



Nature's voice
RSPB annual review 2008/09



Reasons to be cheerful in challenging times

WE BELIEVE the list of amazing things the RSPB has done during 2008–2009 is as long and impressive as ever. A few examples of our work follow. Every one of them relies on our members, supporters and volunteers. Our sincere thanks are extended to you all for making this possible, especially at a time of recession.

Everything we do also rests on the skills and support of staff and volunteers across the UK – frontline success is utterly dependent on “backroom” commitment.



Graham Wynne *Ian Darling*

Graham Wynne, Chief Executive

Ian Darling, Chairman of RSPB Council



REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

The turnaround in the bittern's fortunes has been almost entirely due to habitat restoration and creation, underpinned by our research findings and habitat management work.

Main image: booming bitterns were found on 12 RSPB nature reserves, which hosted 41% of the UK total. Above: cirl buntings should fare better thanks to our new nature reserve at Labrador Bay in south Devon.

Great land acquisitions

We now have 206 nature reserves UK-wide, covering 142,000 hectares (350,000 acres): we added five more, but get as much satisfaction from extending the size of existing reserves. Bigger reserves are generally more robust in the face of climate change and allow us to manage the habitats much more effectively. We made no fewer than 22 invaluable additions to existing reserves.

New nature reserves include the scenic Labrador Bay, in south Devon, especially for cirl buntings. Lydden Valley, in east Kent, is the first stage of a wetland restoration scheme, promising new wildlife riches. Meikle Loch, a little gem of a roosting place for wild geese, is a new reserve in Aberdeenshire.

We were able to extend our fabulous Ynys-hir reserve on the Dyfi Estuary in mid Wales and the Forsinard Flows reserve in the north of Scotland – now our largest in the UK; and we added land to our reserve on Rathlin Island, Co Antrim, mainly to benefit coughts.

Great birds

In 2008, 76 male bitterns held territories in 10 English counties. It was their best breeding season since 1954 and compares with a low of 11 males in four counties in 1997, when it seemed we might lose them.

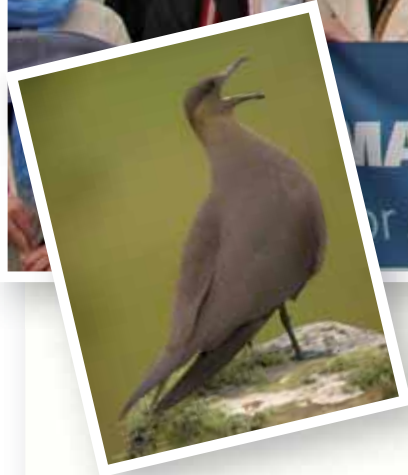
A dozen RSPB nature reserves boasted 31 booming male bitterns, which is 41% of the UK total. Nationally, the number of males increased by almost a half. There were 39 nests with chicks (up by 44% on 2007), despite another poor summer. Bitterns are continuing to move inland, with 12 males in the Fens and two nests at Ham Wall, Somerset, which is great news. Although, half of the nesting females remained on coastal sites threatened by saltwater flooding.

Red kites continue to do well in the native stronghold of Wales, and in areas with reintroduction schemes. The value of reintroductions is ever more clear: success in the UK is in sharp contrast to the main range of the red kite in Germany, France and Spain, where populations have crashed in recent years, due to agricultural intensification in eastern Germany and the widespread use of rodenticides.

There has been a steady increase in white-tailed eagles, with 44 pairs in Scotland in 2008, a tremendous result after years of effort put into this reintroduction scheme, with massive RSPB involvement.

The loss of the charismatic lapwing from much of our countryside is a tragedy that shows no signs of





Some wonderful birds are creeping onto the list of species causing us great concern.

Main image: thousands of supporters came to a rally in London to campaign for a better deal for our marine wildlife.

Above: our Arctic skuas breed at the southern edge of their extensive range and numbers fell rapidly between 1992 and 2000, due to food shortages.

Right: grey seals are just one of the creatures we are hoping to help with a strong Marine Bill.

abating: in England and Wales they are confined to a few remaining suitable habitat fragments. Our effort focuses on promoting agri-environment measures coupled with advocacy to ensure the right management of fallow land. On low-lying areas of wet grassland, we continue to extend and manage our reserves, and on upland grassland, we are completing long-term trials to find ways to help lapwing numbers recover.

Sadly, some wonderful birds are creeping onto the list of species causing us great concern and the Arctic skua is the first to go direct from "green" to "red" without an "amber" period to warn us of its demise.

Like several "everyday" farmland birds, corn buntings have suffered a widespread decline. Intensified cereal production, earlier harvesting, indirect effects of pesticides and destruction of nests during silage cutting all have an effect. We continue to help important remaining populations, and carry out trial management and research to identify ways of creating safe nesting habitat.

On an entirely positive note, curl buntings, for many years restricted to south Devon, reached more than 840 pairs and a translocated population in Cornwall is up to a dozen pairs, with second-generation Cornish birds breeding for the first time in 2008.

Keeping wildlife sites wild

Our never-flagging efforts to protect wild places involved more than 1,100 instances of casework in 2008, helping to maintain the wildlife of special places near you. New planning application cases rose by 13%, an increase on last year and, again, we achieved a high success rate.

Unfortunately, we failed to halt Donald Trump's golf course on "protected" sand dunes north of Aberdeen, but the legalised desecration of other such natural assets will

have been made more difficult as a result of our actions and the public outcry over this case. The huge task we have taken on to protect the Severn Estuary is a rather different story. We think there may well be smart ways to harness the Severn's power without wrecking the place and we're working hard to explore and promote these, but the "full barrage" isn't the answer.

Getting the right policies

We finally saw a Marine Bill introduced to the Westminster Parliament, and a promise of complementary laws to follow in Scotland. We did much to raise awareness of biofuels, and the damage ill-conceived policy could do, both to wildlife and to people around the world. We've had a real impact on the emerging policy – it's nowhere near as daft as it would have been without us.

Our position on wind energy, often portrayed as controversial, hasn't changed. We wholeheartedly support the production of renewable energy, except where it leads to damage to birds and unacceptable loss of biodiversity. We are then strongly opposed, as in the case of the Lewis wind farm proposal, which the Scottish Government turned down in 2008.

We campaigned hard to make sure the "health check" of the Common Agricultural Policy gave us some tools to mitigate the loss of set-aside. In Wales, the Assembly awarded the monitoring of all agri-environment schemes to the RSPB and our partners, fully funded for five years. And the Port of London Authority has entrusted us to write the environment strategy for the Thames Estuary, still a remarkably wildlife-rich and evocative area that needs a lot of protection.





Sponsorship from The Famous Grouse is generating significant funding for our black grouse conservation work through sales of the new Black Grouse whisky.

Top: we hope to carry out a coastal restoration project at Wallasea Island.
 Right: greater numbers of sociable lapwings have been discovered, increasing the world population estimate ten-fold.

Major UK land projects

Great confidence was shown by the Government in our South Essex programme, with an additional £5.2 million grant announced to help us develop exciting marshland reserves and a visitor centre close to the Thames. Nearby, at Wallasea Island, Essex, we are forging a partnership with Crossrail (the UK's largest public transport scheme), which will make it possible for us to carry out our amazing coastal restoration project. At Hesketh Out Marsh in the Ribble Estuary, Lancashire, along with the Environment Agency we led on large-scale habitat restoration for Lancaster City Council, returning "reclaimed" land to its original saltmarsh state.

