



Overwintering Wetland Birds of Poole Harbour

An Analysis of Poole Harbour WeBS Data 1975 - 2021



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Overview

Poole Harbour – a haven for wintering birds

Poole Harbour, situated on the south coast of England is, famously, one of the largest natural harbours in the world. The northern and eastern shoreline comprises largely residential and industrial development, a busy port, a number of marinas, and a thriving tourist and leisure industry, and is part of the Poole conurbation. In contrast, the western and southern shorelines comprise largely of extensive heathland and agricultural grassland, and are, for the most part, undeveloped. In addition, there are a number of islands dotted around the harbour, including the iconic Brownsea Island, which are either lightly developed or uninhabited.

The harbour and surrounding land is important for its birdlife throughout the year. In the summer, Brownsea Island has notable breeding colonies of Sandwich and Common Terns while large colonies of Black-headed Gulls and Mediterranean Gulls form in the Wareham channel. The land on its southern and western shores has some of the most important summer breeding populations of heathland and open woodland birds in southern England, such as the Dartford Warbler, Woodlark, Hobby and Nightjar. It's a major stopover for migratory birds, including Ospreys, in the spring as they head north and then again as they head south on their autumn passage.

However, it is in the winter when the number of birds and species explodes dramatically. Over 25,000 waterfowl, waders, gulls and other wetland species can be counted in the harbour at any one time at the peak of the winter season.

Despite its extensive area, Poole Harbour is surprisingly shallow. As a result, it has extensive intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh which provide rich feeding grounds in the winter for waterfowl such as Dark-bellied Brent Geese, Canada Geese, Teal and Wigeon and, at low tide, for waders such as Black-tailed Godwit and Avocet amongst many others. Bar-tailed Godwits, Sanderling and Oystercatchers can be found feeding on the exposed sands of the northern shoreline at low tide. And open water birds such as Great Northern Diver, Great-crested Grebe and Slavonian Grebe inhabit the quieter channels particularly in the south and west of the harbour during the winter months.

Birds migrate not only from other parts of the UK to winter here but from much further afield. In addition, in the autumn and spring, their numbers can be boosted by passage migrants who use the harbour as a vital stopover to rebuild energy reserves on their longer journey. Some arrivals come from their summer breeding grounds in Northern Europe, the Baltic, Russia and Iceland while others endure even more hazardous journeys from as far afield as Greenland.

Poole Harbour is truly an international winter destination for birds from all across Northern Europe and the North Atlantic! As such, it is a vital part of a wide ecosystem of international bird populations.

Poole Harbour – a very special place

The importance of Poole Harbour, not only for wintering birds but for the wider richness and diversity of its fauna, flora and marine environment, has resulted in it being recognised and designated for protection.

Poole Harbour is of international importance for its birds. It is classified as a Special Protection Area (SPA), meaning it is part of the National Site Network and afforded strict protection in UK law through the Habitats Directive. Poole Harbour is also recognised as a wetland of international importance, listed under the Ramsar convention.

Poole Harbour is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as designated by Natural England and, as such, is given special statutory protection.

Holes Bay is a designated quiet area in the local plan and much of the land is managed as such by Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch council. And extensive land bordering the south and west of the harbour is managed by the National Trust, the RSPB and supportive private landowners.

This is not to say that protecting the environment does not have its challenges. There are many activities with a vital interest in the harbour – shipping, tourism, water-sports, fishing, agriculture, oil extraction, transport and housing to name but a few. The challenge is to balance these activities, which are vital to a thriving local economy, in a way which enhances, rather than threaten, our natural heritage and the unique qualities that make Poole Harbour such a special place.

Birds of Poole Harbour – a local charity raising awareness of this special place

Birds of Poole Harbour is a charity dedicated to raising awareness and educating the public about this special place and its rich bird life. The charity works with partner organisations and private enterprises around the harbour to improve habitat creation and protection. It runs a popular School Bird Boat Project taking local school children out to learn about the harbour and its birds. It manages the flagship Poole Harbour Osprey reintroduction project. It works with local tourist boat companies to promote guided birding tours of the harbour, and it runs multiple engagement projects and public events to enhance understanding of this incredibly precious area and its bird life.

Studying the birds and monitoring their numbers and behaviour is vital to the ongoing conservation efforts taking place. Amongst many other activities, Birds of Poole Harbour is responsible for coordinating the monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) which take place across the harbour between September to March each winter. The results are then submitted to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), which collates the data nationally. The charity has been co-ordinating the local count since September 2010, but these survey data extend back much further, for some species back to the 1970s.

The purpose of this publication is to bring together an analysis of these data for 45 of the main winter species, the trends in numbers over the long-term, how they compare with national trends, their seasonality, and where the birds are distributed around the harbour during the winter months. It is a fact-based analysis which demonstrates the importance of Poole Harbour for wintering wetland birds, with the aim of stimulating public interest, cross-organisation discussion and further research towards protecting and enhancing this very special place.

Populations of Wintering Wetland Birds in Poole Harbour

Poole Harbour is of international importance for 2 species: Avocet and Black-tailed Godwit (Source BTO).

Poole Harbour is of national importance for twelve species: Avocet, Black-tailed Godwit, dark-bellied Brent Goose, Shelduck, Spoonbill, Little Egret, Mediterranean Gull, Redshank, Red-breasted Merganser, Greenshank, Pintail and Green Sandpiper (Source BTO).

Winter bird numbers usually build in September before peaking in January or February. The maximum count of wintering wetland birds (including gulls) between September 2011 and March 2021 in Poole Harbour was 30,554 which was recorded in February 2020.

The Western Reaches (28%) and Southern Shores (22%) are the most significant sectors in the harbour for the low-tide bird counts. South East Harbour (17%), Northern Bays (10%), Central and North East Harbour (15%) and Brownsea Island (8%) account for the remainder. The distribution changes at high tide, with the lagoon on Brownsea Island in particular becoming more significant. Moreover, the distribution varies markedly according to individual species with some sectors accounting for well over 50% of counts of certain species.

A summary of the average peak counts of the important winter species between September 2016 and March 2021 is shown in the table below (descending order). Peak counts can vary from over a thousand (in the cases of 8 species) to less than 10 (in the case of 9 species in the study).

| | Average Peak Count Sept 2016 - Mar 2021 | Percentage GB Population | Maximum Count Sept 2011 - Mar 2021 | Maximum Count Sept 1975 - Mar 2021 |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Wigeon | 4675 | 1.0 | 5606 | 5606 |
| Black-tailed Godwit | 3458 | 8.9 | 6506 | 6506 |
| Teal | 2854 | 0.7 | 4312 | 4312 |
| Dunlin | 2166 | 0.6 | 2851 | 7090 |
| Brent Goose (Dark-bellied) | 1726 | 1.8 | 2442 | 2442 |
| Avocet | 1524 | 17.5 | 1829 | 1893 |
| Lapwing | 1476 | 0.2 | 2260 | 10454 |
| Shelduck | 1070 | 2.3 | 1826 | 4650 |
| Oystercatcher | 998 | 0.3 | 1255 | 2034 |
| Redshank | 915 | 1.0 | 1258 | 2178 |
| Curlew | 902 | 0.8 | 1588 | 2472 |
| Cormorant | 553 | 0.9 | 863 | 863 |
| Canada Goose | 415 | 0.3 | 704 | 704 |
| Mallard | 324 | 0.0 | 582 | 1755 |
| Pintail | 310 | 1.6 | 407 | 451 |
| Mute Swan | 199 | 0.4 | 215 | 419 |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | 193 | 0.4 | 397 | 656 |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 191 | 1.9 | 335 | 535 |
| Great Crested Grebe | 178 | 1.0 | 244 | 244 |
| Gadwall | 169 | 0.5 | 197 | 197 |
| Mediterranean Gull | 166 | 4.1 | 325 | 325 |
| Little Egret | 154 | 1.4 | 240 | 240 |
| Grey Plover | 145 | 0.4 | 241 | 685 |
| Shoveler | 141 | 0.7 | 276 | 276 |
| Greylag Goose | 78 | 0.0 | 158 | 158 |
| Goldeneye | 76 | 0.4 | 210 | 405 |
| Turnstone | 63 | 0.2 | 93 | 93 |
| Tufted Duck | 57 | 0.0 | 192 | 676 |
| Knot | 52 | 0.0 | 103 | 613 |

| | Average Peak Count Sept 2016 - Mar 2021 | Percentage GB Population | Maximum Count Sept 2011 - Mar 2021 | Maximum Count Sept 1975 - Mar 2021 |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Spoonbill | 51 | 46.2 | 80 | 80 |
| Ringed Plover | 46 | 0.1 | 74 | 194 |
| Grey Heron | 46 | 0.1 | 58 | 62 |
| Sanderling | 38 | 0.2 | 76 | 279 |
| Little Grebe | 32 | 0.2 | 39 | 39 |
| Greenshank | 24 | 3.0 | 41 | 90 |
| Black-necked Grebe | 22 | 18.3 | 50 | 50 |
| Spotted Redshank | 7 | 10.7 | 26 | 65 |
| Green Sandpiper | 6 | 2.1 | 10 | 10 |
| Great Northern Diver | 6 | 0.1 | 12 | 12 |
| Common Scoter | 6 | 0.0 | 10 | 28 |
| Slavonian Grebe | 3 | 0.4 | 7 | 15 |
| Pochard | 3 | 0.0 | 40 | 1386 |
| Great White Egret | 2 | 3.1 | 3 | 3 |
| Scaup | 2 | 0.1 | 5 | 186 |
| Long-tailed Duck | 1 | 0.0 | 4 | 14 |

Growth and Relative Growth Analysis

The fortunes of individual species have varied markedly over the longer term. An analysis of the counts in Poole Harbour and their performance relative to national (GB) trends for the period 2000 to 2020 reveals that counts of 12 species have increased and out-performed the national trends while the counts of 13 species have declined and under-performed the national trends. The full analysis is shown in the below chart (data for Great White Egret is not of sufficient duration to include in the analysis).

This chart shows how counts of a particular species in Poole Harbour have fared over the period 2000 - 2020 both in absolute terms (vertical axis) and relative to national trends (horizontal axis). Growth in Poole Harbour counts has been measured by the five-year moving average of peak counts for the 2019/20 season relative to the five-year moving average for 1999/00. The threshold for the 'Increasing' category on the vertical axis is growth of greater than 10% over the period; the threshold for the 'Declining' category is a decline of greater than 10% over the period; the remainder are allocated to the 'Stable' category. The performance relative to the GB index is measured by the growth in Poole Harbour counts relative to growth in the GB Index on the same basis. The threshold for 'Out-performing' is relative growth of greater than 10%; the threshold for 'Under-performing' is a relative decline of greater than 10%; the remainder are allocated to 'In-line'.

| Poole Harbour Count | Relative to GB Index | | | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| | Under-performing | | In-line | | Out-performing | |
| Increasing | Little Egret Greenshank | Great Northern Diver | Black-tailed Godwit Avocet Cormorant | Mute Swan Shoveler Canada Goose | Brent Goose Spoonbill Wigeon Teal Great Crested Grebe Turnstone | Greylag Goose Gadwall Bar-tailed Godwit Sanderling Green Sandpiper Mediterranean Gull |
| Stable | Little Grebe Black-necked Grebe Common Scoter | | Redshank | Grey Heron | Pintail | |
| Declining | Shelduck Dunlin Red-breasted Merganser Lapwing Pochard Grey Plover Ringed Plover | Tufted Duck Scaup Long-tailed Duck Goldeneye Slavonian Grebe Knot | Curlew Oystercatcher | Mallard Spotted Redshank | | |

Interpreting the Data

Site Designation and Rank

If Poole Harbour is designated as hosting an internationally or nationally important population of a species (source BTO), this is noted in a yellow circle next to the species name using the following abbreviations:

- Int - exceeds International Importance threshold of 1% of east Atlantic flyway population
- GB - exceeds National Importance threshold of 1% of GB winter population

If a designation is held for a species, Poole Harbour is allocated a rank amongst all British sites based on population size. This rank is included in a green circle.

Long-term Trend

Annual Peak Count

The chart shows the annual maximum count in Poole Harbour for a species during WeBS between September 1975 and March 2021. This provides a visual representation of the long-term trend in counts for each species. When interpreting this data please note that survey effort was not equal across this period (in particular it was very low between 2000-2009) and so the data may not be representative of the true trends.

Population Trend

The chart shows the BTO index of seasonal wintering populations of a species in Poole Harbour (purple series) and in Great Britain (green series) for the period between September 1975 and March 2018. Each index is calculated such that a doubling of the index value represents a doubling in population size. The indices are scaled so that the value in the latest year of the dataset is equal to 100 (in this case 2017/18) and the values for all prior years are determined relative to this. A visual comparison of the underlying trend in each series provides a rough indication of how numbers of a particular species in Poole Harbour are performing relative to numbers estimated for Great Britain as a whole over the long-term.

Note that the BTO index for Poole Harbour does not include WeBS data for Studland and Shell Bay. Where a Poole Harbour index is not available for Poole Harbour, only the Great Britain index is included.

Distribution

Distribution Map

The map shows the distribution of a species across Poole Harbour. The percentage distribution for each species is calculated from the the average seasonal distribution for the period September 2011 to March 2021. The original WeBS data has been aggregated into six distinct areas: South East Harbour, Southern Shore, Western Reaches, Northern Bays, Central and North East Harbour and Brownsea Island.

Relative Distribution

The chart shows the distribution of a species (blue bars) around the six areas of Poole Harbour relative to the average distribution of all WeBs species counted (yellow bars). The percentage distribution for each species and all species is calculated from the average seasonal distribution for the period 2011 to Mar 2021. A visual comparison of the two series indicates where a species' distribution differs from the 'norm'.

Seasonality

The chart shows the seasonal trend for a species in Poole Harbour. The values are mean monthly counts averaged across years for the period of September 2011 to March 2021.

Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

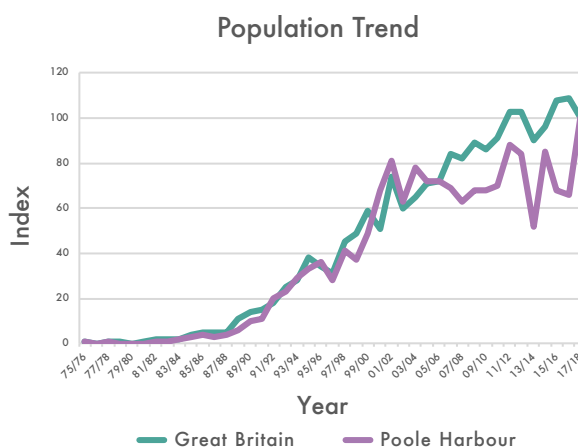
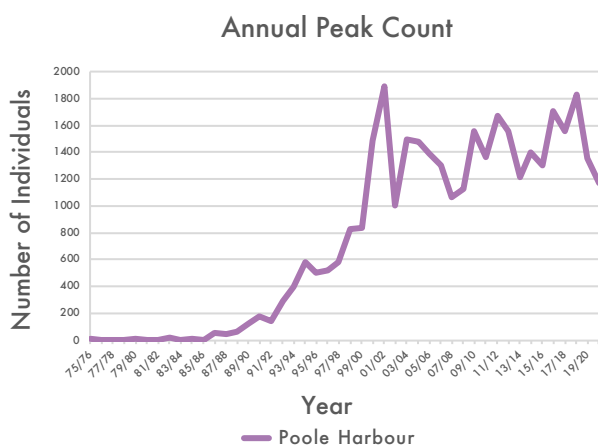
Int

4th

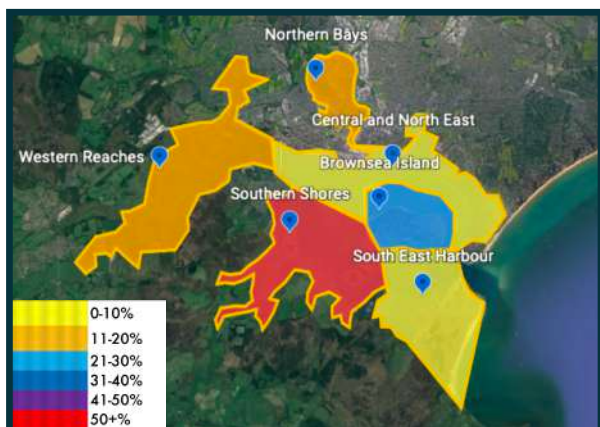


| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 1524 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 1829 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 17.5 |

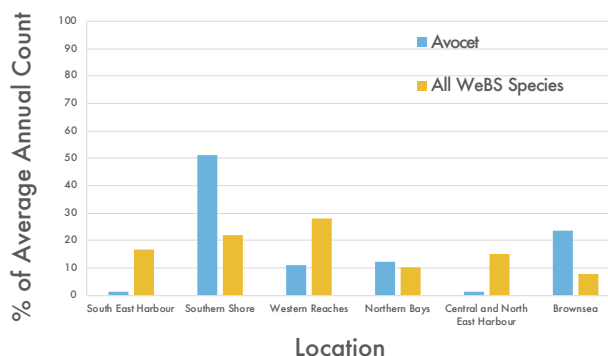
Long-term Trend



Distribution

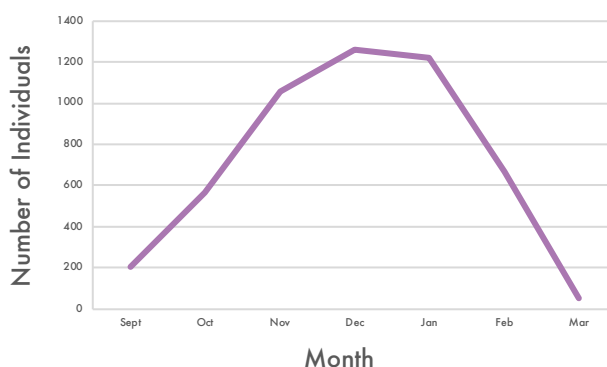


Distribution of Avocet Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa islandica

Int

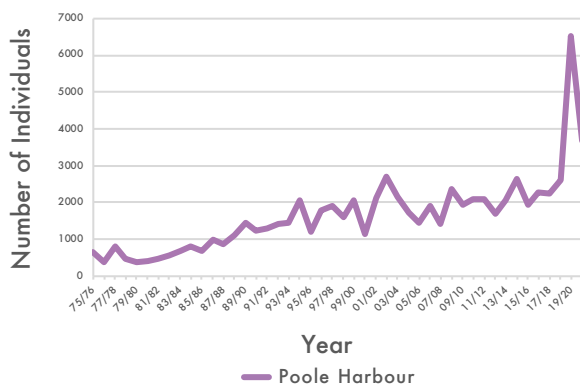
7th



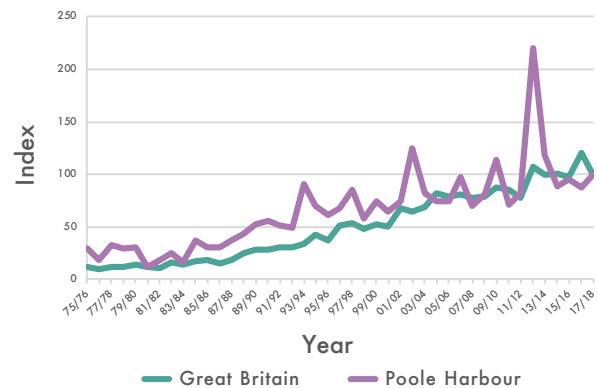
| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 3458 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 6506 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 8.9 |

Long-term Trend

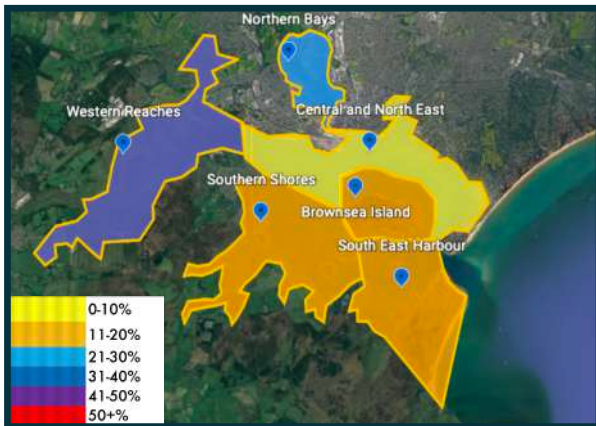
Annual Peak Count



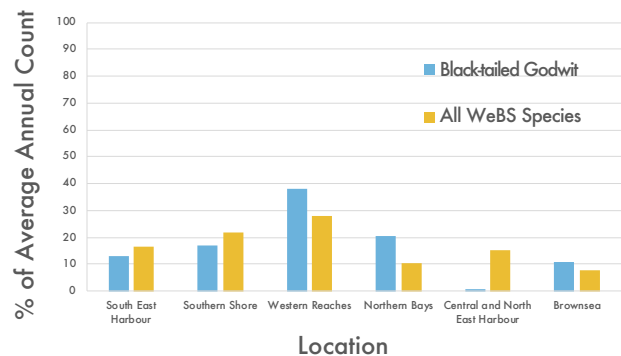
Population Trend



Distribution

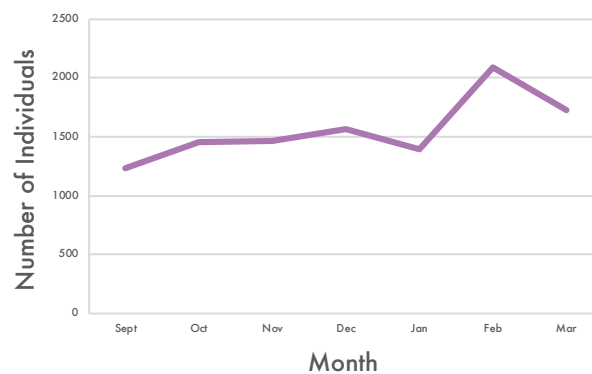


Distribution of Black-tailed Godwit Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Dark-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla hrota

GB

20th



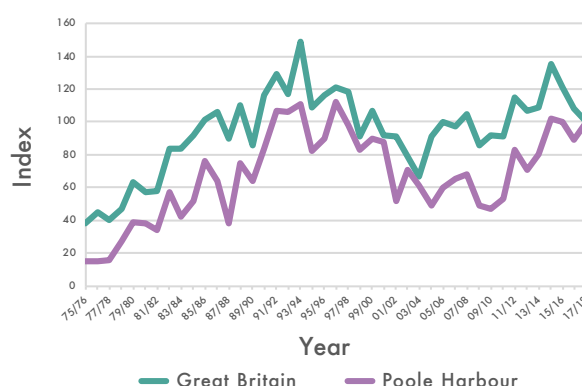
| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 1726 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 2442 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 1.8 |

Long-term Trend

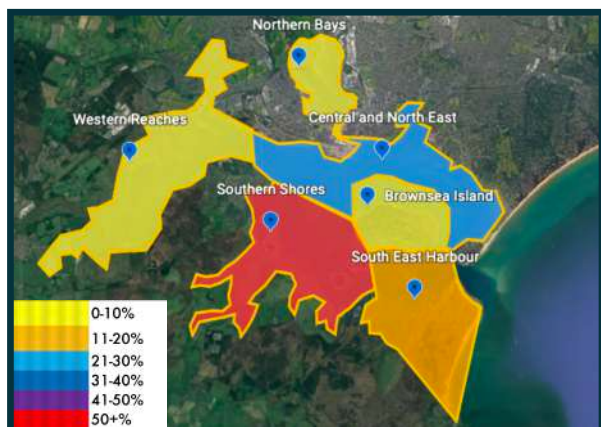
Annual Peak Count



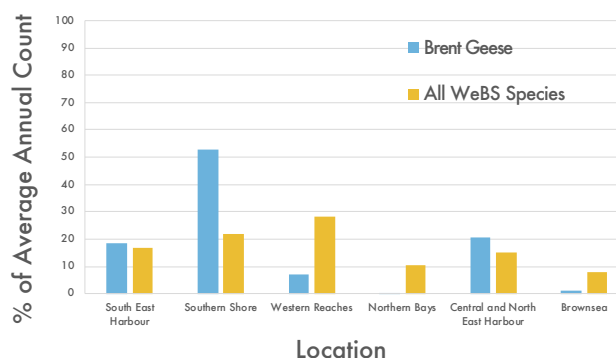
Population Trend



Distribution

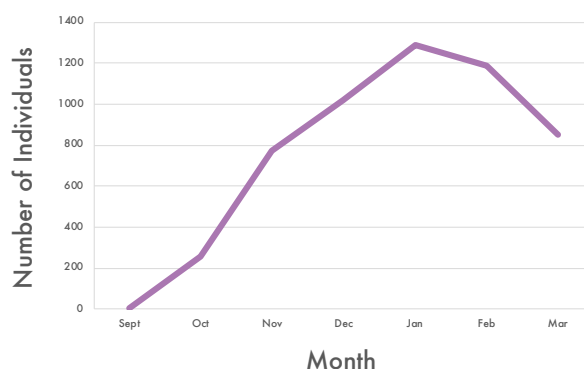


Distribution of Brent Geese Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Shelduck

