

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.

## Privacy policy

Any personal information submitted will be held in accordance with WWT's GSMP Privacy Policy (see the GSMP Privacy Policy at <https://monitoring.wwt.org.uk/privacy-policy/>) and BirdWatch Ireland's Privacy Policy (see <https://birdwatchireland.ie/about-us/governance/privacy-statement>). Copies of these privacy policies can be requested from the relevant national organisers for the International Swan Census (ISC). Records (including personal information) submitted to WWT for the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland will be shared with the respective National Organiser for the ISC in those countries for the purpose of administering the census and providing feedback (see below).

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

- 1 **COUNTER DETAILS:** Please enter your full name and your email address or the first line of your address and your postcode.
- 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. Please use a separate form to split swans within overall sites into "unassociated" flocks – for example birds located in different fields.
- 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 **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. If you happen to observe any colour-marked Whooper or Bewick's Swans please note down their ring codes and ring colour. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

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

**Great Britain:** Kane Brides, WWT, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT; [kane.brides@wwt.org.uk](mailto:kane.brides@wwt.org.uk)

**Northern Ireland:** Graham McElwaine, IWSSG, 100 Strangford Road, Downpatrick, Co. Down BT30 7JD; [grahammcelwaine@btinternet.com](mailto:grahammcelwaine@btinternet.com)

**Republic of Ireland:** Brian Burke, BWI, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Greystones, Co. Wicklow; [bburke@birdwatchireland.ie](mailto:bburke@birdwatchireland.ie)

**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.

