



# NATIONAL GOOSE AND SWAN AGE ASSESSMENTS

This form is for recording age and brood size counts of all species of wintering swans and geese where age may be determined in the field. Methodology, census periods and instructions on how to age different species can be found at <http://monitoring.wwt.org.uk/our-work/goose-swan-monitoring-programme/breeding-success/>. Please concentrate effort to the suggested principal census periods. Age counts undertaken outside these periods are still of value, but for determining the overall annual proportion of young only counts undertaken during these periods will be utilised.

- **COMPLETING THE FORM:** It is important that all columns are completed for each age sample collected. The proportion of young can vary with date, region, flock size and habitat type and, therefore, without these variables, the results cannot be fully interpreted.

- **SPECIES:** Please use the following species codes:

BS	Bewick's Swan	GJ	Greylag Goose	BY	Barnacle Goose
WS	Whooper Swan	WG	White-fronted Goose (race unknown)	DB	Dark-bellied Brent Goose
BE	Bean Goose	EW	European White-fronted Goose	PB	Light-bellied Brent Goose
PG	Pink-footed Goose	NW	Greenland White-fronted Goose		

- **DATE and TIME:** Please ensure that you include the year when completing the date. Please record the time of your count using the 24 hour clock (e.g. 0900, 1430).
- **LOCATION:** Please use the most accurate name from the relevant OS map and remember to provide the region/county.
- **GRID REFERENCE:** Please provide a four or six figure grid reference for the location of the flock (e.g. SO7204 or SO723046).
- **HABITAT:** Please use one of the following codes, or specify the habitat type if not listed below:

AR	Arable	IG	Improved pasture/managed grass	MA	Freshwater marsh/grazing marsh
PL	Ploughed/fallow/set aside	UG	Unimproved pasture/rough grass	AL	Artificial lake/reservoir/gravel pit/scrape
ST	Stubble	ES	Estuary	RI	River/glacial river
CE	Cereal	SH	Shore/sand/mudflat	LL	Lake/loch (>50m <sup>2</sup> )
RC	Root crop	SM	Saltmarsh	PT	Pool/tarn (<50m <sup>2</sup> )
OP	Other crop	EN	Enteromorpha		
WR	waste root crop	ZO	Zostera		
LT	Grass: lawn turf/playing fields	SL	Saline lagoon		

- **FLOCK SIZE:** If the age sample comes from a flock of more than one species, please only include the flock total for the species to which the age sample refers, not the total flock size.
- **TOTAL AGED and NUMBER OF YOUNG:** FOR ZERO COUNTS PLEASE USE '0'. Please do not use any other symbol, such as a dash (-), or leave the cell blank.
- **BROOD SIZES:** Enter the number of broods of each size in the appropriate column. For broods with greater than six young, enter the brood size against the number of broods in the 'other' column, for example 7x2 would be two broods of seven young.
- **COUNTER DETAILS:** Please provide the counter's name, address and email in the box provided.

**SAFETY:** Counters should not put themselves in a position that could place them, or others, in danger. Please take appropriate precautions if visiting remote sites. WWT does not take any responsibility or liability for any actions and subsequent consequences from the activities of counters.

Please return completed forms promptly to Monitoring Unit, WWT, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT  
Email: [monitoring@wwt.org.uk](mailto:monitoring@wwt.org.uk)

Data can also be entered online at <http://monitoring.wwt.org.uk/recording/>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP**

