



MAMMAL COUNT SUMMARY SHEET

Although the primary aim of BBS is to record birds and their habitat, observers may find evidence of mammals during survey or other visits. Any information we are able to collect will be valuable.

***** Please read the instructions overleaf about recording mammals *****

Please do not write in the shaded boxes

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Obs code	_____	Name	Mr/Mrs/Ms			Year	_____
1-km square OS Reference		_____	County code (e.g. GBNK)			_____	
Visits made to your square (please tick one box):		BBS visits only	1	1-3 extra visits	2	4 or more extra visits	3
Please enter X here if you made no attempt to record mammals or N if you saw no evidence of mammals							_____
Species	Known to be present in square C,D,F,L,S	Visual counts of live animals (code C only)		Species	Known to be present in square C,D,F,L,S	Visual counts of live animals (code C only)	
		Early visit	Late visit			Early visit	Late visit
Brown Hare	01			Mole	13		
Mountain/Irish Hare	02			Brown Rat	14		
Rabbit	03			Badger	15		
Red Squirrel	04			Stoat	16		
Grey Squirrel	05			Weasel	17		
Red Fox	06			American Mink	57		
Red Deer	07			Otter	58		
Roe Deer	08			Feral/Domestic Cat	61		
Sika Deer	70						
Fallow Deer	09						
Muntjac Deer	10						
Hedgehog	11						
<p>'Known to be present' column Indicate the primary method/s by which the species was recorded, using one or more (up to five) of the following codes: C (Live animals seen and counted by yourself during the early or late visit); D (dead animals recorded during any visit this season); F (field signs recorded during any visit this season, e.g. tracks, droppings, molehills); L (local knowledge of presence from this season only, e.g. from a gamekeeper/landowner); S (live animals seen by yourself on additional visit/s to square during this season).</p> <p>'Visual counts' columns Enter counts in the two 'Visual counts' columns only if code C has been entered in the 'Known to be present' column.</p> <p>Example entries:</p>							
Rabbit	03	C	1	3	Mole	13	F
Stoat	16	L			Red Fox	06	DF

If you are not submitting your data electronically using BBS-Online, please return your completed Mammal Count Summary Sheet, along with your other BBS forms, to your Regional Organiser at the end of the field season.

How to record mammals

While carrying out your bird surveys, please write the mammal names and the numbers counted onto the Field Recording Sheets, alongside the codes for birds. Later, transfer counts of mammals from the Field Recording Sheets onto this form – just one summary sheet for mammals covers both your early and your late visits. There is no need to make special visits to count mammals nor record them in distance bands.

***** Please note the following instructions *****

Known to be present

In the 'known to be present' column, indicate the method or methods by which the mammal species was recorded, using one or more (up to all five) of the following letters:

- C** **Live animals** seen and counted by yourself during the early or late visit
- D** **Dead animals** (including road kills) recorded during any visit *this season**
- F** **Field signs** recorded during any visit *this season** (tracks, droppings, molehills, hair)
- L** **From local knowledge** during *this season** (e.g. from gamekeepers, landowners, etc)
- S** **Live animals seen by yourself on additional visit/s** to the square *this season**

* *this season* denotes the period from January to July of the year to which this forms refers. Field signs must be current, including active setts, dreys and fox dens. For instance, with badger setts, use the **F** (field signs) code only if there are any definite signs of recent activity, e.g. a clear sett entrance and spoil heap, or presence of footprints, snuffle holes or latrines.

Numbers counted

The next two columns are for counts of live mammals seen as you carry out your line transects – not for corpses or signs. For each species, total the number counted from all ten transect sections for each visit and enter these in the appropriate boxes. If you come across groups of mammals please make your best estimate of their numbers. An estimate of the numbers of a particular species (no matter how rough), is more useful than recording 'too many' etc. If a count was recorded on just one of the two visits (early or late), please enter a zero in the remaining box. Double zeros are not needed.

Visits made to your square

Please tick one of the three boxes indicating the number of visits made to your square during this season (January to July). If you have only visited your square during the normal BBS visits (up to 3: one habitat, and the early & late counts) then tick the first box; if you have made up to three extra visits tick the second box and if you have made more than three extra visits tick the third box.

Submitting your counts electronically

If you want to enter your bird and mammal counts and habitat data electronically using BBS-Online, then please visit our website www.bto.org/bbs. Please make sure that your Regional Organiser (RO) knows that you are submitting your data electronically. **You can only enter your mammal counts electronically if you have completed two bird count visits.** If only one visit has been completed, either send your completed paper Mammal Count Summary sheet to your RO, or email details of your mammal counts to bbs@bto.org.

Submitting your counts on paper

If you are not submitting your data electronically, please return your completed Mammal Count Summary Sheet, along with your other BBS forms, to your RO (or to the Nunnery if you do not have an RO).

**If you have any queries about mammal recording please contact:
The Census Unit, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU
Tel: (01842) 750050 Fax: (01842) 750030, email: bbs@bto.org**