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Behind all of the numbers, there's a great story
The RSPB annual review 2009-10



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1,076,112
voices
for
nature

Thanks to your support, the RSPB achieved many things in 2009-10.



“It has been a challenging year, but a good one for birds and conservation. With finances ever tighter, there was a worry that some of our supporters would be forced to leave us. But, we are delighted to report that we ended the year with more members than ever – 1,076,112 to be precise. We are grateful to every one of them. This level of continued support sends a strong message that nature and conservation are important in all of our lives.

We have had many successes over the year. These include buying and extending our reserves, a good breeding season for many birds, advances in RSPB research so we can help wildlife more in the future, more people enjoying nature with us and campaigns to protect species and important places for wildlife.

Of course, we haven't done all this alone. Without wishing this to turn into an Oscar speech, we have a lot of people and organisations to thank for speaking up for nature.

Our members are our driving force; without them we would not exist. We have an army of 14,900 dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, each doing their bit to make the world a better place for wildlife and people.

Mike Clarke, Chief Executive

We work closely with farmers, landowners, businesses, councils, other environmental organisations, politicians, teachers – the list goes on and on. And without our funders we wouldn't be able to carry out many of our projects. We have mentioned, on pages 44-46, many individuals and organisations who we have worked with closely. Our thanks to them all.

It has been encouraging to see more families and young people join us over the last year – we now have 190,000 junior members, our Wildlife Explorers. Each day our e-mails and postbag are bulging with children's stories and pictures.

Wildlife Explorer Bethany Bisset-Smith, aged 12, perhaps sums up all of our reasons for loving nature: 'Nature inspires. It inspires stories, poems, artwork, music and action. Nature provides. It provides food, cures, and everyday essentials. Nature amuses. It amuses us with its wildest creations, oddest animals and craziest sights. Nature changes. It changes our gardens, fields and parks from season to season. Nature creates. It creates my favourite secret den, a snack for a long country walk and reason to go outside. Nature must have a future because without it, our own future is lost.'

”

1 We inspired **187,000 people** to join the RSPB over the year and ended it with a **record 1,076,112 members**. Thank you to you all!

2 Our **Letter to the Future campaign** was launched, urging politicians not to cut the life out of the countryside in the budget cuts. **An incredible 250,000 people** have signed it so far.

3 **Bitterns** had a successful year, with **33 males** – more than a third of the UK population – on our nature reserves.

4 We were delighted that the **UK Marine and Coastal Access Act** and the **Marine (Scotland) Act** came into force, after years of campaigning by environmental groups. This will give **better protection for wildlife at sea**.

5 We welcomed **56,000 children** to our **field teaching schemes**. A moment holding a newt can **inspire a lifetime's passion**.

6 RSPB supporters were among **over 60,000 people** who marched in London, Glasgow and Belfast demanding **action on climate change**. We are looking at the possible impacts it will have on wildlife.

33

booming
bitterns
on RSPB
reserves

The RSPB helps birds, and by helping birds we help a myriad other creatures.



“My children barely give them a second glance – so normal are they in Northamptonshire – but I still get a thrill when I see a red kite, all the sweeter with the thought “we helped do that”.

2010 was the year Europe should have halted the loss of biodiversity – a rather passionless way of expressing a bold aim. It hasn't been met – but it's worth just thinking about what halting the loss actually means. This was a thought I had when standing listening hard in a dark Cambridgeshire night for the mechanical rasping song of a corncrake. We stopped the relentless decline of corncrakes, just in time, through research and working with many people in the Western Isles. Now their numbers are increasing, with RSPB reserves playing a vital role. In Cambridgeshire, we're giving them a helping hand to re-colonise England. The bird I was listening to could have hatched at Whipsnade under the care of the Zoological Society of London, been released at our Nene Washes reserve and just returned from spending the winter in Africa.

Nature conservation works – in my job I'm lucky enough to see examples of it across the RSPB. Your support and the skill and dedication of

staff and volunteers across the UK and beyond is making a real, measurable, listenable, watchable difference to our natural world and our quality of life. Our reserves are filled with wildlife – over a thousand species of moth at Minsmere and a thousand types of fungi at Tudeley Woods for instance. Every day, staff and volunteers are getting involved with planning proposals to protect wildlife-rich sites near you: at any one time, we are working on over 1,000 cases.

As time goes on, I also see more and more examples of how nature is helping man. Protecting peat bogs for wading birds keeps stores of carbon locked up, as well as providing clean water. Wetlands help store flood water. Nature reserves contribute to urban regeneration, such as at Saltholme, Teesside. Contact with nature has been proven to reduce the stresses of modern life – nature is good for you!

Of course, not everything goes as we would hope. There are often false starts in working out how to reverse species declines. But as an organisation we never stop learning and seeking solutions. There is no scope for complacency. Our contribution alone cannot stop the loss, but we are making a real difference.

”

Mark Avery, Director of Conservation

1 Two pairs of **common cranes** nested at **Lakenheath Fen**; one chick fledged, the first to do so in the Fens for 400 years.

2 **Thirty-three bitterns** out of 82 in the UK boomed on **13 RSPB reserves**. They bred at RSPB **Lakenheath Fen** for the first time and there were seven nests at **Ham Wall**, up from one the previous year.

3 **Marsh harriers** successfully raised two young at **Radipole Lake**, the first to breed in Dorset for nearly 50 years.

4 Numbers of **corncrakes** on RSPB reserves increased by 19% to **289 birds**. The reintroduced population at our **Nene Washes** reserve increased from nine to 13 calling birds.

5 We identified **304 non-bird species** that have **more than 20% of their UK population** or distribution on our reserves.

6 We found **species never recorded on our reserves before**, including **reed leopard moth** at Sutton Fen, Norfolk, **Breckland thyme** on Cavenham Heath, Suffolk, and **field cuckoo bumblebee** on Oronsay.

46

breeding pairs
of white-tailed
eagles

Scotland's white-tailed eagles had the highest number of breeding pairs (46) and the highest number of chicks (36) for 150 years. David Sexton, RSPB Mull Officer, tells us what it was like trying to locate one of the chicks at Loch Frisa.



“I'd seen the adult birds, Frisa and Skye, depart together on a hunting trip, so I seized the moment. It took me over an hour to gently creep through the trees managing to avoid any loud breaking twigs underfoot. I wasn't expecting to see anything but I thought I'd find a suitable place to sit and listen. Young sea eagles are very vocal at this stage and even though both adults were away I knew I would hear the occasional call and maybe, just maybe, I could piece together what had happened. At a distance I could indeed hear a call. Just the one.

Then I thought I caught the quietest hint of another call. One was loud and quite near. I cupped my hands behind my ears to strain every sinew of my eardrums to focus on the other noise. Maybe I was imagining the whole thing. Suddenly the sunlight through the trees flickered, a vast shadow passed overhead. Frisa was back. Damn it. I'd been rumbled. But no. She circled and then landed in a tree not 50 metres away. I could scarcely breathe and I dared not move a muscle. Amazingly, I was so well concealed and quiet even an eagle hadn't seen me. I couldn't even move my head to look up so I just gently raised my eyes to see her,

preening contentedly in the sun. My hands were still half cupped behind my ears and it took several minutes and a millimetre at a time to lower them. Immediately the midges appeared and bit and itched their way all over my face but I could do nothing to swat them. I'd come this far and there was no way I was going to blow my cover now, it wasn't fair on the eagles. As Frisa landed, the calls from the nest intensified. As I listened, my brain was trying to identify the calls and where they were coming from. Then, as one stopped, another started. It stopped and the other started again. Then they overlapped. There were TWO! One was still on the nest but the other calls were coming from lower down, perhaps on the ground. By now one of my legs was completely numb and I had to ease it carefully out full stretch to get the blood flowing again.