Tadorna tadorna

GB

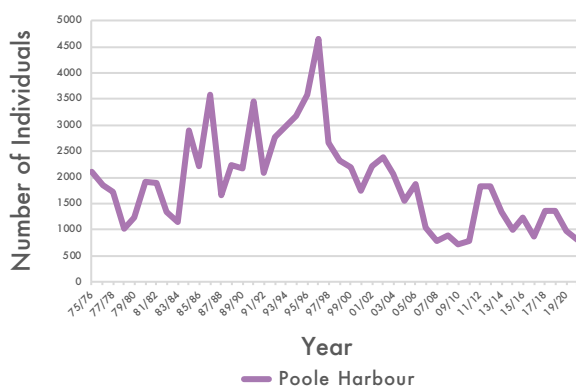
17th



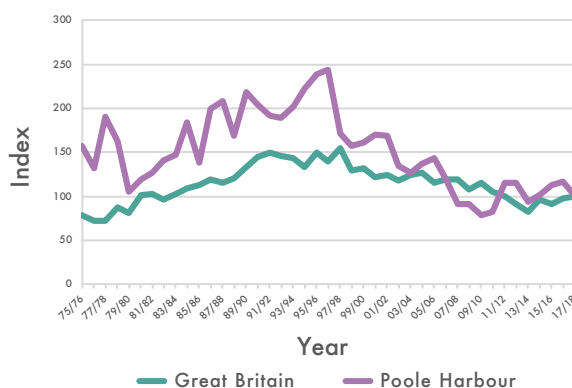
| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 1070 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 1826 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 2.3 |

Long-term Trend

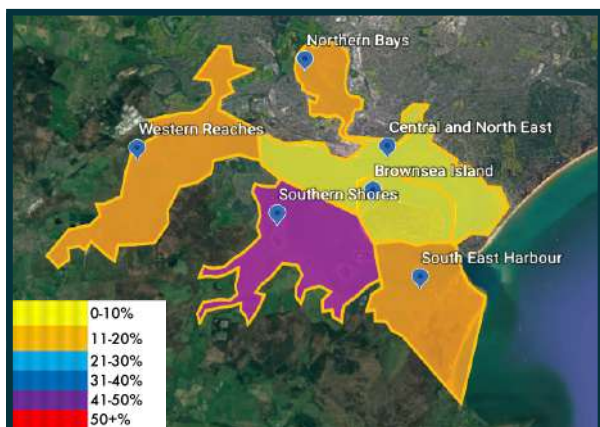
Annual Peak Count



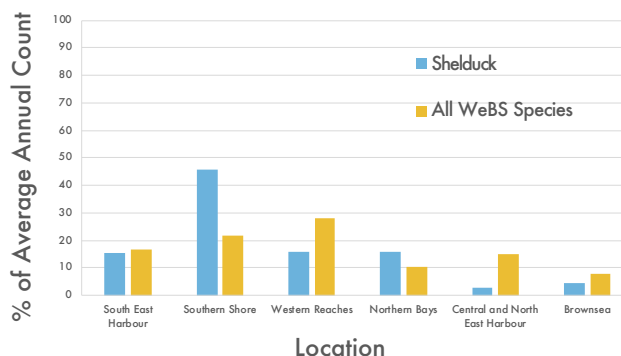
Population Trend



Distribution

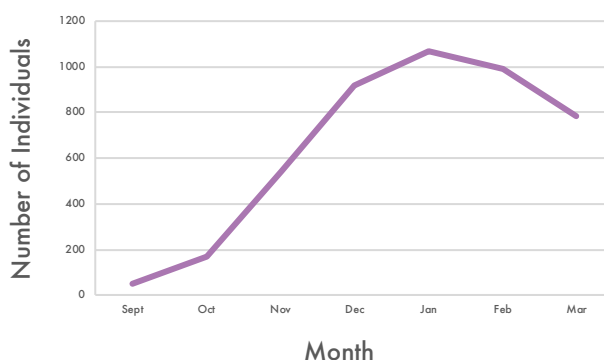


Distribution of Shelduck Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Pintail

Anas acuta

GB

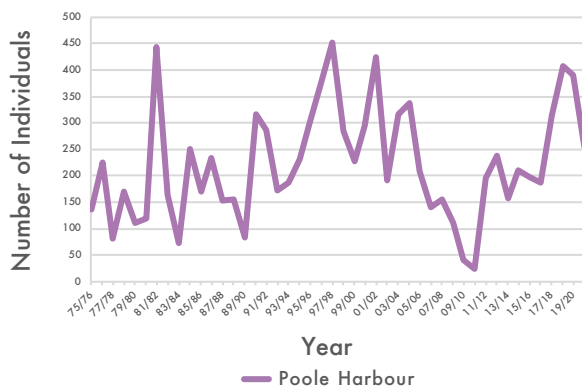
24th



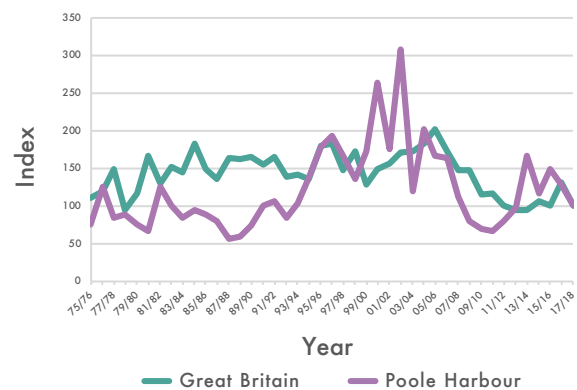
| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 310 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 407 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 1.6 |

Long-term Trend

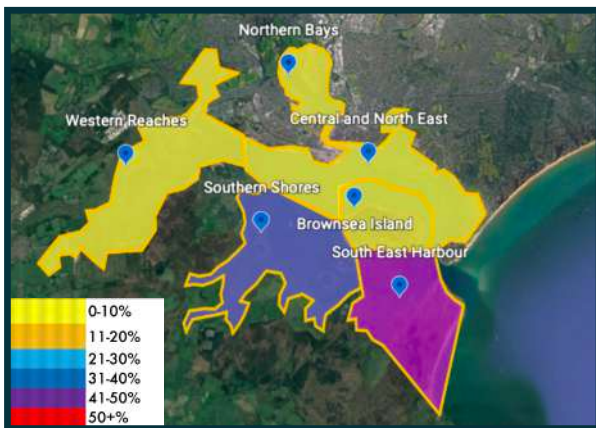
Annual Peak Count



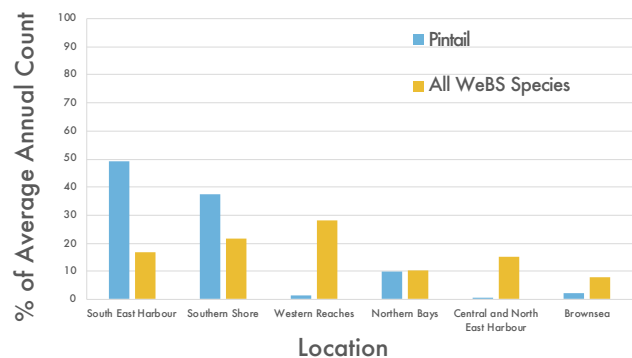
Population Trend



Distribution

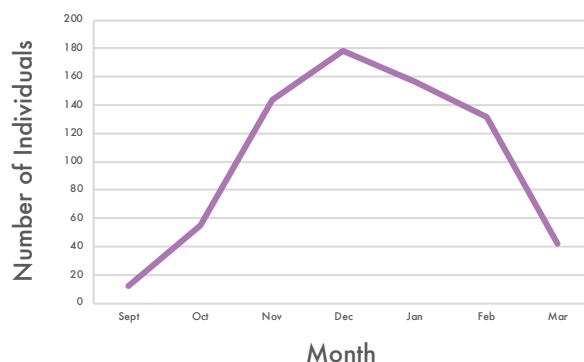


Distribution of Pintail Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

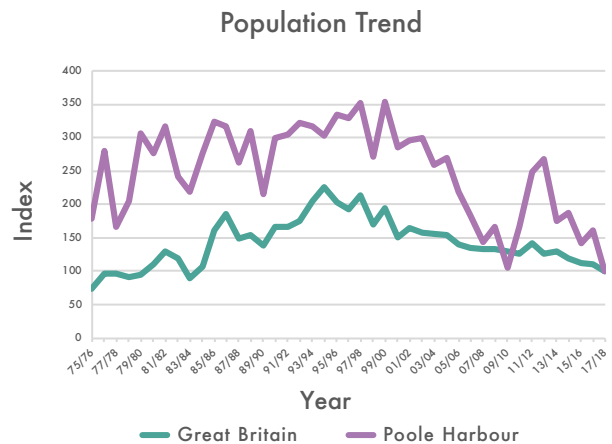
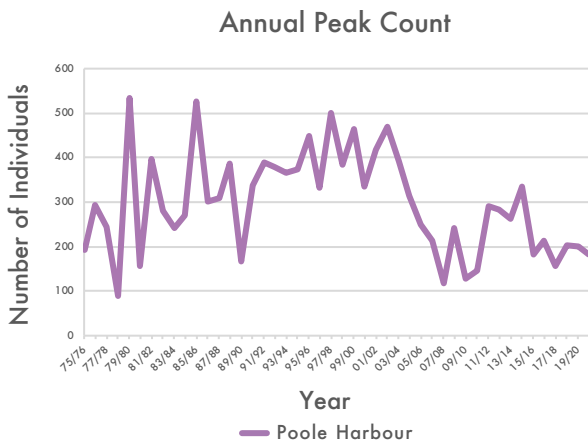
GB

5th

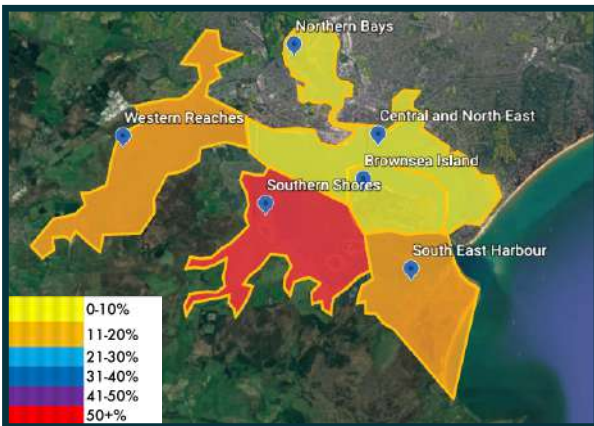


| | |
|---|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 191 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 335 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 1.9 |

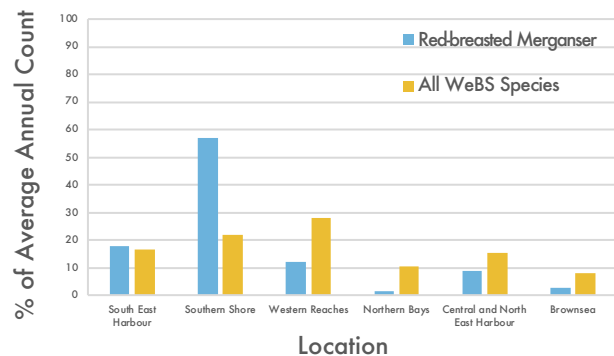
Long-term Trend



Distribution

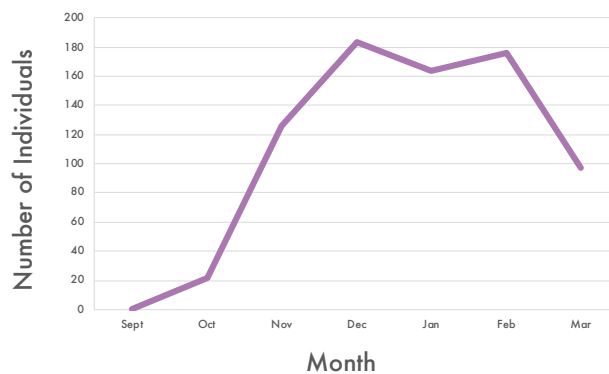


Distribution of Red-breasted Merganser Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

GB

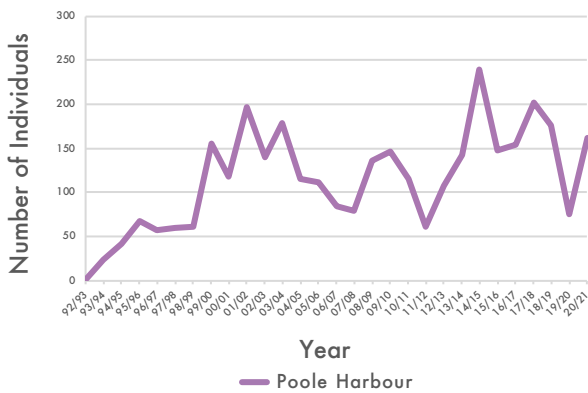
24th



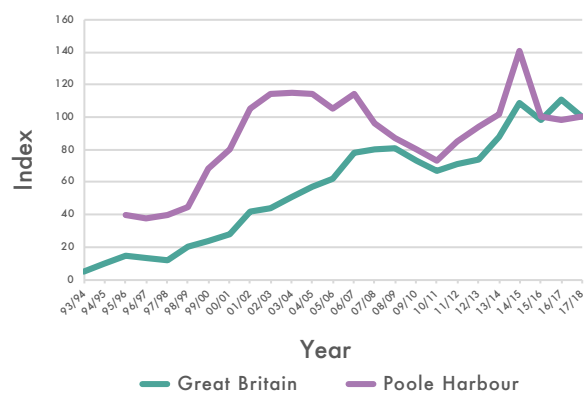
| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 154 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 240 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 1.4 |

Long-term Trend

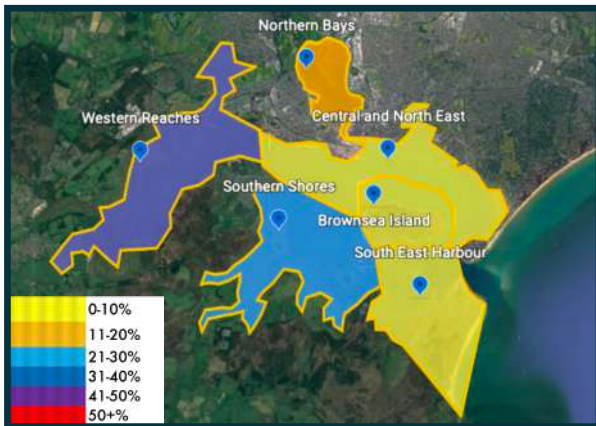
Annual Peak Count



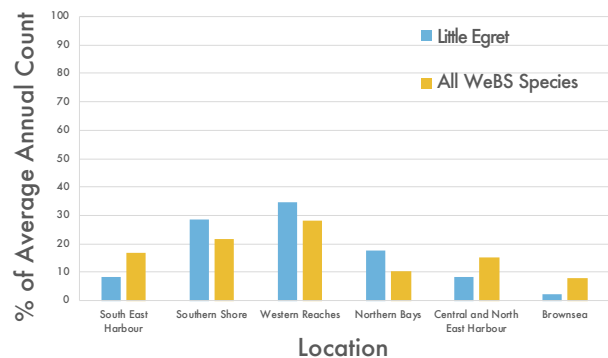
Population Trend



Distribution

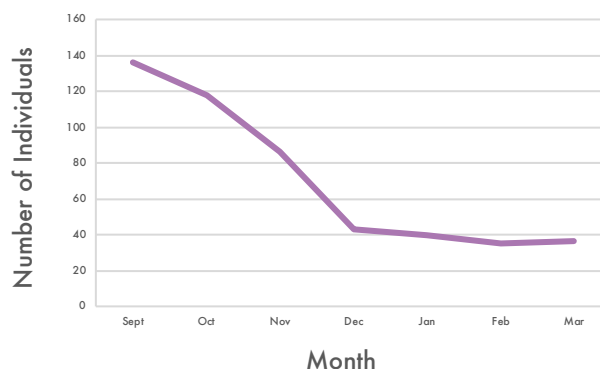


Distribution of Little Egret Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Spoonbill

Platalea leucorodia

GB

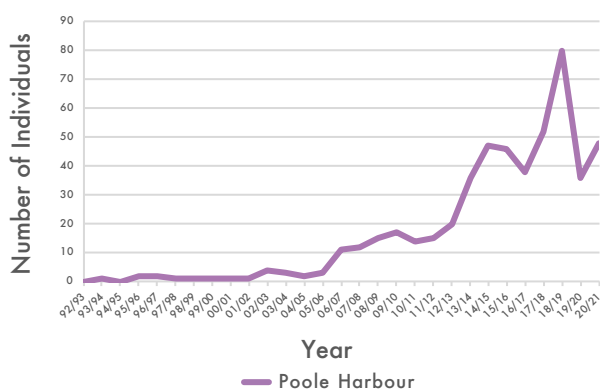
2nd



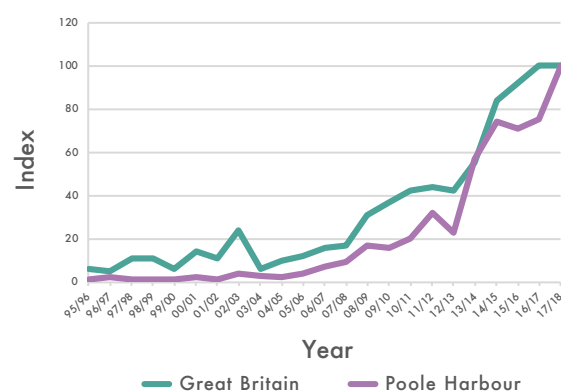
| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 51 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 80 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 46.2 |

Long-term Trend

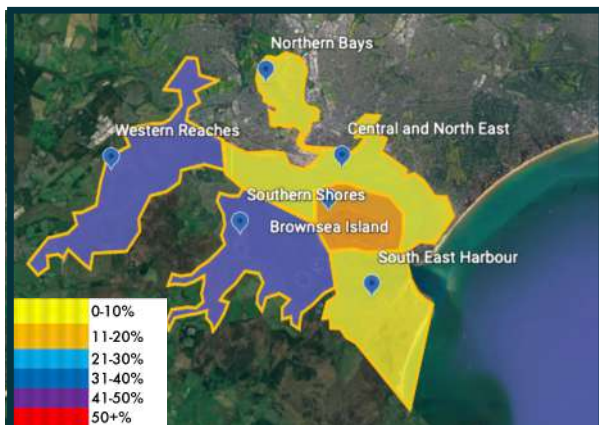
Annual Peak Count



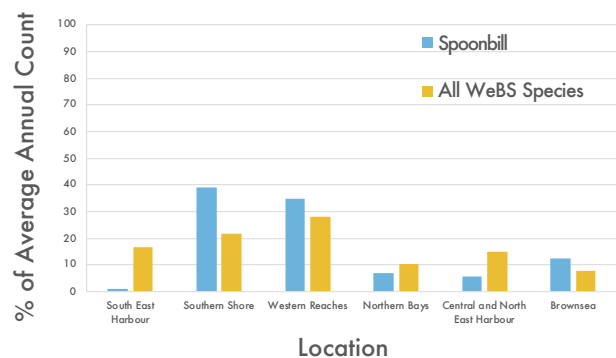
Population Trend



Distribution

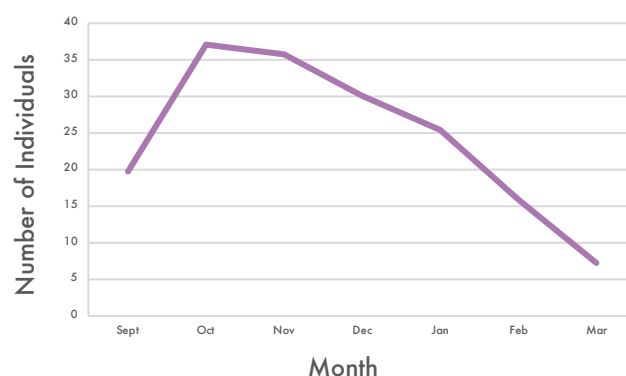


Distribution of Spoonbill Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

GB

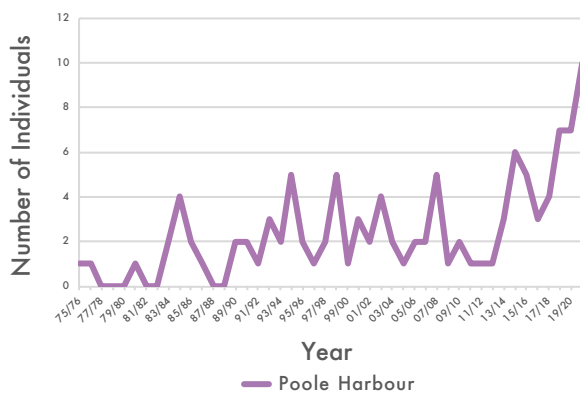
4th



| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 6 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 10 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 2.1 |

Long-term Trend

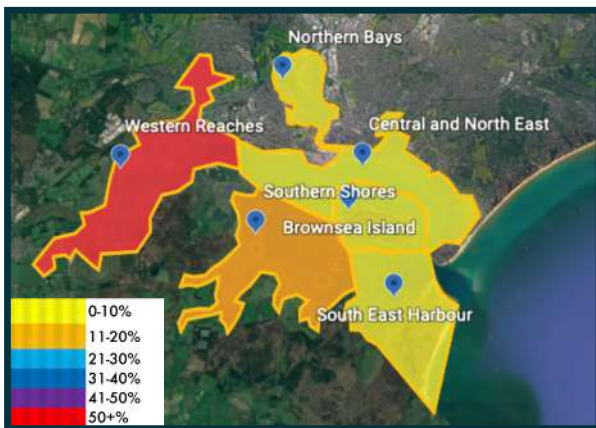
Annual Peak Count



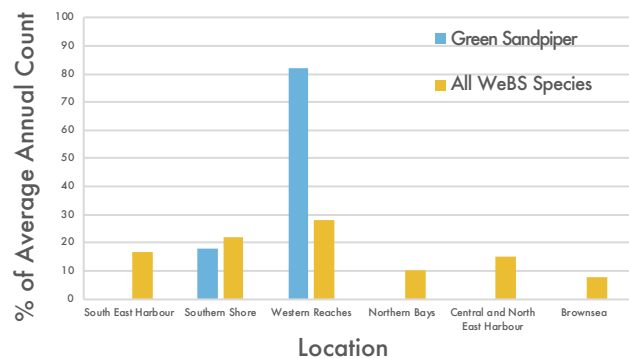
Population Trend



Distribution

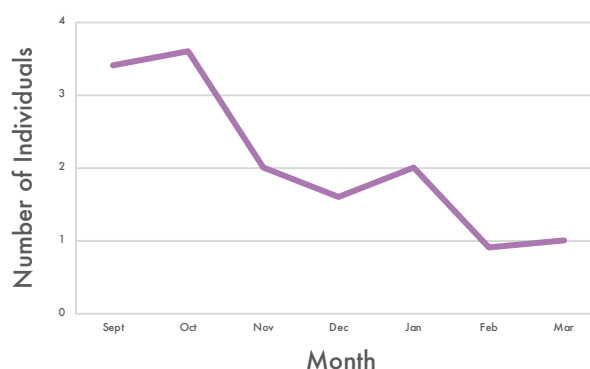


Distribution of Green Sandpiper Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Redshank

