



Job Vacancies:

- 1) **Project Officer: Surveys & Monitoring Team (full-time)**
- 2) **Project Officer: Dublin Bay Birds Project (full-time)**

Role Background

1) Project Officer: Surveys & Monitoring Team

As Project Officer on the Surveys & Monitoring Team, you will work across a number of projects to include the Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS), Countryside Bird Survey (CBS), and Irish Garden Bird Survey (IGBS).

On I-WeBS and CBS, you will be part of a team that works across both projects. This team comprises a project manager, a national coordinator of CBS, a national coordinator of I-WeBS and two part-time scientific officers. You will fulfil the role of one of the part-time scientific officers.

Working closely with the Project Team you will have key responsibility for the ornithological integrity of the data gathered and subsequent data analysis. This includes validating the integrity of incoming data, reviewing coverage and leading initiatives where necessary to maximise the scientific usefulness of results for the species of interest, authoring scientific and technical reports documenting results, and identifying opportunities in data exploration and applied research in line with the goals of the projects. You will be responsible for servicing data requests and providing support to the second Scientific Officer regarding management and processing of the data. You will have proven bird survey experience, with an in-depth knowledge of survey methods, data analysis and scientific reporting.

You will also be required to provide support to the two national coordinators to help maximise the usefulness of the data gathered, including in relation to the coordination of additional waterbird surveys, such as the post-breeding tern survey, the International Swan Census, and the Non-Estuarine Waterbird Survey.

On the IGBS you will be responsible for the coordination of the survey volunteers, handling of data and maintenance of the database, and assisting with writing annual Wings articles based on the survey results, and writing press releases and social media engagement to encourage participation.

Across all projects, you will be required to contribute to annual training/up-skilling to surveyors via workshops and engage regularly with surveyors via annual newsletters, social media, presentations, and other media.

You will be required to present scientific findings from the projects at national and international conferences and meetings.

You will also be expected to participate in other bird surveys as required e.g. DBBP (Dublin Bay Birds Project), Sundry Small Projects and Urban Birds Projects. You will be required to liaise regularly with the Project Managers in relation to progress.

Projects Background

Role 1) Project Officer: Surveys & Monitoring Team

I-WeBS

Annual monitoring of wintering waterbirds is carried out in the Republic of Ireland by the Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS). The scheme, which commenced during the 1994/95 winter season, is funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and coordinated by the I-WeBS Office based at BirdWatch Ireland.

I-WeBS monitors the wintering waterbird populations of coastal wetland sites together with inland lakes, turloughs, rivers and callows. Collectively, the waterbird data collected have been used to provide a basis for site selection and designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the European Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), and for reporting on the long-term monitoring of these wetland sites. In addition, these data enable the population size and national and site trends of a range of waterbird species to be described. Further, the results often form the basis for informed decision-making by planners, conservationists and developers on the sustainable use and management of wetland habitats and their waterbird communities. I-WeBS, together with the targeted surveys, therefore, provide the principal tools used in the conservation of wintering waterbird populations in Ireland and the wetlands that they rely upon.

I-WeBS counts are undertaken by a network of skilled volunteer birdwatchers and professional staff of the partner organisations. For further details on the project please see the I-WeBS webpages here <https://birdwatchireland.ie/our-work/surveys-research/research-surveys/irish-wetland-bird-survey/>.

CBS

The Countryside Bird Survey (CBS) commenced in 1998 with the primary objective of monitoring the trends of common and widespread breeding bird species in the Republic of Ireland. The project is funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and delivered under contract by BirdWatch Ireland.

The CBS is an annual survey that is underpinned by the efforts of around 225 mostly volunteer, observers each year. The survey aims to measure changes in bird numbers based on a random selection of 1km sample plots, stratified by region, surveyed from year to year. The resulting data are the species diversity and species abundance of each survey square each year. Following statistical analysis, species trends as well as 'bird indicators' are produced. These important data are used at national level, for example in reporting on Ireland's birds under Article 12 of the EU Bird's Directive, as well as in many other areas including research. CBS data also feed into the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS) for European Wild Bird Indicators.

For further details on the project please see the CBS webpages here <https://birdwatchireland.ie/our-work/surveys-research/research-surveys/countryside-bird-survey/>

IGBS

The Irish Garden Bird Survey is BirdWatch Ireland's most popular citizen science survey, with up to two thousand gardens taking part each year. Between December and February members of the public keep note of the highest number of each bird species visiting their garden every week and submit these to the survey. The information collected provides useful insights into how and why populations of garden birds are changing, and how we can help them. For more information on the project, please see the Irish Garden Survey pages here <https://birdwatchireland.ie/our-work/surveys-research/research-surveys/irish-garden-bird-survey/>

Job Description

Role 1) Project Officer: Surveys & Monitoring Team

- Lead on the ornithological integrity of I-WeBs and CBS.
- Lead and author scientific analyses, publications and reports on I-WeBs and CBS.
- Monitor survey execution and identify opportunities in data gathering, processing and analysis to maximise scientific value.
- Manage online data entry systems and provide support to the team on data validation, management and processing.
- Facilitate data requests.
- Maintain GIS shapefiles in association with other team members.
- Contribute content to project web pages and social media channels.
- Provide support to the I-WeBS and CBS National Coordinators as required.
- Support the Project Manager and Coordinators and present findings as required at project steering group and stakeholder meetings, and at national/international conferences and meetings.
- Undertake survey fieldwork as necessary.
- Coordinate the IGBS volunteers and assist with the publicity and promotion of the survey.
- Processing of data, management of database and analysis of IGBS data

Role Background

Role 2) Project Officer: Dublin Bay Bird Project

As Project Officer for the Dublin Bay Birds Project you will be central within a small core team at BirdWatch Ireland working closely with the Project Manager, as well as liaising with a wider fieldwork team, to fulfil the project's objectives.

