

Firth of Clyde Eider News

No 21. August 2023

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Introduction

Coverage in 2022 was again excellent, thanks to another great effort by 50 observers. I hope that you find these results interesting and thanks again for all your effort and support.

In summary, numbers in 2022 again fell below 5000 birds following the 5472 birds recorded in 2021. This represents a 74.4% decline since 1997.

2022 counters - a special thanks to everybody who took part.

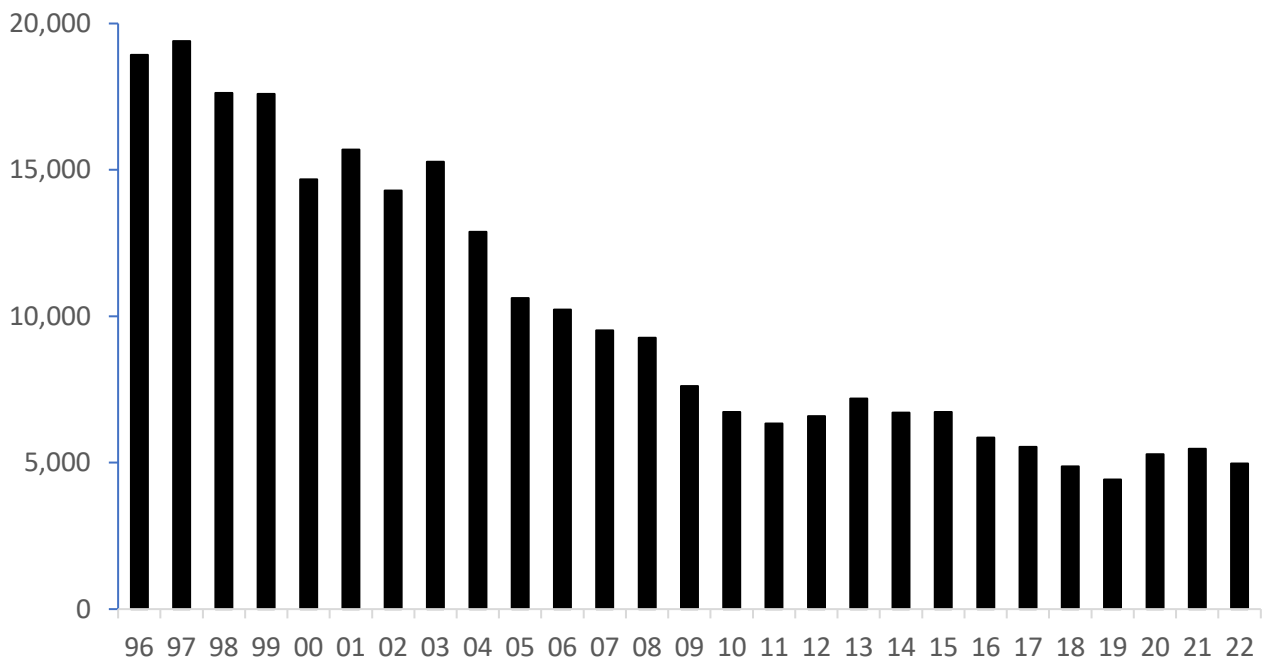
Tony Baboolal, Tony Baker, Robin Barnden, Bunny Campbell, Jenny Campbell, Jim Cassells, Graham Clark, John Clark, Charlotte Clough, John Conner, Brian Couper, Rory Cowan, John and Jean Fitzpatrick, Dave Freeman, Christopher Garvie, Jim Gibb, Mike Groden, Jeni and Steve Grover, Alan and Jill Hollick, Ian Hopkins, David Jardine, Douglas and Piet Johnstone, David Kilpatrick, Michael Lancashire, Simon Lawrence, Helen Logan, Elanor and Andy McNamara, Ann and Tom McNeish, Kay-Leigh Marais, Rab Morton, Alec Nicol, Ellie Oakley, David and Janet Palmar, Katy Penn, Stevie Reid, Allan Russell, Franny Schlicke, Dave Smallwood, Chris Waltho, Luke Wake, Kathy Wells, Alan Wood

Apologies for anyone inadvertently missed.

