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An atlas of seabird distribution in north-west European waters

**C.J. Stone, A. Webb, C. Barton, N. Ratcliffe, T.C. Reed,
M.L. Tasker, C.J. Camphuysen* & M.W. Pienkowski**

Joint Nature Conservation Committee,
Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1JY, United Kingdom.

*Nederlands Instituut voor Onderzoek der Zee,
Postbox 59, 1790 AB Den Burg, Texel, The Netherlands.

with contributions from:

Ornis Consult
National Institute for Marine and Coastal Management / RIKZ
Nederlandse Zeevogelgroep
Instituut voor Bos- en Natuuronderzoek
Instituut voor Natuur Behoud
National Environmental Research Institute Kalø
Norsk Institutt for Naturforskning
Vogelwarte Helgoland

Please visit: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2407> for the complete publication

Address for enquiries:

Seabirds and Cetaceans Branch, Joint Nature Conservation Committee,
17 Rubislaw Terrace, Aberdeen, AB1 1XE, United Kingdom.

Published by JNCC, Peterborough

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ISBN 1 873701 94 2

5.37 ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

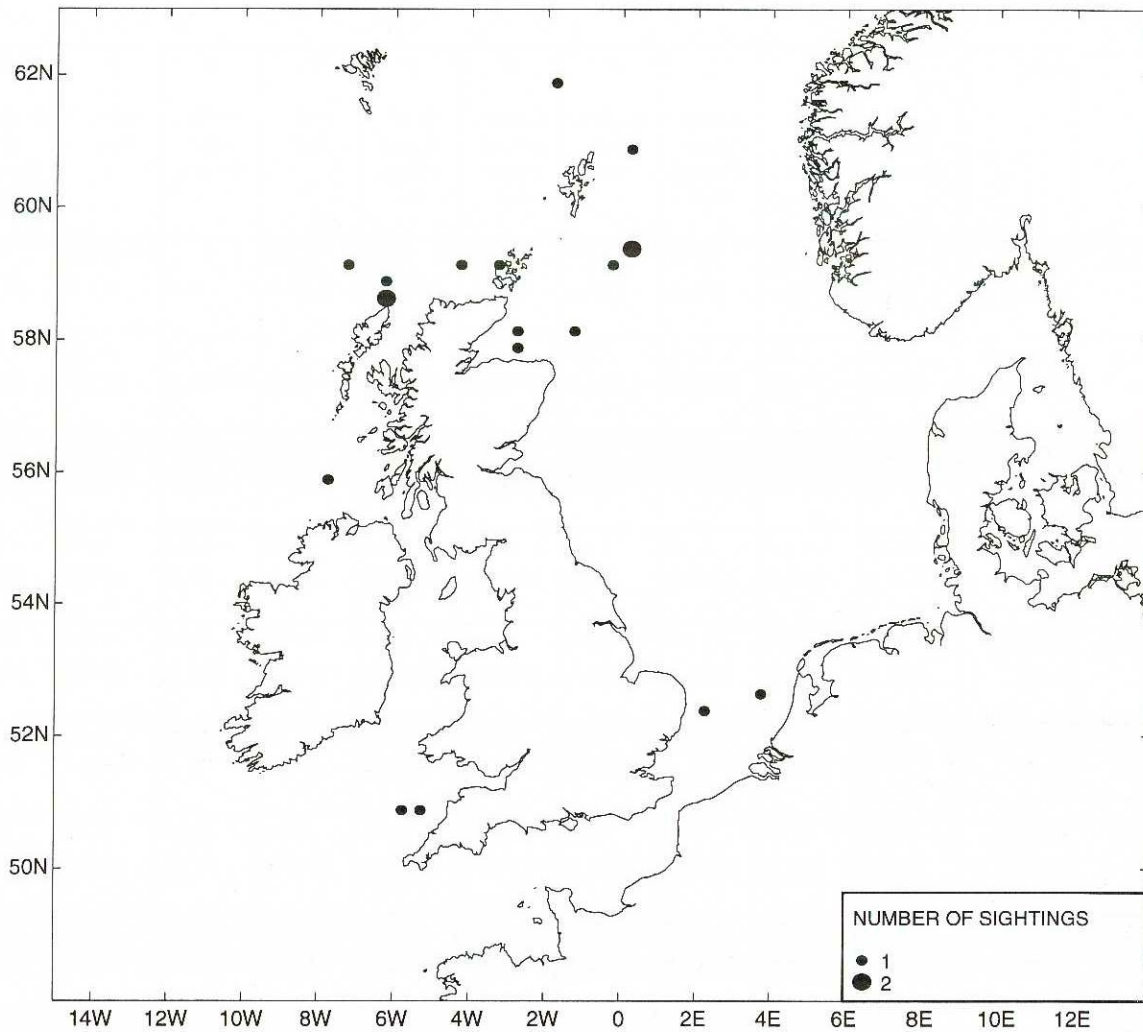


Figure 5.37.1 Sightings of Iceland gulls from November to April

November to April (Figure 5.37.1)

There were very few isolated sightings of Iceland gulls in north-west European seas, with most being seen in the north of Scotland, the Outer Hebrides and around the Northern Isles. There were two occurrences in the southern North Sea and two off the north coast of Cornwall. Most birds were present in the winter months from January to March with a few also seen in April and November (Figure 5.37.2). Iceland gulls breed on the coast of Greenland and are scarce winter visitors to the study area.

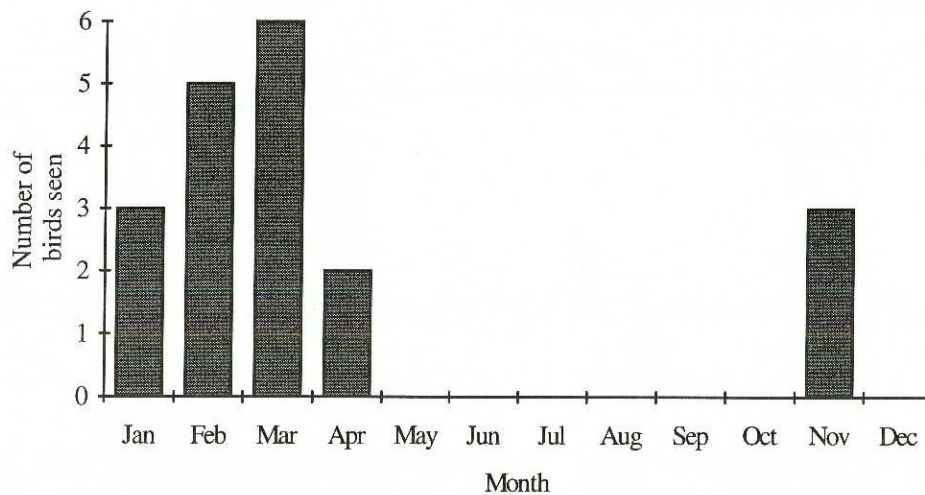


Figure 5.37.2 Number of Iceland gulls seen per month

Summary and conservation implications

Iceland gulls were scarce winter visitors to the Scottish coasts and islands, the main wintering area being in Iceland. Since they are rare in this area, and the numbers found here are only a tiny fraction of the wintering population, there will be little effect of oil pollution on Iceland gulls.