Tringa totanus

GB

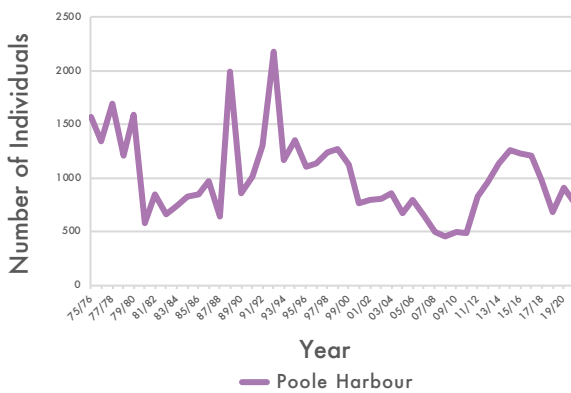
35th



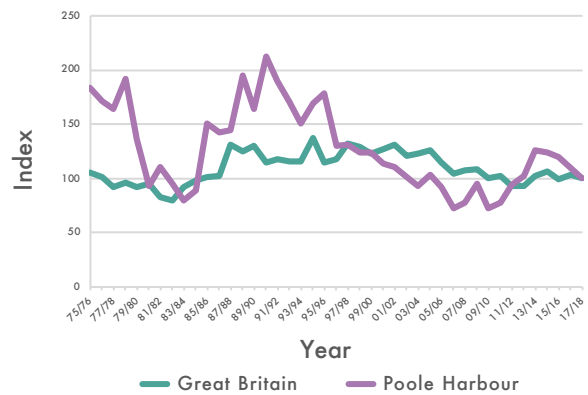
| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 915 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 1258 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 1.0 |

Long-term Trend

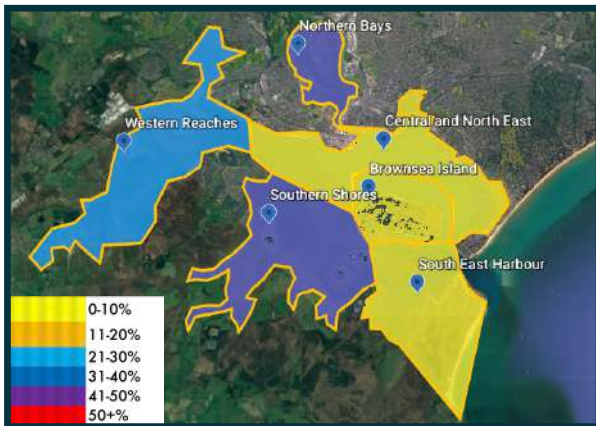
Annual Peak Count



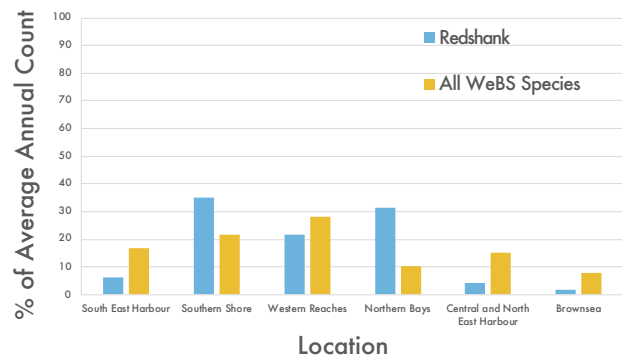
Population Trend



Distribution

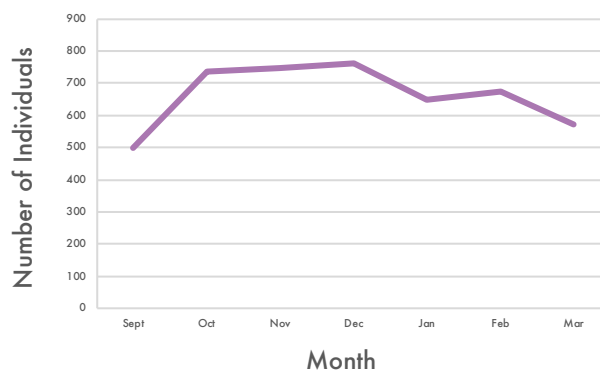


Distribution of Redshank Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

GB

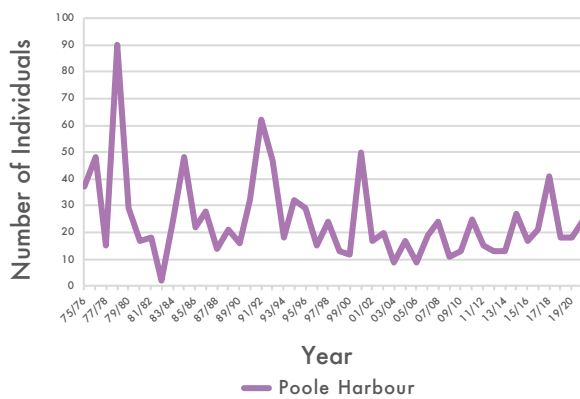
25th



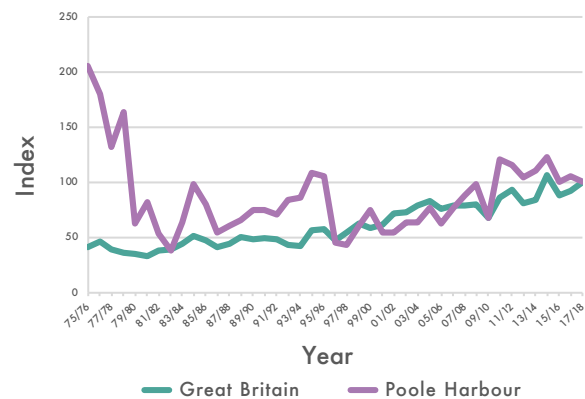
| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 24 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 41 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 3.0 |

Long-term Trend

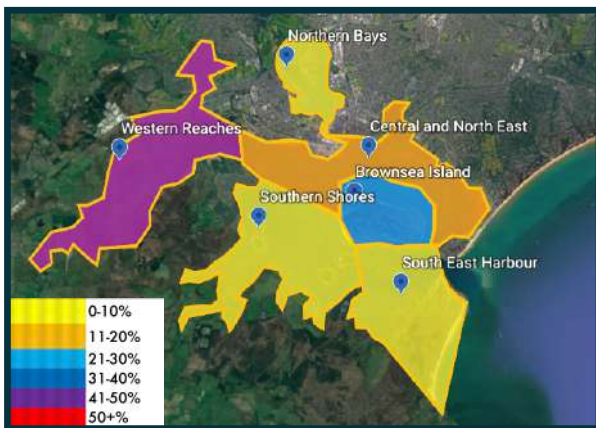
Annual Peak Count



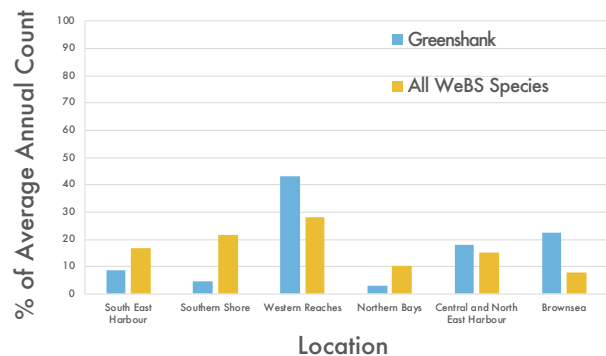
Population Trend



Distribution

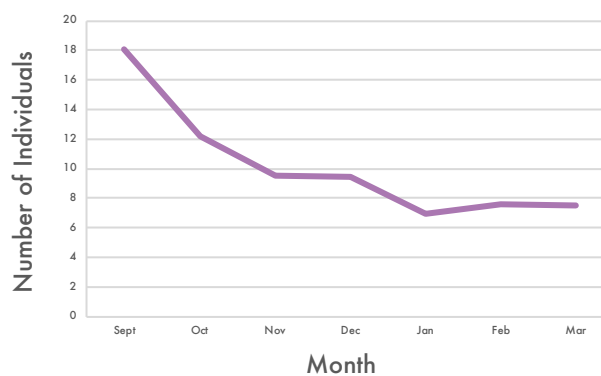


Distribution of Greenshank Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Mediterranean Gull

Ichthyæetus melanocephalus

GB

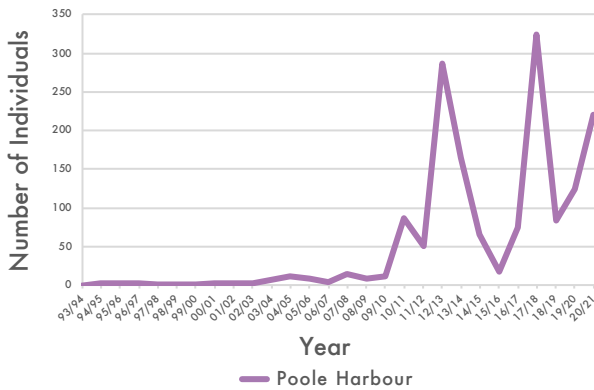
27th



| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 166 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 325 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 4.1 |

Long-term Trend

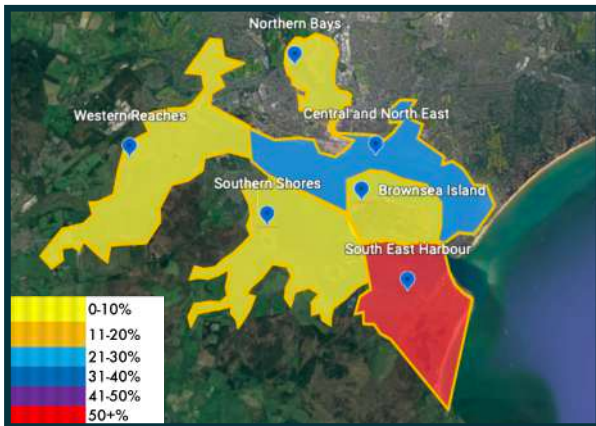
Annual Peak Count



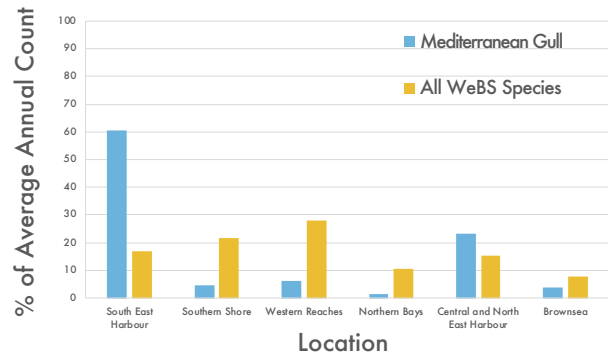
Population Trend



Distribution

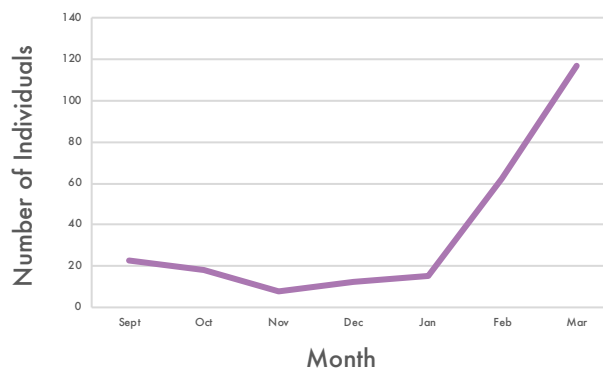


Distribution of Mediterranean Gull Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Mute Swan

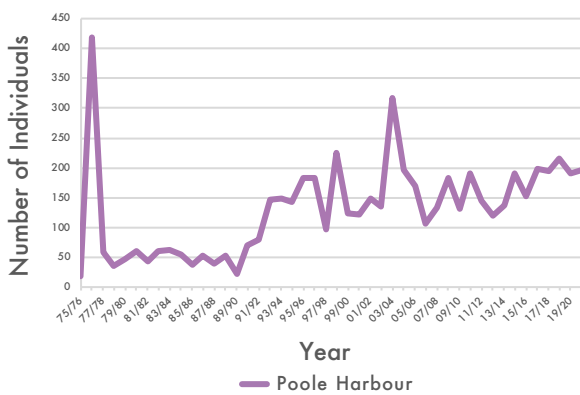
Cygnus olor



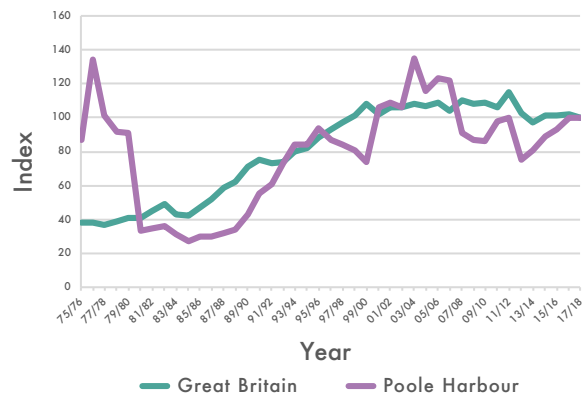
| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 199 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 215 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.4 |

Long-term Trend

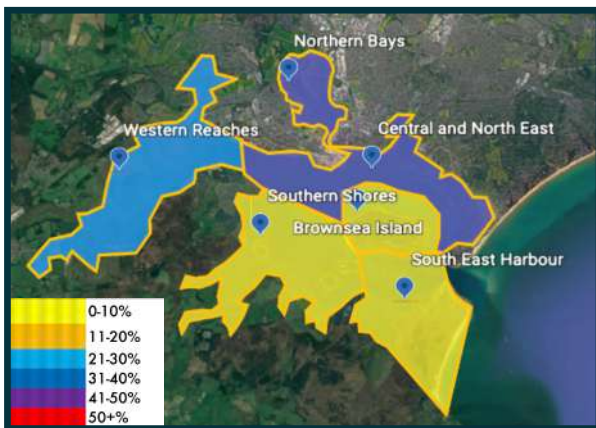
Annual Peak Count



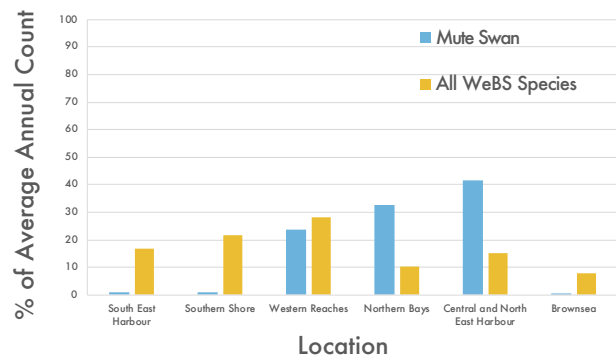
Population Trend



Distribution

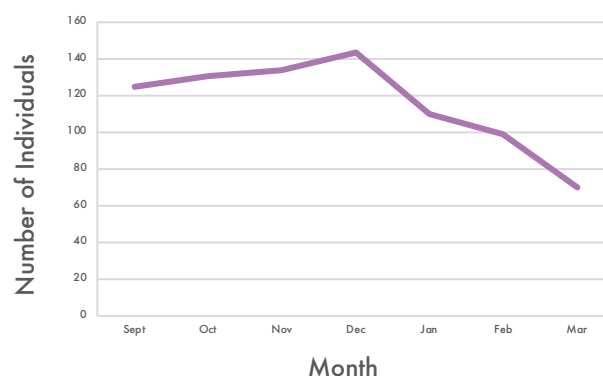


Distribution of Mute Swan Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Greylag Goose

Anser anser



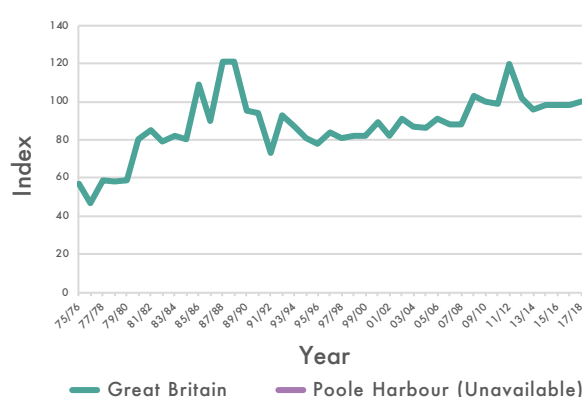
| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 78 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 158 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | <0.1 |

Long-term Trend

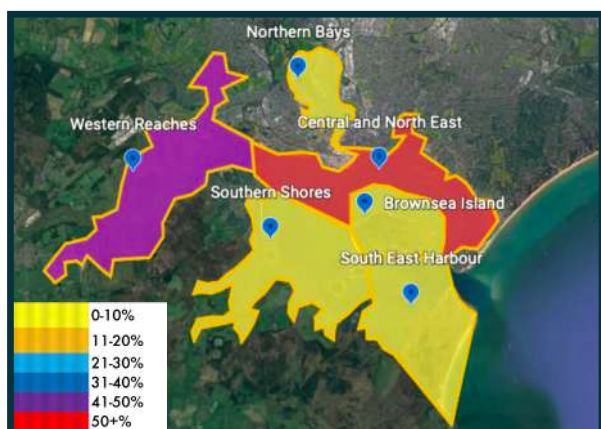
Annual Peak Count



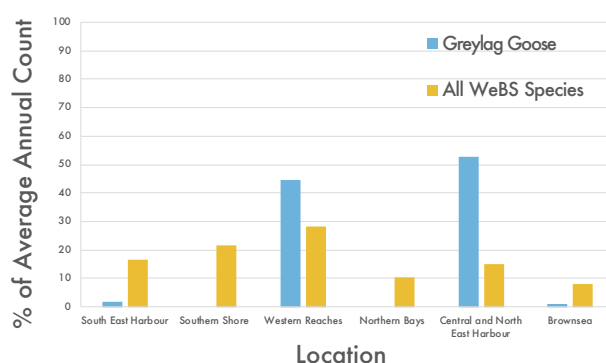
Population Trend



Distribution

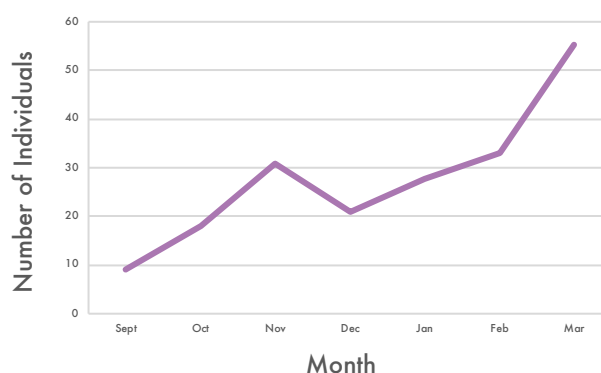


Distribution of Greylag Goose Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



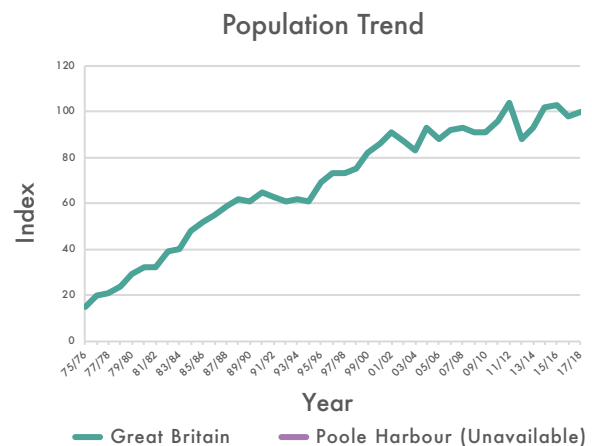
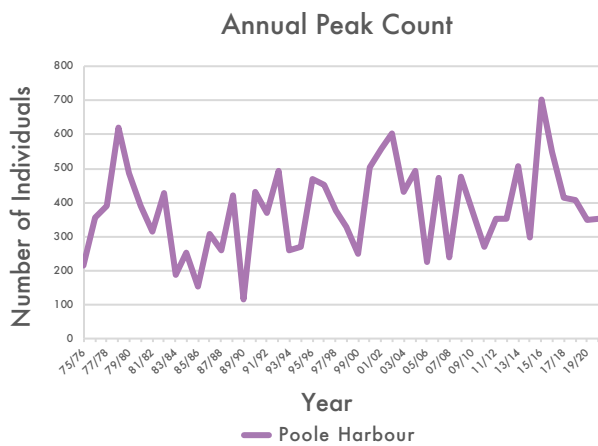
Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

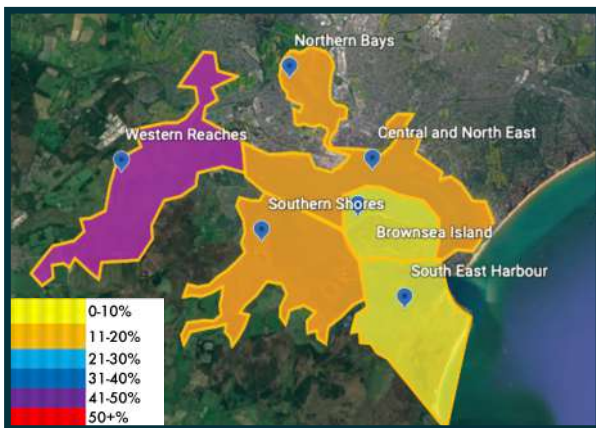


| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 415 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 704 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.3 |

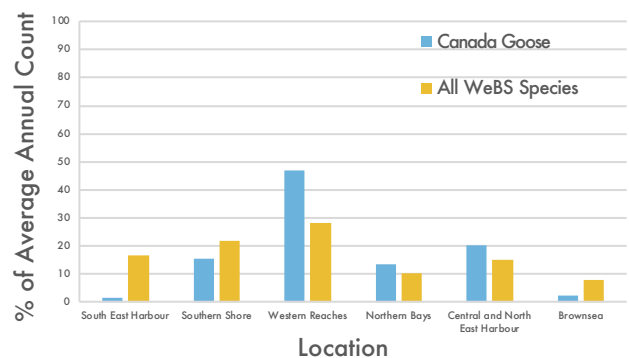
Long-term Trend



Distribution

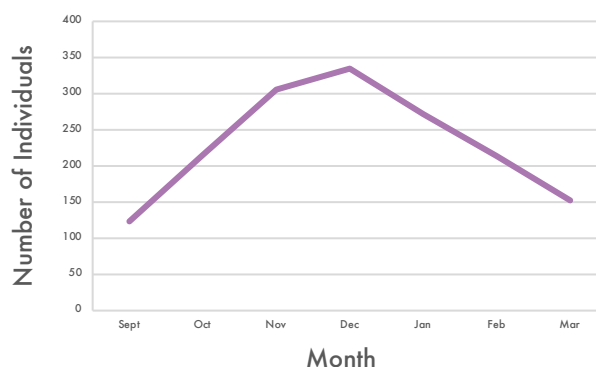


Distribution of Canada Goose Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



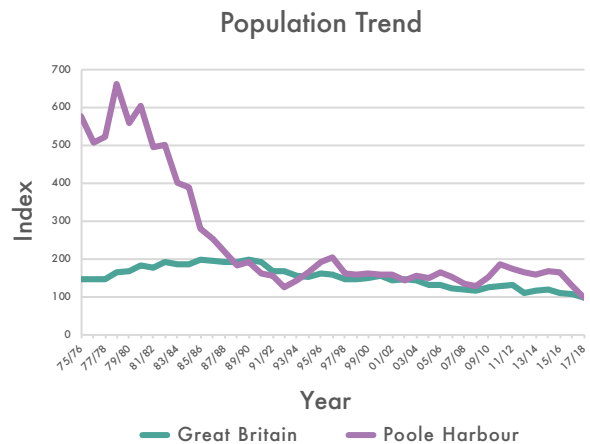
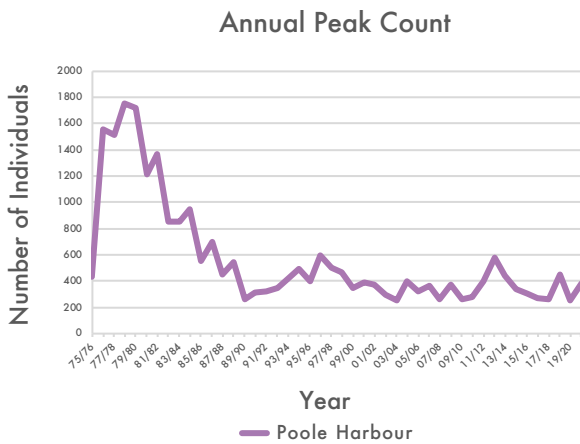
Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

