



LOW TIDE COUNT FORM

Site name can be provided here if useful for your filing purposes

This form is for recording numbers of waterbirds on estuaries at low tide, as part of the Wetland Bird Survey Low Tide Count scheme. Numbered sections below refer to those on the following pages. **Please use a new form for each month counted.** If you count more than five different sections in a month, please use more forms. Counting of gulls is optional but please specify whether or not these species are counted. Scarce waterbirds can be added to this form where necessary. If you wish to count species other than waterbirds (e.g. raptors, passerines), please submit these records to BirdTrack, as instructed on the back page of this form. Please conduct all counts within two hours either side of low tide.

- 1 COUNTER CODE:** Please enter your counter code in the box provided. If you do not know your code, or if your address has changed, please provide your full name and address. Space is provided on the back page of the form for details of anyone else who assisted with the counts.
- 2 SITE AND MONTH:** Please enter the name of the estuary you are counting and the month of the count..
- 3 VISIT DETAILS:** For each section visited, please enter the section number, the date and the approximate start and end times of the count. Please use 24 hr clock for the times (e.g. 0900, 1300). Please consult your local organiser if you are unsure of the section number.
- 4 WATERBIRD COUNTS:** Please stick to pre-defined count section boundaries and do not alter these without discussion with the Local Organiser or National Organiser. Where appropriate, include birds sitting on water out to a distance of about 500 offshore. Please count all waterbirds (i.e. grebes, divers, herons, wildfowl, rails and waders, including non-native birds and free-flying exotics, hybrids and escapes) and Kingfisher present within your count area during the visit. Recording of gulls and terns is optional. Please enter the number of each species counted in the appropriate box (do not separate counts of male and female birds). Blank lines are provided to record additional species not listed on the form.
 - Use brackets to enclose gross UNDERestimates, e.g. [100].
 - Write "NC" (No Count) in the appropriate box if a species was present which you were unable to count.
 - Birds flying overhead should be excluded unless obviously using your count area.
 - Please tick the box at the top of the section if you looked for those species but none was present. This will allow us to distinguish Nil Returns (no birds present) from No Counts (birds present but not counted), particularly in the case of gulls and terns since recording these groups is optional.
 - Circle counts of Bean, Brent or White-fronted Geese if you could not identify the race involved, e.g. 80.
 - Movements of birds between count sections often occur. Please record the birds present on a section while you are recording it, regardless of whether you suspect they have moved from another section. It is the relative importance of different parts of the site that is being recorded rather than an overall quantification of numbers on the whole site. However, it would also be useful if you could make a note in the 'Additional Information' section if you feel birds may have been double-counted.
- 5 COUNT CONDITIONS:** Please give an approximate value for the percentage of the water area within your count area covered by ice.
- 6 COVERAGE:** Recording of coverage is essential if we are to interpret your counts properly. Please circle whether you feel the counts provide a reasonably accurate reflection of the bird numbers in the count area at the time of your visit (OK) or if other factors prevented you from recording a significant number of the birds present (LOW). If your count was LOW, please tick the appropriate box(es) to indicate the factors which affected your count.
- 7 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Please provide any additional information you feel is relevant, particularly where you feel birds may have been double-counted or where you have made more than one visit during a month. You can also use this space to list any additional counters who took part.

Please return completed forms promptly to your WeBS Low Tide Counts Local Organiser

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP



1 COUNTER CODE						-						
If you have changed address or do not know your counter code, please provide your full name and address below												

2 ESTUARY NAME:
MONTH (e.g. Nov-03):

If you are unsure how to complete any part of this form, full instructions for each numbered section are given on the front page.

