



ACHIEVEMENTS

AND CHALLENGES

2003-2004



WELCOME

Introduction from Ian Newton and Graham Wynne

RSPB Chairman and Chief Executive

We find plenty to celebrate in 2003–2004. This review details some outstanding successes, but we recognise that huge challenges lie ahead.

The reduction in numbers of farmland birds puts them firmly at the top of our agenda. Our researchers found ways to prompt a recovery of some farmland birds, such as the skylark. Other birds, as varied as bitterns, corncrakes, red kites, and ciril buntings, responded well to our work. This is satisfying progress.

It is heartening to report an increase in membership. For the eighth year in succession we have enjoyed the support of more than a million members. Members give strength to our views and actions and provide the majority of our funding. This review also refers to collaborations with other organisations that share the

▼ Red kite

Above all else, this review shows that we have made a positive difference in many areas. Our members enable us to do so, and demand that we must.

Jan Halady (rspb-images.com)



Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

▲ Graham Wynne (left) and Ian Newton



Chris Gomersall (rspb-images.com)

▲ Heathland ▼ Skylark

RSPB's aims and judge us to be effective and reliable partners.

The RSPB continually broadens its expertise. We need to do so, to be influential in decisions about the way people manage land, the sea and the resources on which we all depend. These decisions can have profound effects on wild birds.

Human use of natural resources affects wild birds in many ways. To be involved in influencing such use effectively, we employ experts in areas as diverse as agriculture and fisheries policy, climate change and economics, as well as in the biology of wild birds. RSPB efforts were invaluable, for example, in achieving a better deal for birds and wildlife in the mid-term review of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). We would have liked even better results but, at last, more schemes will be available to help farmers manage their land with wildlife in mind, not merely for maximum production at the cost of the environment.

We worry that the CAP may do enormous damage to wildlife in countries new to the EU. We encourage them to learn from the experience of countries that have seen wildlife collapse in the face of ever-intensified farming. This is a challenge to our BirdLife International Partners in EU accession countries. We have tried hard to ensure that Partners are equipped to face these problems and are able to make their respective governments aware of their obligations.

The EU Fisheries Policy is an equally thorny subject: the fact is, there are no longer enough fish to go round, because of years of overfishing. Scientific advice is still ignored, however, or the measures to act upon it are still too weak to ensure the future of fish such as sandeels, and the birds and other fish species that depend upon them.

The RSPB has a fine network of nature reserves. We were excited



David Kraer (rspb-images.com)

by the chance to buy extra land around our UK headquarters at The Lodge, Bedfordshire. We aim to restore this to open heath with an abundance of wildlife, replacing poor quality commercial conifer plantations in which little survives.

This visionary approach – creating, restoring and managing habitats for birds and a multitude of other wildlife – has paid huge dividends at other UK reserves and we hope for similar success at The Lodge.

Birds as varied as bitterns, red kites, corncrakes and girl buntings responded to our work.

WELCOME

With our BirdLife International Partners, we are working to save around 20 critically endangered species around the world. We must prevent the imminent extinction of three species of vulture in southern Asia. We are working with our BirdLife International Partners in Asia, but need support from local people. As with most issues, the RSPB cannot solve this one on its own.

Another urgent problem is the death of 100,000 albatrosses every year, victims of longline fishing in the Southern Oceans.

Ways to prevent these deaths and the extinctions that will inevitably follow are relatively simple, but it is difficult to get them adopted.

The biggest problem of global concern is climate change. It is the greatest long-term threat to wildlife worldwide and is a huge challenge to us all: the RSPB is playing its part in keeping it in the minds of decision makers and the public. We are endeavouring to reduce the impact of our own activities on the environment. It is a daunting task, but one that we must take on and we must be

confident that we can all make a positive difference.

People will take action to protect wildlife if they care about it. We do more each year to inspire people, both adults and children, to take a lasting interest in birds. Successful events show thousands of people exciting birds all over the UK, both on and off our nature reserves. We involve people in many other ways, too. Our largest single event is the Big Garden Birdwatch. With 419,000 counters, it is by far the biggest event of its kind in the world and growing every year.

▼ Wandering albatross chick



What is the RSPB?

The RSPB is the UK charity working to secure a healthy environment for birds and wildlife, helping to create a better world for us all. Our work is driven by a passionate belief that:

- birds and other wildlife enrich people's lives
- the health of bird populations reflects the health of the planet, on which our future depends
- we all have a responsibility to protect biodiversity.

The RSPB has more than a million members, 12,000 volunteers and 1,300 staff.

We own or manage by agreement more than 180 nature reserves. These, plus our 10 regional offices and four country offices, ensure a strong and effective local presence across the UK.

We have one vision – to work for a better environment that is rich in birds and other wildlife.

▼ Bittern



Roger Tidman (rspb-images.com)

What do we do?

- We champion birds and the environment to decision-makers.
- We protect, restore and manage habitats for birds and wildlife.
- We research the problems facing birds and the environment, looking for practical solutions that we can implement on the ground and promote to others.
- We carry out recovery projects for our most threatened species.
- We own or manage more than 180 nature reserves, where wildlife can flourish and people can be inspired.
- We share our knowledge and enthusiasm to help young and old enjoy the natural world.
- We champion the cause of biodiversity conservation within the wider debate on sustainable development.
- We are active across the UK at national, regional and local levels – our work is relevant to your environment.
- We tackle international conservation issues through the BirdLife International Partnership – a global coalition of like-minded conservation organisations.

How is the RSPB run?

The RSPB is governed by a Council of individuals elected for their expertise relevant to running a wildlife conservation charity. The Council sets policy and is responsible for the conduct of the RSPB's affairs and for ensuring that we operate in accordance with our constitution and the law.

As the RSPB is a charity, the Council is also answerable to the Charity Commissioners for ensuring its funds are used wisely. Day-to-day management of the RSPB is delegated to a Management Board headed by a Chief Executive who reports to the Chairman of the Council.

With your support, we will continue to strive to make the case for birds and their habitats everywhere.

OUR SCIENTIFIC BASE

Our research identifies 37 bird species as top priority for attention, including 25 for which the Government has given us responsibility under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Prospects are good or satisfactory for 10 of these priority species, including the bittern, curlew, corncrake, skylark and stone-curlew. The future is mixed or uncertain for 19 of them, including the bullfinch, black grouse, house sparrow, lapwing, nightjar, snipe, turtle dove and twite. Eight species, as varied as the redshank,

ring ouzel and spotted flycatcher, face a poorer future.

We cannot achieve all that is needed on our own, but we set targets for RSPB work. Progress towards these has been good for half of the species. These birds fare better on our nature reserves than average.

Successes in 2003 include:

- bitterns – a further increase in booming males on RSPB reserves contributed to a 25% increase in the UK in 2003
- corncrakes – an increase of 15% on RSPB reserves since 2002, part of the 29% increase across the UK since 1998

▼ Monitoring heathland disturbance with CCTV



Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)



Focus on birds

▲ Hope Farm ▼ Roseate terns

- roseate terns – numbers increased again on Coquet Island, Northumberland
- red-necked phalaropes and Slavonian grebes – a second year of recovery after several years of decline
- choughs – their recovery is becoming more secure.

For most of those in the 'mixed or uncertain' group, we think that we understand what the cause of the decline might be, but need to do more to achieve our targets. Much will depend on our success in influencing the management of the countryside outside nature reserves, through incentives such as agri-environment and woodland grant schemes.

Farmland birds show the strain of living in an intensively farmed landscape. After several years of RSPB involvement in researching the problems, devising solutions and helping to shape government schemes for farmers, some birds show signs of a recovery.

At Hope Farm, in Cambridgeshire, we are finding ways to reverse the declines of some of these birds. Patches left unsown encourage nesting skylarks, which find it impossible to rear young in dense, autumn-sown cereal crops. In 2000, there were 10 pairs of skylarks on the 180 hectare farm; by the summer of 2003, there were 27, in the same pattern of crops. Skylark patches work: now we need to tell farmers across the UK that they can help such birds, without losing money. We are delighted by a steady rise in numbers of linnets, yellowhammers and reed buntings at Hope Farm, too, where more species also feed on the fields in winter. A barn owl hunting over the stubble fields was the 100th species to be seen at the farm since we bought it.

