

Volunteering to save Nature

Anna Broszkiewicz

Project Manager

Royal Society for the

Protection of Birds





giving
nature
a home



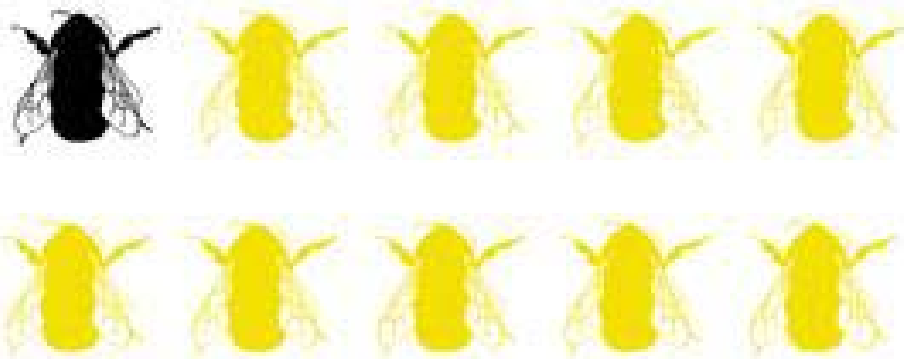
Promoting the importance of the EU Birds Directive in conservation management on farmland

2010-2013

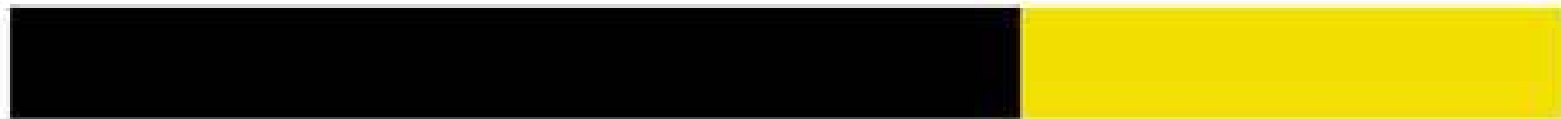
- Connect with 3,540 farmers
- Connect with 7,040 members of the public
- Create a positive profile of the EU Birds Directive