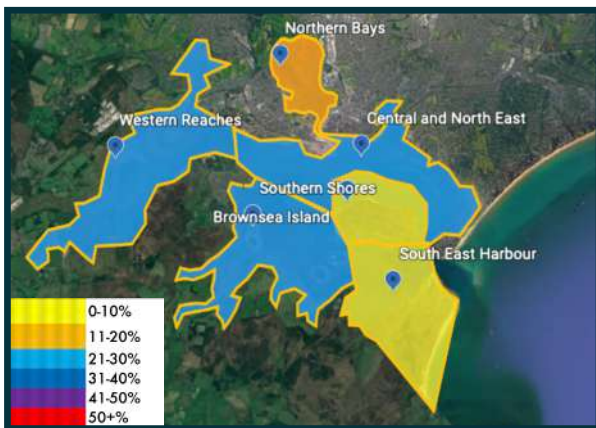


| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 324 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 582 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | <0.1 |

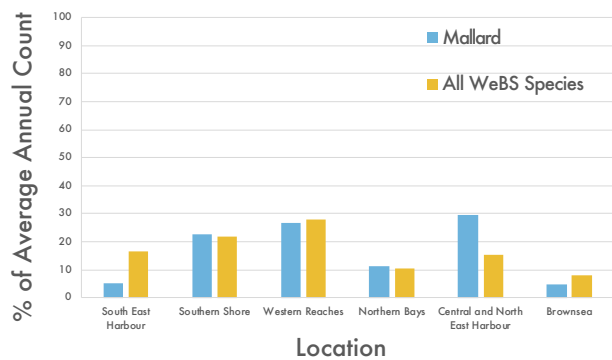
Long-term Trend



Distribution

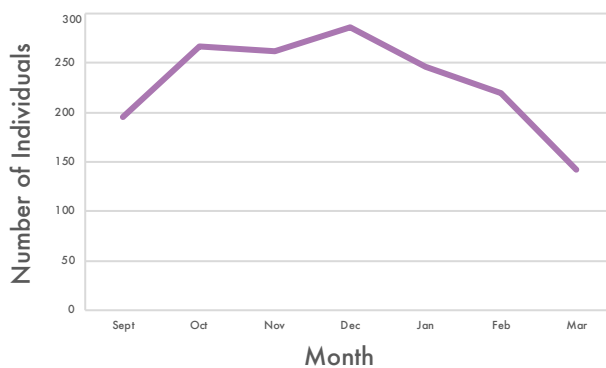


Distribution of Mallard Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



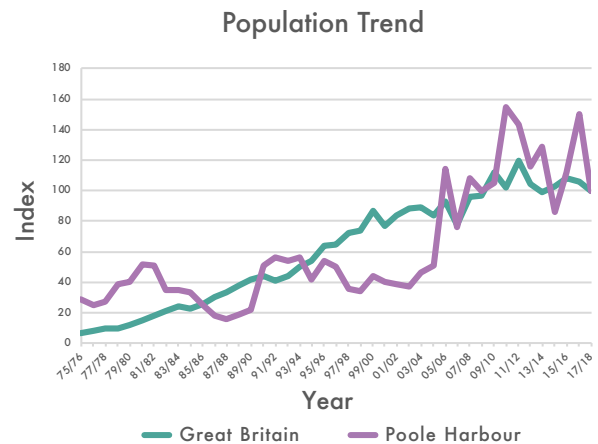
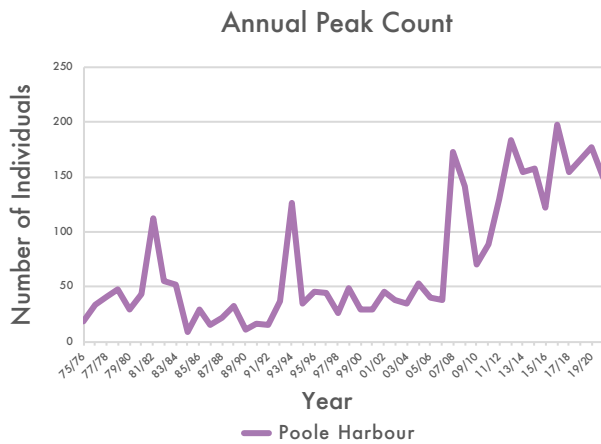
Gadwall

Mareca strepera

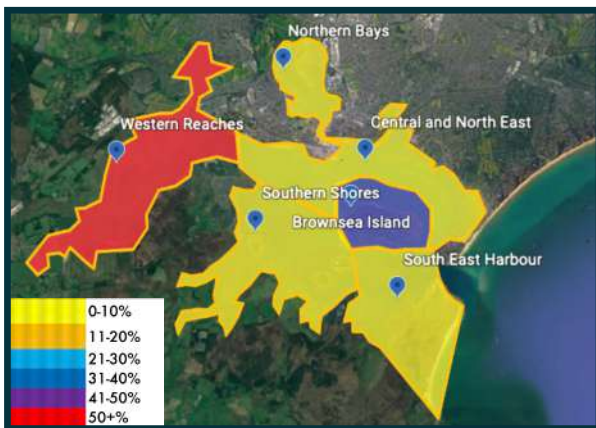


| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 169 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 197 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.5 |

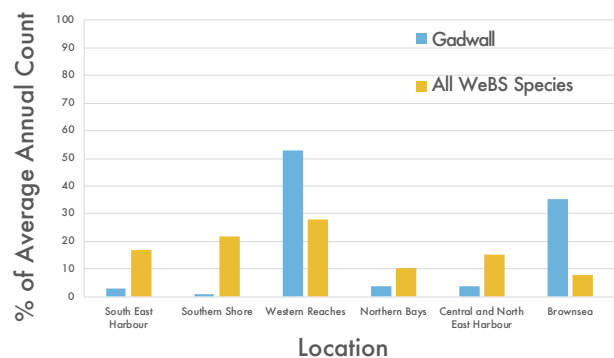
Long-term Trend



Distribution

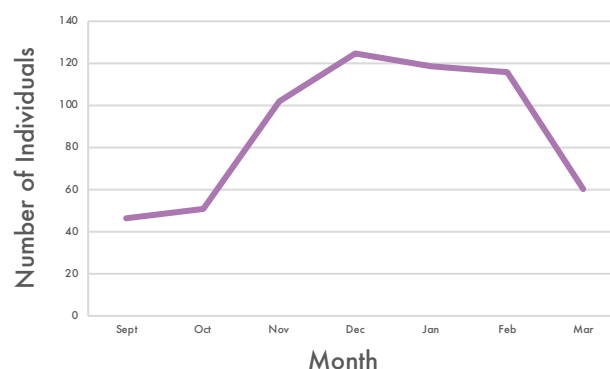


Distribution of Gadwall Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Shoveler

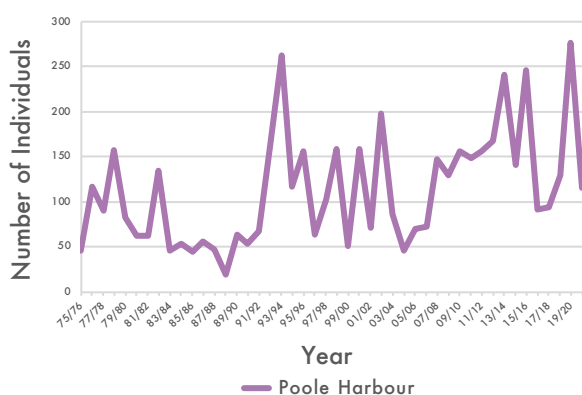
Anas clypeata



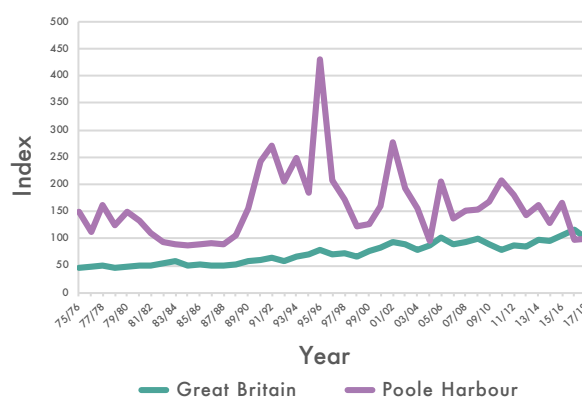
| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 141 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 276 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.7 |

Long-term Trend

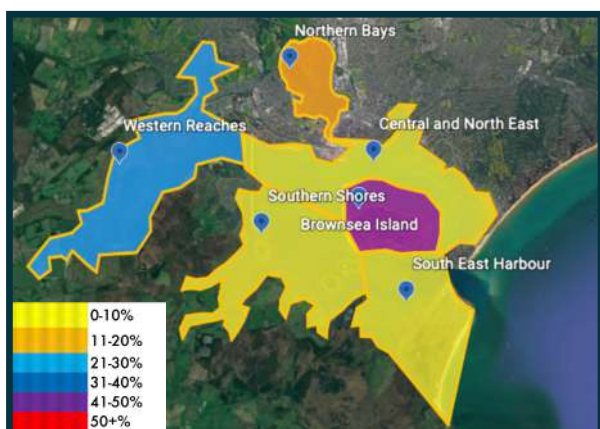
Annual Peak Count



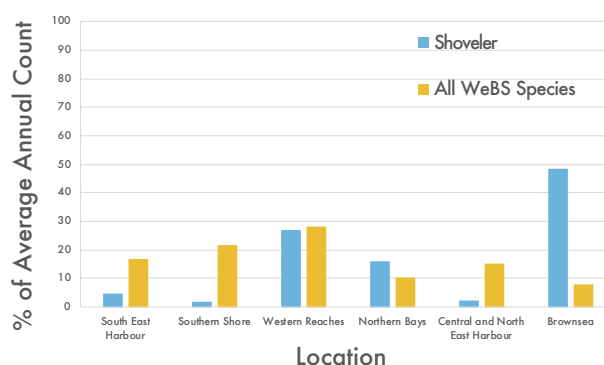
Population Trend



Distribution

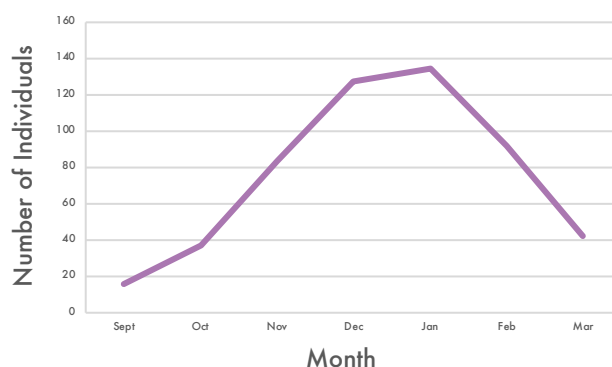


Distribution of Shoveler Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



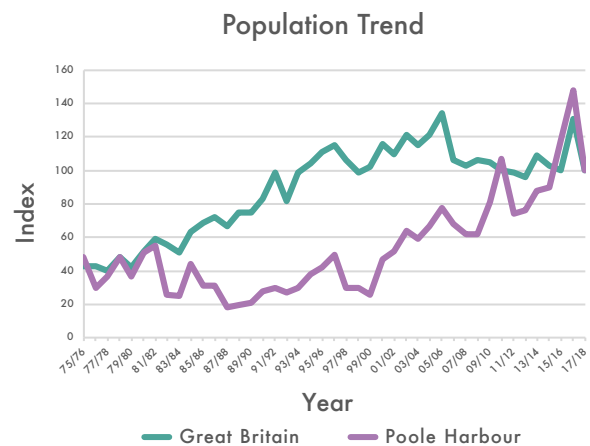
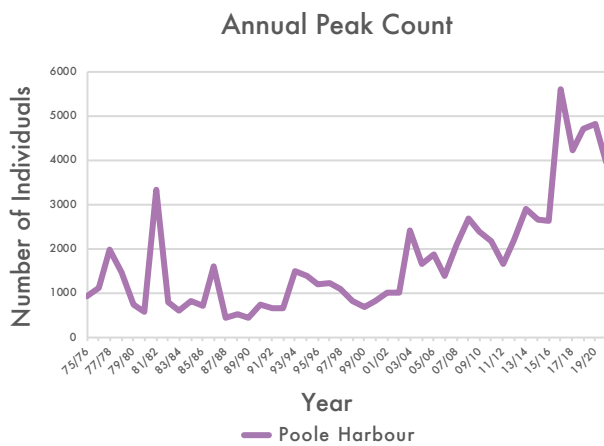
Wigeon

Mareca penelope

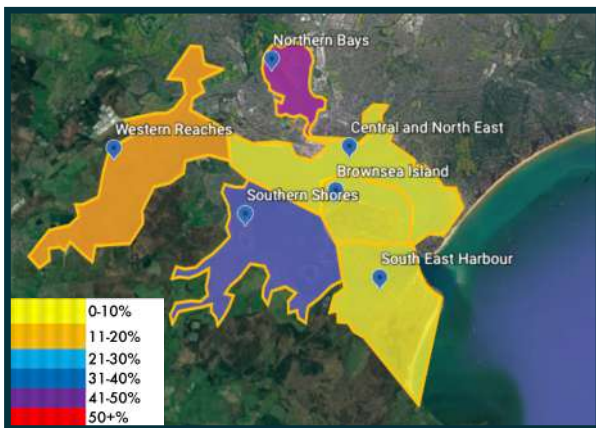


| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 4675 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 5606 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 1.0 |

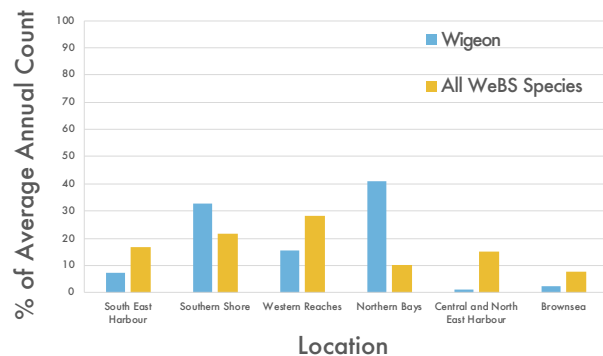
Long-term Trend



Distribution

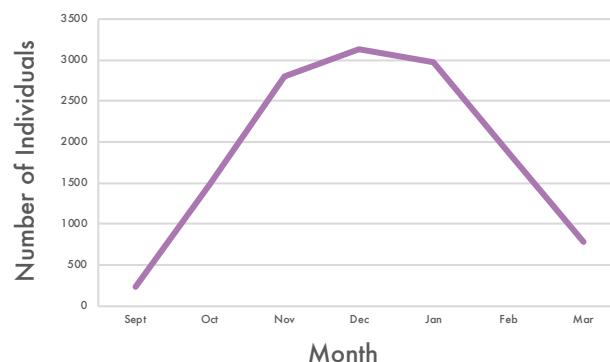


Distribution of Wigeon Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



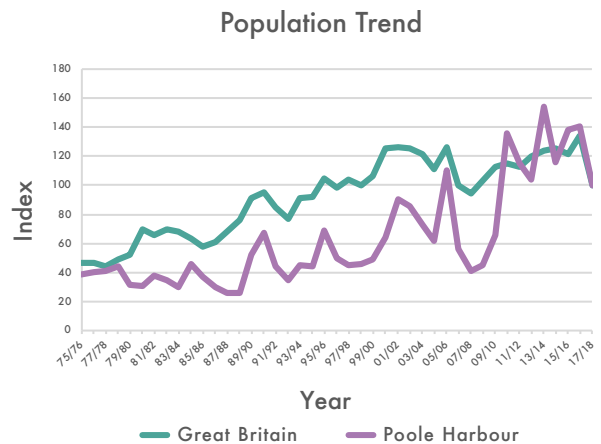
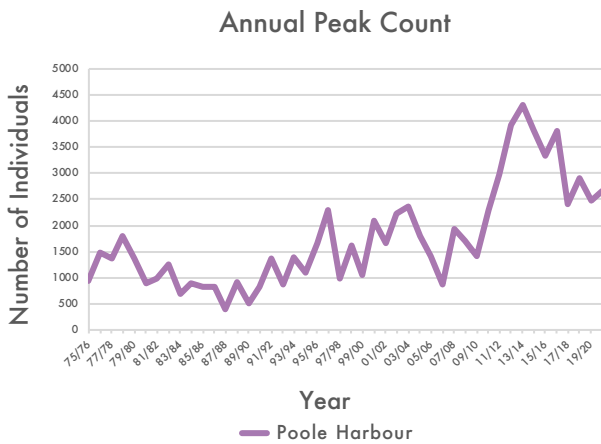
Teal

Anas crecca

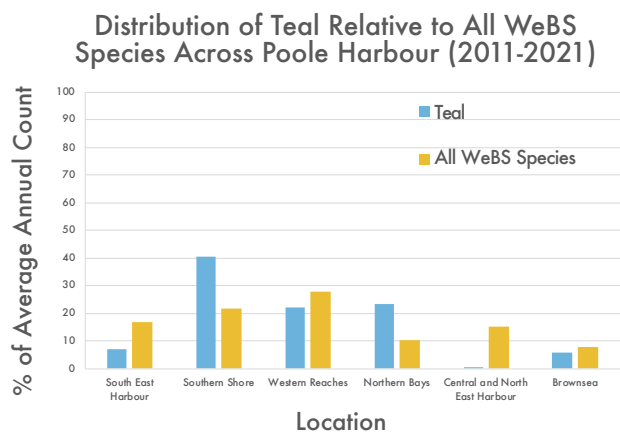
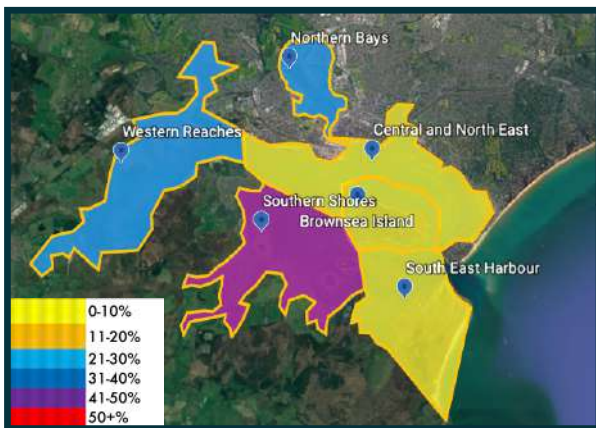


| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 2854 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 4312 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.7 |

Long-term Trend

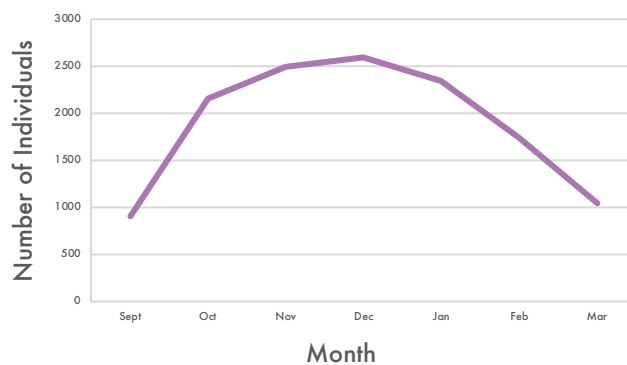


Distribution



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Tufted Duck

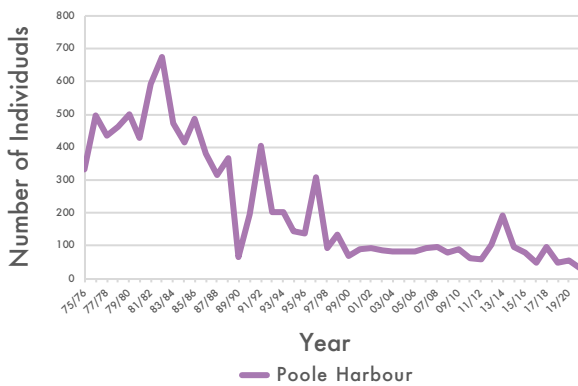
Aythya fuligula



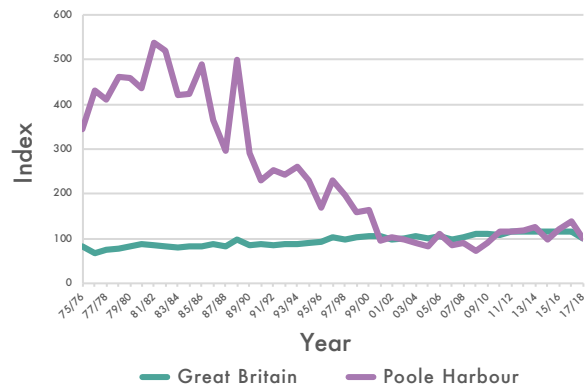
| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 57 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 192 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | <0.1 |

Long-term Trend

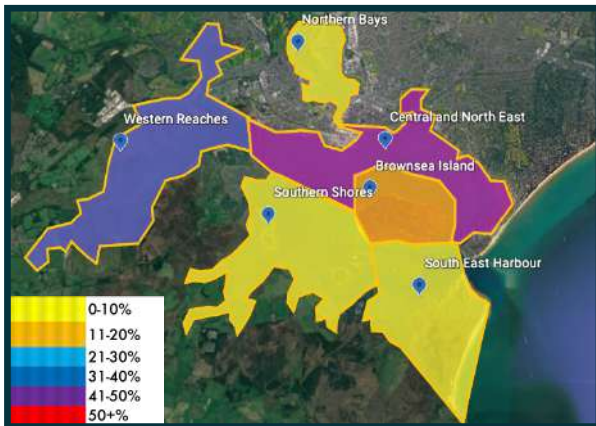
Annual Peak Count



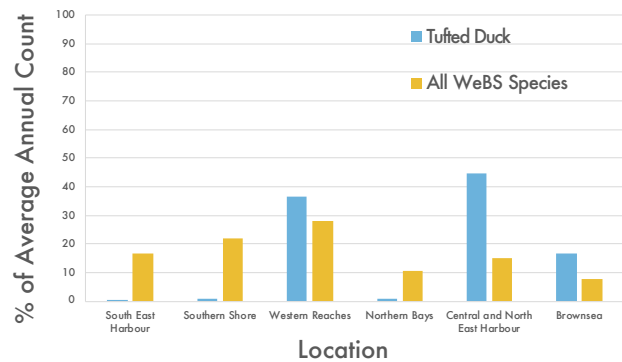
Population Trend



Distribution

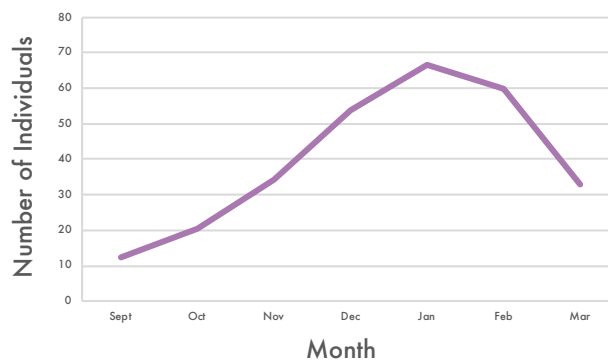


Distribution of Tufted Duck Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Pochard

