

Winter Transects 1969

Title

Winter Transects 1969

Description and Summary of Results

At a meeting of the International Bird Census Committee in Sweden in June 1969 there was a strong feeling that a survey of birds in winter with the aim of monitoring fluctuations in numbers of winter passerines would be very useful if a suitable method could be devised. The intention was to try it out in winter 1969/70 and report back to the IBCC meeting to be held in September 1970. Consequently a Pilot Survey was run in several countries. It was decided to do this with strict adherence to some general rules as this would facilitate comparisons and evaluation of the results.

In the event a fair number of people did transects in the UK, but it seems that no use was made of the data and the project never got any further.

A report to the April 1970 meeting of the Populations & Surveys Committee of the Trust concluded that there were too many species involved and that differences in the competence of the observers would vary too much especially on the amount of habitat information which could be collected. It was agreed it was not practicable in its present form as there were far too many variables.

Methods of Data Capture

The preliminary rules for the Pilot Survey were set out and observers were asked to stick to these rigidly. They were: a) the route should be roughly circular; b) the same route should be walked each year; c) counting should be primarily of passerines, near passerines and birds of prey and should avoid areas with waterfowl if possible; d) the length of the route should be about 8km and take about 3.5 to 4 hours; e) the whole should encompass as much habitat diversity as possible but should remain within one 10-km square of the National Grid; f) the start should be at sunrise; g) the route should be walked in the last fortnight of December (Europe) or first half of January (North America); h) each route should be covered once each winter; i) the route should be carried out under the best possible weather conditions.

Purpose of Data Capture

To determine if a method could be found to monitor passerine birds in winter.

Geographic Coverage

All over the UK.

Temporal Coverage

December 1969 with the chosen route to be walked once between 13 and 31 December.

Other Interested parties

The original proposal was in conjunction with the International Bird Census Committee.

Organiser(s)

Ken Williamson

Current Staff Contact

archives@bto.org

Publications

The proposal is set out in *BTO News* no. 36: 4.

There do not appear to be any further publications or published notes.

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 Transfer case contains data sheets, letters and maps from the observers who took part. Most (excluding the largest sheets) have been scanned.

Notes on Access and Use**Other information**

Notes on Survey Design

Specific Issues for Analysis