

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

2017

*Less scarce 1,098 bp (no trend available). High*

**234 sites: 504-1,202 pairs.** The total of 1,202 pairs is the highest recorded, which may reflect increased awareness of the need to report all pairs in breeding habitat. The 5-year mean indicates stability and the county estimates suggest that most pairs are being recorded. It is likely that the population is in the order of 1,200-1,300 breeding pairs.

Shoveler	S	CP	TP
<b>England, SW</b> (e 51)	<b>11</b>	11	37
Devon	2	2	2
Dorset	3	3	10
Gloucestershire	1	1	3
Hampshire	2	3	3
Somerset	2	2	17
Wiltshire	1	0	2
<b>England, SE</b> (e 218)	<b>39</b>	114	214
Berkshire	4	0	4
Essex	10	70	82
Greater London	1	0	1
Hertfordshire	6	0	6
Kent	12	43	51
Oxfordshire	2	0	35
Surrey	2	0	4
Sussex	2	1	31
<b>England, E</b> (e 460)	<b>49</b>	169	423
Cambridgeshire	12	4	133
Lincolnshire	7	2	35
Norfolk	17	156	163
Northamptonshire	3	0	6
Suffolk	10	7	86
<b>England, C</b> (e 30)	<b>20</b>	18	30
Derbyshire	4	0	4
Leics & Rutland	1	1	1
Nottinghamshire	4	5	8
Staffordshire	4	6	9
Warwickshire	3	1	3
West Midlands	1	1	1
Worcestershire	3	4	4
<b>England, N</b> (e 256)	<b>49</b>	108	255
Cheshire & Wirral	6	5	15
Cleveland	6	7	23
Cumbria	1	0	9
Co. Durham	2	3	4
Greater Manchester	6	0	8
Lancs & N Mersey	6	41	41
Northumberland	2	2	2
Yorkshire	20	50	153
<b>Wales</b> (e 49)	<b>10</b>	9	49
Anglesey	3	3	36
Caernarfonshire	1	0	1
Denbigh & Flint	2	0	5
Gwent	1	1	1
Pembrokeshire	3	5	6
<b>Scotland, S</b> (e 13)	<b>9</b>	1	13
Borders	1	0	1
Clyde	2	0	5
Dumfries & Galloway	6	1	7
<b>Scotland, Mid</b> (e 40)	<b>10</b>	12	40
Angus & Dundee	2	0	12
Fife	3	0	4
North-east Scotland	2	0	4
Perth & Kinross	3	12	20
<b>Scotland, N &amp; W</b> (e 137)	<b>31</b>	57	116
Argyll	5	33	40
Highland	4	0	6
Orkney	16	20	51
Outer Hebrides	6	4	19
<b>Northern Ireland</b> (e 23)	<b>5</b>	3	23
Co. Antrim	2	3	17

Co. Fermanagh	2	0	2
Co. Londonderry	1	0	4
<b>Channel Islands</b> (e 2)	<b>1</b>	2	2
Jersey	1	2	2
<b>TOTALS (e 1,279)</b>	234	504	1,202

## 2016

*Less scarce 1,033 bp (no trend available). High*

**209 sites: 386-1,183 pairs.** Since we have reported Shoveler numbers only since 2006, no long-term trends can be calculated, but the totals have remained broadly consistent over those 11 years. The 2016 figure of 1,183 pairs is the highest yet reported; the minimum was 873 pairs in 2012.

