



CAWOS Little Owl Survey

Following my Little Owl talk to members in December, it was proposed that a Little Owl playback survey would be a valuable follow up.

As you may know, the Little Owl is declining in number, and its range is shrinking across England and Wales. However, no targeted survey has been undertaken for this species. The only data currently used for population estimates are derived from the Breeding Bird Survey and nest recording and ringing data, none of which provide suitable population estimates.

This survey will allow CAWOS members to undertake fieldwork that can provide information on the presence of Little Owls within their survey areas, as well as an overall indication of abundance and distribution. This will allow basic comparisons with previous atlas work and contribute to future atlas surveys.

The survey will involve visiting a survey point within suitable habitat and playing a five-minute call, which will be supplied, using an MP3 player, phone or speaker. Following this, participants will listen for a response and record any observations.

We are aiming to commence the survey from mid-February through March, to coincide with the peak territorial and pair bonding period.

If you are interested in participating in the Little Owl survey, please contact Roy Leigh at roy@leighecology.co.uk. I will then provide the call file, a set of instructions and recording sheets, and will also assist with the selection of survey points.

We are also looking to make the information available on the CAWOS website to ensure ease of access.

I look forward to hearing from you and working together.

Roy Leigh