Once Frisa had flown off, I could breathe again and slowly stand. The calls from both chicks faded but we could all rest easy again that both chicks were accounted for. Drained after the worry of the last 48 hours, I fell into the Land Rover back on the track and removed an entire colony of ticks from my jeans, hoping none had ventured any further. ”

David Sexton, Mull Officer (pictured left, with BBC *Countryfile*'s John Craven)

7 Our **Investigations team** had another busy year, including helping to recover **poisoned golden eagles** in Scotland.

9 We contributed to the third **Birds of Conservation Concern** review. Eighteen species moved to the **red list of most concern**.

11 Defra praised our **considerable input to bird flu surveillance** and renewed our contract until August 2010, worth £200,000.

8 **Three pairs of stone-curlews** nested at **Winterbourne Downs** in Wiltshire, where we are returning arable land to chalk grassland. **Five pairs** nested at **Minsmere** in Suffolk, thanks to improved habitat.

10 We completed our **first year of surveillance for bird flu** on behalf of Defra. Staff and volunteers carried out regular patrols for dead birds on **over 60 of our wetland reserves**. The disease was not detected.

12 Numbers of some of our **special farmland birds** have **increased by an amazing 177%** since the year 2000 at the RSPB's **Hope Farm** in Cambridgeshire. The 2009 breeding season was very successful.

majestic,
determined,
threatened



209
nature
reserves

From sandy beaches to the tops of mountains, our nature reserves have something for everyone.



“One of the most satisfying bits of my job is that the RSPB not only helps protect important wildlife sites, but also helps restore those that have been lost. By doing this, some breeding species close to extinction in the UK have been brought back from the brink.

A good example is the bittern, down to only 11 booming males in the UK in 1991, because of the loss of reedbeds. We carried out detailed research into what bitterns need and have used this to help them. Better management of existing sites, such as Minsmere, and the creation of reedbeds at Lakenheath Fen, Ham Wall, Otmoor and Ouse Fen, among others, has meant that numbers increased to 33 boomers on our reserves in 2009, out of 82 in the UK.

The work we do on our reserves helps much wildlife. In the Inner and Outer Hebrides, establishing a chain of nature reserves has been crucial to the recovery of corncrakes. And by helping corncrakes, we have also helped the threatened great yellow bumblebee and Irish lady's tresses orchid.

Around the coastal and river floodplains of England and Wales, including at Berney Marshes in the Broads, West Sedgemoor in Somerset,

Otmoor, near Oxford, North Kent Marshes and Ynys-hir in mid Wales, we are restoring wet meadows for wintering and breeding wading birds and ducks, geese and swans.

In the Ribble Estuary at Hesketh Out Marsh, we have started to undo a hugely damaging project that reclaimed some of the estuary in the 1980s. In the Flow Country of Scotland, we are gradually returning a landscape to blanket bog, by removing conifers and blocking ditches.

While the focus of our efforts is nature, we are also providing for people. Not only is there the sheer enjoyment that nature offers, but also the other contributions our reserves make, such as protecting peatland carbon stores, improving water quality and flood defences.

On the visits that I make to reserves, it always strikes me that it is far harder to restore a landscape than to destroy it. Success requires not only a sound practical project and the funding to do it, but consents from regulators, public support, and huge commitment from staff and volunteers. Many have involved innovative partnerships with the public and private sector, as well as many funders. Nature thanks you all!”

Gwyn Williams, Head of Reserves and Protected Areas

1 During 2009-10, we bought two nature reserves – **Wallasea Island and Crook of Baldoon**, taking the total number to **209**.

2 We were able to extend: **Snape, Geltsdale, Bracklesham Bay, Langstone Harbour, Lydden Valley, Rainham Marshes, Portmore Lough, Vane Farm, Forsinard Flows and Balnahard**.

3 RSPB nature reserves cover an area of **143,200 hectares** – 0.6% of the UK's land surface. That's a lot of land for wildlife.

4 We are working with others in the **Peak District**: at **Dove Stone** to manage a United Utilities catchment area 12 miles from Manchester; and with the National Trust at **Eastern Moors**, 12 miles from Sheffield.

5 Seven Welsh Black cattle have been helping to keep the grass the right height for birds on our **Ramsey Island nature reserve**.

6 Work started on the **Titchwell Marsh Coastal Change Project** to tackle coastal erosion. A **new sea wall** will protect the freshwater marsh. We will **create saltmarshes** and build a new hide.

100,000 visitors to RSPB Saltholme

We hoped our Saltholme nature reserve near Middlesbrough in Teesside would be a success when it opened in January last year – and it was! Visitor Officer Emily Smith reports on a busy year.

“In February, we welcomed our 100,000th visitor to Saltholme, just a year since we opened. We are particularly proud of achieving this figure in so short a time, as it's three times the number we expected.

As well as proving to be a hit with people, Saltholme has also been very popular with wildlife. 2009 was a hugely successful breeding season with numbers of lapwings, redshanks, pochards, yellow wagtails and great crested grebes all increasing.

The new cockleshell islands attracted the returning common tern colony and provided fantastic views of tern chicks right outside the visitor centre.

Other wildlife successes over the past year include the discovery of otter prints, as well as a water vole survey that confirmed we have a colony on

site. We have created a feeding station for the water voles and a viewing station so that visitors can see these fantastic creatures.

The reserve has gained a reputation for rare birds too – a purple heron, citrine wagtail, blue-winged teal and a pair of bitterns have all been seen.

The centre has also impressed with its striking appearance and eco-friendly features, such as rammed earth walls, a kind of storage heater made out of squashed soil, and its own mini sewage treatment works. It has won several awards for architectural excellence and for sustainability.

So quite a year for the RSPB's fledgling reserve. People love it! We are bringing wildlife into the heart of industrial Teesside.”

Emily Smith, Saltholme Visitor Officer



7 Almost **three-quarters** of land managed by the RSPB is a **Site or Area of Special Scientific Interest** – it's good for wildlife!

8 Our reserves protect **more than 5%** of the UK's **native Caledonian pine forests, reedbeds**, Flow Country deep peat **blanket bog, wet grassland** and **brackish lagoons**.

9 We have been finding out more about **archaeological features** on our **English reserves**, thanks to a grant from English Heritage.

10 Over **13,300 species** have been recorded on our nature reserves – **about a quarter of the UK's land-based species**. More than **half are insects** and **a quarter are fungi**. There are doubtless more to discover.

11 A trial of electric fences to keep out predators found **78% of lapwings** nested successfully within; 18% had success outside.

12 We are working with the **mineral extraction industry** to turn sites into **wildlife havens** after mining has finished. With Tarmac at **Langford Lowfields**, we are creating the **largest reedbed in the East Midlands**.

nature
meets
industry



2 million
visits to
RSPB
reserves

The RSPB is about more than just birds. Without people, there would be no RSPB.