Grants and business links

A very strong year for grant income, for which we are extremely grateful, included £900,000 from Biffaward for wetland work across the UK, and £800,000 from the EU's Interreg funds for wetland management and visitor facilities at Rainham, Titchwell, in South Essex and at our Somerset Levels reserves. The £5 million secured towards regular, ongoing work is arguably even more important than the grants we cheer about that help us start new projects.

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Research breakthroughs

By radio-tracking sociable lapwings from Kazakhstan, we discovered their unknown wintering quarters in Sudan and a new migration stopover point in Turkey. Also, estimates of the world population increased ten-fold when the Turkish BirdLife International partner found "our" bird with thousands of others! Sadly, we have since found they are targets for shooters... something we must address.

Less cheery, but of immense significance, we published an atlas of European birds which spells out the types of changes to bird distributions that are likely to occur because of climate change. This groundbreaking work grabbed the headlines and is influencing decision-makers, as it is one of the most comprehensive studies of its kind.





We launched a "good men stand up" campaign, offering a confidential hotline number to those who wished to report offences.

Above: Sadly, birds of prey are still being illegally killed. Here, an RSPB investigator finds traps set for peregrines.

Good men stand up

Two gamekeepers contacted our Investigations Unit about a shooting estate in Shropshire. This led to the conviction of a head gamekeeper and his under keeper for multiple offences of killing birds of prey and badgers. We followed this up with a "good men stand up" advertising campaign, offering a confidential hotline number to those who wished to report similar offences. Another investigations case involved our staff being run out of Filey, North Yorkshire, by angry fishermen – but not before they secured video footage showing razorbills being killed in salmon nets. This helped to raise the issue of large-scale seabird mortality in UK fishing nets.

Working with farmers

At Hope Farm, the RSPB's arable farm in Cambridgeshire, we have doubled the numbers of our farmland birds, achieving populations similar to those in the 1970s.

We pushed for a replacement for the environmental benefits of set-aside, and are supporting the resulting farmer-led Campaign for the Farmed Environment with advice and training for land managers.

We launched the Nature of Farming Award with partner organisations Butterfly Conservation, Plantlife, and BBC *Countryfile* magazine, to celebrate farmers who encourage wildlife on their farms.

May 2009 brought the 10-year anniversary of our Volunteer & Farmer Alliance scheme, which matches volunteers with farmers to carry out farm bird surveys.

Trying to stop climate chaos

As a leading member of the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, we campaigned for tougher action to combat global warming. The Government has taken some very encouraging steps, including accepting the recommendation of the Committee on Climate Change to cut emissions of greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050. It therefore seems perverse that the Government is still considering major new airport runways and giving consent to coal-fired power stations that don't capture all their CO₂ emissions.





BIRDS AND PEOPLE

In the 30th anniversary year of Big Garden Birdwatch, the number of people counting their garden birds exceeded half a million for the first time, including 89,000 children and teachers doing the Big Schools' Birdwatch.

Above: taking part in Big Schools' Birdwatch.
Right: Labrador Bay in Devon is beautiful and wonderfully rich in wildlife. We have established a nature reserve there, especially for cirl buntings, but which will be good news for everyone.

Fantastic new places for visitors

We had high profile openings of the stylish Newport Wetlands Centre in south Wales and of the smaller but perfectly formed Rathlin Island Seabird Centre. Their equally impressive counterpart at Saltholme on Teesside was completed in partnership with the Teesside Environmental Trust, the culmination of tenacious work over many years. These big developments were almost completely funded by grants, and have been very well received by visitors.

Enthusing children

Our lead role in the BBC Breathing Places schools campaign made great strides, too – more than 8,000 schools have now signed up to improve their grounds for wildlife.

Legacies

We received a marvellous and humbling £27 million in the form of legacies from those people who chose to remember the RSPB in this way. Legacy income is a vital element of our support and we couldn't begin to undertake the breadth of the work we do without it.

Making members

In 2008–09 we enjoyed our biggest year for membership recruitment since 1997, with a total of 106,901 new memberships. Our recruitment teams throughout the UK used new techniques, with a much greater emphasis on talking to people face-to-face, to achieve this result, and for less money than last year. Members remained extremely loyal through a difficult year, and contributed more than £20 million through their subscriptions, with an additional £6 million coming in from Gift Aid.

Trading

We have been affected by the recession, inevitably, but both sales and profitability are up by 11% on last year – and there aren't many retailers who can say that! Good natured gifts – donating money towards essential conservation projects – continue to work very well, and the RSPB Birdcare range of food, feeders and other garden bird gear, with 100% of the profit supporting our work, made great steps forward.

Aren't birds brilliant!

Fifty-nine Aren't birds brilliant! projects gave 449,568 people first hand wildlife experiences and 4,165 people joined on the spot. There were 11 peregrine projects (eight in urban centres), six red kite sites and three osprey nests under observation.

A startling roost project continued and our first house sparrow scheme began in London. Our work at Kelvingrove Museum in the centre of Glasgow continued a variety of successful events, tapping into new audiences within the urban environment. A red deer project at Minsmere attracted considerable media attention and 10 times more visitors than expected (4,500). Around 900 of these visitors had never visited the reserve before.

The overall scheme achieved considerable press coverage, especially about birds of prey and our campaign to stop illegal killing. Also, £85,787 was raised in donations and sales.





Northern Ireland in focus

We began our first reintroduction project, bringing back the red kite after centuries of absence. People have certainly taken these majestic birds to their hearts.

Return of the red kite

In an historic move for the RSPB in Northern Ireland, with the Welsh Kite Trust and the Golden Eagle Trust, we began our first reintroduction project, bringing back the red kite after centuries of absence. This is the final piece in the red kite reintroduction jigsaw across the UK and Ireland.

This really caught the interest of the public and people have certainly taken these majestic birds to their hearts. Telling people about these birds is a big part of the project, and we have run a series of local talks and an "adopt a kite" scheme for local schools. Ten schools took part last year, each adopting their very own red kite. They have an array of names including Fire, Dobbin, Cara, Honky, Matthew, Paprika, Sparkey and Troy. Our red kites have also helped to raise the profile of birds of prey in Northern Ireland, bringing the RSPB birds of prey campaign to life and prompting the Northern Ireland Assembly Environment Committee to sign a pledge to protect these birds here.

Pushing for better policies

Our advocacy work went from strength to strength as we continued to work with the Assembly and its various departmental committees on many issues. We made headway in our call for custodial sentences for wildlife crime. We pressed for a marine bill that fully commits to co-ordinated, integrated marine legislation to protect our marine environment: it is extraordinary that its wonderful wildlife and habitats remain largely unprotected.

We put pressure on Northern Ireland's Department of the Environment to introduce new laws to put a halt to the use of lead shot in wetland areas. This will put an end to the slow and painful deaths of many ducks, geese and swans because of lead poisoning.

We worked hard to ensure that planning reform would have true sustainable development at its core, maintaining economic growth within environmental limits. We advocate a spatial planning system that recognises the value of habitats for their own sake, as well as the ecosystem services that they provide, contributing as they do to health, flood prevention, climate change mitigation and resource production.

Planning for the future

Our planning work saw us forge an innovative partnership with the Royal Town Planning Institute in our sustainable planning awards. Winners were selected from more than 20 entries, shortlisted in each of the three categories: Rural



Main image: red kites are now gracing the skies of Northern Ireland again. Above: the Irish hare is another species being helped by our conservation work.