Shoveler	S	CP	TP
<b>England, SW</b>	<b>15</b>	4	29
Avon	1	1	3
Devon	2	0	2
Dorset	4	1	4
Hampshire	2	2	2
Somerset	3	0	13
Wiltshire	3	0	5
<b>England, SE</b>	<b>30</b>	35	152
Bedfordshire	1	0	1
Berkshire	1	0	2
Essex	7	18	101
Hertfordshire	6	1	6
Kent	11	12	37
Oxfordshire	1	1	1
Surrey	1	0	1
Sussex	2	3	3
<b>England, E</b>	<b>55</b>	156	595
Cambridgeshire	11	3	255
Lincolnshire	10	0	44
Norfolk	16	145	195
Northamptonshire	2	0	2
Suffolk	16	8	99
<b>England, C</b>	<b>10</b>	15	20
Derbyshire	1	2	2
Leics & Rutland	2	2	2
Nottinghamshire	2	8	8
Staffordshire	2	1	4
Warwickshire	1	0	1
West Midlands	1	0	1
Worcestershire	1	2	2
<b>England, N</b>	<b>34</b>	95	177
Cheshire & Wirral	3	7	9
Cleveland	4	6	6
Cumbria	1	1	1
Co. Durham	2	2	7
Greater Manchester	4	0	7
Lancs & N Mersey	5	31	37
Northumberland	1	2	2
Yorkshire	14	46	108
<b>Wales</b>	<b>7</b>	8	40
Anglesey	2	2	31
Gwent	1	2	2
Meirionnydd	2	2	3
Pembrokeshire	2	2	4
<b>Scotland, S</b>	<b>12</b>	0	20
Ayrshire	3	0	3
Borders	1	0	1
Clyde	2	0	3
Dumfries & Galloway	5	0	12
Lothian	1	0	1
<b>Scotland, Mid</b>	<b>9</b>	6	19
Angus & Dundee	4	0	7
Fife	2	1	6
Perth & Kinross	3	5	6
<b>Scotland, N &amp; W</b>	<b>34</b>	54	93
Argyll	5	30	30
Caithness	2	2	4
Highland	4	0	5
Orkney	16	19	38
Outer Hebrides	7	3	16
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>2</b>	11	36

Co. Antrim	2	11	36
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>1</b>	2	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	209	386	1,183

## 2015

Scarce 981 bp (no trend available). High

**269-976 pairs.** The available data indicate that the population has been stable in the last ten years, with annual totals varying between 873 and 1,160 pairs. The variation is likely to be due to annual differences in local coverage. There is only one SPA classified for Shoveler (the Ouse Washes in Cambridgeshire/Norfolk), but the overall SPA network holds over 50% of our breeding Shovelers.

Shoveler	CP	TP
<b>England, SW</b>	<b>7</b>	37
Avon	1	2
Dorset	1	4
Gloucestershire	1	1
Hampshire	2	5
Isle of Wight	0	2
Somerset	2	20
Wiltshire	0	3
<b>England, SE</b>	<b>56</b>	101
Berkshire	0	3
Essex	8	46
Greater London	0	1
Hertfordshire	1	3
Kent	44	45
Surrey	1	1
Sussex	2	2
<b>England, E</b>	<b>55</b>	417
Cambridgeshire	9	209
Lincolnshire	1	33
Norfolk	42	109
Northamptonshire	0	10
Suffolk	3	56
<b>England, C</b>	<b>10</b>	27
Derbyshire	1	3
Leics & Rutland	4	4
Nottinghamshire	1	12
Shropshire	1	1
Warwickshire	0	4
Worcestershire	3	3
<b>England, N</b>	<b>93</b>	201
Cheshire & Wirral	4	14
Cleveland	4	4
Cumbria	1	6
Co. Durham	3	3
Greater Manchester	0	3
Lancs & N Merseyside	35	35
Northumberland	0	1
Yorkshire	46	135
<b>Wales</b>	<b>9</b>	59
Anglesey	3	50
Breconshire	0	1
Gower	2	2
Gwent	2	2
Pembrokeshire	2	4
<b>Scotland, S</b>	<b>5</b>	13
Clyde	0	5
Clyde Islands	0	1
Dumfries & Galloway	5	6
Lothian	0	1
<b>Scotland, Mid</b>	<b>6</b>	12
Angus & Dundee	0	3
Fife	1	4
Perth & Kinross	5	5
<b>Scotland, N &amp; W</b>	<b>21</b>	94
Argyll	4	41
Caithness	1	2
Highland	0	2
Orkney	15	48
Shetland	1	1
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>7</b>	14
Co. Antrim	6	8

Co. Armagh	1	2
Co. Fermanagh	0	4
Isle of Man	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	269	976

## 2014

*Less scarce: 5-yr mean 987 bp. Coverage: high. Amber*

507-1,160 pairs. These are the largest totals reported by the RBBP since Shoveler was added to the Panel's list in 2006 (fig. 1). Whether this reflects an increase in the number or better recording (or both) is not known. Shovelers are widespread, occurring in almost 70% of recording areas in 2014. Pairs consistently seen in suitable habitat up to mid May are likely to be breeding birds and can be recorded as probable breeding. Females with young are adept at concealment later in the season but diligent watchers may be rewarded by the sight of a brood at the edge of waterside vegetation.