“Have you ever thought about what got you excited about birds and other wildlife?

I was very lucky. My grandparents had a caravan next to the RSPB's nature reserve at Snettisham in Norfolk. Even at a young age, I was allowed to visit the reserve on my own. I would practise using my new binoculars and would attempt to identify the birds that I saw with my prized guidebook. On many occasions, I was accompanied by my Granddad who patiently helped me to name the baffling array of birds on The Wash.

I find it sad, that for many children (and increasingly adults) opportunities to enjoy wildlife are less common. The pressure of work, the allure of shopping and the unfounded fear of accidents in the countryside are all factors that have led to a generation that is increasingly disconnected from nature.

I am proud to say that the RSPB is fighting back! The RSPB has over 200 nature reserves across the UK, of which 184 have public access. We continue to add new reserves for people to enjoy – you can read about the successes of the first year at Saltholme in Teesside on the

previous pages. This reserve filled a gap in north-east England.

But you don't have to travel far to enjoy nature with the RSPB. Over half a million people counted the birds in their garden from the comfort of their armchair as part of the Big Garden Birdwatch. Another half a million people stumbled across a Date with Nature project as they went to work, shopping or on holiday. I am sure that not many expected to see peregrines, white-tailed eagles, red deer, starlings and water voles as they left the house that morning!

I would be lying if I claimed that this approach is innovative. We celebrated 50 years of showing visitors ospreys at Loch Garten in Highland. Thousands of people have made the pilgrimage to watch this wild soap opera unfold. Since 1959, visitors will have seen 141 eggs laid and 86 chicks successfully fledge.

In 2009-10, we met 3.5 million people and gave them a first-hand experience of nature. I hope that each will have been inspired to go on to provide the moral, financial and voluntary support necessary to carry on protecting wildlife: a virtuous circle which is both good for people and for wildlife.

Paul Forecast, Head of People Engagement

”



1 More than **half a million people** took part in the **Big Garden Birdwatch** and our **Make Your Nature Count** summer survey.

2 Over **56,000 children** got close to nature through our **field teaching schemes**. Although a slight reduction on previous years, almost every organisation reported a difficult year with schools organising fewer visits.

3 **Twenty-four** of our field teaching sites now have the **Government Quality Badge**, with six rated as outstanding.

4 Over **half a million people** saw species as varied as house sparrows, white-tailed eagles, peregrines, red deer and water voles at our **80 Date with Nature events** across the UK.

5 Natural history **TV presenter Kate Humble** was elected as **President**, bringing a passion for wildlife and the environment.

6 We launched our **online community**, where supporters can **chat** with each other online, **upload photos, ask questions** and share their **favourite moments with nature**. Visit www.rspb.org.uk/community

14,900 volunteers

Alison Rymell is just one of our 14,900 incredible volunteers, without whom we couldn't achieve many things. She explains what it was like to show visitors the seabirds on the westernmost tip of Rathlin Island in Northern Ireland.



“Recently retired, I jumped at the chance to get out to the coast, by volunteering at the Seabird Centre on Rathlin Island in Northern Ireland.

The working day began with a walk from the volunteer accommodation to the West Lighthouse where the Seabird Centre is located. It beat most commuter journeys: no traffic and fabulous coastal views. The only sound was birdsong: the buzzing call of redpolls, linnets, goldfinches, singing skylarks, stonechats, sedge warblers, displaying lapwings and sometimes choughs.

The full 'seabird experience' began as you descended the path to the viewing platform. The sight and sound of thousands of birds on the cliffs and rock stacks was amazing, not to mention their own special aroma.

My role involved preparing the centre for the visitors by making coffee and tea, and getting the viewing platform with its five telescopes and binoculars ready for the first people who arrived either by the 'puffin' bus, on foot or by bicycle.

I showed visitors the birds and told them all about them. Most people came to see the puffins; many had not seen a puffin before. The 'scopes were trained on them and it was great to hear visitors'

exclamations of joy as they saw these birds. The overall spectacle was awe-inspiring; thousands of guillemots and razorbills nesting on the rocky cliffs and stacks with good numbers of puffins on the grassy banks. In early July, the young kittiwakes were hatching. There can be no more rewarding a task than showing adults and children close views of a pair of kittiwakes rearing their chicks.

Peregrine falcons bred close by and hunted regularly. Gannets fished out at sea. Sometimes, Rathlin Island's breeding choughs announced their arrival with their repeated, ringing calls and performed acrobatic displays.

Visitors came from all parts of the world. I talked to people from 20 different countries during my two-week stay. Some were knowledgeable birders; others came just to see the puffins. All, without exception, were entranced by the spectacle. Quite a few visitors chose to join the RSPB – parents in particular seemed to like the idea of their children being part of a charity that saves habitats and wildlife.

My time at the Seabird Centre was a brilliant experience: a dream role for a volunteer. I was welcomed by all. ”

Alison Rymell, Volunteer (pictured left)

7 **Wildlife Explorers**, our junior members, **raised over £33,000** to help wildlife through our *Save the Rainforest Animals* appeal.

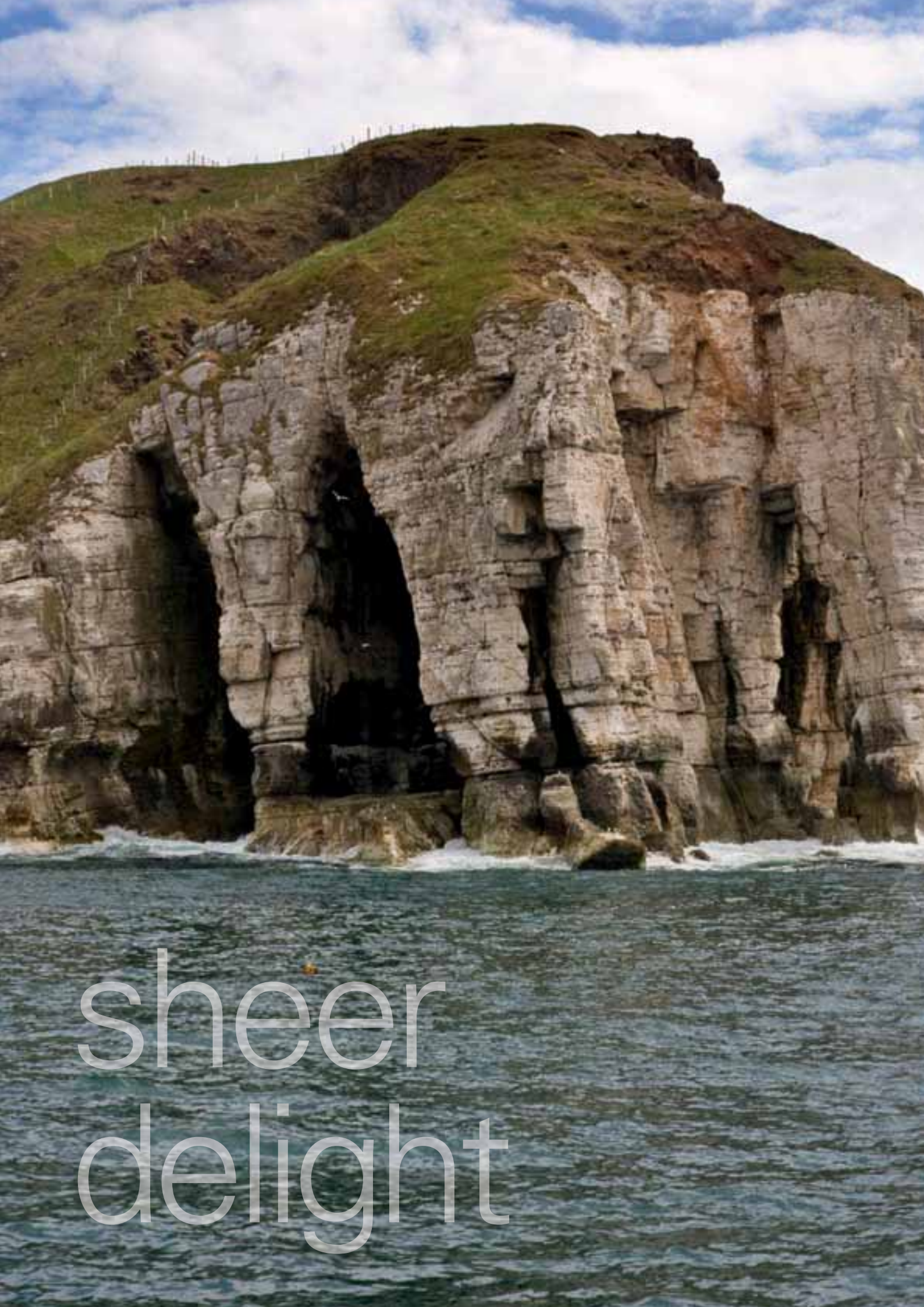
8 **More farms** are being surveyed as part of the **Volunteer & Farmer Alliance** project, thanks to funding from the EU's LIFE+ fund. Farmers find out what birds they have on their farms and how they can help them.

