



BTO DATA SOURCES

INTRODUCTION

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is a registered charity that was established in 1933. We perform a number of roles, one of which is the organisation of nationwide surveys to monitor the status of Britain's birds. We are widely respected for our independence and sound science, consequently our survey results are frequently used by conservation groups such as RSPB, the Government, environmental consultants and scientific researchers. The BTO encourages the use of its data whenever conservation, environmental education or biological research will benefit as a result.

Information on our surveys and examples of the types of data that are available from them are detailed in the rest of this information sheet. Searching these databases for information on a specific site involves a large amount of staff time and consequently we have to charge £25 +VAT to conduct a search. If data are subsequently purchased the search fee is deducted from the cost of the data. The cost of the data reflects the amount of time and money spent in collecting them, no profit is made from selling the information. To enquire about the costs of specific data, or to authorise a search or to purchase data please contact us at the address above.

New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991

Most 10-km squares in the UK were covered by the survey, and at least eight tetrads were covered in each square. Summary lists detailing which species definitely bred and which possibly bred in each 10-km square are available. Similar data at the tetrad level are available but these also list the number of pairs recorded for each species in each tetrad and for the 10-km square as a whole. The data are only fully comprehensive at the 10-km square level and not at the tetrad level.

Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1981/82 - 1983/84

This survey covered most of the 10-km squares in the UK. For each square, the maximum count recorded for each species during the survey period is available. There are no data available at a finer resolution than 10-km squares.

Common Birds Census: 1961-2000

Data are available on a site or species basis. For each site, annual summary sheets can be supplied providing a list of the species recorded and numbers of territories for each survey year. There are corresponding habitat folders for each plot containing site maps and vegetation details which can be consulted at the BTO. For each species, indices of population change are available.

Waterways Bird Survey: 1974 onwards

Data are available in the same format as the Common Birds Census.

Breeding Bird Survey: 1994 onwards

This survey monitors the breeding birds of 2,000 randomly selected 1-km squares throughout the UK. Species lists and an estimation of population size are available for each of these squares.

Wetland Bird Survey: 1992 onwards "Core" and "Low Tide" Counts

(Low Tide Count data are supplied by BTO; Core data are supplied by WWT tel: 01453 890333)

This survey is carried out in conjunction with RSPB, WWT and JNCC and is an extension of the Birds of Estuaries Enquiry which started in 1969. The "Core" survey covers over 2,500 diverse wetland sites throughout the UK, including inland sites. Counts of all wildfowl and waders are made every month throughout the winter period, and frequently throughout the year. Counts on estuaries are usually made at high tide when birds are most easily counted. At some sites, gulls and terns are also counted. Data are available in one of two standard formats:

Monthly tabulations -	raw data from monthly counts for one year
Summary tabulations -	average and peak monthly counts, seasonal maxima and the proportion of national/international populations, calculated for a number of years

Low Tide Counts are conducted at most large estuaries in at least one winter every seven years, with up to four