

Spring migration | Autumn migration

Arrival Wadden Sea

Species	Origin	Number	Stop-over
January			
Pink-footed Goose	Netherlands, Belgium	30 000	In cold winters only in February or March, mainly in the Danish Wadden Sea
February			
Northern Pintail	West Africa, Mediterranean, Western Europe	22 000	Until April
Northern Lapwing	Western Europe	35 000	Until March; many more breed in the Wadden Sea
Red Knot	Western Europe	450 000	Arrival February/March, until the beginning of May (Greenlandic/Canadian population)
Herring Gull	Central and Western Europe	40 000	Until March; many stay to breed
March			
Great Cormorant	Central and Western Europe	16 000	Until April; many stay to breed
Eurasian Spoonbill	West Africa / Southwest Europe	5 000	Stay until September and breed
Barnacle Goose	Netherlands	400 000	Until May; more than 5 000 pairs remain and breed
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	Coasts of France, Southern England, Netherlands	225 000	Until May; the first arrive before March
Common Teal	Western Europe	18 000	Until mid-April
Northern Shoveler	West Africa, Southwestern Europe	3 000	Until April; many remain to breed
Eurasian Oystercatcher	Central and Western Europe	several 10 000	Add to the winter stock
Avocet	Portugal, Western France	21 500	Most breed in the Wadden Sea and stay until September or longer
Great Ringed Plover	North West Africa, Southwestern Europe	5 000	Until April; 1 000 pairs remain and breed
Eurasian Golden Plover	Atlantic coast Southwestern Europe	> 50 000	Until the beginning of May in saltmarshes and inland marshes
Grey Plover	Coasts of Western Europe, Western Mediterranean	30 000	Until May
Sanderling	Atlantic coast Western Europe	5 000	Until May
Dunlin	Coastal Western Europe to North Africa	1 000 000	Until May, some arrive in February
Black-tailed Godwit	West Africa, Southwest Europe	6 000	Stay until July to breed
Bar-tailed Godwit	Western Europe	45 000	Until the beginning of May (Scandinavian-Russian population)
Eurasian Curlew	Western Europe	25 000	Until April; added to the overwinterers; a few hundred pairs breed
Common Redshank	West Africa	30 000	Local breeding birds, stay until July
Common Black-headed Gull	Central / Western Europe	250 000	Most remain to breed
Common Gull	Central and Western Europe	50 000	Add to about 100 000 overwinterers
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Coasts of West Africa and Southwest Europe	160 000	Stay until September and breed
April			
Kentish Plover	North West Africa, Western Mediterranean	700	Until September; almost all remain to breed
Grey Plover	West Africa	100 000	Until May
Ruff	Tropical Africa, Western Europe	3 000	Until May; mostly in inland wetlands
Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit	Morocco, Southwest Europe	500	Until May
Bar-tailed Godwit	West Africa	300 000	Partly until the end of May
Whimbrel	West Africa	3 000	Until mid-May
Spotted Redshank	Tropical Africa	10 000	Stay only for a short time from late April to mid-May
Common Redshank	West Africa, Western Europe	35 000	Until May

Species	Origin	Number	Stop-over
Greenshank	Tropical Africa	10 000	Until beginning of May
Ruddy Turnstone	Coasts of West Africa, Western Europe	10 000	Until end of May
Sandwich Tern	Coastal West Africa	40 000	Most breed in the Wadden Sea
Common Tern	Coastal West Africa	35 000	Most breed in the Wadden Sea
Arctic Tern	West African to Antarctic coasts	20 000	Most breed in the Wadden Sea
Little Tern	Coastal West Africa	2 500	Most breed in the Wadden Sea

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May			
Great Ringed Plover	Coastal West Africa	35 000	Until end of May/beginning of June
Red Knot	Coastal West Africa	400 000	Until end of May, partly until the beginning of June (Siberian population)
Sanderling	Atlantic coasts from Western Europe to South Africa	50 000	Until end of May/beginning of June
Little Stint	West Africa, Southwestern Europe	1 000	Middle of May; mostly on brackish water mudflats
Curlew Sandpiper	West Africa, Southwestern Europe	2 000	Middle of May; mostly on brackish water mudflats
Broad-billed Sandpiper	North Africa, Southern Europe	300	Middle of May; mostly on brackish water mudflats
Gull-billed Tern	Coastal West Africa	80	Breed almost all in just one breeding colony in the Wadden Sea

