FIT Count field recording form

A Flower-Insect Timed Count can be carried out at any time of day between the beginning of April and the end of September, wherever a suitable target flower can be found, and when the weather is dry and warm:

• If sky is clear (less than half cloud) the minimum temperature for a count is 13°C
• If sky is cloudy (half cloud or more) the minimum temperature for a count is 15°C

1. About you

Your name: ________________________________________________

☐ I am new to identifying wildlife
☐ I am familiar with identifying some wildlife (e.g. birds or butterflies) but not most pollinating insects
☐ I am familiar with recognising the main groups of pollinating insect
☐ I am confident in identifying the commonly-occurring pollinating insects to species level

2. Date and location of count

Date of count: ________________________________________________

Location name: ________________________________________________ (e.g. town/village, not full address)

Grid ref if known (or select from online map later): ______________________

Habitat (tick one box that is the best match):

☐ Garden
☐ School grounds
☐ Parkland with trees
☐ Churchyard
☐ Grassy verge or hedgerow edge
☐ Grassland with wild flowers (e.g. meadow)
☐ Other habitat type (please describe): ______________________

3. Target flower (from the list on the left if possible)

Which target flower have you chosen? ______________________

☐ Target flowers cover less than half of 50x50cm patch
☐ Target flowers cover about half of patch
☐ Target flowers cover more than half of patch

Number of flowers in patch: ________

I counted: ☐ individual flowers ☐ flower heads
☐ flower umbels ☐ flower spikes

Is your 50x50cm patch of target flowers:
☐ Growing in a larger patch of the same flower
☐ Growing in a larger patch of many different flowers
☐ More or less isolated
4. FIT Count

Once you are ready to start, check your timer so that you can record for exactly ten minutes. Please count EVERY insect that you see that LANDS on one of your target FLOWERS (if you’re not sure what type it is just add it to the “Other insects” category). Please try to count each individual insect just once, and try not to lean over the flowers you are watching, as this can cast shadows and prevent insects approaching.

Time of count start: ____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insect group</th>
<th>Tally of number seen: [ \frac{\text{#}}{\text{#}} ] = 7, etc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bumblebees</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Honeybees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solitary bees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasps (including ichneumon wasps)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoverflies (including ‘non-typical’ hoverflies)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other flies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Butterflies and moths</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beetles (larger than 3mm)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small insects (such as pollen beetles) less than 3mm long</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other insects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Weather conditions

Sky above your location:
- All or mostly blue
- Half blue and half cloud
- All or mostly cloud

During the 10-minute count, was your 50×50cm patch:
- Entirely in sunshine
- Partly in sun and partly shaded
- Entirely shaded

Wind strength (for all plants in area, not just target flowers):
- Leaves still/moving occasionally
- Leaves moving gently all the time
- Leaves moving strongly

Don’t forget to take a photo of your target flower species and add your counts to the online form: https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/fit-count Please don’t take photos during the count as this may disturb the visiting insects.

This survey follows the methodology of the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. We thank them for their generosity in sharing resources.

May 2019