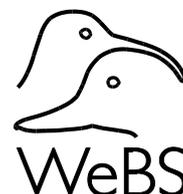


# Wetland Bird Survey



## 4 Glossary

Listed below are descriptions of terms related to waterbird monitoring that are commonly used in WeBS publications. For easier reference these are divided into those pertaining specifically to the counts and those of a more general nature. Many of the terms are widely used (e.g. Natura 2000) whilst others are specific to WeBS (e.g. Local Organiser).

### Count glossary

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**Core Counts** The basic WeBS counts that monitor wetlands throughout the UK once per month on, or as near as possible to, pre-selected *priority dates*. Used to determine population estimates and trends and identify important *sites*.

**Count unit** The area/boundary within which a count is made. Large *sites* such as gravel-pit complexes and estuaries comprise multiple count units.

**Incomplete count** A count of an individual species, a large proportion of which was suspected to have been missed, e.g. due to partial coverage of the site or poor counting conditions.

**Local Organiser** Person responsible for co-ordinating counters and counts at a local level, normally a county or large estuary, and the usual point of contact with the *WeBS Office*.

**Low Tide Counts (LTC)** WeBS counts made at low tide to assess the relative importance of different parts of individual estuaries for intertidal *waterbirds*.

**Priority date** These are published to aid co-ordination of surveys. Counters are asked to count on priority dates, or as near as possible to minimise the risk of missing birds or double-counting.

**Recording year** For WeBS this encompasses July through to June. Hence the 2012–13 recording year runs from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

**Site** A geographical area that is relatively discrete in terms of habitat type(s) and *waterbird* use such that birds regularly move within but less frequently between sites. The usual level at which count data are reported and presented. Sites can be a single *count unit* ('simple sites') or be made up of a consolidation of multiple count units ('complex sites').

**Waterbirds** WeBS follows the definition adopted by *Wetlands International*. This includes a large number of families, those occurring regularly in the UK being divers, grebes, cormorants, herons, storks,

ibises and spoonbills, wildfowl, cranes, rails, waders, gulls and terns.

**WeBS News** The annual newsletter of the Wetland Bird Survey, free to all who participate in the scheme.

**WeBS Office** The staff working on the Wetland Bird Survey based in the Monitoring Team of the *BTO*, Thetford.

**Waterbirds in the UK (formerly Wildfowl and Wader Counts)** The annual report of the Wetland Bird Survey, summarising the results of the relevant *recording year*. Free to all who participate in the scheme.

### General glossary

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**1% criterion** The criterion identifies sites as being of international importance if at least 1% of the *waterbirds* of a particular migratory *flyway* or *population* regularly make use of a site during their annual cycle. The term thus relates to the proportion (1%) that is used as a criterion of site selection. First used in the *Ramsar Convention*, the 1% criterion is used widely in assessment of site importance.

**1% threshold** This logically derives from the *1% criterion* and relates to the number of birds that equate to the nominal 1% of the *population* for the purposes of site selection. For example, a population of 61,027 Shelduck has a derived 1% threshold (adopting rounding conventions) of 610.

**African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)** An independent international treaty developed under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals ('Bonn Convention'). Parties to the Agreement are called upon to engage in a wide range of conservation actions addressing key issues such as species and habitat conservation, management of human activities, research and monitoring, education and information, and implementation.

[www.wcmc.org.uk/aewa](http://www.wcmc.org.uk/aewa)



in association with The Wetland Bird Survey (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. WeBS is a partnership, jointly funded by BTO, RSPB, JNCC, in association with WWF, with fieldwork conducted by volunteers.

**All-Ireland** Comprises the whole island of Ireland (Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland).

**Birds Directive** The informal name of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EC). The Directive provides for the protection, management and control of naturally occurring wild birds within the European Union. One of the key mechanisms is the establishment of a network of protected areas (see *Special Protection Areas* and *Natura 2000*).

**British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)** The 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. [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org)

**Flyway** The migration route(s) and areas used by *populations* for breeding, wintering and stopover during migration.

**Great Britain** The countries of England, Scotland and Wales (excludes the Channel Isles and the Isle of Man).

**International Waterbird Census (IWC)** Co-ordinated by *Wetlands International*, the IWC is an international, long-term, site-based monitoring scheme for non-breeding waterbirds. The IWC uses midwinter data from national waterbird monitoring schemes, including WeBS, to provide a basis for estimating sizes and trends of waterbird populations.

**I-WeBS** An independent but complementary scheme operating in the Republic of Ireland to monitor non-breeding waterbirds, organised by BirdWatch Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Ireland) and *The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust*.

**Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)** JNCC is the statutory body constituted by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to be responsible for research and advice on nature conservation at both UK and international levels. The committee is established by *Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage and the Department of the Environment Northern Ireland*, together with independent members and representatives from the Countryside Commission and Northern Ireland, and is supported by specialist staff. [www.jncc.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.gov.uk)

**Natura 2000** The EU-wide network of *Special Protection Areas* and Special Areas of Conservation  
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(sites of European importance for habitats and/or species identified under the EU Habitats Directive (EEC/92/43)).

**Natural England** The Government's agency for conservation of wildlife and natural features in England. [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

**Natural Resources Wales** The Government's agency for natural heritage in Wales. [www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](http://www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

**Northern Ireland Environment Agency.** The Government's agency concerned with the protection and conservation of the natural and built environment in Northern Ireland. [www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/)

**Population** Biogeographic populations are more or less discrete groups of birds which live in a particular area or group of areas, which interbreed freely within the group and rarely breed or exchange individuals with other groups. Standard *1% thresholds* derived from biogeographic population estimates are used for site assessment purposes.

**Ramsar Convention** The informal name of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. This international convention was adopted in 1971 and ratified by the UK in 1976. Contracting parties are required to designate suitable wetlands selected on account of their international significance in terms of ecology, botany, zoology, limnology or hydrology. [www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)

**Ramsar Site** An area designated under the *Ramsar Convention*.

**Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)** The RSPB is the charity that takes action for wild birds and the environment in the UK. RSPB combines research and monitoring, reserves acquisition and management, conservation planning, policy and parliamentary lobbying, membership and education. RSPB is the UK partner of BirdLife International. [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

**Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)** The Government's agency for natural heritage in Scotland [www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk)

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** An area of land notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000) as being of national importance for nature or geological conservation. The designation applies in England, Wales and Scotland. In Northern Ireland sites are known as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs).



**Special Protection Area (SPA)** An area classified under Article 4 of the *Birds Directive*. Within SPAs, Member States are obliged to take necessary steps to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats or any disturbances affecting the birds where this would be significant having regard to the objectives of the Directive.

**United Kingdom** *Great Britain* and Northern Ireland, but excluding the Channel Isles and the Isle of Man.

**Wetlands International** A leading global non-profit organisation whose mission is to sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity for future generations through research, information exchange and conservation activities, worldwide.

[www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org)

**Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)** Founded by Sir Peter Scott in 1946, WWT is the largest international wetland conservation charity in the UK. WWT works to conserve wetlands and their biodiversity, focusing particularly on waterbirds and their habitats, and seeks to raise awareness of the value of wetlands, the threats they face and the actions needed to save them. WWT has nine visitor centres throughout the UK. [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)