

Look-see survey – data for you to work with

1.1. What was the purpose of the project

The purpose of this project was to:

- Identify different species of birds seen on a walk alongside the rivers Thames and Thame in Dorchester on Thames.
- Determine how often they are seen over a period of time

1.2. When did the project take place

Nine visits were made between 23 February 2005 and 27 March 2005. The visits were made at different times of the day and lasted approximately one hour each.

1.3. Where did the project take place

The project took place in Dorchester on Thames. A walk was taken from the centre of the village to the river Thames and back via the river Thame.

The variety of habitats included open farmland, gardens in the village, edge of a wood and rivers.

1.4. Who was involved

The project was carried out by Mr Andrew Clements.

1.5. How was the project carried out

Andrew walked the same route each time looking for different species of birds. He used the following techniques to detect birds:

- Listening for different bird songs and calls to help locate their whereabouts.
- Looking in trees, hedges, on the fields, rivers, neighbouring properties / sites and in the air.
- If a species was positively identified he recorded the name of the bird in a notebook.
- If he was unsure of the bird's identity it was not recorded.
- He spoke to local people who frequently visited the area to gain knowledge as to the types of bird seen by them.

1.6. Results

	03-Mar	09-Mar	11-Mar	18-Mar	27-Mar	08-Apr	15-Apr	Total
Blackbird	1	1		1	1	1	1	6
Black-headed gull	1	1	1	1	1			5
Blue tit	1	1	1			1	1	5
Buzzard			1	1	1			3
Canada goose	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Carrion crow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Chaffinch	1	1		1	1	1	1	6
Chiffchaff					1			1
Collared dove		1						1
Coot		1	1	1				3
Fieldfare	1							1
Goldfinch			1				1	2
Goosander	1	1	1	1		1		5
Great crested grebe		1			1	1		3
Great tit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Greenfinch			1		1			2
Green woodpecker		1	1	1			1	4
Greylag goose						1		1
Grey heron	1	1	1			1		4
Jackdaw		1	1	1		1	1	5
Kestrel	1						1	2
Long-tailed tit		1	1			1		3
Magpie	1		1	1	1		1	5
Mallard	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Meadow pipit		1	1	1				3
Moorhen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Mute swan				1	1	1	1	4
Pheasant			1		1	1		3
Pied wagtail		1	1			1	1	4
Reed bunting	1		1		1	1		4
Red kite		1						1
Robin	1	1		1	1	1	1	6
Rook	1	1		1	1			4
Shelduck			1			1		2
Song thrush	1	1		1				3
Skylark		1	1		1	1	1	5
Starling				1			1	2
Swallow						1	1	2
Tufted Duck							1	1
Wigeon	1							1
Wood pigeon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Wren		1		1	1	1		4
Total	20	26	24	22	21	24	21	

The number 1 indicates that a bird was seen and positively identified.

1.7. Some interesting information from the data collected

Please complete the table below.

Most frequently seen	
Least frequently seen	
Number of different birds seen	
Most seen in one day	

Least seen in one day	
Average seen in one day	

1.8. Asking questions about the data

When analysing data it is important to think about things that may cause the results to be biased. For example consider the following questions and write some possible answers in the empty boxes.

How good was the recorder, Andrew, at identifying the birds?	
Are there any factors that might make the results different on one day than another?	
Were there any birds hiding?	

1.9. Presenting data in different ways

For the purpose of this exercise we will look at the top eleven water birds.

1.10. Restate data table

	03-Mar	09-Mar	11-Mar	18-Mar	27-Mar	08-Apr	15-Apr	Total
Canada goose	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Coot		1	1	1				3
Goosander	1	1	1	1		1		5
Great crested grebe		1			1	1		3
Greylag goose						1		1
Mallard	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Moorhen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Mute swan				1	1	1	1	4
Shelduck			1			1		2
Tufted duck							1	1
Wigeon	1							1
Total	5	6	6	6	5	8	5	

1.11. Block diagram

Prepare a block diagram or time line to represent the data in a graphical format.

1.12. Frequency chart

Prepare a frequency chart to show how many birds were seen.

1.13. Using the data for predictions

If you were to take the same walk in the Spring of 2006 which birds would you expect to see and which ones might you be lucky to see?

1.14. Comparison with another area

Compare the results of this survey with that carried out on the Hurst Water Meadow.

Identify differences and consider why these may have occurred.