WWT/JNCC/SNH Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme
survey results 2009/10
East Atlantic Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*

1.   Abundance

The abundance of East Atlantic Light-bellied Brent Geese during 2009/10 was monitored through the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS).

2.   Breeding success

A total of 1,442 individuals was aged at Lindisfarne, Northumberland, in October and November 2009, and of these 2.2% were young birds. The number of goslings was determined for 15 families and the mean brood size was 1.8 young per successful pair (± 0.26 SE), ranging from 1-4 goslings per family.

3.   Discussion

Breeding success amongst the Light-bellied Brent Geese at Lindisfarne was only fractionally higher in 2009/10 than in the previous winter. The percentage of young in flocks has remained low over the past 18 years, only exceeding 10% on four occasions; 1993, when the highest breeding success was recorded (31.4% young), 1996, 2000 and 2007. Results from other key areas in the flyway, mainly sites in Denmark, are not yet available.

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