

Pied Avocets wintering in Britain, 1947–2001

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In 1947, small numbers of Pied Avocets started to over-winter in southern England. Until about 1980, the population increased only slowly, but then grew rapidly so that by 2000 regular wintering numbers exceeded 4,000. Most are distributed along the south and east coasts of England, favouring estuarine sites with soft, fine sediments. Wintering birds originate from breeding populations in SE England, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium.