



ESWG project register

Questionnaire completed by:	
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Project title	Status and distribution of breeding Common Scoters <i>Melanitta nigra nigra</i> in Britain and Ireland in 1995
Project coordinator(s)	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)
Project partners and funders	Irish Wildbird Conservancy (IWC)
Main individual / organisation to contact for information about project	
Project website	

Target species and population [enter X against all that apply] <i>Population boundaries can be viewed on the CSN too!</i>			
Greater Scaup (W Europe)		King Eider (N Europe/W Siberia)	
Greater Scaup (Black Sea/Caspian Sea)		Steller's Eider (NW Europe)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. mollissima</i> (Britain/Ireland)		Harlequin Duck (Iceland)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. mollissima</i> (Baltic/Wadden Sea)		Long-tailed Duck (Iceland/Greenland)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. mollissima</i> (Norway/NW Russia)		Long-tailed Duck (W Siberia/N Europe)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. mollissima</i> (White Sea)		Common Scoter (European)	X
Common Eider <i>S. m. mollissima</i> (Black Sea)		Velvet Scoter (W European)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. faeroeensis</i> (Faeroe Islands)		Velvet Scoter (Black Sea)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. faeroeensis</i> (Shetland Islands)		Red-breasted Merganser (NW & C Europe)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. borealis</i> (Svalbard/Franz Joseph Land)		Red-breasted Merganser (Mediterranean/Black Sea)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. borealis</i> (Iceland)		Red-breasted Merganser (Greenland)	
Common Eider <i>S. m. borealis</i> (NE Greenland)			

Project type [enter X against all that apply and/or specify other]	
Abundance/distribution	X
Life history (breeding success/survival/recruitment)	
Population delineation / migration	
Ecological research (e.g. habitat use, diet)	
Methodological / techniques	
Anthropomorphic (e.g. contaminants, aquaculture)	
Physiology/energetic/genetics/disease	
Other (please specify below)	

Project description

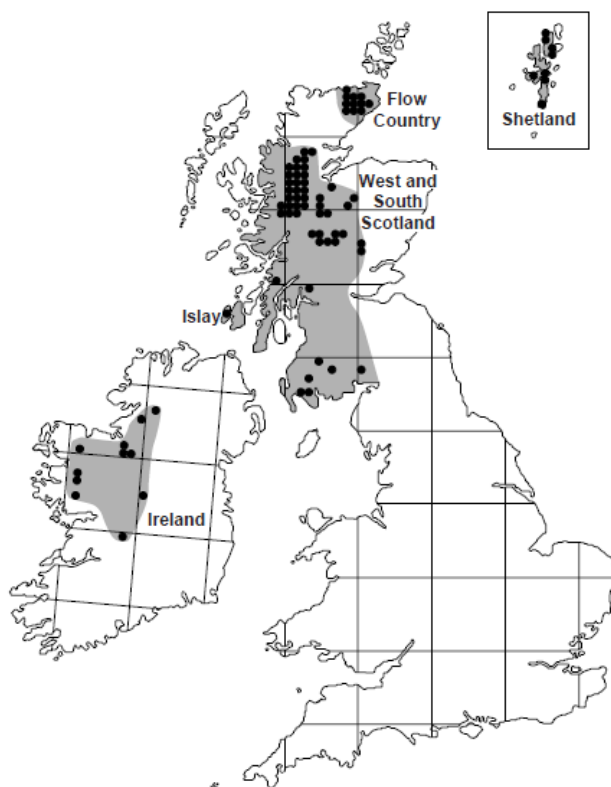
Project duration

Start date	April 1995
End data/expected end date	June 1995
Will the project be repeated?	Unknown
If yes, please provided estimated start year and end year	

Bird season [enter X against all that apply]

Breeding	X
Non-breeding	
Moulting	
Migration	

Geographical location



Scotland: Shetland, the Flow country (Caithness & Sutherland), Islay, and sites in west and south Scotland from the southern highlands to Dumfries & Galloway.

Ireland: sites in western Ireland from Donegal to Galway.

Left: Figure 1 from Underhill *et. al.* 1998.

Figure 1. Historical breeding range of Common Scoter in Britain and Ireland by 10-km square. Only single points are plotted for sites covering more than one 10-km square.

Main aims and objectives

This study aimed to provide a baseline estimate of the breeding population of Common Scoters in Britain and Ireland, through a survey of all known breeding sites plus a random sample of potential breeding sites

Methods

Site selection

Survey sites were divided into two categories:

Category 1 - known breeding sites, based on previous records, supporting birds in suitable habitat between 1 April and 31 August.

Category 2 – other waterbodies within the historical range that had the same characteristics as those sites known to have held breeding scoter.

All category 1 sites in Britain were visited, whilst category 2 sites varied between regions. In Ireland, 8 of the 11 category 1 sites and 2 out of the 9 category 2 sites were visited.

Survey

Surveys were undertaken between 24 April - 4 June and involved 60 fieldworkers. Where possible each site was surveyed three times. Most waterbodies were surveyed from shore but larger, more complex sites were surveyed by boat.

Observers scanned the open water and shorelines using binoculars and scopes. Observers recorded the number of birds present; classified in to pairs (male and female birds in continuous close consort), adult males, single immature males, un-aged males, single females and unsexed birds.

Datasets

Project outputs

Reports and papers

Underhill M.C., T. Gittings, D.A. Callaghan, B. Hughes, J.S. Kirby & S. Delany. 1998. Status and distribution of breeding Common Scoters *Melanitta nigra nigra* in Britain and Ireland in 1995. *Bird Study* 45: 146-156.

Other outputs	
Data ownership and access	
Are data collated during the project available to external users?	
Person/organisation that owns the data	
Contact name	
Organisation	
Contact email	
Person/organisation responsible for maintaining the dataset	
Contact name	
Organisation	
Contact email	
Person/organisation that can be contacted for accessing the data	
Contact name	
Organisation	
Contact email	
Additional information	