# Waterfowl and Wetlands

### Definition Guidance for Waterbird Counts

The primary focus of the waterbird counts is to record the number and diversity of waterbird species present, including both game and non-game species. The data collected provides valuable information about the health and condition of wetlands and river systems.

The information required for each count includes:

- **Wetland Name** – The name of the wetland being monitored.
- **DELWP Region** – Victoria is divided into six DELWP regions. FGA is aligning the waterbird count data with these regions: Goulburn Valley/Hume, Gippsland, Metro (Port Phillip), Grampians, Loddon Mallee and Barwon South West.
- **Percentage of Wetland Counted** – The estimated percentage of the total wetland area that was surveyed or observed during the count.
- **Percentage of Water Covering Wetland** – The estimated percentage of the wetland that is covered by water at the time of the count.
- **Estimated Percentage to Full Area** – The estimated percentage of the wetland's maximum or normal full water extent that is currently covered by water. This provides an indication of the wetland's current water level or extent compared with its expected full area.
- **Waterbird Numbers** – The estimated number of waterbirds observed for each species during the count.
- **Clutches and Young** – Record any evidence of breeding activity observed during the count, including nests, eggs, clutches, chicks or young birds.
- **Non-Game Species** – Record non-game waterbird species observed during the count. Examples are provided in the species list; however, additional relevant species should also be recorded, particularly where their presence may provide information about wetland health or influence management decisions.
- **Threat to Closure** – Record any identified threats that may affect the wetland, its waterbirds or the continuation of the site as suitable habitat. This may include factors such as declining water levels, drainage, development, disturbance, vegetation loss, invasive species, pollution or other environmental pressures.
- **Time Taken to Conduct the Count** – The total time spent undertaking the waterbird count at the wetland, including the time required to conduct the actual survey and observations. Travel time should be recorded separately.
- **Kilometres Travelled** – The total distance travelled specifically to undertake the waterbird count, including travel to and from the wetland. Recording this separately will help quantify thevolunteer contribution and resources required to conduct the counts, including the travel commitment involved in collecting the data.

Demographic information

**Age:** (Required) | **Gender identity:** (Required) | **Post code:** (Required)

Contact email address

## Wetland Information

1. (Required) Wetland Name

2. (Required) Nearest Town

3. (Required) DEWLP Region (Please tick ONE option)

- [ ] GV Hume
- [ ] Gippsland
- [ ] Metro (Port Phillip)
- [ ] Grampians
- [ ] Loddon Mallee and Barwon SW

4. (Required) Date Conducted

What date was the count conducted?

____/____/_____

5. (Required) Time Taken to Conduct the Count

Number of Hours – Record the total number of hours spent conducting the count, rounded to the nearest whole hour.

6. (Required) Kilometres Travelled

7. (Required) Is the Wetland open to Hunting Season (Please tick ONE option)

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

8. (Required) Estimated Percentage to Full Area

9. (Required) Percentage of Wetland Counted

10. (Required) Percentage of Water Covering Wetland

11. (Required) Is the Wetland Private or Public (Please tick ONE option)

- [ ] Private
- [ ] Public



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# Waterbird Count

Duck Species Game Birds

12. Black Duck - Adult

13. Black Duck - Immature

14. Grey Teal - Adult

15. Grey Teal - Immature

16. Chestnut Teal - Adult

17. Chestnut Teal - Immature

18. Shoveler - Adult

19. Shoveler - Immature

20. Pink Ear - Adult

21. Pink Ear - Immature

22. Wood Duck - Adult

23. Wood Duck - Immature



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24. Mountain Duck - Adult

25. Mountain Duck - Immature

26. Hard Head - Adult

27. Hard Head - Immature

28. Notes for Duck Species and Game Birds

Please list name of Duck then any notes that apply

Non-Game

29. Musk Duck

30. Whistling Duck

31. Eurasian Coot

32. Swamphen

33. Swamp Hen Sub Species (Tick all that apply)

Select any that apply

- [ ] Dusky Moorhen
- [ ] Purple Swamp Hen
- [ ] Black Water Hen



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☐ Unknown

34. Grebe

35. Grebe Sub Species (Tick all that apply)

Select any that apply

☐ Little Headed

☐ Hoary Headed

☐ Unknown

36. Cormorant

37. Cormorant Sub Species (Tick all that apply)

Select any that apply

☐ Great (Black)

☐ Little Pied

☐ Unknown

38. Avocet

39. Black Swan

40. Magpie Goose

41. Cape Barron Goose

42. Ibis

43. Ibis Sub Species (Tick all that apply)

Select any that apply

☐ White

☐ Glossy



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☐ Straw Necked

☐ Unknown

44. Crane/ Herron

Non-Game that have Caused Closures Before

45. Freckled Duck

46. Blue Billed Duck

47. Australian Bittern

48. Curlew Sandpiper

49. Brolga

Other Species Not Listed

50. Other 1

51. Other 1 Species

52. Other 2

53. Other 2 Species

54. Other 3

55. Other 3 Species



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