Elsewhere, sensitive management of set-aside land at our Vane Farm reserve in Perth and Kinross, including spring-sowing, late-cutting and minimum use of herbicides, saw skylark numbers



Chris Gomersall (rspb-images.com)

rise from 41 pairs in 2002 to 73 pairs in 2003. Changes such as spring sowing are simple, but major issues for many farmers.

For some farmland birds, we are encouraging farmers to adopt relatively simple measures, while for declining wading birds, such as snipe and lapwings, the management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest will be crucial in stemming continuing losses.

We offer help and advice to farmers across the UK and use Hope Farm to demonstrate our ideas to visiting farmers.

OUR SCIENTIFIC BASE

Results of the 2002 survey of breeding wading birds on wet meadows in England and Wales confirmed our fears.

Across much of the countryside, birds such as the lapwing, redshank and snipe are following the corncrake in disappearing from much of the south. They bucked the trend at several of our nature reserves, though, including Otmoor in Oxfordshire and Ynys-hir in Ceredigion, where our management

has created ideal conditions on low-lying, damp grassy meadows. At the Ouse Washes in Cambridgeshire, breeding redshanks were up by 23% to 285 pairs, snipe by 33% to 323 pairs and lapwings up by 29% to 285 pairs, the best figure since 1984. Late spring flooding ruined the 2004 season there, however,

reflecting the conversion and development of floodplains upstream, which allows much faster run-off of water.

Our Operation Lapwing competition aims to find the farmer who has done most to encourage nesting lapwings on their land: 86 farmers

▼ Curlew



Mark Hamblin (rspb-images.com)



Focus on science

▲ Farmland bird research

▼ Hen harrier

entered, confirming that many farmers want to reverse the decline of the lapwing and make the most of opportunities to increase the numbers on their farms. RSPB advisers continue to offer help and advice, on both management for wildlife and getting funds from agri-environment schemes, to farmers who wish to do more for wildlife on their land.

An RSPB/Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)/Scottish Raptor Study Group survey of golden eagles in 2003 found 431 pairs in the UK (422 in 1992, 424 in 1982). In the Hebrides, 147 pairs is an increase of 18% on the 1992 figure, but a decline of 9% in mainland Scotland south of the Great Glen is a cause for concern. SNH studies show that incidences of illegal poison use are disproportionately associated with moorland managed for grouse. Analysis of the survey data will reveal whether golden eagle declines coincide with illegal use of poison.

For the first time, national wildlife crime priorities were identified



across the UK, including hen harriers, bats and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Operation Artemis is the UK-wide police response to continuing persecution of the hen harrier. With fewer than 10 pairs breeding successfully in England, and many nests and birds destroyed each year across the UK, hen harriers have an uncertain future on our moorlands. A further three egg

collectors received custodial sentences, including one still paying off a £2,500 fine. Recent legislation at UK and devolved levels provides for custodial sentences. This appears to have reduced the scale of egg collecting significantly, but UK collectors may be focusing their activities abroad.

We know a lot about capercaillie and hen harriers, but we are not yet optimistic about their recovery. The capercaillie is a serious concern, although essential habitat management is at last adequately funded.

NATURE RESERVES

Members are particularly keen for us to expand our network of nature reserves. In 2003–2004, there were not as many opportunities to buy new ones as in some years, but there were exciting developments, nevertheless.

With a hugely successful membership appeal raising £560,000 in just one month, we added 59 hectares (146 acres) of land to The Lodge nature reserve around our UK headquarters in Bedfordshire. We can now restore poor quality pine plantation to

heathland, once extensive in the area but long since lost to agriculture and forestry.

The chance to re-create open landscapes, with dashing hobbies, singing woodlarks and churring nightjars, is too good to miss.

An agreement to restore 85 ha (210 acres) of nearby sand and gravel pits will help us more than double the area of heathland in Bedfordshire.

Old Moor near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, is an excellent wetland

▼ Stonechat



Nigel Blake



Focus on reserves

▲ Ailsa Craig, S Ayrshire

▼ Old Moor, S Yorkshire

reserve. It offers exciting educational possibilities, with 180,000 schoolchildren just a short journey away. Its development has used a range of renewable energy and energy-saving options.

Better facilities at several reserves owe their existence to Landfill Tax Credit Scheme contributions (including £3 million from the SITA Environmental Trust and from WREN). This scheme helps to encourage recycling, but puts money back into the environment from the waste that people throw away.

In Scotland, Ailsa Craig, an island off the south Ayrshire coast, is now an RSPB nature reserve by agreement with its owner. The island is renowned for its wildlife and raw beauty and is a magnificent breeding site for seabirds, including 40,000 gannets. Since the eradication of rats from the island, puffins have returned. Ailsa's high quality granite is used to make the world's finest curling stones.



We will continue the work started by others to make sure Ailsa Craig's puffins, gannets and other seabirds thrive.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

A proposal to build a huge airport on land including three of our nature reserves in north Kent was withdrawn by the Government, following our vociferous campaign.

With strong backing from local people and local authorities, we successfully opposed a proposed airport at Cliffe, Kent. More than 150,000 members wrote to the Government demanding that this outrageous plan, which would have destroyed vast protected areas of special conservation

importance and left hundreds of thousands of birds with nowhere to go, should be stopped.

We also argued against a proposed deep water port development at Dibden Bay on Southampton Water, Hampshire. Soon after the end of the year

under review, we heard that this, too, had been turned down by the Government.

We welcome these hints at a more sustainable approach, but call for a thorough reassessment of air transport policy (in particular to manage, rather than simply

▼ 'No airport at Cliffe!' campaign



Alex Faulkes (RSPB)



Case studies

▲ Sunset over the Thames Estuary

▼ Redshank

react to, demand) and a full review of future UK port requirements.

We helped establish and co-chair Portswatch, a consortium of eight conservation and transport organisations calling for a long-term strategic vision for ports, to stop needless destruction of important coastal sites and disruption to communities.

We called upon the Government to put on hold any decisions on new ports: while the Dibden Bay decision was welcome, the long and costly process that led to it could have been avoided had there been a more coherent strategy for port development.

Following 12 years of campaigning, two public enquiries and several appearances in the Court of Session, Lafarge Ltd, the developers behind the Lingerbay (Harris, Outer Hebrides) superquarry proposal, finally conceded defeat. Private individuals associated with the development might still try to pursue it via alternative means.



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ENERGY AND CLIMATE

Not only does the RSPB do much more work, but it is also of a much greater scope than a decade or two ago. Global policy issues, such as energy use, affect environmental conservation massively.