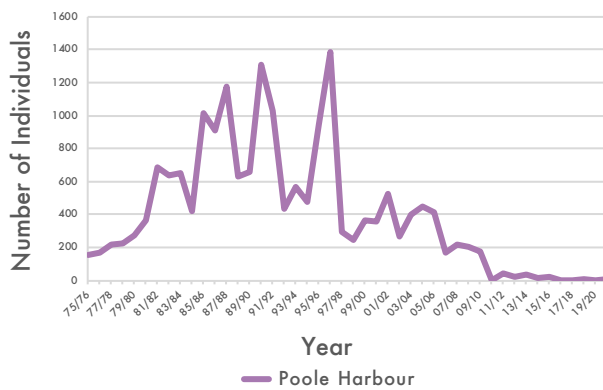
Aythya ferina



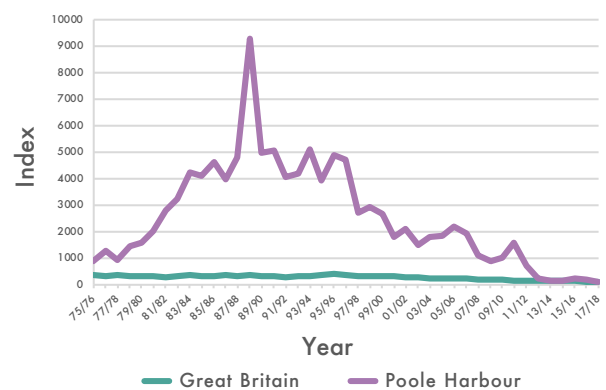
| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 3 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 40 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | <0.1 |

Long-term Trend

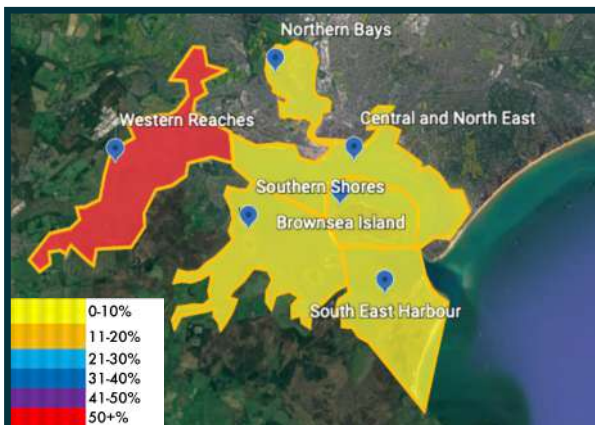
Annual Peak Count



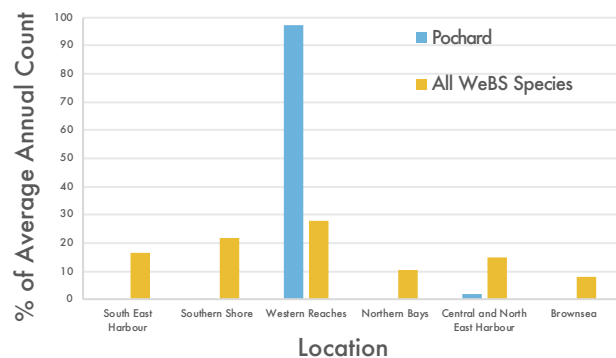
Population Trend



Distribution

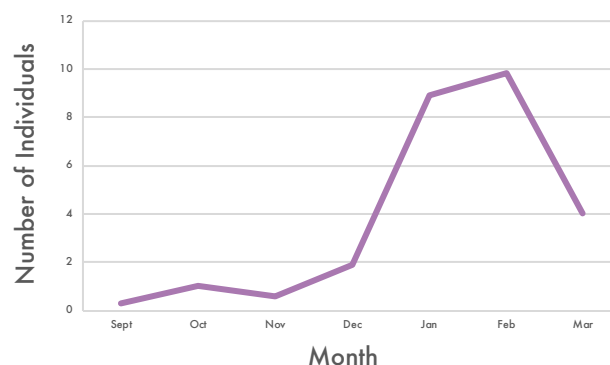


Distribution of Pochard Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Scaup

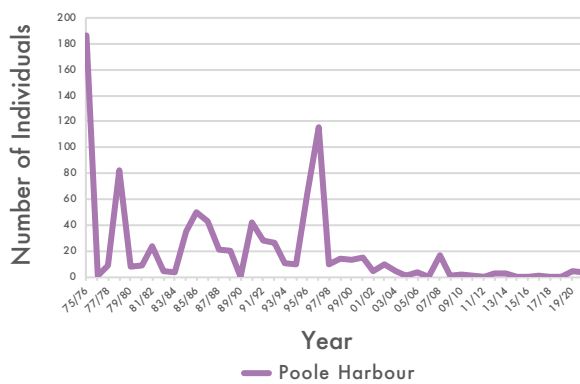
Aythya marila



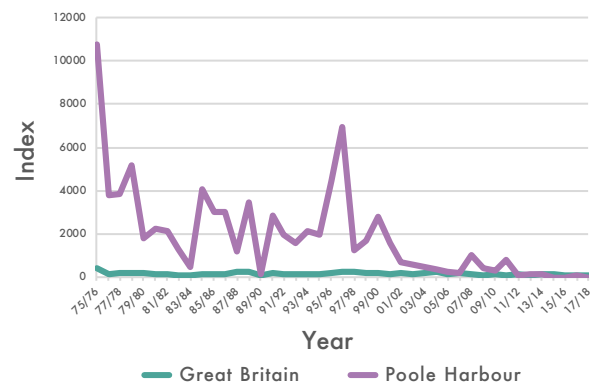
| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 2 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 5 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.1 |

Long-term Trend

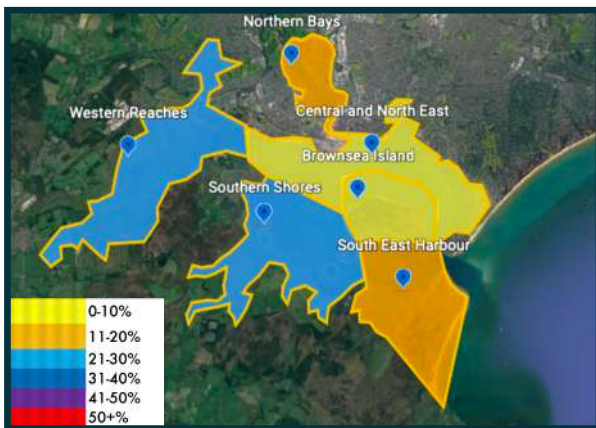
Annual Peak Count



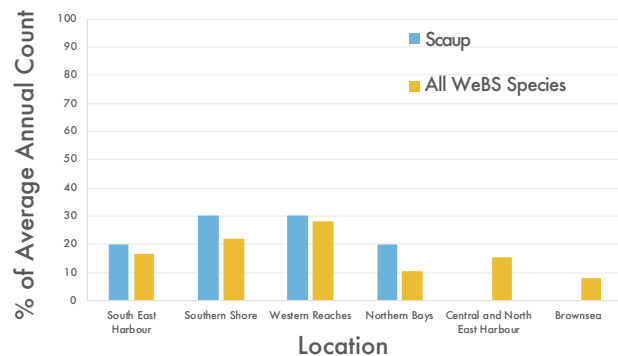
Population Trend



Distribution

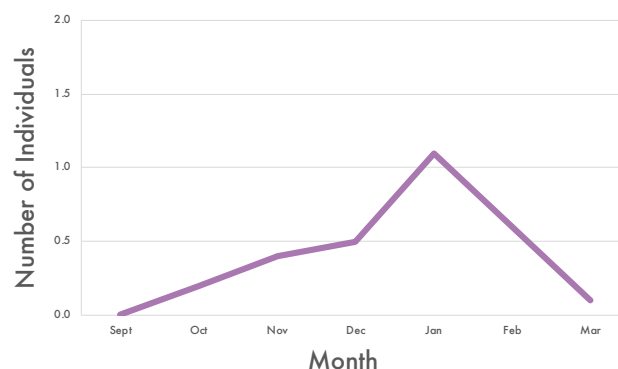


Distribution of Scaup Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Common Scoter

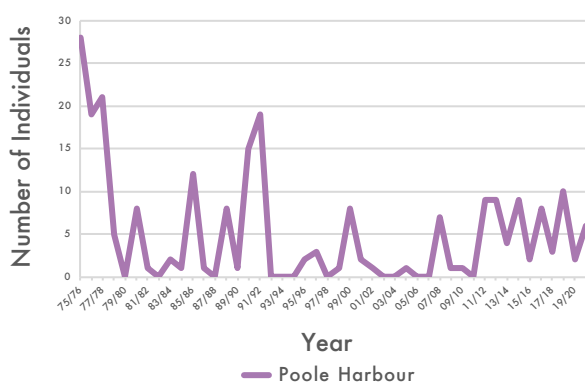
Melanitta nigra



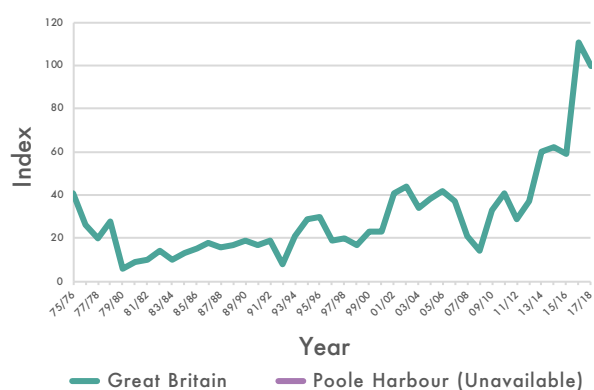
| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 6 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 10 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | <0.1 |

Long-term Trend

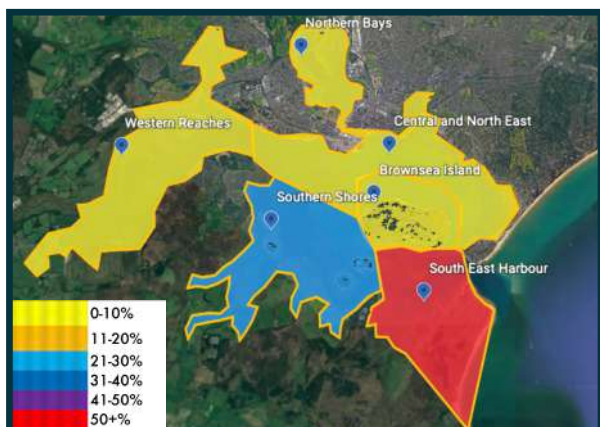
Annual Peak Count



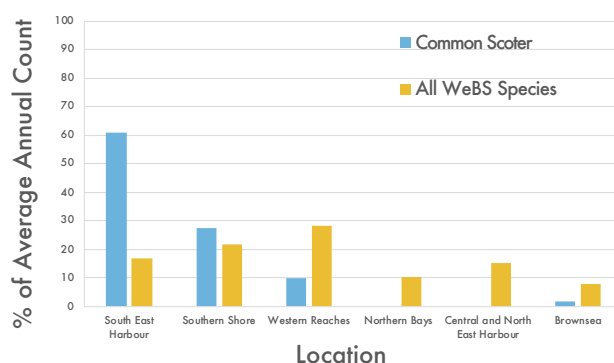
Population Trend



Distribution

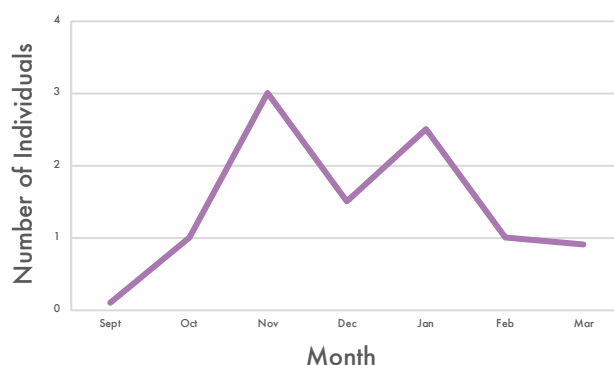


Distribution of Common Scoter Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



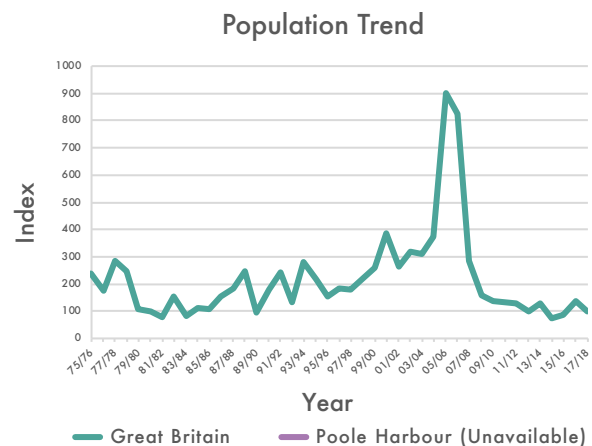
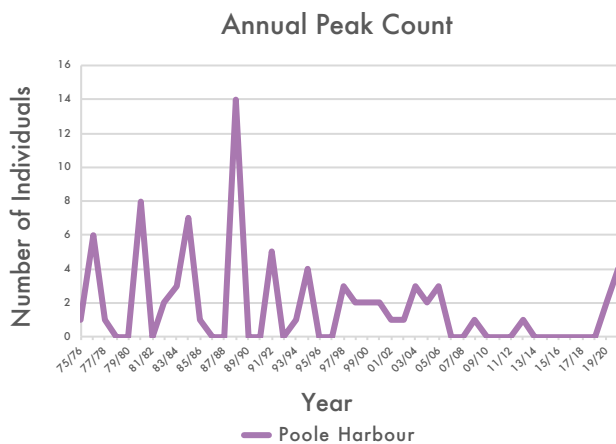
Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

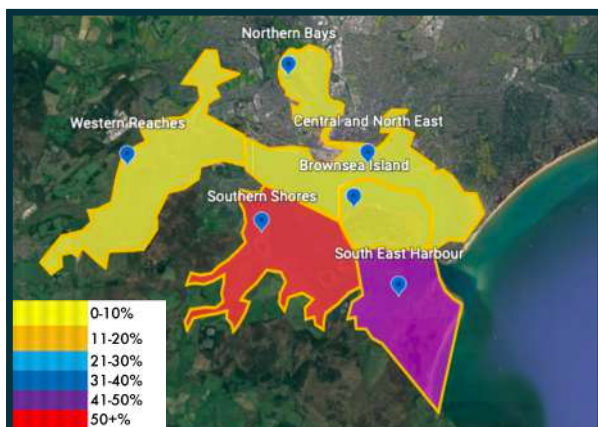


| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 1 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 4 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | <0.1 |

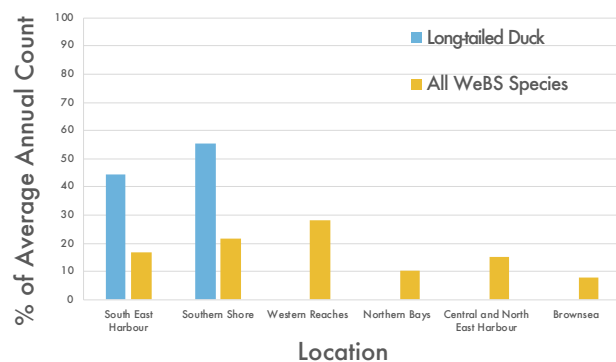
Long-term Trend



Distribution

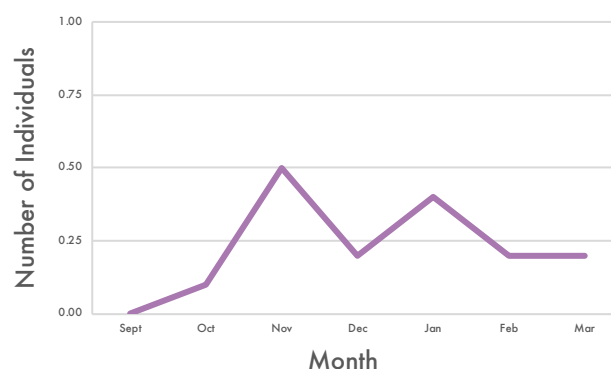


Distribution of Long-tailed Duck Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



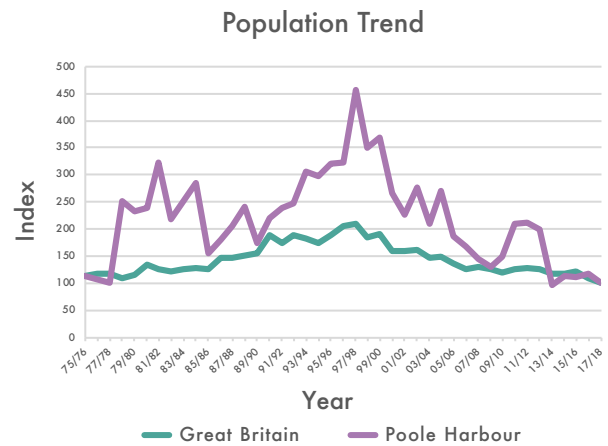
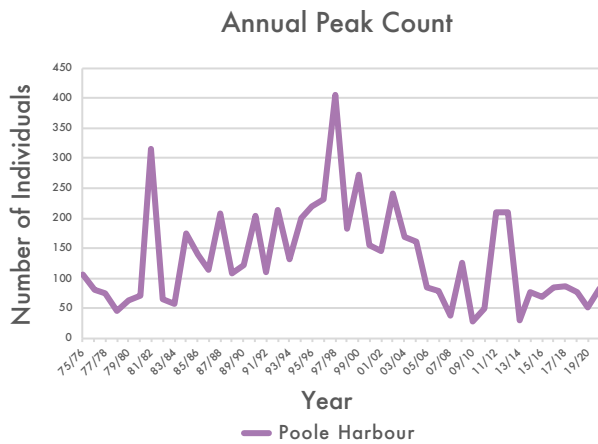
Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula

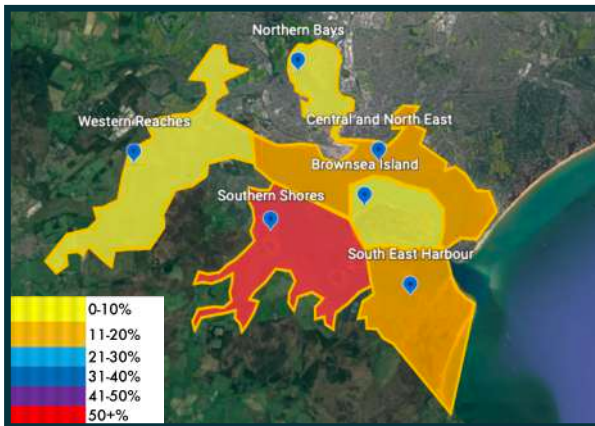


| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 76 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 210 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.4 |

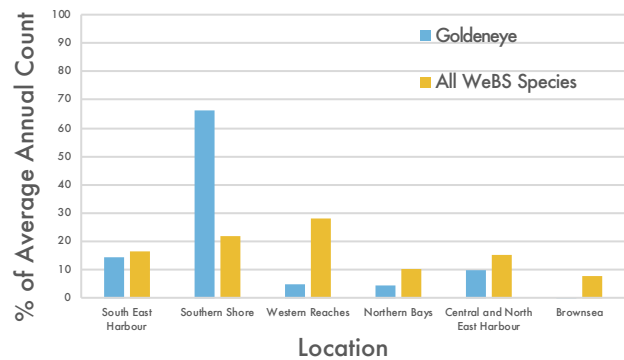
Long-term Trend



Distribution

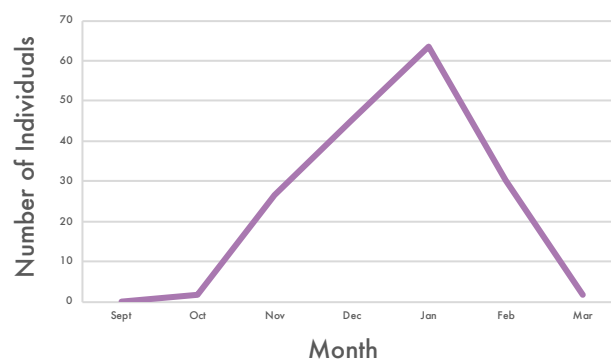


Distribution of Goldeneye Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



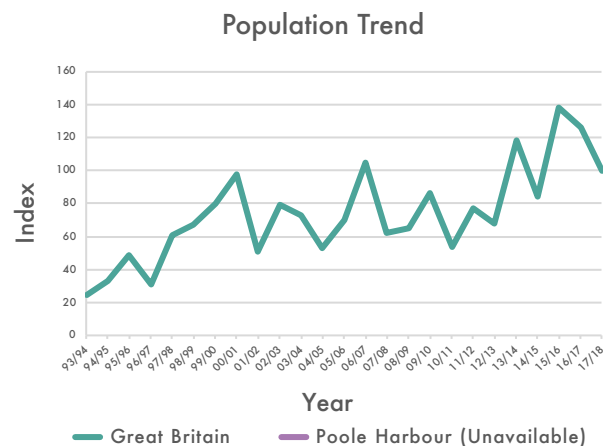
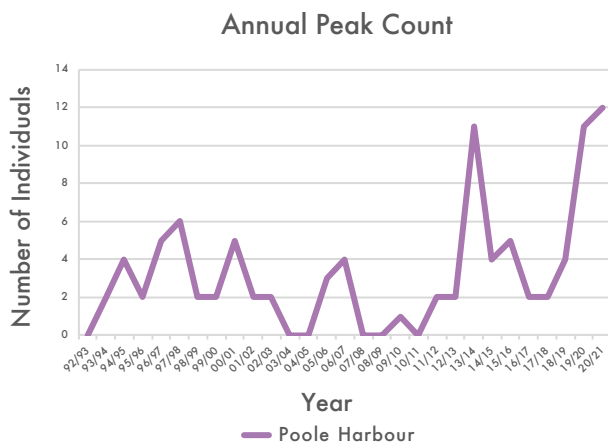
Great Northern Diver

Gavia immer

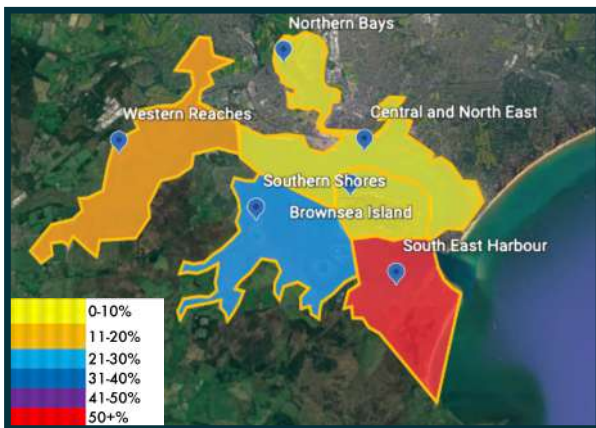


| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 6 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 12 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.1 |

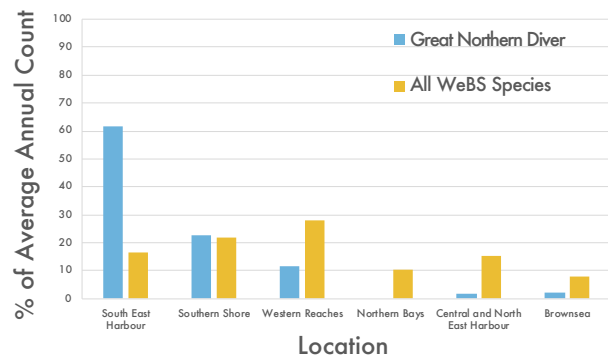
Long-term Trend



Distribution

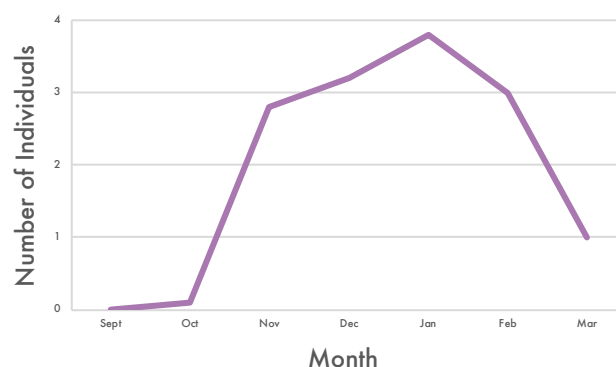


Distribution of Great Northern Diver Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



