**CONFIDENTIAL**

Date Transcribed: 25th May 2021

Interviewer(s):

Respondent(s):

**INT: Okay, so the first question is how long have you been doing any sort of biological recording and how did you start?**

P24-2: 17 was the first one I think.

P24: Yes, about 2017 and that's for moths.

**INT: Okay.**

P24: But we’re also volunteers for the [Dale] AONB.

**INT: Are you, okay.**

P24: And we've done some transects [s/l 00:00:42] for them so, things like you know amphibians and mammals and birds so, we've done that and then.

P24-2: And I’m a member of the [Dale] Bird Watchers so, we do not terribly scientific but we go out, once a year we go and do a sort of major run around [Dale] AONB to see what we can see. And we all send well, I send my bird sightings up to them and they send it onto [Town] and [Town] sends it through to I think it’s the [WILDLIFE CHARITY]. So, we’re used to doing that sort of thing.

**INT: Okay, so this is all since 2017 is it or were you doing some of the transects before that?**

P24-2: No, I think it’s sort of since about yes, 16, 17 probably at the most, yes.

P24: And then we’re also members of [nature reserve] which is just north of [TOWN]. And we’re quite involved with that. Particularly me in terms of you know recording things like insects so, it’s a bit varied, [INT].

**INT: Yes, and so was it the moths that you started with then, was that the first thing?**

P24-2: No, it would have been the birds.

**INT: Birds, okay.**

P24-2: Because we were birdwatchers first and moths, I think we just sort of, did we go, I think we went to one of [Name]’s trappings through the AONB I think. And we thought *oo, you know this is something different and I wonder what's in our garden?* So, that's sort of where that started.

**INT: Okay, so is the moth trapping just in your garden then or do you take it a bit further afield?**

P24-2: No, it’s electric so we need a point so we only do it here [laughs].

**INT: Yes, and then your other recording is [Dale] focused is that right? Do you ever go further than that?**

P24: Well, only like I say to this [nature reserve] which is outside the AONB I think.

P24-2: Yes, it is, it’s outside, yes.

**INT: And so, had you always been interested in birdwatching and then it’s kind of progressed into recording?**

P24-2: Yes, yes I think that's really it, yes.

**INT: And can you pinpoint what it was that started you actually recording and submitting those records?**

P24: Well, in terms of the mothing we were encouraged by [Name] and a lady called [Name] who you might have heard of. So, [Name] was you know quite keen for us to do things and then [Name] asked us as well. So, it was really those two that sort of spurred us to be, to record more let’s put it that way.

P24-2: Yes, because there's not many people where we live apparently, or there was nobody where we lived so it was a gap anyway. So, I think they were quite keen for us to do it and yes, we've enjoyed it.

**INT: Yes, and then with the [Dale], is that through the project, I can’t remember what it was called now?**

P24-2: [wildlife project].

**INT: [wildlife project], was that how you got into that then?**

P24: Yes.

P24-2: Yes, yes.

**INT: Yes, and is that still going on?**

P24: Yes, it is.

P24-2: I think so, yes.

P24: Yes, because I mean obviously, with last year it was not going to take place. But [Name] who is at the AONB, she’s recently asked me to start doing the adder surveys again. So, we've just started that in the last week or so.

**INT: Okay, and is that quite structured then is it?**

P24: Yes.

**INT: Did you say it was, yes is it walking or are you leaving, I can’t remember what they're called.**

P24: The transects?

**INT: Not traps is it but [laughs]?**

P24: Oh, no, no [laughs].

P24-2: No [laughs].

P24: But yes, you have to do it on a certain amount of time you know, a certain amount of visits. And you're given a transect so, and you’ve got to record what you see on that transect.

**INT: And that's still going ahead?**

P24: It is, yes.

**INT: Hopefully, this year, yes.**

P24-2: Yes, yes it’s just started again.

**INT: Yes, and can you kind of, I know you said people have asked you to record. But can you kind of pinpoint what it is that motivates you to record species and submit those records?**

P24-2: I think, I was going to say in terms of us it’s just curiosity as to what we've got where. But then, once you’ve got that, if you don't do anything with it kind of you know if you're talking about conservation and environment and things. You need to then feed it into something so, that it then becomes a useful tool for somebody to you know then take to further as to conservation. And the only way you know if something is declining is if you know what it was at the beginning and that sort of thing. And I think we sort of you know really sort of started to, what's the word [laughs]? No, I know.