Natures in **TROUBLE**

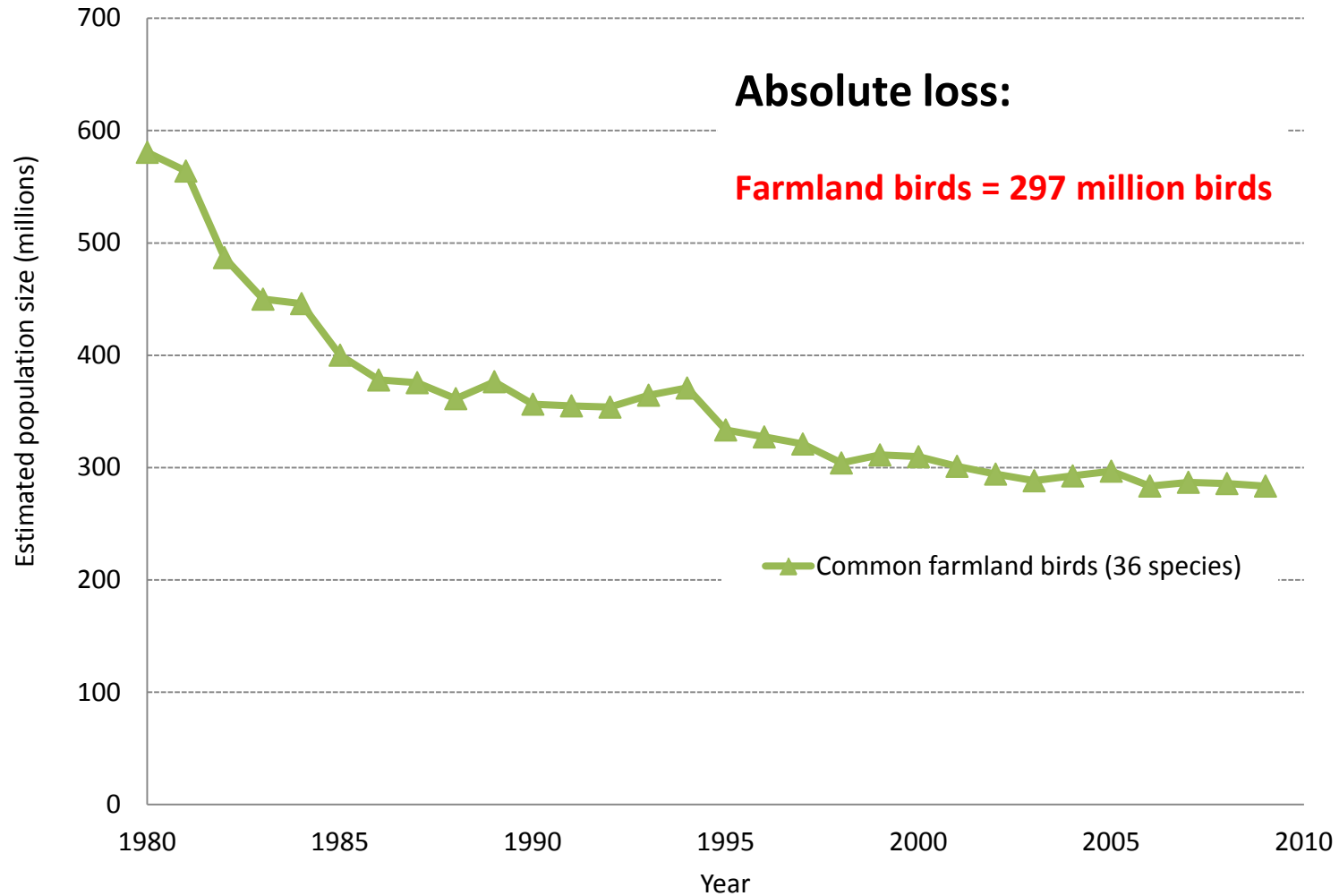


