



Breeding Woodcock Survey

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Letter of Introduction

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Game & Wildlife Conservancy Trust and the British Trust for Ornithology are coordinating ongoing annual monitoring surveys of breeding Woodcock using randomly selected woodland sites across Britain and Ireland. The bearer of this letter is participating in the survey.

In a recent review of the population status of birds in the UK, the Woodcock was 'Red Listed' as a bird of conservation concern because of a long-term decline in breeding range, which decreased by more than 50% between 1970 and 2010. The purpose of this annual survey is to monitor population trends at a subset of sites between full national population censuses which are conducted every ten years and aim to compare changes since the previous national surveys in 2003 and 2013. The monitoring will also investigate the bird's woodland habitat preferences.

This survey requires the birdwatcher to make observations within a wood, which may not normally be open to the public. The volunteer will need access to paths, rides or glades within the wood. The survey comprises four visits to the same site at dusk between 1st April and 30th June.

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

The breeding Woodcock 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 on the survey, or visit the GWCT or BTO websites for information about the survey and the organisations.

Many thanks for your help

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