P24: But I mean from my point of view it’s a bit of an altruistic approach and I think you know since we've been doing it we've been more sort of conscious of how good citizen science is and how it works. I mean for sort of professional recorders for want of a better expression, you know they can’t do everything and they can’t be everywhere. But if little people like us are all feeding into the bigger picture it’s better for nature and for wildlife.

**INT: And so, are you seeing how your data are being used or how your data are fitting into the bigger picture? Do you get feedback on that?**

P24-2: Well, we get the moth report and the bird report and [Town] [unclear 00:07:06]. You know so, we do get copies of the report so that we can see where it’s fed into. But we don't necessarily see the biggest picture.

**INT: Yes.**

P24: Not sure I’d understand the bigger picture [laughs].

P24-2: No, I’m not sure I’d understand the really big one you know we don't sort of get the National Moth Atlas of Britain or something. But then, you know I’m not sure I’d particularly read it front to back anyway. So, you know as far as we’re concerned if we’re feeding it through on a local level and then it’s going to national that's well, as far as I’m concerned that's fine. It means somebody somewhere is using it hopefully for the right reasons you know.

P24: But I think one of the things of interest for us [INT], is that if we’re sending stuff up to say, [Name] and we’re not sure if our ID is correct but we think it is. But maybe the sighting doesn't match when the moth should be appearing. [Name] or [Name] or both of them will come back to us and say, “You're absolutely right it is that moth but it shouldn’t be appearing at this time of year”. So, for us that's quite interesting well, it’s also interesting for them. But it also shows how you know perhaps the climate change is affecting moths’ behaviour and then spreading north or whatever, you know.

**INT: So, is that I guess that gives you another layer of interest [unclear 00:08:46].**

P24: Yes.

**INT: Interpretation of the data so, not just what you’ve got but.**

P24: Yes, absolutely.

**INT: Why and those kind of unusual observations I guess.**

P24: Yes.

P24-2: Yes, yes.

**INT: And is that the same across all the species do you think or is that particular to moths?**

P24-2: No, I think it would be the same well, it will be the same with birds. If we suddenly saw a bird we weren't expecting then you know you'd be curious as to why. Because when I was a child a blackcap for example, was only a summer visitor but we had one in the garden in February. And they're rare in our garden anyway but apparently they now overwinter some of them, they don't migrate. So, again it’s this changing because it’s warmer here they manage to live a bit longer here, they survive over the winter. But it’s when you see it then it brings that sort of home to you if you see what I mean. And you can then record that so they know that probably there's an overwintering population around here as opposed to a summer migrant.

**00:09:54**

**INT: Yes, and those conversations as well I guess that you're having with [Name] and [Name] and others help with that understanding and providing that context.**

P24-2: Yes.

P24: Yes.

P24-2: Yes, yes it’s quite, it’s more rounded than just having a tick list that you tick off.

**INT: Yes, and those conversations are very much, are they just kind of via email or you're?**

P24: Yes, yes they tend to be, yes.

**INT: Yes, yes.**

P24-2: The birdwatchers are different because we obviously, gather more often but not in the last year[laughs].

**INT: Okay.**

P24-2: And we haven't started again yet but when we do there’ll be a lot of conversations going on [laughs] about what we've seen and what we've done and so on.

**INT: And so, your birding is very much with a group that you tend to go out is that right?**

P24-2: No, not necessarily because I’m a member but [Name] isn't. So, we go out, I mean we go our on our own but obviously, if we see anything we feed it back. And I’m just involved because I like going out with the group as well.

**INT: Yes, and so, when you're going and doing your birding, so your moths is very much at home.**

P24-2: Yes.

**INT: And then your adders and things you’ve got fixed transects that you're asked to walk.**

P24: Yes.

**INT: So, then with the birds how are you deciding where you'll go?**

P24: Where we haven't been recently [laughs].

P24-2: Yes [laughs] yes, the last year has been a bit limited, it’s sort of thrown us off a bit hasn’t it last year? But it is, it’s just sort of you know it's nice because we don't get seabirds here obviously, apart from gulls. We like going out to the coats, have a look at the seabirds during the sort of well, about this time of year really onwards isn't it? And otherwise, we’ll say, “Oh, you know shall we have a day out at an RSPB reserve or a [COUNTY] Wildlife” or something like that? Or just go out somewhere slightly more local and walk around an area and see what we see.