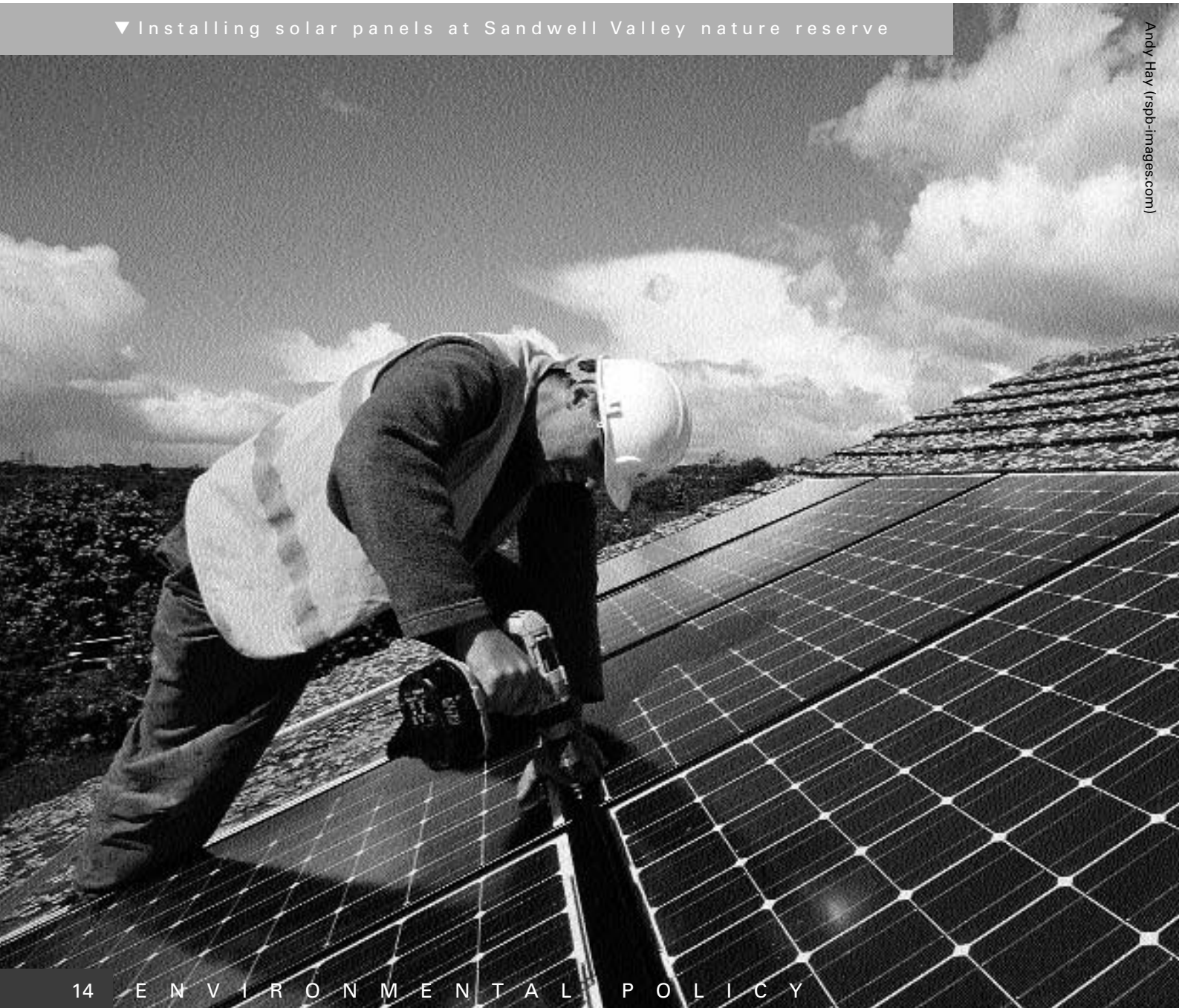
Of all global issues, climate change is the greatest long-term threat to wildlife and a third of all land animals and plants are doomed to extinction, unless people take dramatic measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Top scientists, including the

RSPB's Rhys Green, published these startling findings in January, following the most comprehensive survey yet on climate change and wildlife. We need to curb energy use and adopt renewable energy much more extensively. Nearly all of us can do much more to cut

emissions from homes, offices and transport. Energy efficiency and managing demand are vital in tackling climate change.

We strongly back Government support for renewables, including wind energy, and offer our own

▼ Installing solar panels at Sandwell Valley nature reserve



Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

RSPB Energy and solar energy package (www.goingsolar.co.uk). But we firmly object to wind farm proposals if they are likely to damage important bird populations or the habitats they depend upon, as in the case of the wind farm proposal for Shell Flat, off the coast of Lancashire.

Following pressure from the RSPB, English Nature and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, proposals for a wind farm near Sedgeford in west Norfolk were dropped. Surveys revealed that up to 65 pink-footed geese could have collided with the turbines annually, which would have made it one of the most damaging wind farm applications for wildlife proposed to date.

We have renewable and energy-efficient options at many of our nature reserves, including:

- A biofuel boiler heats the entire centre, classroom and offices at a quarter of the cost of the alternative LPG at Old Moor, South Yorkshire, where we also have a small wind turbine and solar panels.
- A solar power system generates 10.5 kilowatts of electricity at our new education centre at Rye Meads, Hertfordshire.
- Photovoltaic solar electric systems provide power at Leighton Moss, Lancashire; Minsmere, Suffolk; Sandwell Valley, West Midlands; and Vane Farm/Loch Leven NNR, Fife.
- New buildings inspired by green design are being developed at Rainham Marshes, Essex, and Dungeness, Kent.
- A car park surface at Rainham Marshes has a sub-base made from the brickwork of old shooting butts that were demolished.
- A grass roof and solar power array sits on our new education centre at Nagshead, Gloucestershire.
- Solar-powered electric fences help control stock at reserves.
- We collect rainwater at Old Moor, Rye Meads, Sandwell Valley, The Lodge and other reserves to reduce dependence upon mains water.

All RSPB nature reserves are powered by RSPB Energy. About 90% of the scheme's electricity comes from sustainable hydropower (the refurbishment of existing hydro schemes), 3% from wind farms and the remainder from burning methane at landfill sites and from sewage sludge.

We worked with the European Parliament to improve the European Emissions Trading Directive. The Directive, the biggest climate change measure in the EU, covers roughly half of all emissions.

With BirdLife International, Guyra Paraguay and the Canadian Nature Federation, we held a workshop on climate change at the BirdLife World Conference in Durban.

With others, we organised a Global Climate Change and Biodiversity Conference at the University of East Anglia. Discussing new research on the impacts of climate change on wildlife helps to shape practical action and policies. A key conclusion was the need to limit warming to a global average of 2 °C by 2100, to allow a reasonable chance of maintaining the Earth's biodiversity and natural systems. This is close to the lower end of the range of the predicted average global temperature rise of between 1.6 and 5.8 °C by 2100.

New studies underline what we have been saying for years: government and people must curb energy use and adopt renewable energy on a much larger scale.



FARMING AND WATER

We were closely involved in consultations regarding the review of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). We are reasonably pleased by its outcome, but it remains to be seen how effective the changes will be.

We would have liked an even better result from the CAP reform, but we are very pleased that agriculture subsidies will no longer stimulate overproduction and that some environmental standards are being introduced. Money has been diverted into schemes that benefit the environment and wildlife as

well as helping farmers. The UK has taken a positive lead on CAP reform, but we worry about the extent to which flexibility within the system allows different interpretations in individual countries across the European Union. This is surely a recipe for chaos in the next few years.

All four UK countries announced changes to their farming subsidies. It is heartening to see some RSPB suggestions incorporated in the revisions. We have long pushed for the separation of subsidies from production, so that payments to farmers encourage more wildlife-friendly farming instead of a

▼ Wild bird cover crop



Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)



Chris Knights (rspb-images.com)

Water issues

▲ Little grebe chicks

▼ Snipe

damaging concentration on maximum production at all costs. Nevertheless, we continue to push for improvements to allow farmers to grow sufficient food and earn a living while managing the countryside in a way that supports more wildlife and pleases more people. We look forward to the new agri-environment scheme (the Entry Level Scheme), which will be the first to help all farmers across England, and we are involved in plans for similar schemes in Wales and Northern Ireland and in the new Land Management Contract system in Scotland.

The way we extract water, control it in flood defence schemes, or simply ignore it in new building developments on floodplains, has a huge effect on wildlife, such as the declining wading birds on lowland fields. With strong membership support we lobbied hard and successfully on the Government's Water Bill for England and Wales. This reformed the way that water is taken from the natural environment, following legislation already introduced in



Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

Scotland. The Water Act (2003) is consequently a step forward for our wetland environment and its wildlife, but it could have gone further.

In campaigning for amendments with colleagues from the Wildlife and Countryside Link organisations, we achieved some important improvements. The duty

on water companies to use water efficiently was extended to all abstractors of water. All public bodies now have a duty to conserve water in their operations, which we hope will lead authorities to give greater weight to water conservation issues when planning developments. The new consumer council for water also now has a sustainability duty.

