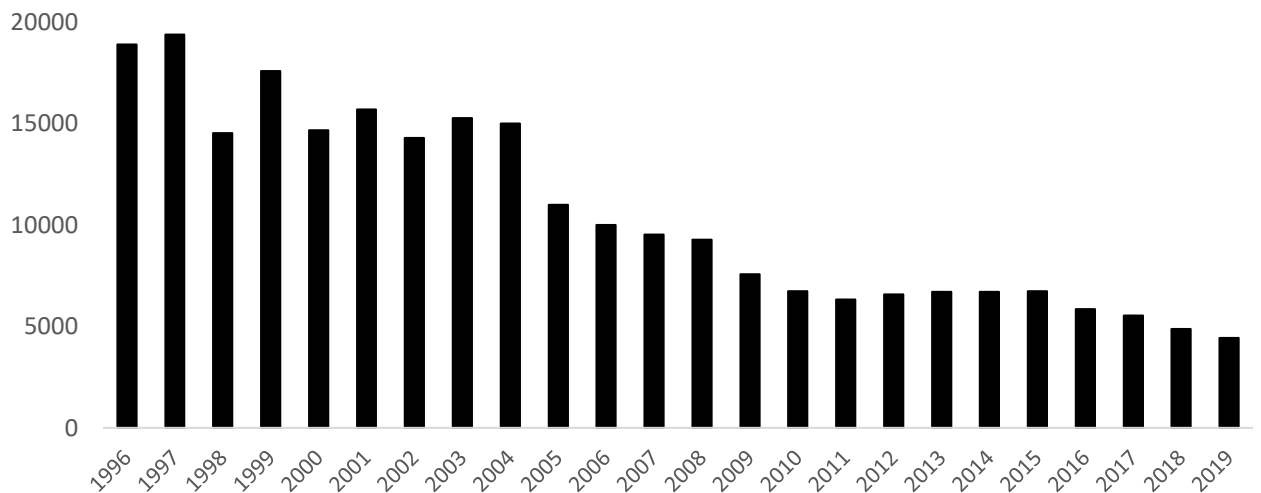
Iain Andrews, Tony Baboolal, Tony Baker, Robin Barnden, Bunny Campbell, Jenny Campbell, Jim Cassels, John Clark, John Conner, Brian Couper, Phil Cowie, Simon Davies, John and Jean Fitzpatrick, Dave Freeman, Alasdair Fyffe, Christopher Garvie, Jim Gibb, Iain Gibson, Nick Giles, Jenni & Steve Grover, Alan Hollick, Ian Hopkins, David Kilpatrick, Simon Lawrence, Elanor and Andy McNamara, Ann and Tom McNeish, Doug Menzies, Rab Morton, Alec Nicol, David and Janet Palmar, Katy Penn, Stevie Reid, Allan Russell, Nigel Scriven, Dave Smallwood, Luke Wake, Lucy Wallace, Chris Waltho, Ray Welland, Kathy Wells, Alan Wood.

Apologies for anyone inadvertently missed.

**Please note that the 2020 count will take place
during period 12th-30th September**

	<u>September Count stretch</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>5 yr mean</u>
1	Clyde Estuary (Gourock-Craigendoran)	538	730	373	291	388	464
2	Craigendoran-Kilcreggan (Gare Loch)	1741	1540	1638	1448	1174	1508
3	Kilcreggan-Strone Point (L Long/Goil)	988	583	612	656	470	662
4	Holy Loch to Toward Pt	223	93	198	195	51	152
5	Gourock-Largs	423	365	357	504	452	420
6	Bute & Kyles (+ L Ridden & L Striven)	135	271	167	280	198	210
7	Great Cumbrae	306	264	184	85	106	189
8	Loch Fyne	795	265	966	575	454	611
9	E Kintyre (Skipness-Southend)	152	222	118	138	94	145
10	Arran	117	116	36	33	47	70
11	Largs-Seamill	130	46	60	48	115	80
12	Seamill-Saltcoats	3	35	30	30	33	26
13	Irvine & Ayr Bays	308	741	360	320	349	416
14	Dunure-Girvan	115	153	26	120	89	101
15	Girvan-Ballantrae	5				1	3
16	Loch Ryan	753	423	410	149	408	429
	Total Firth of Clyde	6732	5847	5535	4872	4429	5485