P24: But there are occasions [INT], when we will go after a specific species.

**INT: Okay.**

P24: And there are only well, we know where the certain hotspots are for those species. So, for example, in the last two or three weeks ring ouzel have been coming up to you know [NATURE RESERVE] which is where they normally go. So, we will have a particular day when we say, “Right, shall we go up to [NATURE RESERVE] to specifically see the ring ouzel”? And in the next week or so cuckoos should be arriving in [Dale] so, we know the spots where the cuckoos are likely to be. So, we will deliberately go to those spots to see if we can see the cuckoo.

**INT: And then when you're making those visits, are you recording everything that you see as well? Is that kind of what?**

P24-2: Yes [laughs].

**INT: [Laughs] it’s kind of a full list thing so, you will record everything you see rather than just the kind of special things.**

P24-2: Yes, yes.

**INT: Yes, and is that the same so, for example if you're going out and doing your adder surveys, will you record other things that you see? Or are you focused just on the adders?**

P24: Well, I've got to admit if it’s the adder survey you know I’m looking down on the ground [laughs] for most of the time. So, I suppose my focus is on the adders but obviously, I’ll see things like you know wheatear, hopefully I’ll see a raven or maybe the ring ouzel as well. Because we adder transect is actually up at [NATURE RESERVE] as well so, it’s like killing two birds with one stone if you'll pardon the expression [laughs].

**INT: [Laughs] yes, hopefully not [laughs].**

P24: No [laughs].

**INT: So, will you submit those records then of things that you’ve seen like that?**

P24: No, I won’t, the only thing that I will do is submit the adder things. But if there was something unusual that cropped up that I thought the AONB would take an interest in then I would send them some information. But generally speaking, I’d concentrate on the adders, send that information to the AONB and anything else I see that's just for my benefit.

**INT: Okay, and do you keep personal records of those sightings?**

P24: Yes, we do but they're very informal records, they're just in notebooks. And I don't record everything I see in detail because my hobby [INT], is the photography side of things.

**INT: Ah, okay yes.**

P24: So, I will say what species I've seen on a certain day but I won’t record too much detail. But [Name], you record.

P24-2: I tend to write a lot more down you know, use my phone notebook for just jotting down what I've seen so that I can send it back to the birdwatchers really.

**INT: So, do you get feedback from the [Dale] AONB as to what they're doing with that data then?**

P24-2: Sort of.

P24: I wouldn’t say I’m getting a lot of detail, might get something quite broad. But like I say it comes back to what we were saying before, I’m not sure that I’m getting or we’re getting the bigger picture stuff. And I don't necessarily, we don't necessarily know what they're going to do with that data.

**INT: But you kind of trust that it’s being used for things that you would hope it to be used for [laughs].**

P24: Well, to give you another example [INT], at this [nature reserve]I’m a Thursday volunteer. Every Thursday you know I toddle off and do some maintenance work or whatever. But once a month we do what's called a [park walk] which is the wetland bird survey. And me and a couple of other guys will do a transect of sort of five miles and we record everything that we see and we record it. And then that gets passed to one of the other sort of volunteers who knows more about these things than we do. And then it just sort of disappears into the ether you know, I haven't got a clue what happens about that data.

**INT: And are you doing some practical maintenance at that site as well, is that yes? So, you're not necessarily using that data to understand the impacts of particular management interventions or inform those interventions.**

P24: Well, I suspect it probably does but it’s not something that I get involved in. I mean there are some very clever people at [Nature reserve] who I can’t compete with [laughs].

**INT: Who is it owned by?**

P24: Well, the land is owned by a couple of land owners.

**INT: Oh, okay.**

P24: And we, there's a board of trustees, [nature reserve] Trustees and [Nature reserve] rent the land from these land owners. And I think they’ve just signed another agreement for the next 25 years.

**INT: Oh, wow.**

P24: So, we’re okay for the next 25 years. But it’s surround, the reserve is surrounded by [Quarry].

**INT: Okay.**

P24: But they do their sort of green stuff by supporting the reserve in various ways so, it works both ways.

**INT: Yes, yes so there's the management committee I guess who are kind of looking at that data and yes, yes.**

P24: Yes.

**INT: And so, do you think, sorry carry on.**

P24: Well, I was just saying there are some very clever people who have a range of interests. Whether it be birds, reptiles, fungi you know you name it, there's somebody who’ll have a specific ``interest. And they are you know very clever, intelligent people who've been doing it all their lives. So, it tends to be a bit above my head [laughs].

