

## The newsletter for BTO members and volunteers in Dorset

Spring 2023

### Welcome

Welcome to the spring newsletter for BTO members and volunteers in Dorset. Thank you to everyone who supports BTO through membership, volunteering for survey work, ringing, nest recording, Garden BirdWatch or entering bird records into BirdTrack. Your help and support are really appreciated.

### New BTO Regional Representative is Pete Cadogan

“At the start of March, I became the BTO Regional Representative for Dorset. With the new survey season soon upon us, this timing is not ideal, but I am learning the ropes and keen to get going in the role. I grew up in Devon, have lived near Wimborne since 1969 and been involved in BBS surveys since 2016. I’ve always loved birds but am no expert on them, and will happily lean on your expertise where appropriate, while tackling the admin of the role, attempting to recruit new volunteers (with your assistance) and promoting the BTO, its work and birds as a whole as widely as possible, especially to younger people.”

### BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey and Waterways Breeding Bird Survey

We are currently gearing up for spring and the imminent survey season. The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and Waterways Breeding Bird Survey (WBBS) are important surveys that provide information on population trends for over 110 bird species in the UK, and the data are used in a wide range of research. This is the perfect time to consider taking on a BBS square or WBBS stretch.

BBS/WBBS surveys require an optional recce visit in early spring to record habitat and check the route, and two visits to record birds (and optionally mammals) between early April and late June. There is also the option to make additional visits to record butterflies later in the summer.

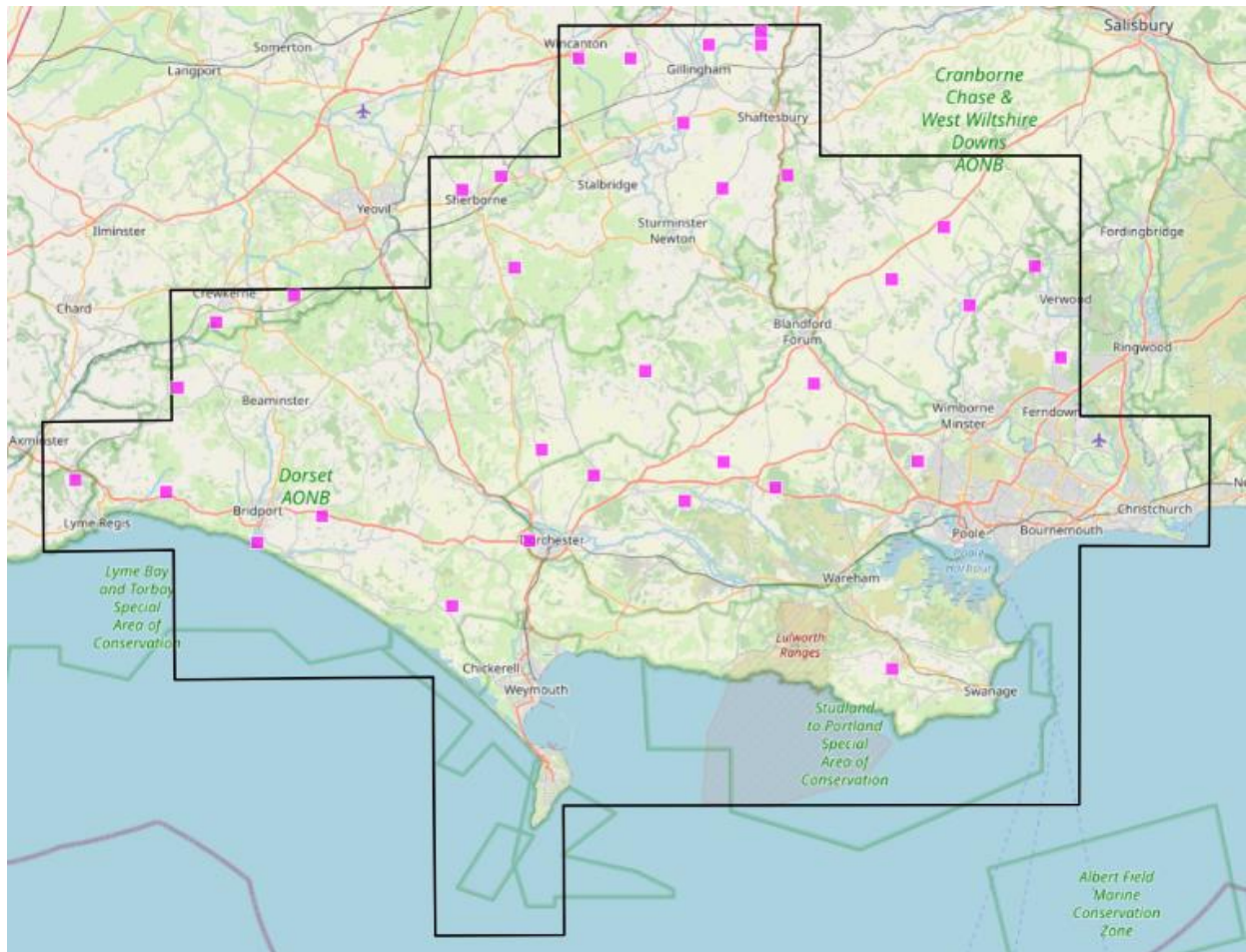
Dorset has been allocated some fresh squares for the 2023 season, so check out these new opportunities.

