

Firth of Clyde Eider News

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Produced by Chris Waltho,
73 Stewart Street,
Carluke, Lanarkshire ML8 5BY.
01555 750719.

e-mail chris.waltho@eider.org.uk



Introduction

Coverage in 2023 was again excellent, thanks to another great effort by more than 40 observers. I hope that you find these results interesting and thanks again for all your effort and support.

In summary, numbers in 2023 were just above 5000 birds again, with now an average 5053 for the last 5 years. This still represents a 74% decline since 1997.

2023 counters - a special thanks to everybody who took part.

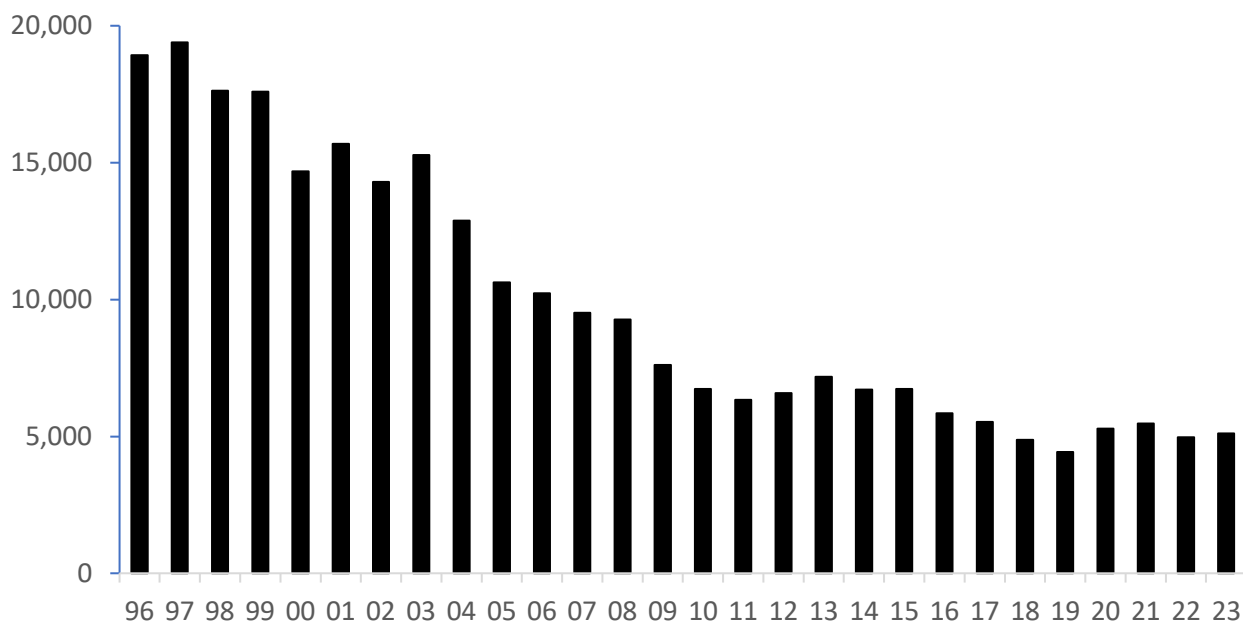
Robbie Adamson, Tony Baboolal, Tony Baker, Robin Barnden, Reuben Betley, Bunny Campbell, Jim Cassells, John Clark, Charlotte Clough, John Conner, Brian Couper, Rory Cowan, John and Jean Fitzpatrick, Jim Gibb, Corinna Goeckeritz, Jeni and Steve Grover, Alan and Jill Hollick, Ian Hopkins, Simon Lawrence, Helen Logan, Elanor and Andy McNamara, Ann and Tom McNeish, Kay-Leigh Marais, Rab Morton, Alec Nicol, Ania Owsianka, David and Janet Palmar, Allan Russell, Franny Schlicke, Dave Smallwood, Chris Waltho, Lucy Wallace, Luke Wake, Kathy and Nigel Wells, Alan Wood

Apologies for anyone inadvertently missed.