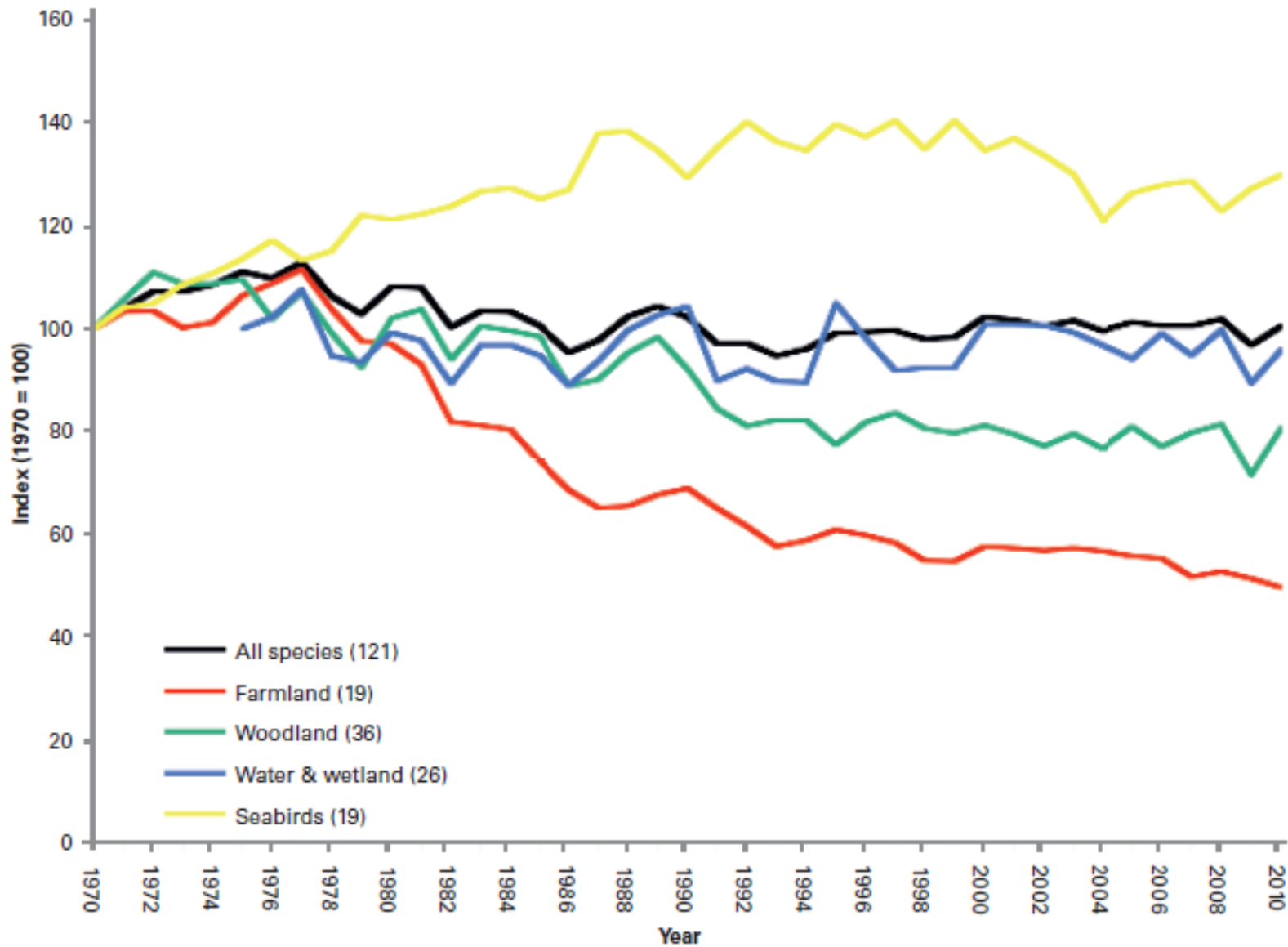
1 in 10
UK species is
in danger of
extinction



