**CONFIDENTIAL**

Date Transcribed: 24th May 2021

Interviewer(s):

Respondent(s):

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

P31: Regarding butterflies?

**INT: Any species.**

P31: That’s a difficult question. Well must be more than 10 years, 10 years I’ve been – well for me started butterfly records yes, when I starting working for the [wetland reserve], [wetland reserve] , when I have a day of I do butterfly records for them. So every week I am doing different things. Last week I was counting [unclear: 0:01:28.0], ducks and all that, the week before I was doing [unclear: 0:01:34.2] more birds. But the record, when I started, when I stopped and have to count them also at the same time. The species I am counting, when I come back home and all the data I’ve collected I input everything on my computer and send that to the manager. There it is sent to the head office. So I’ve before this pandemic I stopped nearly two years, I stopped it completely, we couldn’t get access and I just started a week ago, two weeks ago I started. So I started that and I’ve been doing that for over a year. So butterflies is maybe two or three years ago, when I am out and about, covering large areas. Butterfly, I would even count if possible, because butterflies tend to move around. I am not sure if I am counting the same thing again, it’s a bit tricky, very tricky. I count and they move and I am thinking have these things been moving around. But it is a challenge, when you’re collecting data which are moving. And plants and trees, you know they are there, they’re not going anywhere but anything which can fly I find it very challenging. Because I am never sure if it’s the same thing gone here or is it a double record.

**INT: So did you do any recording before you started your job at the [wetland reserve]?**

P31: No, no.

**INT: So you presumably had the skills in terms of identifying birds before you started there or did they kind of train you up?**

P31: Because I was born in [COUNTRY] but I knew my birds, I knew family wise. When I came to the UK I still continued birding, it’s when I got employed by the [wetland reserve], I was having a word with the, because we not in our working area, we have different people of different management. I come under maintenance and building. Totally different from other different managers but I knew who to talk so. So I kind of, I was talking to, we had a record officer who record everything down so I was talking to him, I said any chances for me to kind of you know be part of it? He say sure, you can, you have the skills and you know what birds are what, you can join us. So I joined them, I kind of got in the group.

**INT: So it wasn’t actually part of your job?**

P31: No.

**INT: No, you are doing it in your lunch break.**

P31: [unclear: 0:04:32.9].

**INT: Okay.**

P31: It’s only until, if I have a day off I would go on that day and do my counts.

**INT: I see, nice, yes, okay.**

P31: For butterflies, same thing. If I have a day off and I want to go then I would go out, especially in [county] in [county] area so I could be 10 minutes away from the house, a small park, I could be there wandering around looking for butterflies. Or I will travel a bit further by train looking for green [unclear: 0:05:11.6] and all that. I will be travelling in that direction, do the same thing.

**INT: Yes.**

P31: Other thing if I know my moths, you know which is which, I would do the same thing because [wildlife charity] also do need some records of what species of moths I think. So I would do that very quickly.

**INT: Is that kind of day flying moths then?**

P31: Yes, day flying.

**INT: Okay.**

P31: Which you can easy to identify them.

**INT: And so how you say you might go to your local park or you might go a bit further afield, how are you deciding where to go? Is it because you are looking for a particular species or you just think I’d like to visit that site?**

P31: I would like to visit a site because there are things I want to see, I tend to go a bit further away. I mean there are a lot of places I tend to go, there’s one new [SITE], in [BOROUGH]. I can be there sometimes. I just have a good, it’s a good day, oh let me go there. So while I am birding I am also looking for butterflies at the same time. So I might be recording two things, by book. That’s how I collect all the data.

**INT: And is it the birds that usually come first then in terms of choosing a place to visit and then the butterflies are secondary?**

P31: Well if I am going to drink I am only going for butterflies. If only I see a bird I say fine, okay but that time I am aiming only for butterflies, I am not aiming for birds. I am aiming for [unclear: 0:06:50.5] and you know skippers and all that, that is my aim, I want to see what I can see.

