**FEB01 – FISH-EATING BIRDS – Bird Observation Log for small stillwaters *(under 20 Ha).***



**Name and address of Fishery:.................................................................... Log completed by: .................................................................................................**

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| **Date** | **Time** | **Location (including grid reference)** | **Number of birds observed** | **Species** | **Behaviour - please select one of the following:** *‘feeding’, ‘roosting’, ‘flying high’ (>20m), ‘flying low’(<20m) or ‘other’**(please specify)* | **Weather Conditions** | **Were any scaring techniques used?** Please specify | **Effectiveness of scaring/other comments** |
| *dd/mm/yy* | 12:00 | *North-western end of lake, SH 01234 56789* | *1* | *Cormorant* | *roosting* |  | *Yes – shooting 12b blanks* | *Flew off westwards* |
| *dd/mm/yy* | 12:00 | *SH 01234 56789* | *2* | *Goosander* | *feeding* |  | *Yes – Hand clapping* | *No effects, goosanders remained on the lake* |
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**GUIDANCE**

This observation log should be used for counting fish-eating birds (Cormorant, Goosander and Heron) on stillwaters (under 20 Ha). Fish-eating birds are highly mobile and their activity changes at different times of the day and different seasons of the year. This means that it is important to collect data in the time of year for which you are applying for a licence (i.e. winter) and that you record variability in numbers and behaviour through that season in order to fully understand the distribution of birds over time and where the greatest the impact may be occurring at a particular site. Variability is best recorded by making several visits to the same site – using the same recorder and the same reporting method but on different days and (ideally) at different times of day. This log sets out a reliable counting and reporting method used in standard surveys, and provides tables to make repeat counts easy to record and report to NRW.

NRW will not consider any applications with an incomplete ‘Bird Observation Log’. When completing this log, please use the following guidelines:

* This log must include details of a minimum of **10** formal site visits, **dated at least 3 days apart between November and February.**
* If no birds are observed during the observation, please ensure that a zero is still documented within the log. ‘Zero counts’ are important to gain an understanding of the population and/or behavioural trends of piscivorous birds;
* Accurate grid references must be provided for each siting and the location within the waterbody clearly referenced on the map;
* Fisheries are encouraged to ask members and ticket holders to undertake observations whilst visiting the fishery, these data can be added as supplementary data to the application but will not be recorded as a monitoring visit due to any inconsistencies in count method;
* If birds are observed, but no scaring techniques used, please document this on the log.
* Numbers of birds must be specific, and should **NOT** be rounded up or down.
* Where a fishery consists of multiple small ponds in close proximity, the observer must count the birds on all ponds on-site at the same time.

**SITE MAP**

Please provide a map of the fishery. For fisheries that include multiple ponds in close proximity, please ensure that each pond is included within the map, and each pond labelled for reference purposes. An example is provided below:

**EXAMPLE 1:**