Areas and Natural Environment, Sustainable Communities and Regeneration, and Urban Areas and Built Development. Visits were carried out to each of the shortlisted sites and they were all judged against stringent criteria. A high profile event at Stormont announced the award winners as the Orchard Acre Barn in Fermanagh, The Playhouse in Derry and Woodbrook, Brokerstown Village in Lisburn.

Reaching more people

Through our visits to schools and the number of children accessing our field teaching, we provided thousands of children with the opportunity to open their eyes to their local wildlife. We had a huge response to our Pecks Factor competition – with more than 1,000 entries – which voted the robin as Northern Ireland's favourite bird.

By contrast, we brought global issues to the fore in our All-Ireland Conference, organised in conjunction with BirdWatch Ireland, and showed off some of Northern Ireland's most beautiful coastal nature in the field trips.

Nature reserve news

Our reserves enjoyed one of the best years ever. At Portmore Lough, we brought in a herd of hardy Konik ponies to manage the fen and grassland for ground-nesting birds, a well-tried technique used at Minsmere in Suffolk.

Rathlin Island, off the North Antrim coast, one of our finest nature reserves, offers an unrivalled spectacle from its splendid Seabird Centre, opened in June 2008. The cliff ledges are densely populated with seabirds such as kittiwakes and guillemots, giving a wonderful experience for visitors. Some 30,000 people visit the island every year: apart from the spectacle that they enjoy, they give a huge boost to the local economy.

The reserve was extended by buying land at Roonivoolin, thanks to a membership appeal, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. This will be managed especially for choughs and for breeding waders such as lapwings. A new walk at Roonivoolin will give access to a fantastic part of Northern Ireland's natural heritage, with views to Donegal, Scotland and along the adjacent Antrim coast.

Successful breeding by a pair of choughs was a highlight on Rathlin, giving their seal of approval to our management work in recent years. These flamboyant, red-billed crows nest in cavities in the cliffs, but require short grass, rich in invertebrate food, for feeding. Choughs were absent from Northern Ireland for almost 10 years. They returned to Rathlin in 2008, after a 19 year gap.

Our research into the breeding and feeding ecology of seabirds on Rathlin continued, trying to unravel the complicated relationships between birds, fish, human fisheries and the changing balance in the marine foodweb, and the make up of the plankton, on which fish populations depend, as sea temperatures rise.

Successful breeding by a pair of choughs was a highlight on Rathlin, giving their seal of approval to our management work in recent years.

Main image: the razorbill is just one of the fabulous seabirds at our Rathlin Island nature reserve. Above: we welcomed thousands of visitors to our new Seabird Centre.





OUR WORK IN SCOTLAND

We continue to strive to ensure that the finest places for wildlife are protected from insensitive and opportunistic development.

THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT refused permission for the Lewis Wind Power proposal for a large wind farm on the Lewis Peatlands Special Protection Area – correctly upholding EU Birds Directive protection. This was a big success for a complex and difficult RSPB campaign. The decision should help deter developers from targeting similar protected areas in future. Disappointingly, the Scottish Government approved the Trump golf resort proposal in Aberdeenshire, in part on a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The case highlighted the issue of site safeguard and was used to raise questions about the Government's "green" commitments when alternatives for the development existed.

We remain committed to the development of renewable energy schemes, in the right place. We completed the first ever large-scale study (across 12 sites) of the effects of windfarms on upland breeding bird populations. The results showed significant reductions in the density of some species, such as curlew and golden plover, in a zone up to 500 metres from turbines. The work continues and will inform our decisions when assessing new proposals.

Seabirds in Scotland are under severe pressure. The RSPB is a member of a group advising on legislation and policy in the marine environment, which has proposed a network of Marine Protection Areas, based solely on science. Pressure from the RSPB, other interested bodies and, most welcome, from Scottish fishermen, led to agreement between the UK and Scottish Governments over better co-ordination between UK and Scottish marine regulation.

We continue to press the Scottish Government to change its approach to agricultural support, as Scotland's agri-environment programme remains amongst the worst funded in Europe, and management for farmland birds suffers as a result. Despite disappointing Scottish Government implementation of the 2008 Common Agricultural Policy "Health Check" proposals, a recent review of our rural development programme should make it easier for farmers and crofters to access the limited funding and do more for conservation.

Nature reserve news

We have a new nature reserve at Meikle Loch, Aberdeenshire, and extended Mill Dam on Orkney. We have also secured management agreements on nearly 500 hectares (ha) of extensions to existing sites at Balnahard (on Colonsay, Argyll), Fetlar (Shetland), and Dunnet Head and Durness (Highland). We bought a new plantation for felling in the Flows, and 500 ha of pristine bog as well.

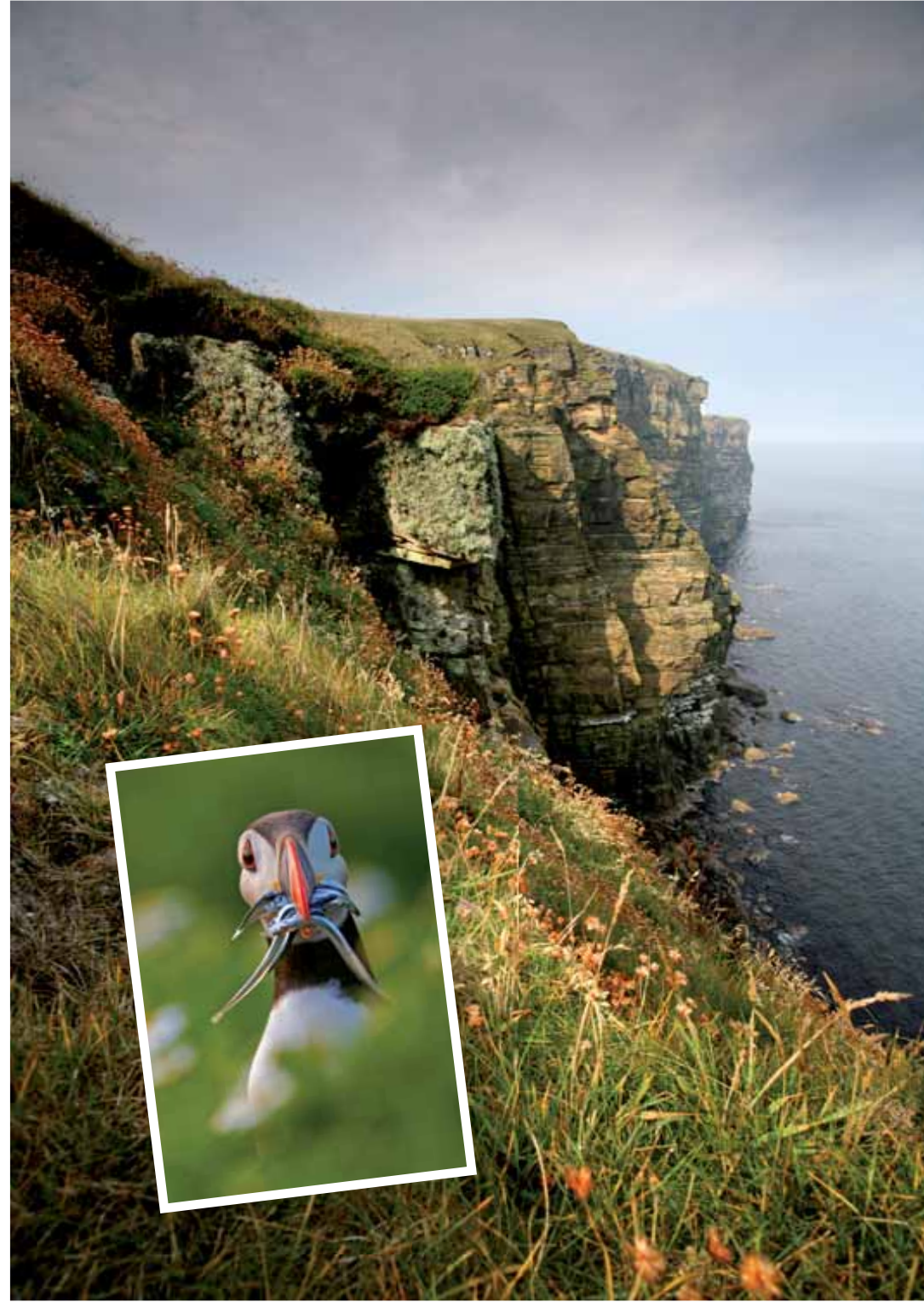
At Mersehead, Dumfries and Galloway, the farmhouse has been converted into a high quality facility called the Sulwath Centre for education, residential volunteers, a site office and meetings, using Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funding from the larger Sulwath project.

