Comparison of methods for collecting information about wader populations. Parentheses indicate some uncertainty or flexibility in what the method involves.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Information generated** | **Resource needed** | **Useful variables to record** |
| **Survey type** | **Occupancy (P/A)** | **Relative abundance** | **Absolute numbers** | **Breeding success** | **Movement** | **Skill experience** | **Training / licence** | **Number Visits** | **Time for 1km2**  | **Equipment** | **Date** | **Time** | **Area/ Position** | **Behaviour** |
| Opportunistic | Yes | (Yes) |   |   |  | Low |   | Variable | Variable | (Binoculars) | Yes | Yes | (Yes) | (Yes) |
| ‘Little & Often’ | Yes | (Yes) |  | (Yes) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Atlas method | Yes | (Yes) |   |   |  | Low |   | 2 | 15-30 min | Binoculars | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Presence only | Yes |   |   |   |  | Low |   | 1 | Variable | (Binoculars) | Yes | Yes | Yes | (Yes) |
| Area-based | Yes | Yes | Yes |   |  | Medium |   | 2 + | 1-2 hr | Binoculars | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Trapline | Yes | Yes | (Yes) |   |  | Medium |   | 2 + | 1-2 hr | Binoculars | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| BBS method | Yes | Yes | (Yes) |   |  | Medium |   | 2 | 1-2 hr | Binoculars | Yes | Yes | Yes | (Yes) |
| Surveys 1 for productivity | Yes | Yes | (Yes) | (Yes) |  | Medium |   | 4 to 5 |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Nest finding | Yes |   | (Yes) |   |  | Medium | (Yes) |   |   | Binoculars |  |  | (Yes) |  |
| Nest records  2 |   |   |   | Partly |  | Low | (Yes) | 2 + |   |   | Yes | Yes |  | Yes |
| Nest camera 2 |   |   |   | Partly |  | Medium | (Yes) | 2 + |   | Trail camera | Yes | Yes |  |  |
| Temperature 2 |   |   |   | Partly |  | Low | (Yes) | 2 + |   | Logger | Yes | Yes |  |  |
| VHF | Yes |   |   | (Yes) | Yes | High | Yes | Many |   | Receivers, transmitters 3 | Yes | Yes |  | Yes |
| GPS | Yes |  |  |  | Yes | High | Yes | 1 + |  | GPS units 3 |  |  |  |  |
| Colour-marking | Yes |  |  | (Yes) | Yes | High | Yes | 1 - Many |  | Rings/flags 3 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. May be applied or extended to any systematic survey aimed at gathering abundance data, including Trapline, BBS and area-based surveys
2. All these methods additionally require nest-finding
3. Methods involving capture of adult birds will require additional specialist equipment such as mist-nets or other traps