

HOS Survey Strategy

Background

HOS has a strong tradition of supporting both national surveys and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP) in monitoring rare breeding birds. In addition, HOS members have a great track record of performing quality fieldwork monitoring both rare and difficult to study species in the county. To ensure coverage in maintained the HOS Scientific Committee will review the survey programme on an annual basis using this survey strategy as the basis for planning surveys in the county.

Table 1: Recent surveys completed by HOS volunteers

Year	Species/Group	Narrative
2016	Hobby	Three-year survey in New Forest completed (HOS)
2016	Willow Tit	Three-year survey completed in north-west (HOS/HIWWT)
2016	Cetti's Warbler	HOS survey completed
2016	Firecrest	Wild New Forest / HOS survey completed
2016	Water Rail	HOS survey completed
2017	Corn Bunting	HOS survey completed
2017	Turtle Dove	HOS survey completed
2018	Dartford Warbler	New Forest survey completed (FE/NE/HOS)
2018	Nightingale	Survey completed (HOS/HIWWT)
2019	Nightjar	New Forest survey completed (FE/NE/HIWWT)
2019	Woodlark	New Forest survey completed (FE/NE/HOS)
2019	Hen Harrier	BTO monthly winter roost survey completed (HOS)
2019	Hen Harrier	New Forest daily winter roost survey completed (FE/NE/HOS)
2019	Curlew	New Forest survey completed (FE/NE/HOS)
2019	Large gulls	HOS rooftop drone survey of nesting birds
2020	NF Waders	New Forest survey completed (FE/WNF)
2020	Willow Tit	Survey of known locations (HOS/RSPB)
2020	Large Gulls	HOS rooftop drone surveys of large gull colonies
2020	Hen Harrier	New Forest daily winter roost survey completed (FE/NE/HOS)
2021	Snipe	FE survey – repeat sample of core areas surveyed in 2020 (20%) and survey outlying areas not covered in 2020.
2021	Sand Martin	Survey of known colonies
2021	Hen Harrier	New Forest daily winter roost survey completed (FE/NE/HOS)
2022	Marsh Tit	HOS survey completed
2022	Ringed Plover	HOS survey completed
2022	Little Ringed Plover	HOS survey completed
2022	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	HOS survey completed
2022	Sand Martin	HOS survey completed of known colonies – was this an continuation of 2021 survey
2022	Hen Harrier	New Forest daily winter roost survey completed (FE/NE/HOS)
2023	Dartford Warbler	County-wide survey completed (an FE/NE funded survey involving volunteers)

Current and upcoming surveys as discussed by the Scientific Committee, and proposed surveys discussed and put forward by the Committee are detailed in Table 2.

Table 2: Current and proposed surveys up to next Atlas period

Year	Species/Group	Coordinator	Narrative
Ongoing	Hen Harrier (BTO)	Keith Betton	Monthly survey of known Hen Harrier roosts, NF and Bransbury Common, Oct – Mar
Ongoing	Hen Harrier (HOS)	Keith Betton	Daily survey of core NF roost sites, Oct/Nov – Mar
Ongoing	NF wintering species	Jane Calderin	New Forest Winter Bird Survey – long running survey monitoring long term trends of common wintering species (originally established as a Shrike Survey)
2022	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Ken Smith/Rob Clements	County wide survey
2022	Sand Martin	Georgie Digby	Repeat of 2021 survey
2022	Ringed Plover	Trevor Codlin /Marcus Ward	Vulnerable species, coordinated effort to gauge population and raise profile of species
2022	Little Ringed Plover	John Clark	RBBP scarce species. Establish repeatable survey
2023	Dartford Warbler	tbc	Repeat of 2018 survey
2024	Little Owl	tbc	Declining species that is poorly covered in Hants
2024	Corn Bunting	tbc	Brought forward to align with Sussex OS
2025	Tree Pipit	tbc	Would benefit from county wide survey, stable in NF. Date aligned with Sussex OS
2025	Lapwing	tbc	Vulnerable species, well covered in NF but would benefit from county-wide survey following recent declines
2025	Marsh Tit	tbc	Establish repeatable survey, countywide. Brought forward to 2022
2026	Sand Martin	tbc	Repeat of 2021 survey
2026	Cetti's Warbler	tbc	Repeat of 2016 survey
2027	Water Rail	tbc	Repeat of 2016 survey
2029	Woodlark	tbc	Repeat of 2019 survey
Proposed ongoing	Jack Snipe	tbc	Poorly understood, new technology makes surveying for the species easier and more reliable.
Proposed ongoing	Communal winter roosts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red kite • Little egret • Marsh harrier • Starling • Pied wagtail • Cormorant • Thrushes • Finches 	Various Keith Betton Marcus Ward/ John Clark All tbc	Map and monitor communal roosts & create database of winter roost site locations.

