

Instructions to observers for Waterbird Counts – 2017

The BirdLife Cyprus Waterbirds Monitoring programme covers around 60 wetlands and other waterbird sites around the island. All sites are covered at least every **January (mid-winter count)** and every **May (breeding season count)**, while the more important sites are also covered in **March, September and November**. Key Important Bird Area (IBA) wetlands, such as the island's two salt lakes, are covered on a monthly basis. The monitoring programme is based on the voluntary work of a team of dedicated and experienced recorders and preliminary results are presented in the BirdLife Cyprus Monthly Checklist.

Count date: The target count date is the **15th of the month**. If any problems arise on the target date (e.g. adverse weather) you can record a couple of days either way of the target date. In January, the recording date will be shifted to the weekend closest to the 15th, in order to match the International Waterbird Census coordinated annually by Wetlands International in mid-winter. In November, surveys will take place on the 1st weekend of the month to tie in with an international wader-watching effort.

Observation points: Try to cover regular observation points for your site at each visit. Additional points may be covered in a given month according to conditions at the time (e.g. high or low water).

A **standard recording form** is provided below, but use of this form is optional due to the simplicity of the method for waterbird counts, i.e. observers may prefer to simply submit survey results in note form (in an email or as an attachment to an email)

What to record

Record the **site name** and **date and time** of your visit, plus the **recorder's name(s)** and the names of any additional observers who contributed to a count.

Species to be counted: Please count all water birds, including ducks, geese, coots, rails, gulls/terns, waders, herons etc, and any raptors that frequent wetlands, e.g. harriers. Also count Reed warblers and Black-headed Yellow Wagtails in breeding season.

Numbers of birds (adults and young): Please count as accurately as possible the numbers of all species waterbird present on the count day, but do not add records from other days. Any additional records that you consider significant from other days may be reported separately.

Record male and female individuals separately. Also record separately birds that are clearly young of the year (not fully grown, clearly juvenile plumage etc); if this is not possible, please add a note that young birds were included in the total count for the species.

Coverage: if you did not manage to cover a site completely, please add a note to that effect.

Condition and threats: Please record water levels at the site (e.g. high or low water) and list any obvious threats seen (e.g. large number of anglers, bike racing, building along the shore etc).

Please submit your results to: BirdLife Cyprus Monitoring & Research Coordinator, Christina Ieronymidou, preferably by email christina.ieronymidou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy or by post to BirdLife Cyprus, P.O. Box 12026, 2340 Nicosia.

For any queries please contact Christina at christina.ieronymidou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy (tel: 22 455072 or 99 348369)

Data gathered by volunteers under BirdLife Cyprus recording schemes, while remaining the property of the person undertaking the survey, can be used by BirdLife Cyprus for the purpose of relevant reports and can be added to the BirdLife Cyprus database of bird records to be used for conservation purposes and may be provided to third parties, always under the terms & conditions of the BirdLife Cyprus data provision and access policy.

BirdLife Cyprus Waterbirds Count Recording Form



Please aim to visit site on the 15th of the month and submit your results to BirdLife Cyprus Monitoring & Research Coordinator, Christina Ieronymidou, christina.ieronymidou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy, BirdLife Cyprus, P.O. Box 12026, 2340 Nicosia

Recording Site:				Recorder(s):	
Date of visit:				Time of visit:	
Notes (water levels, threats, etc.):					
Species (more common birds)	Number of adults	Number of young birds	Rarer Species (please add below)	Number of adults	Number of young birds
Little Grebe					
Cormorant					
Cattle Egret					
Little Egret					
Grey Heron					
Purple Heron					
Squacco Heron					
Night Heron					
Flamingo					
Shelduck					
Teal					
Mallard					
Shoveler					
Moorhen					
Coot					
Black-winged Stilt					
Spur-winged Lapwing					
Kentish Plover					
Little Ringed Plover					
Ringed Plover					
Greater Sand Plover					
Little Stint					
Dunlin					
Ruff					
Snipe					
Redshank					
Wood Sandpiper					
Green Sandpiper					
Common Sandpiper					
Black-headed Gull					