Shoveler
*Anas clypeata*

**Status**
Amber listed: W1
Non-SPEC
Annex II/1 of EC Wild Birds Directive

**National monitoring**
WeBS.

**Population and distribution**
In the UK, breeding shovelers are usually found on shallow eutrophic waters, with highest numbers in the south-east and Midlands of England (88-91 *Atlas*). Breeding numbers have recently declined after an increase during the 1960s and 1970s (88-91 *Atlas*). In winter, shovelers are widespread on the inland waters of England up to the Midlands, but are more scarce in Wales and Scotland (Winter Atlas). There are an estimated 1,000–1,500 pairs of shovelers breeding and 10,300 individuals wintering in the UK (Population Estimates). Shovelers use man-made wetlands in the winter and this may be a key reason for the increase in numbers to the current relatively high level (Kirby et al 1995).

**Ecology**
Shovelers breed in or near wetland areas, feeding on small crustaceans, molluscs, insects and their larvae, and plant material. A clutch of 9–11 eggs is laid between mid-April and early June. There is a single brood and the young fledge in July. In winter, shovelers frequent shallow freshwater areas on marshes, flooded pasture, reservoirs and lakes with plentiful marginal reeds or emergent vegetation (Red Data Birds).

**Breeding season survey**
See Dabbling and diving ducks in the generic survey methods section.

**Winter survey**
See the generic method section on WeBS counts.

**Reference**