



English Farm Woodland Bird Survey 2019

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Letter of Introduction

Dear Sir/Madam

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is coordinating a survey of farm woodland birds, commissioned by Natural England, as part of a study to conserve woodland birds and to inform climate change adaptation management. .

Creating new habitat is a key feature of policy to mitigate the effects of climate change, but is not easy to monitor when habitats like woodland take decades to mature. Hence, there are few data available to inform sound policy and management advice about where best to locate new woods and what tree species to plant. However, the Farm Woodland Scheme (FWS) and Farm Woodland Premium Scheme (FWPS) in England, dating from the 1990s, give us a 'natural experiment' in which we can now see how birds have colonised woods planted on farmland.

The survey is being organized by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) (www.bto.org/surveys/farmwoods) and the survey work will be conducted by volunteer birdwatchers. Specifically, surveyors are, with your consent, being asked to visit the selected woods four times between March and July 2019. These will be in the early morning, to walk around and through the woodland area recording all of the birds present by sight and/or sound. The data will then be collated and analysed by BTO scientists for reporting back to us. Summaries of the data from individual holdings will be available from autumn 2019 and these will then be sent to all interested landowners who have allowed surveys to be undertaken.

Any help you can give the bearer of this letter in allowing access to privately owned land would be very much appreciated.

This survey is just one of the many short-term and on-going projects on birds carried out by BTO volunteers. Please do not hesitate to telephone or email if you would like more information about the survey, or the work of the BTO.

Many thanks for your help

**Dr Daria Dadam & Dr Greg Conway EFWS
Survey organisers**