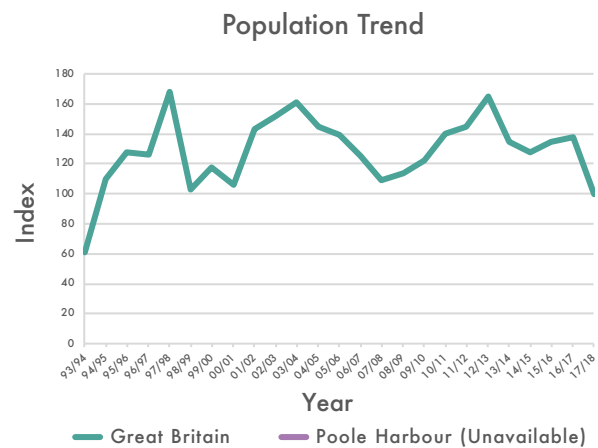
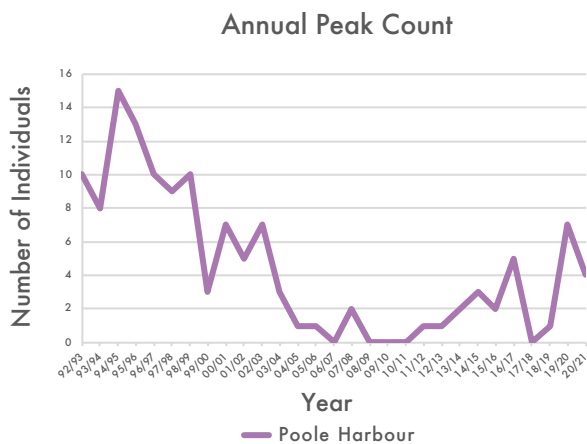
Slavonian Grebe

Podiceps auritus

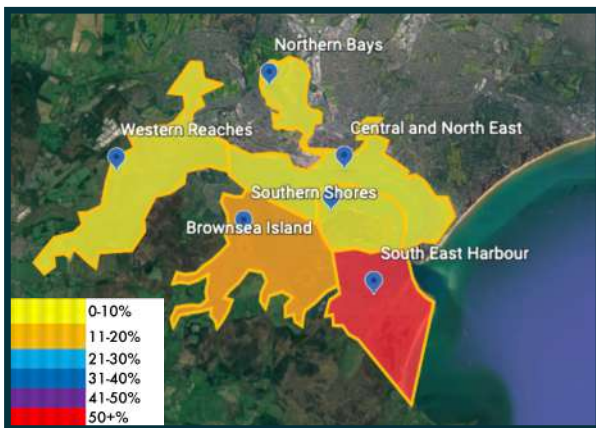


| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 3 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 7 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.4 |

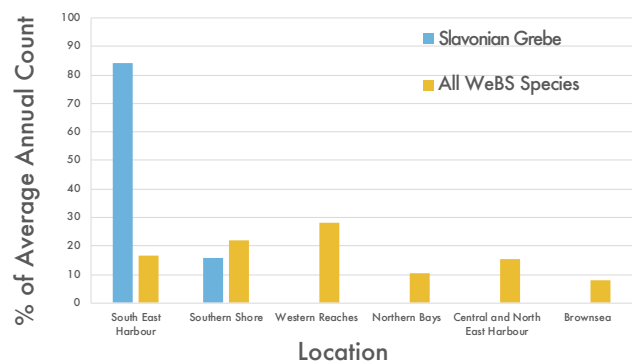
Long-term Trend



Distribution

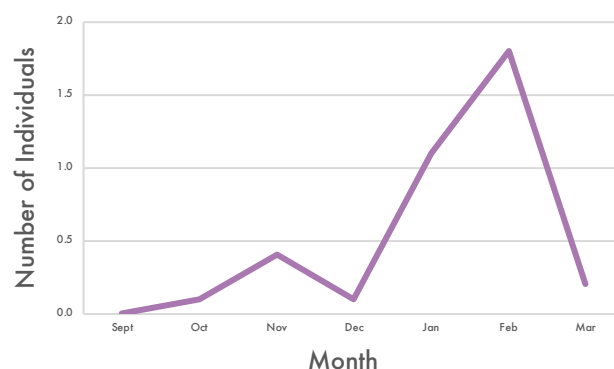


Distribution of Slavonian Grebe Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



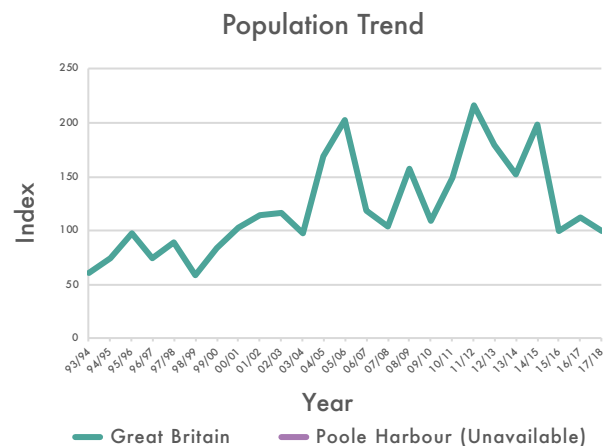
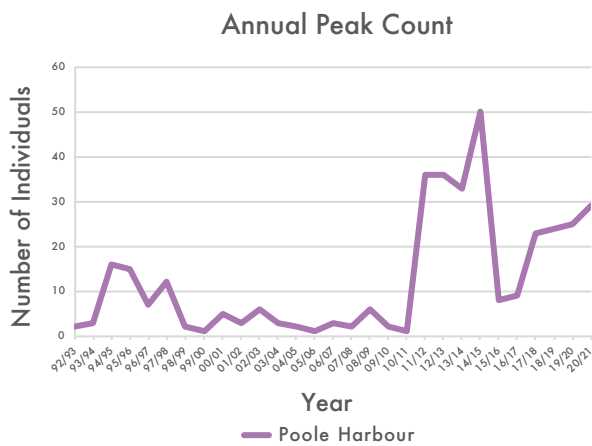
Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

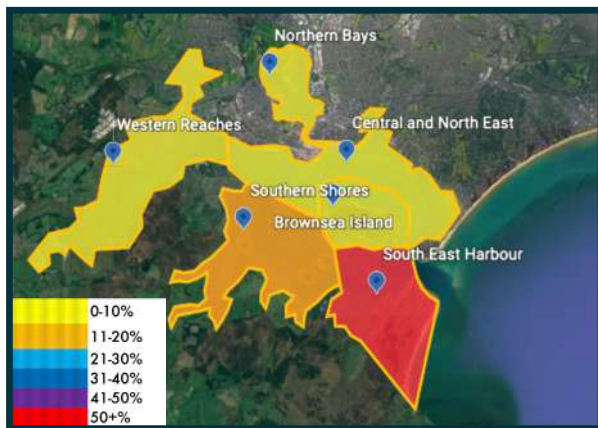


| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 22 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 50 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 18.3 |

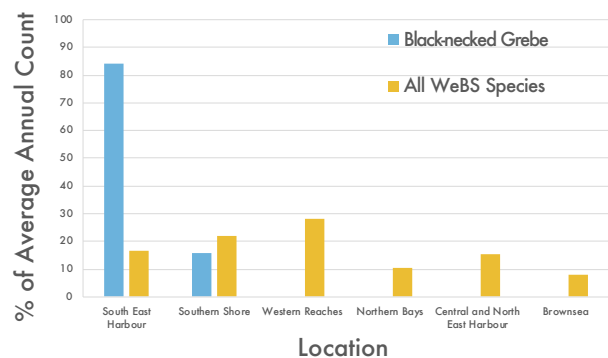
Long-term Trend



Distribution

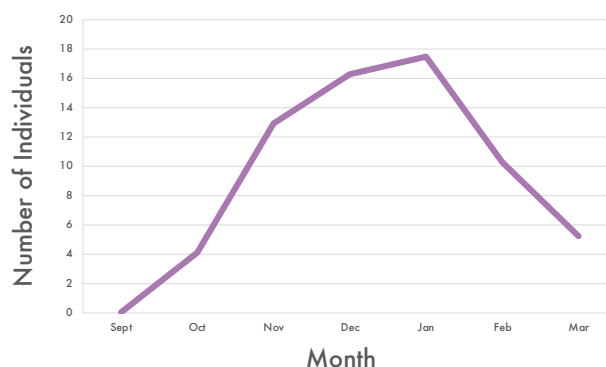


Distribution of Black-necked Grebe Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Little Grebe

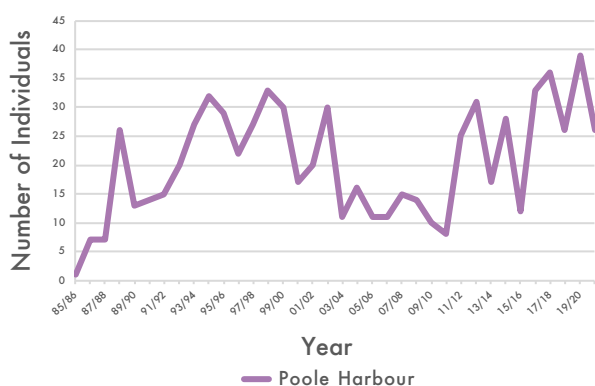
Tachybaptus ruficollis



| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 32 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 39 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.2 |

Long-term Trend

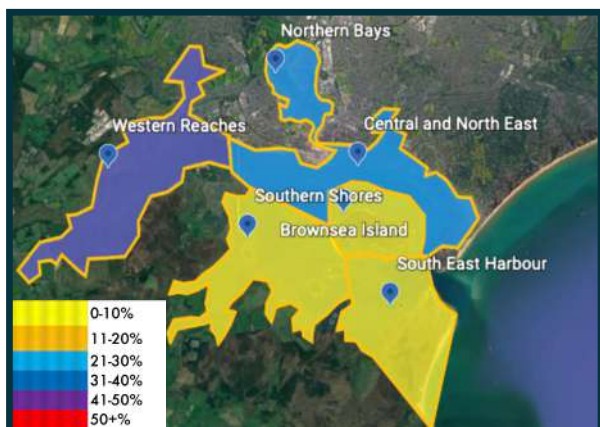
Annual Peak Count



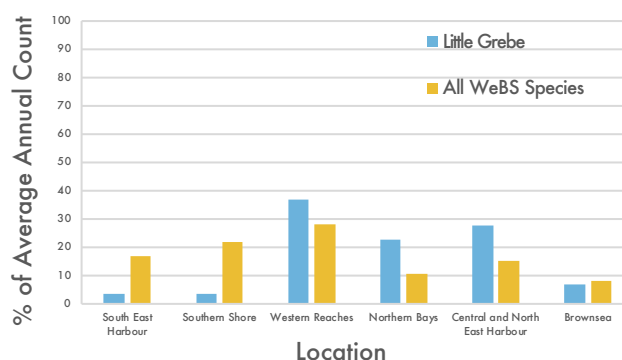
Population Trend



Distribution

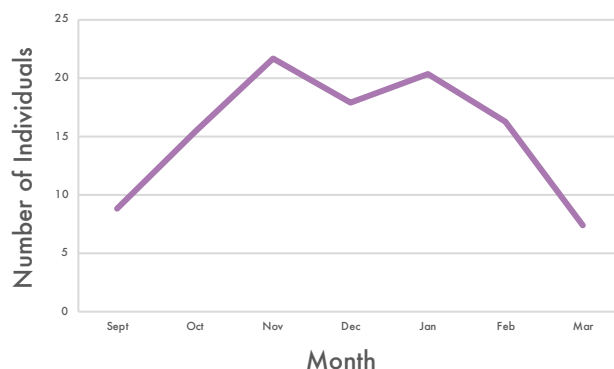


Distribution of Little Grebe Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Great Crested Grebe

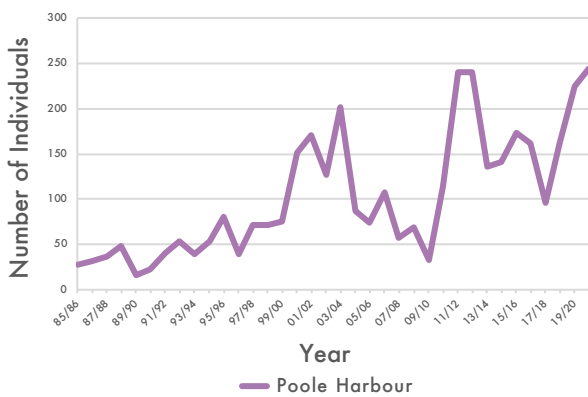
Podiceps cristatus



| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 178 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 244 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 1.0 |

Long-term Trend

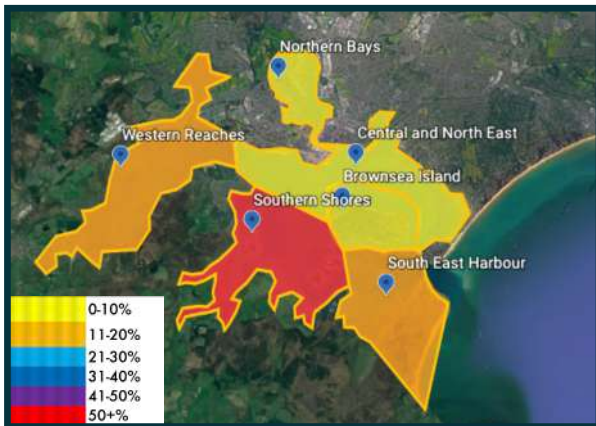
Annual Peak Count



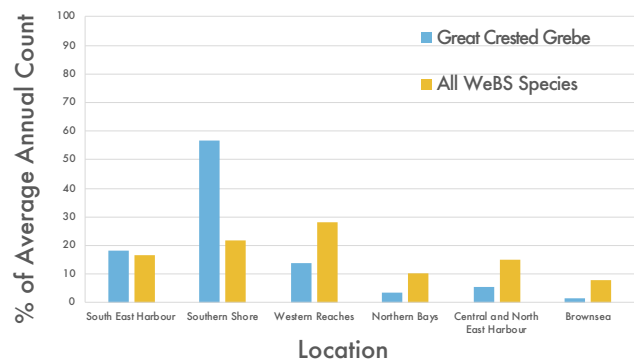
Population Trend



Distribution

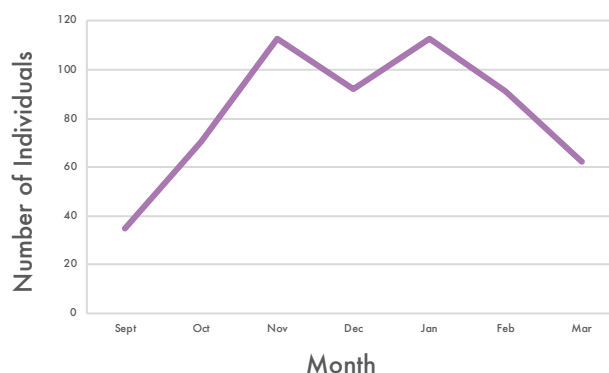


Distribution of Great Crested Grebe Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Great Cormorant

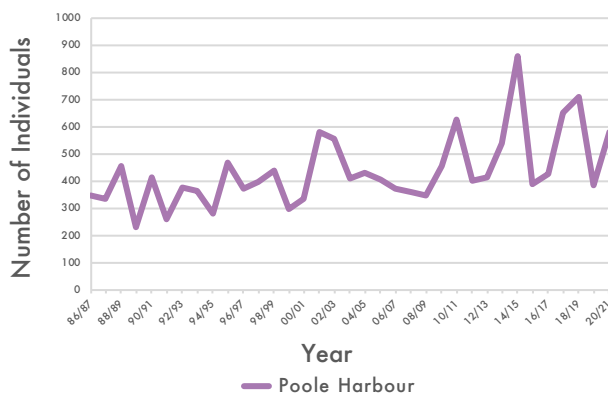
Phalacrocorax carbo



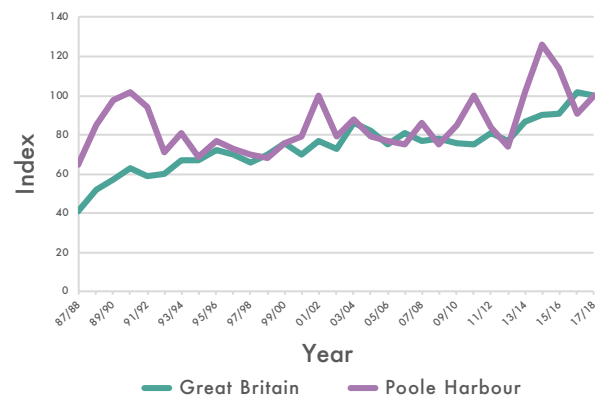
| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 553 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 863 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.9 |

Long-term Trend

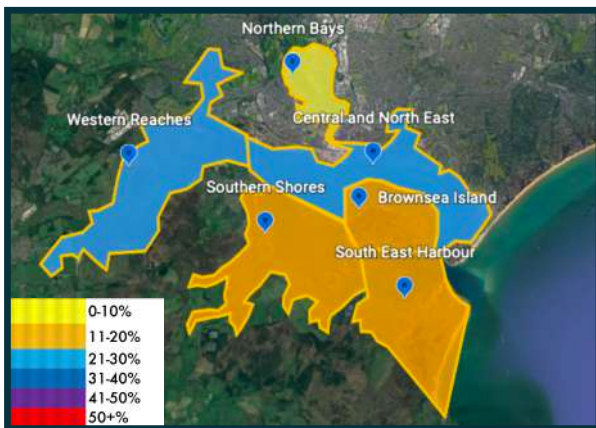
Annual Peak Count



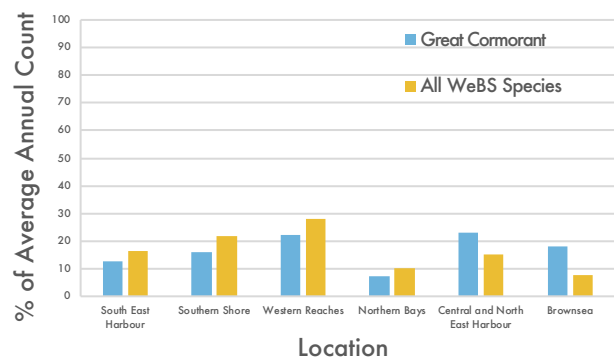
Population Trend



Distribution

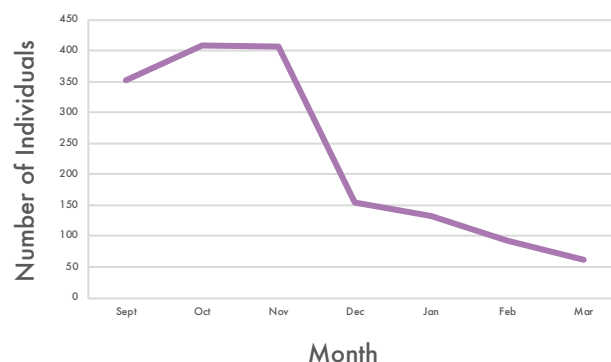


Distribution of Great Cormorant Relative to All WebS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Great White Egret

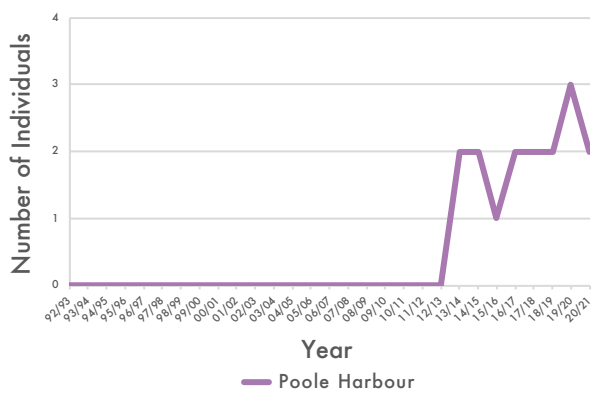
Ardea alba



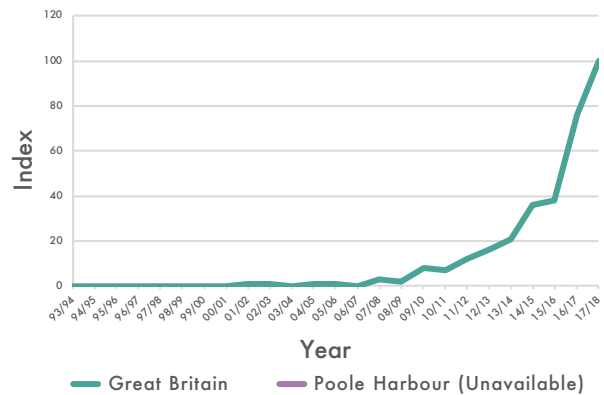
| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 2 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 3 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 3.1 |

Long-term Trend

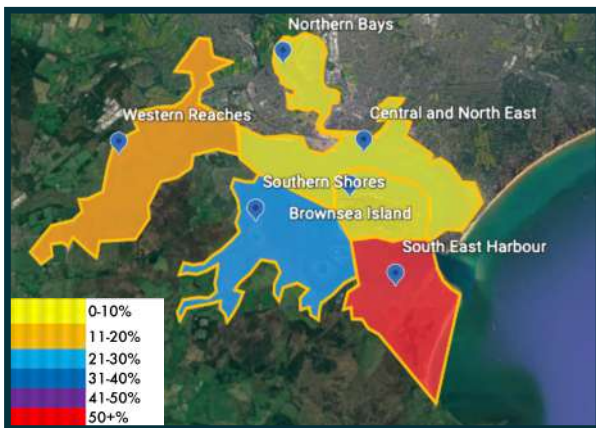
Annual Peak Count



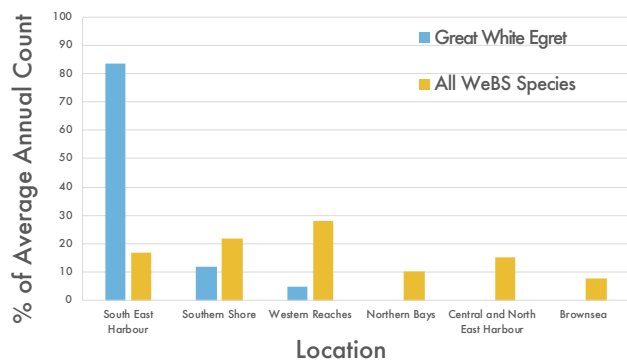
Population Trend



Distribution

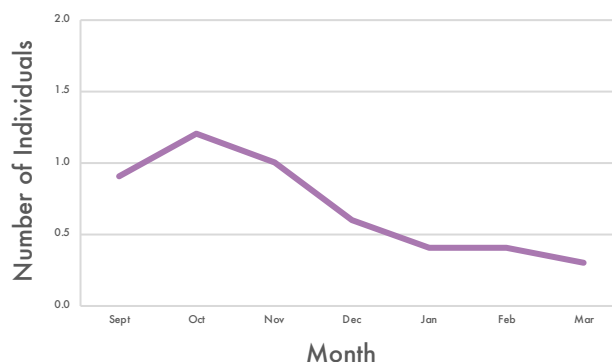


Distribution of Great White Egret Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Grey Heron

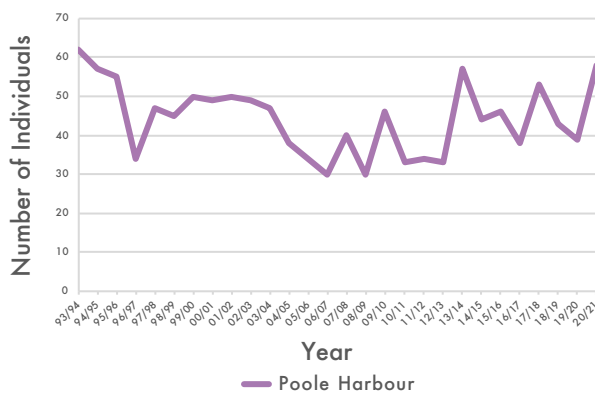
Ardea cinerea



| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 46 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 58 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.1 |