9 The **great work farmers do** for wildlife was celebrated in our **Nature of Farming Awards**; Michael Calvert was the winner.

10 **Supporters of appeals** made a huge contribution to conservation projects, including **reintroducing cranes, stopping the illegal killing of migratory birds and the save the albatross campaign**.

11 We celebrated **30 years of residential volunteering** on our reserves. Over 700 people help us for a week or more each year.

12 Nearly **550 volunteers collected money** for the RSPB as part of our first **Love Nature Week**. Some dressed up in costumes to attract attention, and we raised nearly **£20,000**. Thanks to all!



sheer
delight

210,567
pledges
to save
birds of
prey

The RSPB was founded in 1889 by people campaigning. And we are still speaking up for nature.

“ I love albatrosses. Have done since I saw my first one. That was 'Albert', a vagrant, black-browed albatross that visited Hermaness – the northernmost tip of the British Isles – from 1972 to 1995.

So, I was thrilled to hear of the latest successes of the Save the Albatross campaign, working with our partners in BirdLife International. We now fund 16 people in the Albatross Task Force, working with fishermen off the coast of South America and southern Africa to prevent albatrosses being killed on longline fishing hooks.

Using simple techniques, they've reduced albatross deaths by 96% off Chile and by 85% in south African waters.

Last October, thousands of RSPB supporters were among the 60,000 people marching in London, Belfast and Glasgow to demand action on climate change. This march, organised by the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, was the largest UK environmental demonstration ever.

We gathered 15,000 signatures calling on the Government to say no to coal-fired power stations. This helped to fight off a new coal-fired power plant at Kingsnorth in Kent. We're still fighting a similar damaging proposal at Hunterston in Ayrshire.

Paul Lewis, Head of Public Relations

It was great to see the Marine and Coastal Access Act (UK) finally come into force in late 2009, and the Marine (Scotland) Act early in 2010. This followed nine years of campaigning, with Wildlife and Countryside LINK and Environment LINK in Scotland, for protection for our wildlife at sea. Thousands of you signed petitions and lobbied politicians – repeatedly – to call for new laws. Now the tough work of putting those laws into practice has begun. We'll be working to ensure that the Marine Conservation Zones are designated where our most threatened sealife needs them.

I'm appalled that kites, peregrines and other birds of prey are still being killed illegally. We presented 210,567 pledges of support for our campaign to stop this to Defra Minister Huw Irranca-Davies and to governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Your response to this and to our Letter to the Future campaign has been fantastic. Signatures on the latter are now over 250,000. This shows how passionate people are about sparing wildlife from the coming cuts in public spending.

The RSPB has been campaigning to save nature for over 120 years. We'll keep campaigning for as long as the threats continue. ”



1 RSPB supporters joined **60,000 people** on marches in London, Belfast and Glasgow urging for **action on climate change**.

2 As part of the **Stop Climate Chaos** coalition, we handed over **15,000 signatures** to Ed Miliband MP, calling on the UK Government to say **no to new coal-fired power stations** and yes to green energy.

3 The **UK Marine and Coastal Access Act** and the **Marine (Scotland) Act** came into force, after a decade of campaigning.

4 We launched our **Letter to the Future campaign** urging politicians to ensure nature and the environment don't suffer too much in the budget cuts. An amazing **250,000 people have signed already!**

5 **210,567** of you signed our bird of prey campaign urging **an end to the illegal killing of birds of prey**.

6 We produced **two major reports** with farming and environmental partners, pressing for major **reform of the Common Agricultural Policy** to benefit the farmed environment.

11

pieces of
gunshot

Mark Thomas from our Investigations team wrote this piece from the heart and inspired thousands of people to sign our pledge to stop the illegal killing of birds of prey.

“I've had to take dead birds to the vets many times before, but this time I had a real sinking feeling. Minutes after handing over the limp corpse I was staring at an X-ray, which confirmed my worst fears.

I could see 11 pieces of gunshot in what had been a magnificent, female peregrine. She had been slaughtered – most probably on her nest. The inscribed metal ring on her leg gave a tiny insight into her life. She hatched seven years ago in Shropshire and, at the time of her death, was in her prime. Quite probably, she had chicks that depended on her and would now starve.

I felt sick and disgusted. How can people stoop so low?

2009 was a terrible year for cowardly crimes against birds of prey, including eagles and

peregrines. I work in the RSPB's investigations team and this has been one of the worst years I can remember.

In the last few weeks, barely a day has gone by without us getting a call about peregrine persecution and other crimes against birds of prey. It's shocking that in the 21st century, these fabulous birds are still routinely shot, trapped and poisoned.

One of my colleagues in Scotland went to investigate a dead golden eagle found in Argyll. The police suspect that it was illegally poisoned, using a bait with a very toxic chemical.

I'm desperate for the peregrine and golden eagle deaths not to be mere grisly statistics. We must put an end to this appalling practice.”

Mark Thomas, Investigations Unit



7 Mitigation measures to protect **whooper swans** were accepted for the dualling of the **A6**, which links Belfast and Londonderry.

8 After nearly a decade of campaigning, the Polish Government announced an **alternative route for the Via Baltica** expressway that **avoids important Natura 2000 sites**, including the Biebrza Marshes.

