

**Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 - Licensing statistics – Waterfowl** - Details of licences granted by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for waterfowl detailed in the summary tables below. Also includes licences granted historically by Defra 2001-2005. These data will be updated annually. A more detailed table can be downloaded which gives licensing statistics for all birds. Geese include Brent, Canada, Greylag, Pink-footed, Barnacle and Egyptian. Other Waterfowl include Mute Swan, Wigeon, Mallard Duck, Ruddy Duck, Eider Duck, Muscovy Duck, Coot and Moorhen.

[0] Outstanding information not yet received. Please note that this data in brackets may only be incomplete because reports of action taken were not all due for return to Natural England at the time the statistics were published.

2010								
Species	Number of Applications Processed	Number of Applications Rejected or Minded to Refuse	Number of Licences Granted	Licensing Purpose	Action Type	Number of Licences for Action Type	Total Number licensed	Total Number Affected
Geese	155	13	142	Preventing serious damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	5	4800	654
					Shooting	104	2611	[826]
					Nest removal/destruction	2	1100	[154]
				Preserving public health & air safety	Egg oiling/ pricking	12	3356	[914]
					Shooting	14	480	[61]
					Round up (Flightless cull)	2	unspecified	156
				Falconry / aviculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	1	50	50
					Shooting in closed season	1	20	14
				Preventing spread of disease	Egg oiling/ pricking	0	n/a	n/a
					Round up (flightless cull)	2	400*	417*
					Shooting	0	n/a	n/a
								<b>Total</b>
Other waterfowl				Preventing serious damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	1	50	17
					Shooting in closed season or Sunday ban areas	2	40	[0]

					Egg oiling/ pricking	5	1830	[261]
				Preserving public health & air safety	Shooting in closed season	0	0	0
					Trap, translocate/ relocate nest	4	62	[2]
					Capture & release	1	200	60
					Egg oiling/ pricking	3	600	583
				Falconry / aviculture	shooting in closed season	6	95	[28]
					Trap, translocate/ relocate nest	0	n/a	n/a
					prohibited methods	0	n/a	n/a
					Eggs incubated, reared & release	0	n/a	n/a
				Conservation	Egg oiling/ pricking	2	350	[0]
					Shooting protected species	1	750	236
					Trap & kill	1	50	[0]
					Destruction of nest	0	n/a	n/a
					Take & Destroy eggs	0	n/a	n/a
				Science & Education	Capture & release	0	n/a	n/a
					<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4027</b>	<b>[1187]</b>

**2009**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of Applications Processed</b>	<b>Number of Applications Rejected or Minded to Refuse</b>	<b>Number of Licences Granted</b>	<b>Licensing Purpose</b>	<b>Action Type</b>	<b>Number of Licences for Action Type</b>	<b>Total Number licensed</b>	<b>Total Number Affected</b>
<b>Geese</b>	252	9	243	Preventing serious damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	25	5315	[1721]
					Shooting	138	2836	[1328]
					Round-up (flightless) cull	1	n/a	0
				Preserving public health & air safety	Egg oiling/ pricking	30	7406	[2998]
					Shooting	20	517	[139]
					prohibited methods	2	750	371
				Falconry / aviculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	3	300	69
					Shooting in closed season	4	70	[37]
				Conservation	Egg oiling/ pricking	18	2570	[42]
					Destruction of nest	1	2	[0]
					Shooting	1	n/a	n/a
				<b>Total</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>19766</b>	<b>[6705]</b>	
<b>Other waterfowl</b>	76	5	71	Preventing serious damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	1	50	32
					Shooting in closed season or Sunday ban areas	10	153	[33]
				Preserving public health & air safety	Egg oiling/ pricking	12	5650	2979
					Shooting in closed season	0	0	0
					Trap, translocate/ relocate nest	4	552	[126]
					Destruction of nest	4	170	12

					Egg oiling/ pricking	16	2680	1914
				Falconry / aviculture	shooting in closed season	14	460	157
					Trap, translocate/ relocate nest	0	0	0
					prohibited methods	2	250	250
					Eggs incubated, reared & release	1	20	[0]
				Conservation	Egg oiling/ pricking	1	375	200
					Shooting protected species	1	1000	[0]
					Trap & kill	1	50	[0]
					Destruction of nest	1	1	1
					Take & Destroy eggs	1	n/a	n/a
				Science & Education	Capture & release	2	[200]	[17]
					<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>11611</b>	<b>[5688]</b>