To take on a square or stretch, you need to be able to identify by sight and sound the species you are likely to find in the square or stretch.

If you are an existing BBS/ WBBS surveyor who is looking to take on an additional square or stretch, you can find out how to do so below.

Equally, if you are an existing BBS/WBBS volunteer and need to retire from surveying or have a year out of surveying in 2023, please get in touch with us using the contact details listed at the end of this newsletter.

The pink dots on this map mark the vacant BBS squares. You can find these squares listed below.



Blackdown	ST4002	Edmondsham	SU0611
Henley, nr Crewkerne	ST4307	West Moors	SU0804
N Perrott	ST4909	Whitty Down, Harcombe	SY3295
Wincanton	ST7127	Tizard's Knap, nr Morcomblake	SY3994
Cucklington	ST7527	West Bay	SY4690
Lower Ansty	ST7603	Cuckold's Crnr, nr Askerswell	SY5192
West Stour	ST7922	East Hill, nr Nether Cerne	SY6897
Bowridge, nr Gillingham	ST8128	Stinsford	SY7191
E Orchard, nr Fontmell Magna	ST8217	H Waterston	SY7295
Pitts Lane, nr Sedgehill	ST8528	Whitcombe, nr Piddletrenthide	SY7299
New Leaze, nr Sedgehill	ST8529	Southover, nr Tolpuddle	SY7993
Compton Abbas	ST8718	Roke, nr Milborne St Andrew	SY8296
The Glebe, nr Spetisbury	ST8902	Lulworth Camp	SY8381
Launceston Dn, Long Crichel	ST9510	Broomhill, nr Bere Regis	SY8694
Gussage Dn	ST9914	Lynch, nr Corfe Castle	SY9580
Horton Inn	SU0108	Pelhams, Kinson	SZ0796

There is currently one vacant WBBS stretch looking for a volunteer to survey it. This is along the River Frome near Frampton.

We are keen to improve the coverage in Dorset, so if you are interested, please have a look online here (BBS squares): <https://app.bto.org/bbs/public/request-square.jsp> or here (WBBS stretches) <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/waterways-breeding-bird-survey>. Alternatively, you can email [bbs@bto.org](mailto:bbs@bto.org) or Pete Cadogan (BTO Rep) [pcadogan361@gmail.com](mailto:pcadogan361@gmail.com) for further information.

## Woodcock Survey

This summer will be the third national Woodcock survey, the previous being undertaken in 2003 and 2013.