65% of species surveyed have declined
in the last 50 years

Abundance of European farmland birds

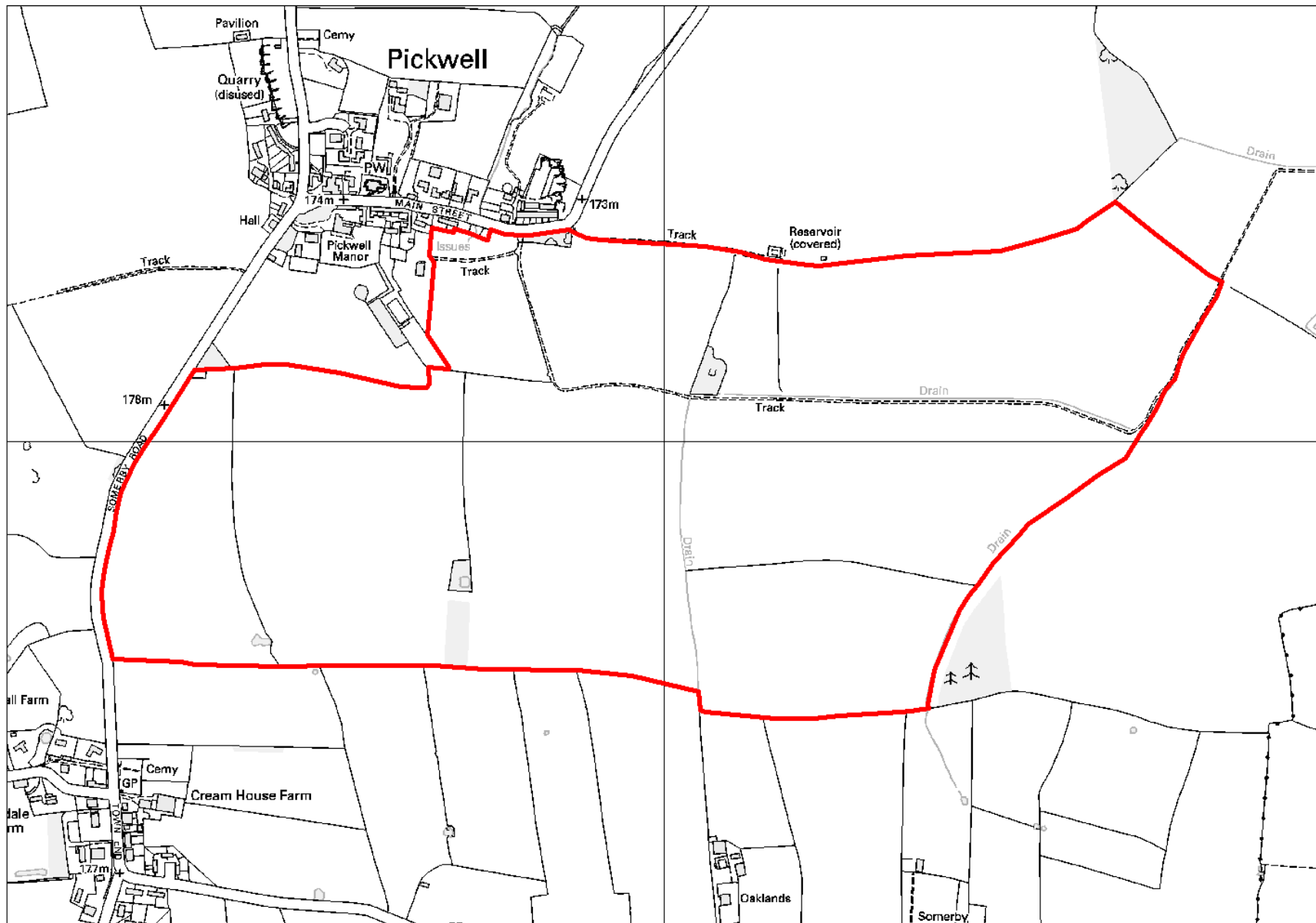






Volunteer & Farmer Alliance





NO45A

Surveyor/s:
Date:
Name:

Mapping data licenced form Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright 2011. All rights reserved. Licence number 1000021767.



Free RSPB Advisory Visit
call us on
03603 697 500
to book today!

DELIVERING THE BIG 3 FOR YOUR FARMLAND BIRDS



DELIVERING THE BIG 3 FOR YOUR FARMLAND BIRDS
farmland birds: MOST WANTED

THE TRACTOR CAB GUIDE TO FARMLAND BIRDS

RSPB VOLUNTEER ALLIANCE

This is to certify that
Grove Farm
participated in the
RSPB Volunteer & Farmer Alliance
2011

WORKING TOGETHER FOR FARMLAND BIRDS



Funded through the EU LIFE+ programme



2011 VOLUNTEER & FARMER ALLIANCE

Species List: Church Farm

This list includes all birds seen during the RSPB Volunteer & Farmer Alliance surveys carried out during the breeding season. Note some birds may have been recorded and other sightings are unlikely to be representative.

Species	Status
Blackbird	
Blackcap	
Blue tit	
Buzzard	
Canon crow	
Chaffinch	
Chiffchaff	
Collared dove	
Common dove	
Common gull	
Corn bunting	
Duncock	
Goldfinch	
Great spotted woodpecker	Amber
Great tit	Red
Green woodpecker	Amber
Greenfinch	
Hobby	
House martin	
House sparrow	
Jackdaw	
Jay	
Magpie	
Mallard	
Pheasant	
Pied wagtail	
Red-legged partridge	
Reed bunting	
Robin	
Rock	
Skylark	
Song thrush	
Starling	
Swallow	
Swift	
White	

RSPB Volunteer & Farmer Alliance 2011
Bramble Hall Farm Bird Survey - Key Results

Species Key	U. Wren	SH. Sparrowhawk
BN. Black-headed gull	LD. Wile owl	SI. Swift
CB. Corn bunting	MP. Meadow pipit	SL. Skylark
CK. Cuckoo	OC. Cuckoo-shrike	SM. Song sparrow
D. Dove	RB. Reed bunting	SU. Siskin
ET. Fieldfare	SK. Skylark	TD. Turquoise duck
GH. Green-headed woodpecker	ST. Starling	TU. Tufted duck
HM. House martin	SD. Short-eared owl	WH. Whinchat
HC. House sparrow	SE. Short-eared owl	Y. Yellowhammer
HT. Hobby	SP. Spotted flycatcher	YW. Yellow wagtail
K. Kestrel	SO. Sparrow	
L. Lapping		

Symbol Key
RED species of high conservation concern
AMBER species of medium conservation concern
GREEN all other species of lower concern
Circles indicate territories

Scale: 1:4,000, Central grid letter
Reproduced from the digital O permission of Ordnance Survey
All rights reserved, RSPB
The V&FA is funded by
The Royal Society for
Scotland no. 300

Please do not bend

FARMING FOR BIRDS

Turtle dove

for birds
for people
for ever



Distribution map showing the relative abundance of turtle doves in Britain and Ireland 1986-91



The turtle dove is much more rufous (reddish-brown) on its back and wings than other doves, and has a distinctive black tail with a white edge, which can be seen in flight.

