



## WEST MIDLAND BIRD CLUB

### WMBC 2017 Cannock Chase Bird Survey

This survey is devoted to the memory of Frank Gribble, MBE

#### Survey commitment – clarification of timings

This survey will ideally involve 10 visits between February and July 2017. There will be a number of standard early morning survey visit required between mid-March and July and three more targeted visits, i.e.

- (i) one for early breeding birds, and
- (ii) two for nightjars

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The following guidelines should therefore ensure both general and targeted species survey data is collected:

*Visit 1* : early February – site familiarisation/route planning visit if possible, to understand what habitats lie within your sector.

*Visit 2* : mid-February to mid-March – targeted for early breeders (including woodlark).

*Visit 3* : in last two weeks of March – standard morning visit

*Visit 4*: in first two weeks of April – standard morning visit

*Visit 5* : in last two weeks of April – standard morning visit

*Visit 6*: in first two weeks of May – standard morning visit

*Visit 7* : in last two weeks of May – evening nightjar visit\*

*Visit 8*: in first two weeks of June – standard morning visit

*Visit 9*: in last two weeks of June – evening nightjar visit OR standard morning visit\*

*Visit 10* : in first two weeks of July – evening nightjar visit OR standard morning visit\*

\* Which of these two periods is selected for the nightjar survey will be dependent on previous and current weather conditions.

This equates to 1 familiarisation and 9 survey visits in the year, which is an ambitious programme, but if achievable should produce a lot of records. In every case, there

should ideally be at least 2 weeks between each visit. The exception to this may be the targeted nightjar survey visits as there may be smaller windows of opportunity to find an evening with suitable weather conditions.

Should the above prove too ambitious for volunteers to sign up to, the following is suggested instead;

*Visit 1* : early February – familiarisation and route planning visit

*Visit 2* : mid-February to mid-March – targeted early breeders, including woodlark

*Visit 3* : late March to mid-May – standard morning visit

*Visit 4* : mid-May to end June – standard evening visit (including for nightjar)

*Visit 5* : July – bespoke evening visit for nightjar.

This will enable a spread of survey effort to include target species such as woodlark and nightjar.