**INT: Okay. So where are you getting information from about where the sites are that you ‘revisiting? Are there kind of newsletters or websites or something like that that you use to select sites to go to?**

P31: It’s through [county] in [county] Conservation, they have their own website. I have to join the group and that’s how I came to know the sites and I have to get there, I can do it myself, I can just do it by myself. I just say okay I am going here, I know how to get from the station to the site and back, so I don’t need to be with the group because now I know where everything is, what areas I can cover, I can just go and do it myself.

**INT: And do you tend to go on your own then, you don’t tend to go with anyone else when you ‘revisiting those sites?**

P31: If it’s a new place I would go with a group because I am not sure where I am going. But once I know it then I just do it myself.

**INT: So did you say you’re on public transport?**

P31: Yes.

**INT: Yes, so you haven’t got a car. Have you found that to be a barrier in terms of getting to places sometimes?**

P31: I don’t have a car, only travel by public transport. Which I would plan it out myself, if I can get access by public transport I will travel there. If I know it is a journey which is going to be very difficult for me to get there, I wouldn’t. But then I know it is going to be how do I get there, from A to B? If I can get from A to B, how do I get from B to C? That can be very tricky for me and I am struggling then. Or I can be frustrated, you know. That’s my issue.

**INT: Yes, and so it is [county] and [county] then that you cover mainly for the butterflies, you don’t tend to go into the other areas?**

P31: No, go from, if I want to cover [COUNTY] I don’t know how big the area is and I don’t know most part of [CITY] so I tend to not to go there. I am also, because [CITY] is a big city, you know getting from A to b is a long journey. For me, if I want to, if I need to be 7 o’clock at work, I need to leave at 5 in the morning before I get my train, get a train them from there get a bus, then it’s a journey to get to work, it’s an hour and a half to get to work.

**INT: Gosh, that’s a long journey.**

P31: That’s why I have to wake up early, if you say you know, preparation before you start your journey.

**INT: Exactly yes, how many days a week are you doing that then?**

P31: Sometimes it is five to seven days, some days I am off, depending on every month I know what my rota is, that’s how I have to plan it.

**0:10:02.0**

**INT: Yes, yes and then your birding, does that tend to be primarily at the [wetland reserve] or are you visiting other sites for that as well?**

P31: Visiting other sites also, including.

**INT: And how do you choose those sites, where to visit for the birds?**

P31: It depends, I can, if the day before I can choose, I decide tomorrow I do this, depending on the weather also. If the weather is not nice I might not go because I am spending more time outdoors, out in the field. If I tend not to go, you know the wet season, I avoid that because I don’t want to get drenched you know and come home wet and like that. So I try and avoid places where I have no shelter. But this time it is fine, okay, or during the winter, I don’t know what it is called but I can wear warm enough clothes so I know I am okay. It’s during the wet season I tend to not to, I avoid going out places.

**INT: It’s not much fun.**

P31: No, it’s not fun because, I mean it kind of ruins everything what you have planned you know.

**INT: Yes, so do you have familiar sites that you go back to for the birds then, you have a selection of sites that you know and you like to go back to?**

P31: Well I have a few sites I know about but I tend to find out new other different sites, I like to expand and spread my wings around. Including, for example like butterflies. Yes I don’t mind, try something different, see what is there, what I can see and some of the reports I get is either through friends you know, like for example last year when a report of a brown [unclear: 0:12:03.3] and they told me exactly where it is so I went there and I saw it. I know okay during this month when birding I know where to go now and go and look. For this year I might plan again that, the same place I want to go look for it.

**INT: Yes, and then for the birds is it the same, it is kind of word of mouth, people recommending sites for you to go to?**

P31: Well initially when I came to this country I didn’t know everything, you know. My words, people say why don’t you try here, go there, I will go or had a book I wish to read, how do I get there. But now I know how to get there I can just, I know how to get there now.

**INT: Yes, you’ve kind of got to get into the right networks haven’t you and know the right people to talk to to be able to -**

P31: Yes.

**INT: - so I guess that’s where something like the local branch of [wildlife charity] really helps because then you know who to talk to?**

P31: Yes, and that’s how I think I met [Name].