Funding from HLF for a joint project with the local authority at Baron's Haugh reserve, close to Motherwell, North Lanarkshire, helped us to upgrade visitor facilities, employ a community ranger and restore the wetland. This has greatly reduced anti-social behaviour and is the first step in a project to enhance the reserve for wildlife, visitors and the local community.

Our livestock farm on Islay produced another prize-winning beast, to follow Islay Mist on the show circuit in northern England and Scotland. This helps to build our reputation as a high-quality breeder in livestock circles and led to increased cattle prices during the autumn sales.



Right: Dunnet Head is the most northerly point on the British mainland. It is an exceptional RSPB nature reserve of great natural beauty, with an abundance of birds and plants. Black grouse (top), corncrakes (above) and puffins (right) are just some of the birds we are helping in Scotland.





North-East Scotland Raptorwatch, involving the Police, the Cairngorms National Park, SNH and the RSPB, now covers 23 estates in rural Aberdeenshire. On some of these estates, numbers of birds of prey are recovering.

Above: we are helping corn buntings to keep a toehold in Scotland: in most areas they have disappeared.
Right: white-tailed eagles provide some of Scotland's most stunning wildlife experiences.

We are grateful to Scottish Natural Heritage for their continued support of our work programme in Scotland.

Birds of prey

The Langholm Demonstration Project, on a renowned grouse moor in Dumfries and Galloway, completed its first year. A Project Board has been established and the company employs a Project Manager, five gamekeepers and four scientists. In 2008, two pairs of hen harriers bred successfully and fledged nine young (the first fledged young for a good number of years). The harriers responded well to diversionary feeding (a supply of dead chicks and rats) and no red grouse chicks were brought to the nests. The project is a joint one between Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Buccleuch Estates, Natural England and the RSPB, which aims to restore red grouse numbers and birds of prey.

The Environment Minister, Michael Russell MSP, launched the birds of prey campaign in Scotland and signed a pledge committing himself to help eliminate the illegal killing of birds of prey. Since then, we have worked with the Scottish Government to make the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime more effective, and helped publish maps of illegal poisoning hotspots.

North-East Scotland Raptorwatch, involving the Police, SNH, the Cairngorms National Park and the RSPB, expanded to cover 23 estates in Aberdeenshire, with an indication of a recovery in numbers of birds of prey on some.

Great birds in Scotland – a mixed year

On the edge of Aberdeen city, 35 radio-tagged red kites were released during the second year of a reintroduction programme. We also built strong links with local schools and community groups who support the scheme. Red kite numbers in North Scotland at last increased, to 46 pairs, up from 39 in 2007.

A decline in corncrakes, from 1,236 calling males in 2007 to 1,140 in 2008 in the core survey areas, was due to cold spring weather, reducing early cover.

Breeding productivity of both capercaillie and black grouse, on our nature reserves and elsewhere, was poor in 2008, probably due to a poor spring and cool, wet June weather. No young capercaillie were fledged at Abernethy. Overall, productivity at sampled estates, of 0.4 chicks per hen, remains below that needed to sustain the population.

In Tayside, 15 radio-tagged white-tailed eagles were released, in the second phase of the east coast reintroduction programme. Birds supplied by the Norwegian authorities have excited great interest from Berwick-upon-Tweed up the east coast to Loch of Strathbeg. Some birds from the release even wintered on Mull in a communal roost.

Black grouse show signs of recovery but need our help. In an innovative way to raise funds, our partnership with The Famous Grouse produced £30,000 in the first year. Our ambitious programme for black grouse also involves a partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland, which saw substantial forest restructuring to benefit this species in the target areas.

Schools and visitors

The three-year Bird Friendly Schools programme, launched in four areas in 2008, quickly achieved its targets. The first year target was 184 schools; 194 are participating out of 243 applicants. Similarly, 97 volunteers offered to help and 68 of these are now working with our schools.

Our Kelvingrove project in Glasgow, within Scotland's most visited attraction, saw staff speaking to 7,000 visitors between June and December. In the same period, 753 schoolchildren experienced our field teaching programme there.





Focus on Wales

Some of the UK's most difficult wildlife challenges focus on Wales, from the continued decline of farmland birds to massive proposals that threaten irreplaceable wildlife habitats.

Working towards a sustainable Wales

The RSPB worked closely with the Welsh Assembly Government in the development of its new sustainable development strategy *One Wales: One Planet* and its climate change strategy and programme of action. The RSPB continues to represent Wales Environment Link on the Welsh Climate Change Commission, which has been set up to advise the Welsh Assembly Government on how to achieve its target of 3% carbon emission reductions from 2011. As a member of the Campaign Against Levels Motorway alliance, which opposes the proposed new M4, between Cardiff and Newport, we held a rally at the Senedd, the debating chamber for the National Assembly for Wales. This culminated in the landmark decision to scrap the new M4 in favour of improving public transport, thus saving the Gwent Levels and its unique wildlife.

Protecting special places

Proposals for harnessing the tidal energy of the Severn Estuary have continued to be a major focus for policy and advocacy work, particularly our concerns about the likely negative consequences for waterbirds in the estuary should the Cardiff/Weston barrage go ahead. We have commissioned studies looking at both the economics and the engineering of various project options and have taken particular interest in proposals for a "tidal reef" between Aberthaw in Wales and Minehead in Somerset.

Saving farmland birds

The Rural Affairs Minister, Elin Jones, launched the *State of Birds in Wales 5* (covering 2006-2007 data) at the Senedd in January. This highlighted the decline of many farmland birds. To showcase what can be done to help save farmland birds, a reception profiled the RSPB's 10 "agri-environment heroes" and the exemplary work the farmers have done. The RSPB in Wales also won a Welsh Assembly Government contract to monitor the impacts on wildlife of agri-environment schemes, primarily focusing on Tir Gofal.

Extending our nature reserves

Three extensions added 114 ha to RSPB nature reserves in Wales. At Malltraeth Marshes, Anglesey, we added 9 ha, supported financially by the Countryside



Above left: we have been advising on sustainable ways to harness the energy of the Severn Estuary. Right: our work for farmland birds has helped lapwings and yellowhammers (above).



Grassholm celebrated its 60th anniversary as an RSPB nature reserve. It is the only gannet colony in Wales and the third largest in the world.

Top: Ynys-hir nature reserve is even better for lapwings now. Above: the number of children enthused by our field teachers increased to 11,500 in 2008–2009. Newport Wetlands enjoyed a successful first year following its opening in March 2008, with reserve staff welcoming 4,200 children in the field teaching programme. Right: three ospreys fledged from the Glaslyn Osprey Project.