Shoveler	confirmed breeding pairs	total pairs
<b>England, SW</b>	<b>10</b>	32
Avon	1	2
Devon	0	3
Dorset	5	7
Gloucestershire	0	1
Hampshire	1	4
Isle of Wight	0	1
Somerset	3	13
Wiltshire	0	1
<b>England, SE</b>	<b>108</b>	224
Berkshire	2	6
Essex	38	54
Hertfordshire	2	13
Kent	49	75
Oxfordshire	0	35
Surrey	1	3
Sussex	16	38
<b>England, E</b>	<b>212</b>	503
Cambridgeshire	71	296
Lincolnshire	39	39
Norfolk	40	105
Suffolk	62	63
<b>England, C</b>	<b>23</b>	24
Derbyshire	1	1
Leicestershire & Rutland	1	1
Nottinghamshire	20	20
West Midlands	0	1
Worcestershire	1	1
<b>England, N</b>	<b>82</b>	210
Cheshire & Wirral	5	9
Cleveland	8	16
Cumbria	1	5
Co. Durham	1	4
Greater Manchester	0	2
Lancashire & N Merseyside	11	28
Northumberland	2	2
Yorkshire	54	144
<b>Wales</b>	<b>7</b>	33
Anglesey	0	24
Denbigh & Flint	1	2
Gower	1	1
Gwent	3	3
Pembrokeshire	2	3
<b>Scotland, S</b>	<b>1</b>	19
Borders	0	3
Clyde	0	3
Dumfries & Galloway	1	12
Lothian	0	1
<b>Scotland, Mid</b>	<b>20</b>	30
Angus & Dundee	1	4
Fife	1	1
North-east Scotland	0	7
Perth & Kinross	18	18
<b>Scotland, N &amp; W</b>	<b>37</b>	76
Argyll	20	33
Caithness	3	5
Highland	1	1
Orkney	4	24
Outer Hebrides	7	11
Shetland	2	2



<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>7</b>	8
Co. Antrim	7	7
Co. Fermanagh	0	1
Isle of Man	<b>0</b>	1
Isle of Man	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	507	1,160

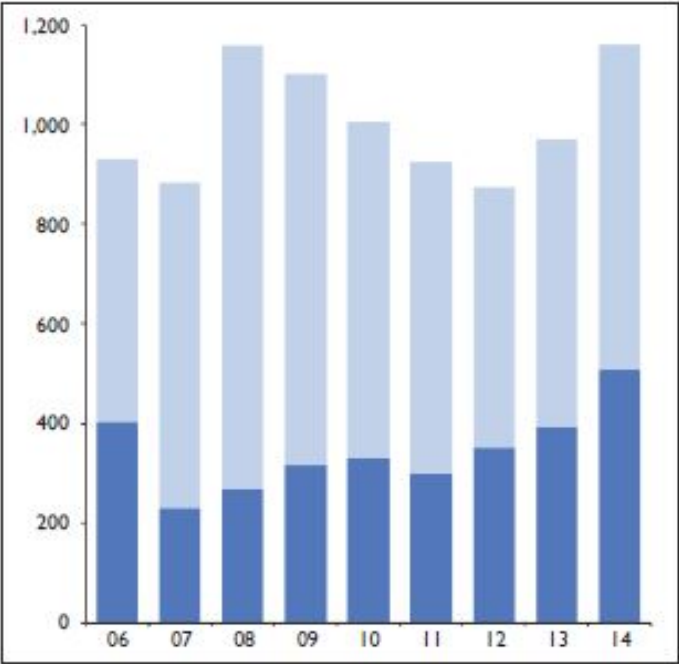


Fig. 2. Breeding Shovelers *Anas clypeata* in the UK: bars show the maximum total number of pairs reported, 2006–2014 (confirmed pairs in darker blue).

---

**2013**

*Less scarce: 5-yr mean 974 bp. Coverage: high. Amber*

391-964 pairs.