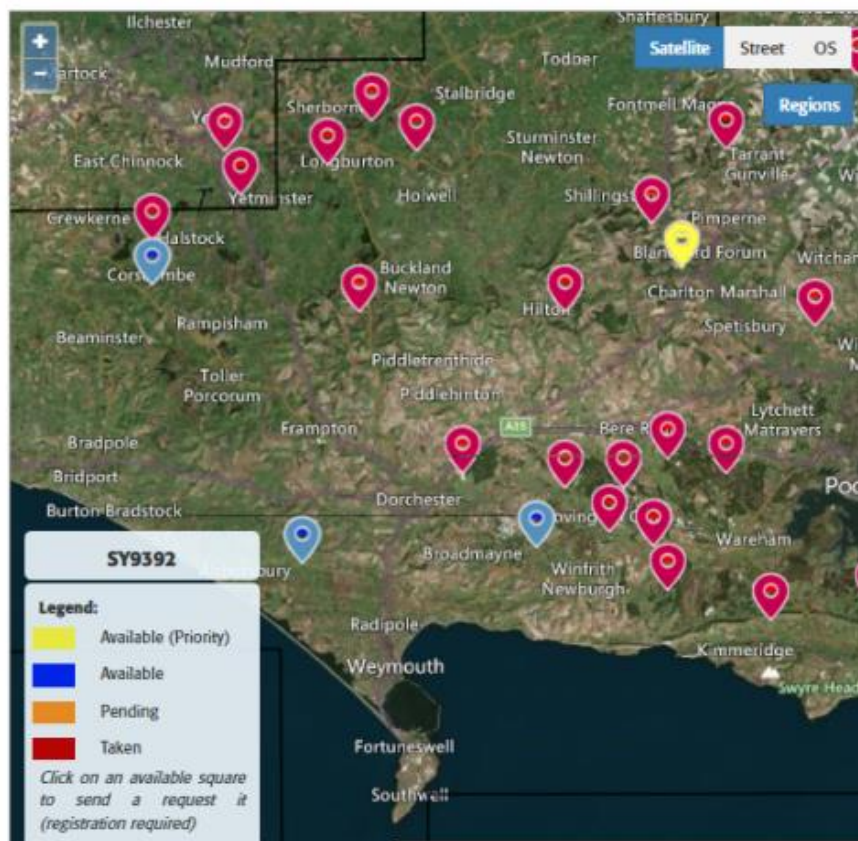
Indications from annual monitoring since 2013 suggest that the population may have decreased further. The 2023 survey will be key to providing the best possible assessment of the population status, as well as further helping to understand the causes of the population decline and also inform the Woodcock shooting policy review.

The main focus will be to maximise coverage of the random selection of survey squares (Priority 1 & 2), to achieve a balanced sample of the four woodland area classes, which will provide the most accurate population estimate. Basically, the count period lasts 75 minutes. Counts should commence 15 minutes before sunset and finish 60 minutes after sunset, giving total survey duration of 75 minutes. During the 75-minute survey period all observations of Woodcock (in flight), both by sight and sound, will be recorded to the nearest minute and logged. Some basic information on Habitat and Deer presence will also be collected between mid-May and mid-June.



Rodriguez Woodcock: Neil Calbrade/BTO

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for a square already. There are just four available squares: Blandford Forum, Corscombe, Portesham and Moigne Combe. Just to the east, there are three squares just north of Ringwood. Full survey details are available on the BTO web site where you can register for a survey and request a square: <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/woodcock-survey>





## Your local Bird Club

Your local Bird Club is Dorset Bird Club. You can find out more about the club here: <https://dorsetbirds.co.uk/> They have a few outdoor meetings coming up, the next is on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Seacombe and Dancing Ledge - see <https://dorsetbirds.co.uk/our-events/> for more details.



### Contact details:

#### Regional Representative/ BBS Local Organiser/ WBBS Local Organiser:

Pete Cadogan Email: [pcadogan361@gmail.com](mailto:pcadogan361@gmail.com)

#### Regional Ambassador:

Greg Lambe Email: [greg.lambe1@gmail.com](mailto:greg.lambe1@gmail.com)

#### Garden BirdWatch Ambassadors:

Chris & Tricia Hilder: [chris.hilder@hotmail.com](mailto:chris.hilder@hotmail.com) & [tricia.hilder@btinternet.com](mailto:tricia.hilder@btinternet.com)

#### WeBS Local Organisers Dorset:

Dorset (excluding estuaries): Nicky Hoar

Email: [nicola.hoar@yahoo.com](mailto:nicola.hoar@yahoo.com)

Radipole & Lodmoor: Stephen Hales

Email: [steve\\_hales@btinternet.com](mailto:steve_hales@btinternet.com)

Poole Harbour: Paul Morton

Email: [paulolua@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paulolua@yahoo.co.uk)

The Fleet & Portland Harbour: Stephen Groves

Email: [cygnusolor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cygnusolor@yahoo.co.uk)

Twitter: @\_BTO

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/The.BTO>

Instagram: @btobirds

Website: [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org)

Photographs: Neil Calbrade/BTO

#### Sign up for BTO enews and hear more about BTO!

BTO enews: <https://www.bto.org/community/news/e-newsletter>

Science enews <https://www.bto.org/our-science/enews>