June			
Shelduck	Northwestern Europe	250 000	Use moulting areas especially in the Dithmarschen Wadden Sea; until September
Ruff	Northern Siberia, Northern Scandinavia	5 000	Until October; some arrive in July
Eurasian Curlew	Northwestern Russia, Scandinavia	250 000	Until October
Spotted Redshank	Northwestern Russia, Scandinavia	20 000	Until September
July			
Great Cormorant	Northern and Eastern Europe	25 000	Until October
Common Eider	Baltic Sea	250 000	Moulting in the Wadden Sea, many also stay over winter there
Eurasian Oystercatcher	White Sea, Scandinavia	400 000	From end of July; highest numbers in the Wadden Sea from August to October
Avocet	Baltic Sea	1 500	Until September
Great Ringed Plover	Northern Scandinavia, Northern Russia, Iceland, Greenland	38 000	Until September
Northern Lapwing	Eastern and Northern Europe	220 000	Until autumn; moulting after the breeding season
Red Knot	Northern Siberia, Greenland, Northeast Canada	850 000	Siberian Red Knots until August, Greenlandic/Canadian Red Knots until October
Sanderling	Greenland, North-eastern Canada, Northern Siberia	30 000	Until August/September; juveniles arrive from mid-August
Little Stint	Northern Scandinavia, Northwestern Russia	1 000	In July for a few weeks (adults)
Curlew Sandpiper	Northern Siberia	15 000	Until August; juveniles arrive from mid-August

Species	Origin	Number	Stop-over
Dunlin	Northern Siberia to Northern Scandinavia	1 200 000	Until autumn; adult birds are moulting, juveniles arrive from August
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Northwestern Russia, Northern Scandinavia	100	Adult birds; until the end of July
Common Snipe	Northern Europe	several 100 000	Until autumn; well hidden, only a few are visible
Bar-tailed Godwit	Northern Scandinavia, Northwestern Russia	125 000	Until autumn; a part stay over winter
Whimbrel	Northern Siberia	350 000	Until August
Common Redshank	Scandinavia, North-western Russia, Iceland	70 000	Until August/September; about 25 000 from Iceland overwinter in the Wadden Sea
Greenshank	Scandinavia	30 000	Until September
Ruddy Turnstone	Greenland, North-eastern Canada, Scandinavia, Northwestern Russia	12 000	Until October; a part only until August and then heading to West Africa
Common Black-headed Gull	Northern / Eastern Europe	200 000	Until October; additional birds from the northern breeding areas
Common Gull	Baltic Sea area, Southern Scandinavia	180 000	Until November; added to the breeding birds in the Wadden Sea
Herring Gull	Baltic Sea, Scandinavia	30 000	Until November

August			
Eurasian Wigeon	Northwestern Siberia to Northwestern Europe	330 000	Partly until November; many stay in the Wadden Sea over winter
Common Teal	Northern Russia, Scandinavia, Baltic Sea	45 000	Until November

Northern Pintail	Northwestern Siberia, Northern Russia, Scandinavia	32 000	Until November
Northern Shoveler	Northern and Eastern Europe	5 500	Until November
Eurasian Golden Plover	Northern Russia, Scandinavia	120 000	Until December (maximum in October)
Grey Plover	Northern Siberia, Northwestern Russia	100 000	Until September

Little Stint	Northern Scandinavia, Northwestern Russia	2 000	Juveniles; until September
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Northwestern Russia, Northern Scandinavia	100	Juveniles

September			
Barnacle Goose	Baltic Sea	20 000	Until October / November
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	Northern Siberia (Taimyr)	85 000	Until the end of October
Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit	Iceland, Southwestern Norway	500	Some already from July; until November

October			
Pink-footed Goose	Svalbard	50 000	Until November; predominantly in the Danish Wadden Sea
Barnacle Goose	Northwestern Russia	600 000	Partly until November; many stay over winter in the Wadden Sea

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Contact: WWF Wadden Sea Office, housm@wwf.de, www.wwf.de/watt or www.wwf.de/watt/voegel
Translated from German language in 1st edition from October 2016, March 2019
Printed on 100% recycled paper
Layout: Liebmann Feine Grafik, Lübeck

