

# BirdLife Cyprus Nocturnal Birds Survey

## INSTRUCTIONS



*Thank you for volunteering for the Nocturnal Birds Survey. This survey aims to monitor the nocturnal breeding species of Cyprus – Stone Curlew, Barn Owl, Cyprus Scops Owl, Little Owl, Long-eared Owl and Nightjar. The survey is based on a driven transect through a 10km x 10km Atlas square. The Nocturnal Birds Survey is organised by BirdLife Cyprus who will assign survey sites to volunteers and answer any queries about the survey.*

*For more information please contact Monitoring & Research Coordinator, Christina Ieronymidou, [christina.ieronymidou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy](mailto:christina.ieronymidou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy), Tel: +357-22-455072*

### WHERE TO RECORD

You will be provided with a map of the 10 x 10km survey square showing all main roads and villages/towns. Choose a 10km-long survey route to drive through this square (see below).

### THE RECORDING FORM

Please use the Nocturnal Survey Recording Form appended below and also available to download from the BirdLife Cyprus website ([www.birdlifecyprus.org](http://www.birdlifecyprus.org)) or from the survey organiser. Make sure you write your full name and the **site reference** (Atlas square code & name) on the form, plus the **date** of the visit and the **start and end time** of your survey.

### RECORDING METHOD

The survey method used is **a 10km driven transect with point count stops every 2km**. Surveys take about 1 hour to complete. Drive slowly along your chosen route (**max speed of 20km per hour**). Beginning at the starting point of your survey route, and then **every 2km along the route, stop**, turn off your engine and **observe and listen carefully for 5 minutes** ('point count'). Also record while driving slowly between 'point count' stops.

The target species for this survey are Stone Curlew, Barn Owl, Cyprus Scops Owl, Little Owl, Long-eared Owl and Nightjar. **Record all individuals of these species heard or seen** in the appropriate distance column on the survey form by estimating how far from you birds were when first seen or heard: **0-50m; 50-100m or 100m+**. Most recordings for nocturnal surveys will be heard rather than seen. If a particular record is of a seen bird, denote this on the recording form by underlining the relevant entry. **Try not to record the same bird twice**. Use your judgement to decide which birds you may have already recorded earlier in the same survey. A precautionary approach is advised (under-recording rather than over-recording).

### SURVEY ROUTE

You need to plan a route for the survey, using the Atlas square map provided and Google Earth (please ask the organiser if you need help with this). The aim is to **cover a good representative sample of the allocated 10 x 10km square**. The route chosen should be **10km long**, but can be shorter or longer depending on what routes are available. The route needs to be easy to drive (good quality dirt track or secondary road) but should not be a

busy road, to avoid traffic noise and also to avoid the risk that would be involved in driving slowly on a busy road (max survey speed is 20km per hour). ***If you have a GPS, please record a 'track' for your survey route.***

## WHEN TO VISIT

Each route should be covered ***twice*** each year. ***The first (early) visit is in March or April and the second (late) visit in May or June*** - with the two visits at least 2 weeks apart. Surveys should ***start at least 30 minutes after sunset*** and end before midnight.

## WEATHER

Please ***do not survey birds in poor weather*** - persistent heavy rain or strong wind. Weather conditions should be recorded on the form in the relevant box using the codes below, one code for each of the listed categories.

Code	Cloud	Wind	Rain	Temperature
1	0 -33%	Calm	None	Cool
2	33 – 66%	Light	Drizzle	Warm
3	66 – 100%	Windy	Showers	Hot

## RETURN OF DATA

Please return all completed forms to the survey organiser at end of the survey season. You may want to make a neat copy of your surveys before returning them to the survey organiser – please remember to transfer all visit information (date, times etc.) from your Field Recording Form.

If possible, please also use the standard ***Excel template*** file provided by the survey coordinator to enter up all your survey data electronically and then email this to the coordinator.

If you have any queries please contact the survey organiser:

**Monitoring & Research Coordinator, Christina Ieronymidou, BirdLife Cyprus, PO Box 12026, Nicosia 2340**  
**Tel: (+357) 22 455 072, Fax: (+357) 22 455 073, [christina.ieronymidou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy](mailto:christina.ieronymidou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy)**

***Thank-you for volunteering for the Nocturnal Species Survey, and we hope that you enjoy taking part!***

*Data gathered by volunteers under BirdLife Cyprus recording schemes, while remaining the property of the person undertaking the survey, can be used by BirdLife Cyprus for the purpose of relevant reports and can be added to the BirdLife Cyprus database of bird records to be used for conservation purposes and may be provided to third parties, always under the terms & conditions of the BirdLife Cyprus data provision and access policy.*



# NOCTURNAL SURVEY FIELD RECORDING FORM

Area (code & route)					
Recorder(s)		Start Time			
Date (dd/mm/yyyy)		End Time			
Weather (1,2 or 3 – see page 3)	Cloud	Wind	Rain	Visibility	Temp
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Observation	Record Owl spp., Stone curlews or Nightjars in distance bands			Comments /Other species
	<u>0-50m band</u>	<u>50-100m band</u>	<u>&gt;100m</u>	
<b>Point count 1</b> <b>(starting point - 0km)</b> (5 minutes duration)				
<b>Driven Route between point 1 and 2</b> (driving at max 20km/hour)				
<b>Point count 2</b> <b>(at 2km point)</b> (5 minutes duration)				
<b>Driven Route between point 2 and 3</b> (driving at max 20km/hour)				
<b>Point count 3</b> <b>(at 4 km point)</b> (5 minutes duration)				

Observation	Record Owl spp., Stone curlews or Nightjars in distance bands			Comments /Other species
	<u>0-50m band</u>	<u>50-100m band</u>	<u>&gt;100m</u>	
<b>Driven Route between point 3 and 4</b> (driving at max 20km/hour)				
<b>Point count 4</b> <b>(at 6 km point)</b> (5 minutes duration)				
<b>Driven Route between point 4 and 5</b> (driving at max 20km/hour)				
<b>Point count 5</b> <b>(at 8 km point)</b> (5 minutes duration)				
<b>Driven Route between point 5 and 6</b> (driving at max 20km/hour)				
<b>Point count 6</b> <b>(at 10 km point - end)</b> (5 minutes duration)				
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Area (code &amp; route):</b>		

Observation (for longer routes)	Record Owl spp., Stone curlews or Nightjars in distance bands			Comments /Other species
	<u>0-50m band</u>	<u>50-100m band</u>	<u>&gt;100m</u>	
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Area (code &amp; route):</b>		

Please return completed forms to: *Christina Ieronymidou, Monitoring & Research Coordinator, BirdLife Cyprus, PO Box 12026, Nicosia 2340*  
 Tel: (+357) 22 455 072, Fax: (+357) 22 455 073, Email: [christina.ieronymidou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy](mailto:christina.ieronymidou@birdlifecyprus.org.cy)

#### WEATHER CODES

Code	Cloud	Wind	Rain	Temperature
<b>1</b>	0 -33%	Calm	None	Cool
<b>2</b>	33 – 66%	Light	Drizzle	Warm
<b>3</b>	66 – 100%	Windy	Showers	Hot

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