

Firth of Clyde Eider News

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Introduction

2025 saw the **30th year** of these eider counts across the Firth of Clyde. Coverage was excellent again, thanks to the hard work of the 52 people who took part in the counts. They are all listed below.

Overall, the 2025 total was **under 3,800 birds - the lowest in 30 years**. The average for the last five years is 4,709. **Numbers have fallen by 80.6% since 1997.**

I hope that you find these results interesting and thanks again for all your effort and support.

2025 counters - a special thanks to everybody who took part.

Robbie Adamson, Tony Baboolal, Tony Baker, Robin Barnden, Reuben Betley, Lesley Bryce, Cathy Burnett, Angela and Jim Cassells, John Clark, Charlotte Clough, John Conner, Brian Couper, Rory Cowan, Matthew Dale, John and Jean Fitzpatrick, Jim Gibb, Corinna Goeckeritz, Steve Grover, Noel Hand, Alan Hollick, Celia Holmes, Ian Hopkins, Simon Lawrence, Dave Kilpatrick, Jenny MacHale, Lauren Mclean, Ann and Tom McNeish, Elanor and Andy McNamara, Kay Marais, Aine Purcell-Milton, Rab Morton, Alex Nicol, Christina and Andy Oliver, Ania Owsianka, Janet Palmar, Allan Russell, Kate Sampson, John Simpson, Dave Smallwood, Lucy Wallace, Chris Waltho, Luke Wake, Katy Waring, Nigel and Kathy Wells, Mark Whitaker, Alan Wood.

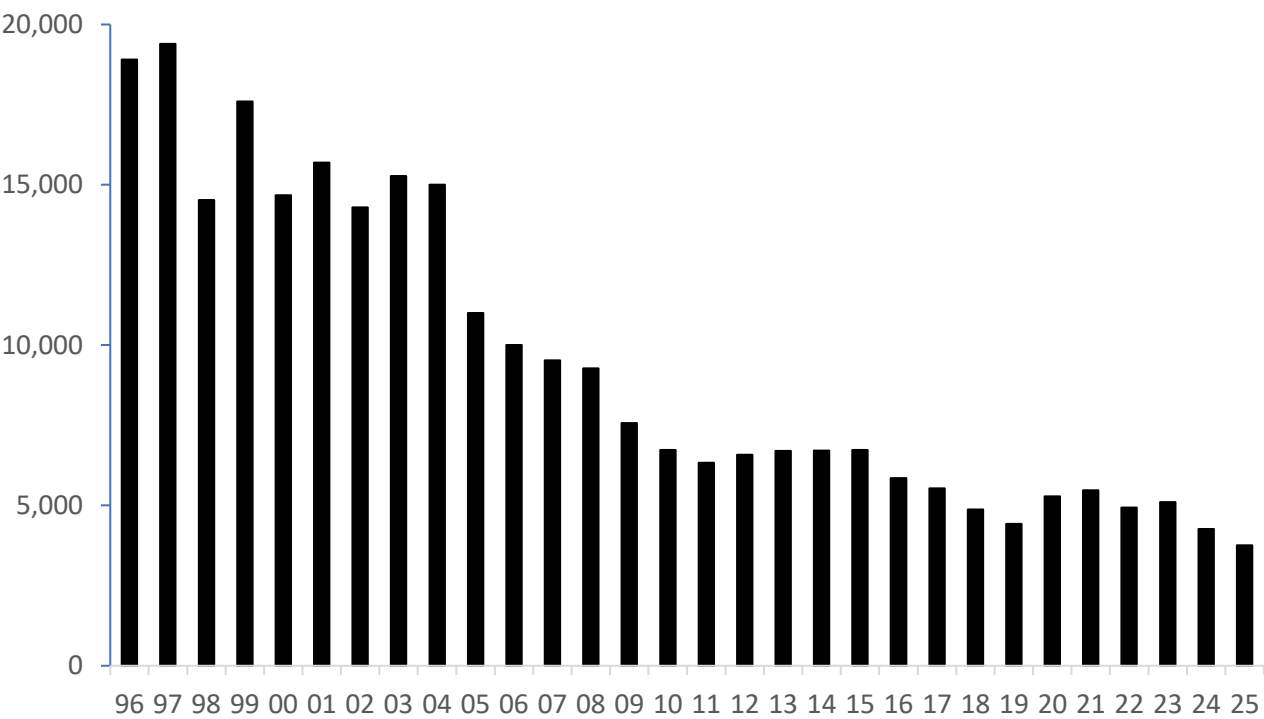
Thanks also to the other participants on the two SOC day cruises that covered parts of the inner firth and sea lochs.

