

WATERWAYS BREEDING BIRDS SURVEY 2017.

Choose a waterway to survey.

Choose a waterway close to where you live and where public access is available. The waterways we would like to be surveyed are: Great Ouse, Ivel, Flit, Upper Lee, Hiz, and the Grand Union Canal. However, if you want to choose another that is fine. Surveys can be done from a boat, but please ensure your safety. When you have chosen your survey route, make a note of the start and finish points using 1km squares or specific grid references; plus place names where applicable. Please inform Graham Goodall of your chosen route in order to avoid duplication.

Survey methodology.

The route you choose should keep as close as possible to the edge of the watercourse; ideally, within 25 metres of the water's edge. The length of the survey is up to you, but please bear in mind that you will probably need to retrace your route to get back to your car if you have driven to the site. The survey route should be a minimum of 1km (one way); 2km or more would be better. Record the birds you see or hear with 25 metres either side of your route. Surveys should be carried at least four weeks apart, as follows:

- First survey: mid-March to mid-May.
- Second survey: mid-May to mid-July.

Surveys should be conducted during the morning; ideally, between the hours of 6 – 11am and should be conducted in good weather conditions (categories 1 and 2).

Cloud cover	Rain	Wind	Visibility
0-33% - 1	none - 1	Calm - 1	Good - 1
33-66% - 2	Drizzle - 2	Light - 2	Moderate - 2
66-100% - 3	Showers - 3	Breezy - 3	Poor - 3

Recording your data.

1. Use the survey sheet overleaf, to record the birds you see during the two surveys. It is important that you include breeding codes for each species; see below.
2. Please enter all your survey records on to BirdTrack, BTO website.
3. Send your survey sheet to Graham Goodall, Research Officer (email: g.goodall052@btinternet.com). This is very important and will enable the results to be analysed and a paper produced for the Bird Report.

Breeding Codes.

Possible:

- H: species seen in suitable nesting habitat.
- S: singing male in suitable breeding habitat.

Probable:

- P: pair in suitable nesting habitat.
- T: permanent territory (defended over at least 1 week).
- D: courtship and display.
- N: visiting probable nest site.
- A: agitated behaviour.
- I: brood patch of incubating bird (seen on bird in the hand).
- B: nest building or excavating a nest hole.

Confirmed:

- DD: distraction display or injury feigning.
- UN: used nest or eggshells found from current season.
- FL: recently fledged young or downy young.
- ON: adults entering or leaving nest site in circumstances indicating occupied nest.
- FF: adult carrying faecal sac or food for young.
- NE: nest containing eggs.
- NY: nest with young seen or heard.

WATERWAYS BREEDING BIRDS SURVEY 2017: SPECIES LIST.

Name of watercourse: _____ **Grid references: names, start – finish.** _____ **Length (km).** _____

Survey Dates: 1. _____ **2.** _____

	Survey One.		Survey Two.	
Species	Count	Breeding code	Count	Breeding code
Mute Swan				
Greylag Goose				
Canada Goose				
Barnacle Goose				
Egyptian Goose				
Shelduck				
Mandarin Duck				
Eurasian Wigeon				
Gadwall				
Eurasian Teal				
Mallard				
Garganey				
Northern Shoveler				
Red-crested Pochard				
Common Pochard				
Tufted Duck				
Goosander				
Cormorant				
Bittern				
Little Egret				
Grey Heron				
Little Grebe				
Great Crested Grebe				
Water Rail				
Moorhen				
Coot				
Northern Lapwing				
Black-headed Gull				
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
Herring Gull				
Great Black-backed Gull				
Common Tern				
Kingfisher				
Sand Martin				
Willow Warbler				
Sedge Warbler				
Reed Warbler				
Grasshopper Warbler				
Yellow Wagtail				
Grey Wagtail				
Pied Wagtail				