With strong membership support we lobbied hard and successfully on the Government's Water Bill for England and Wales.

Proper protection for the marine environment around the UK is sadly lacking. We gave evidence to a House of Commons Select Committee on the subject.

Our evidence concentrated on three main areas. Firstly, there is a need to introduce strategic environmental assessment for all marine plans and programmes (ideally within the framework of a marine planning system). By identifying environmental problems quickly, we can avoid or minimise them. Secondly, marine sites of high importance for wildlife need protection. While we still worry about such sites on land, their protection has been strengthened, but we have barely taken the first steps towards responsible management of our seas. Finally, we highlighted the urgency of producing comprehensive marine legislation, for which we have been calling for several years.

The EU Fisheries Policy influences the status of seabirds and other marine life, so the RSPB is deeply concerned by its future direction. Seabirds on Shetland, such as kittiwakes, which feed their young on sandeels, had their worst breeding season for 25 years in 2003 and at Bempton in East Yorkshire, kittiwakes had their worst season since records began 19 years ago.

EU ministers agreed to extend a ban on sandeel fishing off the east coast of Britain, first introduced in 2000. We successfully lobbied the Scottish Executive and DEFRA for an extension of the closure, pending better information on the relationship with seabird breeding performance.

Nevertheless, at the EU Fisheries Council meeting in December, ministers went against scientific advice to agree a meaningless quota for sandeels that was almost treble the amount that the whole of the Danish industrial fishing fleet could find to catch in 2003. We argued that a two-thirds reduction in catch quotas was needed, to aid not just a recovery of sandeel stocks, but also seabirds and commercial fish, such as cod and mackerel, which all depend on sandeels for their food. This would be the precautionary approach to ensure that the sandeel fishery is not aggravating a reduction in the sandeel stock apparently caused by rising water temperatures in the North Sea.

▼ Fulmar at sea



The outcome of the EU Fisheries Council meeting raised concerns that other fish may suffer the same fate as the cod, as scientific advice was yet again ignored and fishing quotas were increased for some endangered stocks.

Alan Barnes (rspb-images.com)

RARE BREEDING BIRDS

Native red kites continued their increase in Wales, with well over 300 pairs in 2003, from just 30 only 30 years ago. Kites reintroduced in Scotland and England thrive and attract huge public interest at viewing sites. We continue to monitor their progress and promote the safer use of rodenticides to prevent accidental poisoning, which kills kites every year.

White-tailed eagles have been reintroduced to Scotland through a successful collaborative scheme. Thirty-one pairs reared 26 young birds in 2003, making it the best year since the scheme began in the 1970s. We hope that this dramatic eagle will soon be securely established.

The roseate tern remains rare, with problems in its West African wintering areas, but at Coquet Island in Northumberland 70 pairs was the best total since the 1970s, a reward for our efforts including providing boxes and platforms to help them nest safely.

A survey of breeding wading birds on wet meadows in England and Wales confirmed fears that snipe, lapwings and redshanks are disappearing from much of the south. They did well at several RSPB nature reserves, though, including the Ouse Washes in Cambridgeshire, Otmoor in Oxfordshire and Ynys-hir, Ceredigion, where we created ideal conditions through managing water levels on damp grassland.

It is a rare treat to see one, but bitterns excite a lot of interest, with a huge partnership effort to create and improve the wet

reedbeds they need. In 2003, 43 calling males was a splendid result for a bird that faced extinction in the UK, with just 11 males in 1997.

It is exciting when such habitat work pays off. The corncrake, which retreated northwards through the 20th century, continued to increase following RSPB action, with 830 males in 2003, 350 more than in 1993. The co-operation of farmers and crofters is vital to the corncrake's survival. We thank the farmers, funding agencies and other partners involved in this and much of our other species work.

▼ Cirl bunting

Once widespread in southern England, cirl buntings declined to a few score pairs in Devon. We helped develop ways for farmers to help them: there are now almost 700 pairs in 2003.



Jose Luis Gomez de Francisco (nature p1)

There is little point in conserving wild birds and their habitats if future generations won't care as deeply as we do for wildlife – all our work could be in vain.

There is no substitute for first-hand experience of wildlife out of doors if children are to develop a caring attitude. With the Field Studies Council, National Trust, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and 3D Education and Adventure, we campaigned for Real World Learning, a right for all

children to learn about their environment out of doors. More than 500,000 children each year enjoy school visits with the five organisations, but this number has declined by 10% in the last five years. The campaign seeks to bring more wonder and

excitement into children's education, to balance the emphasis on tests, inspections, league tables and literacy and numeracy targets.

On the 37 RSPB nature reserves that cater for school groups,

▼ Pond dipping at Sandwell Valley



Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)



Field teaching

▲ Outdoor learning

▼ Excited about wildlife

we welcomed 40,000 children, as part of our long-standing field-teaching scheme. Teachers have understandably become less willing to take children on outdoor visits to exciting places in recent years. In our call for a greater emphasis on real world learning, we ask the Government to provide educational experiences to help equip future generations for the environmental challenges ahead.

We are expanding our teaching programmes at existing centres such as Sandwell Valley in the West Midlands and Rye Meads in Hertfordshire. New ones, including Old Moor in South Yorkshire, offer enthralling wildlife experiences to hundreds of thousands of children from new catchment areas. In the three months after it opened, in January 2004, 2,000 children learned about wildlife at Old Moor. A successful bid for education funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund means this will be one of the busiest nature reserves for schools in the UK, with nine field teachers to inspire visiting children.



The RSPB has also been a leader in less formal education. We celebrated 60 years of youth activities for our junior members under various guises: from the Junior Bird Recorders Club,

through the Young Ornithologists Club, to the present RSPB Wildlife Explorers and RSPB Phoenix, with their various magazines and activities now tailored to different age groups.

More than a million children have enjoyed taking part in RSPB youth activities. Many have gone on to careers in conservation, which they might otherwise never have discovered.

With EU enlargement, we focused on strengthening BirdLife Partners in the accession countries to help them ensure that environmental legislation, such as the EU Bird and Habitat Directives, is implemented.

EU environmental legislation has achieved a great deal, but there remain huge challenges for wildlife conservation in Europe. Many protected areas are threatened by EU-backed schemes, such as massive transport networks involving roads, rail and the

canalisation of major rivers. We particularly want to see eastern European countries, whose countryside is still rich in birds, learn from the excesses of western Europe, rather than follow them into the subsidised destruction of farmland wildlife.

Ten years on from its launch, the BirdLife International Partnership now produces real results. We are deeply involved in increasing the ability of Partners worldwide to take on a stronger role, running their own conservation programmes while benefiting

▼ Farming in Eastern Europe



Chris Knights (rspb-images.com)



Saving species

▲ Northern bald ibises

▼ Wandering albatross

from the experience and support of others.

With BirdLife, we are participating in efforts to save around 20 critically endangered bird species, from the Azores bullfinch to the Seychelles magpie-robin and the northern bald ibis in Morocco.

One whole family of charismatic birds is under severe pressure. All 21 species of albatross are heading for extinction if nothing is done to save them. No nature reserve, no local solutions, no chance of captive breeding will help birds that wander over vast distances in the southern ocean. They have been put at risk by the huge numbers caught and drowned on baited hooks set on long lines stretching for 80 km behind fishing vessels.

Only co-ordinated and urgent international action to stop them being killed can hope to be successful.



More than 300,000 seabirds are killed each year, including 100,000 albatrosses. A third of these die on the lines of pirate vessels, which obey no treaty and take no notice of rules or best practice.

With BirdLife International Partners, and support from

our members, we campaigned successfully for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). Now we want fishing nations to put pirate vessels out of business by barring them from ports and markets and prosecuting them.

Ten years on from its launch, the BirdLife International Partnership now produces real results.

One of the most urgent bird conservation priorities is surely the Asian vulture crisis. In the 1980s, the Indian white-backed vulture was the world's commonest large bird of prey, with perhaps 30 million birds.

