



Thank you for your request to access I-WeBS data. The following notes are designed to help you decide which format of I-WeBS data will be appropriate for your uses and the costs of obtaining data. Please ensure that you have read the terms and conditions regarding the release and use of I-WeBS data before you complete the *Data Request Form*.

Queries should be directed to the I-WeBS Office at BirdWatch Ireland. Please send your completed *Data Request Form* to the I-WeBS National Organiser. Notes aiding interpretation will be supplied with I-WeBS data.

## **The Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS)**

The Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS) is a joint scheme of BirdWatch Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT). I-WeBS aims to monitor the numbers and distribution of waterfowl populations wintering in the Republic of Ireland, in the long-term enabling the spatio-temporal trends to be described for our wintering waterfowl populations. The specific objectives of the scheme are to: (a) assess the size of non-breeding waterfowl populations in the Republic of Ireland, (b) assess trends in their numbers and distribution, (c) assess the importance of individual sites and (d) develop a more thorough understanding of *waterfowl ecology*.

The scheme has been in operation for over 10 years, having begun in the 1994/95 season. During this period, waterfowl counts have been undertaken at some 1,400 wetland sites. These encompass a range of wetland habitats throughout the Republic of Ireland, some 600 of which are counted annually by volunteer observers and professional staff of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Core Counts are conducted once monthly between September and March inclusive normally on predetermined dates. Counts are also available from a limited number of sites for other months.

The current method employed during I-WeBS 'core counts' at estuarine sites normally entails counting at or near high tide when waterfowl are more concentrated closer to the shoreline or at high tide roosts. Where possible, larger sites are counted by teams of counters to minimise the risk of duplicate counting. Such counts form the basis for revisions of all-Ireland population estimates and population trends (together with Northern Ireland data collected through UK-WeBS) and are used for a variety of other purposes, including site management plans, statutory site designations and environmental impact statements. For many large sites, data are available for individual subsites (the smallest count unit used in I-WeBS Core Counts). These data can be summed to provide site totals.

## **Data Formats**

Data will normally be supplied in one of two formats (see example sheets provided):

1. *Monthly tabulations* provide raw data from monthly counts for one year. The printout gives the count of each waterfowl species on each date over the particular winter requested.
2. *Summary tabulations* provide the average count from five consecutive years (where available) for each species in each month. Also given are the winter peaks for each species and the mean peak counts. I-WeBS partners recommend that data are requested in this format when undertaking site assessments.

Data will normally be e-mailed in pdf format, but can also be provided as a paper printout or faxed.

## **Charging Categories**

The time taken to extract data is charged on a case-by-case basis on the use made of I-WeBS data, irrespective of the user or nature of their organisation. A data request will fall into one of five categories. Uses for work receiving substantial funding will be costed under category 1 or 2. Uses for work receiving little or no funding will be costed under category 3 or 4.

1. *Standard Rate*: these rates will apply unless applicants can demonstrate their eligibility for one of the other charging categories.
2. *Discount Rate*: a discount of 60% on the Standard Rate is applied where applicants can demonstrate that the use made of I-WeBS data provides significant benefit for conservation. Please provide as much

information as possible on the aims of the work being undertaken, how these will be achieved, and any end products or publications.

3. *Volunteers/Educational Rate:* I-WeBS counters or persons requesting I-WeBS data for personal or educational uses are exempt from Standard and Discount Rates but will be charged a nominal €5 for legal reasons. Please provide as much information as possible on the uses of the data and any end products.
4. *Research Rate:* applicants using I-WeBS data for academic purposes will normally incur only a nominal charge of €5 for legal reasons. Applicants seeking to undertake substantive research on large datasets should contact BirdWatch Ireland regarding collaboration. Otherwise, data may be charged at discount rate described above
5. *Licence Rate:* applicants who require large amounts of data which need to be updated annually may enter into a licensing arrangement. This will run for a minimum number of years, allowing the cost of data provision to be reduced. Please contact the I-WeBS Office to discuss your requirements and to arrange precise details including special conditions of use.

Unless the applicants indicate otherwise on the *Data Request Form*, charges for data will be made at Standard Rate. Eligibility for one of the other rates will be determined by the I-WeBS Partners.

## Data Charges

Charges given below refer to Standard Rate and refer to data derived from I-WeBS Core Counts. Discount Rates are given in parentheses. Data from other I-WeBS special surveys (e.g. NEWS) are charged differently and potential users should direct queries on these data sets to the I-WeBS office.

There is a minimum charge of €120 or €72 for each request at Standard or Discount Rate, respectively.

### Monthly tabulations

No. of tables	Charge per table	Maximum charge
1 – 10	€40 (€24)	€396 (€238)
11 – 50	€20 (€12)	€1,159 (€699)
50+	€10 (€6)	€4,761 (€2,856) per site

Where a table of data refers to one year's counts for a particular count unit (subsite) or summed values for several count units (site); 'year' refers to winter period September to March inclusive.

