

The Big Farmland Bird Count Information Sheet



The aim of the Big Farmland Bird Count is to help raise awareness of the important role that farmers play in the survival of farmland bird populations. It will provide an opportunity for farmers to actually demonstrate what their work and effort delivers on the ground. Don't forget you can upload your count information online at www.gwct.org.uk/bfbc

Please complete as much of the following information as possible as it will help us to accurately record your survey details.

1. Contact and Farm Details.

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Address | |
| | |
| | |
| Post Code | |
| Grid Reference (if known) | |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Farm Size ha | |
|--------------|--|

2. What are the main enterprises on your farm? Please could you tick all that apply

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Arable – Combinable Cropping | | Poultry – Free Range | |
| Arable – Field vegetables | | Poultry – Housed | |
| Horticulture - | | Pigs – Out door | |
| Beef / Sheep | | Pigs – In door | |
| Diary | | Top fruit | |
| Others not listed | | | |

3. Is your farm in an Environmental Stewardship Scheme? Yes/No

| Environmental Stewardship | Please Tick as appropriate |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| ELS | |
| HLS | |
| Other Scheme | |

4. Is there a shoot on your farm? Yes/No

5. If yes do you release birds? Yes/No

Please return completed sheets to BFBC, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire. SP6 1BR

This project has been kindly sponsored by BASF



Guidelines for your count

- Please count the birds at your chosen site for ½ hour between Friday 9th & Sunday 18th February.
- We would recommend that the count takes place at first light to see maximum activity.
- If possible the count should take place in clear dry weather. Please do not count in the fog.
- Your count area should be approximately 2ha and ideally it should all be visible from one vantage point.
- Only record the highest number of each bird species you see at the same time. Don't count the total over the half hour as you may get the same birds visiting more than once.
- Only count those birds within your survey area/ field.

Detail of your count

1. Where did you do your count? Please record details of the main use of the farm land where you carried out your count by ticking the boxes below.

On arable land

Yes/No

| If yes Cropping / Land use | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Bare Ground | Stubbles | Winter crop | Other- please specify |
| | | | |

On grassland

Yes/No

| If yes tick land use as appropriate and indicate livestock type | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Permanent with livestock | Permanent without livestock | Temporary ley with livestock | Temporary ley without livestock |
| | | | |

2. Which of the following features are adjacent to or within your survey areas please tick all that are present.

| | | | |
|---------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Hedgerows | | Ditch (wet or dry) | |
| Woodland | | Trees Hedgerow/Field | |
| Ponds | | Scrub | |
| Grass margins | | | |
| Stream/River | | | |

3. What was the weather like during the survey? Please tick as appropriate

| | | | |
|---------------|--|--------------|--|
| Clear & Sunny | | Overcast | |
| Rain | | Sleet / Snow | |
| Frost | | Snow Cover | |

4. Please indicate what time your count took place (please use 24 hour clock):
5. Is there any supplementary feeding taking place at your count site? Yes/No
If yes please complete the box below

| Type of feeding | yes/ no | Additional Information | |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Hoppers | | Number of hoppers in place | |
| Wild seed mix | | Plants in the mix | Area (ha) |
| | | | |
| Game cover | | Plants in the mix | Area (ha) |
| | | | |
| Scatter feeding | | Type of seed | |
| | | | |

What did you see? Please record the maximum number of birds seen at any one time.
Where the species are not listed please add as required.

| Species | Number | Species | Number |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| Barn owl | | Lapwing | |
| Barnacle goose | | Lesser black backed gull | |
| Bittern | | Little owl | |
| Black headed gull | | Linnet | |
| Blackbird | | Long tail tit | |
| Blackcap | | Magpie | |
| Blue tit | | Mallard | |
| Brambling | | Mandarin | |
| Brent goose | | Marsh harrier | |
| Bullfinch | | Marsh tit | |
| Buzzard | | Meadow pipits | |
| Canada goose | | Merlin | |
| Carrion crow | | Mistle thrush | |
| Chaffinch | | Moorhen | |
| Coal tit | | Mute swan | |
| Collared dove | | Nuthatch | |
| Common crane | | Oyster catcher | |
| Common gull | | Peregrine falcon | |
| Common tern | | Pheasant | |
| Coot | | Pied wagtail | |
| Cormorant | | Other | |
| Corn bunting | | Pinkfooted goose | |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Curlew | | Pochard | |
| Dipper | | Raven | |
| Dunnock | | Red kite | |
| Egret (Little) | | Red leg partridge | |
| Egyptian geese | | Redpoll | |
| Fieldfare | | Redshank | |
| Firecrest | | Redwing | |
| Gadwall | | Reed bunting | |
| Goldcrest | | Ring necked parakeet | |
| Golden plover | | Robin | |
| Goldeneye | | Rook | |
| Goldfinch | | Ruddy duck | |
| Greenshank | | Shelduck | |
| Goosander | | Short eared owl | |
| Great tit | | Shoveler | |
| Greater spotted woodpecker | | Siskin | |
| Grebe (Little) | | Skylark | |
| Grebe (Great crested) | | Snipe | |
| Green sandpiper | | Song thrush | |
| Green woodpecker | | Sparrowhawk | |
| Greenfinch | | Starling | |
| Grey partridge | | Stock dove | |
| Grey wagtail | | Stone chat | |
| Greylag goose | | Tawny owl | |
| Hen harrier | | Teal | |
| Heron | | Tree creeper | |
| Herring gull | | Tree sparrow | |
| Hooded crow | | Tufted duck | |
| House sparrow | | Twite | |
| Jackdaw | | Water rail | |
| Jay | | Waxwing | |
| Kestrel | | Wigeon | |
| King fisher | | Willow tit | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Other species | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Final Questions

Just a few final questions that would be useful to have answers for:

1. Which of the following are you?

| | Please tick |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Farmer | |
| Gamekeeper | |
| Conservation Advisor | |
| Ornithologist | |
| Landowner | |

2. Are you a LEAF Marque Farmer? Yes/No
3. Are you a GWCT Member Yes/No
4. Are you a FWAG Member Yes/No
5. Are you a member of a facilitation fund or farmer cluster group? Yes/No
6. If so, which one?
7. How did you hear about the Big Farmland Bird Count?

| | Please tick |
|------------------------|-------------|
| GWCT Website | |
| GWCT Email | |
| Twitter | |
| Facebook | |
| Your local FWAG Group | |
| LEAF Email | |
| Other (please specify) | |