Shoveler	Confirmed breeding pairs	Total pairs
<b>England, SW</b>	<b>6</b>	58
Avon	2	3
Dorset	0	7
Gloucestershire	0	4
Hampshire	3	3
Isle of Wight	0	2
Somerset	1	39
<b>England, SE</b>	<b>51</b>	142
Bedfordshire	0	2
Berkshire	0	9
Essex	42	61
Greater London	3	8
Hertfordshire	1	11
Kent	1	19
Oxfordshire	0	18
Surrey	0	4
Sussex	4	10
<b>England, E</b>	<b>210</b>	407
Cambridgeshire	106	217
Lincolnshire	23	38
Norfolk	17	87
Northamptonshire	0	1
Suffolk	64	64
<b>England, C</b>	<b>6</b>	15
Nottinghamshire	3	4
Shropshire	0	1
Staffordshire	1	4
Warwickshire	1	4
West Midlands	0	1
Worcestershire	1	1
<b>England, N</b>	<b>61</b>	189
Cheshire & Wirral	1	6
Cleveland	1	6
Cumbria	0	8
Co. Durham	3	3
Greater Manchester	3	6
Lancashire & N Merseyside	3	32
Northumberland	0	1
Yorkshire	50	127
<b>Wales</b>	<b>6</b>	17
Anglesey	1	2
Denbigh & Flint	0	9
Gower	1	1
Gwent	2	2
Pembrokeshire	2	3
<b>Scotland, S</b>	<b>15</b>	27
Borders	0	6
Clyde	3	6
Dumfries & Galloway	12	14
Lothian	0	1
<b>Scotland, Mid</b>	<b>14</b>	25
Angus & Dundee	0	4
Fife	1	2
North-east Scotland	0	6
Perth & Kinross	13	13
<b>Scotland, N &amp; W</b>	<b>22</b>	78
Argyll	6	32
Highland	0	2
Orkney	13	28
Outer Hebrides	3	14
Shetland	0	2
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>0</b>	5
Co. Antrim	0	3

Co. Down	0	2
<b>Channel Islands</b>	<b>0</b>	1
Guernsey	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	391	964

---

**2012**

*Less scarce: 5-yr mean 1,012 bp. Coverage: high. Amber*

350-872 pairs. The Ouse Washes is the only SPA classified for breeding Shoveler and numbers there are well monitored by RSPB and WWT. Since the 1990s, numbers at all the UK's SPAs have increased from 155 to 169 pairs (based on counts of pairs or males; see Gilbert *et al.* 1998). This represents 54% of the minimum estimate of the British population (310 breeding pairs, based on a 5-year mean of the number of confirmed breeding pairs reported to RBBP). *Bird Atlas 2007-11* results suggest that some pairs go unreported to RBBP each year.

Shoveler	Confirmed breeding pairs	Total pairs
<b>England, SW</b>	<b>2</b>	28
Avon	0	1
Devon	0	3
Dorset	0	1
Gloucestershire	1	5
Isle of Wight	0	1
Somerset	1	16
Wiltshire	0	1
<b>England, SE</b>	<b>64</b>	131
Bedfordshire	0	1
Essex	30	44
Greater London	0	1
Hertfordshire	0	10
Kent	33	50
Oxfordshire	0	8
Surrey	0	1
Sussex	1	16
<b>England, E</b>	<b>148</b>	342
Cambridgeshire	35	91
Lincolnshire	7	28
Norfolk	104	105
Northamptonshire	1	6
Suffolk	1	112
<b>England, C</b>	<b>6</b>	22
Leicestershire & Rutland	2	2
Nottinghamshire	3	12
Shropshire	0	3
Staffordshire	1	3
Warwickshire	0	2
<b>England, N</b>	<b>94</b>	200
Cheshire & Wirral	3	9
Cleveland	3	10
Cumbria	1	1
Co. Durham	1	1
Greater Manchester	0	2
Lancashire & N Merseyside	29	29
Northumberland	1	1
Yorkshire	56	147
<b>Wales</b>	<b>6</b>	22
Anglesey	1	12
Ceredigion	0	2
Denbigh & Flint	1	3
East Glamorgan	0	1
Gwent	4	4
<b>Scotland, S</b>	<b>0</b>	11
Ayrshire	0	1
Clyde	0	6
Dumfries & Galloway	0	3
Lothian	0	1
<b>Scotland, Mid</b>	<b>9</b>	34
Angus & Dundee	0	5
Fife	1	1
NE Scotland	0	4
Perth & Kinross	8	24
<b>Scotland, N &amp; W</b>	<b>20</b>	75
Argyll	2	29
Highland	0	5
Orkney	15	18
Outer Hebrides	3	20
Shetland	0	3