**Please note that the 2024 count will take place
during period 7th-30th September**

	<u>September count stretch</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<i>2019-23 mean</i>
1	Clyde Estuary (Gourock-Craigendoran)	388	263	273	722	146	358
2	Gare Loch (Craigendoran-Kilcreggan)	1174	1176	1459	1409	1889	1421
3	L Long/Goil (Kilcreggan-Strone Point)	470	939	837	504	320	614
4	Holy Loch to Toward Pt	51	233	423	318	110	227
5	Gourock-Largs	452	274	182	215	614	347
6	Bute & Kyles (+ L Ridden & L Striven)	198	56	268	61	187	154
7	Great Cumbrae	106	204	157	154	72	139
8	Loch Fyne	454	988	924	681	851	780
9	E Kintyre (Skipness-Southend)	94	86	93	72	67	82
10	Arran	47	75	45	39	22	46
11	Largs-Seamill	115	34	72	55	172	90
12	Seamill-Saltcoats	33	78	93	90	4	60
13	Irvine & Ayr Bays	349	337	188	275	257	281
14	Dunure-Girvan	89	230	173	155	253	180
15	Girvan-Ballantrae	1	4	4	4	4	3
16	Loch Ryan	408	306	281	219	140	271
	Total Firth of Clyde	4429	5283	5472	4973	5108	5053

Eider counts in the Firth of Clyde 1996-2023



Breeding productivity in Gare Loch/Rosneath Peninsula in 2024

The survey in mid-July 2024 found 33 broods/crèches with a total of 74 ducklings.

This was identical to 2023 and compares with recent years:

2023 - 33 broods/crèches with 74 ducklings

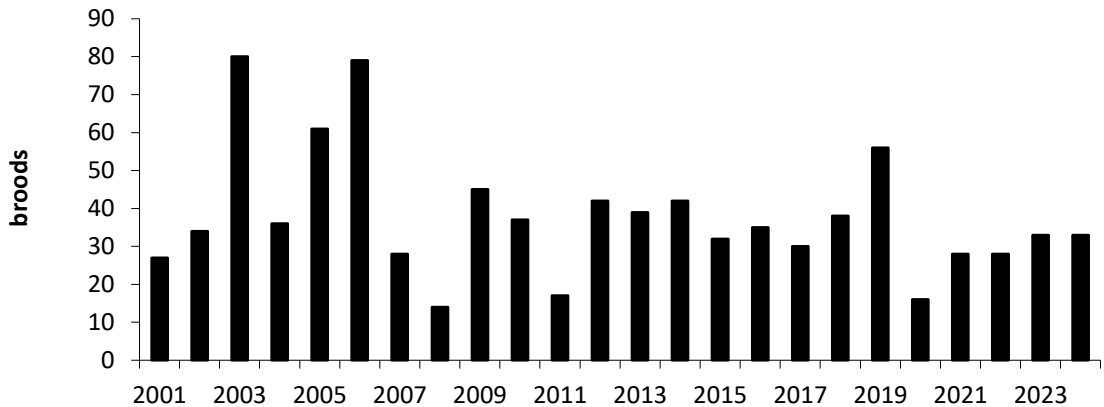
2022 - 28 broods/crèches with 66 ducklings

2021 - 28 broods/crèches with 73 ducklings

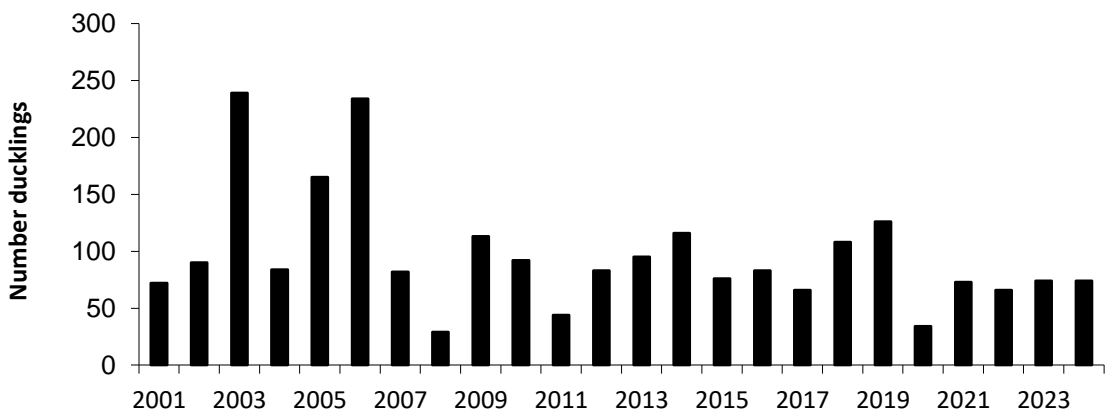
2020 - 16 broods/crèches with 34 ducklings,

The 74 ducklings produced in 2024 was above the most recent 5-year average (64.2 in 2020-24) but below the 24-year average (96.6 in 2001-2024).

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 2024 count will take place from the 7th to 30th.