

## **HOUSE MARTIN NEST STUDY 2017:**

My thanks to all that carried out survey work in 2015-2016 which covered 23 sites with 111 nests and had 52 nests with young but we are looking for more nests in 2017, if you have nests near you home or work place etc. anywhere in Avon please read this and register if you can help.

### **BACKGROUND**

The House Martin Survey uses two complementary approaches.

- (i) In 2015, surveys were carried out of random 1-km squares, selected in order to produce robust population estimates for the UK.
- (ii) In 2016, detailed information of nest characteristics and nest activity was collected at self-selected sites (the 'nest study'). This part of the survey will be repeated in 2017 to collect more information.

The aim of the nest study is to monitor what activity takes place over the course of the breeding season at individual nests. We are particularly interested in the **timing** of nesting activity, the **number of broods** and the **outcome** of nesting attempts. By regularly recording activity at a large number of sites, we will be able to see if egg laying dates, the length of the fledging period and the likelihood of a successful outcome vary across the UK. By recording additional information about nest sites and locations, we also hope to investigate what other factors might affect nesting performance.

**We are planning to run the survey again in 2017 and we would like everyone to participate in the survey in 2017 if you know a site where House Martins are nesting and can answer 'Yes' to the following:**

- Can the nests can be viewed safely (from ground level or from a window) *without causing disturbance to the birds?*
- Is the site convenient for me to commit to visiting regularly (e.g. once a week, with an occasional break being acceptable), throughout the breeding season (i.e. until mid-September)?
- Have I obtained the site owner's permission where necessary?

### **WHO CAN TAKE PART IN THE 2017 NEST STUDY**

As was the case with the 2016 survey, anybody can take part provided they have a site with at least one nest that they can view for approximately 15 minutes regularly throughout the breeding season (i.e. approximately once a week although missing the occasional week due to a holiday is fine).

In 2017, we would particularly welcome repeat surveys from sites and nests which were surveyed in 2016. However, data from nests which were not surveyed in 2016 would also be valuable

### **How to register for the survey**

If you took part in the [2015 House Martin survey](#), you will be able to [log-in using your BTO user name and password](#). If you did not take part in 2015, you will need to complete a few simple steps to [register for the 2017 survey](#). or go to <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/house-martin-survey/house-martin-nest-study-2016/resources>): this contains the survey instructions, survey forms, and a link to the video tutorial which provides guidance about using the online Data Entry System.

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