Northern Ireland	0	6
Co. Antrim	0	3
Co. Armagh	0	2
Co. Down	0	1
Channel Islands	1	1
Jersey	1	1
TOTALS	350	872

*Less scarce: 5-yr mean 1,014 bp. Coverage: high. Amber*

295-924 pairs. The Shoveler is associated with small, shallow, permanent waterbodies at low-altitude sites. Since it was added to the RBBP list in 2006, it has been apparent that the addition was justified since the highest total number of pairs reported has never been more than 1,157, with a maximum of 401 confirmed breeding pairs in 2006. RBBP reports for the period 2006-10 were used to update the UK breeding population estimate (Musgrove *et al.* 2013) of 310-1,020 pairs.

The bulk of the population breeds in eastern England - Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Yorkshire consistently hold over 100 pairs each - associated largely with damp, low-lying pastures such as those found in the East Anglian Fens and the carrs and ings of south and east Yorkshire, particularly the lower Derwent valley where 145 pairs bred in 1993 (Brown & Grice 2005). The Washes of the Nene and the Ouse in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk are two other important sites for breeding, the latter being the UK's only Special Protection Area for this species. However, these sites are prone to late spring flooding, which can destroy any breeding attempts, as in 2007 and 2008 (Holling *et al.* 2010a,b). There are also notable concentrations in Essex, Kent and Lancashire & N Merseyside. Rather fewer nest in Wales (32-39 pairs in 2006-10, though in 2011 there were only 24), where most records come from Anglesey (79% of all Welsh records during 2006-11).

Outlying populations of note occur in Scotland in the Argyll islands, Orkney and the Outer Hebrides, but as a breeding species in Scotland, the Shoveler seems to be rather rare. Forrester *et al.* (2007) stated that there may be 100-150 pairs in central and southern Scotland, but totals submitted to the RBBP in the last six years range from 22 to 55, which suggests one or more of the following: that the species has declined, that there is significant under-recording, or that the Forrester *et al.* estimate was optimistic. The wetlands of the north Solway (Dumfries & Galloway) probably hold the largest numbers in southern Scotland. In Northern Ireland, most Shovelers breed around Lough Neagh, but numbers reported to the Panel are low, with a maximum of five in 2008.

In the breeding season, the Shoveler is a species that birdwatchers should always be aware of: pairs in suitable breeding habitat (and of course broods of ducklings) should always be reported to county recorders or logged on BirdTrack (see also comments under Wigeon). Although pairs remain together throughout the summer without breeding at some sites, careful observation of the behaviour of others will allow breeding attempts to be identified.

Shoveler	Confirmed breeding pairs	Total pairs
<b>England, SW</b>	<b>5</b>	32
Avon	0	1
Dorset	0	2
Gloucestershire	4	5
Hampshire	1	1
Isle of Wight	0	1
Somerset	0	20
Wiltshire	0	2
<b>England, SE</b>	<b>24</b>	126
Berkshire	0	1
Essex	2	47
Greater London	0	3
Hertfordshire	3	10
Kent	19	54
Oxfordshire	0	9
Surrey	0	2
<b>England, E</b>	<b>151</b>	403
Cambridgeshire	2	151
Lincolnshire	15	20
Norfolk	66	163
Northamptonshire	2	3
Suffolk	66	66
<b>England, C</b>	<b>8</b>	13
Derbyshire	1	1
Leicestershire & Rutland	1	1
Nottinghamshire	5	7
Shropshire	0	3
Staffordshire	1	1
<b>England, N</b>	<b>53</b>	198
Cheshire & Wirral	1	23
Cleveland	2	5
Cumbria	0	3
Co. Durham	1	1
Greater Manchester	2	7
Lancashire & N Merseyside	2	35
Northumberland	1	1
Yorkshire	44	123
<b>Wales</b>	<b>4</b>	25
Anglesey	1	18
Ceredigion	1	2
East Glamorgan	0	1
Gwent	0	2
Meirionnydd	1	1
Pembrokeshire	1	1
<b>Scotland, S</b>	<b>1</b>	14

Borders	0	2
Clyde	0	1
Dumfries & Galloway	1	11
<b>Scotland, Mid</b>	<b>11</b>	23
Fife	1	2
NE Scotland	0	3
Perth & Kinross	10	16
Upper Forth	0	2
<b>Scotland, N &amp; W</b>	<b>37</b>	88
Argyll	2	22
Highland	0	3
Orkney	32	46
Outer Hebrides	1	15
Shetland	2	2
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1</b>	2
Co. Antrim	1	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	295	924

## 2010

Less scarce: 5-yr mean 1,016 bp. Coverage: high. Amber

328-1,007 pairs. The RBBP has now been monitoring Shovelers for five years and the total number of breeding pairs is consistently in the order of 1,000. The highest numbers are most regularly reported from Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Yorkshire, each totalling over 100 pairs in most years.

