

# Hertfordshire Bird Atlas



Mapping the distribution of Hertfordshire's birds

## Roving Records Instructions

The Hertfordshire Bird Atlas aims to produce distribution maps for all bird species breeding and wintering in Hertfordshire. This project is being run in parallel with Bird Atlas 2007-11 which will produce maps of both distribution and relative abundance for the whole of Britain and Ireland.

For distribution maps to be comprehensive we need complete species lists for every tetrad in the county for the winter and breeding seasons. Roving Records are a means of submitting lists for grid squares, one-off records of hard to find species, and anything in between. They are also a means of accumulating evidence of breeding and for providing records of nocturnal species. Everyone can take part by supplying Roving Records.

### Hertfordshire Bird Atlas Tetrad Cards and Forms

The Hertfordshire Bird Atlas Winter Season Roving Records and Breeding Season Roving Records forms and cards provide an easy way to accumulate records for a particular tetrad for the season. The most common species are pre-printed, leaving space for you to enter the date (in the winter season) or highest breeding category established (in the breeding season) for each species using the standard codes. For the breeding season, please aim to improve the status to a higher category as the season progresses. Space is provided for you to add additional species. Although for the Hertfordshire Bird Atlas we do not need dates, please record separately the date of the highest breeding category on a Bird Atlas 2007-11 Roving Records Form. Providing visit details, including the time spent birdwatching in the tetrad, will allow us to take differences in effort into account during the analysis. It will help greatly if you are able to enter the records directly on the Bird Atlas 2007-11 website (see below) - please indicate whether or not you have done so.

### Bird Atlas 2007-11 Roving Records Forms

The Bird Atlas 2007-11 Roving Records forms can also be used to collect tetrad records for the Hertfordshire Bird Atlas, particularly for scarcer species that you may encounter away from your allocated tetrad. Although this form states that tetrad letter is "optional", please make every effort to assign your observations to a tetrad. Records at the 10km square level are usable for the national atlas but cannot be included in the county atlas. Please note, however, that records for some rare and sensitive species will not be made public at the tetrad scale and some not even at the 10km scale.

### Bird Atlas 2007-11 Online Entry

The Bird Atlas 2007-11 website ([www.birdatlas.net](http://www.birdatlas.net)) has the capability for you to enter your Roving Records online, allowing us to accumulate records as the project progresses and provide more timely feedback on progress. If you have access to the internet, please make use of this facility.

### BirdTrack

Any bird lists entered into BirdTrack ([www.birdtrack.net](http://www.birdtrack.net)) during the atlas period will contribute to Bird Atlas 2007-11 and the Hertfordshire Bird Atlas, as long as they can be ascribed to a sufficiently precise location. You can register new sites with BirdTrack to represent your tetrad and update existing sites to indicate whether or not they fall entirely within one tetrad.

Chris Dee - Hertfordshire BTO Regional Rep. and Hertfordshire Bird Atlas Organiser