

Non-Estuarine Waterbird Survey (NEWS)

Quick Start Guide



Registration

Register at bto.org/my-bto

Sign up for the **Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)**



Navigate to **WeBS Online**, click on the **Taking part** button, and then **Find a NEWS sector**

Choose **Priority Sites** where possible

What's Involved?

One visit between
1st December 2026 and
31st January 2027



Counts may be carried out at any time during the **six-hour window** that starts three hours before the advertised **low-water time** and ends three hours after

Recording

Species

Recording **waders** on the **intertidal** habitat is the **priority** for this survey

If possible, also record **wildfowl**, **seabirds**, **raptors** and **non-waterbirds**, and **mammals**

Habitat

Waterbirds should be recorded in all three habitats:

a) Intertidal zone between the high and low water marks

(essential)

b) Sea adjacent to the coast, as far as you can see

c) Inland areas visible within 100m of the high water mark (unless particularly difficult).

Intertidal

- Walk from the **start** of your site to the **end**
- Walk **along the intertidal area**, making sure you can see birds feeding at the water's edge
- Only **count** birds that you **walk past**
- **Avoid double counting** birds
- To prevent flushing birds in front of you, try to **walk around flocks of birds**

Offshore

Only count birds **directly opposite** your count sector

Input data into **WeBS Online** after your count under the **NEWS Options** tab



More information: www.bto.org/webs-news

Visit the Non-Estuarine Waterbird Survey website for more detailed instructions and find out how to enter data.