

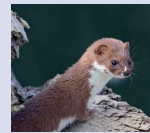
KEEP ON top of any rat infestations. You will need a certificate to use rat poison outside.



ARE YOUR Larsen traps in good condition? Remember, catching your decoy bird can sometimes take a while.



DID YOU know that the tiny weasel is closely related to the badger – they are both mustelids.



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Conservation

Creating the ultimate... *monitoring system*

Why should you investigate and record wildlife and habitats? The answer is simple – knowledge is power. Armed with population, distribution or quality data for a given subject, you can set about maintaining or improving things, and if you want to, you can share this information with conservationists and tell your story to encourage others. Before you survey and monitor on your land – be it a garden, woodland, paddock or farm – have a think about:

- What are you interested in?
- Time – how much do you have; how long-term are you thinking?
- How big an area do you want to cover and who will do it?
- How will you store, share and review your information?

Surveying is identifying a species or habitat, location, time and date, and keeping a record of it. But to assist conservation and investigate how your land is responding to management, it's advisable to collect this information in a structured, repeatable way and make sure it gets used.

If we all did a little bit of monitoring, we would know an awful lot more about our countryside – a great deal of private land just appears as 'blank' on the maps which is often far from the truth. So why not have a go at monitoring, submit the records where possible and let's help inform UK conservation.

For more advice please contact us on 01425 651013.

There are a range of national survey schemes for wildlife groups eg. the GWCT's Big Farmland Bird Count, the National Gamebag Census (see page 60), Glow Worm Survey and BeeWalk. If your subject has a national survey, follow the method and enter data there, and keep a copy for your own future comparisons. However, some schemes issue you a random survey area or are quite demanding, so just adapt it to your situation – but make sure you repeat it exactly the same way each year.



Methods that are quick to learn (eg. searching for harvest mouse nests, earthworm counts) can be done by anyone. For more skilled work (eg. birds, bumblebees) contact your local wildlife records centre or look out for courses from the GWCT, wildlife trusts and other groups to learn the skills yourself.

DID YOU KNOW?

It's possible to survey anything from birds, to your carbon footprint, aquatic bugs, bats, meadow flowers and more.



Jess Brooks is our farmland biodiversity advisor and has an in-depth knowledge of farmland wildlife and habitats.



MORE INFORMATION

Look at the monitoring guidance on the new Farmer Cluster website for inspiration – if you're not in a cluster, simply ignore the 'landscape scale' advice www.farmerclusters.com/monitoring.

Our Biodiversity Assessments are an easy way to monitor the wildlife you have on your land. Book yours today 01425 651013 or go to www.gwct.org.uk/shootbiodiversity.