Long-term Trend

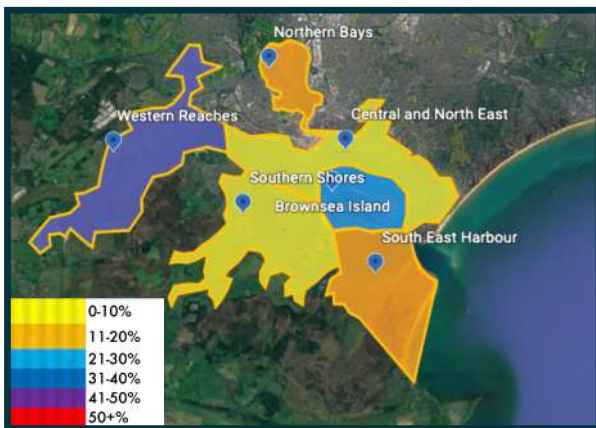
Annual Peak Count



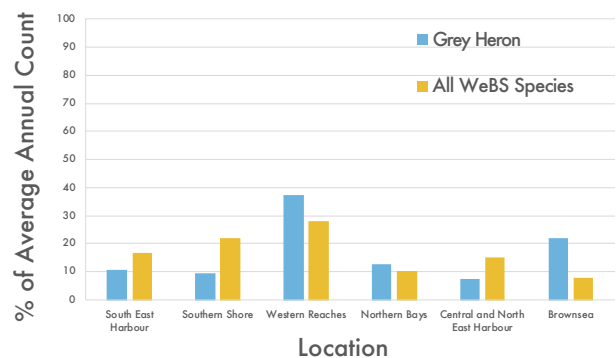
Population Trend



Distribution

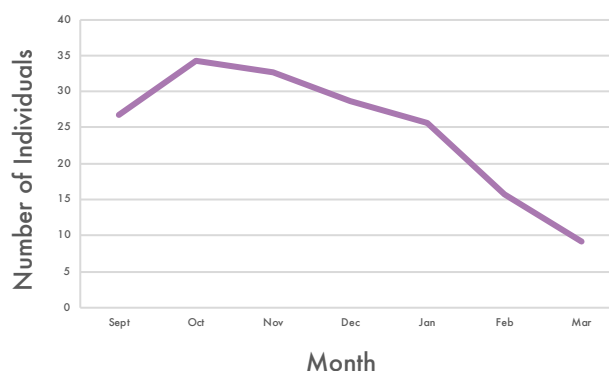


Distribution of Grey Heron Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



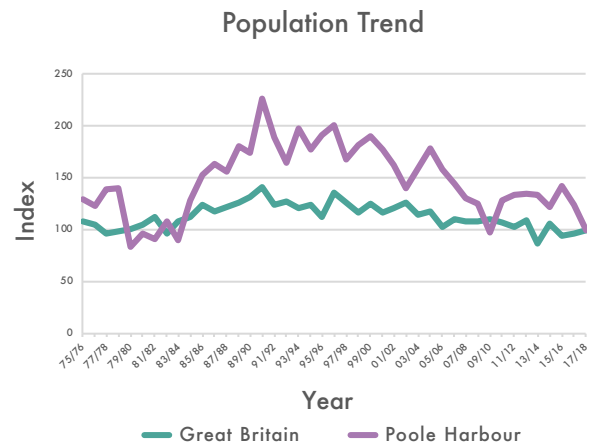
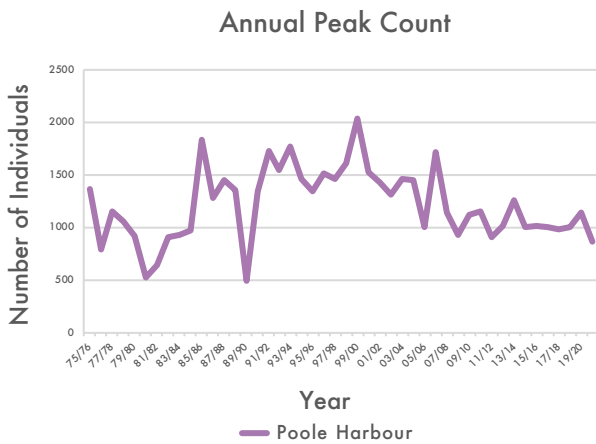
Oystercatcher

Haematopus ostralegus

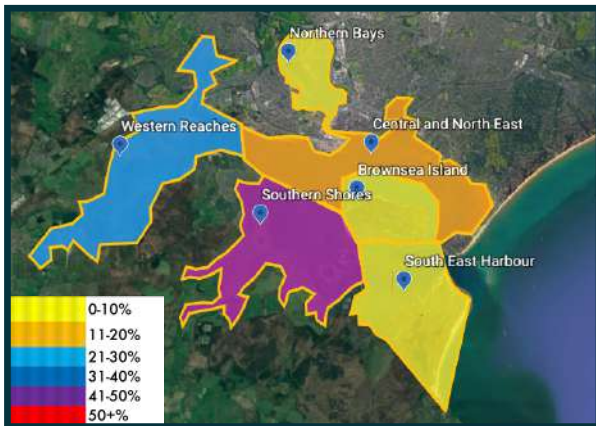


| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 998 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 1255 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.3 |

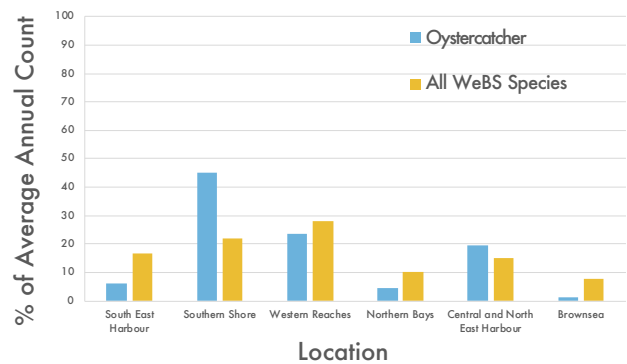
Long-term Trend



Distribution

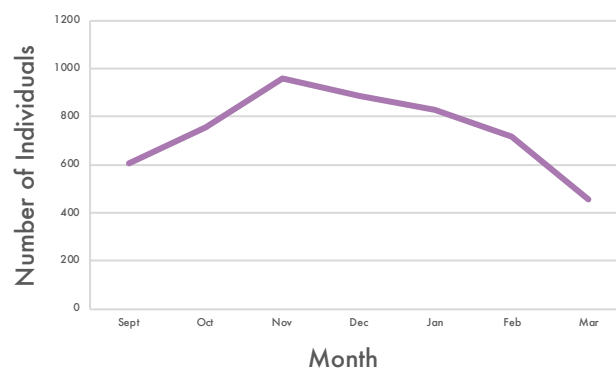


Distribution of Oystercatcher Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



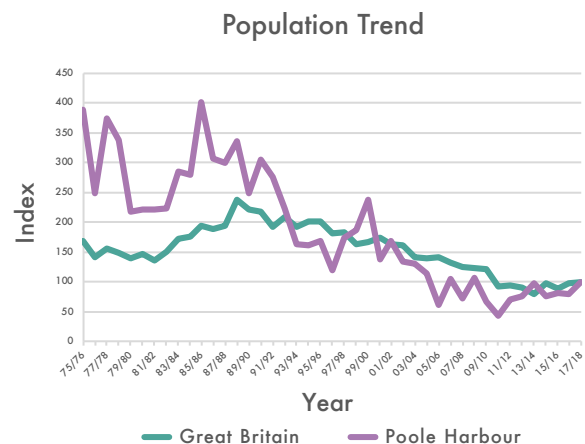
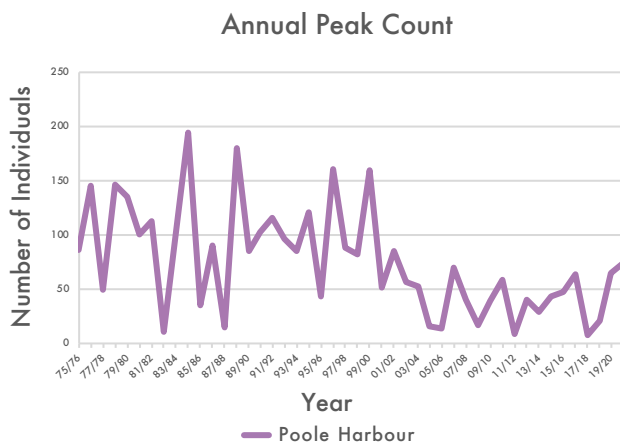
Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

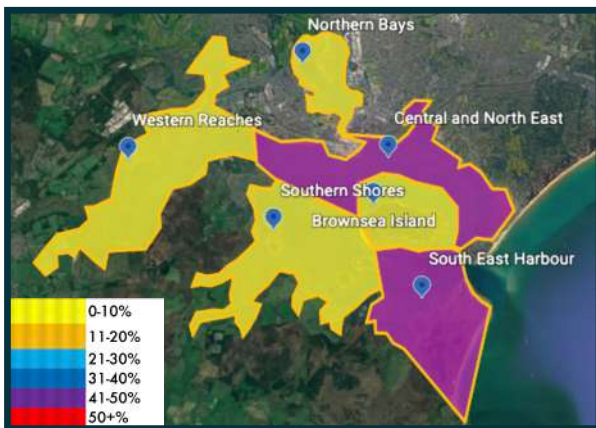


| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 46 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 74 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.1 |

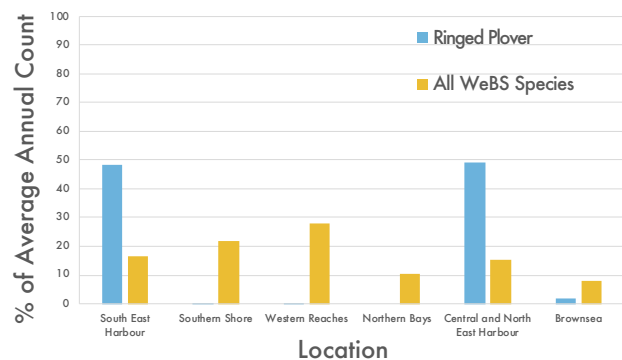
Long-term Trend



Distribution

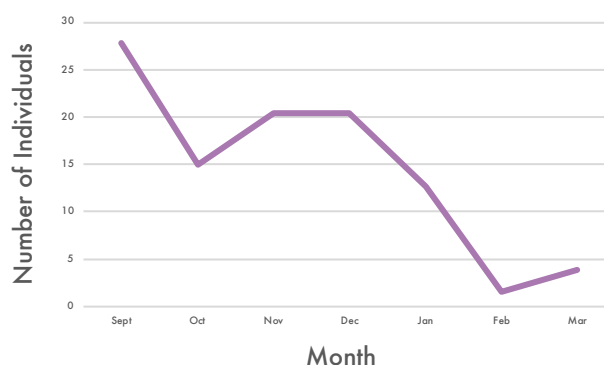


Distribution of Ringed Plover Grebe Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



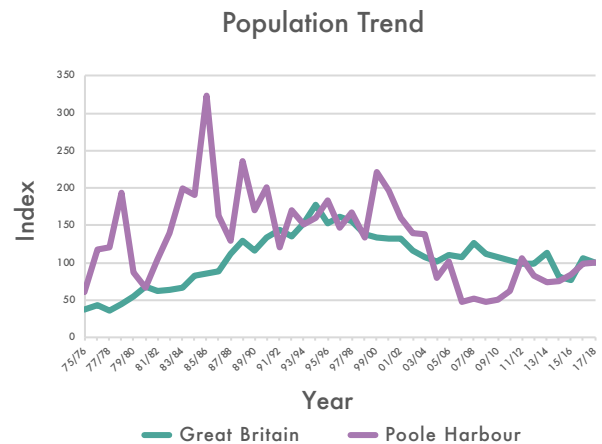
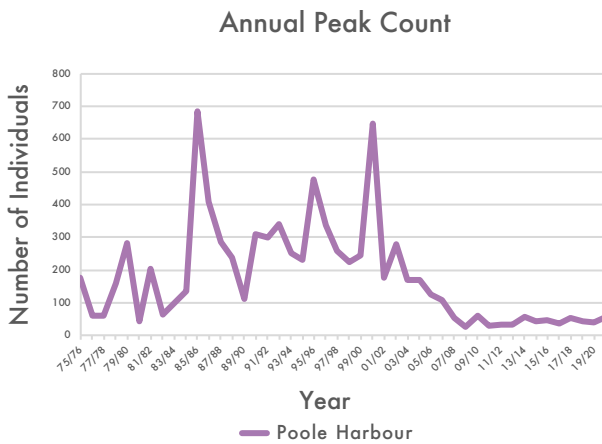
Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

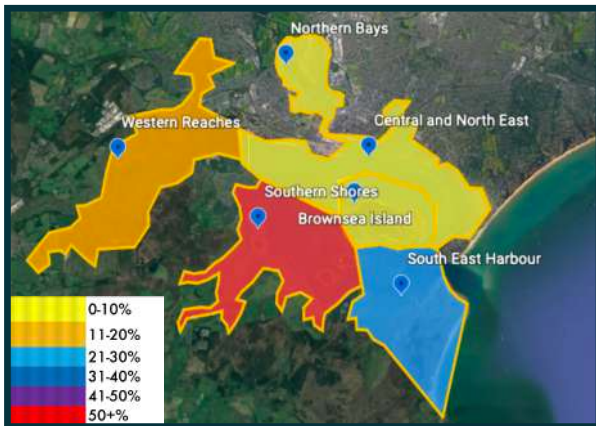


| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 145 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 241 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.4 |

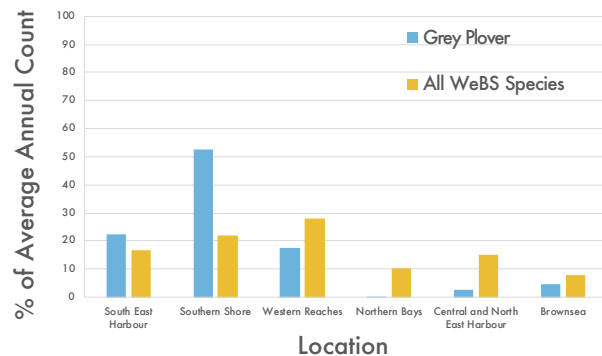
Long-term Trend



Distribution

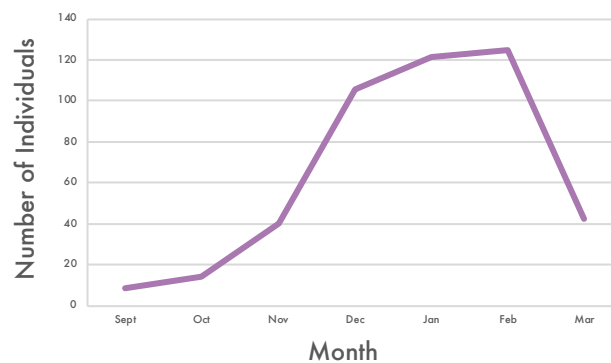


Distribution of Grey Plover Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Lapwing

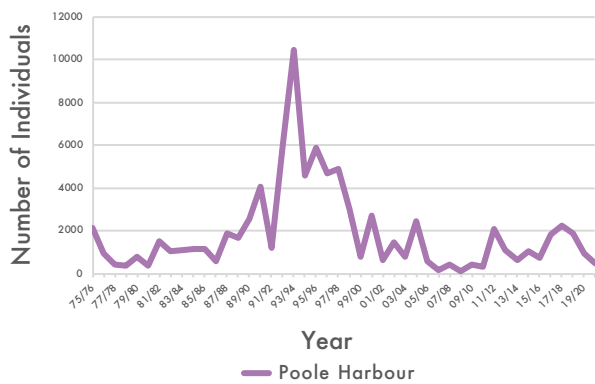
Vanellus vanellus



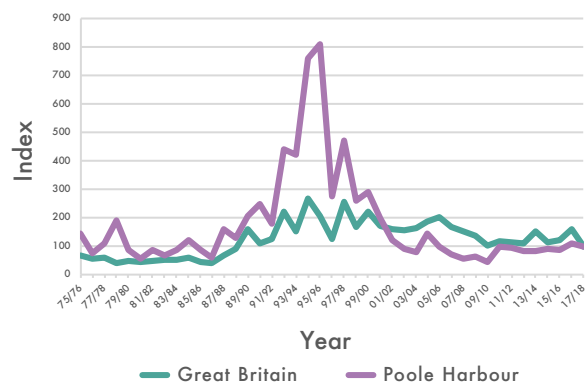
| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 1476 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 2260 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.2 |

Long-term Trend

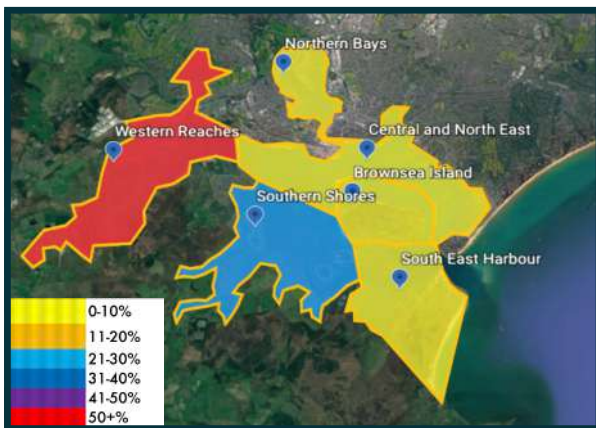
Annual Peak Count



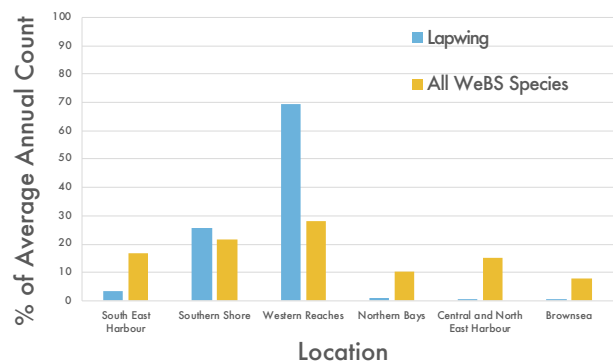
Population Trend



Distribution

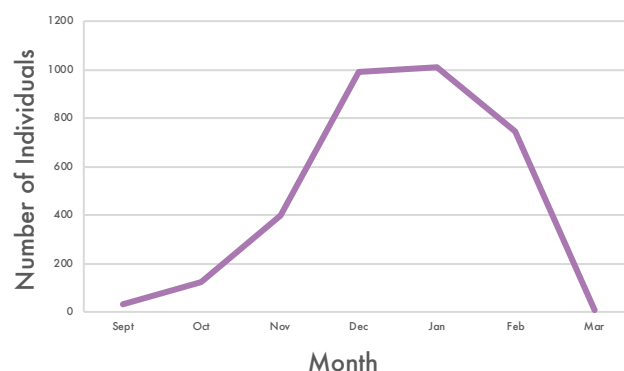


Distribution of Lapwing Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Knot

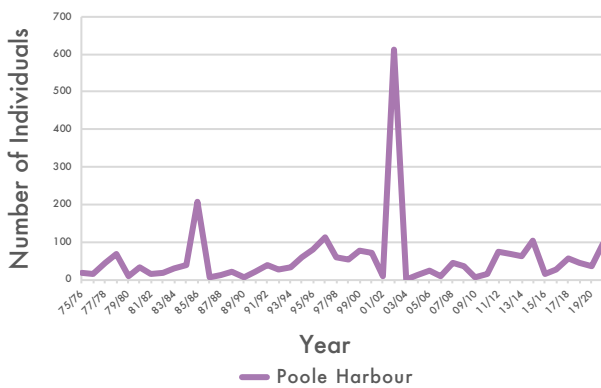
Calidris canutus



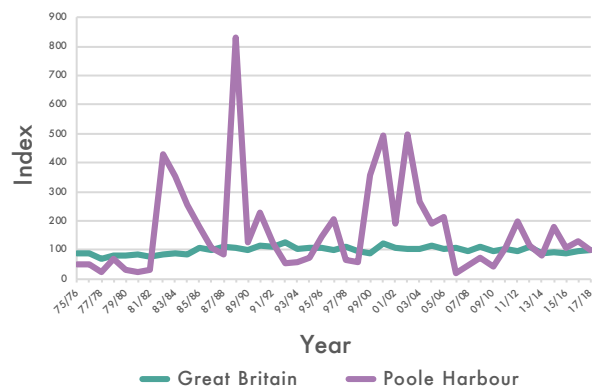
| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 52 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 103 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | <0.1 |

Long-term Trend

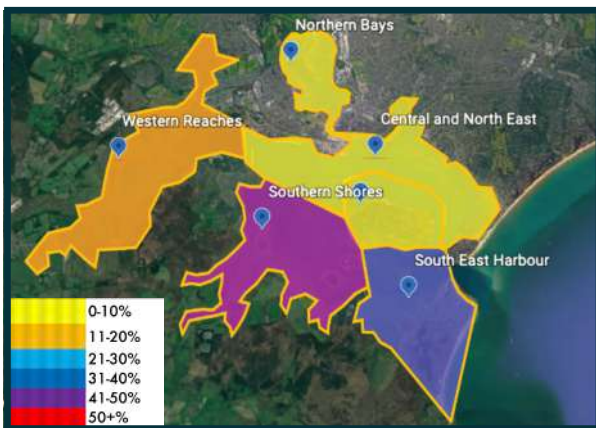
Annual Peak Count



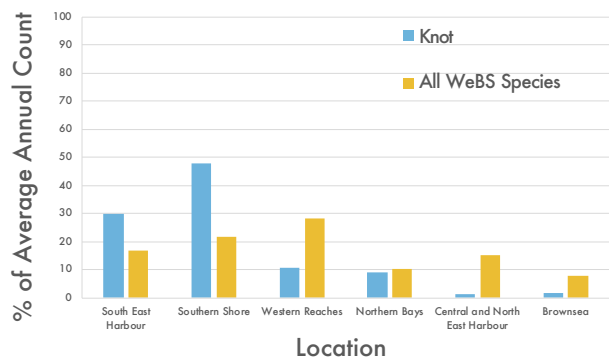
Population Trend



Distribution

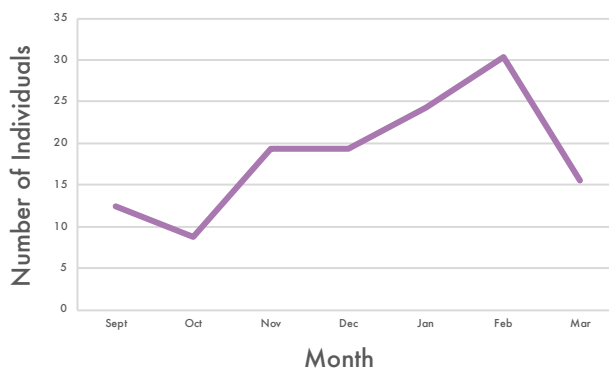


Distribution of Knot Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Sanderling

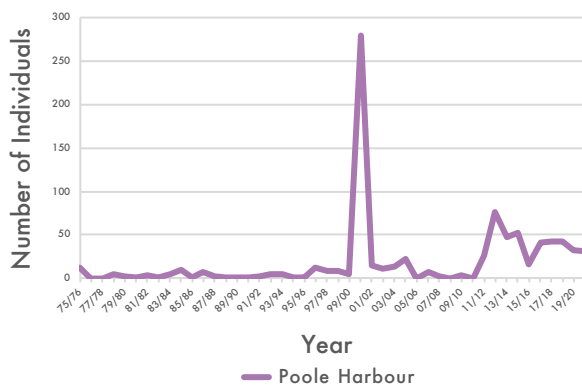
Calidris alba



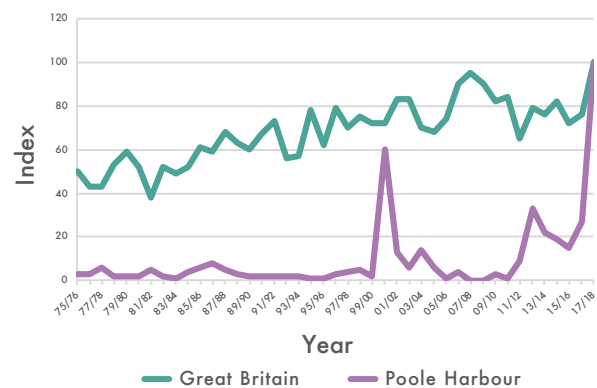
| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 38 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 76 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.2 |