Council for Wales. After more than two years of negotiations, the purchase of 5 ha of pasture at Cerrig Cynrig, Anglesey, was completed. At Ynys-hir, Ceredigion, thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, a further 100 ha of splendid wet grassland was secured, to link previously owned areas along the beautiful Dyfi Estuary.

Wildlife highlights

For the last 10 years at Ynys-hir, we have been working to improve conditions for nesting lapwings through the Wetlands for Wales project. The number of lapwings has increased and in 2008, 65 pairs reared at least 76 young, a wonderful result for this charismatic but threatened bird.

In 2008, 11 pairs of lapwings bred at Morfa Dinlle, while at Lake Vyrnwy another record was the number of black grouse displaying in spring – 20 males. Storm petrels bred on Ramsey Island itself (as opposed to the smaller islets offshore) for the first time in 2008, another milestone since the rat eradication project in 1999–2000. Grassholm celebrated its 60th anniversary as an RSPB nature reserve. It is the only gannet colony in Wales and the third largest in the world, with around 39,000 breeding pairs. On the RSPB's North Wales wetland reserves, six wintering bitterns were recorded – the highest total to date. Three were watched at Malttraeth, two at Valley, and one on the Llŷn – a first record for this site.

For the first time in Wales, three osprey chicks successfully flew from the nest at the Glaslyn Osprey Project – two males and one female. Another first saw a Welsh born osprey, thought to be a 2006 Glaslyn chick, return from Africa to attempt to breed.

In May 2008, the RSPB became the farming tenant for Bardsey Island, working with the Bardsey Island Trust to give advice and support on maintaining the island's habitats for wildlife. We are working with a local farmer, who will farm the island. The island provides vital habitat for a range of wildlife, including six pairs of choughs and 16,000 pairs of Manx shearwaters.





Golwg ar Gymru

Mae rhai o heriau bywyd gwyllt mwyaf dyrys y DU yn canolbwyntio ar Gymru, o brinhad parhaol adar ffermdir i gynigion enfawr sy'n bygwth cynefinoedd bywyd gwyllt amhrisiadwy.

Uchod: rydym wedi bod yn cynghori ar ddulliau cynaliadwy o ddefnyddio ynni'r Aber Hafren. Dde: mae ein gwaith dros adar ffermdir wedi helpu'r gornchwiglen a'r bras meilyn (uchod).

Gweithio tuag at Gymru gynaliadwy

Bu'r RSPB yn cydweithio'n agos gyda Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn natblygiad ei strategaeth datblygu gynaliadwy newydd *Un Gymru: Un Blaned* a'i strategaeth a rhaglen weithredu ar newid hinsawdd. Mae'r RSPB yn parhau i gynrychioli Cyswllt Amgylchedd Cymru ar Gomiswn Newid Hinsawdd Cymru, a sefydlwyd i gynghori Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ynglŷn â sut i wireddu ei darged o leihau golllyngiadau o garbon o 3% o 2011. Fel aelod o gynghrair yr Ymgyrch yn Erbyn Traffordd y Gwastadeddau, sy'n gwrthwynebu'r M4 newydd rhwng Caerdydd a Chasnewydd, cynhaliwyd rali gennym yn y Senedd, siambr drafod Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. O ganlyniad llwyddwyd i sicrhau'r penderfyniad pwysig i beidio â bwrw ymlaen â thraffordd newydd yr M4 ac i wella trafniadaeth gyhoeddus yn lle hynny, gan achub Gwastadeddau Gwent a'u bywyd gwyllt unigryw.

Gwarchod manau arbennig

Mae cynigion ar gyfer harnesio ynni llanwol Aber Hafren wedi parhau i fod yn brif ganolbwynt ein gwaith polisi ac eiriolaeth, yn enwedig ein pryderon ynglŷn â'r canlyniadau negyddol tebygol ar adar dŵr yr aber pe bai bared Caerdydd/Weston yn cael ei godi. Rydym wedi comisiynu astudiaethau i edrych ar economeg a pheirianwaith amrywiol opsiynau ar gyfer y project ac wedi cymryd diddordeb arbennig mewn cynigion am "riff lanwol" rhwng Aberddawan yng Nghymru a Minehead yng Ngwlad yr Haf.

Achub adar ffermdir

Lansiwyd *Sefyllfa Adar yng Nghymru 5* (sy'n trafod data 2006-07) yn y Senedd ym mis Ionawr gan Elin Jones, y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig. Yn yr adroddiad amlygwyd prinhad llawer o adar ffermdir. I ddangos yr hyn ellir ei wneud i helpu i achub adar ffermdir, cynhaliwyd derbyniad i amlygu 10 "arwr amaeth-amgylcheddol" yr RSPB a'r gwaith rhagorol y mae'r ffermwyr yma wedi ei wneud. Hefyd, enillodd yr RSPB yng Nghymru gytundeb gyda Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i fonitro effeithiau cynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol ar fywyd gwyllt, gan ganolbwyntio'n bennaf ar Tir Gofal.

Ymestyn ein gwarchodfeydd natur

Ychwanegwyd 114 ha at warchodfeydd natur yr RSPB yng Nghymru gyda thri estyniad. Gyda chefnogaeth ariannol Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru,





**Bu Ynys Gwales
yn dathlu ei 60ain
pen-blwydd fel
gwarchodfa natur yr
RSPB. Dyma'r unig
nythfa huganod yng
Nghymru a'r drydydd
fwyaf yn y byd.**

Llun uchaf: mae gwarchodfa natur Ynys-hir yn well fyth i ornchwiglod erbyn hyn.
Uchod: cynyddodd y nifer o blant a addysgwyd gan ein hathrawon maes i 11,500 yn 2008-2009.
Cafodd Gwlyptiroedd Casnewydd flwyddyn gyntaf lwyddiannus yn dilyn eu hagoriad ym mis Mawrth 2008, a rhoddodd staff warchodfa goeso i 4,200 o blant yn y rhaglen gwaith maes.
Dde: llwyddodd tri gwalch y pysgod i hedfan y nyth ym Mhrosiect Gweilch y Pysgod Glaslyn.

ychwanegwyd 9 ha at Gors Malltraeth ar Ynys Môn. Wedi dros ddwy flynedd o drafodaethau, prynwyd 5 ha o borfa yng Ngherrig Cynrig, Ynys Môn. Yn dilyn rhodd o arian gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri, sicrhawyd 100 ha arall o laswelltir gwlyb ardderchog yn Ynys-hir, Ceredigion, i gysylltu mannau sydd eisoes yn ein meddiant ar hyd aber hardd yr afon Dyfi.

Uchafbwyntiau bywyd gwyllt

Dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf ar Ynys-hir, rydym wedi bod yn gweithio i wella amodau i gornchwiglod sy'n nythu drwy gyfrwng y project Gwlyptir i Gymru. Mae'r nifer o gornchwiglod wedi cynyddu ac yn 2008, llwyddodd 65 pâr i fagu o leiaf 76 o gywion, canlyniad bendigedig i'r aderyn hardd hwn sydd mewn perygl.

