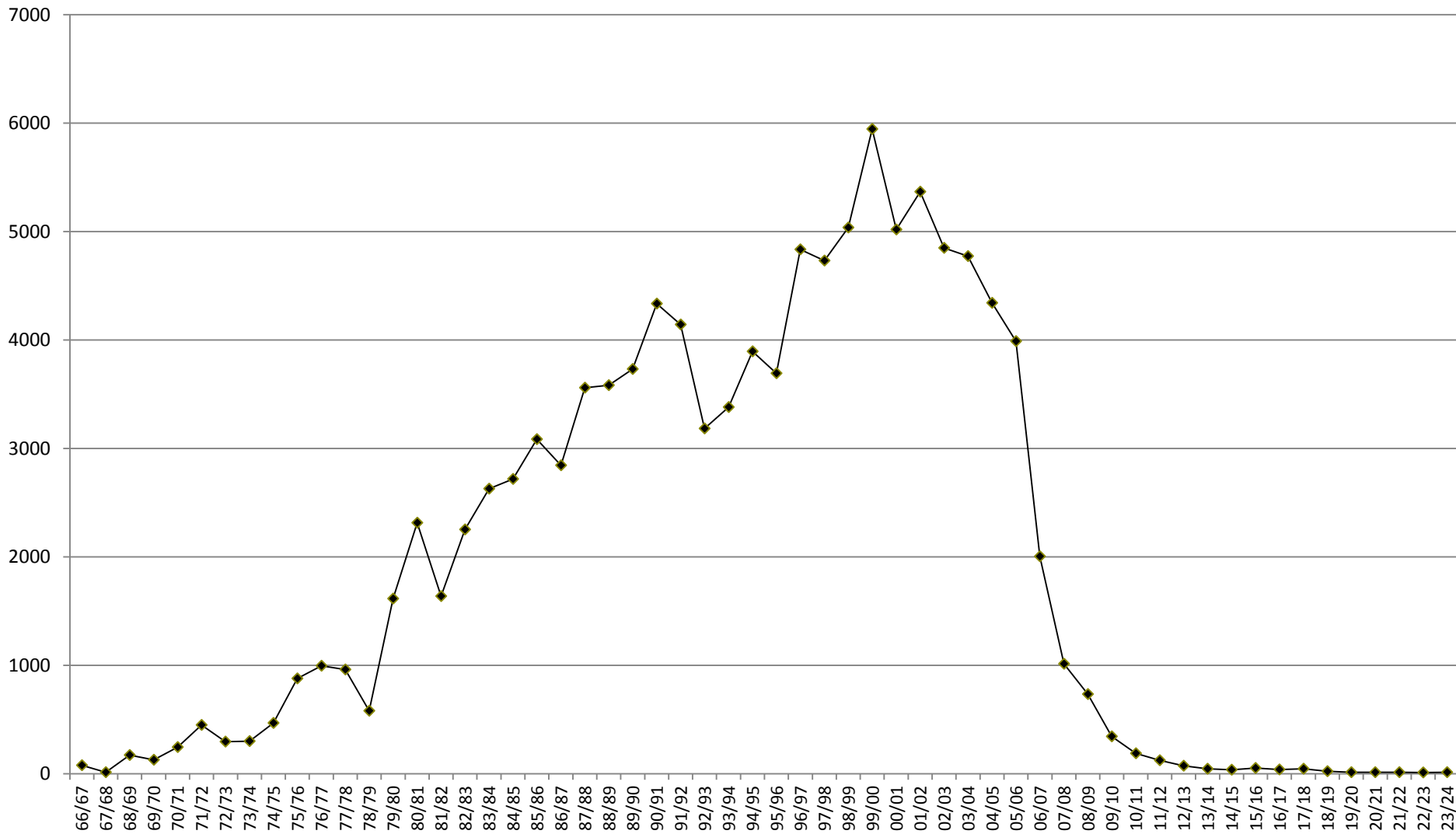


Eradication of Ruddy Ducks in the UK to protect the White-headed Duck

Iain Henderson

Non-native Species Inspectorate
Animal and Plant Health Agency

UK Ruddy Duck population 1966/67 to 2023/24



Date of last confirmed breeding

- Scotland - 2008
- Wales – 2010?
- Northern Ireland - 2013
- England – 2021

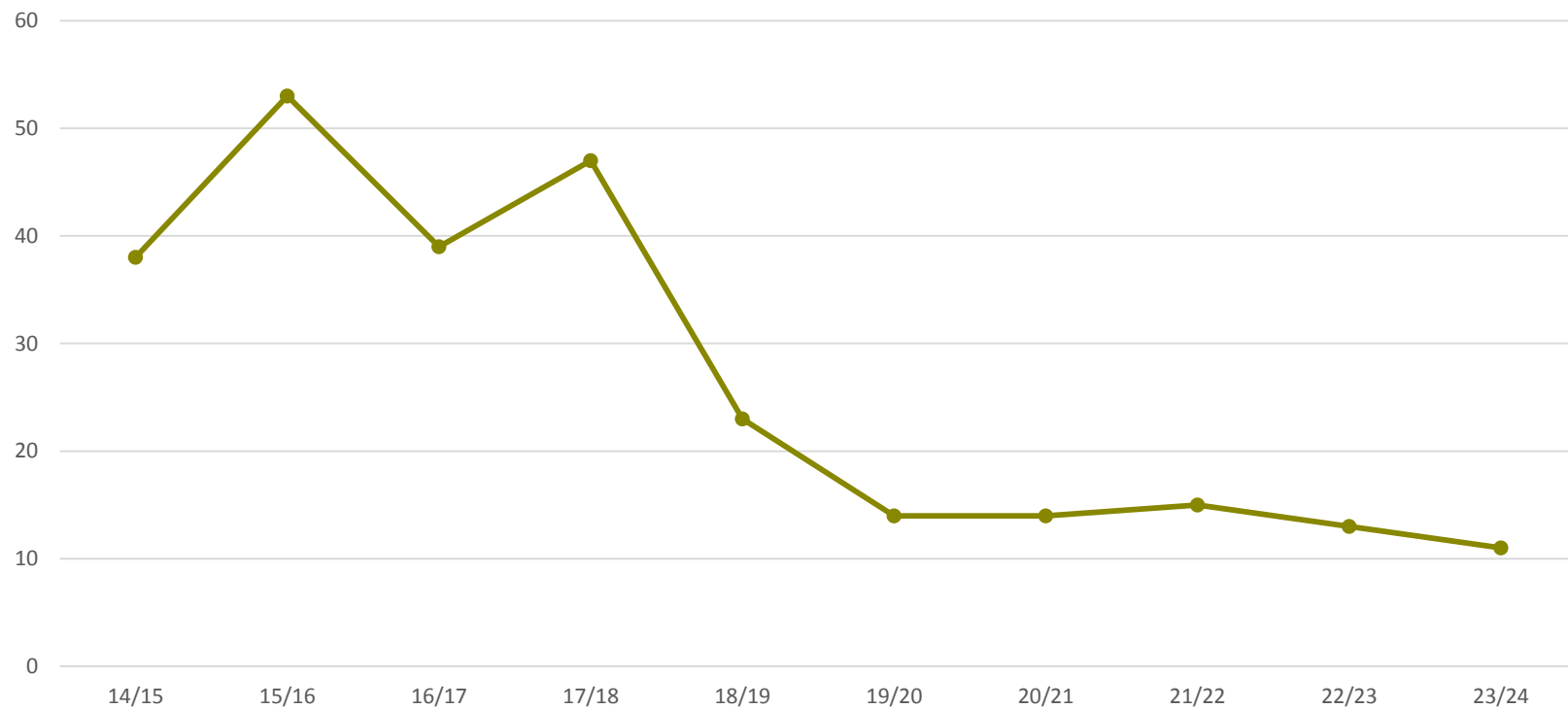
Breeding since 2018 - English regions

- 2018 – one brood (London), removed in December 2018.
- 2019 – No records.
- 2020 – One brood confirmed and a second suspected (SW England/West Midlands).
- 2021 – One confirmed brood (SW England); one suggested case of possible breeding (NW England).
- 2022 -- No records
- 2023 -- No records
- 2024 -- No records

Control effort 2022/24

- One adult female shot
January 2022
- One adult male shot
June 2023.
- One adult male shot May
2024.

Medium-term UK population trend



Current situation

- Estimated UK population approximately 11 birds (minimum estimate:6 maximum estimate:15).
- One main regional population remaining – two pairs in SW England.



Strategy in 2024/25

- Increase monitoring nationally and ensure successful local eradications.
- Responsibility for control in Northern Ireland now lies with NI Government.
- Top priorities— removal of adult females and prevention of breeding and recruitment.
- Secondary priority – removal of adult males.

Data sources

- APHA site visits
- Internet reports
- Reports direct from site managers/birders
- County Bird Reports
- Wetland Bird Survey

The future

- UK Government recognises the importance of full eradication in the UK and is committed to achieving this.
- Low level control expected to take place for a small number of years and it may be longer until population dies out completely.
- UK Government strongly supports the eradication of Ruddy Ducks throughout Europe as the only long-term solution.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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