

## Ringling by the Wildfowl Trust, 1982

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The geese breeding in Iceland and in arctic Russia had a moderate to very good breeding season in 1982, while those breeding in Greenland, east and west, and in Svalbard, did much less well. The peak counts, where available, and percentage young and mean brood size, for each identifiable goose population wintering in Britain are set out below. There were no counts or age-counts of the Light-bellied Brent Goose which breed in northern Greenland and arctic Canada and winter in Ireland. In West Greenland the Greenland Whitefronts had a rather poor season. For the first time censuses of all their known haunts in Britain were carried out in November and March-April. In the latter period counts were also made in Ireland but the figures are not yet available. The British total is in line with previous estimates. The Barnacle Geese breeding in East Greenland and wintering in western Scotland and Ireland had another poor season. A full census was carried out in March-April 1983, the first for five years (see pages 77-88). The Greylags

breeding in Iceland had one of their best years for some time, though the Pinkfeet also breeding there did less well. The Greylag total was actually down on last year almost certainly because of high mortality during the cold weather of 1981-82. Pinkfeet numbers were more stable.

The Svalbard-breeding Barnacles had a relatively poor season though much better than the previous year, and their numbers rose accordingly. Although there were no age counts of the Light-bellied Brent Geese breeding in Svalbard, it appears they may have done quite well, because despite the low numbers appearing in Britain, counts in Denmark suggested an increase in the total population.

European Whitefronts did quite well, as usual, though the peak count in Britain was down on the previous year, in the absence of any cold weather. The Dark-bellied Brent Geese from the Soviet Arctic had a bumper breeding year after two failures and the total for Britain is a record one.

### Peak counts and breeding success of goose populations in Britain and Ireland, 1982-83.

Species	Peak count	Month	% young	Ac. brood size
Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	89,000	Nov	16.1	2.1
European White-fronted Goose <i>A. albifrons albifrons</i>	5,700	Jan	28.0	2.4
Greenland White-fronted Goose <i>A. a. flavirostris</i>	7,282*	Mar	13.4	2.9
Greylag Goose <i>A. anser</i>	80,000	Nov	30.1	2.6
Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i> – Svalbard	8,500	Nov	12.0	2.3
– Greenland	25,250	Mar	6.7	1.8
Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>B. bernicla hrota</i> – Svalbard	610	Dec	–	–
– Greenland	no count	–	–	–
Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>B. b. bernicla</i>	92,600	Jan	c. 50.0	3.0

\* Britain only, excluding Ireland.