The turtle dove occurs on arable and mixed farmland that offers suitable nesting habitat. Within the UK it is largely confined to the south and east. The UK population of turtle doves fell by 81% between 1970 and 2004*, this was probably because fewer seed sources were available to them on

WHAT DO TURTLE DOVES NEED?

A continuous supply of weed and crop seed from late April until the end of August.

areas, especially where the vegetation is short and sparse, and where there are areas of spilt grain and stubbles after harvest. Lack of seed food is probably the

Tall mature hedgerow areas of scrub or wood edges with a thick layer for nesting.



for birds
for people
for ever



FARMING FOR WILDLIFE

Scrub management

(creating, restoring and maintaining scrub for wildlife)



for birds
for people
for ever



FARMING FOR WILDLIFE

Pollen and nectar mixtures

Many insects benefit from the availability of flowering plants from March to September provided by pollen and nectar mixtures.

Pollen and nectar mixtures provide flowering plants throughout spring and summer to supply food for insects such as butterflies and bumblebees. They can be funded by Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) or Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS). ELS includes an option to grow the mixtures on set-aside, or they can be established on set-aside outside of Environmental Stewardship. Different rules apply to the different options, and you should check the latest Defra literature or seek advice to ensure your management meets

BENEFITS FOR WILDLIFE

Flowering plants attract pollen- and nectar-feeding insects

Some insects, such as bumblebees, are vital pollinators of crops and wild flowers. Bumblebees have declined as suitable plants, such as red clover, have become scarcer in the countryside. These, and other insects, benefit

from sowing flower-rich mixtures. Hoverflies are especially attracted to flowering plants and will lay eggs wherever there is an abundance of aphids for their larvae to feed on, thus helping to reduce numbers of these pests in nearby crops. The general increase in insects attracted to these mixtures also provides food for birds.

FARMING FOR BIRDS

Corn bunting

for birds
for people
for ever



Distribution map showing the relative abundance of corn buntings in Britain and Ireland 1986-91



The corn bunting is a large, heavy-looking brown bunting with a particularly thick bill

Corn buntings are generally found on open arable and mixed farmland. The UK population of corn buntings fell by 80% between

WHAT DO CORN BUNTINGS NEED?

Nesting habitat: corn buntings nest on the ground in cereal

nests are lost during harvesting. In Scotland, they often nest in hay

can be reduced by the use of pesticides. Corn buntings take



for birds
for people
for ever



These crops can provide the best seed source for birds on the farm.

FARMING FOR WILDLIFE

Wild bird seed mixtures

ELS
OELS
HLS
SA

Wild bird seed mixtures provide vital food for seed-eating birds throughout winter. They are particularly important in areas where traditional food sources, such as woody stubble and cereals fed to outdoor stock, are no longer available. The seed mixtures can be funded by Entry Level Stewardship (ELS), Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS). Entry Level Stewardship includes an option to create them on set-aside, or they can be located on set-aside outside of any scheme. Different rules apply to the various options, and you should check the latest Defra literature or seek advice to ensure your management meets the relevant requirements.

BENEFITS FOR WILDLIFE

Seed-bearing crops provide food for birds throughout the winter

The use of a mix of seed crops will lead to the creation of an attractive feeding habitat for a wide range of seed-eating birds. A two-year crop may also provide seed in spring of the second year and this may help birds to attain breeding condition.

Crops managed without broad-spectrum herbicides and with low nitrogen inputs can conserve rare arable plant populations

The weed flora within wild bird seed mixtures may contain rare arable plants that can be conserved if use of herbicides and fertilisers is carefully considered.

