

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)

WeBS is a partnership between the BTO, RSPB and JNCC in association with the WWT and has evolved from the National Wildfowl Counts (started in 1947) and the Birds of Estuaries Enquiry (started in 1960).

What we do.

- Provide total counts of non-breeding waterbirds (wildfowl, divers, grebes, herons, cormorants, rails etc.; waders; and gulls & terns (optional)) on most freshwater, estuarine and coastal sites in the UK, mostly undertaken by volunteer counters and local organisers.

How often.

- Monthly, year in year out.

Monitoring locations.

- WeBS sites –see separate list and map.

Use of data.

- At local level, the data may be used for impact assessment, and are summarized in county bird reports such as the *Devon Bird Report*. The data have also been used to establish criteria for identifying County Wildlife Sites.
- Nationally and internationally, the principal aims are to assess population sizes of waterbirds, to determine trends in numbers and distribution and to identify important sites.

Public availability.

- Summary information is available in county bird reports and in the annual WeBS report *Waterbirds in the UK*, downloadable from the WeBS web site at www.bto.org/webs. Raw counts and other data are available on request, via the web site.

Tamar WeBS sections

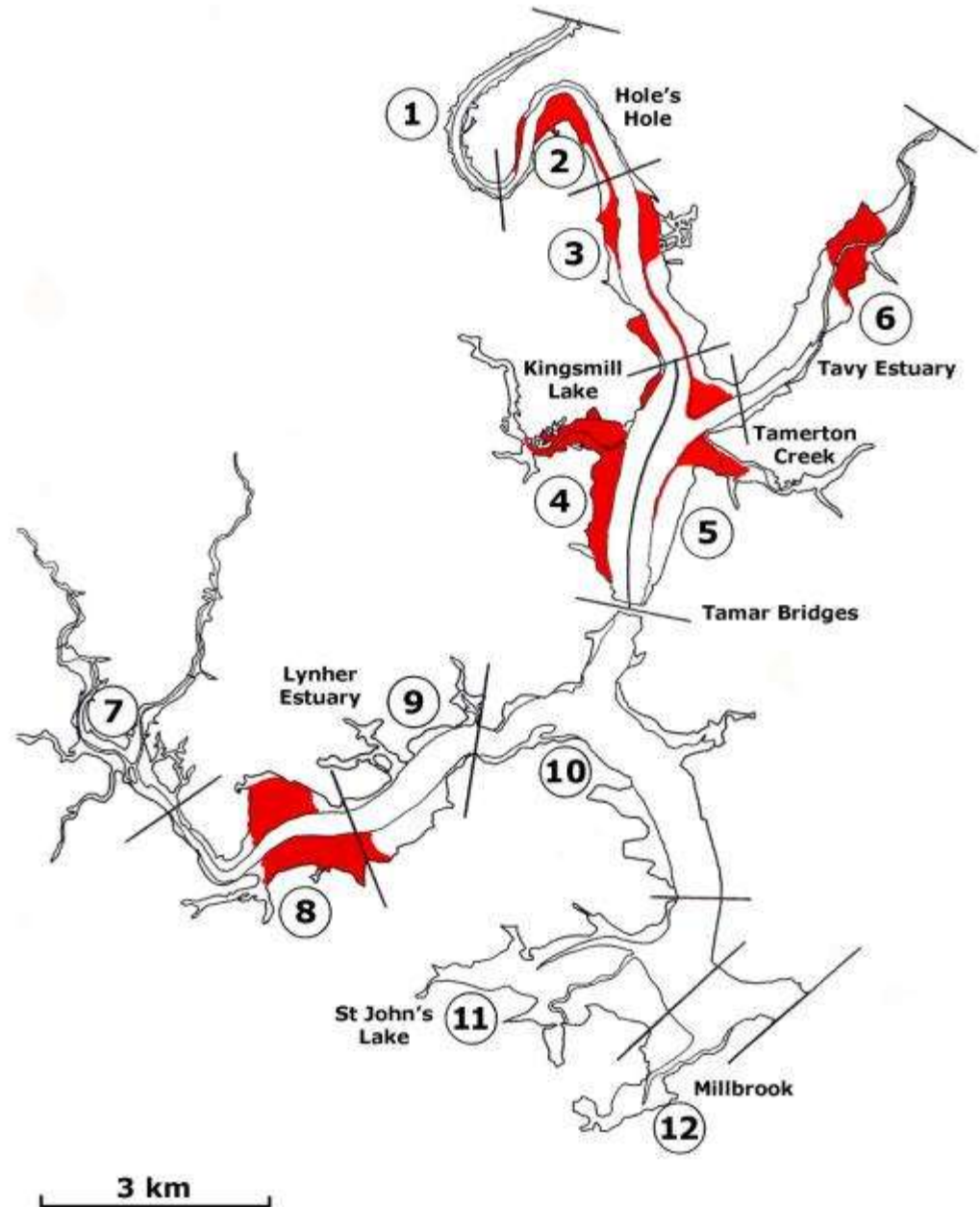


Table 41. LITTLE EGRET - Monthly maxima at main sites and WeBS county totals, with counts ≥ 50 * in bold:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<u>Avon Est</u>	15	12	12	21	24	30	40	40	20	22	20	15
<u>Axe Est</u>	34	8	27	9	8	6	11	33	14	18	15	43
<u>Dart Est</u>	8	7	16	13	7	11	15	40	34	22	21	20
<u>Erme Est</u>	2	6	5	2	5	6	16	5	7	14	7	6
<u>Exe Est</u>	14	18	59	62	52	84	118	137	123	68	55	15
<u>Kingsbridge Est</u>	47	49	45	61	42	31	42	67	64	79	36	37
<u>Otter Est</u>	2	2	8	2	1	3	8	6	18	5	1	3
<u>Plym Est</u>	7	10	12	8	4	6	11	17	18	19	2	11
<u>Plymouth Sound (Drake's Island)</u>	-	7	14	28	8	19	48	51	13	-	-	-
<u>South Huish area</u>	2	4	4	1	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
<u>Tamar Complex (Devon)</u>	8	14	12	14	6	7	22	14	36	35	11	23
<u>Taw/Torridge Est</u>	35	24	47	31	8	29	44	108	94	75	43	40
<u>Teign Est</u>	4	15	8	8	17	3	21	36	19	24	20	1
<u>Yealm Est</u>	7	8	6	14	6	9	15	28	39	46	-	5
<u>WeBS county total 2009</u>	143	170	245	238	174	224	340	457	447	381	215	196
<u>WeBS county total (2004-2008 mean)</u>	200	210	240	210	140	200	340	440	450	420	310	200

* used to identify most important national sites in Austin *et al.* (2008)