

# CORE COUNT FORM

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

This form is for recording Core Counts for the Wetland Bird Survey. All waterbird species should be recorded, though counting gulls and terns is optional. Core Counts should be made during the daytime, ideally on the morning of the priority count date or, at coastal sites, under suitable tidal conditions. Wherever possible, counts should be co-ordinated with adjacent count units to avoid the possibility of double-counting. Up to seven visits can be recorded on this form. If you visit more than one count unit, please complete a separate form for each. Separate counts of birds at dawn or dusk (e.g. of roosting geese or Cormorants) should be submitted on the Non-breeding Waterbird Supplementary Count Form.

- 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 DETAILS:** Please enter the name of the count unit and the central grid reference of the area covered in the boxes provided. If the area you count is part of a larger site (e.g. if you count one sector of a large estuary) please enter the name of the site also. Use recognised names and adhere to existing count boundaries whilst counting. Clarification will be available from your Local Organiser or the WeBS National Organiser.
- 3 DATE AND TIME:** Please enter the date of the count and approximate start and finish times using the 24 hour clock (e.g. 0900, 1300). Only counts of birds between these times should be included on the form.
- 4 WATERBIRD COUNTS:** 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 were 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.
  - In summer, only include fledged, independent young (i.e. capable of flight and at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  adult size) in your counts.
  - For Bean Geese, please identify the race (Taiga or Tundra) seen. Circle counts of Bean, Brent or White-fronted Geese if you could not identify the race involved, e.g. ②0
- 5 COUNT CONDITIONS:** Please give an approximate value for the percentage of the water area within your count area covered by ice. If the site is tidal or close to tidal waters, please circle the appropriate number(s) using the key provided to indicate the state of the tide during the counts.
- 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. Information leaflets, reports or articles about the site would also be welcome.

If you have internet access you can now submit your counts using WeBS Online. By using WeBS Online your data will be easier for us to process, plus you can access your past counts and see maps of your count section boundaries. For more information on how to register please contact the WeBS Office [webs@bto.org](mailto:webs@bto.org). Please note - the use of WeBS Online is NOT compulsory.

Please return completed forms promptly to your  
WeBS 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

COUNT UNIT:

Central Grid Ref.

Count unit code

Site (if part of larger site)

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

DATE (e.g. 13/10/97)

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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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mute Swan	MS								
Bewick's Swan	BS								
Whooper Swan	WS								
Taiga Bean Goose	XF								
Tundra Bean Goose	XR								
Pink-footed Goose	PG								
European White-fronted Goose	EW								
Greenland White-fronted Goose	NW								
Greylag Goose	GJ								
Canada Goose	CG								
Barnacle Goose	BY								
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	DB								
Light-bellied Brent Goose	PB								
Egyptian Goose	EG								
Shelduck	SU								
Mandarin	MN								
Wigeon	WN								
Gadwall	GA								
Teal	T.								
Mallard	MA								
Pintail	PT								
Garganey	GY								
Shoveler	SV								
Red-crested Pochard	RQ								
Pochard	PO								
Tufted Duck	TU								
Scaup	SP								
Eider	E.								
Long-tailed Duck	LN								
Common Scoter	CX								
Velvet Scoter	VS								
Goldeneye	GN								
Smew	SY								
Red-breasted Merganser	RM								
Goosander	GD								
Ruddy Duck	RY								
Red-throated Diver	RH								
Black-throated Diver	BV								
Great Northern Diver	ND								
Cormorant	CA								
Shag	SA								
Bittern	BI								
Little Egret	ET								
Grey Heron	H.								
Water Rail	WA								
Moorhen	MH								
Coot	CO								
Oystercatcher	OC								
Avocet	AV								
Little Ringed Plover	LP								
Ringed Plover	RP								



DATE	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /
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<b>[5] COUNT CONDITIONS</b>							
% of water area in count unit covered by ice							
State of tide (coastal sites only): circle the appropriate number(s)	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
	KEY	1 Rising	2 High	3 Falling	4 Low		

<b>[6] COVERAGE</b>							
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 birds present (circle 'LOW')?							
Count accuracy	OK/LOW	OK/LOW	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"/>	<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"/>	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>[7] ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	
	<p><b>Additional Counters:</b> 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.birdtrack.net](http://www.birdtrack.net) to find out more