



Heathland Birds Survey 2025

BTO

The Nunnery
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Letter of Introduction

Dear Sir/Madam,

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) in partnership with the Royal Society of the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is coordinating a survey of Woodlark, Nightjar, Dartford Warbler in 2025. This work is funded by Natural England. The survey aims to cover all the main occupied sites as well as surrounding suitable habitats where these species may have expanded more recently. It will also record a number of other important heathland bird species. The bearer of this letter is participating in the survey.

The previous population estimates made for these key species are now almost 20 years old, so an updated population assessment is urgently needed. These three species are important features of protected sites, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Areas, which are vulnerable to habitat change.

This survey requires the birdwatcher to make observations within a 1-km square, which may not normally be open to the public. The volunteer will need access to the square and areas within the square which contain suitable habitat. The survey comprises of up to four morning visits (evening visits if recording Nightjar) between 15 February and 30 June.

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

The Heathland Birds 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 BTO website for information about the project: <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/heathland-birds-survey>

Many thanks for your help

BTO contact:

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