

Fieldwork action

BTO news

Nightjars and Corn Buntings The year 1992 will be busy for BTO members.

In the 'Nightjar Survey', initial work in 1991 by volunteers and paid teams in selected centres found far more Nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* than expected, in spite of bad weather. In the New Forest, for instance, 300 churring males were found. We can hardly wait to see whether these trends are reflected in the national picture in 1992. If you would like to help in 1992, it is not too late to volunteer: just write to me.

The 'Corn Bunting Survey' will take place during the summers of 1992 and 1993, with some work at least during winter 1992/93. The survey will be organised by Dr Andy Evans at the BTO. Corn Buntings *Miliaria calandra* have suffered a reduction of 40% in their range in the last 20 years, a very serious contraction. Since Corn Buntings are associated with agricultural land, we need to collect habitat data in order to relate bird distribution to land use and then construct a model of their decline. It is possible that the Corn Bunting could be used as an indicator of the state of agriculture and that its population fluctuations could have implications for other species.

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