Shoveler	Confirmed breeding pairs	Total pairs
<b>England, SW</b>	<b>12</b>	37
Avon	0	1
Devon	0	2
Dorset	2	6
Gloucestershire	1	3
Hampshire	8	8
Isle of Wight	0	6
Somerset	1	11
<b>England, SE</b>	<b>24</b>	123
Bedfordshire	1	3
Essex	2	39
Greater London	1	1
Hertfordshire	0	13
Kent	19	46
Oxfordshire	1	11
Sussex	0	10
<b>England, E</b>	<b>158</b>	411
Cambridgeshire	7	179
Lincolnshire	20	32
Norfolk	127	127
Northamptonshire	3	3
Suffolk	1	70
<b>England, C</b>	<b>8</b>	24
Leicestershire & Rutland	5	5
Nottinghamshire	3	9
Shropshire	0	2
Staffordshire	0	1
Warwickshire	0	7
<b>England, N</b>	<b>83</b>	230
Cheshire & Wirral	0	11
Cleveland	4	6
Cumbria	0	5
Co. Durham	2	2
Greater Manchester	0	9
Lancashire & N. Merseyside	19	42
Northumberland	1	1
Yorkshire	57	154
<b>Wales</b>	<b>2</b>	32
Anglesey	0	26
Ceredigion	0	3
Denbigh & Flint	1	1
Gwent	1	2
<b>Scotland, S</b>	<b>4</b>	26
Ayrshire	0	4
Borders	1	2
Clyde	3	8
Dumfries & Galloway	0	10
Lothian	0	2
<b>Scotland, Mid</b>	<b>18</b>	29
Angus & Dundee	0	8
Fife	1	1
North-east Scotland	5	5
Perth & Kinross	12	15
<b>Scotland, N &amp; W</b>	<b>18</b>	93
Argyll	3	28
Highland	0	4
Orkney	11	42
Outer Hebrides	3	18
Shetland	1	1
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1</b>	2
Co. Antrim	1	1



Co. Down	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	328	1,007

## 2009

Less scarce: 4-yr mean 1,018 bp. Coverage: high. **Amber**

317-1,102 pairs. The RBBP has collected data on Shoveler since 2006, since when the total has ranged between 882 and 1,157 pairs. This compares with an estimated UK population of 1,000-1,500 pairs in 1988-91 (based on autumn WeBS counts; Kirby & Mitchell 1993), so at present it would appear that reporting rates to RBBP are good. Birdwatchers should always report potential breeding pairs and sightings of broods to county recorders to help make these figures as complete as possible.

Shoveler	Confirmed breeding pairs	Total pairs
<b>England, SW</b>	<b>16</b>	49
Avon	1	1
Cornwall	0	2
Devon	0	1
Dorset	0	4
Gloucestershire	1	1
Hampshire	9	9
Isle of Wight	0	3
Somerset	5	28
<b>England, SE</b>	<b>24</b>	197
Bedfordshire	0	1
Essex	2	75
Greater London	7	7
Hertfordshire	4	9
Kent	7	70
Oxfordshire	2	19
Sussex	2	16
<b>England, E</b>	<b>155</b>	454
Cambridgeshire	49	227
Lincolnshire	13	15
Norfolk	80	141
Northamptonshire	0	1
Suffolk	13	70
<b>England, C</b>	<b>6</b>	24
Nottinghamshire	2	5
Shropshire	0	4
Staffordshire	3	13
Warwickshire	0	1
West Midlands	1	1
<b>England, N</b>	<b>72</b>	198
Cheshire & Wirral	1	6
Cleveland	3	8
Cumbria	1	1
Co. Durham	1	1
Greater Manchester	4	4
Lancashire & N. Merseyside	17	66
Northumberland	3	3
Yorkshire	42	109
<b>Wales</b>	<b>3</b>	39
Anglesey	1	34
Carmarthenshire	0	1
Denbigh & Flint	1	1
Gwent	1	2
Meirionnydd	0	1
<b>Scotland, S</b>	<b>4</b>	31
Ayrshire	2	2
Borders	0	4
Clyde	0	3
Dumfries & Galloway	2	21
Lothian	0	1
<b>Scotland, Mid</b>	<b>9</b>	14
Angus & Dundee	2	4
North-east Scotland	1	2
Perth & Kinross	6	8
<b>Scotland, N &amp; W</b>	<b>27</b>	93
Argyll	7	30
Caithness	0	1
Highland	0	1
Orkney	15	36
Outer Hebrides	4	24
Shetland	1	1