**INT: Okay, and so is the, would you say the social side of things is important for you or are you more kind of solitary in your recording?**

P31: No, no I mean with me, everything which I have recorded I put it on social media.

**INT: Oh okay.**

P31: And also including, I send it to the [county] and [county], that site. There’s a guy called [Name] or something like that. He’s in charge of collecting records from [county] and [county]. Anything which I have seen I would send it to him.

**INT: Is that via email then or do it online?**

P31: By email. Then from anything we are sending he always, he inputs them on the website or a daily basis record.

**INT: So do you do it on the day that you’ve made the record then, on the day that you’ve seen something you will submit the record?**

P31: I would, yes. If I know enough time I will send that on the same day. Other things like if I’ve done a long report or a long record, and if I am counting. I take time, I usually send it the following day.

**INT: And when you go out to these places, are you making a full list of everything you see?**

P31: Yes. Full list. A full list including if I have a chance I take photographs of it. Anything unusual I see or I take a photo I will do that. Certain records I have to even put my timing, like what time I started, what time I finished. That’s very important because a lot of my records would go on other social media, like Birds and all that.

**INT: Okay.**

P31: Butterflies I would send it to, who I know to end it to you know. How many I’ve counted.

**INT: And do you do any of the formal transect walking for butterflies?**

P31: I’ve never done a transect, because for me if, I move from let’s say, if I go to [unclear: 0:15:33.8] I know where to go first. Once I finish that part I tend to move to a different location. Even though I’m in the same area but I might have moved across and go to a different sector, look for something and then I’ve gone again and work somewhere else, then from there finished, I am going back. At end of day when I am back home I can go and say look this is my total figure now. I’ve never done transect.

**INT: So when you are in the field are you noting things down in a notebook or are you taking -?**

P31: Yes, a notebook.

**INT: A notebook, okay and how are you getting the GPS location, have you got an app on your phone or something?**

P31: No, I don’t.

**INT: Okay, you just know when -**

P31: I just note [unclear: 0:16:21.2].

**INT: Okay, yes, so when you’re submitting your records, how are you generating the grid reference for your sightings?**

P31: Now for the sightings I think, it has already been reported before, in [county] and [county]. When I sight I just put [unclear 0:16:40.7] and they know where I’ve gone to. For they know, okay this is the spot he has been to and I don’t need to give them coordination, or GPS. I think some of it you can get online, from the coordinates. I do not have that particular app or do I have what do you call this thing, this GPS device. I was planning to buy one for myself so I know where I am and can use the coordinate, I am not sure when I will buy it.

**INT: Yes, so then with your bird records, where do you submit those to? Did you say it’s through EBird?**

P31: Well a lot of things I can do with, the ones I do for the [wetland reserve] I have to send that to the manager who is in charge of the results. I send all my data, once it’s input, I send a letter to him and from the manager it goes to the head office and the head office, all the data collection goes to the head office after that. If I’ve gone somewhere else, for example [unclear: 0:17:54.5] I’ve collected all the data, go through EBird, all my data, and anything unusual, a few reports I will put it on [wildlife club] and for other social media to let people know what’s been seen. So that’s how I kind of spread my information to others. I don’t keep it to myself.

**INT: No, yes and so that [wildlife club], is that a website or is it a Facebook group?**

P31: It’s a website, they are under [local natural history society].

**INT: Okay, yes.**

P31: The [wildlife club] they have their own website where anyone can put their own data.

**INT: Okay.**

P31: They have to follow some rules and regulation which you have to follow.

**INT: Okay, and then it appears on the website for everyone else to see, yes.**

P31: Yes, even now if I’ve seen something I can type it, put my name in there. For whoever is going over it, going to check on the website, including me if I am looking for something, I know this thing has been seen here. So I know I can plan it, I’ll go there and look for it.

**INT: And so with all those various ways in which you submit records, do you get any feedback on what that data is then used for or do you get any other sort of feedback, so for example for the butterflies do you get anything back from that when you’ve submitted your data?**

P31: The data, I don’t get any submission, people are not going to enquiry about me. There’s one website I usually put my data and remember the data, what it’s called – they do any records.

