

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) On-going Surveys



BirdTrack

[BirdTrack](#) is a great way for you to keep a record of the birds you have seen whilst contributing to our knowledge of Britain and Ireland's birds. Taking part in BirdTrack is easy and fun. There are a series of simple forms for you to fill in which will give us information about you, the sites where you go birdwatching, the time you go birdwatching and most importantly the birds you see! [Find out more...](#)

Time commitment & skill level



There is no minimum time commitment.

Ideally you will have fairly good bird identification skills.



Breeding Bird Survey

The [BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey](#) is the major national survey for measuring the populations of widespread breeding bird species in the UK. The survey involves recording all birds seen and heard in randomly selected one-kilometre transect squares. [Find out more...](#)

Time commitment & skill level



Able to identify birds by sight, song and call.

3 site visits between April and June:

- 1 'recce' visit to set up counting routes and describe habitat details
 - 2 morning visits to record bird numbers.
- The average visit takes approximately an hour and a half to complete.



Garden BirdWatch

By joining [Garden BirdWatch](#) you can make your garden birdwatching count. 16,000 Garden BirdWatchers around the country already record the birds using their gardens each week throughout the year. This information tells us which birds are becoming dependent on our gardens. This is a survey that anyone can take part in, whether you have a window box or a mansion. [Find out more...](#)

Time commitment & skill level



Able to identify common birds by sight.

No minimum time commitment.



Heronries Census

The aim of the [Heronries Census](#) is to collect annual nest counts of Grey Herons from as many sites as possible in the United Kingdom. Volunteer observers make counts of apparently occupied nests at heron colonies each year. Egrets are also fully included, whether nesting alongside Grey Herons or on their own. [Find out more...](#)

Time commitment & skill level



Volunteer observers make counts of apparently occupied nests at heron colonies each year.



Nest Record Scheme

Since 1939, volunteer nest recorders have been counting the eggs and chicks in any nests that they find and sending their observations to the BTO's [Nest Record Scheme \(NRS\)](#). These vital data allow us to investigate changes in breeding success over time. Participants can submit records for any species in any habitat, from gardens to mature woodlands. [Find out more...](#)

Time commitment & skill level



Nest recording is one of the simplest BTO projects to take part in. You can choose whether to monitor a single garden nestbox or to carry out a larger study.



Waterways Breeding Bird Survey

The [Waterways Breeding Bird Survey \(WBBS\)](#) measures change in breeding bird populations along rivers and canals. It is exactly like the [Breeding Bird Survey \(BBS\)](#) but the transects follow a waterway, and transect sections are longer (500 m). Results supplement BBS monitoring, especially for water birds. [Find out more...](#)

Time commitment & skill level



Able to identify birds by sight, song and call.

3 site visits between April and June:
1 'recce' visit to set up counting routes and describe habitat details
2 morning visits to record bird numbers.
The average visit takes approximately an hour and a half to complete.



Wetland Bird Survey

The [Wetland Bird Survey \(WeBS\)](#) monitors the UK's internationally important non-breeding waterbirds. Following a tradition begun as long ago as 1947, wetland sites are counted once per month by volunteers and the data allow the population estimates and trends in abundance and distribution to be calculated. The network of sites legally protected for their importance to wintering waterbirds depends fundamentally on the WeBS counts. [Find out more...](#)

Time commitment & skill level



Ability to recognise all species of waterbird at selected site. For larger sites, ability to be able to estimate numbers accurately.

One visit per month, ideally at least September to March, but summer counts are also welcome. Duration of visit varies depending upon size of site but averages about an hour per visit.