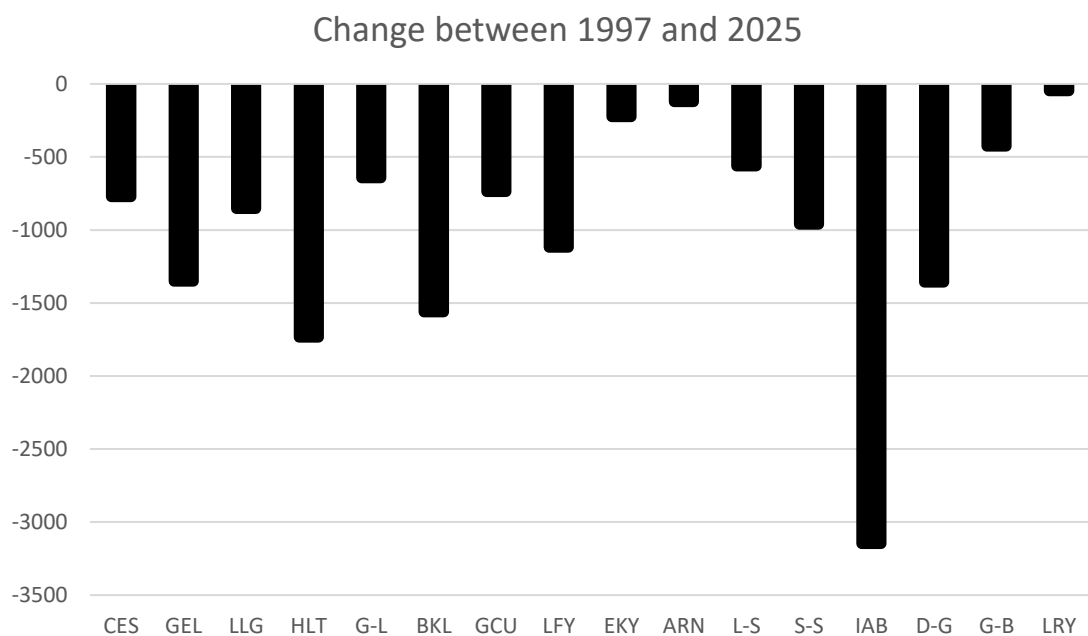
Apologies for anyone inadvertently missed.

**Please note that the 2026 count will take place
during period 5th-30th September**

	<u>September count stretch</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	2021-25 mean
		21	22	23	24	25	
1	Clyde Estuary (Gourock-Craigendoran)	273	722	146	465	189	359
2	Gare Loch (Craigendoran-Kilcreggan)	1459	1409	1889	1214	1067	1408
3	L Long/Goil (Kilcreggan-Strone Point)	837	504	320	711	476	570
4	Holy Loch to Toward Pt	423	318	110	140	458	290
5	Gourock-Largs	182	215	614	352	531	379
6	Bute & Kyles (+ L Ridden & L Striven)	268	61	187	52	79	129
7	Great Cumbræ	157	154	72	65	37	97
8	Loch Fyne	924	804	851	625	379	717
9	E Kintyre (Skipness-Southend)	93	72	67	53	114	80
10	Arran	45	39	22	22	32	32
11	Largs-Seamill	72	57	172	58	35	79
12	Seamill-Saltcoats	93	8	4	6	0	22
13	Irvine & Ayr Bays	188	215	257	247	108	203
14	Dunure-Girvan	173	134	253	42	142	149
15	Girvan-Ballantrae	4	4	4	3	3	4
16	Loch Ryan	281	219	140	212	111	193
	Total Firth of Clyde	5472	4935	5108	4267	3761	4709