Slender-billed and long-billed vultures suffered just as badly as the previously commoner Indian white-backed vulture. By 2004, the wild populations of all three species were unviable, with just three of every thousand vultures left alive.

After RSPB-backed research and international efforts to pinpoint the cause, the American-based Peregrine Fund identified a drug used on livestock, diclofenac, as the cause. With BirdLife Partners in India, Pakistan and Nepal, we will breed captive vultures in safe

conditions, pending their release once the drug has been replaced with something less harmful.

Together with BirdLife Cyprus, we continued to monitor bird trapping in Cyprus, including the British Sovereign Base Areas.

▼ Indian white-backed vultures



Guy Shorrock (rspb-images.com)



Guy Shorrocks (rspb-images.com)

Achieving results

▲ Stonechat on lime stick

▼ Lake Bogoria, Kenya

With our support and encouragement, both the Cypriot and British authorities have increased enforcement and the number of birds illegally trapped each year has fallen significantly.

In 2003, in the areas surveyed, around one million birds were trapped, compared with over five million in the same areas in previous years. The overall number caught across the whole island was previously estimated at 8–12 million.

The RSPB and Nature Kenya run Kenya's Important Biodiversity Areas, a project that builds on the 60 Important Bird Areas in Kenya identified in 1999. The project established a monitoring network throughout Kenya and a strong network of local community-based site support groups. Volunteers help to conserve the sites and promote the well-being of surrounding people. Many have embraced the monitoring work with enthusiasm, allowing more detailed monitoring of particular



Mark Hamblin (rspb-images.com)

species and of environmental trends. Long-term monitoring is useful only if it leads to effective conservation action. This programme has already stimulated

the development of management plans for two sites and led Nature Kenya to purchase its first nature reserve on the fast disappearing grasslands of Kinangop Plateau.

The great vultures of southern Asia have almost disappeared, killed by a lethal drug in the carcasses of cattle.

MEMBERS

Valuable support

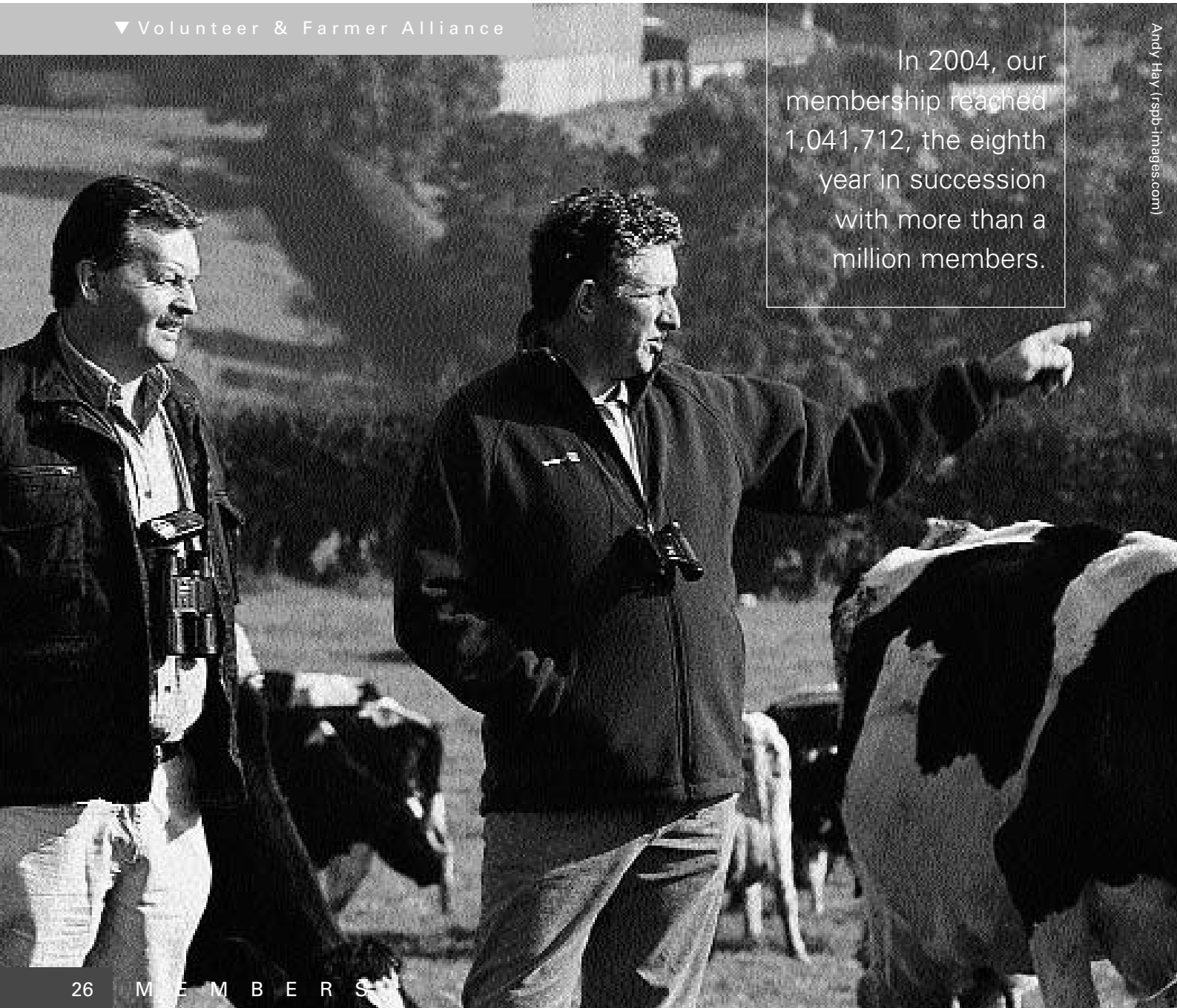
Fundamental to all we do is a strong membership, which gives us the necessary support and finance to get our job done.

Within our growing membership, we are enormously lucky to have so many willing volunteers. Volunteers founded the RSPB more than 110 years ago and remain vitally important: there are at least nine volunteers for every paid member of staff. Volunteers

bring unique qualities to the RSPB and help to extend the amount of work that we can undertake. Volunteering adds to our range of skills, helps stretch our limited resources and keeps us in touch with supporters, who in turn benefit from their involvement.

Last year the RSPB benefited from the support of nearly 12,000 volunteers who gave us their time, energy and skills. They ranged from assistants on nature reserves to office-based helpers offering special expertise where it is most needed.

▼ Volunteer & Farmer Alliance



In 2004, our membership reached 1,041,712, the eighth year in succession with more than a million members.

Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)



Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

Volunteers

▲ Offering opportunities

▼ Letter writing campaigns

More than 1,000 volunteers contact farmers each spring and carry out surveys of the birds on their land in our Volunteer & Farmer Alliance scheme. Many farmers follow this up, asking for advice on how to increase the wildlife on their farms, feeding in to our advisory service for farmers and landowners UK-wide.

Those people who are determined to help protect the wildlife they love long after they are gone continue to be of immense importance to the RSPB's work. Legacies form a large slice of our annual income, without which so much of our activity could not be attempted.

The support of volunteer letter writers helped the RSPB win an award for setting the political agenda at the annual Political Studies Association (PSA) Awards in recognition of the RSPB as one of the UK's most effective campaigning groups.



Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

The PSA said of the RSPB:

'It is held in respect by government and MPs for the quality of evidence to select committees, for the integrity of its advice and for its impressive campaigning style. The manner

in which the RSPB defends and articulates the interests of its many members, drawn from all walks of life, is a model for other groups to follow.'

The PSA award is a tribute to our million members, whose support and sheer weight of numbers allow us to put the environmental case convincingly to decision makers.

INVOLVING PEOPLE

Big Garden Birdwatch

Hundreds of thousands of people enjoyed taking part in RSPB projects UK-wide. A quarter of a million people counted house sparrows in their gardens in May: a survey that raised awareness of the plight of this species.