Long-term Trend

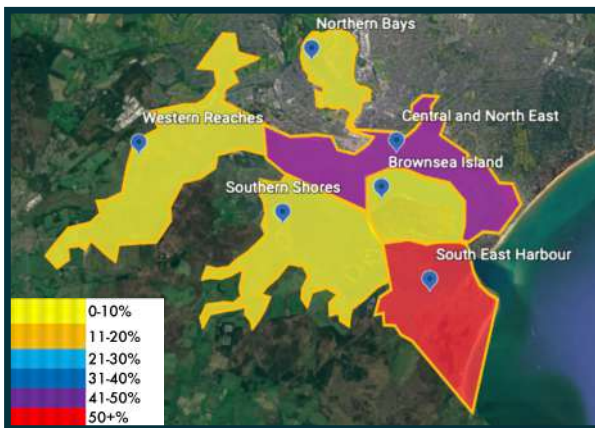
Annual Peak Count



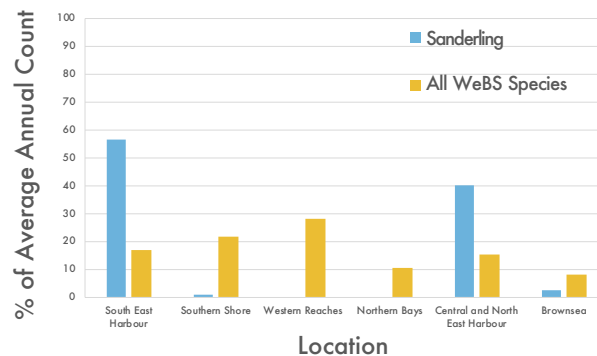
Population Trend



Distribution

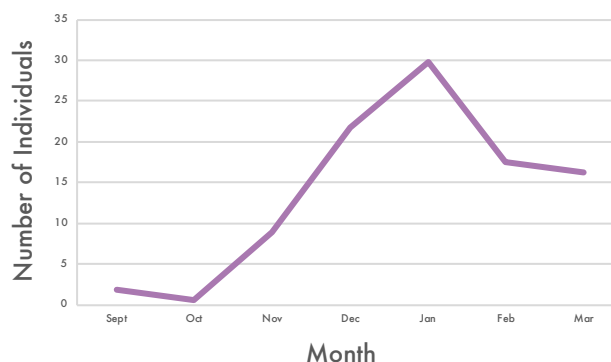


Distribution of Sanderling Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Turnstone

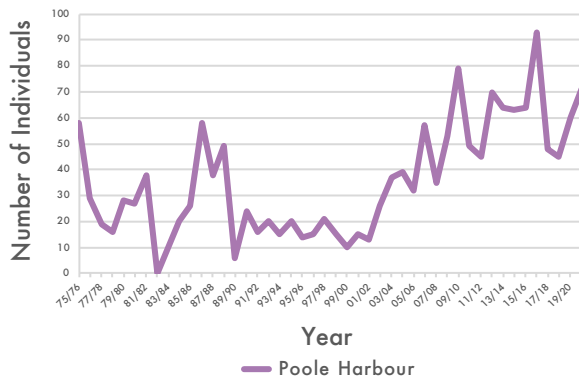
Arenaria interpres



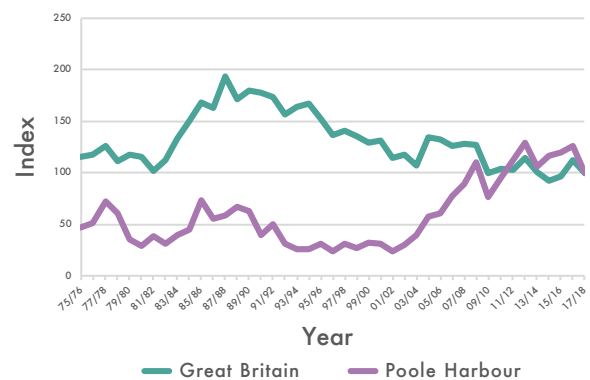
| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 63 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 93 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.2 |

Long-term Trend

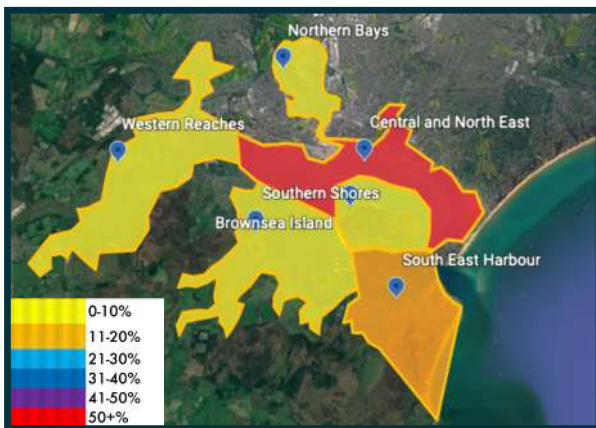
Annual Peak Count



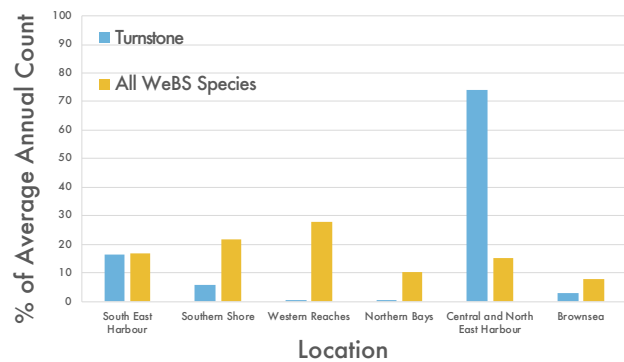
Population Trend



Distribution

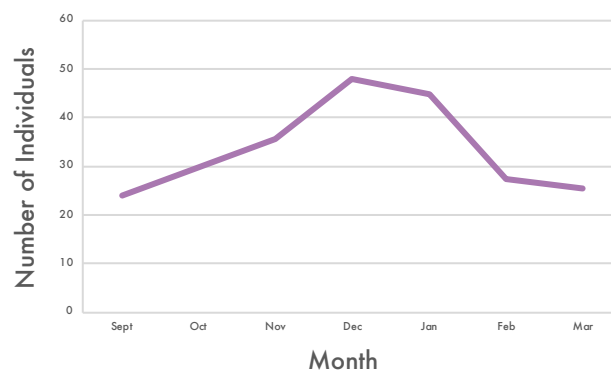


Distribution of Turnstone Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



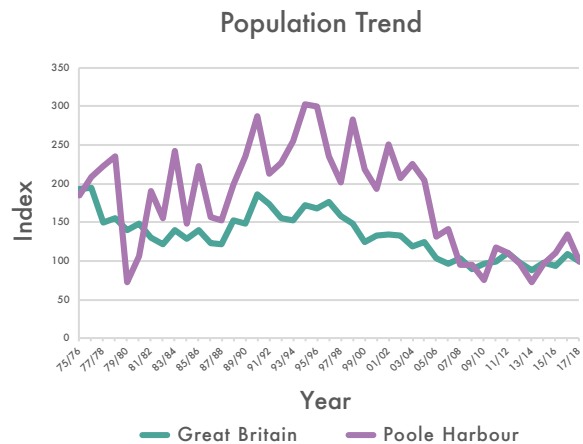
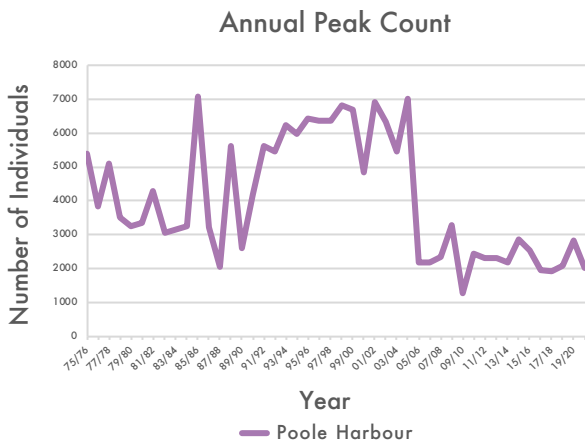
Dunlin

Calidris alpina

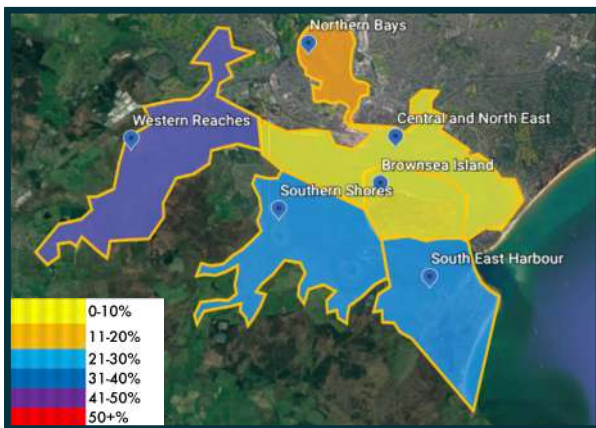


| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 2166 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 2851 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.6 |

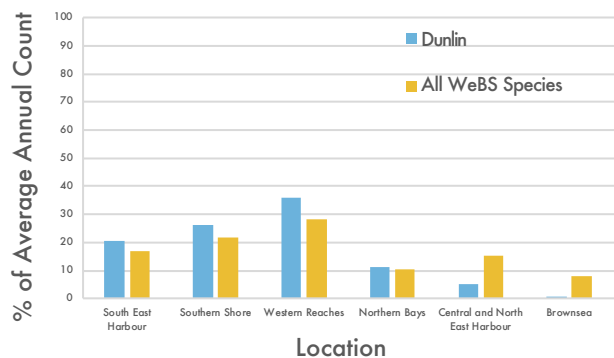
Long-term Trend



Distribution

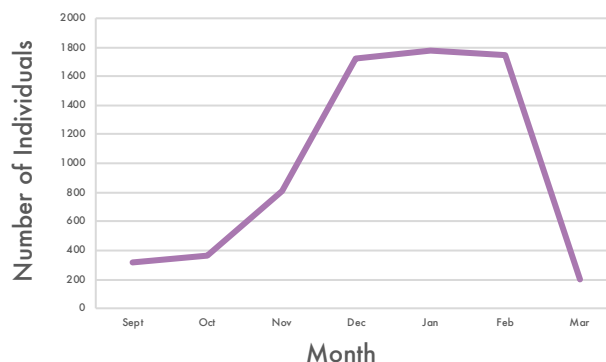


Distribution of Dunlin Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



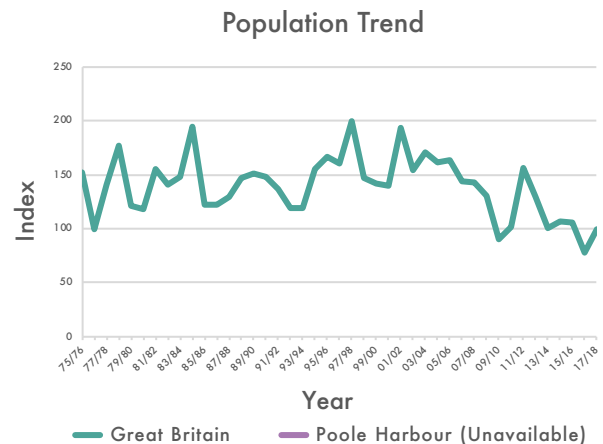
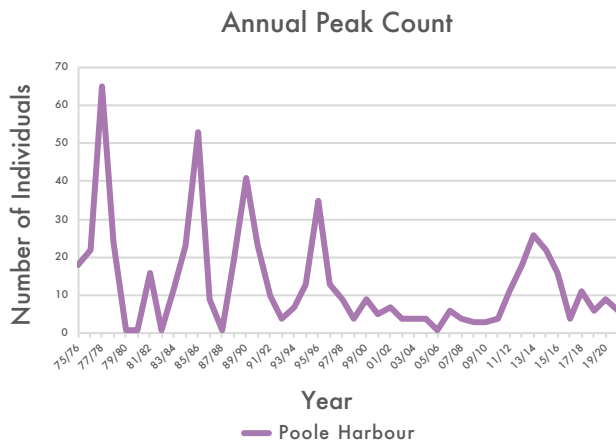
Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

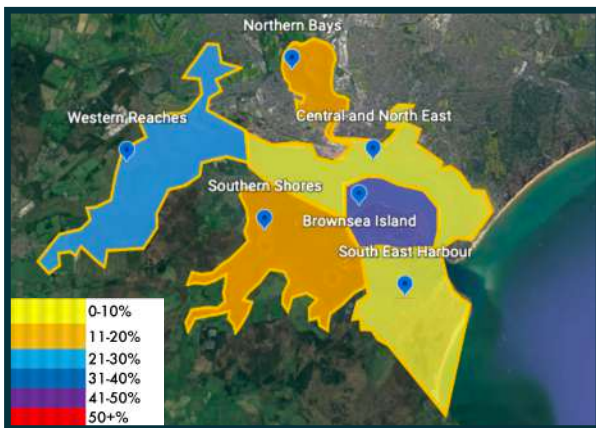


| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 7 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 26 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 10.7 |

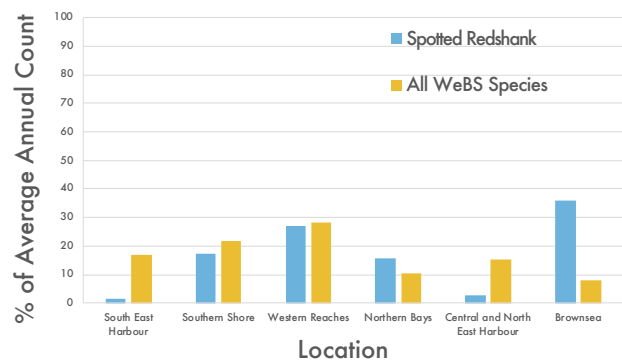
Long-term Trend



Distribution

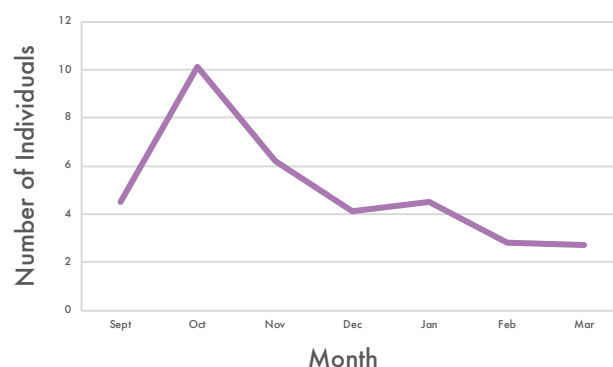


Distribution of Spotted Redshank Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



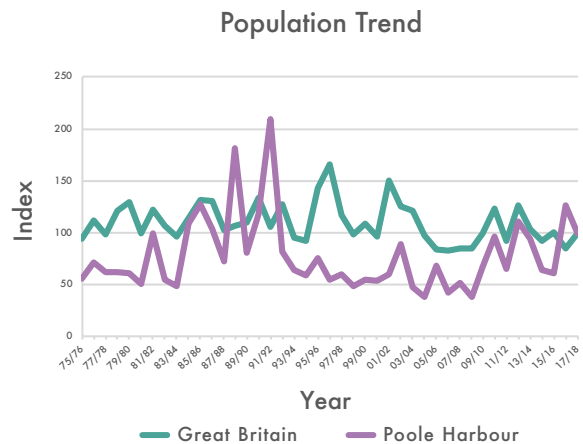
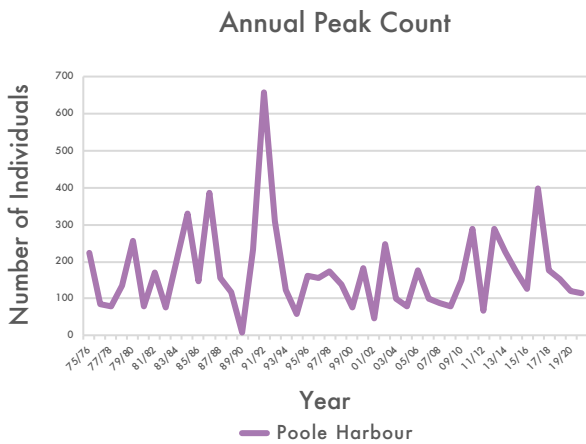
Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

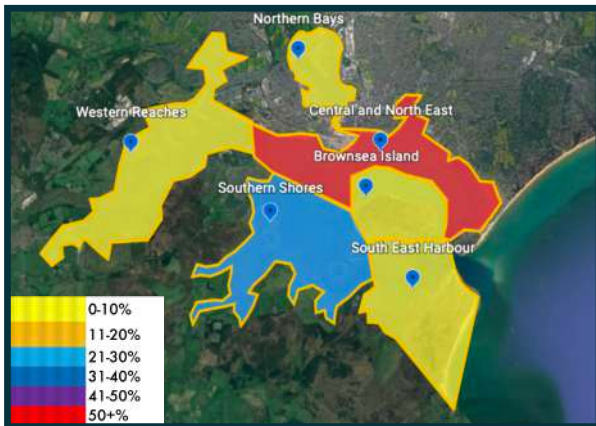


| | |
|--|-----|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 193 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 397 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 0.6 |

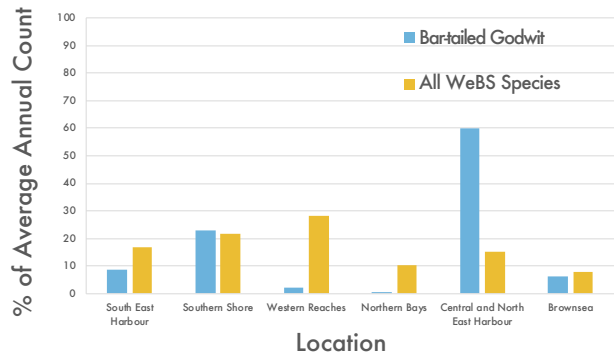
Long-term Trend



Distribution

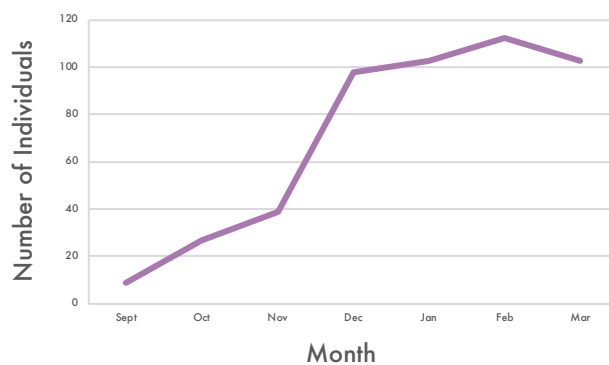


Distribution of Bar-tailed Godwit Relative to All WeBS Species Across Poole Harbour (2011-2021)



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



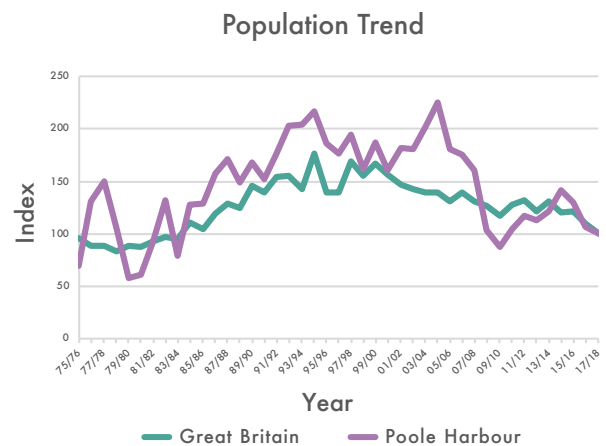
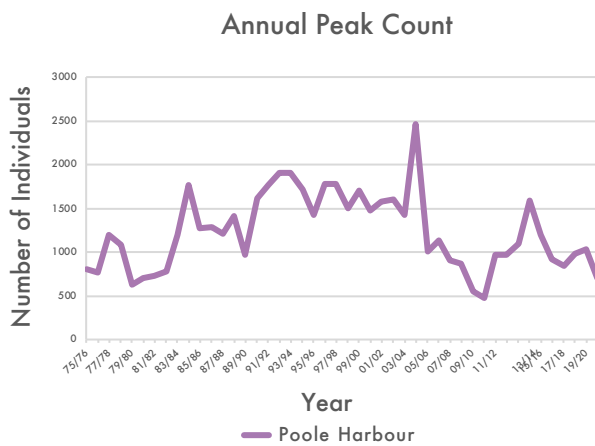
Curlew

Numenius arquata

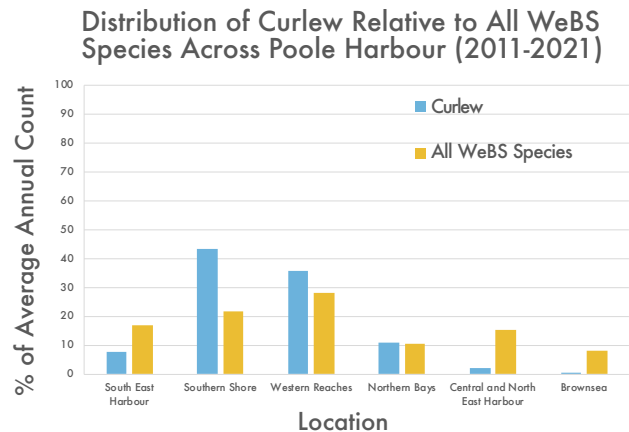
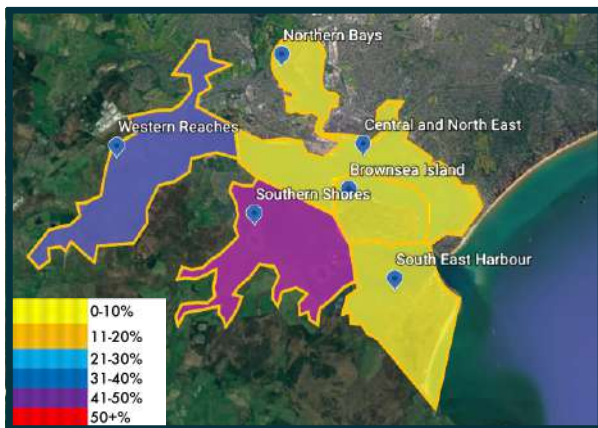


| | |
|--|------|
| Average Peak Count (Sept 2016 - March 2021) | 902 |
| Maximum Count (Sept 2011 - March 2021) | 0.8 |
| Percentage of GB Winter Population | 1588 |

Long-term Trend

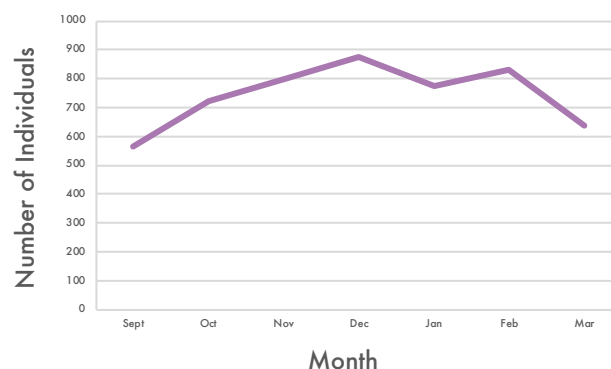


Distribution



Seasonality

Poole Harbour Average Monthly Count (2011-2021)



Notes

Data Analysis and Presentation: Patrick Redshaw and Birds of Poole Harbour.

Data Compilation: Patrick Redshaw, Jol Mitchell, Rod Brummitt, Tom Weston on behalf of Birds of Poole Harbour.

Data Collection: a team of dedicated volunteers conducts the monthly Wetland Bird Survey which is organised by Birds of Poole Harbour on behalf of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

Historical Data and GB Indices: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) data from Waterbirds in the UK 2019/20. Copyright and database right 2021. WeBS is a partnership funded by the BTO, RSPB, and JNCC, in association with the WWT, with fieldwork conducted by volunteers.

WeBS methodology: WeBS Survey Methods, Analysis and Interpretation, BTO 2017.

Estimates of winter populations: Population estimates of wintering waterbirds in Great Britain, March 2019 - Teresa Frost, Graham Austin, Richard Hearn, Stephen McAvoy, Anna Robinson, David Stroud, Ian Woodward and Simon Wotton.

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Dorset Council
Dorset Wildlife Trust
Lee's Estate, Holton Lee
Keysworth Estate
National Trust, Purbeck Team
Natural England
Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch Council
Poole Harbour Commissioners
Rempstone Estate
RSPB Dorset Team