

# BIRDS AND GARDEN BERRIES STUDY

## Berry depletion survey

This is an **optional component** but it would be great if you could help with this part of our wider project on Birds and Garden Berries. We want to find out how the availability of berries on different shrubs changes over the course of the winter. With your help, we can do this by making regular counts of the berries on a shrub, or part of a shrub, to find out how quickly they disappear over the winter. We are only interested in shrubs that are in a garden setting.

Please print your name here

Please print your address and postcode

**WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?** Select one of the shrubs in your garden and decide whether you are going to keep track of all of the berries on the shrub or just those on part of the shrub (for example on one particular branch, perhaps marked with a piece of tape). Count the number of berries present, grouped according to whether they are unripe, ripe or damaged and enter the counts on the form, along with the date on which you made the count. Repeat the process periodically (ideally weekly) throughout the winter.

If you have different species/varieties of berry-bearing shrubs in your garden then do consider submitting records from them as well; having information from the same weeks at the same site for different plant species provides valuable information. You can also keep a record for different branches on the same bush if you want, since berry depletion rates may vary with where on the plant the berries are carried (e.g. berries on the top of a shrub may be taken preferentially by birds). This form has space for records from three different plants or three different areas on one plant. Request more forms, photocopy this one or download one from our website if you can provide more records.

<b>Plant:</b> <small>Enter name (e.g. Mountain Ash)</small>				<b>Variety:</b> <small>Enter variety, if known (e.g. Sorbus 'Eastern Promise')</small>			
<b>Is this a bush, a shrub or a tree?</b> Bush <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub <input type="checkbox"/> Tree <input type="checkbox"/> <small>Please tick one box</small>				<b>Fruit colour:</b> <small>What colour are the fruit/berries when ripe? - e.g. pink</small>			
<b>Are you counting the whole bush/shrub or just part of it?</b> Whole <input type="checkbox"/> Part <input type="checkbox"/> <small>Please tick one box</small>				<small>If you are counting part of the plant, please record the approximate height off the ground of the piece you are surveying.</small> 0 to 2ft <input type="checkbox"/> 2ft to 4ft <input type="checkbox"/> 4ft to 6ft <input type="checkbox"/> >6ft <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Berry counts:</b> <i>If you are unsure whether the berries are ripe or not, place a line through the 'Unripe' box and count all the berries as 'Ripe'.</i>							
<b>Date</b> <small>e.g. 21/10</small>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Unripe							
Ripe							
Damaged							
<b>Date</b>	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Unripe							
Ripe							
Damaged							
<small>Please list any bird species seen taking berries/fruits from anywhere on this bush/shrub/tree.</small>							

Please return completed forms to: Birds and Garden Berries Study, GBW, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU.

More details on other aspects of the Birds and Garden Berries Study, including a guide to common berry-producing shrubs, can be found in your survey pack or can be requested from the above address. Information is also available via our website: [www.bto.org/gbw](http://www.bto.org/gbw)



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