

# Sussex Turtle Dove survey 2019

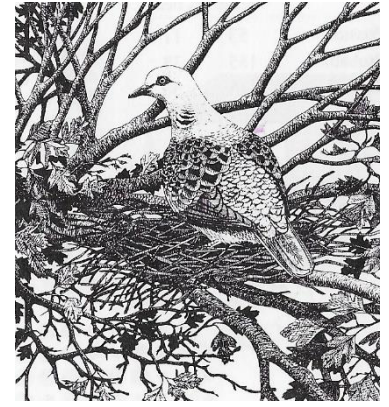
**SOS - Countywide survey in 60 tetrads,**

**Volunteers needed- can you help?** (Updated 17 February)

**Two morning visits – May/June – June/July**

Turtle Dove is one of the most rapidly declining species in the UK and elsewhere in Europe. Although Sussex is on the southwest edge of the UK breeding range, we still have significant and nationally important numbers.

Given the continued importance of Sussex for Turtle Doves, the SOS Scientific Committee decided that we should try to establish the current status of the species and recent population trends. We also feel that with the pressures on land-use in the county it is important we know the key breeding sites so they can be safeguarded as part of SOS conservation work. It is encouraging that Turtle Doves have responded to large scale habitat change for example at Butcherlands and the Knepp Estate. The survey is being organised for SOS by Ken Smith.

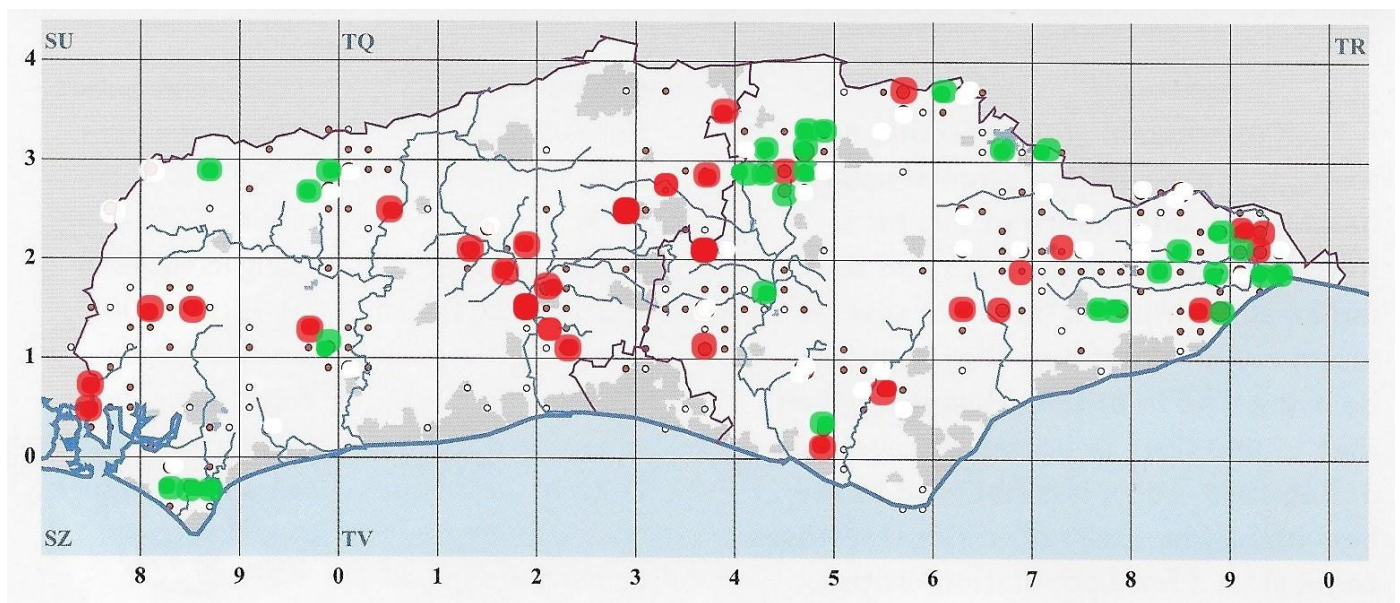


## Objectives

Our first objective is to look for changes in the distribution of Turtle Doves in Sussex over the last decade by re-surveying a sample of tetrads which held breeding birds during the 2008-11 atlas. The atlas records simply record presence and the breeding status in each tetrad. To arrive at an estimate of the numbers of breeding Turtle Doves in the county we will map and count the 'purring' males within 60 randomly selected tetrads.

## Survey methods and how to take part

We have selected at random a sample of tetrads occupied by Turtle Doves in the 2008-11 breeding atlas as shown on the map – 40 tetrads with proved \*\*\* or probable\*\* breeding in 2008-11 and 20 tetrads with possible\* breeding. We are asking volunteers to survey as many of these as possible in 2019. We settled on 60 tetrads as this is a large enough sample to provide reliable estimates of change and numbers. If the interest and demand is great enough, we have further random tetrads which we can allocate in due course. The locations of all the tetrads in the survey are listed at the end.



**Map showing the tetrads chosen for Turtle Dove survey, green, available for survey (not yet allocated); red, allocated (not available). (Map adapted from Sussex Atlas 2018-11)**

## Survey Method

Turtle Doves have a long and comparatively late breeding season which is an advantage for surveyors. However, they are also relatively inconspicuous which means that the ground needs to be covered closely if they are to be detected. Their 'purring' is not all that loud, and they tend to do it mostly in the early morning.

The survey involves two visits to check out all the suitable habitat as closely as possible,  
 Visit 1 between 11 May and 20 June,  
 Visit 2 between 21 June and 24 July.  
 Visits should be in the early morning (between first light and 09.00) in good weather conditions. We will provide full details and 1:25,000 maps of your tetrad (kindly provided by RSPB).  
 In addition to the survey of random tetrads everyone should check their local Turtle Dove haunts and submit all records.