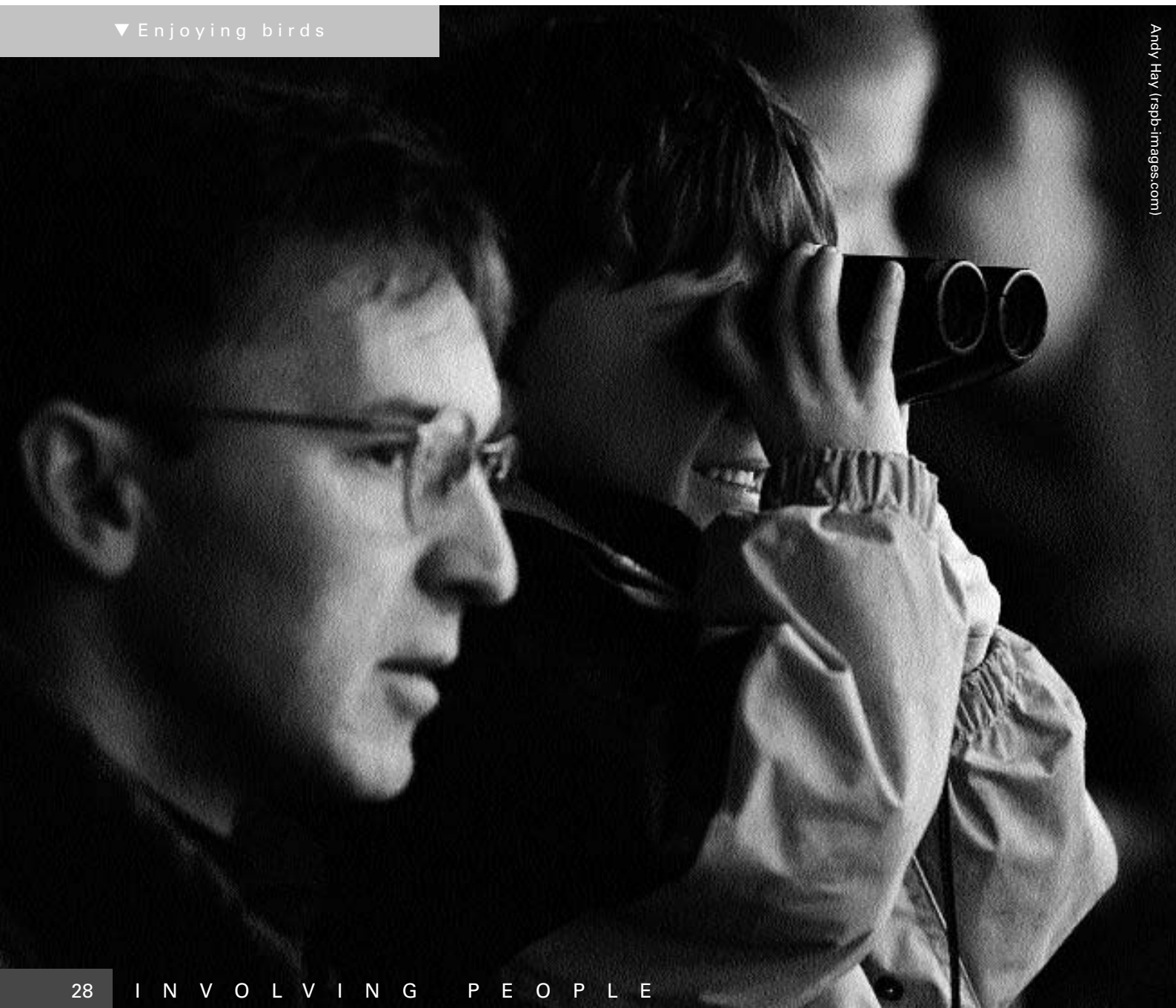
The number of people prepared to take part in surveys and report their results via paper forms or online is staggering. Our largest event is undoubtedly the Big Garden Birdwatch, an annual check on garden bird numbers.

This long-running survey grew from 314,000 counters last year to 419,000 – an astonishing number for a garden bird count.

We followed this with a new survey, to assess the numbers

of woodland birds that use gardens, as part of our increased interest in their fortunes: some are thriving while others decline. We want to find out more about the reasons behind such changes.

▼ Enjoying birds



Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)



Aren't birds brilliant!

▲ Young house sparrow

▼ Blue tit

As well as involving people in surveys at home, we show people birds, first hand, at 40 sites across the UK in our Aren't birds brilliant! events. Most people enjoy the drama and spectacle of wild birds, if they are helped to see them. We welcomed 180,000 people to see black-throated divers, heronries, peregrines and black grouse, not forgetting hen harriers, choughs and common but fascinating birds such as blue tits and finches.

The RSPB/Forest Enterprise viewpoint at Symonds Yat Rock, Gloucestershire, welcomed its one-millionth visitor over 20 years. In this period, peregrines have reared 55 young there.

A special scheme began in Wales, with the award of more than £1 million of European funding to the Aren't Welsh Birds Brilliant! project. This involves local communities, farmers and landowners and aims to reverse widespread declines in Welsh farmland birds.



Our long running survey grew from 314,000 counters last year to 419,000 – an astonishing number for a garden bird count.

For the financial year 2003–2004

A summary of the financial highlights of the year

Net income grew by 3.6% over the year; revenue expenditure by 3.7%: not headline grabbing pace, but quite satisfactory. The past three years have seen our spending increase by almost a third, made possible by generous support across all our major income streams. Simply to maintain our activities was pleasing given the economic climate.

We would have preferred to have done more – adding to our nature reserves in particular – but we have exciting proposals in the pipeline and they cannot (and should not) be rushed; most, if not all, will be completed in time, some very soon. Some transactions that came to fruition were very satisfying, including extensions to stunning sites such as Otmoor in Oxfordshire and Forsinard in Highland.

In contrast, the pace of work on existing reserves accelerated. New facilities such as those recently added at Old Moor in South Yorkshire provide a highly visible sign of this. Every bit as important is the less visible work underpinning some of our bird conservation successes,

such as working to improve the breeding populations of wading birds otherwise threatened with disappearance. One-off grants make important contributions to such work but, with the annual bill for managing nature reserves now in excess of £15 million – and growing every time further land is acquired – the importance of continuing to develop long-term, dependable sources of funds is abundantly clear.

It is not only reserve-based work that has expanded. A broad sweep of progress has been made. And we should not overlook the level of support needed for this 'front-line' work. It is imperative that activities such as research keep pace with the ever-increasing demand for their services and in recognition of this, our investment in that area increased by £0.5 million in 2003–04.

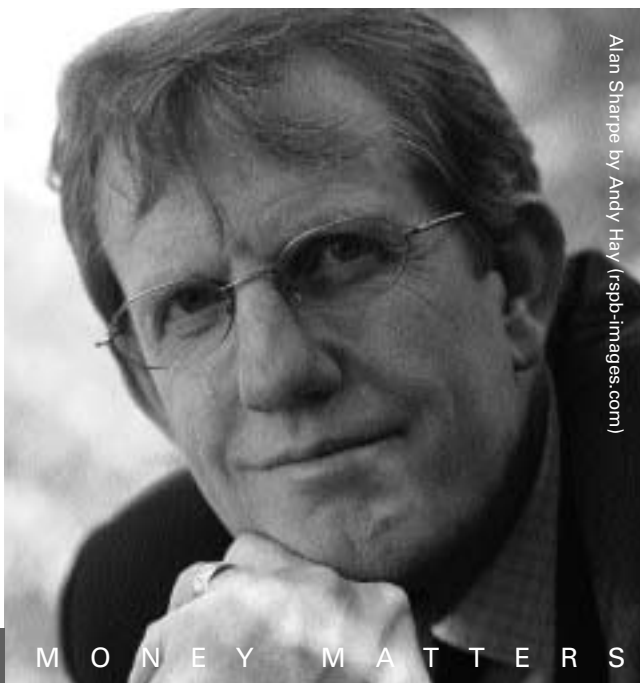
Growth in income slowed over the past year, reflecting the pattern in some of our key sources of funds. Membership subscriptions, the single most important source of income for the RSPB, increased

fractionally ahead of inflation, thanks to a small increase in the number of members. Average subscription rate increases were kept below the rate of inflation in recognition of the prevailing economic uncertainties. Gift Aid has rapidly become an important source of income. It was inevitable that the rate of growth would fall, as the number of eligible members not already signed-up diminished.

