

Wader Calendar Survey 2023

Instructions

Please use the **Wader Calendar Online Form** (https://bit.ly/BTO_WaderSurvey) to register your interest.



LAPWING, HOWARD STOCKDALE / BTO

TAKING PART

Please use the Wader Calendar Online Form (https://bit.ly/BTO_WaderSurvey) to register your interest (this is not a commitment to complete the survey, and you don't need to have waders on your farm). You can request a paper pack in the post using the Online Form above or download and print the Wader Calendar 2023 Recording Form from the Wader Calendar BTO webpage to begin noting your weekly wader estimates from **the week commencing 27 March 2023**.

WADER CALENDAR – WEEKLY ESTIMATES APRIL TO JULY

For each of the five target wader species, in the relevant row each week, enter your estimate of adults (seen or heard that week) in the three categories:

- 1. Total Count:** total number on your farm that week
- 2. Displaying/'singing':** number of birds displaying and/or 'singing' (signs they have territories/nests)
- 3. Alarm-calling/with young:** number observed repeatedly alarm-calling, 'mobbing' and/or seen with young (signs they are chick-rearing)

There's no strict survey methodology but keep the method used to **keep count of the waders on your farm as consistent between weeks and years as possible**. You may keep notes as you go about farm work or make counts at set times in the week. Provide details on how you kept your counts in the *Method* section on the *Recording Form*. The time it takes depends on your methods; keeping notes as you go should only take **a few minutes each week**, but dedicated counts may take longer.

Displaying/'singing' and *Alarm-calling/with young* estimates are optional (but extremely helpful to include). If you are unsure about the number for any category but know the number was not zero, use a tick ("✓"). See *Wader Survey Behaviour Guide* (www.bto.org/wader-survey-behaviour-guide) for recognising these behaviours.

Try not to double-count the same birds in each week. In late summer it may be difficult to separate adults and young – just include all birds not obviously this year's young. If any chicks or young are seen, include details on age and number seen in the *Notes* column if you can.

Remember to enter zeroes ("0") in cells that genuinely were zero counts – we cannot assume blank cells represent zero counts. If you did not record one week (e.g. too busy, you forget, or are away from the farm), strike out that week's row with a line across it.

Wader Calendar returns with no waders are still extremely valuable data. Simply tick the *no waders on your farm* box at the top of the *Recording Form*, fill in your *Farm Details* and return to us.

FARM DETAILS – AT THE END OF THE SUMMER

Fill in each section of *Farm Details* before you return your Wader Calendar. The *Size (Ha) Surveyed* does not have to be your entire farm (if there are areas you do not visit regularly enough).

METHOD USED TO ESTIMATE WADER ON YOUR FARM – AT THE END OF THE SUMMER

Tick the relevant method you used to keep count of the waders on your farm. Specify under *Other* if the method you used is not included in the options.

WADER CALENDAR RETURN – BY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Before the **30 September 2023**, email a scan/photo of your completed *Recording Form* to waders@bto.org. You can create a scan using a smartphone with a PDF scanning app. (e.g. Adobe Scan©), however if you'd prefer, simply post it to **FAO: Wader Project Officer, BTO Scotland, Unit 15 Beta Centre, Stirling University Innovation Park, Stirling, FK9 4NF**.