Eider counts in the Firth of Clyde 1996-2025





Key	Count unit	1997	2025	change 1997-2025
CES	Clyde Estuary (Gourock-Craigendoran)	962	189	-773
GEL	Gare Loch (Craigendoran-Kilcreggan)	2419	1067	-1352
LLG	L Long/Goil (Kilcreggan-Strone Point)	1331	476	-855
HLT	Holy Loch to Toward Pt	2192	458	-1734
G-L	Gourock-Largs	1175	531	-644
BKL	Bute & Kyles (+ L Ridden & L Striven)	1641	79	-1562
GCU	Great Cumbrae	776	37	-739
LFY	Loch Fyne	1499	379	-1120
EKY	E Kintyre (Skipness-Southend)	339	114	-225
ARN	Arran	155	32	-123
L-S	Largs-Seamill	597	35	-562
S-S	Seamill-Saltcoats	961	0	-961
IAB	Irvine & Ayr Bays	3256	108	-3148
D-G	Dunure-Girvan	1500	142	-1358
G-B	Girvan-Ballantrae	430	3	-427
LRY	Loch Ryan	160	111	-49
	FIRTH OF CLYDE	19393	3761	-15632

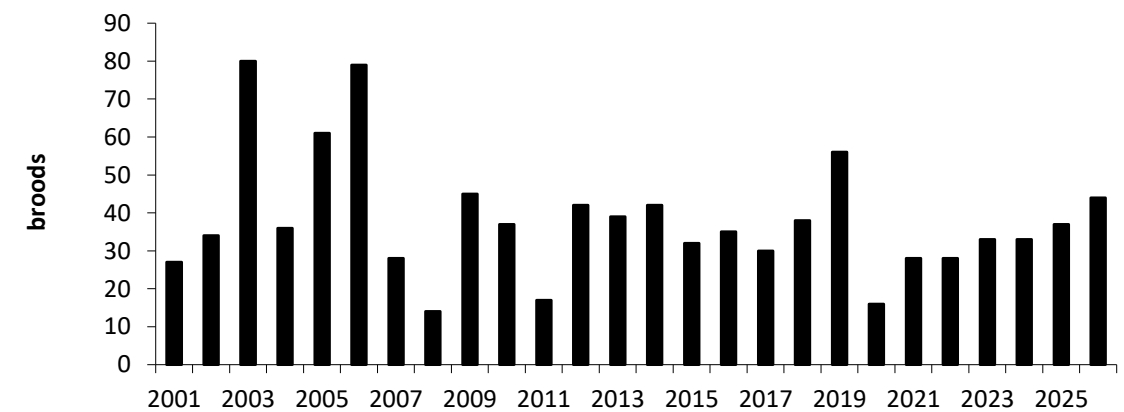
Breeding productivity in Gare Loch/Rosneath Peninsula in 2026

The survey in mid-July 2026 found 44 broods/crèches with a total of 107 ducklings.

- 2025 - 37 broods/crèches with 82 ducklings
- 2024 - 33 broods/crèches with 74 ducklings
- 2023 - 33 broods/crèches with 74 ducklings
- 2022 - 28 broods/crèches with 66 ducklings

The 107 ducklings produced in 2026 was the highest since 2019, compared with the most recent 5-year average (73.8 in 2021-25) and above the 25-year average (96 in 2001-2025).

Broods Rhu-Coulport



Ducklings Rhu-Coulport

