

International Waterbird Census Overview 2011

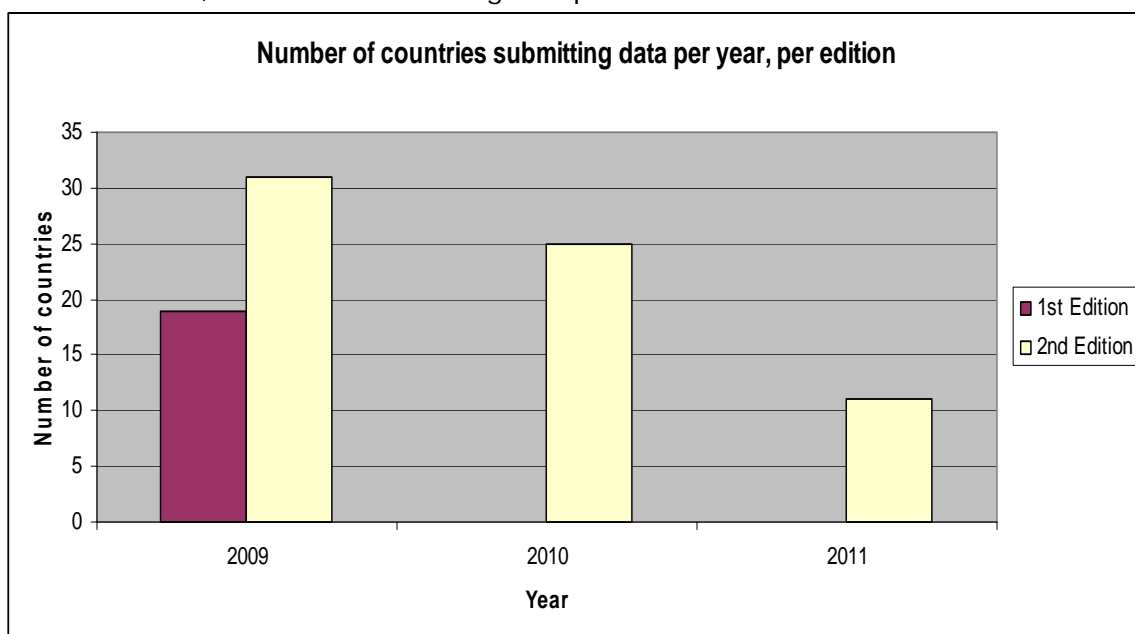
African-Eurasian Region

15-12-2011

This year has seen some substantial changes in the structure and coordination of the International Waterbird Census. Wetlands International has joined forces with a number of other key organizations to develop the Waterbird Monitoring Partnership, aligning our interests and harmonising our efforts in the broader interest of waterbird monitoring. Within the African-Eurasian region, we have been busy contacting national coordinators of the IWC through a questionnaire and phone calls. This helped us to better understand their challenges and concerns and to re-affirm our commitment to including the data provided by national coordinators from countless observers within the IWC database. The value of the efforts of these observers cannot be overstated, as these counts form the basis of crucial reports and policy decisions for the management of waterbird population across Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

We are therefore delighted to present the 2nd edition of our IWC Annual National Counts. This publication is a part of our commitment to recognise the efforts of and provide feedback to IWC national coordinators and volunteers. It summarises the species counts and number of sites counted at a national level over a 3 year period, this year running from 2009-2011. The 1st edition published last year ran until 2009 and included countries from the Western Palearctic. This year's edition includes for the first time January counts from all countries in the entire Africa-Eurasian region that provided count information to Wetlands International before September 15th 2011. This year's edition also includes the names and organisations of coordinators that have provided the data. The logos of these contributing organisations are included below, where these have been provided officially to Wetlands International.

As the chart below indicates, the number of coordinators providing their countries data for 2009 has risen substantially from the last edition (19 in the 1st edition, 31 in the 2nd edition). The number of countries who have already reported their 2010 counts in 2011 exceeds the number of countries who have reported their 2009 counts in 2010, which indicates a slight improvement.



We hope that the number of countries reporting within two years of the counts will increase as the results of providing clearer time-table for reporting, data management and producing the international summaries.

For the upcoming year, we are intending to keep to the same schedule for data collection, checking and producing the annual national totals. To allow us time for data management, we kindly request that January counts are provided **by 15th September 2012**. Counts provided before this deadline would be very much welcome. We also thank any data beyond the deadline, but we cannot guarantee that we will have time to check them before the publication of the annual national totals in December.

IWC Schedule 2012:

<i>IWC January Count</i>	<i>AfWC July Count</i>	<i>Deadline to receive January counts</i>	<i>1st Draft of National Totals sent to NC's for comment</i>	<i>Final draft of National Totals published on WI website</i>
14th-15th January	14th-15th July	15th September	6th December	14th December

Logos of organisations that contributed counts to this review are provided on the following page, if they have been made officially available to Wetlands International. If National Coordinators would like to provide logos of their organisations for inclusion in future reports or for further comments, information or suggestions, please contact tom.langendoen@wetlands.org.

Botswana:



Republic of Ireland:



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

Israel:



Jordan:



Malawi:



Romania:



Switzerland:



vogelwarte.ch

United Kingdom:

