



MSc Project

Closing date: 31-Jan-24

Contact: michael.macdonald@rspb.org.uk

Annual variation in Pheasant abundance

Timescale: Flexibility around field work depending on student availability

Location: mid-Wales

Resources available: data, equipment, access to RSPB reserves

Limitations: Own transport essential

Background

Pheasants are released for game shooting purposes in autumn and individuals can persist throughout the year and may breed successfully.

The presence of these bird may have an impact on the local and landscape ecology, particularly in areas of conservation interest, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. We wish to understand how the abundance of Pheasants varies through the year and spatially.

Brief Aims and Methods

The RSPB has been carrying out fortnightly surveys of Pheasants in and around the Ynys-Hir reserve in mid-Wales over the past year, and we wish to understand how these counts relate to habitat and landscape features, as well as continuing this time series.

The student will have access to the data, and will collect field data themselves, including habitat and landscape variables. There is scope for the student to explore further work; for example, collecting Pheasant faecal samples for analysis.