**INT: Oh, iRecord?**

P31: Verified information, validation, now because I also look at these at the same time. In the last days of lockdown I got interested in bees, bumble bees but I’ve been taking photographs and if I am not sure what I am looking at I would get in touch with the author of the book.

**0:20:05.5**

**INT: Okay.**

P31: He will tell me what it is, then from there I will send it to, I can’t remember the name of the record, I will send it to them -

**INT: Is it iRecord, or iSpot?**

P31: Yes, iRecord, yes that’s it, iRecord, yes, and then from there they validate my record to confirm this is what it is.

**INT: Yes, and so that’s for other things is it that you use iRecord, so not the butterflies and your birds?**

P31: It could be, I mean for example if a brown [unclear: 0:20:37.4] I would put it on iRecord. I know what it is but still, you know. From the data I know where to kind of, iRecord or, anything I am doing, it’s not only butterflies, including reptiles and amphibians, I’ve given some link so I need to put on my data there I am sending.

**INT: So that’s another place where you -?**

P31: Yes.

**INT: Okay.**

P31: A lot of things I have to you know, so much information, I have to figure it out where I need to put the right record where and how to do it you know.

**INT: And so are these just things you’ve seen when you are out birding and going to visit places for the butterflies and if you see anything else that is particularly interesting then you will submit those records as well.**

P31: Yes, I would and if I am not sure what it is I will take a photo of it or something, because if I am not 100% sure to identify it then I would, I will try and take a photo of it, go back home, because I have a lot of figures with me I will go away, not 100% sure then I would send it to iRecord or other website where they can validate and tell me what it is. I also sometimes do dragonflies. So I’ve been looking for dragonflies at the moment but I’ve not been seeing any yet. I am struggling.

**INT: Yes, yes it’s got to warm up a bit hasn’t it.**

P31: The reports in the UK, a few species have been seen.

**INT: As you say you started with the birds and then was it the butterflies that came next? How did you start recording butterflies, what kind of got you into that or what motivated you to start recording those different species?**

P31: Everything started when I was in [COUNTRY]. Even including butterflies. When I came to this country, I remember the first butterfly I saw was a peacock. Now when I saw that I couldn’t know what it was, I was still learning. I know it’s a butterfly but what species, I had no idea. When I joined the group and when I became a member of the [wildlife charity], they asked me where do you come from, which part of [CITY]. For then they tell you okay because you are this part of London you will be in this particular group, so because I was staying in [BOROUGH], [county] and [county]. So then I would get newsletters you know, what trips are coming up, I would join them and from there I start learning my butterflies slowly slowly, I started knowing what is what and how it’s been recorded. I knew some of my stuff then I will start recording everything.

**INT: So did you get support from the branch in terms of identification or was that mainly on the kind of field trips where people would support?**

P31: Field trips.

**INT: Yes, yes.**

P31: Started off on field trips, field trips or when someone is expert, like [unclear: 0:23:54.3] they know everything so I kind of follow him you know. They are like teacher to me, I am a student you know. That’s how I learn.

**INT: So will he still help you now then if there’s something that you’re not sure of?**

P31: If I send him photograph, I say [Name] can you help. Someone called [Name], [Name], what is the name, can’t remember his name. He’s also good in butterflies. I would just say please I need your help to identify some species. I go for it.

**INT: So when you then started to get comfortable with the butterflies, was that when you started looking for other species as well, so the bumble bees and -**

P31: Yes, bumble bees, I know they are there. I think it is lockdown made me think I need to now start learning other stuff now. I don’t do too many things, I get confused.

**INT: Yes, yes, but is the kind of learning side of things important for you do you think, the kind of -?**

P31: Yes, because in like you would know what the population is, if the climate changed, impacting the population, why has that. What’s going on, why number is going down or why is it going down or why is it stable? Is it going down, is it going up, due to what? Climate change, habitat loss, everything. But you know, if the impact of the environment, are we alternating the environment which is suitable for, it could be suitable for something but not for something else you know. But sometimes I would go and have a look and mmm something is not right here. I used to see this but I don’t see that anymore, what has happened now? Is it something that’s been, a non-native species, it’s going to challenge the native species and the native species are going to be kicked out and you are getting non-native coming in and thin okay, sometimes not right here what’s going on. And that way, yes.