Legacy income was always unlikely to continue to grow unabated, and so it proved. Nevertheless, £20 million is a massive contribution to our work and one for which we are extremely grateful.

Other sources of income, most notably grant income, remained strong thanks to important contributions from (amongst others) the landfill and aggregates schemes and from the European Union. Taken overall, income growth remained positive and a little ahead of inflation.

Last year, we reported on the pension scheme difficulties faced



Alan Sharpe by Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)



Bryan Barnacle by John Mills Photography Ltd



Financial highlights of the year

▲ Dunlins flying at sunset

by the RSPB in common with many other organisations in the UK, caused primarily by the sharp fall in stock market valuations. After much deliberation, it was decided that the interests of the RSPB were best served by continuing the scheme, provided the members of the scheme were prepared to share the cost of doing so. After due consultation, agreement was reached and on 1 April 2004 changes were made to employee contributions, employer contributions and to normal retirement age. The RSPB also made a lump sum contribution of £300,000 towards closing the funding gap. These changes were made taking into account the advice of the pension scheme actuary.

It is not only the pension fund that holds investments. The charity also holds limited financial reserves in the stock market and it makes a

pleasant change to be able to report a gain on our portfolio – the first since 2000. This increased the value of our holdings by £2.2 million and contributed to the reported £7.9 million increase in cash and investments available for future activities.

RSPB free financial reserves now stand at £16.2 million, representing 14 weeks of expenditure. This is higher than last year, but is considered prudent taking into account our current work programmes and income trends. These reserves provide a sound financial foundation on which to build our plans for the future.

Alan Sharpe – Director of Finance

Finally, we reiterate our appreciation of all who have supported the RSPB over the year. Whilst this report by necessity focuses mainly on financial contributions, it would be remiss of us not also to recognise the equally valuable assistance provided by our volunteers. They collectively contributed some 84,624 days of work last year. One such volunteer was Humphrey Norrington who, before leaving the RSPB Council last October, had assisted us for eight years. Seven of those were as our Honorary Treasurer and a signatory to these annual reviews.

Our grateful thanks to you all.

Bryan Barnacle – Honorary Treasurer

With the annual bill for managing nature reserves now in excess of £15 million – and growing every time further land is acquired – the importance of continuing to develop long-term, dependable sources of funds is abundantly clear.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 March 2004

INCOMING RESOURCES	2004 £'000	2003 £'000
VOLUNTARY INCOME		
• Membership subscriptions	22,899	21,914
• Legacies	19,626	20,825
• Grants	11,651	10,619
• Appeals	2,553	3,245
• General donations and reserve entry fees	1,910	1,457
• Commercial donations	1,632	856
• Trusts	362	539
• Local groups	342	310
Subtotal	60,975	59,765
ACTIVITIES TO FURTHER THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS		
• Land and farming income	1,062	1,219
• Fees and grants for services	866	573
• Media sales	518	454
Subtotal	2,446	2,246
Investment income and interest	835	635
Net gains on disposals of fixed assets	304	109
Subtotal	1,139	744
TOTAL CHARITABLE INCOME	64,560	62,755
ACTIVITIES TO GENERATE FUNDS		
• Mail order and shop income	9,616	9,047
• Media advertising and inserts	1,406	1,489
• Lotteries	921	895
• Commercial sponsorship	642	526
Subtotal	12,585	11,957
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	77,145	74,712
LESS		
• Costs related to voluntary income	6,718	6,783
• Cost of goods and activities to generate funds	9,995	9,511
• Cost of investment management	61	58
• Cost of organisational support	489	539
TOTAL COST OF GENERATING INCOMING RESOURCES	17,263	16,891
NET RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES	59,882	57,821

THE FULL AUDITED ACCOUNTS were approved on 1 July 2004 and, together with the Annual Report, have been submitted to the Charity Commission. The opinion of the auditor was unqualified.

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information the full accounts, the auditors' report on those accounts and the Trustees' Annual Report should be consulted. Copies can be obtained, free of charge, from the Director of Finance, The RSPB, UK Headquarters, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

Signed on behalf of the Council:



Ian Newton, Chairman
1 July 2004

AUDITORS' STATEMENT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE RSPB

We have examined the summarised financial statements set out on pages 32 and 33.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

You are responsible as trustees for the preparation of the summary financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised statements' consistency with the full financial statements, on which we reported to you on 1 July 2004.

Basis of opinion

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2004.

Registered auditors: Deloitte & Touche LLP,
Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR
1 July 2004

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Cont)

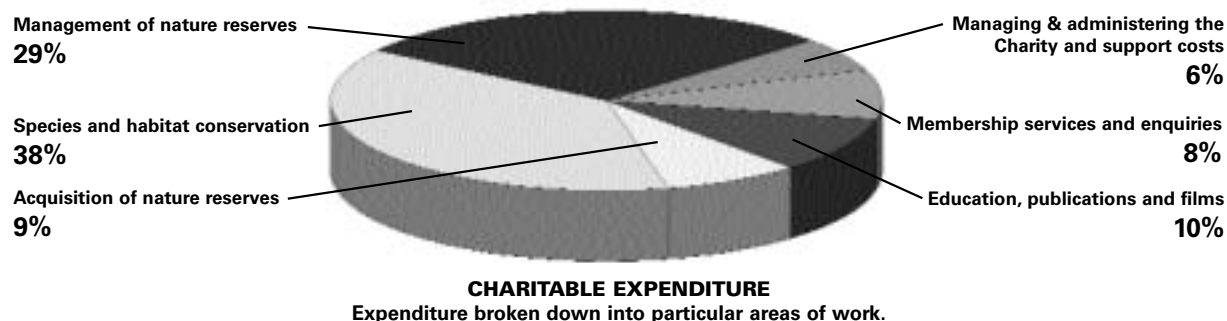
For the year ended 31 March 2004

	2004 £'000	2003 £'000
CHARITABLE REVENUE EXPENDITURE		
• Species and habitat conservation	20,814	20,252
• Management of nature reserves	15,682	14,567
• Education, publications and films	5,179	4,903
• Membership services and enquiries	4,448	4,709
• Managing & administering the Charity	351	365
• Support costs	3,163	3,079
TOTAL CHARITABLE REVENUE EXPENDITURE	49,637	47,875
Movement in value of investments	2,210	(3,033)
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	12,455	6,913
USE OF NET INCOMING RESOURCES		
Charitable capital expenditure		
• Nature reserves	4,705	5,898
• Other tangible assets	231	83
Movement on stock, debtors & creditors	(416)	2,261
	4,520	8,242
INCREASE IN CASH & INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES	7,935	(1,329)
CASH & INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE AT START OF PERIOD	18,130	19,459
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES	26,065	18,130

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

as at 31 March 2004

	2004 £'000	2003 £'000
CASH & INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES		
• General purposes	15,782	11,567
• Designated	4,281	2,414
• Restricted	4,706	3,140
• Endowment	1,296	1,009
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES	26,065	18,130
Nature reserves	62,980	58,275
Other tangible assets	5,033	4,802
Stock, debtors & creditors	451	867
NET ASSETS	94,529	82,074



THANK YOU

Acknowledging the support you give

We are grateful for your support during this year, and would like to acknowledge the following:

Members

The support and loyalty of our members enables us to look after the birds and countryside around us. Whether it's everyday garden birds such as the song thrush or rarities such as the bittern members help in many ways: financially; by volunteering; by supporting our campaigns through letter writing; and by helping with RSPB projects through local groups.

