

## Census Forms

As in previous years there are two separate forms: **the Site Form** and **the Waterbird Count Form**.

## Census Forms

The AWC Forms can be downloaded [here](#) and Himalayan Nature website ([www.himalayannature.org](http://www.himalayannature.org))

## Census Dates

The official dates for the AWC during the second and third weeks of the January. This period includes three weekends to give as much time as possible to individuals who can only carry out counts on their days off from work.

**For 2019 the dates are 5 to 20 January.**

## Count Procedure

Participants are provided with basic instructions on methods and tips to participate in the census and undertake the counts. They are requested to:

- cover the most important waterbird sites;
- visit all sites that were visited in the previous year, and use the same site names for them;
- count or estimate the number of all waterbirds present;
- give a figure for the number of individuals of each species present. Terms such as "hundreds" and "thousands" are not valid;
- avoid giving ranges, e.g. 100-200, or less than 100, more than 100, or 200+ or - and instead provide the figure considered to be the best minimum estimate;
- where waterbirds cannot be identified to species level, list them under their group (e.g. unidentified egrets);
- if no waterbirds are found at a wetland which is known to have held significant numbers of birds in the past, complete a census form nevertheless and note that no birds were present. If possible, give the reason for the absence of birds (e.g. wetland completely dry, wetland frozen over or site very disturbed by hunters);
- avoid duplication of effort - occasionally two or more censuses are conducted at the same site on different dates. Whenever possible, counters should liaise with one other and agree on ONE census form that gives the results of their combined efforts;
- double check all the entries on the count forms. In particular, check to see that the figures are not inadvertently inserted on the wrong line, and that species' names are not confused;
- if any species of waterbird which is not listed on the count form for the region has been observed, they are required to add it in the space provided at the end of the list and give additional information on its identification in the Comments section of the form;
- write as clearly as possible and be sure to give the counter's full name and address on the Waterbird Count Form;
- in the event that the counter feels that the wetland that has been counted is under severe threat of destruction or degradation, they need to inform the National Coordinator and develop a plan of action to raise awareness of the importance of the site and to conserve it. The National Coordinator may be able to advise whether international action involving Wetlands International and others is necessary.