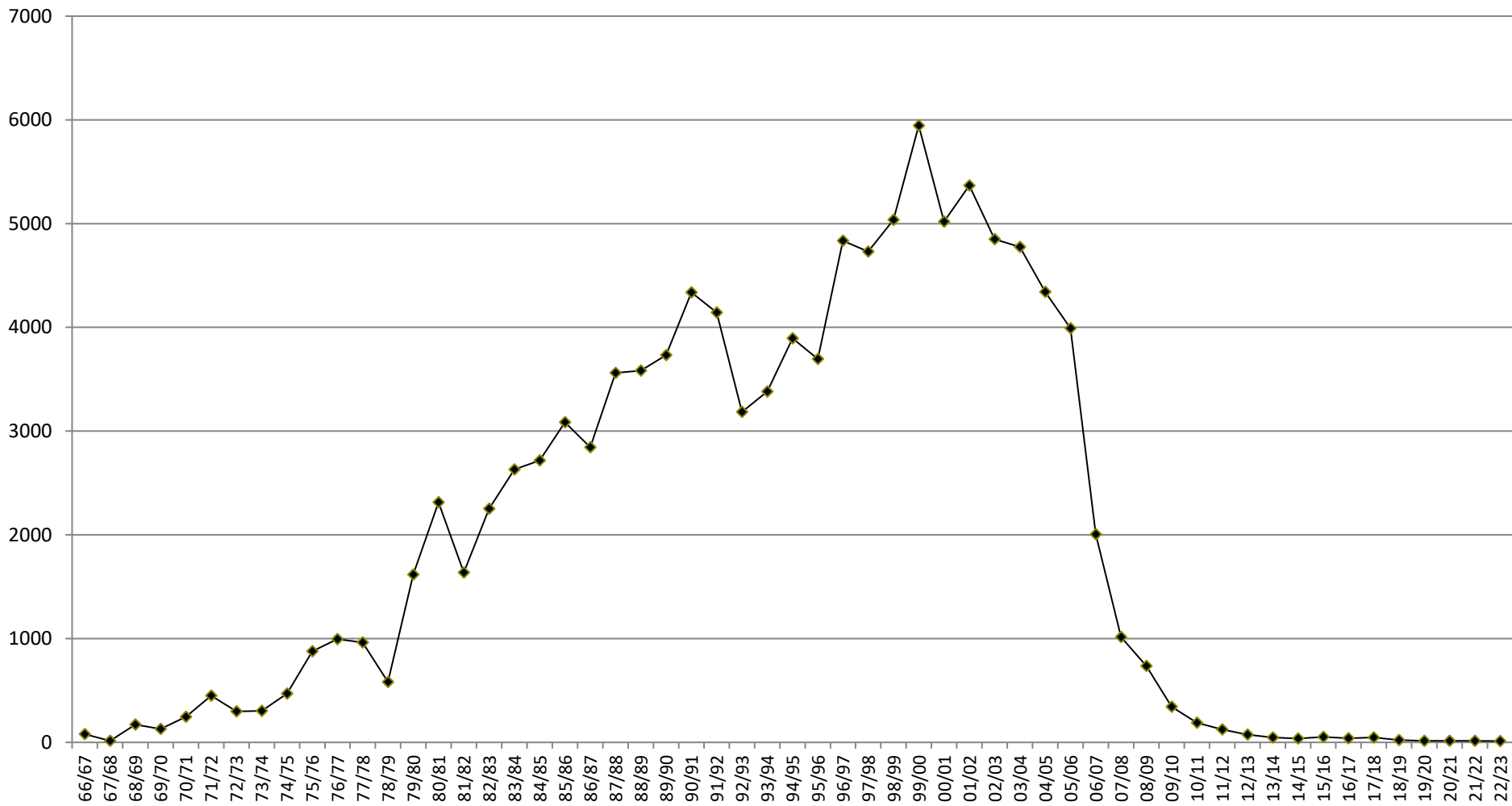


Eradication of Ruddy Ducks in the UK to protect the White-headed Duck

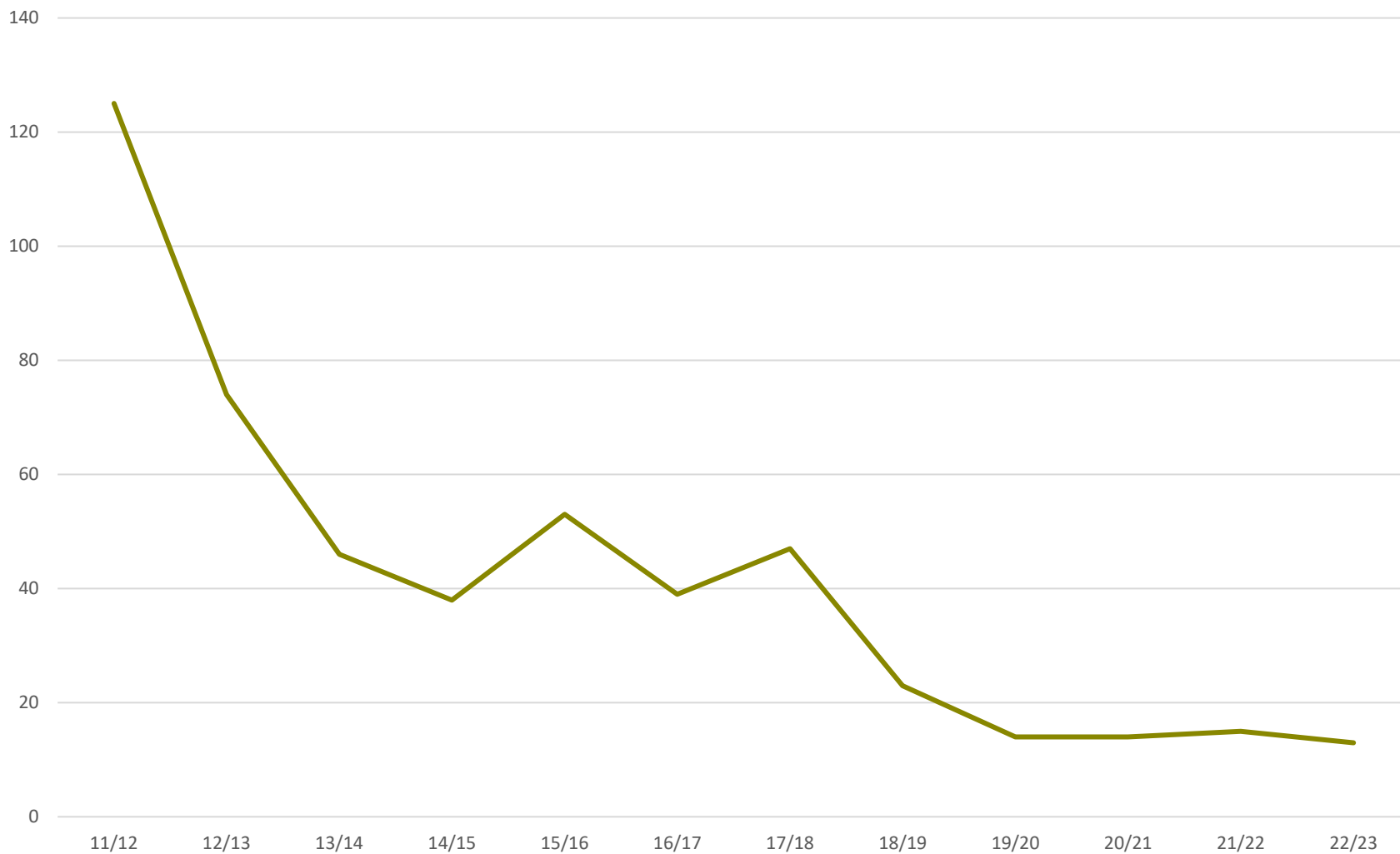
Iain Henderson

Non-native Species Inspectorate
Animal and Plant Health Agency

UK Ruddy Duck population 1966/67 to 2022/23



Short-term UK population trend



Current situation

- Estimated UK population around 13 birds.
- Two main regional populations with 2-5 birds (NW England, SW England).



Date of last confirmed breeding

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

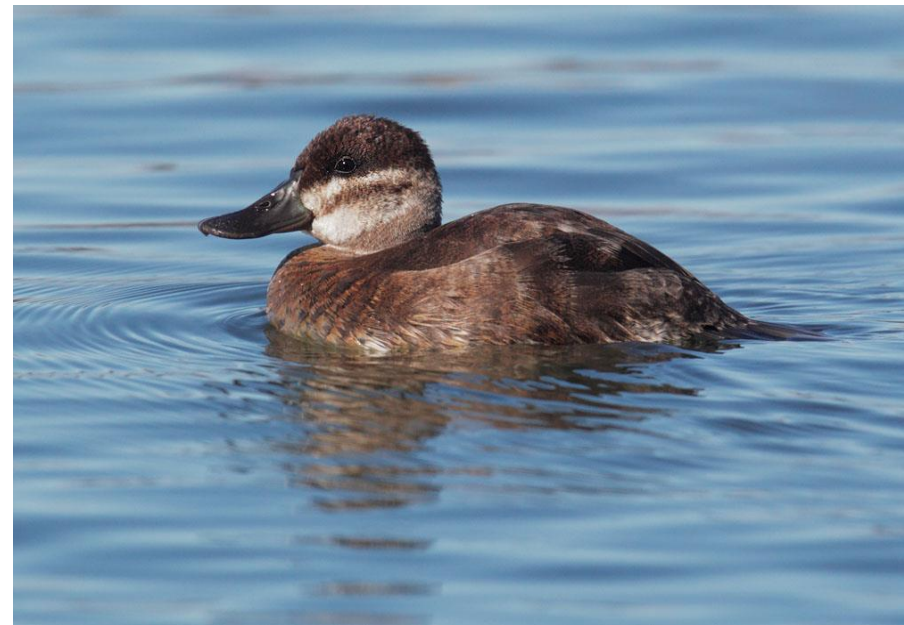
Breeding since 2018 - English regions

- 2018 – one brood (London), removed in December.
- 2019 – No records
- 2020 – One brood confirmed and a second suspected (SW England/West Midlands)
- 2021 – Two broods (NW England and SW England)
- 2022 – No records



Control effort 2022/23

- One adult female shot January 2022
- One adult male located 27 June 2023 and intention to shoot this bird on 29 June 2023.



Strategy in 2023/24

- 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 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



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