Northern Ireland	1	3
Co. Antrim	1	1
Co. Armagh	0	1
Co. Tyrone	0	1
Totals	317	1,102

## 2008

268-1,157 pairs. Although the number of confirmed breeding pairs is similar to that in 2007, the total number of pairs is the highest in three years, but this is probably inflated by the large numbers reported at the Ouse Washes in Cambridgeshire, where 328 males were counted in early May (compared with a five-year mean of 78 males in 2003-07). It is a standard census technique to measure the number of potentially breeding ducks by counting males at this time of year. In 2007, the Washes were flooded for much of the summer, meaning that hardly any grassland management took place. Consequently, in the spring of 2008, the Washes were densely vegetated and wet and it is believed that these conditions favoured breeding Shovelers. However, any that attempted to breed in such low-lying habitat would have been affected by flooding in early April and again in late May. It may be spring flooding, such as occurred in both 2007 and 2008 across the main parts of the Shoveler's range in east and southeast England, which explains the low number of broods (and thus confirmed breeding pairs) compared with the total number of pairs.

Shoveler	Confirmed breeding pairs	Total pairs
<b>England, SW</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>39</b>
Avon	0	2
Cornwall	0	1
Devon	2	2
Dorset	3	8
Hampshire	2	2
Somerset	1	24
<b>England, SE</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>186</b>
Essex	21	76
Hertfordshire	6	10
Kent	9	73
Oxfordshire	0	9
Sussex	10	18
<b>England, E</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>508</b>
Cambridgeshire	7	329
Lincolnshire	2	2
Norfolk	58	118
Northamptonshire	0	4
Suffolk	20	55
<b>England, C</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>
Leicestershire & Rutland	1	1
Nottinghamshire	7	9
Shropshire	1	5
Staffordshire	0	4
West Midlands	1	1
<b>England, N</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>259</b>
Cheshire & Wirral	2	7
Cleveland	3	8
Cumbria	1	1
Durham	3	3
Greater Manchester	2	8
Isle of Man	0	1
Lancashire & N Merseyside	35	92
Northumberland	3	3
Yorkshire	38	136
<b>Wales</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>38</b>
Anglesey	0	28
Breconshire	0	1
Gwent	0	6
Pembrokeshire	3	3
<b>Scotland, S</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>
Borders	0	2
Clyde	0	5
Dumfries & Galloway	1	7
<b>Scotland, Mid</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
Angus & Dundee	0	3
Fife	1	2
North-east Scotland	3	3
<b>Scotland, N &amp; W</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>80</b>
Argyll	7	27
Highland	0	1
Orkney	8	38
Outer Hebrides	5	14
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
Co. Antrim	1	1
Co. Armagh	1	1
Co. Fermanagh	0	1
Co. Tyrone	0	2

<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>1,157</b>
---------------	------------	--------------

## 2007

229-881 pairs. With only two years of data, it is too early to draw firm conclusions on numbers and distribution. However, the total of confirmed breeding pairs is much lower than in 2006 and this holds true across most of the counties with higher numbers of confirmed pairs in both years: Cambridgeshire, Essex, Kent, Lancashire & N Merseyside, Norfolk and Orkney, with only Yorkshire posting an increase. As noted in the last report, the Derwent Valley in Yorkshire is believed to be the most important site for breeding Shovelers in England; with 71 pairs reported in 2007, compared with just one in 2006, the difference is surely a result of different levels of recording at this site.