**INT: [Laughs] it sounds like you’ve got plenty of skills though across lots of different [unclear 00:18:49]. So, do you see your interests expanding or do you think you'll stick to the kind of species groups that you're focusing on at the moment?**

P24: Well, it’s interesting that you should mention that because at [Nature reserve] they've got an invertebrates recorder who I believe is you know in his 80s. And he’s been doing it for about 30 odd years and he doesn't want to do it anymore. And I was asked if I would like to volunteer [laughs].

P24-2: [Laughs].

**INT: It was suggested to you [laughs].**

P24: [Laughs] well.

P24-2: Yes, politely [laughs].

P24: Although I have an interest in insects and that's mainly through photography, as one of my sort of more intelligent colleagues said, “It will broaden your horizons” [laughs].

**INT: [Laughs].**

P24: And he’s absolutely right and I don't know mind that and I don't mind learning about new things. So, subject to the trustees’ approval I’ll be the next invertebrates recorder [laughs].

**00:19:55**

**INT: Okay, so what will that entail then in terms of recording?**

P24: Anyone who is a member of [Nature reserve] will, if they see any insect or [unclear 00:20:12] will send that information with photographs hopefully to me. I’ll check out whether, hopefully check out whether the insect is what they say it is. And then at the end of the year write a report on all the insects seen at the reserve.

**INT: Yes, so [laughs].**

P24-2: [Laughs].

**INT: Feeling confident about that role?**

P24: What?

**INT: Are you feeling confident about taking that on?**

P24: No [laughs].

**INT: And have you got good, because obviously you’ve got good sources of support with the moths.**

P24: yes.

**INT: From [Name], I mean I guess that's what you need isn't it, that network?**

P24-2: Yes, yes.

**INT: Do you have that for other species groups?**

P24: Yes, because this old chap who was the invertebrates recorder, a bloke called [Name], he is not abandoning me.

**INT: Okay.**

P24: He’s going, he’s said that you know, “IF you get stuck on anything I’m always here to help you out”.

**INT: Okay.**

P24: And yes, I’m sure people will help me out. But I think my biggest concern is really, how to write the report at the end of the year in the scientific terms that they’ve been used to. Because I am not a scientist and I never have been whereas they are [laughs].

**INT: Yes, yes I guess there's a template of previous reports that you can build on.**

P24: Yes.

**INT: Yes, but are you are kind of relishing that opportunity for learning as well?**

P24: I am actually, in all honesty [INT], yes I am relishing that. Because like I say, I have had an interest over the past couple or three years and this will sort of expand and build upon that. And you know I am fascinated by insects so, yes I’m looking forward to it.

**INT: And then with the moths, do you see that expanding beyond your kind of home recording? Or do you think that will stick to just being at home?**

P24: It will expand in the sense that if we ever go away from home on holiday again [laughs] we’ll take our moth trap with us and do recording wherever we’re on holiday at. But in terms of sort of say [Dale], no I can’t see us doing that.

P24-2: No.

**INT: And is that just like practicalities of not having the right equipment and having to go out late at night and early in the morning [laughs]?**

P24: Well, there's that but we've got quite a lot on between us with various things and you know sometimes we struggle to find the time to do things. Because I think the thing is once you start volunteering people say, “Oh, do you mind doing this, would you mind doing that”? And if you don't put your foot down you can end up you know just getting swamped and I don't want that.

**INT: Yes, so you want to stick to kind of what your primary interests are and that's what you want your, yes. And so, if someone were to come to you and say, “Would you mind recording at this particular place” is that something that you would consider? Or in what sort of circumstances would you consider doing that?**

P24-2: For a moth we haven't got the equipment, we’d need an electric point wouldn’t we?

P24: Well, to give you an example [INT], the people at [Nature reserve] knew that [Name] and I did mothing so, they said to us about a year ago. [Nature reserve] have bought some mothing equipment and they wanted people to sort of help out with that. And they said to me and [Name], “Well, you know would you mind helping out”? And we live about 15 miles away from [Nature reserve] which doesn't sound very much but you know we just couldn't promise to commit to that on a regular basis. If it was a one off now and again then maybe we’d consider it but to do it every week is a commitment that's just too much with everything else we've got on.

