

Firth of Clyde

Eider News

No 15. August 2017

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Introduction

Thanks to a great effort by more than 30 observers, coverage in 2016 was again very good.

Unfortunately a major part of the west coast of Loch Fyne was not counted.

Following the apparent stabilisation in overall numbers since 2010, there was a noticeable drop in 2016. While some of this may be due to part of Loch Fyne not being counted, there were also fewer birds in Loch Ryan, parts of eastern Cowal, and North Ayrshire coastline (Largs-Saltcoats). In contrast, there were more birds in Ayr & Irvine Bays.

2016 counters - a special thanks to everybody who took part.

Tony Baboolal, Robin Barnden, Alan Belamy, Tom Callan, Jim Cassels, John Clark, Joe Connor, Rory Cowan, Brian Couper, Dave Freeman, Iain Gibson, Corinna Goeckeritz, Jenni & Steve Grover, Ian Hopkins, Alan Hollick, Fiona Laing, Simon Lawrence, Victor Lutz, Tom McNeish, Doug Menzies, Rab Morton, Alec Nicol, David & Janet Palmar, David Underwood, Lucy Wallace, Chris Waltho, Ray Welland, Jean Wilkinson, John Williams, Alan Wood.

Apologies for anyone inadvertently missed.

Please note that the 2017 count will take place during period 9-30 September

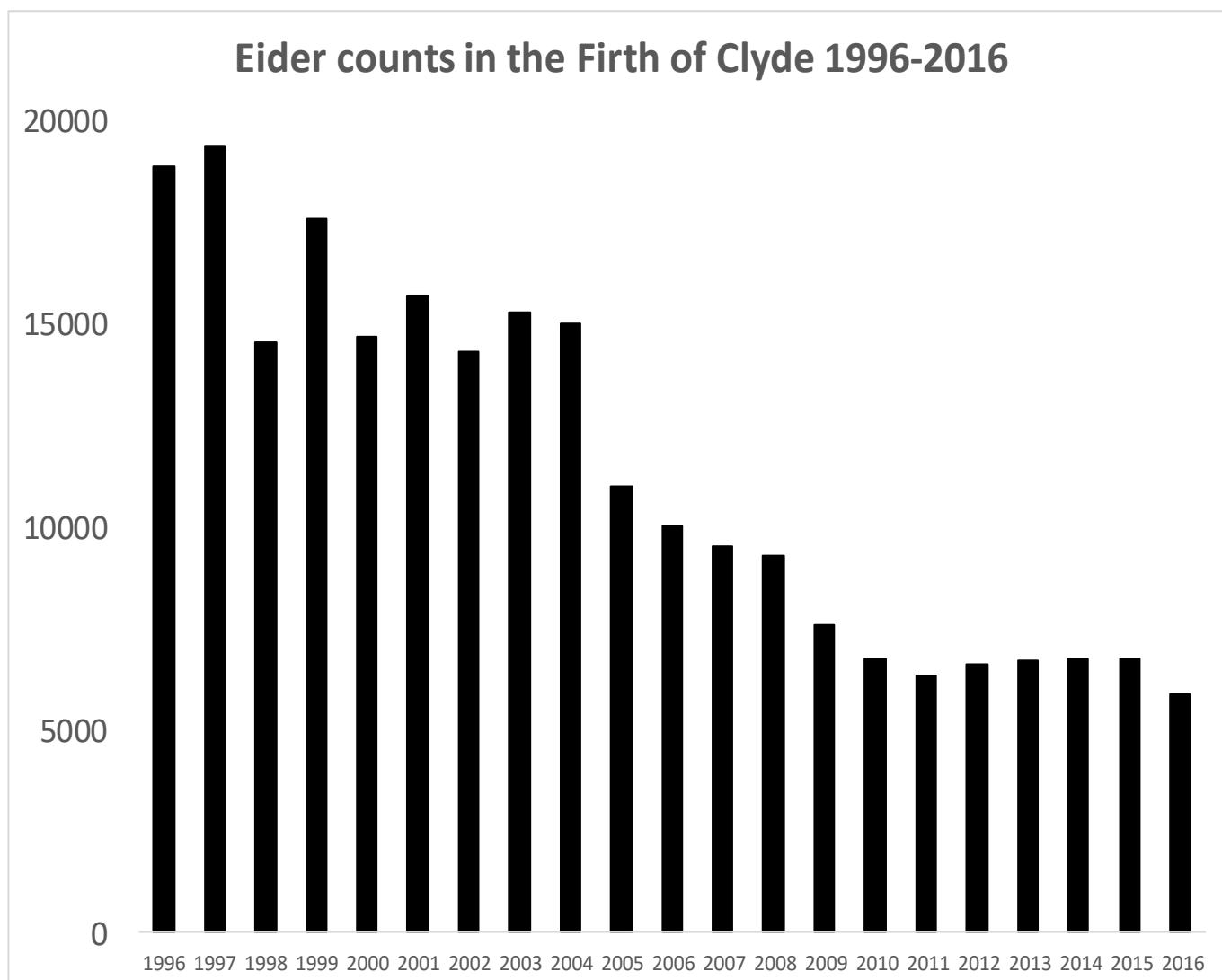


*The 5th Pan-European Duck Symposium to
be held at the Field Studies Centre at
Millport, on Great Cumbrae 16-20 April
2018.*

Further information on conference website

<http://www.ducksg.org/events/peds5/>

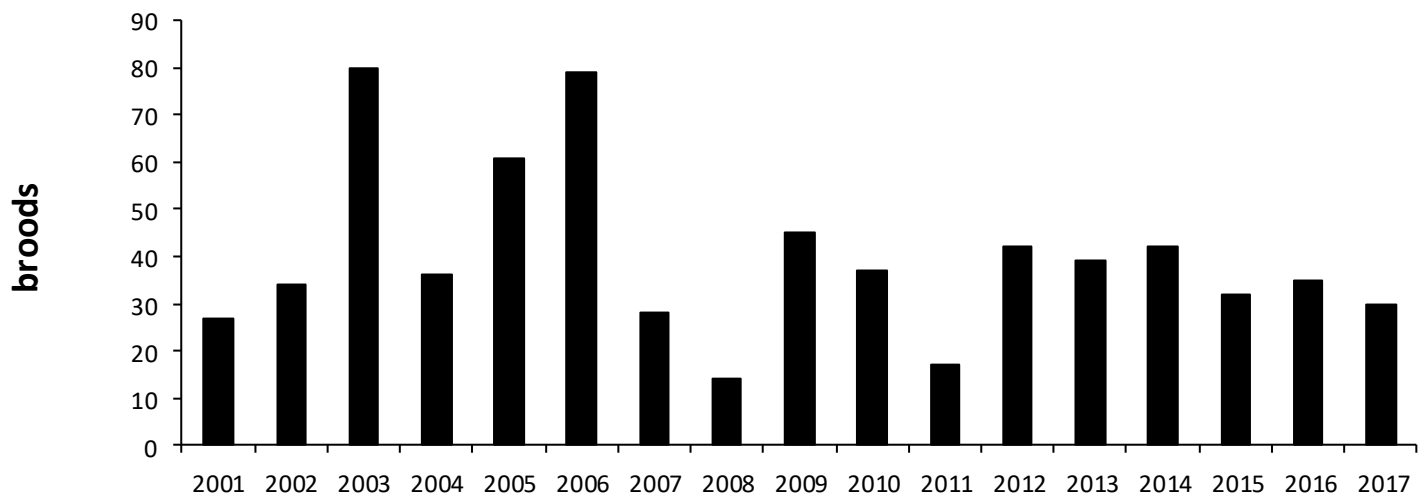
<u>September Count stretch</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>5 yr mean</u>
Clyde Estuary (Gourock-Craigendoran)	137	131	459	538	730	399
Craigendoran-Kilcreggan (Gare Loch)	1432	1526	1187	1741	1540	1485
Kilcreggan-Strone Point (L Long/Goil)	945	848	1076	988	583	888
Holy Loch to Toward Pt	289	324	219	223	93	230
Gourock-Largs	277	442	237	423	365	249
Bute & Kyles (+ L Ridden & L Striven)	314	145	137	135	271	201
Great Cumbrae	111	134	236	306	264	210
Loch Fyne	924	1057	1096	795	265	827
E Kintyre (Skipness-Southend)	91	155	144	152	222	153
Arran	131	144	116	117	116	125
Largs-Seamill	320	100	104	130	46	140
Seamill-Saltcoats	88	100	41	3	35	53
Irvine & Ayr Bays	659	150	585	308	741	489
Dunure-Girvan	120	134	340	115	153	172
Girvan-Ballantrae				5		5
Loch Ryan	740	1310	729	753	423	791
Total Firth of Clyde	6578	6700	6706	6732	5847	6417



