

The B.T.O. Ornithological Atlas

After a successful start in 1968, the British Trust for Ornithology's ambitious project to map the breeding distribution of every species nesting in Britain and Ireland is now entering upon the second of its five years of field work. It is already clear that support in 1969 is going to be even greater than in 1968, the enthusiasm of observers who took part in the first year being contagious. Even so, much more help is required if the project is to achieve its aim of full coverage of Britain and Ireland. Most of the work is being done by individual observers taking responsibility for one of the 3,650 10-km squares in Britain and Ireland (generally the one nearest their home) and recording all evidence of nesting that they come across in that square during the year. In addition, however, everyone is asked to make a note of any nesting activity that they see anywhere in Britain or Ireland. These casual records are essential, especially in the remoter parts where resident ornithologists are thin on the ground. **Every single bird-watcher in Britain and Ireland can make a contribution to this project.**

Anyone willing to help, either by taking on a 10-km square or by supplying casual records, should contact their local organiser. A list of these organisers is given in the Ornithological Atlas Supplement to *B.T.O. News* no. 33, sent to all B.T.O. members. But participation in this important scheme is not limited to B.T.O. members and copies of the Atlas Supplement are obtainable from any of the following:

England and Wales Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, 59 Curlew Crescent, Bedford (full-time Atlas Organiser)

Scotland C. G. Headlam, Foulis Mains, Evanton, Ross-shire

Eire Major R. F. Rutledge, Doon, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow

Northern Ireland J. S. Furphy, 119 Graystown Avenue, Upper Malone, Belfast BT9 6UM

From the list of names and addresses in the Atlas Supplement you can contact the local organiser for your home area or for any area which you may be visiting on holiday. He will supply full details and recording cards. Your help could be especially valuable if you live or are holidaying in Scotland, Wales or Ireland.