



BirdLife Norway (NOF)

Sandgata 30 B
NO-7012 Trondheim
Norway

e-mail: nof@birdlife.no internet: www.birdlife.no

Phone: (+ 47) 73 84 16 40
Bank: 4358.50.12840
Org.nb.: 970 089 748 NVA

Safety in the field, and insurance policy for fieldworkers participating in the project *Extensive monitoring of breeding birds (TOV-E)*

Each year, around 500 areas are surveyed as part of the Extensive monitoring of breeding birds (TOV-E) project. There is a wide range of terrain types in the different survey squares. A list of tips for your own safety, as well as your rights if you should be unfortunate to have an accident during fieldwork, are given below.

Safety in the field

The most important to be aware of is not to take chances in uneven terrain, and to be especially careful if the ground is wet or slippery due to ice or snow. Because of safety risks in some areas, a number of potential survey squares have been removed from the project. Even so, it may be necessary to cross difficult terrain between survey squares or between count points within these squares whilst carrying out fieldwork. In addition, be aware that visibility can suddenly deteriorate due to fog or low cloud. We therefore recommend that you mark key points along your route on the GPS, for example bridges or other features it is important to find your way back to. Other important features to mark on the GPS might include tent position (if you have stayed in a tent) or where you parked your car! **It is obligatory to carry extra batteries for the GPS with you at all times!** If you feel that existing information you have received for your survey square, or the route between the car park and the first count point are incomplete or inaccurate, then please note this and send the information to the regional coordinator so that the instructions can be amended for future visits.

You should also be aware that you may be completely alone in the area, and that there may not be a mobile telephone signal. NOF / BirdLife Norway have lightweight Personal Locator Beacons (type Ocean Signal – rescueME PLB1), and the regional coordinators loan these out as required. If you feel insecure about being alone in the field, or if you are in large areas without mobile telephone coverage, then please contact your regional coordinator who will then assess whether or not you should carry a Personal Locator Beacon during fieldwork. Remember too to carry a basic first aid kit, preferably with an assortment of plasters and a support bandage with you in the field. **It is also important that you tell others where you are going and how long you intend to be away for!**



Insurance

NOF / BirdLife Norway have a standard and legally required employer accident policy for all staff. This is valid for both permanent and part-time employees. NOF / BirdLife Norway is a voluntary organisation with both permanent as well as part-time staff, but also a large number of members who undertake voluntary work. TOV-E participants carry out voluntary work for NOF / BirdLife Norway as a voluntary organisation, but where participants receive some economic compensation. For insurance purposes, TOV-E participants are classed as temporary staff within NOF / BirdLife Norway. For temporary staff, then the following applies: a person must be on NOF / BirdLife Norway's list of paid employees for the current calendar year, and must be carrying out work for NOF / BirdLife Norway when an accident occurs in order that the insurance is valid. This applies also to TOV-E participants. NOF / BirdLife Norway has insurance to cover 1.5 man-years with temporary staff, for up to 20 persons. This means that up to 20 persons in the field at the same time are covered by this insurance!

The total number of persons that are covered by this insurance in the space of a single year is not limited to 20, such that EVERYONE who carries out TOV-E survey work for NOF / BirdLife Norway is covered by this insurance, as long as they are carrying out work for NOF / BirdLife Norway. The insurance does not cover compensation following death (only funeral costs up to 0,5G, where 1G =

approx. NOK 79 000), although a spouse would receive a sum following death of their partner (15 G). If a TOV-E participant falls in steep terrain and is wholly or partly invalided, then that person is covered by this insurance policy. The sum paid varies dependent upon the age of the injured party. This is not a complete life insurance policy, but a supplement to the state invalidity pension. The standard sum following invalidity is 22G. In order to replace damaged private equipment, participants are advised to take out ordinary travel insurance.

Sincerely yours,



Ingar Jostein Øien
Head of Cons. Sci. Dept.
NOF/BirdLife Norway