**2008**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of Applications Processed</b>	<b>Number of Applications Rejected or Minded to Refuse</b>	<b>Number of Licences Granted</b>	<b>Licensing Purpose</b>	<b>Action Type</b>	<b>Number of Licences for Action Type</b>	<b>Total Number licensed</b>	<b>Total Number Affected</b>
<b>Geese</b>	249	[5]	244	Preventing serious damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	28	5860	2080
					Shooting	133	2676	1404
					Round-up (flightless) cull	1	n/a	0
				Preserving public health & air safety	Egg oiling/ pricking	28	6355	[2636]
					Shooting	24	778	[238]
					prohibited methods	2	50	105
				Falconry / aviculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	0	n/a	0
					Shooting in closed season	1	10	6
				Conservation	Egg oiling/ pricking	24	4095	[29]
					Shooting	3	400	[0]
				<b>Total</b>				
<b>Other waterfowl</b>	82	[8]	74	Preventing serious damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	1	50	15
					Shooting in closed season or Sunday ban areas	5	160	[37]
				Preserving public health & air safety	Egg oiling/ pricking	21	6496	2374
					Shooting in closed season	0	n/a	0
					Trap, translocate/ relocate nest	6	906	[115]
					Destruction of nest	2	17	7

				Falconry / aviculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	16	2780	1706
				Falconry / aviculture	shooting in closed season	14	460	157
				Falconry / aviculture	Trap, translocate/ relocate nest	3	30	0
				Falconry / aviculture	prohibited methods	2	100	100
				Conservation	Eggs incubated, reared & release	1	20	0
					Egg oiling/ pricking	1	50	0
					Shooting protected species	1	1500	1190
					Trap & kill	1	50	0
					<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>12619</b>	<b>5701</b>

**2007**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of Applications Processed</b>	<b>Number of Applications Rejected or Minded to Refuse</b>	<b>Number of Licences Granted</b>	<b>Licensing Purpose</b>	<b>Action Type</b>	<b>Number of Licences for Action Type</b>	<b>Total Number licensed</b>	<b>Total Number Affected</b>
<b>Geese</b>	234	15	219	Preventing serious damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	28	5815	[2998]
					Shooting in closed season or Sunday ban areas	53	1548	[794]
					Shooting protected species	75	1358	[777]
					Round-up (flightless) cull	1	n/a	0
				Preserving public health & air safety	Egg oiling/ pricking	29	10455	2785
					Shooting in closed season	20	464	165
					Shooting protected species	2	62	7
					prohibited methods	6	242	164
				Falconry / aviculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	1	200	187
					Shooting in closed season			
				Conserving wild birds	Egg oiling/ pricking	1	75	30
				Protecting a collection of wild birds	Shooting in closed season	2	110	6
					Oiling or Pricking	1	100	38
				<b>Total</b>				
<b>Other waterfowl</b>	76	10	66	Preventing serious damage to agriculture	Shooting in closed season or Sunday ban areas	4	80	40

				Preserving public health & air safety	Egg oiling/ pricking	15	7375	4053
					Shooting in closed season	2	215	14
					Trap, translocate/ relocate nest	5	904	[106]
					Destruction of nest	3	75	[21]
				Falconry / aviculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	3	850	284
					shooting in closed season	3	220	30
					prohibited methods			
				Conserving wild birds, Flora & Fauna	Eggs incubated, reared & release	1	20	12
					Egg oiling/ pricking	1	200	0
					Shooting protected species	1	2000	1376
					Trapping & kill	1	50	0
				Protecting a collection of wild birds	Shooting in closed season	12	680	89
					Oiling or Pricking	12	2700	1056
					prohibited methods	3	400	27
					<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>15769</b>	<b>6981</b>

**2006**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of Applications Processed</b>	<b>Number of Applications Rejected or Minded to Refuse</b>	<b>Number of Licences Granted</b>	<b>Licensing Purpose</b>	<b>Action Type</b>	<b>Number of Licences for Action Type</b>	<b>Total Number licensed</b>	<b>Total Number Affected</b>
<b>Geese</b>	204	11	193	Preventing serious damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/pricking	25	8630	2567
					Shooting in closed season or Sunday ban areas	37	892	609
					Shooting protected species	76	1260	676
					Round-up (flightless) cull	1	n/a	0
				Preserving public health & air safety	Egg oiling/pricking	26	6270	3001
					Shooting in closed season	18	592	256
					Shooting protected species	1	300	297
					prohibited methods	3	150	[96]
				Falconry / aviculture	Egg oiling/pricking	2	250	250
					Shooting in closed season	3	90	76
				Conserving wild birds	Egg oiling/pricking	1	75	21
				<b>Total</b>				
<b>Other waterfowl</b>	103	28	75	Preventing serious damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/pricking	0	0	0
					Shooting in closed season or Sunday ban areas	9	170	42
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0

				Egg oiling/ pricking	15	6390	[2941]
			Preserving public health & air safety	Shooting in closed season	2	375	121
				Shooting protected species			
				prohibited methods	1	400	0
				Trap, translocate/ relocate nest	5	247	40
				Destruction of nest	7	82	4
			Falconry / aviculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	15	2900	1785
				shooting in closed season	15	950	344
				prohibited methods	2	200	0
			Conserving wild birds, Flora & Fauna	Egg oiling/ pricking	1	200	7
				Shooting protected species	1	3000	2028
				Trap, translocate/ relocate nest	1	3	3
				Trapping & kill	1	50	0
				<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>14967</b>	<b>4374</b>

2005 - summary table

Species	Number of applications processed	Number of applications rejected	Number of licences granted	Purpose	Action type	Number of licences for action type	Total number licensed	Total number affected
Geese	597	197	300	Preventing damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	43	8845	[3773]
					Shooting in closed season or Sunday ban areas	74	1876	[959]
					Shooting protected species	80	1608	[834]
					Round-up (flightless) cull	2	50	[0]
				Preserving public health/air & safety	Egg oiling/ pricking	44	10350	[3597]
					Shooting in closed season	34	1132	[524]
					Shooting protected species	6	520	[143]
					prohibited methods	10	525	[857]
				Falconry/Aviculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	1	200	198
					Shooting in closed season	2	80	75
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0

					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
				Other	Egg oiling/ pricking	1	500	35
					Shooting in closed season	0	0	0
					Shooting protected species	3	60	26
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
				<b>Total</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>25746</b>	<b>[11021]</b>
Other waterfowl	74	17	56	Preventing damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	0	0	0
					Shooting in closed season/ Sunday ban	12	219	[115]
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
				Preserving public health/air & safety	Egg oiling/ pricking	12	4778	[2014]
					Shooting in closed season	6	65	0
					Shooting protected species	1	5	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	1	400	0

					Trap & translocate, relocate nest	6	271	139
				Falconry/Aviculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	6	950	703
					Shooting in closed season	7	340	141
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	1	50	50
				Other	Egg oiling/ pricking	1	400	9
					Shooting in closed season	0	0	0
					Kill protected species	2	4200	1438
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>56</b>	<b>11678</b>	<b>4609*</b>

## 2004

Species	Number of applications processed	Number of applications rejected	Number of licences granted	Purpose	Action type	Number of licences for action type	Total number licensed	Total number affected
Geese	541	47	494	Preventing damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/pricking	74	23320	5167
					Shooting in closed season	120	2523	1007
					Shooting protected species	79	1677	9
					Round-up (flightless) cull	4	625	0
				Preserving public health/air & safety	Egg oiling/pricking	105	27287	10604
					Shooting in closed season	77	3164	862
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	13	2625	932
				Falconry/Aviculture	Egg oiling/pricking	10	1470	606

