

# 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 ( $\pm 0.26$  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.

This report should be cited as:

WWT. 2010. *Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme: survey results 2009/10 East Atlantic Light-bellied Brent Goose Branta bernicla hrota*. WWT/JNCC/SNH, Slimbridge.

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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