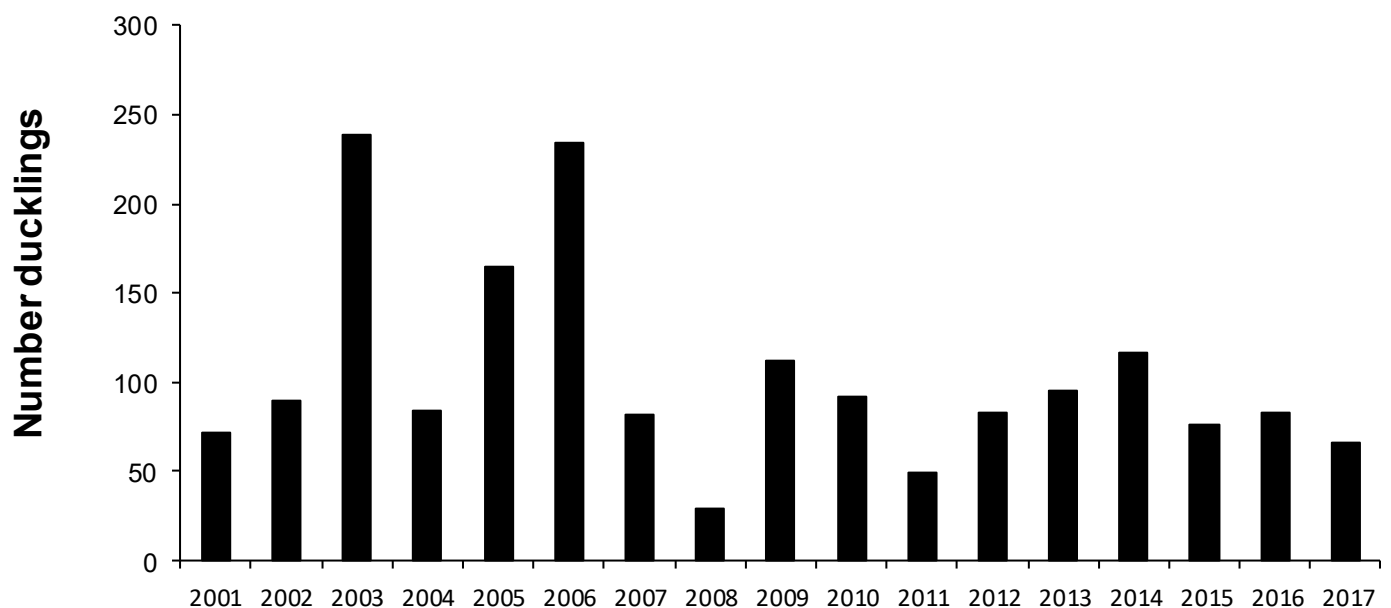
Breeding productivity in Gare Loch/Rosneath Peninsula in 2017

Counts in mid-July 2017 found 30 broods/crèches with total of 66 ducklings. This compares with 35 broods with 83 ducklings in 2016, 32 broods with 76 ducklings in 2015 and 42 broods with 116 ducklings in 2014.

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, over 1500 birds have been ringed in the Firth of Clyde, all but 5 being adult females.

Any rings found should be reported to the **Ringing 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 2017 count will take place from the 9th to 30th.