3rd party fieldwork in Hampshire

Regular annual surveys organised by the BTO which are undertaken by HOS members, in addition to these are the species-specific survey organised by the BTO, often at short notice, are detailed in Table 3. HOS should remain flexible to ensure capacity to support such surveys. We can assume that BTO will organise the next atlas from 2028. We need to be mindful to ensure we retain enough volunteer capacity to cover BTO national surveys.

Table 3: BTO surveys supported by HOS & HOS members

Survey	Period
BBS	Annual (April-June)
WeBS	Annual (monthly year-round)
Heronries	Annual Spring
Woodcock	National survey completed 2023, volunteers optionally continuing on ongoing annual basis
Winter Gull	Winters 2023/24 and 2024/25
Garden Bird Watch (GBW)	Weekly counts of birds in member gardens
Nest recording	Various, ongoing
Ringling studies	Various, ongoing

The species listed in table 4 includes priority species (RBBP species, red listed or of conservation concern) that occur in Hampshire and are being monitored by privately HOS members or other organisations. The Scientific Committee should remain in contact with the coordinator to keep up to date at least annually and to ensure that at a minimum data is made available to the county recorder.

Table 4: Species surveys carried out by HOS members or study groups in the county

Species	Period	Area	Coordinator	Objective
Honey Buzzard	2021	Hampshire	Rob Clements	RBBP survey
LS Woodpecker	Ongoing	New Forest	Rob Clements	Nest monitoring
Stone Curlew	Ongoing	Hampshire	RSPB	Breeding productivity
Peregrine	Ongoing	Hampshire	Keith Betton	Nest monitoring
Hawfinch	Ongoing	New Forest	Marcus Ward	Population density/Roost site surveys
Lesser Redpoll	Ongoing	New Forest	Marcus Ward	Population density/productivity
Woodland birds	Ongoing	New Forest	Wild New Forest	Repeat common bird survey
Nightingale	Ongoing	Hampshire	Trevor Codlin	Breeding productivity
Wood Warbler	Ongoing	New Forest	Tony Davis	Breeding productivity
Raven	Ongoing	New Forest	Wild New Forest	Nest mapping
Curlew	Ongoing	New Forest	Andy Page/WNF / GWCT	Breeding productivity
Lapwing	Ongoing	New Forest	Andy Page/WNF	Nest mapping/productivity
Woodlark	2021	North-east Hants	John Eyre	GPS tagging / breeding productivity
Little Tern (and Common and Sandwich Tern)	2021-23	Coast	RSPB/Pete Potts / Marcus Ward	Productivity / colour-ringing
Common Swift	Ongoing	Hampshire	Hants Swifts	Local surveys organised by Hants Swifts

Barn Owl	Ongoing	Hampshire	Matt Stevens	Nest Box Scheme
Hobby	Ongoing	New Forest	Rob Clements	Population density
Woodcock	Ongoing	New Forest	Manny Hinge / GWCT	