

The Owl Prowl

A pilot survey of tawny owls in the London Borough of Bromley was carried out in autumn 2015 by the Bromley Biodiversity Partnership. This species was chosen for the survey because in order to survive and breed successfully each pair of owls needs a territory with a good nesting site and a plentiful supply of food. Their presence therefore indicates the health of the surrounding environment because without good habitat which will support their prey (which includes wood mice, voles, small birds, worms and beetles), the tawny owls cannot survive.

Tawny owls were recorded in about 17 areas:

High Elms & the Cudham Valley, Darrick Wood area, Marvels & Elmstead Woods, between Elmstead Wood and Chislehurst & Walden Road Recreation Ground, between Chislehurst & Walden Road Recreation Ground & Chislehurst Golf Course, Chislehurst Golf Course itself, Old Hill/Lubbock Road area, Chislehurst, Sundridge Park, Kemnal Road, Chislehurst, the St Pauls Cray Road area, Hawkwood Estate/Petts Wood, Scadbury Park, Hayes, near Bromley South, Kelsey Park, Beckenham, Crofton Woods and south of Biggin Hill.

These results show recording effort with the lack of results from some areas probably showing where we had not been able to communicate effectively with residents before the survey commenced.

The tawny owl survey is therefore continuing throughout 2016, concentrating on parts of the borough currently under recorded, including:

- Crystal Palace and Elmers End
- Keston, West Wickham and Bromley Common linking to the London Borough of Lewisham through Beckenham Place Park.
- The Downe Valley, Biggin Hill, Berry's Green, Chelsfield, Green Street Green, Pratts Bottom, Norsted, Tatsfield and Salt Box Hill
- Hockenden and Kevington

We would be grateful for your help and any records you may have, so please look and listen for owls throughout the year, particularly in September and October when they set up territories. Please send your records to j_john02@hotmail.com or fill in the survey form at on the Orpington Field Club website (under articles) at <http://www.orpingtonfieldclub.org.uk>

Good places to listen for owls are alongside the edge of woodlands or near parks and gardens with trees, especially those which have possible nesting holes. Listen carefully because sometimes you can hear one owl hooting and another 'replying'.

Please record:

Your name:

Your contact details (email address if possible):

Where you heard/saw the owl(s): e.g. garden, named road, named park, recreation ground, nature reserve, woodland or area of countryside such as the Cudham Valley

Please give grid reference, easting & northing or postcode

What date did you hear the owl?

At what time (approximately) did you hear the owl?

How many owls did you hear?

Any other comments:

Thank-you!