Eider counts in the Firth of Clyde 1996-2019



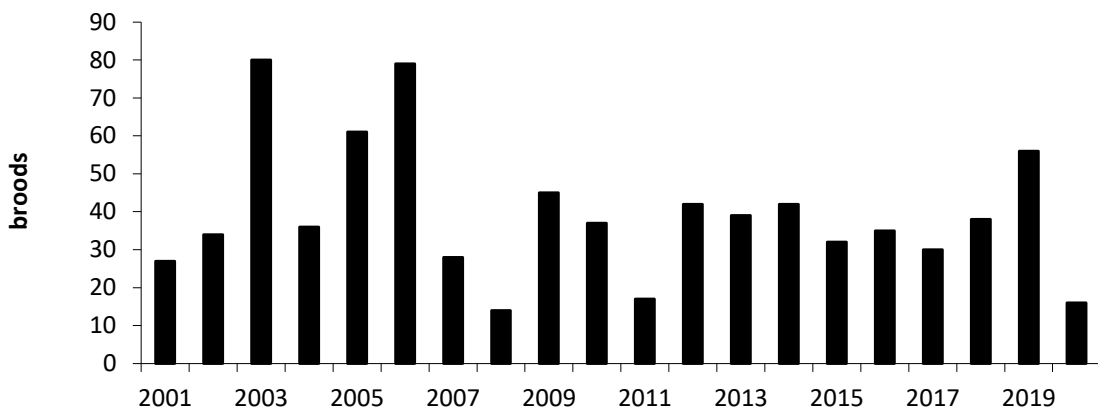
Breeding productivity in Gare Loch/Rosneath Peninsula in 2020

Counts in mid-July 2020 found only 16 broods/crèches with total of 34 ducklings.

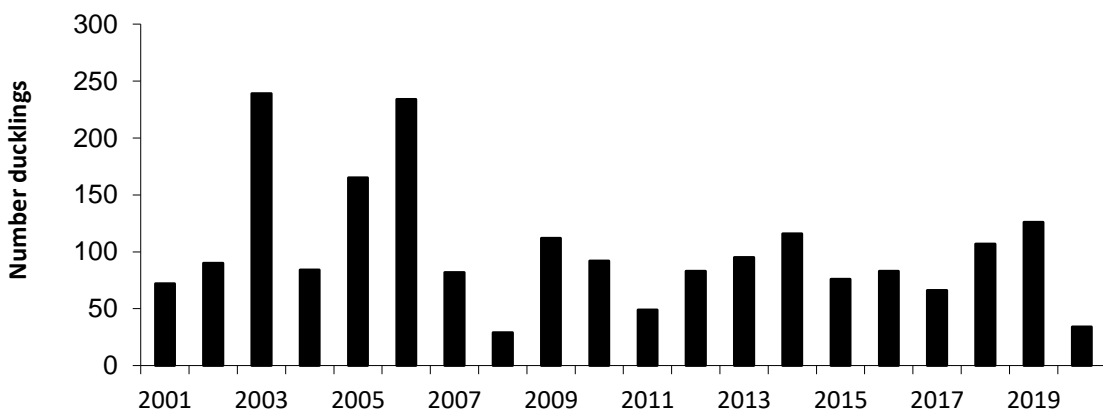
This compares with 56 broods with 156 ducklings in 2019, 38 broods with 107 ducklings in 2018, 30 broods with 66 ducklings in 2017, 35 broods with 83 ducklings in 2016, 32 broods with 76 ducklings in 2015 and 42 broods with 116 ducklings in 2014.

2020 is the second worst duckling production here in 20 years, the worst being in 2008. This is particularly disappointing given the encouraging duckling production in 2019.

Broods Rhu-Coulport



Ducklings Rhu-Coulport



Ringed Eider

Readers are asked to regularly check shorelines for corpses and to inspect birds for rings.

To date, around 2000 birds have been ringed in the Firth of Clyde, all but 5 being adult females.

Any rings found should be reported to the **Ringling Office, British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU.**



Colour ringed birds.

The Clyde Ringing Group has been undertaking a colour-ringing programme of females for several years.

Each bird has a metal BTO ring on the right leg. Above this, on the same leg, is a white darvic ring – this is used as the scheme marker (all Clyde colour-ringed birds will show white on the right leg).

On the left leg is a bigger colour ring, that indicates its nesting colony.

Could all sightings of colour ringed birds be reported to Chris Waltho.

Photo by
David Palmar Photography
www.photoscot.co.uk

Eider ringing in the Firth of Clyde is supported by the BTO (RAS), Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (to the Clyde Ringing Group) and by Glasgow University (Prof Bob Furness).

Please note that the September 2020 count will take place from the 12th to 30th.