**INT: So are you using the records that you’ve collected yourself to kind of look at trends and changes from year to year or is it more up here and it is you know you kind of think oh I’ve not seen that this year or seen more or less than that than I would have expected?**

P31: Mostly from my notebook or if I get access to old data. So many notebooks in my house, all different dates and where I’ve been, I can cross check, sometimes you want to cross check and see what has happened a year ago, why am I not getting this now? Is it because of something else? Is it because of climate change they have decided not to come here and is it getting too cold for them or is it getting too warm for them. Why are they not coming back here, what is going on? Is there something wrong with migration, have they been shocked from winter coming, or something has gone wrong, is it due to there’s no food you know. So that is why when I am doing all this I usually count so I know what is going on. You know when you have this big butterfly count, that way they know what’s the population, why this population is declining, is it because of this.

**INT: So then is part of the motivation what the other organisations will use that data for then? So I guess when that data gets passed up to national [wildlife charity], is part of your motivation for recording know what they are going to use that data for?**

P31: Yes. I mean I know all the data we collect which goes to [wildlife charity]. [wildlife charity] will know the data we are getting from individual people and the reports getting in, you know sightings and the counted, end of the day they know okay the population either is going up or is going down. I think even [WILDLIFE CHARITY] do the same thing, big gallon bird, they want to know what’s the population, what is the impact. And that way I can agree because many, people collecting data from different data coming in and when you get it together you know what is going on. And from there you can write a report, have a small report in the press so people can read about it, what is going on, why this particular species is in decline. Is it loss of habitat or is there a change in the habitat, has the habitat alternated and a change, like food plants, there are no more food plants, decided to chop off everything and plan agriculture farm land which I agree because you and me we want to know what is going on, what are we doing now and I think data collection for each individual is very important which is then filtered you know to the people who are in charge, they collect their own data and they can write a report, okay this is our final report, this is what has happened.

**INT: And do you see those reports with the collation of that data?**

P31: Some of it yes, you know when it comes in a newspaper or through social media I know okay, fine we’ve got this report, I can see it, I can read. You know, especially you know with a lot of people, when you have a lot of [unclear: 0:30:06.1] well known people, respectable, [unclear: 0:30:09.9] people want to listen to them but they talk a lot about you know environment and when you get this report coming in and you want to read, you want to know what has really happened, what do I do now?

**0:30:22.5**

What are the chances for me to see that? Now or in the future. Are these species going to be still alive or are they going to get extinct completely. Because when I do my report, when I am collecting all my data, after 100 years you don’t know that data might be still useful for the next generation. It might be getting 100 starlings today and why after 10 years only one or two, what has happened now. Are they dying of disease or is it something else. All this data, you know it’s quite, I can’t believe it. My notebooks are so many, they are just piled up. Because it’s now more than 10 years I’ve been birding in this country, those 10 years of data it is, I’ve collected my notebook.

**INT: Yes, and o when you were in [COUNTRY], were there opportunities to submit records there or were you just -?**

P31: Oh not like the UK, I think we are lucky in the UK that we have places, whatever, [wildlife charity], [WILDLIFE CHARITY] and iRecording, everything, where we can send our data. In [COUNTRY] it was very difficult. If I did my butterflies I didn’t know who to send the data to. Who do I submit? At that time when I was in there we had no idea we could do stuff like this. Because I started learning butterflies, I was going in the field bird watching and when I was bird watching with a group the one particular lady she knew her butterflies, that’s how I learned from her. But that time, when I was in [COUNTRY] I did not count, I was not counting them. What I do in the UK, I was just writing oh I seen this, I didn’t count. Oh I saw that, I didn’t count. But with birds I didn’t count, just writing the name of the species. It’s only here I’ve come to the UK now I found ah it’s a good idea to count as well because you know it’s all data you are collecting. If you don’t count it is still data. Or if we just write zero, still data because that means data collection is informative, from zero to millions.