9 We objected to the **proposed eco-town** at Weston Otmoor, next to a **meadow rich in plants**. It wasn't shortlisted.

10 Plans for an M4 relief motorway that would have damaged the **Gwent Levels Site of Special Scientific Interest** were dropped. We were part of the Campaign Against the Levels Motorway (CALM) Alliance.

11 **RSPB letter writers** helped put pressure on the **Bulgarian government to protect important sites** for birds.

12 We withdrew our objection to the dualling of the A11 through Breckland, after the Highways Agency agreed to create additional **stone-curlew habitat** to replace what would be damaged by the road.



beautiful,
powerful,
vulnerable

200
pairs of
breeding
wading
birds

Red kites are not the only birds flying high over Northern Ireland.

“Watching the release of 26 red kites over the stunning landscape of County Down in July was a fantastic experience. Now in the second year of this major reintroduction project, we are bringing back a bird that was driven to local extinction 200 years ago. Watching these birds take their first flight and knowing we made it happen left a big lump in my throat. This is conservation at its very best, working with our friends in the Forest Service, Golden Eagle Trust and the Welsh Kite Trust.

The value of our nature reserves in Northern Ireland has never been more important. Although breeding wading birds like the lapwing and curlew continue to decline elsewhere, our hard work to purchase and create suitable wetland habitats provided a home to over 200 pairs of these birds. We also provided homes for around 3,000 pairs of terns and gulls, more than 25,000 wintering waterbirds like the black-tailed godwit and brent goose, and some of our most threatened species, such as the chough, roseate tern and golden plover (left).

And there's plenty of other wildlife on our nature reserves. Whether it's the beautiful Irish

whitebeams around Lower Lough Erne, the inquisitive Irish hares on Rathlin Island or the delicate Irish lady's tresses orchids around Lough Neagh, we will continue to safeguard these for future generations.

Our long-term and determined work with the politicians in the Northern Ireland Assembly really paid off. We finally convinced them to ban the use of lead shot in wetlands. This will spell the end of the long, painful and unnecessary poisoning of birds like whooper swans.

Our field teaching work with the College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise in County Antrim richly deserved its Quality Badge award. We gave 4,000 children an out-of-classroom experience they will never forget. Watching the excitement when these kids find their first dragonfly nymph in their pond dipping tray reminds me of what hooked me on nature and my lifelong love of the countryside. Inspiring our young people is so important to our work to make a better future for birds and people. We look forward to giving lots more schoolchildren a taste of nature in the coming years.”

James Robinson, Director, RSPB Northern Ireland



1 After **years of campaigning** by the RSPB, the Northern Ireland Government introduced a **ban on lead shot over wetlands**.

2 Land purchases at **Portmore Lough** have doubled the size of the wet grassland, giving our growing **lapwing** population areas to expand into. Grazing by our resident Konik ponies continues to benefit the wildlife.

3 We were the **first organisation in Northern Ireland** to be awarded the **Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge**.

4 **Golden plovers** are now breeding at our **Aghatirourke reserve**. At Lough Beg we've been working with landowners to restore 500 hectares of wet grassland to bring back **breeding wading birds**.

5 More people than ever are **supporting us in Northern Ireland**, with our highest ever increase in members.

6 **Michael Calvert** from Co. Down won the RSPB's **Nature of Farming Award**. Michael's enthusiasm and dedication to protecting the wildlife on his 80 hectare farm shone through during the competition.

11

more hectares at Portmore Lough

We have to look after our nature reserves to get them in tip-top condition for wildlife. At Portmore Lough, the wildlife is showing its approval.



“On a gloriously sunny day, Portmore Lough shimmers blue. The reeds rustle gently in the breeze, Konik ponies come down to the water’s edge for a drink, taking a break from their roles as the reserve’s lawnmowers. A lapwing flies overhead, its rounded wings unmistakable.

This is conservation at its finest. We are re-creating the fenland here on a grand scale. Stopping to pause and appreciate the lough’s beauty makes all the hard work seem worthwhile.

We have cleaned and cleared ditches, widened drains, installed sluices and controlled willows and rushes. The conditions are just right for the wetland wildlife.

With support from Biffaward, we were able to buy an additional 11 hectares here, which we are making perfect for lapwings.

The rushes were up to our shoulders, so we had to get special machines in to get rid of them. To improve the water quality, we deepened the main drain between the fen and meadows. We also installed sluices to allow us to raise water levels and collect rainwater. Nearly four kilometres of ditches

Siobhan Dignan, Volunteer

were re-filled with water to benefit newts and frogs, and give wading birds, including lapwings, a place to forage.

With this new area, we now hope to attract 20 pairs of lapwings. John Scovell, Portmore’s Warden, says this is a figure that we could only have dreamed of 10 years ago.

Other wading birds will benefit too, including snipe. Over the winter, more than 2,000 golden plovers fed on the meadows, a wonderful sight in the wintry landscape.

We have discovered 233 different species of insect on the reserve, which shows just how well the wet fenland is faring.

A new species of beetle for Ireland was discovered here, *Sinodendron cylindricum*, a variety of rhinoceros beetle, so we have big beasts as well!

We dug some pits and flooded them to try to attract the rare Irish damselfly. These have also managed to entice a rare water bug only recorded once previously in Northern Ireland.

Within weeks of opening the drains, little egrets arrived, their glistening white feathers reflecting in the lough. We also saw signs of otters. Magical!”

7 In County Down, we released **26 red kites** in the second year of the reintroduction programme.

9 We talked to **over 30,000 people** in Northern Ireland, **inspiring them about nature** and our work.

11 **Volunteers** gave **over 21,000 hours** of their time to help nature. They are a vital part of our team.

8 Our **field teaching work** with the College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise provided **4,000 children** with an out-of-classroom experience. Getting your hands dirty is good!

10 **Numbers of tree sparrows** around Lough Neagh **increased by 35%**, thanks to a partnership project to help them, which involved seven local councils.

12 Our nature reserves provided homes for over **3,000 pairs of terns and small gulls**. These include **roseate terns** and **Mediterranean gulls**, which are rare in Northern Ireland.



rustling
reeds

4,100
species at
Abernethy

From new nature reserves to record numbers of birds, it was quite a year in Scotland.

“I love visiting our Abernethy nature reserve. A walk through the towering Scots pines, with the smell of pine resin and a glimpse of a red squirrel leaping from branch to branch is something magical. I was particularly pleased to be at the Loch Garten Osprey Centre one Saturday in June. The special occasion? Celebrating 50 years of showing visitors the ospreys. Since 1959, over 2 million people have enjoyed the sights and sounds of the world’s most famous ospreys.

There were exciting developments for other nature reserves in Scotland as well. Thanks to the support of our members and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), we were able to buy the Crook of Baldoon, a magnificent stretch of coastal wetland in Dumfries and Galloway. In the spring, you can hear the bubbling call of curlews, one of nature’s most evocative soundtracks. In winter, you can forget the cold for a moment as you marvel at thousands of ducks, geese and swans, all busy refuelling after flying from places such as Greenland and Scandinavia.

We also extended our Forsinard Flows nature reserve. It’s an incredible experience when you’re immersed in the depths of the bog: a hen harrier glides overhead, the distant call of a greenshank rings over the

bog and dragonflies dart about. At Forsinard, we are restoring bog at a landscape scale, working closely with the local community.

