



Wigeon, by John Harding / BTO

WeBS Local Organiser: Volunteer Role Profile

Could I fulfil this role?

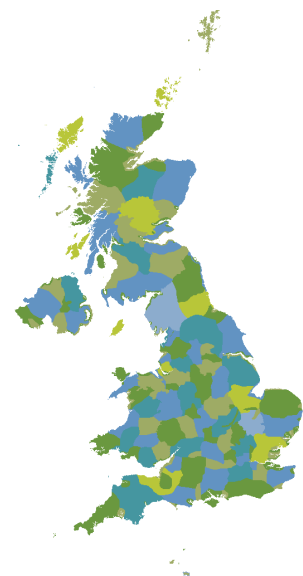
For incoming WeBS Local Organisers we welcome:

- an understanding of WeBS and its aims;
- a good understanding of WeBS and waterbirds in your local area;
- good written and aural communication skills;
- good people skills to interact well with WeBS volunteers of all abilities, and with BTO staff;
- good organisation skills, with the ability to work to deadlines;
- enthusiasm and motivation for monitoring waterbirds;
- a basic level of computing ability. Familiarity with WeBS Online would be valuable;
- some survey fieldwork experience is preferable but not essential.

I'm ready, what's my objective?

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) is a partnership survey which involves over 3,000 volunteer counters, carrying out monthly counts at their allocated wetlands. For the purposes of coordination, the UK is divided into 194 WeBS regions (which can either be counties (or similar) or large complex sites), the data from which chart population numbers and trends of our wetland bird species and are reported on through WeBS Report Online and the annual report, *Waterbirds in the UK*.

Local Organisers (LOs) are local leaders for BTO in one of these regions. You would be the main point of contact for WeBS counters, organising and coordinating WeBS at this local level. LOs are an integral part of the WeBS operation, working closely with both the WeBS volunteers and WeBS staff to deliver data for this long-running survey. This role is also part of a wider Regional Network of volunteers, making a big impact for birds, science, and people.



Supporting the BTO

- Supporting, enabling, and communicating with volunteers, increasing their motivation.
- Increasing survey coverage for more robust data to better understand waterbird populations.
- Reviewing and validating incoming WeBS data.

Rewarding for you

- Meet more people, locally and nationally, with a shared passion for birds.
- Discover and learn with us as we find patterns and trends in waterbird populations.
- Make a real difference to waterbird conservation.

What is the expected commitment?

This varies depending on any additional tasks taken on. An average of one day per month is likely for key responsibilities, but this can vary throughout the year and between regions. Given the level of variation in the size and nature of WeBS regions, the role of LO is varied, with no two LOs having exactly the same job, so the time commitment can be similarly variable.

You'll also be invited to attend at least one online meeting (via Zoom) per year with other Local Organisers and BTO staff.

Key responsibilities

- Act as the **first point of contact between WeBS volunteers and the WeBS Office**, ensuring good and regular communication.
- To **ensure coverage of key sites** and ensure counts are synchronised where appropriate e.g. large estuaries, coastal sites or large inland sites.
- To **maintain coverage** at a wide range of sites within the region and where possible to **expand the number of sites covered** by WeBS.
- Recruit new volunteers to **increase WeBS coverage**.
- Ensure counters submit their data, either online or on paper forms, promptly or at least by the end of the WeBS year (June).
- Check and **validate data submissions**, contacting the appropriate counters with queries, where necessary and 'accepting' non-queried counts as checked on WeBS Online.
- Ensure counters receive count forms (where applicable), newsletters and reports (either directly from the WeBS Office or via the LO) and **maintain regular contact with counters** to ensure that these are being received.
- Regularly **inform the WeBS office of any changes** to counters' details, retirements and new counters.
- Ensure General Data Protection Regulations are observed.

Optional extras

- Communicate with counters through periodic emails/newsletters.
- Promote and publicise WeBS wherever the opportunity arises e.g. giving talks on WeBS work to local groups or maintaining a presence on social media.
- Liaise with other nearby LOs (especially where several WeBS regions fall within a single county), County Bird Recorders or bird clubs.
- Liaise with and attend local bird clubs meetings to increase knowledge and recruit new counters.

How will BTO support me in my role?

We offer a **one-to-one induction** online for all new Local Organisers, plus a suite of resources, including the Local Organiser Handbook. Specific BTO staff will be available for questions and enquiries over the phone and email whenever needed, too. You'll never be without help!

Sounds amazing! How do I apply?

Browse Local Organiser vacancies on the [Become a WeBS Local Organiser webpage](#) or contact webs@bto.org for more information about vacancies.