**INT: Yes, and so was it, did somebody suggest to you to count the numbers as well or is that something you decided yourself to do?**

P31: On what species?

**INT: Well, on anything, yes.**

P31: I decide myself. If I am doing my bird counts for the [wetland reserve] we are told to count them, we need to count because they want to know especially if the population is too high what do we do. For those species can be, they are not threatened but the species need to be under control, don’t want the population to explode too much and get out of hand. We need to control the population I agree, even with animals, when there’s too many animals, you want to cull them, you need to control them, don’t want them to explode. I think even certain bird species there are too many. And say okay we need to control them. Everything has to be well-balanced. The balance going one side too high, one side too low you know, everything has to be well-balanced. The count, butterflies, I don’t know, it just triggered me, maybe I count butterflies. It is better for me. I am sending that information to the website they want the number of how many been counted. Even during the big butterfly count, same thing, write how many you’ve counted, that way they know from the data you’ve collected, what’s the species like and how many percentage, is it 50% high, is it low? I like to count, it is butterflies and birds I like to count. Others I find it a bit tricky. It is very difficult for me to count. I don’t get a lot, especially like dragon flies, very difficult. I mean one or two and that is it. Count it for the sake of counting, okay let me just put it – bees no I can’t, impossible to count, they are buzzing everywhere you know. I give up that, I forget that. Butterflies it is easy because you have counted less in one sector, let’s say one by one square foot, you know you’ve counted this area, okay I am going to walk a few steps but I know anything coming in front of me I can count that, anything from behind I can’t count it because I know the same butterflies I’ve counted are going to fly from behind, so I can avoid that. Only count anything coming from front. I know okay I have not counted, let me walk again. So I am looking at everything in front of me, not anything from behind. Anything from behind I’ve already counted, if I double count it then I am going over and over. How come I am getting, for example meadow brown, sort of getting less than 10 but I am getting 20-25, that’s impossible. It’s the same butterflies going up and down. You can’t tell if I’ve counted that or not. Even when I do my counts in [COUNTRY], you are told when you’re counting your birds, count anything flying in front of you, not from behind because some if it’s from behind it’s already been counted so avoid counting that. You are going to double your count.

**INT: Yes.**

P31: When in front, I count, I am always looking in front. If I’ve counted here in front of me, if I am walking two steps then I look at everything in front, okay I need to count that. Again I walk and count. Or anything on the side I can see. Anything which is 180, I can’t, I walk count, walk count. Then when I am coming I don’t count anymore because I’ve stopped it. If only unusual thing will turn up, if I missed it I know I missed a bubble white, okay let me put it down because I missed it. It’s not in my count. I can count that. Because I know okay I forgot this.

**INT: So are you always using that technique when you are out then?**

P31: Yes. That is my, that is my technique of counting.

**INT: Yes.**

P31: When I am doing my counts for birds I know I am going straight like that, and I am going to count this, this, this. When I am coming back, now I don’t count it, I already done it, when I am doing my return journey, on the same path I am coming back, I don’t count those things because I know I’ve counted that. Something unusual turns up, okay I missed it and I’ve not counted that 10 but okay, but if it’s the same thing again I am counting, no don’t and I would go somewhere else and count and start again. Anything coming from front. That’s how I count mine, that’s how I’ve taught this is how you do your counts.

**INT: Yes, so what group was it that you were involved with in [COUNTRY] then with the birds, was it a kind of a local bird watching group?**

P31: Through the [ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT].

**INT: Oh okay.**

P31: We were counting waders, every January, water birds, you know we are counting water birds every January and we have areas to cover, we had large groups, okay you are covering this part, the other group covering that other part. But just bear in mind, and you are told that just bear in mind this is how you are supposed to count.

**INT: Yes, and so where did your interest in bird watching come from initially? Was it a family thing or was it a hobby that you had as a child?**

P31: Childhood.