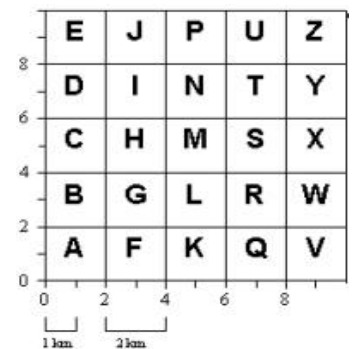
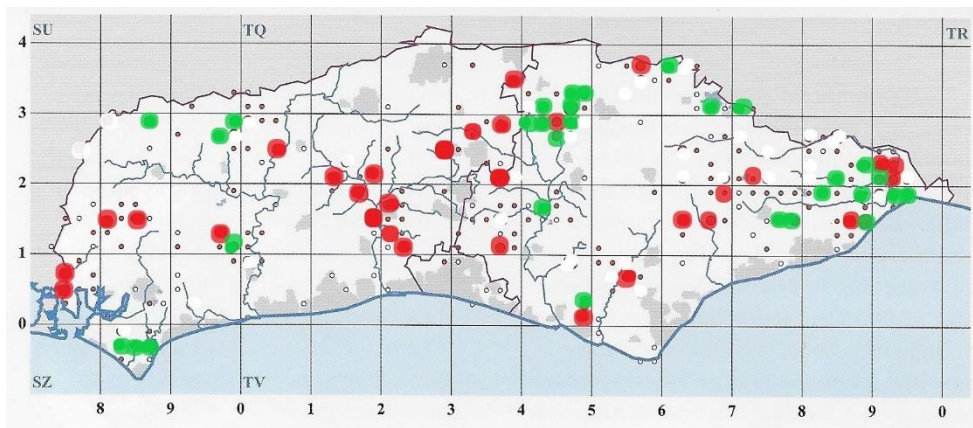
Photo 1 Turtle Dove displaying its white tipped tail, photographed by Richard Dann

### Would you like to take part?

To take part in this important survey, please contact Ken Smith, 01243 786079 or email ken.smith.lsw@gmail.com.  
 More details of the survey methods and the list of tetrads involved are on the news page of SOS website. We will post updates during the season.

### The randomly selected squares for the survey, sorted approximately west to east

In the list a letter identifies and locates the relevant [2km x 2km] tetrad within the 10km square as shown in this grid.



Highlighted tetrads are available, the others have already been allocated a surveyor (as at 17 February)

10k square	Tetrad	Place name	Breeding status 2008-11
SU70	M	Emsworth Hbr	**
SU70	N	Emsworth/Westbourne	**
SU81	C	East Marden	*
SU81	M	Westdean Woods	**
SU82	U	Elmers Marsh	**
SU91	R	Bignor Post	*
SU91	V	Madehurst/Houghton Forest	**
SU92	T	Ebernoe Common	*
SU92	Z	Roundwyck Hse, Ebernoe	*
SZ89	I	Almodington/Earnley Grange	*
SZ89	N	Keynor, Siddlesham ferry	**
SZ89	T	Siddlesham Quay/Pagham Hbr	**
TQ02	M	Wisborough Green south	*
TQ11	U	Hobshort Fm, E of Dial Post	**
TQ11	X	Horsebridge Com, Henfield	**
TQ12	F	Whitehall/Broomers Corner	**
TQ12	V	Littleworth	*
TQ21	D	Henfield, north	**

TQ21	F	Edburton	**
TQ22	X	Cuckfield Park	**
TQ31	Q	Ashcombe Bottom	**
TQ32	Q	Longridge, E of Wivelsfield Gr	*
TQ32	U	Horsted Keynes station	*
TQ33	X	Weir Wood Res	*
TQ40	V	Seaford N	*
TQ40	W	E of Alfriston	**
TQ41	I	Mount Pleasant/Spithurst	*
TQ42	E	Chelwood Common	*
TQ42	J	Chelwood Beacon	**
TQ42	N	Nutley	**
TQ42	P	Marlpits	**
TQ42	U	Camp Hill	**
TQ43	F	Llama Park/Pippingford	**
TQ43	Q	Old Lodge/Pillow Mounds	***
TQ43	R	Jumper's Town	**
TQ43	W	Friars Gate	**
TQ50	N	Arlington	**
TQ53	T	Strawberry Hill, Tunbridge	**
TQ61	H	Cowbeech	*
TQ61	S	SW Ponds Green	**
TQ61	Z	Darwell Hole	*
TQ62	H	Great Broadhurst Farm	**
TQ63	D	Frant Station	*
TQ63	Q	Tolhurst, Bewl Water	*
TQ71	S	Telham, SE of Battle	*
TQ71	X	Kent Street/Beauport Park	**
TQ72	F	Mountfield	*
TQ73	A	Flimwell/Union Street	**
TQ81	J	Brede/Broadland Row	**
TQ81	S	N of Pett	**
TQ81	X	Pannel Farm/Elms Fm, Pett	***
TQ81	Z	Cock Marling	*
TQ82	K	Beckley Woods	**
TQ82	W	Peasmarsh	**
TQ91	J	Rye Harbour	**
TQ91	P	Camber Golf Course	**
TQ92	A	W of Rye	**
TQ92	B	Iden/Rye Foreign	**
TQ92	G	Houghton Green	**
TQ92	K	Black House, E Guldeford	**

#### Breeding status in the 2008-2011 Sussex Atlas

\*\*\* proved breeding, \*\* probable breeding, \* possible breeding

Please choose one of the yellow highlighted tetrads and get in touch with Ken Smith

Turtle Dove drawing by George Claydon