



Instructions for the "SolentBirds" Website

Registering with Solent Birds

To ensure the integrity of the Solent Bird study data it is important that we should know who our observers are and that we are able to contact you if we have any queries about your records. We will also use email to contact you with updates and important information on the projects.

By providing personal data to the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership, you consent to the processing of such data by the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership as described in the [Privacy Policy](#).

We will only use the information you provide us with for the duration of this project to contact you with information and updates relating solely to the project and any events that take place as part of this. The information you provide us with will not be passed on to any other organisation and measures have been put in place to ensure the information is stored securely

- To submit data via the mobile phone app and website you will therefore need to register.
- This involves entering your name, username and e-mail address. When you register, you will need to choose a password. You only need to register once.
- If you are not already signed up as a volunteer for the network of strategic sites study, [register here](#) and we will be in touch shortly.
- We strongly recommend that you keep a written record of your user id and password in a safe place. Please write down your password in a way that is not obvious or accessible. Please don't share your user ID or password with others as we want to be sure that your records come from you.
- Data will be shared both locally and nationally, so will for example, be available to the Hampshire Ornithological Society for use in the annual bird reports.





Submitting data

- To submit data, you will need to select “add records”. Here you are presented with two options: single species record or multiple species record.
- A survey would be selected if you had returned from completing the count of species in the areas in which you cover for the duration of the study. Data from a complete session is more useful to us than single records.
- However, if you were passing somewhere and noticed a flock of Brent Geese for example and didn't check for other species, a single record would be appropriate in this instance.
- Single records would also be appropriate where only one species was recorded during a site visit or where no species were present.

Single species record

- The first task is to simply select the species you wish to record, or “no species” if you visited a site with no birds present. You also have the option of uploading a photo of the selected species.
- Before moving into the next section, you are required to quantify the species present
- The next step is defining the location of the site that was visited. The location of the birds is vital. To simplify selecting the location, a map will be displayed, allowing you to drop a pin to mark your location.
- Finally, there is a drop down menu for selecting the date and time of the site visit, as well as the activity of the bird, habitat, any colour rings and any disturbances.
- The time is very important as it would allow us to check whether you had visited within 2.5 hours either side of high tide. Species that likely to be affected by the tide would be excluded if they were recorded outside of the period close to high tide.
- For activity, you are given a choice between feeding, roosting, nesting or other. Recording the birds' activities as it would allow us to define how important each site is for species and what each site is used for.
- Crop protection only applies if you are surveying birds in crop fields.
- Knowing the habitat types and any disturbances will help with understanding and analysing the data you collect, as well as further helping to ensure the right coastal management decisions are made.
- Recording any colour ring combinations you notice would link up with the bird movement side of the project, as well as the BTO's bird ringing scheme. Reading colour ring combinations can certainly be challenging but we would really appreciate it if you could try to keep an eye out for them.
- Understanding the full network of sites within the Solent is vital to ensure the remaining natural areas are maintained and enhanced for the future of the Solent and its wildlife.





Multiple species records

- The main difference between a single species records and multiple species records is the fact that you are presented with a list of birds. For each species you recorded at the site, provide the quantity of each one.
- The other difference is recording the presence of any colour rings per species present.
- The rest of the process is identical to the single species record, whereby the location of the site is pinpointed, and then providing additional information such as the habitat and any disturbances.





Working together with nature