



INTERNATIONAL BEWICK'S & WHOOPER SWAN CENSUS 2015

Scheduled census dates are 17/18 January 2015

Although counts of swans made for WeBS and I-WeBS will automatically be included in the census, if you observe any Bewick's or Whooper Swans during your count please use this form: 1) to provide additional information (e.g. age assessments or habitat use) during your WeBS/I-WeBS count; 2) to provide a roost count of swans at the WeBS/I-WeBS site. This form should also be used to provide counts of swans recorded at sites not normally visited for the national schemes, including non-wetland sites, e.g. fields. If you visit an additional site but no swans were present, please submit the form with nil counts so we know that the site was visited. Please complete a separate form for each site/count unit visited.

- 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 11).
- 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 boundaries if covering a WeBS or I-WeBS site. Clarification will be available from your Local Organiser or National Organiser.
- 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 swans made 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.
- 4 SWAN COUNTS:**
 - Please 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 (-).
 - Use brackets to signify gross UNDERestimates, e.g. [100].
 - Write "NC" (No Count) in the appropriate box if a species was present that you were unable to count.
 - Swans flying overhead should not be included in the count recorded in section 4, as they may be counted at other sites. Please provide details of these birds in section 11, including whether you feel they should be included in the census total. Counts of swans that arrived at or left this site during the survey can be included in section 4. Please, however, indicate numbers and their likely origin or destination in section 11.
- 5 AGE ASSESSMENT:**
 - Please record the total number of swans aged (identified as adults or cygnets).
 - Where possible, please identify the number of cygnets in each family. Blank columns are provided to record broods of more than six cygnets; please enter the brood size at the top of the blank column.
- 6 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 to indicate the state of the tide during the count. Please indicate whether there was any local flooding at the time of your count.
- 7 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 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 your count was LOW, please tick the appropriate box(es) to indicate the factors which affected your count.
- 8 SITE USE:** Please indicate if the site is used as a roosting and/or feeding area, and the name of the roost site if different.
- 9 HABITAT USE:** Please record the total number of each species of swan using the habitat types present at the site.
- 10 RINGED BIRDS:** Many Bewick's and Whooper Swans are ringed with plastic leg rings or neck collars with an inscription of letters and/or numbers, which can be read in the field. Please record the details listed overleaf for each marked bird present. Space is also provided to indicate if a ringed bird is related to other ringed birds at the site and the number of other birds in the same family group. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary. Note: please record the presence of any Whooper Swans with blue rings and neck collars (blue Darvic is used for the continental Whooper population) even if you cannot read the inscription.
- 11 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** If you are aware of regular interchange of birds with other locations, and particularly if birds flew during or after the count that may have been counted elsewhere, please provide details. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Please return completed forms to your Local Organiser or National Organiser (listed below):

Great Britain: Colette Hall, WWT, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT; colette.hall@wwt.org.uk

Northern Ireland: Graham McElwaine, IWSSG, 100 Strangford Road, Downpatrick, Co. Down BT30 7JD; grahammcelwaine@btinternet.com

Republic of Ireland: Helen Boland, BWI, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Greystones, Co. Wicklow; hboland@birdwatchireland.ie

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

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

1 COUNTER DETAILS Office Use Please provide your full name, address and email.	2 COUNT UNIT NAME Central grid reference: <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table> Office Use Site (if part of a larger site): _____ If you are unsure how to complete any part of this form, full instructions for each numbered section are given on the reverse																				

3 DATE	TIME Start	TIME Finish	METHOD: Please circle the appropriate number
/ / 2015			1 Dawn roost count 2 Dusk roost count 3 Daytime count

4 SWAN COUNTS: Please enter 0 if NO swans were present.	5 AGE ASSESSMENTS	Number of families of each brood size									
	Total aged	No. of adults	No. of cygnets			6	5	4	3	2	1
Bewick's Swan	BS										
Whooper Swan	WS										
Unidentified yellow-billed swan	UF										

6 COUNT CONDITIONS	State of tide (coastal sites only)	1 Rising 2 High 3 Falling 4 Low
% water in count unit covered by ice	Was there any local flooding?	1 Yes 2 No 3 Unknown

7 COVERAGE: Do you feel your count of swans was 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)?	OK / LOW
If LOW, which of the following affected your count (please ✓ the appropriate box/boxes)?	<input type="checkbox"/> I did not cover all of my count area/view obstructed <input type="checkbox"/> Poor visibility (due to fog, glare, heavy rain etc) <input type="checkbox"/> High levels of disturbance

8 SITE USE: Please tick whether the site is used as a	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Roost site <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Feeding site <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Roost & Feeding site <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Unknown
If used as a feeding site, please provide the name of the roost site (or write UNKNOWN)	

9 HABITAT USE: Please record the total number of Bewick's (BS), Whooper (WS) or unidentified yellow-billed swans (UF) observed in each habitat.											
	BS	WS	UF		BS	WS	UF		BS	WS	UF
Natural permanent lake	01			Open coast	12			Rough/unimp. pasture (flooded)	23		
Artificial lake/reservoir	02			Improved pasture (dry)	13			Reseeded pasture (flooded)	24		
Gravel pit	03			Rough/unimproved past. (dry)	14			Turlough - improved pasture	25		
Non-tidal river	04			Reseeded pasture (dry)	15			Turlough - rough/unimproved	26		
Canal	05			Arable: stubble	16			Callow - improved pasture	27		
Freshmarsh	06			Arable: winter cereal	17			Callow - rough/unimproved	28		
Tidal river/estuary (on water)	07			Arable: oil seed rape	18			Raised bog	29		
Saltmarsh/merse	08			Arable: potatoes	19			Blanket bog/moorland	30		
Mudflats	09			Arable: carrots	20			Other (please specify)			
Brackish Lake	10			Arable: sugar beet	21						
Sea Loch	11			Improved pasture (flooded)	22						

In Ireland, turlough = seasonal flooding due to high water table, and callow = seasonal flooding of river.

10 RINGED BIRDS: Please provide details for each ringed bird.									
* Leg: Left - L, Right - R; or Neck collar - N				If bird is adult			If bird is cygnet		
Species	Ring colour	Ring Code	Leg *	No. of cygnets	Ring code of partner	Ring code(s) of cygnets	No. of siblings	Ring code(s) of parents	Ring code(s) of siblings

11 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Please provide details of other sites that may be used by these birds. Please list below any counts of birds that flew over the site, and indicate their likely origin and destination, if known. If any birds left or arrived at your site during the count, please indicate their numbers and origin or destination, if known.