3 COUNT SECTION					
Leave blank for office use					
DATE (e.g. 13/10/97)	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /
TIME (use 24 hour clock) Start (e.g. 0900)					
Finish (e.g. 1400)					

4 WATERBIRDS							
Please ✓ box if NO waterbirds were present	XX	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	XX
Red-throated Diver	RH						RH
Black-throated Diver	BV						BV
Great Northern Diver	ND						ND
Little Grebe	LG						LG
Great Crested Grebe	GG						GG
Red-necked Grebe	RX						RX
Slavonian Grebe	SZ						SZ
Black-necked Grebe	BN						BN
Cormorant	CA						CA
Shag	SA						SA
Bittern	BI						BI
Little Egret	ET						ET
Grey Heron	H.						H.
Spoonbill	NB						NB
Mute Swan	MS						MS
Bewick's Swan	BS						BS
Whooper Swan	WS						WS
Taiga Bean Goose	XF						XF
Tundra Bean Goose	XR						XR
Pink-footed Goose	PG						PG
European White-fronted Goose	EW						EW
Greenland White-fronted Goose	NW						NW
Greylag Goose	GJ						GJ
Canada Goose	CG						CG
Barnacle Goose	BY						BY
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	DB						DB
Light-bellied Brent Goose	PB						PB
Egyptian Goose	EG						EG
Mandarin	MN						MN
Shelduck	SU						SU
Wigeon	WN						WN
Gadwall	GA						GA
Teal	T.						T.
Mallard	MA						MA
Pintail	PT						PT
Shoveler	SV						SV
Red-crested Pochard	RQ						RQ
Pochard	PO						PO
Tufted Duck	TU						TU
Scaup	SP						SP
Eider	E.						E.
Long-tailed Duck	LN						LN
Common Scoter	CX						CX
Velvet Scoter	VS						VS
Goldeneye	GN						GN
Smew	SY						SY

DATE	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /
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4 WATERBIRDS (continued...)							
Red-breasted Merganser	RM						RM
Goosander	GD						GD
Ruddy Duck	RY						RY
Water Rail	WA						WA
Moorhen	MH						MH
Coot	CO						CO
Oystercatcher	OC						OC
Avocet	AV						AV
Ringed Plover	RP						RP
Golden Plover	GP						GP
Grey Plover	GV						GV
Lapwing	L.						L.
Knot	KN						KN
Sanderling	SS						SS
Little Stint	LX						LX
Curlew Sandpiper	CV						CV
Purple Sandpiper	PS						PS
Dunlin	DN						DN
Ruff	RU						RU
Jack Snipe	JS						JS
Snipe	SN						SN
Woodcock	WK						WK
Black-tailed Godwit	BW						BW
Bar-tailed Godwit	BA						BA
Whimbrel	WM						WM
Curlew	CU						CU
Spotted Redshank	DR						DR
Redshank	RK						RK
Greenshank	GK						GK
Green Sandpiper	GE						GE
Common Sandpiper	CS						CS
Turnstone	TT						TT
Kingfisher	KF						KF

GULLS: OPTIONAL SECTION							
Please ✓ box if NO gulls were present	XG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	XX
Mediterranean Gull	MU						MU
Black-headed Gull	BH						BH
Common Gull	CM						CM
Lesser Black-backed Gull	LB						LB
Herring Gull	HG						HG
Great Black-backed Gull	GB						GB
Kittiwake	KI						KI

COUNT SECTION					
DATE	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /

5 COUNT CONDITIONS					
% of water area in count unit covered by ice					

6 COVERAGE					
Do you feel your counts of waterbirds were reasonably accurate (circle 'OK') or did other factors (e.g. weather or disturbance) prevent you from recording a significant number of the birds present (circle 'LOW')?					
Count accuracy	OK / LOW	OK / LOW	OK / LOW	OK / LOW	OK / LOW
If 'LOW', which of the following affected your count (please ✓ the appropriate box/boxes)?					
I did not cover all of my count area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poor visibility (due to fog, glare, heavy rain etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High levels of disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
	<p>Additional Counters: Please list the counter codes (or names and addresses) of any other observers who assisted with the counts.</p>

FOR ALL RECORDS OF NON-WATERBIRDS (E.G. PASSERINES, RAPTORS, ETC)
PLEASE MAKE USE OF BIRDTRACK.

This is an online scheme designed to increase the personal, local and national value of your sightings.
Go to www.bto.org/birdtrack/index.htm to find out more.