					Shooting in closed season	9	490	96
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	1	400	50
				Other	Egg oiling/pricking	1	50	46
					Shooting in closed season	1	35	0
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
				<b>Total</b>		<b>494</b>	<b>63666</b>	<b>19379*</b>
Other waterfowl	69	10	59	Preventing damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/pricking	1	50	0
					Shooting in closed season	9	160	27
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
				Preserving public health/air & safety	Egg oiling/	8	4050	1265

					pricking			
					Shooting in closed season	10	1476	139
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
					Trap & translocate	1	7	6
				Falconry/Aviculture	Egg oiling/pricking	15	2850	856
					Shooting in closed season	14	620	209
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	1	150	0
				Other	Egg oiling/pricking	0	0	0
					Shooting in closed season	0	0	0
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0

<b>Total</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>59</b>	<b>9363</b>	<b>2502*</b>
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## 2003

Species	Number of applications processed	Number of applications rejected	Number of licences granted	Purpose	Action type	Number of licences for action type	Total number licensed	Total number affected
Geese	697	50	648	Preventing damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/pricking	122	31670	9796
					Shooting in closed season	173	4062	2460
					Shooting protected species	89	1642	516
					Round-up (flightless) cull	2	275	202
					Other	2	400	0
				Preserving public health/air & safety	Egg oiling/pricking	137	31122	10369
					Shooting in closed season	81	3259	1370
					Shooting protected species	4	100	67
					Round-up (flightless) cull	9	2260	725
					Other	6	70	2
				Falconry/Aviculture	Egg oiling/pricking	0	0	0
					Shooting in closed	9	410	58

					season			
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	10	1360	0
				Other	Egg oiling/pricking	4	1600	359
					Shooting in closed season	0	0	0
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
				<b>Total</b>		<b>648</b>	<b>78430</b>	<b>25924</b>
<b>Other waterfowl</b>	64	16	48	Preventing damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/pricking	0	0	0
					Shooting in closed season	7	140	58
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
				Preserving public health/air & safety	Egg oiling/pricking	8	2750	943
					Shooting in closed season	7	239	176

					Shooting protected species	1	2	0
					Trap & Translocate	2	21	1
					Other	3	1300	84
				Falconry/Aviculture	Egg oiling/pricking	5	800	230
					Shooting in closed season	14	990	97
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
				Conserving Wild Birds	Trap & Translocate	1	8	0
				Other	Egg oiling/pricking	0	0	0
					Shooting in closed season	0	0	0
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>48</b>	<b>6250</b>	<b>1589</b>

2002								
Species	Number of applications processed	Number of applications rejected	Number of licences granted	Purpose	Action type	Number of licences for action type	Total number licensed	Total number affected
Geese	285	23	262	Preventing damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	56	13040	6095
					Shooting in closed season	100	2096	1410
					Shooting protected species	94	2197	808
					Round-up (flightless) cull	3	150	89
					Other	8	1150	756
				Preserving public health/air & safety	Egg oiling/ pricking	0	0	0
					Shooting in closed season	1	3	2
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
					<b>Total</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>18636</b>	<b>9160</b>
Other waterfowl	18	6	12	Preventing damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/ pricking	0	0	0
					Shooting in closed	11	108	21

					season			
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
					Other	1	20	18
				Preserving public health/air & safety	Egg oiling/ pricking	0	0	0
					Shooting in closed season	0	0	0
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Trap & Translocate	0	0	0
					Other	0	0	0
				<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>274</b>					

2001

Species	Number of applications processed	Number of applications rejected	Number of licences granted	Purpose	Action type	Number of licences for action type	Total number licensed	Total number affected
Geese	221	13	208	Preventing damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/pricking	41	10565	3304
					Shooting in closed season	71	1575	693
					Shooting protected species	96	2222	693
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
					Other	0	0	0
				Preserving public health/air & safety	Egg oiling/pricking	0	0	0
					Shooting in closed season	0	0	0
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
					<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>14362</b>	<b>4690</b>

<b>Other waterfowl</b>	6	1	5	Preventing damage to agriculture	Egg oiling/pricking	0	0	0
					Shooting in closed season	4	15	3
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Round-up (flightless) cull	0	0	0
					Other	1	10	9
				Preserving public health/air & safety	Egg oiling/pricking	0	0	0
					Shooting in closed season	0	0	0
					Shooting protected species	0	0	0
					Trap & Translocate	0	0	0
					Other	0	0	0
				<b>Total</b>				
<b>Total</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>213</b>					