**INT: Yes.**

P31: Childhood birdwatching came very late. I started birding in 1996, that was through an exhibition I went to and I saw this group for bird and I thought very interesting, so intense, it’s now in my blood.

**INT: Yes and it is a nice thing to carry with you I imagine when you come to a new country, even though the birds are new it is kind of a familiar thing that you can do and you know you’ve got to learn the birds but it’s the act of doing it is familiar?**

**0:40:00.**

P31: You know you family, it’s easy to break it up. Like if you are going to a new country like when I went to India I had difficulty because the family I couldn’t recognise. The [unclear: 0:40:06.5] do not know their families, luckily I had a [unclear: 0:40:10.6] but it took my time to figure it. Looking at field guide and think what is it, is it different, is it that. I took my time. But if, because we get a lot of things from Europe which are flying to Africa during winter and they are going back, it’s easy for me to rectify. Especially if, that’s if you know your species very well, you can do it and okay fine I know what it is.

**INT: Yes, but that kind of familiarity must be nice when you see the same species that you’ve seen in a different country and you see it here.**

P31: Yes, we don’t get everything in [COUNTRY] like what you have in the UK and we are not going to get blue tit and all that. Only, well other species of tit but not what we get in the UK. Some of the species are very rare in that part of the country which are very common. Everywhere you go it is oh yeah, okay, there you get one, it is heaven you know, oh my god this thing – for example if a mallard or a duck appears in [COUNTRY], oh my god.

**INT: Really, great excitement.**

P31: We get crazy about it. And see it everywhere now.

**INT: Yes, people like the rarities don’t they I think?**

P31: Well to me I am happy what I see, I am not going to jump on a train and travel two hours journey and go back, arrive there, oh they’ve flown away five minutes ago you know. I am not a crazy person to run [unclear: 0:41:55.8] you know. I am happy to see what I see and that’s it.

**INT: And I guess some of the motivation is just that pleasure of being outside and seeing what you can see.**

P31: Yes.

**INT: So would you be receptive to taking up recommendations of new places to visit for looking for butterflies for example? Is that something you would be interested in doing?**

P31: I want to, I want to try because I, because the only [unclear: 0:42:33.5] I am missing now is the black [unclear: 0:42:34.8]. Last year I had, out of five I had four species, I think. It was only the black missing now and through social media I wrote, especially on twitter, and I said look I have seen four species, I am looking for black. They say black I think it is March or April. You get only once in a month, that’s it, it’s not something you are going to see every month, I mean during butterfly season. They said there’s one particular month you are going to see it, after that no, you’re not going to see it again. I wanted to go, it’s not in [CITY] area, it’s a bit farther away and going up north.

**INT: [COUNTY], yes.**

P31: Yes, there’s a guy who said if you come I can take you and show you. I said fine but this pandemic had, I couldn’t do anything. Even this year I couldn’t go anywhere. That was the only [unclear: 0:43:37.8] I need to see then I can finish my [unclear: 0:43:41.8] for the UK.

**INT: Yes, so you would be particularly interested in going to new sites if they offer species that you haven’t seen already.**

P31: Yes. I would, I mean I have a lot of other butterfly species I am still looking for. I don’t mind if I have a few, three or four days I can travel somewhere can spend a night, a few nights here, have a look around see what I can see, come back to [CITY].

**INT: So is your ultimate aim to see all of the species in the UK?**

P31: Gods willing.

**INT: Yes it’s not easy.**

P31: No, no, it’s not easy. I mean a lot of species they are very far for me to get to, like New Forest. Species which were introduced in New Forest, I don’t know how to get there, depending on public transport. I mean I don’t drive a car, for me to get there it is a big challenge for me. If I can get somewhere by public transport I know like two years ago I went to [unclear: 0:44:51.8] Cliff, and I was staying at a place called [Town], that’s where I was staying. I would take a cab from [Town] to the site, spend time looking at sea birds because I wanted to see a puffin. That was my aim and I was lucky, good if I saw it, but very people saw them. While I was there I had a few, no one or two painted lady, oh butterflies, good, I can write it down. But I don’t put that down in my notebook, painted lady. I think I did count them but just because I am going for, I am going for birding, I am not going for birding, I am also looking for other stuff at the same time. You know anything I see across, write it down because that is my data I am collecting. It is not only birds, I am looking also for butterflies in case I see something, like ah something interesting, something new to me. I write it down.