Local groups

RSPB local groups, RSPB Wildlife Explorer groups and RSPB Phoenix groups worked unstintingly over the year. They provide a great focus for us in local communities, involve people in our work and raise valuable funds for our conservation projects. Wildlife Explorers (our junior members) raised more than £15,000 to help tree sparrows.

Legacies

We are moved by the generosity of supporters who remember the RSPB in their wills. This makes a huge difference to the amount of conservation work that we can do. We are grateful to every one, but cannot recognise all of them by name here. We would, however, like to mention the following:

Mary W Edmonds, Isle of Wight
Maureen E Gourley, Merseyside
Mary F Bond, Chichester
Ethal G Miller, Wiltshire
Maxwell R Bickell, Devon

Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund has provided essential support for RSPB projects to restore and secure natural heritage for future generations. In this 10th year of National Lottery funding we remain indebted to its continued support for our work.



David Tipling (rspb-images.com)

Landfill tax credit scheme

Monies distributed via the scheme, such as the SITA Environmental Trust 'Wildlife Guardians' and the Waste Recycling Group Environmental (WREN) 'WRENovation' programme, have made an increasingly important contribution to our work.

Brett Environmental Trust Limited
Cleanaway Havering Riverside Trust
EB Nationwide
The Environment Council
The Environment Trust
Gloucestershire Environmental Trust
Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust
Lancashire Waste Services
Mersey Waste
Norfolk Environmental Waste Services Ltd (NEWS) through Environmental Projects Agency (EPAL)
Onyx Environmental Trust
RMC Environment Fund
Shanks First Fund
SITA Environmental Trust
Suffolk Environmental Trust
Teesside Environmental Trust
Wakefield Environmental Trust
Waste Recycling Group (WRG) through Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN)
Wyvern Environmental Trust Ltd with money from Wyvern Waste, Taunton, Somerset

Sponsorships, donations and grants

A&C Black (Publishers) Ltd
Adnams Wine
Airbus UK
Amerada Hess
BG Group Plc
Mr Alistair Brown
BP – through Scottish Forestry Alliance
BTC Co, Turkey
Caird Bardon
Center Parcs
Chevron Texaco
CJ WildBird Foods Ltd
The Community Fund
The Co-operative Bank Ltd
DEFRA – Darwin Initiative
DFID – Civil Society Challenge Fund
Directoraat-Generaal Internationale Samenwerking
Dragon Transport Wales
The Environment Agency
EPAL
EU LIFE Nature Programme
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Forestry Commission
Hanson Environment Fund
The Harewood Estate
Holiday Cottages Group
IVECO
Mrs Mary Jackes

K&M Europe (UK) Ltd
Lafarge Ltd
Mr David Milne QC
Northumbrian Water Ltd
Peak District National Park Authority
The Penguin Group (UK)
Powergen Renewables Ltd
Scottish and Southern Energy plc
Severn Trent Water Plc
Southern Water Ltd
Sussex Ornithological Society
Swarovski Optik, Austria
Sir John Swire CBE
Talisman Energy (UK) Ltd
Terra Ecosystems
Thames Water Utilities Ltd
Tods Murray WS
United Utilities Plc
Viking Optical Ltd
Webb Ivory (Burton) Ltd
Wessex Water Plc
Wiggly Wiggles
Yorkshire Water Plc

Statutory sector and other bodies

ADAS
Bedfordshire County Council
Broads and Rivers LEADER+ Programme (a programme funded by the European Union)
Cairngorm LEADER+
Central Science Laboratory
Countryside Agency
Countryside Agency through DEFRA
Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
Countryside Council for Wales
DARD (NI)
Dartmoor National Park
Department of Agriculture (NI)
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Department of Trade and Industry
DFID – Civil Society Challenge Fund
Dumfries & Galloway Tourist Board
East of England Development Agency
Enfys: New Opportunities Fund
English Nature
English Nature through DEFRA
Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
Environment Agency
Environment and Heritage Service
Environment Wales
EU LIFE Nature Programme
European Commission
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Forest Enterprise
Forestry Commission Wales
Forward Scotland and Scottish Executive
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
HBS Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Heritage Lottery Fund
Heritage Lottery Fund Wales
HGCA – Home Grown Cereals Authority
Interreg North Sea Programme – Transnational Ecological Network (TEN) III

Islands 2000 Trust
Lancashire County Council
Lancaster City Council
Lancashire Rural Futures
Landmark Trust
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
Leeds City Council
Levels & Moors Partnership
Lisnaskea Community Enterprises Ltd
National Assembly for Wales
The National Trust
Norfolk County Council
North West Development Agency
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Orkney Islands Council
The Prince's Trust
Purbeck District Council
Ross & Cromarty Economic Development Programme
RSNC Seed Programme (Royal Society for Nature Conservation)
Scottish Executive
Scottish Natural Heritage
Sefton Leisure Services
South East Forum for Sustainability
South of Scotland European Partnership
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Suffolk County Council
Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund through English Nature
Welsh Council for Voluntary Action
Welsh European Funding Office
Wetlands International
Wildspace! – English Nature / New Opportunities Fund Partner
WWF – Worldwide Fund for Nature
Yorks & Humber Regional Environmental Forum
Yorkshire Forward

Charitable trusts

AJH Ashby Trust
Bridge House Estates Trust Fund
Darwin Initiative
Ford Foundation
Geoffrey Burton Charitable Trust
The Gillman Trusts
Douglas Glanfield Memorial Trust
AB Grace Charity
M B Hutt, deceased
A G Leventis Foundation
Lloyds TSB Foundation
McLellan Trust
Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Fund
Orr Mackintosh Foundation
Otto Foundation
The Jack Patston Charitable Trust
Priory Trust
Restore UK
Alice Richie Irrevocable Trust
The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
Shears Charitable Trust
The Whitley Animal Protection Charitable Trust
John Young Charitable Settlement



Can you help?

This report covers some of the highlights of our activities in 2003–2004. We have many more projects underway across the UK which need your continued support. The challenges facing our wildlife and special places are ever increasing. If you think you could help in some way, please contact us.



▲ Children find that wildlife can be exciting even in the urban setting of Ebbw Vale

The RSPB is the UK charity working to secure a healthy environment for birds and wildlife, helping to create a better world for us all. We belong to BirdLife International, the global partnership of bird conservation organisations.

To find out more

You can visit our website www.rspb.org.uk or contact us at any of the offices below.

UK HEADQUARTERS

The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire
SG19 2DL Tel: 01767 680551

ENGLAND

Central England Regional Office

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Eastern England Regional Office

Stalham House, 65 Thorpe Road,
Norwich NR1 1UD Tel: 01603 661662

North England Regional Office

4 Benton Terrace, Sandyford Road,
Newcastle NE2 1QU Tel: 0191 212 6100

North West England Regional Office

Westleigh Mews, Wakefield Road,
Denby Dale, Huddersfield HD8 8QD
Tel: 01484 861148

South East England Regional Office

2nd Floor, Frederick House,
42 Frederick Place, Brighton,
E Sussex BN1 4EA Tel: 01273 775333

South West England Regional Office

Keble House, Southernhay Gardens,
Exeter, Devon EX1 1NT
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Northern Ireland Headquarters

Belvoir Park Forest, Belfast BT8 7QT
Tel: 028 9049 1547

SCOTLAND

Scotland Headquarters

Dunedin House, 25 Ravelston Terrace,
Edinburgh EH4 3TP Tel: 0131 311 6500

East Scotland Regional Office

10 Albyn Terrace, Aberdeen AB10 1YP
Tel: 01224 624824

North Scotland Regional Office

Etive House, Beechwood Park,
Inverness IV2 3BW Tel: 01463 715000

South and West Scotland Regional Office

10 Park Quadrant, Glasgow G3 6BS
Tel: 0141 331 0993

WALES

Wales Headquarters

Sutherland House, Castlebridge,
Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff CF11 9AB
Tel: 029 2035 3000

North Wales Office

Maes y Ffynnon, Penrhosgarnedd,
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DW
Tel: 01248 363800

Cover starling by Laurie Campbell (rspb-images.com)

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