

Dear Birder

Goose and Swan Survey 2010-11

A survey to help planning applications that may affect geese, swans and the SPA

As Biodiversity Officer with East Lothian Council I am involved with many planning applications. There is a clear need for detailed information about geese in the wider countryside, to assist with planning proposals that may affect the Firth of Forth and its bird life. Although we know generally where they are, it is important to know which specific fields are used and by how many geese.

This survey aims to acquire a lot of records of geese and swans (and other wildfowl) in East Lothian to build a good picture of how they use the countryside. This simple survey is compatible with the survey co-ordinated by Allan Brown. It requires details of geese and swans in farmers' fields, a grid reference and brief description of the field. The emphasis is on creating a lot of records to create a very useful tool for protecting birds from planning applications. There are two ways to help.

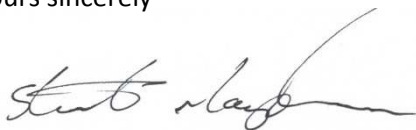
Goose Zones: The main goose zone to the east of Aberlady has been split into five areas - approximately 5 km squares. Please sign up to survey one of these areas once per month (or more if you can). Surveys should be carried out between September and March. Ideally more than one person will sign up for each area, with a hope of getting combined weekly records. Please contact me on (01620) 827242 or smacpherson@eastlothian.gov.uk to sign up for a square.

Ad Hoc Sightings: Geese use many areas of East Lothian, not just the area east of Aberlady. If you see geese in a field anywhere in East Lothian, please take 5 minutes to fill out a record. Ad hoc records should be filled out from September to March.

The East Lothian Ranger Service will be conducting surveys also. Record sheets are available electronically or can be posted to you. Once complete, they can be handed in to the SOC at Waterstone House, Aberlady. For more information, or for survey forms etc, please contact me on (01620) 827242 or smacpherson@eastlothian.gov.uk.

Thank you very much for being involved. This survey will produce interesting results, but more importantly, will be used to help the planning process, to ensure that development proposals do not affect our bird life.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Macpherson
Biodiversity Officer