**INT: Yes, excellent. Well, I think that covers everything that’s on my list, is there anything else you wanted to say about why you record, what motivates you, how you record that you haven’t said already?**

P31: No, I think, I have nothing to say but it is just you know mainly in this country, there are a lot of things I’ve learned and I am still learning. I think we should be happy or I am happy to have, well I am happy to talk to you now at the moment. It is nice, I mean I know we’ve been planning this for a long long time. I am sorry I need to get my rota, I need to confirm the date.

**INT: That’s fine.**

P31: And I think if the holidays came and things went too quick, too fast, but collecting data for me it is very [unclear: 0:46:55.6] and especially if people who are collecting data, who are getting data from individual people it’s good to have that. Lucky in the UK that we have groups, NGOs, whatever it is who are dealing with this where we know whom we can submit our records. Our country is, there’s nothing like that. All the data you have collected it is of no use. Who do you share it with? You can’t share anything of the data. We are lucky in the UK we can share our data. Okay not all data you can share, you know, if the species is under protection or you have to be careful who you are sending the data to. I have to be very careful. What sort of species, if I have seen them, a nest or their eggs, I cannot send that information, I cannot. If I did then I can be in big trouble because things which are on red list, species, for example. Information I cannot send that data. I have to keep it to myself.

**INT: Okay, yes.**

P31: Because even in [COUNTRY] we got told because there were a lot of egg collectors and get a lot of illegal poaching going on, bird trades. We are told if you see this do not put on any social media, keep it to your self because you don’t know who the person is reading. You do not know who the person is, could be an egg collector they’ve got the data from you, they’ve got the information from you and that is it. Certain information I have to keep it to myself. Certain species are you seeing.

**INT: Yes, it’s a responsibility isn’t it, yes?**

P31: And we are lucky we have rules and regulations, loads in this country, things which you can do, things we can’t do which we have to follow those rules and regulations. Information I might be giving to you but I don’t know who you are and you don’t know who I am so you know – I am just saying it because you know sometimes we have to keep our hands clean.

**INT: Yes, definitely yes. Thank you so much for your time, it’s been lovely to talk to you.**

P31: You too.

**INT: We have a sign up list if you wanted to add your name to it if you want to hear more about the project as it develops I can send you the link and then you will get kind of reports through that about what the next stages of the project are and what is going on and potential opportunities to get involved in next stages as well so I can send you that if you are interested.**

P31: Yes, please, please do send me that, I want to do something different now. Birds are still there but sometimes even butterflies is still part of me and I am willing to do something, you know which end of the day it is useful for both of us.

**0:50:12.1**

Not for me only. It is good you ask me this question what do I do with my data because I am a person, I like to, information I like to give but only have to filter some of my information you know. Not everything I tell, everything about it because as I have mentioned you don’t know who the third person is.

**INT: Yes.**

P31: Or the third party, what they are involved in, you don’t know because we have not met anyone face to face. You just email, you don’t know who you are talking to. I am not saying like that, just saying okay you and me we know each other but it is a stranger we don’t know. Certain information like okay now for example if I , certain things, I’ve seen them, even in five minutes away from my house, 10 minutes’ walk, five to ten minutes’ walk, there’s a local park and there are certain species of birds which are nesting, it is in my data book but it is going to be with me. I am not going to share that information. I am not sharing that because have to be careful.

**INT: Yes, exactly yes, yes.**

P31: But do send me the link.

**INT: I will do, yes I will do that now and thank you so much for your time, it’s been lovely to talk to you.**

P31: You too, thank you very much.

**INT: Okay, take care.**

P31: Okay then, you too.

**INT: Bye-bye.**

P31: Bye-bye.

**[Audio Ends: 0:51:44.9]**