**INT: Yes, yes. And so, if it was a kind of one off request so, thinking beyond the moths so, thinking perhaps to birds or other species. Would you be more willing to go to a site where you're likely to see something of interest or if somebody said, “Well, this is a gap, we don’t have any data from here. We don't know what's going to be there, whether it will be a good site or not”. Is that something that interests you, kind of filling gaps in record regardless of the interests of the site? Or are you more interested in going to sites that will give you a nice [laughs] recording experience?**

P24: Well, from my point of view [INT], I've got to be honest with you, I wouldn't do something just to fill a gap on recording.

**INT: Okay.**

P24: I don't know about you.

P24-2: No, I think it would depend no, I don't think so.

RE: No [laughs].

P24-2: That sounds awful doesn't it.

**INT: No [laughs].**

P24-2: [Laughs]

**INT: You're not unique [laughs].**

P24-2: [Laughs] yes.

**INT: No, but I mean it’s interesting to know because recorders work in all different ways don't they and have all different motivations. And you know [laughs] there's no problem with wanting to go to a site where you're going to have a good chance of seeing something of interest.**

P24-2: We got sent to one site, what was it for, was it birds, that one on [PLACE]? And it was just, and it was an appalling site to walk around in the sense that you couldn’t take your eyes off the ground. Because it was so uneven that you were going to step in a hole and crick your ankle [laughs] and that was really, really hard work. And that was for birds but it was, we basically did it and said, “Please don't send us back to that site” because it was just such physically hard work walking around.

**INT: Yes, but then you'd be worried about.**

P24-2: Then you thought if you were 20 you could leap over the stone walls but I’m trying to crawl over stone walls [laughs] and barbed wire and things. And it wasn’t the easiest thing so, that sort of. Because around here I mean once you get off the beaten track you're into moorland and it’s just not easy walking, it’s real hard work. You know doing a mile across a moor is the equivalent of probably doing four miles on a decent track you know. Because it’s so uneven and it’s so difficult to know what you're walking on. So, I’m a little bit wary about somebody saying, “Can you go somewhere where nobody has been before”? Because I always think *I know where's that going to be [laughs] that's going to be in the middle of a moor* you know.

**INT: There's a reason nobody has been there before [laughs].**

P24-2: Exactly, yes, yes, “Haven't you got any 20 year olds who are happy to go jumping around [laughs]”? I’m getting on a bit for that you know.

P24: But to come back, I don't know if this helps you understand where I’m coming from but my hobby is wildlife photography. And as a kind of thanks you know, going to these reserves as a kind of thanks I thought well, I’ll give them some payback which is why I started to volunteer at this [Nature reserve].

**INT: Okay.**

P24: But if I’m not careful my main hobby is going to get eaten into by all these other bits of volunteering. So, what I don't want is my main hobby to become a side-line to all this volunteering stuff, there’s got to be a happy balance as far as I’m concerned. And that's where I’m coming from.

**INT: And is that the same for you then [Name], or is your kind of main hobby the birds and everything else is a bit?**

P24-2: Well, I don't know, I mean I love doing the mothing when we get around [laughs] when we find the time to do it. But it takes us a long time to do, we’re not experts. I mean [Name] just goes, “It’s a such and such, such and such you know, it’s this, this, this, this”. And we’re pouring over books and looking up [unclear 00:29:09] old photos and going, “What was that”? And it takes us so, it’s a good, it’s almost sort of the next day. If we moth on a Tuesday night you can virtually cancel out Wednesday because it takes us that long to work out what we caught.

**INT: No, I’m the same.**

P24-2: So, we’ll photograph it, because [Name] likes the photographs so we photograph everything. So, it’s for, us it’s quite a long, I mean [Name] will do it in an hour in the morning. It’ll take us at least until lunchtime and then probably into the afternoon to sort it all out. And then we’ll have the queries to send to [Name] and say, “Is this really a such and such if it’s the wrong time of year” or something?

**00:29:50**

**INT: So, how often are you setting the trap then?**

P24-2: Well, we haven't done it this year.

**INT: No, I haven't done.**

P24-2: Partly because of the weather, the weather the last few weeks has been so cold at night we just thought it was pointless. But we were talking about trying to maybe set up a trap either this week or next and start it. Because we’re conscious of the fact that we’re getting into the year and we haven’t done anything yet.

P24-2: To give you an example [INT], I think for the last couple of years each year we did it about 15 times between March and October.

