

# Look-see survey – worked example

## 1.1. What was the purpose of the project

The purpose of this project was to:

- Identify different species of birds seen on and in the area of the Hurst Water Meadow
- 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.

## 1.3. Where did the project take place

The project took place on the Hurst Water Meadow in Dorchester on Thames. The Hurst Water Meadow is an island lying between the River Thame and the Overy mill stream. It usually floods in winter for a few days.

The variety of habitats provided by the pasture, the river, the trees, scrub and the 'wet woodland' encourages many wildlife species.

## 1.4. Who was involved

The project was carried out by Mr Andrew Clements.

## 1.5. How was the project carried out

Andrew walked around the perimeter of the water meadow 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 meadow, stream, 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 Hurst to gain knowledge as to the types of bird seen by them.

## 1.6. Results

Name	28-Feb	04-Mar	07-Mar	10-Mar	14-Mar	17-Mar	21-Mar	24-Mar	27-Mar	Total
Blackbird	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Blue tit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	8
Bullfinch				1	1					2
Carrion crow		1	1	1	1	1			1	6
Chaffinch		1	1	1	1					4
Chiffchaff								1		1
Dunnock					1					1
Great tit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Greenfinch		1								1
Green woodpecker						1				1
Grey wagtail				1						1
Grey heron	1	1	1						1	4
Jackdaw	1			1	1	1	1	1		6
Kestrel	1					1	1	1	1	5
Kingfisher			1		1					2
Long-tailed tit		1		1	1					3
Magpie							1	1	1	3
Mallard	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Moorhen	1	1		1		1		1		5
Pheasant						1	1	1		3
Reed bunting			1							1
Redwing		1								1
Robin	1		1		1	1		1		5
Rook		1		1						2
Song thrush	1	1	1	1		1			1	6
Mute swan					1		1			2
Treecreeper					1					1
Wood pigeon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Wren	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Total	12	15	12	15	16	14	11	12	11	

## 1.7. Some interesting information from the data collected

Most frequently seen	Blackbird, great tit, wood pigeon, wren
Least frequently seen	Chiffchaff, dunnock, greenfinch, green woodpecker, grey wagtail, reed bunting, redwing, treecreeper
Number of different birds seen	29
Most seen in one day	16
Least seen in one day	11
Average seen in one day	13

## 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 the following questions were considered along with answers:

How good was the recorder, Andrew, at identifying the birds?	Andrew is familiar with common garden birds but describes himself as a beginner when it comes to identifying birds accurately.
Are there any factors that might make the results different on one day than another?	Weather Time of day

	<p>Andrew spending less time on some visits</p> <p>Number of visitors to the site, particularly dog walkers</p> <p>Certain species of birds only visit the UK at certain times of the year, for example, redwing, chiffchaff</p>
Were there any birds hiding?	There were many days when birds could be heard and identified by their sound but these were not recorded unless seen. E.g. green woodpecker and robin heard many times more than seen.

### 1.9. Presenting data in different ways

For the purpose of this exercise I have concentrated on the top 12 birds seen on the Hurst.

### 1.10. Redraw data table

Name	28-Feb	04-Mar	07-Mar	10-Mar	14-Mar	17-Mar	21-Mar	24-Mar	27-Mar	Total
Blackbird	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Blue tit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	8
Carrion crow		1	1	1	1	1			1	6
Great tit	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Jackdaw	1			1	1	1	1	1		6
Kestrel	1					1	1	1	1	5
Mallard	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	8
Moorhen	1	1		1		1		1		5
Robin	1		1		1	1		1		5
Song thrush	1	1	1	1		1			1	6
Wood pigeon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Wren	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Total	11	9	8	10	9	12	8	9	9	

### 1.11. Block diagram

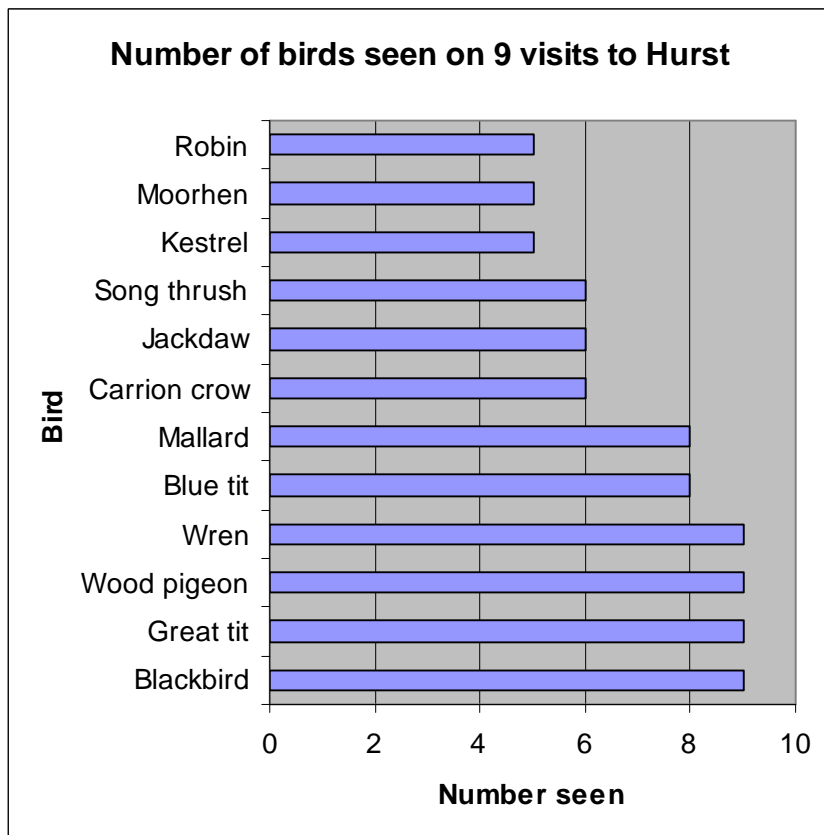
Name	28-Feb	04-Mar	07-Mar	10-Mar	14-Mar	17-Mar	21-Mar	24-Mar	27-Mar
Blackbird	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
Blue tit	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
Carrion crow	White	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
Great tit	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
Jackdaw	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
Kestrel	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
Mallard	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
Moorhen	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
Robin	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
Song thrush	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
Wood pigeon	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
Wren	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black

White blocks represent bird not seen.

### 1.12. Time line

Name	28-Feb	04-Mar	07-Mar	10-Mar	14-Mar	17-Mar	21-Mar	24-Mar	27-Mar
Blackbird									
Blue tit									
Carrion crow									
Great tit									
Jackdaw									
Kestrel									
Mallard									
Moorhen									
Robin									
Song thrush									
Wood pigeon									
Wren									

### 1.13. Frequency chart



### 1.14. Using the data for predictions

If you were to take a visitor to the Hurst in March 2006 you would probably see a blackbird, blue tit, crow, great tit, jackdaw, mallard, song thrush, wood pigeon and wren.

You may be lucky and see birds such as a bullfinch, green woodpecker, grey wagtail and tree creeper.