You will be responsible for carrying out the main tasks of the project. These include:

Waterbirds

- Data, reporting and publications: collation of multi-subsite, multi-species count data, data entry, data transformation, filing, quality checking; preparation of data and text for reports; working as a team to develop ideas and interrogate data to publish scientific papers.
- Fieldwork: scheduling of monthly surveys; carrying out monthly surveys; carrying out additional focused surveys e.g. Brent roost counts; ring-reading of colour-ringed birds; assisting with wader ringing activities that may arise from time to time.

Breeding Terns:

- Data and reporting: collation, entry and quality-checking of nest census and ringing data; preparation of data and text for reports; working as a team to develop ideas and interrogate data to publish scientific papers.
- Fieldwork: tern nest census, data collection, assistance with ringing activities, bird handling, ring-reading colour-ringed terns, regular visits by boat to monitor the tern colony.

Communications and public engagement:

Across all aspects of the project you will be required to share publicly some of what is learned from the data. This may be through social and print media as well as radio or tv where needed; and you will be required to update the project pages on BirdWatch Ireland's website with blogs and news items. Presenting the work in person to local groups, at conferences, stakeholder meetings and at workshops is also likely to be required.

Project Background

Role 2) Project Officer: Dublin Bay Bird Project

The Dublin Bay Birds Project (DBBP) was initiated in February 2013 with the aim of addressing some of the existing gaps in knowledge regarding how waterbirds and seabirds use Dublin Bay. The Project is managed and co-ordinated by BirdWatch Ireland, funded and supported by Dublin Port Company, and the data collected are intended to assist informed decision-making for the wise-use of Dublin Bay. Throughout the entire year the Project Team carry out monthly low-tide waterbird surveys of Dublin Bay with, at times, some additional focussed surveys; and during the breeding season there is a programme of monitoring of the Common and Arctic Tern colony. Both the waterbird and breeding tern elements of the project include a programme of colour-ringing.

The knowledge gaps the Project is trying to address include :

- how birds are distributed at low-tide when foraging.
- numbers and distribution of waterbirds between April and August.

- location and size of high-tide roosts.
- Numbers of gulls and Light-bellied Brent Geese - species groups that are difficult to survey accurately during standard counts.
- origins of wintering and breeding birds in Dublin Bay and within-site movements using colour-ringing and tracking.

Job Description

Role 2) Project Officer: Dublin Bay Bird Project

- Work with the DBBP Team on scientific analyses, publications and reporting
- Data collation, management and validation
- Facilitation of data requests
- Fieldwork: co-ordination of low tide monthly surveys; tern monitoring, ring-reading, ringing
- Contribute to project web pages and social media accounts
- Support the Project Manager and present findings as required at project steering group and stakeholder meetings, and at national/international conferences and meetings.

Duration

- **Project Officer - Surveys & Monitoring Team:** This is a full-time position. Initially, April – November 2025, with contract extension likely (funding dependant).
- **Project Officer - Dublin Bay Birds:** This is a full-time position. Initially, April – December 2025, with contract extension likely (funding dependant).

Pay

Salary and any other benefits may vary according to each position and will be determined following outcome of interview process.

Requirements

The skills outlined below are desirable and the applicants should tailor their application forms to highlight their experience in these areas:

	Project Officer: Surveys & Monitoring Team	Project Officer: Dublin Bay Birds
A degree in zoology or related discipline, or previous proven experience working on conservation projects.	Essential	Essential
Ability to compile data, analyse results and write reports.	Essential	Essential
Data compilation, transformation and formatting for database entry	Desirable	Essential
Experience of dealing with data requests	Desirable	Desirable
Experience of GIS	Desirable	Desirable
Experience of R	Desirable	Desirable
Experience in data validation	Desirable	Desirable
Previous experience of winter waterbirds counts and breeding bird surveys according to standardised methodologies	Essential	Essential
Waterbird ID skills	Essential	Highly desirable
Awareness of ecology and conservation issues surrounding birds in Ireland	Highly Desirable	Desirable
Bird ringing or bird handling experience	N/A	Highly desirable
Experience of working in remote locations.	Desirable	Desirable
Experience of presenting project results at project steering group and stakeholder meetings, and at national/international conferences and meetings.	Desirable	Desirable
Dealing with media, including drafting press releases and doing radio and television interviews	Desirable	Desirable
Management and update of project webpages and social media accounts	Desirable	Desirable
Full driver's license	Essential	Essential

How to Apply

Please download and complete a BirdWatch Ireland application form [here](#).

Applicants who wish to apply for both positions should rank their order of preference.

When submitting applications by email, please put the job title of the position you are applying for in the subject line. If you are applying for both positions, please enter 'Project Officer Vacancies' in the subject line.

Closing date for applications: **Monday 7th April at 9:00am**. Interviews are likely to be conducted later that week.

Applications, or queries, can be emailed to recruitment@birdwatchireland.ie.