P24-2: Yes, we don't do absolutely you know every single Tuesday night or every single week or something. We just do it as and when we've got A) the time and B) we think the weather is reasonable for them to be around. Because that's the issue, it’s the identification afterwards, we’re not experts and so, it takes a long time.

**INT: Yes, so what do you think motivates you to do it then? Is it that feeling that you're contributing to something or is it the interest that it gives you? Or is it a combination of different things?**

P24-2: It’s both, it’s the curiosity to know what's around at night when, you know what's in the garden. And yes, you know once you’ve got that information you might as well send it not someone else and let them use it for something greater than we would.

P24: And I think the other point is we want to get things right, it’s not a question of, “Oh we don't know what that is, forget it”. We’re very keen to understand what it is, get it right and report it.

**INT: Yes, which takes extra time doesn't it if you're wanting to, yes. Yes, I mean it’s such a huge learning experience moths isn't it?**

P24-2: Oh, huge [laughs] yes.

**INT: Starting again every year [laughs] almost aren’t you?**

P24: Yes, yes.

P24-2: Yes, yes.

**INT: “I thought I knew this last year but” [laughs].**

P24-2: Yes, “I've seen it”.

P24: Yes. absolutely [laughs].

P24-2: Yes, “I've seen it before what was it” yes.

**INT: [Laughs].**

P24: But [Name] has got a better memory than I have.

**INT: My memory is shocking.**

P24-2: But he’s got the good photos you see so we can always go back and say, “Oh, did we see that last year”?

**INT: That really helps.**

P24: Yes, it does.

P24-2: It does, it helps enormously, yes.

P24: Yes, very much so.

P24-2: And even [Name] likes [Name] or’s photos because he says he gets some horrors and [Name]’s are really crystal clear, good photos.

**INT: Does he ever use them in the report?**

P24-2: Did he use them in the report?

P24: I‘m not sure, I’m not sure [INT].

P24-2: I don't know but he sent three up to [wildlife charity] and they picked three out didn’t they for?

P24: Well, that's butterflies.

P24-2: That was, I know that was butterflies.

**INT: So, you photograph butterflies as well.**

P24-2: Photograph anything.

P24: [Laughs].

**INT: Anything that moves or doesn’t move.**

P24-2: Anything that moves yes, hares, deer, you name it, anything we see that we think you know. Because photography is [Name]’s main interest so it’s the photographing of something that is the most interesting thing for him. And the more you look at a photograph you see the detail that you just don't see if you watch a butterfly. It’s only when you see the photograph of the butterfly that you really start to appreciate the detail of them. Because you can just stare at it for as long as you like [laughs].

**INT: So, do you go further afield hunting butterflies, you know there's quite a lot of people that have got this mission to see all of the species and photograph them.**

P24: Oh, no, no.

P24-2: No, no, no.

P24: NO, we’re not like that at all.

P24-2: No, no it tends to be that if we go, so if we went to [Nature Reserve] we go for the birds. But they have a lot of butterflies so we’ll keep our eyes out for the butterflies.

P24: Dragonflies.

P24-2: Dragonflies, anything really. And because [Name] is a photographer he’s always looking for you know we sort of, it makes you look at things more. You look at the plants more to see if there's caterpillars or flies or bees or anything. So, it sort of all feeds in together if you see what I mean but the photography for [Name] is the main thing. And for me it’s just the joy of being out there and looking at things. And you know sort of doing the recording afterwards is like a bonus.

**INT: Okay.**

P24-2: But I just like seeing the things and seeing what's there and finding out what it is [laughs]. Because you get curious after a while you know things are so, particularly insects are so stunning that you're just amazed by them.

**INT: Yes, so your kind of motivations and your interests have changed over time. Kind of like you were saying it builds from one thing to another.**

P24-2: Yes.

P24: Yes, absolutely.

P24-2: Yes, yes I mean once you start looking at butterflies then obviously, you're looking at a smaller level than you are at birds because they're smaller. And then you start to notice well, there's a bee on there or there's a hoverfly and it just progresses doesn’t it? You know your interest just expands I think if you're curious, which we are.

**INT: Yes, yes.**

P24-2: And we've now got the time to do it [laughs] now we’re not working we can do that so it sort of al builds up really.

**INT: Yes, and what a lovely way to spend your time [laughs].**

P24-2: I know [laughs].

P24: We can heartily recommend it [INT] [laughs].