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Departure Wadden Sea

Species	Destination	Number	Notes
February			
Pink-footed Goose	Svalbard	50 000	Start leaving the Wadden Sea in February; stop-over in Norway
Shelduck	Northwestern Europe	180 000	Winter stock, departure until March; 6 600 pairs stay to breed in the Wadden Sea
Common Eider	Baltic Sea	180 000	Winter stock, departure from February to March; 10 000 pairs stay to breed
March			
Eurasian Wigeon	Northwestern Europe to North-western Siberia	250 000	Winter population; leaving by end of March
Eurasian Oystercatcher	Southern Scandinavia, Baltic Sea	300 000	Winter population; leaving by end of March
Northern Lapwing	Northern Europe	35 000	Many more breed in the Wadden Sea
Common Gull	Scandinavia, Baltic Sea	100 000	Many more breed in the Wadden Sea
Herring Gull	Scandinavia, Baltic Sea	30 000	About 80 000 pairs breed in the Wadden Sea

April			
Great Cormorant	Northern and Eastern Europe	5 000	
Barnacle Goose	Baltic Sea	20 000	Early to mid-April
Common Teal	Scandinavia, Northern Russia, Baltic Sea	18 000	

Northern Pintail	Scandinavia to North-western Siberia	22 000	Few summering in the Wadden Sea
Northern Shoveler	Northern and Eastern Europe	1 500	
Eurasian Oystercatcher	Scandinavia, White Sea	100 000	Leaving from end of April until end of May; 40 000 pairs breed in the Wadden Sea
Avocet	Baltic Sea	1 500	
Great Ringed Plover	Northern Europe	3 000	
Grey Plover	Northwestern Russia	30 000	
Eurasian Curlew	Scandinavia, Northwest Russia	250 000	Departure about 10–25 April
Common Redshank	Iceland	25 000	

The East Atlantic Flyway

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May			
Barnacle Goose	Northwestern Russia	570 000	Departure about 10–20 May
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	Northern Siberia (Taimyr)	225 000	Departure about 20–25 May, with stopover at the White Sea
Great Ringed Plover	Northern Scandinavia, Northern Russia, Iceland, Greenland	35 000	Departure end of May/ beginning of June
Eurasian Golden Plover	Scandinavia and Northern Russia	85 000	All leave at beginning of May
Grey Plover	Northwestern Russia, to Northern Siberia	150 000	Departure mid to end of May
Red Knot	Greenland, North-eastern Canada	450 000	Departure early May, fly via Iceland or Norway to the breeding area
	Northern Siberia	400 000	Departure end of May/ beginning of June
Sanderling	Greenland, North-eastern Canada, Northern Siberia	60 000	Partial departure in early June

Species	Destination	Number	Notes
Little Stint	Northern Scandinavia, Northwestern Russia	1 000	
Curlew Sandpiper	Northern Siberia	2 000	
Dunlin	Northern Scandinavia to Northern Siberia	1 000 000	The more northeast the breeding area the later the departure in May
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Northwestern Russia, Northern Scandinavia	300	
Ruff	Scandinavia to Northern Siberia	3 000	
Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit	Iceland, Southwestern Norway	500	
Bar-tailed Godwit	Northern Scandinavia, Northwestern Russia	125 000	Early May
	Northern Siberia	350 000	End of May; up to 10,000 stay over summer
Whimbrel	Scandinavia, North-western Russia	3 000	Early May
Spotted Redshank	Scandinavia, North-western Russia	10 000	Last departure about 15 May
Common Redshank	Scandinavia, North-western Russia	35 000	Until end of May; the more northerly the breeding area, the later the departure

Greenshank	Scandinavia	10 000	
Ruddy Turnstone	Greenland, North-eastern Canada, Scandinavia, North-western Russia	10 000	First half of May; some stay until end of May
July			
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Mediterranean coast, North Africa	100	Adult birds
Black-tailed Godwit	West Africa, Southwestern Europe	6 000	Western European population declining
Common Redshank	West Africa	40 000	Departure of local breeding birds
Sandwich Tern	Coastal West Africa	40 000	Some stay until September
Common Tern	Coastal West Africa	35 000	
Arctic Tern	West African to Antarctic coasts	20 000	

August			
Red Knot	Coastal West Africa	400 000	End of August
Sanderling	Coasts from West to South Africa	30 000	Juveniles migrate later; some birds also stay over winter
Little Stint	Southwestern Europe, West Africa	1 000	Departure of adult birds
Curlew Sandpiper	Southwestern Europe, West Africa	20 000	Departure of adult birds; juveniles depart in September
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Mediterranean coast, North Africa	100	Juveniles
Bar-tailed Godwit	West Africa	360 000	
Whimbrel	West Africa	5 000	
Gull-billed Tern	Coastal West Africa	100	
Little Tern	Coastal West Africa	2 500	

