

**BEACHED BIRD SURVEYS, SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1989 (NSO)**

The start of a new season for oiled birds and wrecked migrants washing ashore. Few counts were conducted in these months. Divers and grebes were not or rarely found. Some Fulmars were recorded on the mainland coast and the influx of feeding Gannets near the Dutch coast in autumn 1989 was also reflected in the number of birds washing up: several immature birds, all oiled, were found on the mainland coast, an adult was found entangled in a net and three immatures were found 'netted' together.

Wildfowl were only found in numbers on the Wadden Sea islands and most were unoiled. The most numerous species was the Eider (mainly old corpses of immature or juvenile birds). Waders were only rarely found dead.

Herring Gulls, mainly adults, were numerous on the mainland coast. Juveniles were not recorded in exceptionally large numbers (post-fledging mortality), however, the number of surveys was small in the critical period. Other gulls, including Lesser black-backed and Black-headed Gull actually being reported, were scarce.

The first Guillemots showed up in late summer and few were oil contaminated at first. Guillemots were rather frequently found in November on the mainland coast, often slightly oil contaminated and severely emaciated. In late November high densities were reported in Zeeland. The Little Auk, rather frequently seen during seawatching, was reported only once.

Many passerines were found wrecked in October. Trushes were most abundant, including Redwing, Fieldfare, Blackbird and Song Trush, but also Starlings were found in fair numbers.

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