We have been heavily involved in trying to ensure the best places for wildlife in Scotland are safe from development. While we are in favour of renewable energy in appropriate places, we objected to an application for more than 150 wind turbines on Shetland because of the potential damage to populations of red-throated divers, whimbrels, merlins and other birds.

Birds have had mixed fortunes: record numbers of black-throated divers, ospreys and white-tailed eagles. But other birds of prey, including golden eagles, have continued to suffer from persecution. There was great support for our campaign to stop illegal killing, including from Government and some enlightened landowners.

All of our successes are thanks to lots of people: our members, our partners, such as SNH, and our funders. We couldn’t have done it without you all! Our partnership with The Famous Grouse and their Black Grouse whisky, which raises money to help the species, won us the ‘Best Partnership Award’ at the Scottish Charity Awards. I’ll drink to that!”

Stuart Housden, Director, RSPB Scotland



1 We have now recorded **4,100 species** of wildlife at our **Abernethy National Nature Reserve** in Highland.

2 **Seabirds in Scotland** had their **best breeding season for a decade** in 2009. Despite numbers still being historically low, **Arctic terns** at North Hill in Orkney fledged more than **220 chicks**, after none in 2008.

3 **Red-necked phalaropes** increased from 17 males at 10 sites in 2008 to **26 males at 15 sites** in 2009.

4 **The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009** was passed. It includes emissions reductions targets of **42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050**. Meeting this must not damage the natural environment.

5 Research has shown that the **number of red kites in north Scotland is artificially low** because of illegal killing.

6 The **Langholm Moor Demonstration Project** had a second successful year. Working with five gamekeepers, we have found that providing other food for **hen harriers** meant no red grouse chicks were taken.

£2m for machair

Rare, stunning, pristine and fragile. Just some of the words to describe the machair habitat in western Scotland. Julia Gallagher puts it into her own words.

“The Western Isles have found a new place in my heart – their glorious machair habitat and wildlife have finally beckoned me. The machair is a ‘low-lying fertile plain’ and a rare habitat that I’m proud to be working with crofters to protect. Think white sandy beaches, an amazing carpet of flowers, plus all of the other birds and creatures that thrive there.

One of the characteristics of machair is that it is made from ‘wind-blown shells and sand’. Standing among the machair on a June day, you certainly see how the wind is important in this environment, as it whips across the beach, over the dunes and rustles your hair. Carried on the wind are the evocative cries of breeding oystercatchers, lapwings, redshanks and dunlins. Beautiful flowers carpet every inch of ground and threatened great yellow bumblebees dance from flower to flower. A corncrake calls and allures you to seek, but usually not to find, since it favours skulking around out of sight among the plants of the machair’s grassland.

‘And how are you finding life on these Isles?’ asks Mr MacCuish, a local crofter. ‘Wonderful, what isn’t there to like?’ I respond. Meeting crofters is one of the most privileged parts of my work

here and I have learned so much about the crofting system, its history and its modern development through our day-to-day conversations, often over a Hebridean scone and a cup of tea. My expectations before I arrived of how special life might be here have already been exceeded.

The project that I am working on is co-funded through the EU’s LIFE+ programme and is a partnership between the RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the Scottish Crofting Federation. It aims to support the unique crofting system that sustains the rich wildlife associated with the machair of these isles. Using seaweed as a natural fertiliser and binding and stacking corn crops in the field to dry the seed are some of the traditional practices that are increasingly declining. Farming efficiency and pressure on time begin to render these methods less viable. Damage to crops from geese is another element that the project will be addressing.

‘So how do you see the future of crofting?’ I ask Mr MacCuish. ‘Now that’s a difficult question,’ he replies. Saving Scottish machair will certainly be a challenge, but a worthy one and I am already regretting the day I will have to depart these special isles. ”

Julia Gallagher, Advisory Officer for the Conserving Scottish Machair LIFE+ Project



7 We celebrated 50 years of **showing people ospreys** at **Loch Garten**, Highland. The webcam is very popular too.

8 Working with **The Famous Grouse** has gone from strength to strength. Sales of **Black Grouse whisky** have brought in **£139,000** to help this iconic species. We inspired visitors to The Famous Grouse about them.

9 Around **5,000 pupils** took part in our **Bird Friendly Schools** projects in Scotland, with even more on the waiting list.

10 **The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010** was passed, which complements the UK legislation and introduces a new system of marine planning and a requirement to **establish a network of protected areas**.

11 We bought the **Crook of Baldoon** nature reserve, extended **Forsinard Flows** and revamped **Barons Haugh**.

12 A **wind farm at Stacain** in Argyll was rejected by the Scottish Government because the area is important for **golden eagles**. Sadly, this decision was then overturned because of a technical matter.



stunning,
pristine,
fragile

40
years at
Ynys-hir

40
mlynedd yn
Ynys-hir

From model puffins to winning awards, it's been a busy year for the RSPB in Wales.



“It's been an exciting time for the RSPB in Wales over the last year.

I can't convey the feeling of joy amongst RSPB Cymru staff on the day when the Wales Transport Plan was published and we found out that the Gwent Levels would be spared from a proposed M4 toll road.

For years, we had been campaigning along with other environmental groups against the new motorway, which would have threatened the important wildlife of the area. There was much relief when the Welsh Assembly threw out the proposal.

Another success was with Wales' new agri-environment scheme. The Welsh Assembly Government opted for the Glastir scheme, which is the one we recommended. Our conservation team worked with, and advised, the Welsh Assembly Minister for Rural Affairs. Since the announcement, RSPB staff have been working on the draft Glastir scheme, recommending changes to make the scheme as good for wildlife as possible.

Our nature reserves go from strength to strength. We celebrated 40 years of RSPB Ynys-hir in June with an open day that attracted over 250

people. A local café provided locally-sourced produce and the day was topped off with a music evening in the village hall. Also at Ynys-hir, a grant of nearly £700,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund has enabled us to start restoring a large area of floodplain grazing marsh, which will be good for lapwings, reed buntings, curlews, otters and hares.

At Newport Wetlands, we were very pleased to be awarded the RICS Community Benefit Award for the RSPB Environmental Education and Visitor Centre. Over 800 Girl Guides visited the reserve to take part in a wide range of tasks and games, including pond dipping, watching wildlife and minibeast hunting. There is now a new playing area for children, which allows us to offer a great day out to even more people.

We had successes with the wildlife on our reserves too – common sandpipers and water voles bred for the first time at RSPB Conwy, shovelers were new breeders at Newport Wetlands and the first short-eared owls in over 20 years fledged from Ramsey Island in Pembrokeshire. Great news!

Katie-jo Luxton, Director, RSPB Cymru

1 Little Chef customers voted **RSPB Conwy nature reserve** as one of the best places for a family day out.

2 A record **seven pairs of hen harriers** nested at **RSPB Lake Vymwy** nature reserve in Powys, fledging 10 chicks. Two other pairs nested just outside the boundary of the reserve. Things are looking up!

3 We bought a **café next to our South Stack nature reserve** on Anglesey, so visitors can enjoy tea and cake, as well as puffins.

4 Over **9,000 schoolchildren** enjoyed our field teaching in Wales. From pond dipping to finding minibeasts, children had a great experience during their day outside of the classroom.

5 **Kittiwakes on Ramsey Island** had a better year, reversing a recent decline. The **225 pairs** were the highest for four years.

