



Core Count Form

Guidelines for data entry

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

This information sheet provides guidelines for the entering of I-WeBS data onto Core Count Forms. Up to seven visits can be recorded on each form. If you visit more than one count unit, please record on a separate dataform. Additional counts at other times of the month and in other months may also be submitted. Separate counts of a small selection of the species that are present (e.g. of roosting geese or Cormorants birds at dawn or dusk) should be submitted on the *Supplementary Count Form* (pink), and these can be undertaken at any time of the year. All waterbird species should be recorded, though counting gulls and terns is optional but is desirable. An additional section, also optional, is available for recording of birds of prey. Core counts should be made during the daytime, ideally on the morning of the priority count date, or under suitable tidal conditions at coastal sites. Wherever possible, counts should be coordinated with adjacent count units to avoid the possibility of double-counting.

- 1) COUNTER CODE:** Please enter your counter code in the box provided. This code consists of five numbers and five letters (e.g. 01602-JBLOG). If you do not know your code, or if your address has changed, please complete these details in the space provided. Please also enter your email address in the box provided.
- 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 count unit (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 Regional Organiser or the I-WeBS Office.
- 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) COUNT CONDITIONS:** Please give an approximate value for the proportion of water area within your count area covered by ice. This will automatically be converted to a percentage on the datasheet. If the site is tidal, or close to tidal waters, please indicate the tidal state by circling the appropriate number(s) using the key provided. 1 Rising = 3-hour period after Low Tide period; 2 High = 3-hour period with high tide in the middle; 3 Falling = 3-hour period after High Tide period; 4 Low = the 3-hour period with Low Tide in the middle.
- 5) COVERAGE:** Recording of coverage is essential if we are to interpret your counts properly. Please indicate 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 the accuracy was low, please tick the appropriate box(es) to indicate the factors which affected your count.
- 6) BIRD COUNTS:** Please count all waterbirds (i.e. divers, grebes, 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, terns and birds of prey is optional, but desirable. Please enter the number of each species counted in the appropriate box (do not separate counts of male and female, or of adult and juvenile birds). Blank lines are provided to record additional species not listed on the form.
 - Use square brackets to enclose gross UNDERestimates e.g. [100].
 - Circle totals which do not refer to accurate counts in the manner: (3500) - use this when you have not had time to count big flocks of gulls or Golden Plover for example.
 - 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.
- 7) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND COUNTERS:** Please provide any additional information you feel is relevant. Information leaflets, reports or articles about the site would also be welcome. Please also provide either the names and addresses or the counter codes of additional counters.

SAFETY: Counters should not put themselves in a position which places them, or others, in danger. The I-WeBS partners do not take any responsibility or liability for any actions and subsequent consequences from the activities of counters.

Please return completed forms promptly to your I-WeBS Regional Organiser or to the I-WeBS Office at BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20 Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow. Email: iwebs@birdwatchireland.ie.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP



An Roinn
Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

DATE	(e.g. 21/12/01)								
TERNs									
Tick ✓ if NO terns present	XT								XT
Sandwich Tern	TE								TE
Common Tern	CN								CN
Arctic Tern	AE								AE
Little Tern	AF								AF
BIRDS OF PREY: OPTIONAL SECTION									
Tick ✓ if NO birds of prey present	XH								XH
Marsh Harrier	MR								MR
Hen Harrier	HH								HH
Sparrowhawk	SH								SH
Kestrel	K.								K.
Merlin	ML								ML
Peregrine	PE								PE
Buzzard	BZ								BZ

7) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & COUNTERS

NAME/COUNTER CODE	ADDRESS (IF NO COUNTER CODE)