September			
Eurasian Spoonbill	Southwestern Europe, West Africa	7 500	
Shelduck	Northwestern Europe	50 000	Leaving the moulting area; 200 000 stay over winter in the Wadden Sea
Common Eider	Baltic Sea	70 000	After the moult
Avocet	Portugal, Western France	21 500	A few thousand remain in mild winters on the Dutch coast
Great Ringed Plover	South / South-West Europe, North / West Africa	40 000	
Kentish Plover	Northwestern Africa, Western Mediterranean	800	
Grey Plover	Atlantic coast to West Africa	100 000	In mild winters, up to 50,000 remain in the Wadden Sea
Little Stint	Southwestern Europe, West Africa	2 000	Departure of the juveniles
Spotted Redshank	Tropical Africa	20 000	Some stay until November

Species	Destination	Number	Notes
Common Redshank	West Africa, Mediterranean, Western Europe	45 000	Another 25 000 stay in the Wadden Sea over winter
Greenshank	British Isles, Western Mediterranean, West Africa	30 000	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Coastal West Africa and Southwestern Europe	200 000	
October			
Great Cormorant	Central and Western Europe	30 000	A few stay in the Wadden Sea over winter
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	Coasts of Southern England, Netherlands, France	75 000	10 000 stay in the Wadden Sea over winter
Eurasian Oystercatcher	Western Europe	several 10 000	About 500 000 stay in the Wadden Sea over winter
Red Knot	Western Europe	450 000	Up to 150 000 can stay in mild winters in the Wadden Sea
Sanderling	Atlantic coast from Western to Southern Europe	5 000	A few thousand stay in the Wadden Sea over winter



Dunlin	Coastal Western Europe to North Africa	1 200 000	In mild winters, some remain in the Wadden Sea
Ruff	Tropical Africa	5 000	
Common Snipe	Tropical Africa	several 100 000	
Eurasian Curlew	Western Europe	80 000	About 250 000 stay in the Wadden Sea over winter
Ruddy Turnstone	Northwestern Europe (mainly British Isles)	12 000	About 8 000 stay in the Wadden Sea over winter
Common Black-headed Gull	Central / Western Europe	450 000	About 50 000 stay in the Wadden Sea over winter

November			
Pink-footed Goose	Netherlands, Belgium	30 000	
Barnacle Goose	Netherlands (inland)	400 000	About 200 000 stay in the Wadden Sea over winter
Eurasian Wigeon	Coastal Western Europe	80 000	In mild winters more than 250 000 remain in the Wadden Sea
Common Teal	Western Europe	45 000	
Northern Pintail	Western Europe, Mediterranean Sea, West Africa	32 000	In mild winters, almost 30 000 remain in the Wadden Sea
Northern Shoveler	Southwest Europe, West Africa	8 000	
Northern Lapwing	Western Europe	220 000	Steady departures; in mild weather about 10 000 may remain until December
Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit	Southwestern Europe, Morocco	500	Often stay until the first frost
Bar-tailed Godwit	Western Europe	45 000	Up to 80 000 stay in the Wadden Sea over winter
Common Gull	Central and Western Europe	130 000	More than 100 000 stay in the Wadden Sea over winter
Herring Gull	Central and Western Europe	40 000	More than 150 000 stay in the Wadden Sea over winter
Great Black-backed Gull	Central and Western Europe	12 000	About 10 000 stay in the Wadden Sea over winter

December			
Eurasian Golden Plover	Atlantic coast, Southwestern Europe	90 000	In mild winters up to 30 000 stay in the Wadden Sea

A large number of the species of waterbirds (waders, ducks, geese and others) are shown which use the Wadden Sea to rest along the East Atlantic Flyway over the course of a year. The figures refer to the entire Wadden Sea of Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands and are derived from the "Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme" of the three countries. They only roughly describe the number of incoming and departing birds, as often the arrival or departure takes place over more than a month, different populations are concerned, and the numbers can change from year to year. These increases, decreases or fluctuations may be natural or influenced by humans and could be caused by events and developments in the breeding area, during migration, in the Wadden Sea or in the wintering area.