



An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



ICELANDIC-BREEDING GOOSE CENSUS

This form is for recording counts made during the Icelandic-breeding Goose census (IGC). Two coordinated counts are made in autumn, one in each of October and November. Sites supporting Pink-footed Geese should be covered during October and November, whilst those holding Greylag Geese should be counted in November. At sites where both species occur please try and count in both months. A spring count is undertaken periodically. Both species should be counted during the spring census.

Further information about IGC can be found at <http://monitoring.wwt.org.uk/get-involved/>.

Please note that data can also be entered online at <http://monitoring.wwt.org.uk/recording/>

To help gain a better understanding of the degree of mixing between the Icelandic and resident populations of Greylag Geese in Britain and Ireland, counts made in September will identify the number of resident birds that are present before the arrival of the Icelandic geese. Counts are also requested on other dates, particularly during periods of high turnover in autumn, during mid winter and prior to spring departure to assess site importance at those times.

Ideally counts should be made at roost sites, preferably at dawn as birds fly out to feed. In areas where roosts are inaccessible, poorly known or infrequently used, counts of feeding birds may be made.

Please also record any other species of goose present, as well as Bewick's and Whooper Swans. This helps ensure that these birds are counted where other surveys may have missed them due to differing methodologies or to identify sites used by these species.

- 1 **COUNTER DETAILS:** Please enter your full name, address and email address. Please provide details of anyone else who assisted with the counts in the additional information box (section 7).
- 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 unit boundaries whilst counting. Clarification will be available from your Local Organiser or WWT.
- 3 **DATE, TIME AND METHOD:** 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. Please indicate if the count was of roosting birds made at dawn or dusk, or a daytime count of feeding geese.
- 4 **COUNTS:** Please record the numbers of all goose species present, as well as any Bewick's or Whooper Swans.
 - Write "0" (zero) if none of the target species were present when you made the count. Please don't leave the cell blank or use any other symbol, such as a dash (-)
 - Write "NC" (Not Counted) in the appropriate box if a species was present but you were unable to count it.
 - Use brackets to enclose gross UNDERestimates, e.g. [100].
 - Birds flying overhead should be omitted unless obviously using your count area.
 - Please identify the race of any Brent or White-fronted Geese recorded. Please circle counts of these species if you could not identify the race involved.
- 5 **COUNT CONDITIONS:** Please give an approximate value for the percentage of the wetland within your count area covered by ice. If the site is tidal or close to tidal waters, please circle the appropriate number(s) to indicate the state of the tide. Please also indicate the moonlight and local flooding conditions during the counts using the key provided.
- 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 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 other additional information you feel is relevant.

SAFETY: Counters should not put themselves in a position that could place them or others in danger. The survey organisers do not take any responsibility or liability for any actions of and subsequent consequences from the activities of the counters.

Please return completed forms promptly to your Local Organiser or to
Species Monitoring Unit, WWT Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT
Email monitoring@wwt.org.uk
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

1 COUNTER DETAILS	Office Use
Please provide your full name, address and email.	

2 COUNT UNIT										
Central grid ref.										Office Use
Site (if part of a large site)										
If you are unsure how to complete any part of this form, full instructions for each numbered section are give on the reverse										

3 DATE (e.g. 13/10/12)															
TIME (use 24 hour clock) Start (e.g. 0900)															
Finish (e.g. 1400)															
METHOD circle the appropriate number	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
	Key: 1 Dawn roost count			2 Dusk roost count			3 Daytime/feeding count								

4 COUNTS: Enter a '0' if no birds of the target species were present										
Pink-footed Goose	PG									
Greylag Goose	GJ									
Other goose or swan species										

5 COUNT CONDITIONS																
% of water area in count unit covered by ice																
State of tide (costal sites only): circle the appropriate number(s)	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						
Was the night moonlit?	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	
	KEY: 1 Yes			2 No			3 Don't Know									
Was there local flooding?	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	1	
	KEY: 1 Yes			2 No			3 Don't Know									

6 COVERAGE							
Do you feel your counts were reasonably accurate (circle OK) or did other factors (e.g. weather or disturbance) prevent you from recording a significant number of the 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 tick 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"/>
There were 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"/>

7 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION