



Garden Rook Survey

Survey Instructions

Please read these instructions before starting to collect data for the Garden Rook Survey.

Welcome to the BTO Garden Rook Survey! These instructions are designed to answer any questions you might have about the survey but if you're still not sure, visit the [FAQ page](#) or email us at gbw@bto.org.

If you manage to take photos or films of Rooks in your garden, please share them with us either by emailing gbw@bto.org or adding them to our Flickr album: http://www.flickr.com/groups/bto_gbw/.

N.B. If you regularly get Rooks in your garden exhibiting the same behaviours, you do not need to fill in the survey each time you see them. We are interested in the frequency of the behaviours so please keep a running tally of how many times you see the behaviour throughout the duration of the survey and report this to us at the end of December.

When: The survey runs from July 1st to December 31st 2014 - there are no other time restrictions.

What to look for:

Essential information:

- Type of behaviour: Feeding, Caching, Tolerance, Object Play, Social and Vocalisation (see the [Guide to Rook Behaviour](#) for guidance).
 - Please also make a note of what the birds were specifically doing as there are some sub-categories on the survey form (e.g. eating from a bird feeder)
- How many birds were involved in the specific behaviour – one, a pair, multiple? If you are confident that you can tell a juvenile Rook from a Carrion Crow (see [ID page](#)), then please also note the age-group involved.
- Time of day – morning, afternoon or evening? If you are keeping a tally over the survey period and the time of day varies, please note that down.

If you do not regularly get Rooks in your garden, we still need your one-off records. In addition to the essential information above, for one-off records please also note the month the behaviour took place in and the basic weather conditions (e.g. sunny, cloudy, rain, snow)

Additional information:

- There will be comment boxes for more detailed information about the behaviours should you wish to tell us.
 - *Innovative behaviour:* If you see a behaviour that you believe is innovative (an unusual or rare novel behaviour that solves a problem), please keep this separate from other behaviours and record it the Innovations part of the survey.
 - *Previous observations:* If you saw interesting Rook behaviour before July 1 2014 and want to tell us about it, please do so in the comments box at the end of the survey.
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