P24-2: Yes, absolutely [laughs] yes.

**INT: Only got another 30 years to go [laughs].**

P24-2: Oh, dear yes.

**INT: Oh, dear. Well, I think that covers everything that I've got on my list, sorry I’m just having a look.**

P24-2: No, that's all right.

**INT: Make sure I've not missed anything, I think that does. So, is there anything else you wanted to say about how you record, why you record, what motivates you that you’ve not covered so far?**

P24: No, I don't think so [INT].

P24-2: I know one of the things, I mean [Name] mentioned MapMate at the beginning which is a recording platform you know. And it drove us mad because it was just like well, it is almost as if it’s an electronic version of filling in a card. And we found it exasperatingly annoying.

**INT: Okay.**

P24-2: So, for us sort of I think if somebody asked us to record we would now be saying, “And what are we recording on and how do we record”? Because if it turned out that they what they wanted you to do was go on MapMate and do it, we just wouldn’t do it.

**INT: No, it’s so specialised isn't it, I mean I can’t say I've ever used it.**

P24-2: Oh, don't, you haven’t missed anything.

**INT: It’s a huge barrier for people I think isn't it and it’s you know developed by the really specialist people I think isn't it?**

P24-2: Yes, oh absolutely.

**INT: Without thinking about the more kind of, not the casual recorder but you know not the kind of professionals.**

P24-2: Yes.

**INT: So, what do you tend to do with your recordS then, do you put them in a spreadsheet and send them to whoever wants them? Is that how you have?**

P24-2: Yes, that's what we do for [Name] and it's what I do for the birdwatchers as well. Just sort of and then they collate it all and we do a bird report every year.

**INT: Yes, and with the moths are you doing it as you track or do you save it all to the end of the year and submit it all in the winter?**

P24: [Name] just wants it around about the early December so, the only time that we would sort of tell him what we've seen is if we’re in any doubt as to what we've seen. But other than that, we just send him a spreadsheet sort of like the first or second week in December.

**INT: Okay, yes. And is it the same with the birds is it, an annual kind of passing on of the data?**

P24-2: No, we try, we’re all amateurs. the birdwatchers, the bird report we do there are individual members who actually collate the information and put it into MapMate which is why I don't do it. But it would be overwhelming if they had it all at once so we just encourage people to send things in as either on a weekly basis or a monthly basis or collate it all. You know if they suddenly see stuff, they're out at one of the reservoirs and they see something and they want to send it up. Then they can just send it up randomly as an email or a spreadsheet. We’re not, as the birdwatchers we don't have a technical form to fill in.

**INT: Okay.**

P24: Because we have such a broad range of people that if you gave them a technical form it would put a lot of them off. They’d just go, “Oh, I can’t do that” or, “Oh, it’s too complicated”. Whereas, if they send you an email saying, “Oh, I've seen an osprey at [PLACE]” or something or, “I've seen the oystercatchers out” or, “I've seen the ring ouzels out”. But they wouldn’t fill the from in and you know they wouldn’t fill something in. But they'd send an email or just been ring you up and say, “I've seen this”. So, it’s much more casual for us because we’re not professionals.

**INT: And like you say you don't want to put people off by saying, “You’ve got to [unclear 00:39:17] method”.**

P24-2: No, no because some people don't like computers, some people don't have very good internet connections and all sorts of you know. There's one lady who’s renowned for giving you a little piece of paper with little, you know just a list of things on. Well, you don't want to stop that because she’s a very good birdwatcher but she doesn't do technology.

**00:39:41**

**INT: And have you ever used any of the apps to record so, like the iRecord Butterflies app or the Ladybirds app or anything like that for your [unclear 00:39:52] records?**

P24-2: I don’t know, no, I know some of the birdwatchers do, they put them all sorts of things, Bird Track and all sorts of stuff. But we’re not as advanced as that if you see what I mean.

**INT: [Laughs].**

P24: Well, plus the fact I think you know you said it right at the very beginning [INT], that there seem to be so many of these apps. You think *well, you know which one should we be using, which is the best*? And it gets a bit confusing after a while [laughs].

**INT: Yes, it really does, yes.**

P24-2: Yes, yes and our motivation isn't necessarily to do a list of everything. Our motivation is just to go and see it and photograph it and have a walk and enjoy. The recording kind of [audio drops 00:40:36 – end]

**Audio ends: [0:43:55]**