Yn 2008, gwelwyd y nifer uchaf eto o gornchwiglod ar Forfa Dinlle – 11 pâr, ac ar lan Llyn Efyrmwy cofnodwyd y nifer uchaf a gofnodwyd erioed o geiliogod y rugiar ddu'n arddangos eu hunain yn y gwanwyn, sef 20. Nythodd y pedryn drycin ar Ynys Dewi ei hun (yn hytrach nag ar yr ynysodd creigiog oddi ar y lan) am y tro cyntaf yn 2008, carreg filltir arall ers y prosiect i gael gwared â'r llygod mawr yn 1999-2000. Bu Ynys Gwales yn dathlu ei 60ain pen-blwydd fel gwarchodfa natur yr RSPB. Dyma'r unig nythfa huganod yng Nghymru a'r drydydd fwyaf yn y byd, gydag oddeutu 39,000 o barau'n nythu. Ar warchodfeydd gwlyptir Gogledd Cymru, cofnodwyd chwe aderyn y bwn yn ystod y gaeaf – y nifer uchaf hyd yma. Gwelwyd tri ym Malltraeth, dau yn y Fali, ac un ar Benrhyn Llŷn – cofnod cyntaf i'r safle hwn.

Am y tro cyntaf yng Nghymru, llwyddodd tri chyw gwalch y pysgod i hedfan y nyth ym Mhrosiect Gweilch y Pysgod Glaslyn – dau geiliog ac un iâr. Hefyd, gwelwyd gwalch y pysgod a anwyd yng Nghymru, y credir iddo fod yn gyw gweilch y pysgod 2006, yn dychwelyd o Affrica i roi cynnig ar fagu.

Ym mis Mai 2008, daeth yr RSPB yn denant amaethyddol Ynys Enlli, gan gydweithio gydag Ymddiriedolaeth Ynys Enlli i roi cyngor a chefnogaeth ar gynnal cynefinoedd yr ynys i fywyd gwyllt. Rydym yn gweithio gyda ffermwyr lleol, a fydd yn ffermio'r ynys. Mae'r ynys yn darparu cynefin hanfodol i ystod o fywyd gwyllt, yn cynnwys chwe phâr o frain coesgoch ac 16,000 pâr o adar drycin Manaw.



Our work abroad

As part of BirdLife International, we work in many places around the world, from the wetlands of Eastern Europe to the arid plains of Africa, and from the cold of the Southern Oceans to the humidity of the Sumatran rainforests.

Our large projects in Sierra Leone, Sumatra, the South Atlantic and Poland, on vultures and on albatrosses, all continue to make good progress, thanks to the excellent efforts of both RSPB staff and our BirdLife partners.

WETLAND BOOST IN BELARUS

Our highly innovative proposal to help the BirdLife International partner in Belarus to restore huge peat wetlands was boosted by a grant of £2 million from KFW, the German Development Bank.

EASTERN EUROPEAN MOWERS

With the help of individual funders, the RSPB helped buy and maintain a flock of sheep and sheepdogs, as well as the odd ground squirrel colony, to help keep summer pastures in Eastern Europe good for birds such as imperial eagles.

VICTORY FOR VULTURES

This year saw the first ever successful fledging of two captive bred Oriental white-backed vultures, the first long-billed vulture eggs ever laid in captivity and one slender-billed vulture egg (the rarest of the three affected species). Prospects for captive breeding look good but there is still a long way to go to ensure the survival of these species.

SAVING CRITICAL SITES

We have done more than ever to help partners stand up to protect critical sites from destruction, including Lake Natron in Tanzania.

EATEN ALIVE BY MICE

2008 was the worst year since records began of breeding success for the Critically Endangered Tristan albatross, with just 14% of nesting pairs fledging a chick. Tristan albatrosses are almost totally confined to Gough Island, part of the Tristan da Cunha island group, and escaped "monster" mice are killing their chicks. Mouse eradication is the only suitable remedial action, and we think it is technically feasible.

A FORCE FOR ALBATROSSES

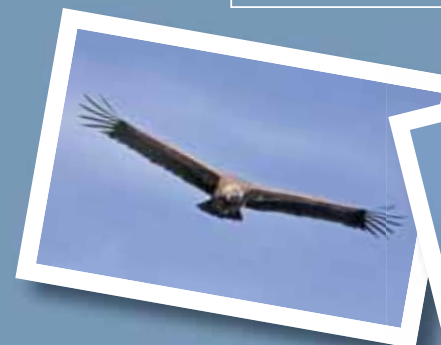
The Albatross Task Force was extended to 14 people working in seven countries, teaching trawler crews how to catch fish without killing thousands of seabirds. The ATF has seen many successes, including the voluntary use of mitigation measures in the Uruguay pelagic longline fishery and early signs of a major reduction in albatross deaths in the South African longline fishery.

WORKING TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERS

The BirdLife International Partnership, of which the RSPB is the UK Partner, held its four-yearly conference in Buenos Aires in September. The combination of professionalism and passion evident among bird conservationists from over 120 countries was truly inspirational. We can be proud that the RSPB's consistent support for BirdLife has contributed to this. Of course, the threats to the natural environment the world over are enormous, but in BirdLife and its partners, there is an ever-growing number of people from all nations who care passionately and are active in taking practical measures to conserve nature.



ASIAN VULTURE PROGRESS			
Oriental white-backed vulture			
Population in wild (2007)	11,000		
Trend	Declining 43.9% pa		
Number held in captivity 2008	India 84		Nepal 14
Number fledged in captivity 2008	India 2 (world first)		Nepal 0
Slender-billed vulture			
Population in wild (2007)	1,000		
Trend	Declining 16% pa		
Number held in captivity 2008	India 32		Nepal 0
Number fledged in captivity 2008	India 0		Nepal 0
Long-billed vulture			
Population in wild (2007)	45,000		
Trend	Declining 16% pa		
Number held in captivity 2008	India 54		
Number fledged in captivity 2008	India 0		



We are always grateful for continued commitment from our members, but particularly so in times of recession.

MONEY MATTERS

A CASUAL OBSERVER AT YORK UNIVERSITY over the weekend of 18–19 April witnessing the cheerful enthusiasm of almost 1,000 people in the midst of a recession might have wondered what was going on. The weekend in question was of course the Members' Weekend – always an uplifting experience but never more so than this year when everyone put aside their recessionary woes and got "up close and personal" to the work of the RSPB.

In common with many other organisations, the RSPB is not immune to the recession and its Management Board and Council have had to make some tough decisions. But, critically, we have been able to press on with our core conservation work and this year's annual review shows the usual wide range of progress.

It is customary for "Money matters" to reflect on the year recently ended and this report is no exception. However, under the circumstances, we feel it is also important to mention the contingency plans we have made to help ensure we can weather whatever storms the recession might throw at us.

Turning first to the numbers, you will notice that we added almost £1.5 million to our cash and investments. This is slightly flattering as we unexpectedly received £1.5 million of grant money at the end of last year that will be spent in the 2009–10 financial year.

Income (or Net resources available for charitable purposes) rose 8% to £86.3 million while total charitable expenditure (including governance costs and that spent on acquiring nature reserves and other tangible assets) rose 6% to £81.8 million.

Some quick mental arithmetic would suggest that we should have added £4.5 million to cash and investments rather than the £1.5 million reported. The (hopefully temporary) fall in the value of our financial reserves

and our pension contributions account for most of the difference. Focusing more narrowly on the proportion of financial reserves available for general purposes, this fell slightly by £0.8 million to £10.8 million representing eight weeks' expenditure.

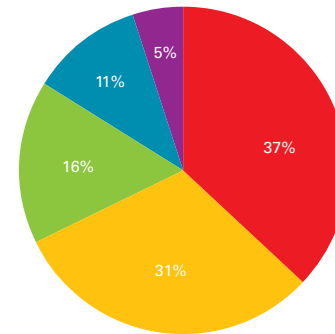
Income

Our reports generally focus on change, but this year we want to start by celebrating something that has remained virtually unchanged for years – the proportion of adult members who renew each year. At just under 90% it has fallen, but only very slightly. We are always grateful for such commitment but particularly so in times of recession.

