

Survey Methods

Area Survey

This style of survey would be suitable for large open areas such as a school ground or a sports ground. A central point is chosen and then all birds up to 500m out from this central point are recorded over a period of 20 minutes. This would include birds that are seen overflying the area. They are often most suited to use with experienced observers as the freedom of movement allows them to cover greater distances but also makes collaboration more difficult.

Line Transect

This is best performed over a long, narrow survey area. A distance is measured out, normally 500m. At 50m and then at 100m i.e. 150m, 250m intervals the observers stand and picture distances between 0-15m, 15-30m and 30-50m away from the point. They record all the birds seen in each area over a 10 minute period. These types of surveys do not need to be performed in a straight line and so can utilise riversides or even paths through parkland so long as the same distance and timings are used consistently.

Once the data has been collected from each survey it will be uploaded into the climate watch database as a part of the national program that is tracking the change in abundance and distribution of birds over time. This can be done directly through their app and so can be performed shortly after the surveys are complete. This not only helps maintain the accuracy of the data but also helps the organisation maintain up to date records.