

ESTUARINE WATERBIRDS AT LOW TIDE

The WeBS Low Tide Counts 1992-93 to 1998-99

EDITED BY

Andy Musgrove Rowena Langston Helen Baker and Robin Ward



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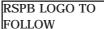


The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is a well respected organisation, combining the skills of professional scientists and volunteer birdwatchers to carry out research on birds in all habitats and throughout the year. Data collected by the various surveys form the basis of extensive and unique databases which enable the BTO to objectively advise conservation bodies, government agencies, planners and scientists on a diverse range of issues involving birds.

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) Founded by Sir Peter Scott in 1946, WWT is the only wildlife conservation charity specialising in wetlands and the wildlife they support. It has pioneered the bringing together of people and wildlife for the benefit of both and seeks to raise awareness of the value of wetlands, the threats they face and the actions needed to save them. To this end, WWT has eight centres throughout the UK and is dedicated to saving wetlands for wildlife and people.



The RSPB is the largest wildlife conservation charity in Europe and works for a healthy environment rich in birds and other wildlife. With the support of more than one million members, the RSPB owns and manages land as nature reserves, carries out research into conservation issues, and influences land-use practices and government policies to benefit wildlife and the wider countryside. The RSPB prides itself on using the best scientific advice available to guide its conservation policies and practice. To create the most impact, we focus on priority species, habitats and sites, and set clear conservation aims and actions. We work with bird and habitat conservation organisations in a global partnership called BirdLife International.





The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) is the forum through which the three country nature conservation agencies - English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) deliver their statutory responsibilities for Great Britain as a whole - and internationally. The Committee consists of representatives of these agencies, as well as the Countryside Agency, independent members, and non-voting members appointed by the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland.

INTERNATIONAL WADER STUDY GROUP

The International Wader Study Group (WSG) is an association of amateurs and professionals from all parts of the world interested in Charadrii (waders or shorebirds). Membership of the WSG is currently over 650 worldwide.



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The aims of the International Wader Study Group are:

to maintain contact between both amateurs and professionals studying waders to help organise co-operative studies; and

to provide a vehicle for exchange of information on waders and their biology.

The main means of achieving these aims are by:

holding an annual conference;

publishing, three times per year, the Wader Study Group Bulletin, and on an occasional basis, International Wader Studies, each issue of which covers a major topic of wader biology and conservation; and

acting as Wetlands International's Specialist Group on waders.

International Wader Studies (IWS) is a fully refereed occasional journal series published by the International Wader Study Group. International Wader Studies publishes proceedings based on conferences, symposia and workshops, many arranged by the Wader Study Group, and major analyses of single topics in wader biology. A full listing of published IWS is available on the WSG website, along with information on how to obtain copies.

International Wader Study Group c/o The National Centre for Ornithology The Nunnery, Thetford Norfolk IP24 2PU, UK. http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/wsg/index.html



WeBS is the monitoring scheme for non-breeding waterbirds in the UK which aims to provide the principal data for the conservation of their populations and wetland habitats. The data collected are used to assess the size of waterbird populations, determine trends in numbers and distribution, and assess the importance of individual sites for waterbirds, in line with the requirements of international conservation Conventions and Directives. A programme of research underpins and enhances these objectives.

WeBS is a partnership between the British Trust for Ornithology, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (the last on behalf of English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland).

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE BOOK

ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest	GIS	Geographical Information System
	(Northern Ireland only)	JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
BoEE	Birds of Estuaries Enquiry	LTC(s)	WeBS Low Tide Count(s)
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales	SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
EHS	Environment and Heritage Service of	SPA	Special Protection Area
	Northern Ireland	WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
EN	English Nature	WWT	The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust