

WWT/JNCC/SNH Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme

survey results 2012/13

European White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*

1. Abundance

The abundance of European White-fronted Geese in the UK during 2012/13 was monitored through the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). Results are presented in survey reports which are available on the WeBS website.

2. Breeding success

During January 2013, European White-fronted Geese were aged at two locations in England; WWT Slimbridge in Gloucestershire and RSPB's North Warren nature reserve in Suffolk. Overall, 360 geese were aged and a total of 68 goslings (18.8%) was present in the flock counts.

At Slimbridge, 175 birds were aged with 35 goslings (20%) present (Figure 1), and at North Warren, a sample of 185 birds contained 33 goslings (17.9%). Brood size counts were carried out by the reserve wardens at Slimbridge, with 34 goslings counted among 15 broods, giving a mean brood size of 2.2 goslings per successful pair.

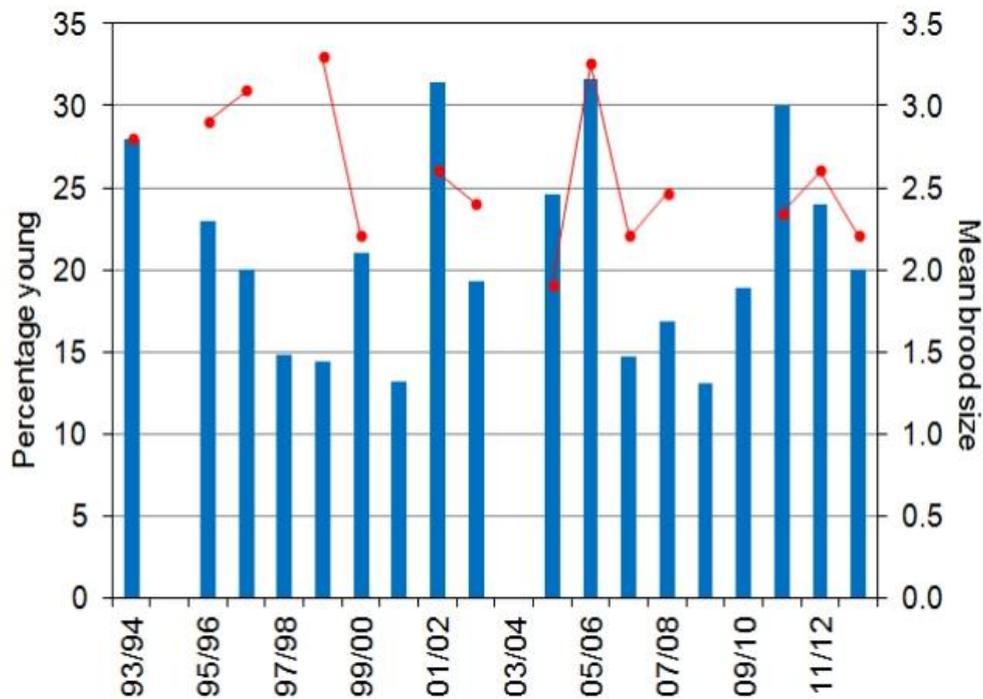


Figure 1. The proportion of young and mean brood size of European White-fronted Geese recorded at Slimbridge (where data have been collected regularly), 1993/94 – 2012/13. Note; no data were collected during 1994/95 or 2003/04.

Despite the fairly typical breeding success among birds wintering in Britain, 2012 seems to have been a poor breeding year for this population overall (K. Koffijberg pers. comm.). Although data are still being collated from various wintering countries, the provisional estimate is c. 11% young based on flocks assessed in Austria, Switzerland, Germany, The Netherlands and Belgium.

This report should be cited as:

WWT. 2013. *Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme: survey results 2012/13 European White-fronted Goose Anser albifrons albifrons*. WWT/JNCC/SNH, Slimbridge.

© The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

All rights reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the copyright holder.

This report was produced under the Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme (GSMP). This programme monitors numbers and breeding success of geese and swans in the UK during the non-breeding season. GSMP is organised by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust in partnership with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (on behalf of Natural Resources Wales, Natural England and the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside) and Scottish Natural Heritage.



Goose & Swan Monitoring