### Examples:

- Combined monthly counts at a whole site for one year - €120 (€72) minimum data charge
- 20 subsites for one year -  $(10 \times €40) + (10 \times €20) = €600$  (€360)
- 1 subsite for 20 years -  $(10 \times €40) + (10 \times €20) = €600$  (€360)
- 10 sectors for 10 years -  $(10 \times €40) + (40 \times €20) + (50 \times €10) = €1,700$  (€1020)
- combined total for 3 sectors for 5 years -  $5 \times €40 = €200$  (€120)

### Summary tabulations

No. of tables	Charge per table	Maximum charge
1 – 2	€120 (€72)	€238 (€143)
3 – 5	€79 (€48)	€476 (€285)
6– 25	€40 (€24)	€1,270 (€761)
26 – 50	€19 (€11)	€1,726 (€1,036)
50+	€10 (€6)	€4,761 (€2,856) per site

### Example:

10 sites -  $(2 \times €120) + (3 \times €79) + (5 \times €40) = €677$  (€408)

In the case of Standard and Discount Rates, the applicant will be informed of the total charge before data are released.

### ***Providing analysis and/or interpretation***

Analysis or interpretation additional to standard tabulations can be provided at standard BirdWatch Ireland hourly rates. Please contact BirdWatch Ireland for further details and costs.

### **Times for Data Supply**

Data will normally be provided within 15 working days of receiving a completed *Data Request Form*.

### **Data Availability**

I-WeBS began in autumn 1994 and data are available from a large number of sites to present. Data availability, however, varies with sites, years and months due to a number of factors such as coverage variation by counters. As the scheme has continued to grow and develop, a large body of data is now held on the database.

The schedule for data processing means that data are not normally available before the beginning of the most recent count season (e.g. data for the 1999/00 season are not normally available until the autumn of 2000). The applicant will be informed if the amount or type of data available differs significantly from that requested before data are released. Please contact the I-WeBS office if you wish to discuss data availability before submitting a request.

### **Terms and Conditions for the release of I-WeBS data**

#### ***Please read these carefully before completing the Data Request Form***

Your request will be considered by the I-WeBS partners (BWI, NPWS, WWT). The release of data will normally be agreed unless one or more of the following situations occurs:

- in the case of requests for sensitive datasets, their release is deemed contrary to the conservation interests of I-WeBS or I-WeBS partners;
- I-WeBS partners are actively working in the same area or are seeking funds to do so. In cases where collaborative studies are appropriate, these will be encouraged;
- the data have been submitted to the I-WeBS partners in confidence and the donor is unwilling to permit their release;
- I-WeBS data were collected under contract and the contractor does not agree to their release;
- a significant proportion of the data have been collected by one researcher or team who intend to conduct similar analyses themselves;
- in the case of research projects, the data have already been released to another party to conduct similar research. Both parties will be informed of their interest and data will not normally be released to the second applicant without agreement by the first;
- the applicant cannot agree to the conditions of use listed below, has not adhered to the conditions on a previous occasion or is not prepared to pay the extraction charge.

I-WeBS partners will treat the completed *Data Request Form* in confidence.

I-WeBS partners encourage the use of I-WeBS data. However, the release of I-WeBS data is entirely at the discretion of the I-WeBS partners who have the right to refuse access to data without obligation to disclose the reasons for doing so. Supply of I-WeBS data confers no rights of ownership to the receiver.

Data will only be released upon receipt of a completed and signed *Data Request Form*, which legally binds the applicant to the conditions of use.

### **Conditions of use**

1. Data are for use only by the specified party(ies) on whose behalf the *Data Request Form* is signed. The signatory is responsible for ensuring that those using I-WeBS data abide by the conditions given here.

2. Data are not passed to a third party.
3. Data are supplied only for the uses or specific analyses stated on the *Data Request Form*. A further form must be completed for any uses additional to those originally described.
4. I-WeBS will be acknowledged in all uses of I-WeBS data, in publications, reports, papers etc., as follows:  
“Data were supplied by the Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS), a joint scheme of BirdWatch Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Environment and Local Government, and The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust”.
5. I-WeBS *monthly tabulations* are not to be given verbatim in any presentation, publication, report etc. without prior written permission from I-WeBS.
6. Up to four copies of any report or publication will be supplied, free of charge, to the I-WeBS partners. In the case of confidential reports, only relevant sections using I-WeBS data will be required. This requirement may be waived under certain conditions, e.g. student dissertations, at the discretion of the I-WeBS partners.
7. Permission to use I-WeBS data expires 12 months after approval. All copies of the data, including those on database, should be destroyed/ removed at this time. A renewal proforma, requesting an update of the status of the data request, will be issued at this time.

Failure by the *User* to abide by the conditions above may jeopardise the release of data in future requests.

I-WeBS partners may impose further conditions of use of I-WeBS data or substitutions for them where specific exemptions are agreed. In such cases, applicants will be notified before data are released.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure data held by I-WeBS partners are correct, I-WeBS partners cannot accept responsibility for any errors in data provided.

I-WeBS Partners will always seek to provide the most recent data available. I-WeBS Partners cannot be held responsible for any misuse or misrepresentation of I-WeBS data.