6 The Welsh Assembly Government Deputy Minister for Skills, John Griffiths, launched the **Real World Learning Cymru Partnership**, which we are chairing. This encourages out-of-classroom learning.

150

model puffins on Ramsey Island

Sometimes conservation means being creative. What better than some model puffins to attract the real things back to Ramsey?

“We are trying to lure puffins back to breed on Ramsey Island by placing 150 model decoys around the island. Puffins used to breed on Ramsey back in the 1800s. The last known breeding record is from 1894. Shortly before this date, we know that rats arrived on the island through shipwrecks. An old diary found from that time talks of ‘rats swarming up the cliffs as the ship lay floundering on the rocks’. Because puffins nest in burrows, their eggs and chicks were easy prey for the rats and it wasn’t long before the birds were wiped out on the island.

Over 100 years later, in the winter of 1999/2000, the RSPB, with a team of experts from New Zealand, spent four months eradicating the rats. They succeeded and in the nine years since we’ve also seen an increase in our other burrow-nesting species. The Manx shearwater population has gone up from around 800 pairs (a small number managed to survive during the ‘rat years’) to over 2,000 pairs.

Wheatears have reached an all time high of 115 pairs (they nest in the old stone walls) and,

Greg Morgan, Ramsey Warden

just last year, storm petrels bred for the first time on Ramsey.

The return of the puffin would complete the set. However, they are notoriously difficult to tempt to new breeding sites. They are gregarious birds and prefer to see others established before making landfall themselves. We hope that by putting life-like models at strategic points around the island, the intrepid few visiting birds that we see showing an interest from the water each summer might be enticed to make that all important first landing. Once ashore, they will find thousands of ready-made burrows thanks to the island’s rabbit population.

In a time when seabirds are struggling around the UK it is important to try and redress the balance of previous man-made problems. This will not happen overnight and may take years to come to fruition, if at all. It has worked at other sites around the UK and abroad, with Ailsa Craig in Scotland being a recent success. We’re hopeful.”



7 We are very grateful to our **821 volunteers** across Wales, who **dedicated 51,751 hours** of their time to help wildlife.

9 **100,000 starlings** put on a fantastic display before they roosted at our **Morfa Mawr nature reserve** in North Wales.

11 We recruited a **record number of members** in Wales, with **3,267** new ones by the end of the year.

8 Another three chicks fledged at the **Glaslyn Osprey Project** near Porthmadog, a successful sixth year watched by over 30,000 visitors. For the first time, a Welsh-hatched osprey successfully bred in the UK.

10 We were delighted that, after 10 years of campaigning, **the Marine and Coastal Access Act** came into force, giving the Welsh Assembly Government new powers to protect marine wildlife and manage our seas.

12 **Over 500 people** signed RSPB Cymru’s petition, which called on the National Assembly for Wales to hold an **inquiry into why the 2010 biodiversity targets had not been met.**



remote
pellennig

O balod ffug i ennill gwobrau, bu'n flwyddyn brysur i'r RSPB yng Nghymru.



“ Mae hi wedi bod yn amser cyffrous i'r RSPB yng Nghymru dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf.

Roedd staff RSPB Cymru i gyd yn llawenhau ar y diwrnod y cyhoeddwyd Cynllun Trafnidiaeth Cymru a chawsom wybod na fyddai ffordd doll arfaethedig yr M4 yn cael ei chreu ar Lefelau Gwent.

Ers blynnyddoedd, roeddem wedi ymgychu ar y cyd â grwpiau amgylcheddol eraill i wrthwynebu'r draffordd newydd, a fyddai wedi bygwth bywyd gwylt pwysig yr ardal. Bu cryn ryddhad pan wrthodwyd y cynnig gan Gynulliad Cymru.

Cafwyd llwyddiant arall gyda chynllun amaeth-amgylcheddol newydd Cymru. Dewisodd Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru'r cynllun Glastir, sef yr un a gymeradwywyd gennym. Bu'n tîm cadwraeth yn cydweithio gyda Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig Cynulliad Cymru ac yn ei gynghori. Ers y cyhoeddiad, mae staff yr RSPB wedi bod yn gweithio ar gynllun drafft Glastir ac yn cymeradwyo newidiadau a fydd yn sicrhau mai'r cynllun hwn fydd yr un gorau posibl i fywyd gwylt.

Mae ein gwarchodfeydd natur yn parhau i fynd o nerth i nerth. Ym mis Mehefin cafwyd dathliad o'n 40fed pen-blwydd yn Ynys-hir, gyda diwrnod agored a lwyddodd i ddenu dros 250 o bobl. Darparwyd

cynnyrch o ffynonellau lleol gan gaffi lleol a chafwyd diweddglo teilwng i'r diwrnod gyda noson gerddorol yn y neuadd bentref. Hefyd yn Ynys-hir, mae grant o bron i £700,000 gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri wedi'n galluogi i ddechrau ar y gwaith o adfer arwynebedd mawr o gors bori ar y gorlifdir a fydd yn dda i'r gornchwiglen, bras y cyrs, y gylfinir, y dyfrgi a'r ysgyfarnog.

Yng Ngwlyptiroedd Casnewydd, roeddem yn falch iawn o dderbyn Gwobr Budd Cymunedol ROCS am Ganolfan Addysg Amgylcheddol ac Ymwelwyr yr RSPB. Daeth dros 800 o Geidiau draw i'r warchodfa i gymryd rhan mewn ystod eang o orchwyllion a gemau, yn cynnwys rhwydo'r pwll, gwyllo bywyd gwylt a chwilota am chwilod. Bellach mae yma fan chwarae newydd i blant, sy'n ein galluogi i gynnig diwrnod i'r brenin i hyd yn oed mwy o bobl.

Cawsom lwyddiannau gyda'r bywyd gwylt ar ein gwarchodfeydd hefyd – nythodd pibyddion y dorlan a magodd llygod pengrwn y dŵr am y tro cyntaf yn RSPB Conwy, nythodd yr hwyaden llydanbig am y tro cyntaf yng Ngwlyptiroedd Casnewydd a llwyddodd tylluanod clustiog i fagu cywion ar Ynys Dewi yn Sir Benfro am y tro cyntaf ers dros ugain mlynedd.

Newyddion gwych!

Katie-jo Luxton, Cyfarwyddwr, RSPB Cymru

1 Pleidleisiodd cwsmeriaid bwyta i'r Little Chef mai **gwarchodfa natur RSPB Conwy** oedd un o'r manau gorau ar gyfer diwrnod i'r teulu.

2 Nythodd y nifer uchaf eto sef **saith pâr o fodaod tinwyn** ar warchodfa natur **Llyn Efyrrwy'r RSPB** ym Mhowys a hedfanodd 10 cyw o'r nythod. Nythodd dau bâr arall ychydig y tu allan i derfynau'r warchodfa. Mae pethau'n gwella!

3 Prynwyd **caffi** ger ein gwarchodfa natur yn **Ynys Lawd** ar Ynys Môn, felly bydd ymwelwyr yn gallu mwynhau te a chacen, yn ogystal â phalod.

4 Daeth dros **9,000 o blant ysgol draw i fwynhau ein gwaith addysg maes** yng Nghymru. O rwydo'r pwll i chwilota am chwilod, mae'r plant yn cael profiad arbennig yn ystod eu diwrnod oddi allan i'w dosbarth ysgol.

