

Roosting Sites

Title

Roosting Sites 1953-1962

Description and Summary of Results

This survey was designed to find out where birds roosted. Also to see if standard recording cards could be used to collect data on position and duration of roosts, on similar lines to the cards used for such as Nest Records.

All species were to be included and recorded sites could be used by single birds or by larger numbers, ie the more traditional roosts.

It started for the winter 1953/54 and in the first season 207 cards were received from 19 observers and covered 40 species. The survey continued for four winters by which time about 750 cards had been received for 82 species. After a break of a year it was taken on as a permanent enquiry in March 1958 and continued until March 1963 although it was never formally closed. However there is almost no information extant from this latter period.

The preliminary report in the archives lists nearly 120 references referring to roosting birds.

Methods of Data Capture

Specially designed recording cards asked for details of species, locality, habitat, site and year. Observers were asked to fill in a separate card for each species in mixed roosts and to cross reference as needed. To determine when a roost started it was requested that the first entry for a winter should be the last date on which the roost was unoccupied and with a zero in the count column.

The numbers of birds was noted as: single birds; pairs; a few; tens of birds; hundreds of birds or thousands of birds.

In addition a comprehensive search for notes about roosting was made in all issues of the magazine *British Birds* up to July 1956.

Purpose of Data Capture

To determine the location, sites and duration of the roosting sites of birds.

Geographic Coverage

All of Britain.

Temporal Coverage

The winter of 1953/54 until 1956/57. After a break of a year it was reinstated as a permanent enquiry of the Trust in March 1958. It was never formally ended (as far as can

be determined) although the last note about it in *Bird Study* or *BTO News* was in March 1963 after which it essentially fizzled out.

Other Interested parties

The survey was organised and run as a Trust-aided Enquiry.

Organiser(s)

At the start Bruce Campbell (as BTO Secretary) looked after the survey. In late 1955 Jennifer Sayers (who became Mrs Gossling) took over all aspects until 1958. At the point it became a standing (permanent) enquiry in March 1958 Bruce Campbell took it back again.

Current Staff Contact

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Publications

There was no formal report on the survey but progress reports appeared in *Bird Study* 1: 121-123 and 2: 157-158. A preliminary typescript report produced in 1958 by Jennifer Sayers is in the archives although it was not thought worthy of publication. The survey was noticed in *BTO Bulletin* numbers 50, 51 and 52; in all issues of *Bird Study* for 1954, 1955 and 1956 and in most issues to Mar 1963.

Available from NBN?

No.

Computer data -- location

None.

Computer data -- outline contents

N/A/.

Computer data -- description of contents

N/A.

Information held in BTO Archives

1 archive box containing some letters and a typescript copy of a preliminary report by Jennifer Sayers; 2 Card Boxes contain data cards. The latter have been scanned.

Notes on Access and Use

Other information

Notes on Survey Design

Specific Issues for Analysis