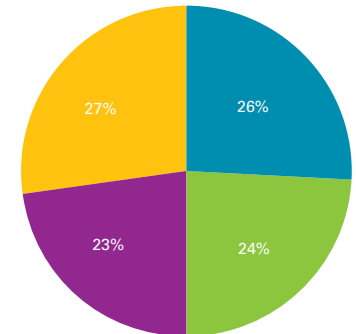
In contrast to renewals, our approach to finding new members will seldom have seen such a pace of change in our 120-year history. The move to greater face-to-face recruitment has been reported previously and we are delighted to be able to say that it seems to be working. Last year we welcomed 130,000 people to membership, 63% of whom came courtesy of our new, more personal approach.

Customers of RSPB shops and particularly mail order may also have noticed changes over recent years. Since streamlining all such activities into a single operation, turnover has increased by 32% and our conservation work has benefited from a 93% increase in the level of contribution – partly because 100% of profits can now be retained by the RSPB.

The most surprising figure in this report must surely be legacy income. With both house prices and stock markets suffering significant falls, it seemed inevitable that legacies would be similarly reduced. This is indeed the case but, fortunately, there is a time lag, enabling us



Charitable expenditure



Main income streams



to adjust to lower expectations. Our heartfelt thanks go to all who choose to remember the RSPB in this way.

With necessity being the mother of invention, the recession has prompted staff to redouble efforts to find alternative ways to fund essential work. As a result we have seen grant and trust income grow to new highs, with 18% growth over 2007–2008. This contributes to most aspects of the RSPB's work, but particularly to the purchase of nature reserves and the subsequent management costs. We are delighted to have part of our conservation programme funded in this way – not least because it allows core member funding to go so much further. We count ourselves fortunate to have good relationships with so many grant-giving organisations that share our passion for birds and the environment.

Expenditure

Charitable revenue expenditure increased by 3% over 2007–2008, barely covering inflation. But on capital expenditure, it has been possible to increase overall spend on land acquisition and visitor facilities thanks largely to generous grant income and to people who kindly remembered the RSPB in their will. This category of expenditure increased in the year by £2 million to £9.3 million.

Recession

Thanks to the generosity of members and supporters and the ingenuity of staff and volunteers, it has been possible for us to make sound progress on most of our main conservation programmes without needing to dip into financial reserves. This is not easy; a small number of staff posts have been lost and the 2009 salary increase

was cancelled. Indeed, most expenditure has been modestly constrained and some capital expenditure has had to be curtailed or spread over extended periods (eg computer upgrades).

By way of adapting to unprecedented financial uncertainty, senior staff and trustees review income streams more closely than ever and have contingency plans to hand in case things take a further turn for the worse. We are pleased to say that, at the time of writing, there seems no immediate likelihood of these plans being required.

As mentioned above, it is important we hold adequate financial reserves and, as these funds may be required at short notice, we hold a high proportion on deposit with mainstream banks; a policy that has served us well over the past year. However, we have recently had to embrace low risk alternatives to bolster income in the face of the exceptionally low interest rates.

And so to pensions. In 2007, the RSPB stopped offering a pension linked to final salary to new staff. In spite of this, obligations to existing scheme members continue and, in common with many such schemes, the fund suffered a fall in value during the year, reflecting the decline in stock markets around the world. A triennial review of the scheme is to be undertaken during 2009–2010 and will give pension and charity trustees a clearer picture of the funding gap. On a more positive note, we are informed that the Pension Regulator is allowing schemes extended periods in which to make good any deficits; minimising the impact on our conservation programme.

Last but not least, we would like to thank everyone who has supported the RSPB over the past year. It has long been in the culture of the organisation to make every penny count but that has not prevented us redoubling efforts to make your money go even further.

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2009

	2009 £'000	2008 £'000
INCOMING RESOURCES		
VOLUNTARY INCOME		
Membership subscriptions	29,438	26,304
Legacies	26,598	26,948
Grants, commercial donations and trusts	25,519	21,698
General donations and reserve entry fees	3,130	3,237
Appeals	3,495	3,943
Local groups	309	319
	88,489	82,449
ACTIVITIES TO GENERATE FUNDS		
Mail order and shop income	14,297	13,029
Media advertising and inserts	1,233	1,243
Lotteries	1,363	1,245
Commercial sponsorship	736	603
	17,629	16,120
INVESTMENT INCOME & INTEREST		
	833	918
ACTIVITIES TO FURTHER THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS		
Land and farming income	1,887	1,608
Fees and grants for services	2,135	1,520
Events and media sales	688	676
	4,710	3,804
OTHER INCOME		
Net gains on disposals of fixed assets	178	613
Total incoming resources	111,839	103,904
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
COST OF GENERATING FUNDS		
Costs of generating voluntary income	10,852	10,047
Costs of goods and activities to generate funds	14,614	13,535
Investment management costs	26	33
Total cost of generating funds	25,492	23,615
Net resources available for charitable purposes	86,347	80,289
CHARITABLE REVENUE EXPENDITURE		
Conservation on RSPB nature reserves	25,262	24,120
Conservation – research, policy & advisory services	29,969	29,014
Education, publications and films	12,999	12,959
Membership services and enquiries	3,863	3,893
Total charitable revenue expenditure	72,093	69,986
GOVERNANCE COSTS		
	406	422
Net incoming resources before losses	13,848	9,881
Loss on investments	(2,079)	(1,119)
Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension scheme	(12,712)	(2,618)
Net movement in funds	(943)	6,144

APPLICATION OF NET FUNDS
for the year ended 31 March 2009

	2009 £'000	2008 £'000
Net movement in funds brought forward	(943)	6,144
USE OF NET FUNDS		
Charitable capital expenditure	9,285	7,348
Nature reserves	62	(465)
Other tangible assets	(588)	(2,200)
Movement on stock, debtors and creditors	(11,169)	(1,535)
Movement on defined benefit pension scheme	(2,410)	3,148
Movement in cash and investments available for future activities	1,467	(2,996)
Cash and investments available at start of period	19,174	16,178
Total cash and investments available for future activities	20,641	19,174

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
as at 31 March 2009

	2009 £'000	2008 £'000
CASH AND INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES		
General purposes	6,989	7,169
Designated	6,925	6,729
Restricted	5,201	3,181
Endowment	1,527	2,095
Total cash and investments available for future activities	20,642	19,174
Nature reserves	109,587	100,302
Other tangible assets	4,192	4,130
Stock, debtors and creditors	3,846	4,435
Net assets excluding pension liability	138,267	128,041
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(22,133)	(10,964)
Net assets	116,134	117,077

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' STATEMENT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

We have examined the summarised financial statements.

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 30 June 2009.

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

THE FULL AUDITED ACCOUNTS were approved on 30 June 2009 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 Darling, Chairman, 30 June 2009

In our opinion, the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2009.

Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors,
St Bride's House, 10 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8EH, UK

30 June 2009

Acknowledgements 2008–2009

Thank you for supporting us

Members

The support and loyalty of our members is critical to the success and achievements of the RSPB. Meeting the rigorous conservation targets that we set would not be possible without the enormous contributions that members make. Members help in many ways, all of them important: financially, through volunteering, by supporting RSPB campaigns through letter writing, and by helping to deliver RSPB projects on the ground through local groups.