**Please note that the 2023 count will take place
during period 9th-30th September**

| | <u>September count stretch</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2021</u> | <u>2022</u> | <i>2018-22 mean</i> |
|----|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Clyde Estuary (Gourock-Craigendoran) | 291 | 388 | 263 | 273 | 722 | 387 |
| 2 | Gare Loch (Craigendoran-Kilcreggan) | 1448 | 1174 | 1176 | 1459 | 1409 | 1333 |
| 3 | L Long/Goil (Kilcreggan-Strone Point) | 656 | 470 | 939 | 837 | 504 | 681 |
| 4 | Holy Loch to Toward Pt | 195 | 51 | 233 | 423 | 318 | 244 |
| 5 | Gourock-Largs | 504 | 452 | 274 | 182 | 215 | 325 |
| 6 | Bute & Kyles (+ L Ridden & L Striven) | 280 | 198 | 56 | 268 | 61 | 173 |
| 7 | Great Cumbrae | 85 | 106 | 204 | 157 | 154 | 141 |
| 8 | Loch Fyne | 575 | 454 | 988 | 924 | 681 | 724 |
| 9 | E Kintyre (Skipness-Southend) | 138 | 94 | 86 | 93 | 72 | 97 |
| 10 | Arran | 33 | 47 | 75 | 45 | 39 | 48 |
| 11 | Largs-Seamill | 48 | 115 | 34 | 72 | 55 | 65 |
| 12 | Seamill-Saltcoats | 30 | 33 | 78 | 93 | 90 | 65 |
| 13 | Irvine & Ayr Bays | 320 | 349 | 337 | 188 | 275 | 294 |
| 14 | Dunure-Girvan | 120 | 89 | 230 | 173 | 155 | 153 |
| 15 | Girvan-Ballantrae | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| 16 | Loch Ryan | 149 | 408 | 306 | 281 | 219 | 273 |
| | Total Firth of Clyde | 4875 | 4429 | 5283 | 5472 | 4973 | 5006 |

Eider counts in the Firth of Clyde 1996-2022



Breeding productivity in Gare Loch/Rosneath Peninsula in 2023

The survey in mid-July 2023 found 33 broods/crèches with a total of 74 ducklings.

This compares with:

2022 - 28 broods/crèches with a total of 66 ducklings and in

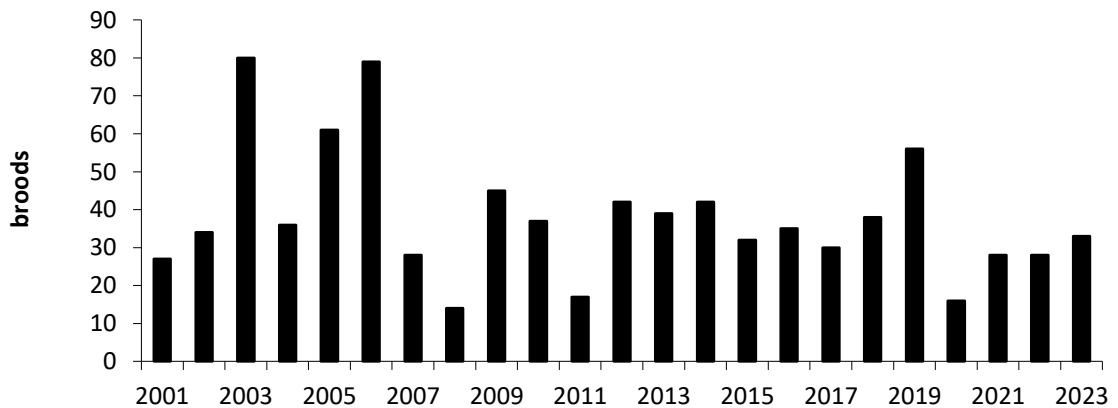
2021 - 28 broods/crèches with 73 ducklings

2020 - 16 broods/crèches with 34 ducklings,

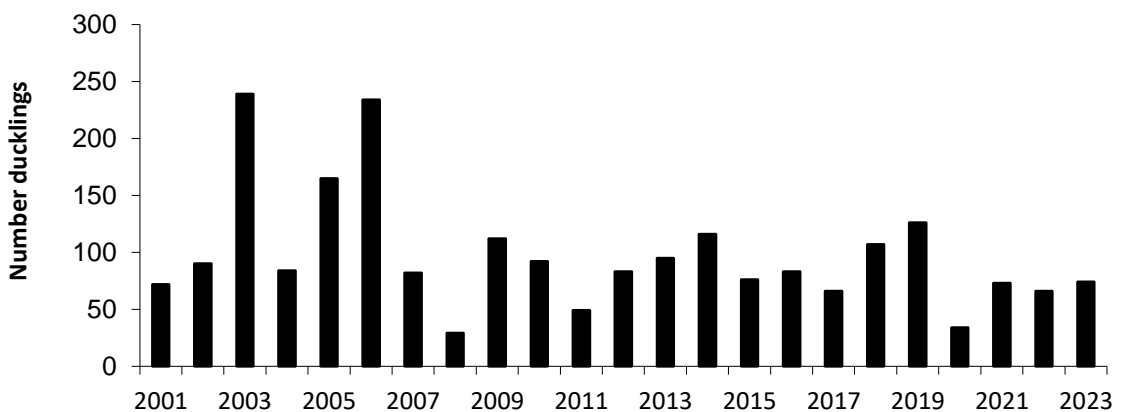
2019 - 56 broods/crèches with 156 ducklings,

The 74 ducklings produced in 2023 equals the 5-year average (74.6 in 2019-23) but below the 23-year average (97.7 in 2001-23).

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.

Some 20 years ago the Clyde Ringing undertook a colour-ringing programme of females for several years. Some these birds should still be around.

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 2023 count will take place from the 9th to 30th.