



International Waterbird Census Overview 2012

African-Eurasian Region

15-12-2012

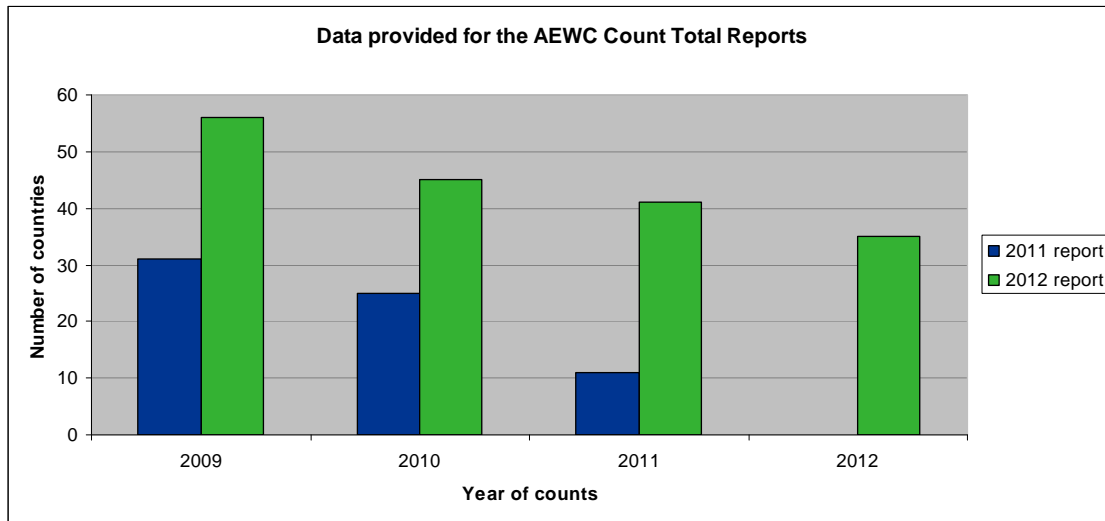
This year saw many major developments in the ongoing development and strengthening of the International Waterbird Census worldwide. In the Americas, two new regional surveys were initiated to complement the Neotropical Waterbird Census. The Caribbean Waterbird Census is a Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative project and was first carried out in 2011 and again in 2012 with great success. An initial trial for the Central American Waterbird Census was also held in 2011, following an approach by the Waterbird Conservation Council to Wetlands International and BirdLife International. Two further surveys were carried out in 2012, with hopes that the programme will soon be fully established. Both the Caribbean and Central American Waterbird Censuses fill significant geographical gaps in the IWC. In Asia, a new coordination and data management team has been established with staff from Wetlands International South Asia office in Delhi and our HQ. There remains the need to communicate this change widely to the Asian Waterbird Census network and to support good data management procedures by national coordinators.

In the African-Eurasian region, we secured support from the MAVA Foundation to strengthen waterbird monitoring activities in the coming years. This includes the development of two new data collection systems, a tool for observers to report their counts to National Coordinators and an online IWC database for National Coordinators to share and manage their national counts. We were also able to sponsor several African National Coordinators to attend the Pan-African Ornithological Congress in Arusha, Tanzania. This was a great opportunity for us to talk about waterbird monitoring and coordination in Africa and to discuss the future of the IWC with coordinators. In the Mediterranean, a joint programme of Tour du Valat, ONCFS and Wetlands International, with the support of the French Ministry of Ecology and the MAVA Foundation, was established to facilitate the coordination of waterbird monitoring in the region. As an initial step, a positive and constructive meeting was held in Tunis with representatives from all North African countries and follow-up is already planned for 2013.

Whilst we have been engaged in these activities, IWC National Coordinators and observers have continued to support the IWC by collecting and providing waterbird counts. We are therefore pleased to present the latest edition of our AEWC Annual Count Totals as part of our commitment to recognise the efforts and provide feedback to the contributors across the African-Eurasian flyway. The report summarises waterbird counts counted at a national level from 2009-2012. For the first time, the report includes the special European Goose Counts in November and January and the African Midyear (July) Waterbird Census. We also include the names and organisations of all contributing National Coordinators, with contact details and web links where available.

As the chart below indicates, the number of countries included in this year's report has risen substantially compared to the 2011 report. In total 72 African, European, West Asian or Central

Asian countries are included for at least one year in the current report, with 35 countries providing counts from 2012.



For the upcoming year, we are intending to keep to the same schedule for data collection, checking and producing the annual IWC count totals. To allow us time for data management, we kindly request National Coordinators to provide any available count data **by 15th September 2013**. We are also very happy to accept counts after the deadline, but please bear in mind that we cannot guarantee we will have time to check them before the publication of the report in December.

AEWG Schedule 2013:

<i>AEWG January Count</i>	<i>AfWG Midyear (July) Count</i>	<i>Deadline to receive counts</i>	<i>Annual AEWG Count Totals published</i>
12th-13th January	13th-14th July	15th September	16th December