

Grey partridge at Lintzgarth 2020

Survey work in 2020 was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with work restricted to just two survey visits in spring.

Spring call-back surveys

Methods

Two dusk surveys of calling partridge pairs were undertaken in April 2019, the first in early April, the second in late April. Surveys were conducted in the hour before dusk, selecting fine, calm weather to enable hearing bird responses. Playback surveys were conducted at six points, equally spaced at 400-500 m intervals along the road-side (for locations see Table 1). Ten minutes were spent at each point. The first five minutes were spent simply listening for calling birds. After that a recording of a calling partridge was played at full volume for 15 seconds, followed by a listening period of 15 seconds. The playback and listening procedure was then repeated five times. Positions of any responding birds were noted, together with the number of birds present, if visible, before moving to the next recording point on the route.

Supplementary feeding

Supplementary feeding is continuing at hoppers throughout the site, maintained by the site warden.

Results

The first survey was conducted on 10th April. Grey partridge responded by calling at two of the six survey points (Table 1). The second survey was conducted on 30th April, when responses were heard again from survey point 2, and a second from survey point 3.

Table 1. The 10-figure grid locations of grey partridge responding to playback calls during two April visits to six survey point at Lintzgarth in 2019.

point	visit	date	present	X grid	Y grid
1	1	10/04/2020	0		
2	1	10/04/2020	1	39280	54260
3	1	10/04/2020	0		
4	1	10/04/2020	1	39220	54250
5	1	10/04/2020	0		
6	1	10/04/2020	0		
1	2	30/04/2020	0		
2	2	30/04/2020	1	39250	54250
3	2	30/04/2020	1	39260	54280
4	2	30/04/2020	0		
5	2	30/04/2020	0		
6	2	30/04/2020	0		