Community groups

RSPB local groups, RSPB Wildlife Explorer groups and RSPB Phoenix groups worked unstintingly over the year. Local groups provide a great focus for us in local communities, involve many people in our work, and raised over £309,000 for RSPB conservation projects. Wildlife Explorers (our young members) raised more than £17,000 for conservation at Rainham Marshes.

On behalf of the RSPB, RSPB local groups and Wildlife Explorer groups throughout the UK, we would like to thank Awards for All (supported by the 'good cause' Lottery distributors across the UK) for their continued support of local projects through their community grants scheme.

Volunteers

The RSPB enjoyed the support of more than 13,500 volunteers last year, giving the RSPB a gift of time of 837,000 hours. This is equivalent to an extra 465 full-time staff working for nature conservation. These volunteers helped with virtually every aspect of the RSPB's work, and we cannot thank them enough for their generous support. Additionally, 551,881 people gave an hour of their time to participate in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch.

Legacies

Once again, we are deeply impressed by the generosity of people who remember the RSPB in their wills. This income makes a tremendous difference to the amount of conservation work the RSPB is able to undertake. We are grateful to each and every one and we would like to recognise them all by name, but this is not practicable. However, there are a few people that we would like to mention:

Norma Barrett
Jean Barbara Challen
James Trask Coggan
Ursula Joan Crichton Crichton
The Honourable Pamela Forster
Charles Frederick Griesbach
George William Hudd
Evelyn Bradshaw Isherwood
Dorothy Marion Jenkins (known as Marion Jenkins)
Johanna Leahy
Colin Wallis Pettigrew
Peter Henry George Price
Neil Skidmore
Joan Daisy Smerdon
Jean Sparks
Marcus Bernard Thompson
Edward Henry Warner
Ruth Wise
Wesley Gordon Woods OBE

Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund has provided essential support for RSPB projects to restore and secure natural heritage for current and future generations to enjoy. The RSPB is indebted to HLF for its continued support for our work.

Charitable trusts, non-governmental organisations and individual donors

We are grateful for the support received and would particularly like to acknowledge the following:

H B Allen Charitable Trust
A J H Ashby Will Trust

The Banister Charitable Trust
The Baxters Foundation
BBC Wildlife Fund
BirdLife International
The William Bishop Discretionary Trust
The Maureen Boal Charitable Trust
British Birdwatching Fair
Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey
Sylvia May Chapman Discretionary Trust
City Bridge Trust
Mrs Joy Sybil Ross Collins Discretionary Trust
Conservation International – Global Conservation Fund
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
The Faslane Trust
Fidelity UK Foundation
Doris Field Charitable Trust
Friends of the Lake District
The Gannochy Trust
The Helen and Horace Gillman Trusts
Douglas Glanfield Memorial Trust
The A B Grace Trust
Mrs Eileen May Hartman Discretionary Trust
Manfred-Hermesen-Stiftung
Houghton Dunn Charitable Trust
International Association for Bear Research and Management
The Kulika Charitable Trust 1981
Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
Miss W E Lawrence 1973 Charitable Settlement
A G Leventis Foundation
MacArthur Foundation
Robert McCracken QC
The MacRobert Trust
David Milne QC
Mrs Rosalind Milsome Discretionary Trust
Montague-Panton Animal Welfare Trust
Nature Society Singapore
The Nature Trust (Sandy)
The Northern Rock Foundation
North of England Zoological Society
Oglesby Charitable Trust

David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Paignton Zoo Environmental Park
The Jack Patston Charitable Trust
The Peacock Trust
Restore UK
The Robertson Trust
The Helen Roll Charitable Trust
Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation
John Graham Russell Discretionary Trust
Scottish Crofting Foundation
The Scottish Mountaineering Trust
Scottish Power Green Energy Trust
The Shears Foundation
SVS (BirdLife Switzerland) Art for Rainforests
Nini Isabel Stewart Trust
Sir John Swire CBE
Teesside Environmental Trust
The Tubney Charitable Trust
Vogelbescherming
Marjorie Walker
Mr John Reid Watson Discretionary Trust
The Welsh Family Trust
Whitley Animal Protection Trust
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
The Wildlife Trusts
WWF
John Young Charitable Settlement

Landfill Communities Fund

We are grateful for funding support from the following organisations through the Landfill Communities Fund:

Aberdeen Greenspace
Aberdeenshire Council
The Alpha Programme managed by Groundwork Northern Ireland
Angus Environmental Trust
Armstrong Waste Management
Banbridge District Council
Biffaward
CEMEX Community Fund
Cory Environmental Trust in Britain
Down District Council
Gloucestershire Environmental Trust
GrantScape
Green Leeds Ltd
Groundwork Hertfordshire
The Highland Council
Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust
Lancashire Environmental Fund
Newport City Council Landfill Communities Fund
Newry & Mourne District Council

Perth & Kinross Quality of Life Trust
RWE npower
SITA Trust
Smith Skip Ltd
Solway Heritage
South West Environmental Action Trust
Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment with funds from Viridor Credits' Oxfordshire Fund
Ulster Wildlife Trust Landfill Communities Fund
Veolia Environmental Trust
Veolia ES Cleanaway Havering Riverside Trust
Veolia ES Cleanaway Mardyke Trust
Veolia ES Cleanaway Pitsea Marshes Trust
Viridor Credits
Waste Recycling Group Ltd (WRG) through GrantScape's Biodiversity Challenge Fund
Waste Recycling Group Ltd (WRG) through Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN)

Business supporters and trading partners

The RSPB enjoys successful partnerships with business supporters to our mutual benefit. We would particularly like to acknowledge the following:

A&C Black (Publishers) Ltd
ATH Resources
BBC Manchester
BBC Worldwide Ltd
Bemrose Booth Ltd
Boehringer Ingelheim
BP through the Scottish Forest Alliance
British Airways Assisting Conservation Scheme
The Caravan Club
CEMEX Poland
CEMEX UK Materials Ltd
Chevron
Concept Research Ltd
Co-operative Bank
Co-operative Group
Dorling Kindersley Ltd
Enesco Ltd
European Bank for Reconstruction & Development
The Famous Grouse
Fulham Heating Merchants Ltd
Garden Bird Supplies

Goldman Sachs
Highland Spring
HSBC Climate Change Partnership
Jarrod Calendars
Loaf Marketing
Lochcarron of Scotland
Lush Cosmetics
The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe and Africa
Nikon UK Ltd
Northumbrian Water
The Observer
Veolia Environmental Trust
The Puppet Company
Quarry Products Association
Questmark Ltd
RBS Group
Redeem plc
Research International
Scottish Power
Scottish Power Renewables
Scottish & Southern Energy
Scottish & Southern Energy (Airtricity Developments UK)
Severn Trent Water
The Sunday Telegraph
Suttons Consumer Products Ltd
Swarovski Optik
Talisman Energy
Tarmac Ltd
Thames Water
Turcan Connell
United Utilities
Viking Optical Ltd
Volvo Ocean Race
Walkers Snacks Ltd
Welsh Power
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 Welsh Assembly Government through the Department of Economy and Transport (Visit Wales)
 Yorkshire Dales National Park



I don't know what credit crunch means - I just want there to be sparrows and bluebells when I grow up.

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If we fail to act now, the wonderful moments with nature that enrich our lives today may become impossible for our children.

Please sign the letter – together we will make nature's voice heard.

Thank you.

www.rspb.org.uk/lettertothe future

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The RSPB speaks out for birds and wildlife,
tackling the problems that threaten our
environment. Nature is amazing
– help us keep it that way.



The RSPB is part of BirdLife International,
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