Flowering plants attract nectar-feeding insects

Any flowering crops or weeds will encourage nectar-feeding insects. Many of these insects will then lay eggs nearby and thus increase the numbers of insect larvae available to birds as food. Hoverflies are especially attracted to the flowering plant strips and will lay eggs wherever there is an abundance of aphids

for their larvae to feed helping to reduce numbers of these pests in nearby

Cereal-based mixtures provide good brood-rearing for grey partridges

A cereal-based mix established in spring or autumn will be open, invertebrate-rich and is an ideal foraging environment for grey partridge chicks

GUIDELINES OVER

Advisory staff visiting farmers







 a million voices for nature

THE COUNTRYFILE

First prize **£1,000**

THE RSPB NATURE OF FARMING AWARD

The UK's largest farmland wildlife award

Take part in the award
Pick up a leaflet
www.rspb.org.uk



Nature of Farming Award 2012

VOTE NOW

for the UK's most wildlife-friendly farmer

Vote for our best wildlife farmer and **win...**

 **win...**

 **win...**

Demonstration farms





Numbers of breeding territories:
Emberiza citrinella





Nest sites



Spring food



Winter food



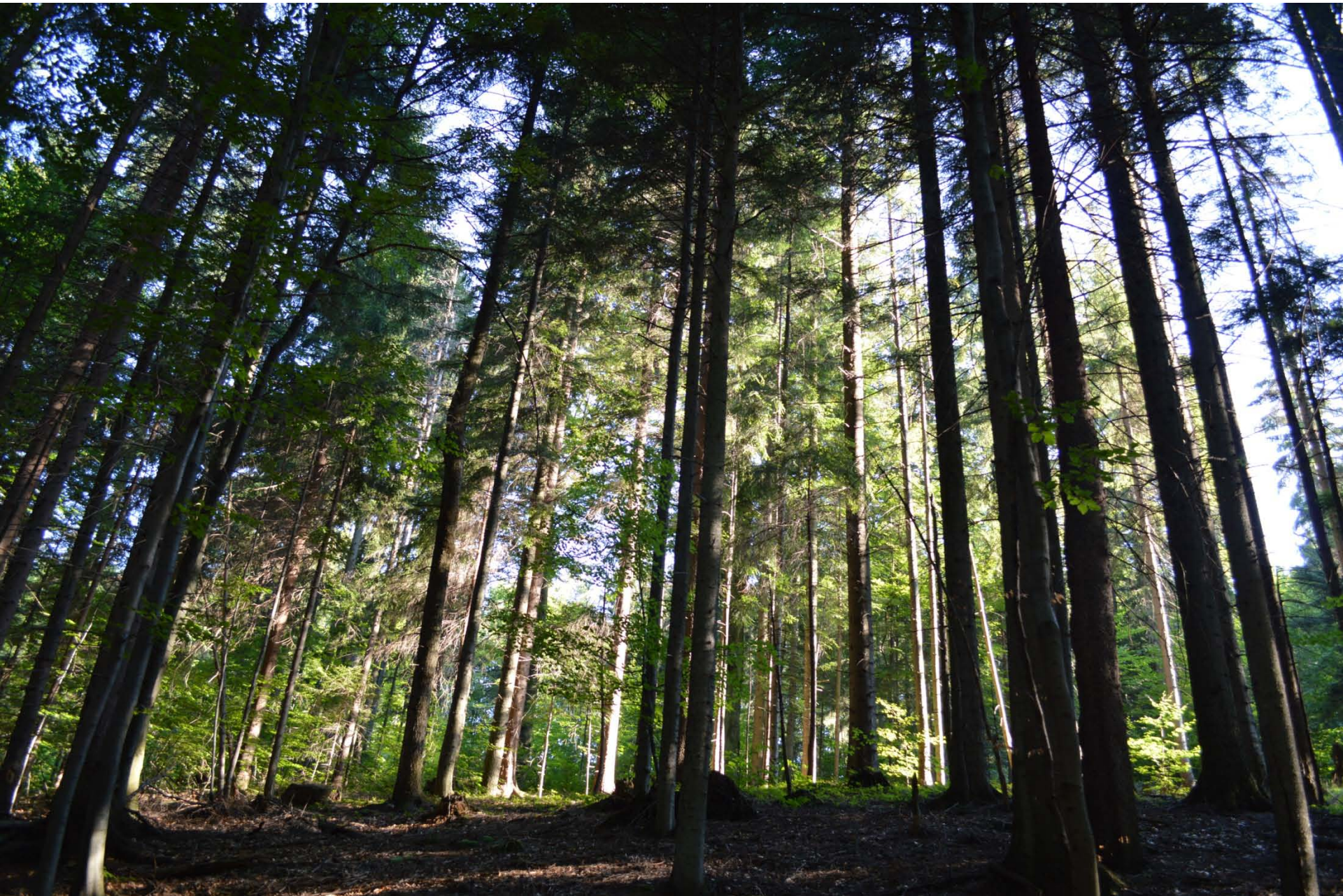
giving
nature
a home



EU LIFE+ Wildlife Friendly Farming Conference Brussels 28th November 2012













Volunteers share skills





Farmers share knowledge











*“Taking part in the
Volunteer &
Farmer Alliance is
possibly one of the
best things I have
ever done!”*

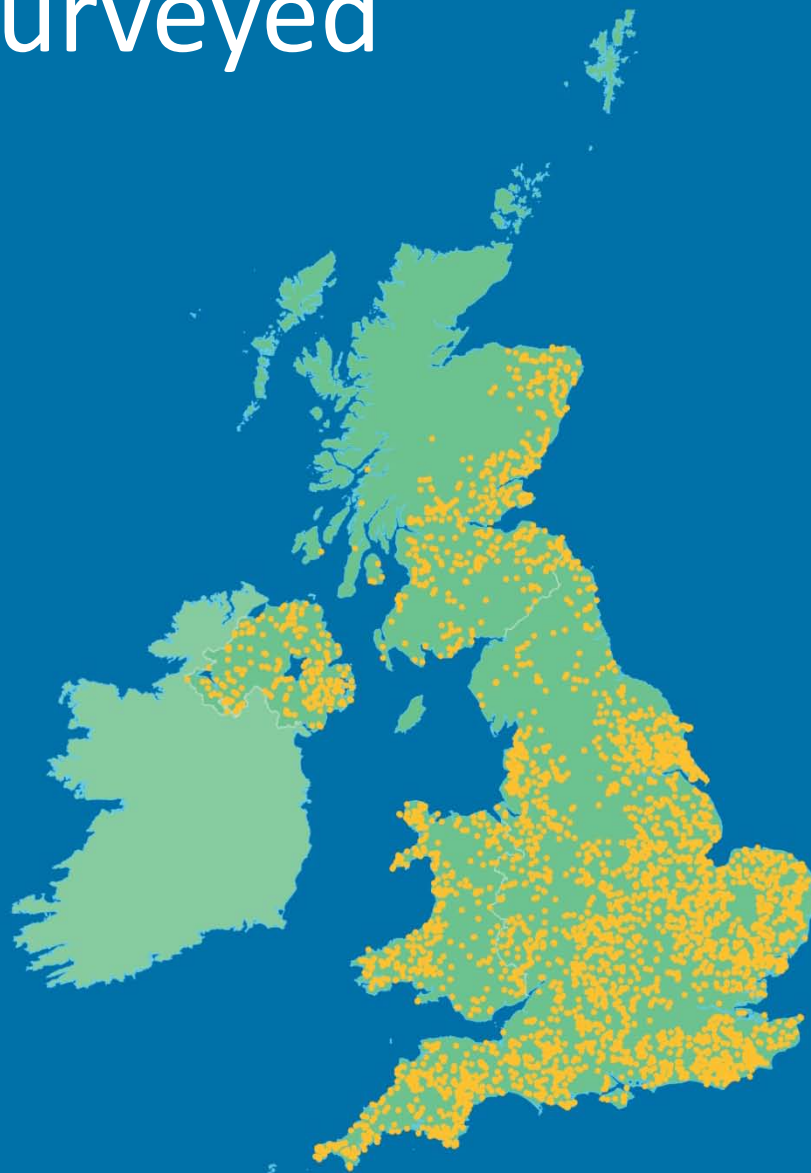
Darren Hall,
Nottinghamshire

*“The RSPB used to be the enemy, now they are
our greatest ally”*

Tony Broome, farmer, England



Over 5,000 farms
surveyed





Over 2,500
fulfilled
volunteers
standing up
for nature

thank you...