<b>Shoveler</b>	<b>Confirmed pairs</b>	<b>Total pairs</b>
<b>England, SW</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>38</b>
Avon	1	2
Devon	0	1
Dorset	1	11
Hampshire	8	12
Somerset	4	12
<b>England, SE</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>166</b>
Bedfordshire	1	1
Essex	1	65
Hertfordshire	6	11
Kent	34	68
Oxfordshire	0	10
Sussex	1	11
<b>England, E</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>346</b>
Cambridgeshire	63	176
Norfolk	6	90
Northamptonshire	1	3
Suffolk	5	77
<b>England, C</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
Leicestershire & Rutland	1	1
Nottinghamshire	3	3
Shropshire	0	1
Staffordshire	0	3
<b>England, N</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>164</b>
Cheshire & Wirral	1	8
Cleveland	2	6
Cumbria	1	1
Greater Manchester	1	3
Lancashire & N Merseyside	12	43
Northumberland	1	1
Yorkshire	36	102
<b>Wales</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>38</b>
Anglesey	0	34
Pembrokeshire	4	4
<b>Scotland, S</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
Borders	0	1
Clyde	0	2
Dumfries & Galloway	0	6
<b>Scotland, Mid</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>
Angus & Dundee	1	3
Fife	1	3
North-east Scotland	0	3
Perth & Kinross	0	5
<b>Scotland, N &amp; W</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>96</b>
Argyll	4	29
Highland	0	1
Orkney	19	31
Outer Hebrides	8	35
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Co. Antrim	1	1
Co. Tyrone	1	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>881</b>

---

## 2007 (from 2008 report)

Revised totals: 229-882 pairs.

Additional data received for the following county:

**England, C**

**West Midlands** Total pairs should be one with no confirmed breeding pairs.

---

## 2006

401-930 pairs. This is the first year that the Panel has collected data on this species, so this is the first opportunity to compare totals, collected largely via the county recorder network, with the national estimate of 1,000-1,500 breeding pairs in 1988-91 (Gibbons *et al.* 1993). Returns produced a maximum count close to the lower end of this range, suggesting that coverage was good. Over 86% of confirmed breeding pairs in 2006 nested in England, largely in the south and east, with Cambridgeshire, Kent and Norfolk apparently being the main centres. Brown & Grice (2005) summarised the historical status of the Shoveler in England and suggested that up to 150 pairs in the Lower Derwent Valley, Yorkshire, made this the most important site for this species. With just 36 pairs reported from Yorkshire, and only one of these in the Lower Derwent, either this situation no longer applies, or the returns from this important site were incomplete. It is not known how thoroughly the area was searched in 2006.

Shoveler	Confirmed pairs	Total pairs
<b>England, SW</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>48</b>
Dorset	10	12
Hampshire	5	7
Somerset	3	26
Wiltshire	0	3
<b>England, SE</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>196</b>
Essex	51	66
Hertfordshire	2	15
Kent	84	93
Oxfordshire	0	10
Surrey	0	1
Sussex	9	11
<b>England, E</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>422</b>
Cambridgeshire	74	177
Norfolk	34	183
Suffolk	5	62
<b>England, C</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>
Leicestershire & Rutland	1	1
Nottinghamshire	2	4
Shropshire	0	2
Staffordshire	4	4
<b>England, N</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>95</b>
Cheshire & Wirral	3	17
Cumbria	1	3
Greater Manchester	0	2
Lancashire & N Merseyside	31	31
Northumberland	6	6
Yorkshire	22	36
<b>Wales</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>38</b>
Anglesey	0	25
Ceredigion	1	3
Meirionnydd	0	3
Montgomeryshire	1	1
Pembrokeshire	4	6
<b>Scotland, S</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>
Borders	0	3
Clyde	0	7
Dumfries & Galloway	0	9
<b>Scotland, Mid</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>
Angus & Dundee	0	6
Fife	1	5
North-east Scotland	1	3
Perth & Kinross	0	6
<b>Scotland, N &amp; W</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>81</b>
Argyll	5	29
Highland	0	1
Orkney	41	41
Outer Hebrides	0	7
Shetland	0	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>930</b>

---

## 2006 (from 2007 report)

Revised totals: 402-932 pairs.

Additional data received for the following two counties:

### England, N

**Isle of Man** Total pairs should be one with zero confirmed breeding pairs.

### Scotland, S

**Lothian** Total pairs should be one with one confirmed breeding pair.