

ECN Protocols for Standard Measurements at Terrestrial Sites

BI (BB/BC/BM) Protocols

Note 3 BTO bird activity map symbols

(Sheet reproduced from BTO instructions for CBC recorders)

This standard list of conventions is designed for clear and unambiguous recording. Symbols can be combined where necessary. Additional activities of territorial significance, such as display or mating, should be noted using an appropriate clear abbreviation.

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|---|---|
| CH, CH ♂ [↗] CH ♀ [↘] | Chaffinch sight records, with age, sex or number of birds if appropriate. |
| 3Chjuve, CH2♀ [↗] 1 ♀ [↘] | Use CH ♀ [↗] to indicate one pair of Chaffinches, so that: 2CH♀ [↗] means two pairs together. |
| R fam | Juvenile Robins with parent(s) in attendance |
| <u>R</u> | A calling Robin |
| <u><u>R</u></u> | A Robin repeatedly giving alarm calls or other vocalisations (not song) thought to have strong territorial significance |
| (R) | A Robin in song |
|  | An aggressive encounter between two Robins |
| *R | An occupied nest of Robins. Do not mark unoccupied nests, which are not of territorial significance by themselves |
|  | Blue tits nesting in a specially provided site. Please remember to use this special symbol for a nest in a nestbox. |
| *PW on | Pied Wagtail nest with adult sitting |
| PW mat | Pied Wagtail carrying nest material |
| PW food | Pied Wagtail carrying food |

Movements of birds can be indicated by an arrow using the following conventions:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| ———— <u>GR</u> ———→ | A calling Greenfinch flying over (seen only in flight) |
| (D) ———→ | A singing Dunnock, perched then flying away (not seen to land) |
| ————→ B.♂ [↗] | A male blackbird flying in and landing (first seen in flight) |
| WR ———→ WR | A Wren moving between two perches. The solid line indicates that it was definitely the same bird . |

The following conventions indicate which registrations relate to different, and which to the same individual birds. Their proper use will be essential for the accurate assessment of clusters.

| | |
|---|--|
|  | Two Wrens in song at the same time, i.e. definitely different birds. The dotted line indicates a simultaneous registration (or contemporary contact) and is of very great value in separating territories. |
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* *
 LI LI Two Linnet nests occupied simultaneously, and thus belonging to different pairs. This is another example of the value of dotted lines. Only adjacent nests need to be marked in this way.

⊙ CK ————— ⊙ CK The solid line indicates that the registrations definitely refer to the same bird.

⊙ SD — ? — ⊙ SD This question-marked solid line indicates that the registrations relate to probably the same bird. This convention is of particular use when your census route brings you back past an area already covered - it is possible to mark new positions of (probably the same) birds recorded before, without risk of double-recording. If you record birds without using the question-marked solid line, over-estimation of territories will result.

⊙ WR mat No line joining the registrations - it will be assumed that the birds are probably different, but depending on the pattern of other registrations they may be treated as if only one bird was involved. (You may if you wish use a question-marked dotted line, indicating that the registrations were almost certainly of different birds.)

C* C* Where adjacent nests are marked without a line, it will often be assumed that they were in first and second broods, or a replacement nest following an earlier failure.