5 Cafodd **gwylanod coesddu Ynys Dewi** flwyddyn dda, gan wrthdroi prinhad diweddar. Roedd y nifer o **225 pâr** yn uwch na'r 4 blynedd ddiwethaf.

6 Lanswyd **Partneriaeth Dysgu yn y Gwir Fyd Cymru**, a gadeirir gennym ni, gan John Griffiths, Dirprwy Weinidog dros Fedrau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Mae'r cynllun yn annog dysgu oddi allan i'r dosbarth ysgol.

150

o balod ffug ar Ynys Dewi

Ambell dro mae cadwraeth yn golygu bod yn greadigol. A oes ffordd well o ddenu palod go iawn yn ôl i Ynys Dewi na gosod palod ffug yno?



“ Rydym yn ceisio denu palod yn ôl i nythu ar Ynys Dewi drwy osod 150 o balod ffug o amgylch yr ynys. Arferai'r pâl nythu ar Ynys Dewi yn ôl yn yr 1800au. Daw'r cofnod olaf o balod yn nythu o 1894. Ychydig cyn y dyddiad hwn, rydym yn gwybod bod llygod mawr wedi cyrraedd yr ynys ar longdrylliadau. Mae hen ddyddiadur o'r cyfnod hwnnw'n sôn am 'lygod mawr yn heidio i fyny'r clogwyni wrth i'r llong daro yn erbyn y creigiau.' Oherwydd bod palod yn nythu mewn tyllau, roedd yn hawdd i'r llygod mawr fwyta eu hwyau a'u cywion a chyn bo hir nid oedd yr un pâl ar ôl ar yr ynys.

Dros 100 mlynedd yn ddiweddarach, yng ngaeaf 1999/2000, treuliodd yr RSPB, ynghyd â thîm o arbenigwyr o Seland Newydd, bedwar mis yn difa'r llygod mawr. Cafwyd gwared â'r llygod mawr i gyd, ac yn y naw mlynedd ers hynny rydym wedi gweld cynnydd yn y nifer o rywogaethau eraill sy'n nythu mewn tyllau. Mae poblogaeth yr aderyn drycin Manaw wedi codi o oddeutu 800 pâr (llwyddodd nifer fechan i oroesi yn ystod 'blynyddoedd y llygod mawr') i dros 2,000 pâr.

Mae'r tinwen y garn wedi cyrraedd ei nifer uchaf o 115 pâr (mae hi'n nythu yn yr hen

gloddiau cerrig) a'r llynedd, nythodd y pedryn drycin am y tro cyntaf ar Ynys Dewi.

Byddai dychweliad y pâl yn cwblhau'r casgliad. Fodd bynnag, mae hi'n eithriadol o anodd eu denu i safleoedd nythu newydd. Yn adar cymdeithasol, mae'n well ganddynt weld bod adar eraill wedi sefydlu yn rhywle cyn iddynt ddod i'r lan eu hunain. Drwy osod y modelau o balod mewn mannau strategol o amgylch yr ynys, rydym yn gobeithio y bydd yr ychydig o adar anturiaethus a welwn yn dangos diddordeb o wyneb y môr bob haf yn cael eu denu i lanio am y tro cyntaf pwysig hwnnw. Unwaith y byddant wedi glanio, bydd yma filoedd o dyllau parod ar eu cyfer diolch i'r boblogaeth o gwningod ar yr ynys.

Mewn cyfnod lle mae adar môr yn brwydro o amgylch y DU mae'n bwysig ceisio gwneud yn iawn am broblemau blaenorol a achoswyd gan ddyn. Ni fydd hyn yn digwydd dros nos ac efallai y bydd yn cymryd blynyddoedd i lwyddo, os o gwbl. Mae'r cynllun wedi llwyddo ar safleoedd eraill ar hyd a lled y DU a thramor ac yn ddiweddar llwyddwyd i ddenu palod yn ôl i Ailsa Craig yn Yr Alban. Rydym yn obeithiol.”

Greg Morgan, Warden Ynys Dewi

7 Rydym yn hynod o ddiolchgar i'n **821 o wirfoddolwyr** ledled Cymru, sy'n rhoi **51,751 awr o'u hamser** i gynorthwyo bywyd gwyllt.

8 Hedfanodd 3 chyw ym **Mhroject Gweilch y Pysgod Glaslyn** ger Porthmadog yn y 6ed blwyddyn lwyddiannus a ddenodd 30,000+ o ymwelwyr. Am y tro 1af, llwyddodd aderyn o nyth Cymreig i fagu cywion yn y DU.

9 Cafwyd arddangosfa ryfeddol gan **100,000 o ddrudwennod** cyn iddynt glwydo yn ein **gwarchodfa natur ar Morfa Mawr** yng Ngogledd Cymru.

10 Ar ôl deng mlynedd o ymgyrchu, roeddem yn falch iawn o weld **Deddf y Môr a Mynediad Arfordirol** yn dod i rym, gan roi pwerau newydd i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i warchod bywyd gwyllt y môr a rheoli ein moroedd.

11 Llwyddwyd i recriwtio'r **nifer uchaf eto o aelodau** yng Nghymru, gyda 3,267 o aelodau newydd erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn.

12 Arwyddodd dros **500 o bobl** ddeiseb RSPB Cymru yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i gynnal ymchwiliad i **ddarganfod pam nad oedd targedau bioamrywiaeth 2010 wedi eu gwireddu.**

26
countries
across
the globe

Our work overseas takes us to all four corners of the globe. We speak up for lots of global wildlife.



“It has been a very successful year for our international work, though not without its challenges. Some of the difficulties we and our BirdLife Partners face include the increasing impacts of climate change, agricultural expansion, industrial and transport developments, and the destruction of rainforests.

Against that background it is very pleasing to report some major successes. These include preventing a Polish forest and marshes being destroyed by the Via Baltica road and creating hunting-free sanctuaries across huge steppe lands in Kazakhstan. We have seen increases in the populations of some hugely threatened rare birds, such as the Azores bullfinch. Common birds in Malta, such as cuckoos and grey wagtails, have increased as shooting pressures have decreased. And special places for wildlife have been given greater protection in many parts of the world.

Our major partnership projects in Sumatra, Sierra Leone, Belarus and Ukraine continued to develop, while work to restore the vulture populations of India and Nepal reached another milestone in captive breeding. The Albatross Task Force continues to carry out sterling work to reduce the death toll of these graceful birds.

Tim Stowe, Director, International Operations

Satellite tracking a sociable lapwing from its breeding grounds in central Asia to Sudan and back three times increased our knowledge of the migration of this special bird. We have also discovered that shooting of the birds in Syria poses a major threat.

It has been our most successful year ever in attracting grants for some of our ambitious project work, restoring the rainforests of Sumatra and the damaged peat bogs of Belarus and Ukraine, courtesy of the German Ministry for Environment. We were delighted to be awarded three Darwin Initiative grants to support work in Kazakhstan, on Tristan da Cunha in the South Atlantic, and for Asian vultures.

None of our international work is possible without our colleagues and partners in our sister organisations across the globe. We continue to fund and work closely with BirdLife International, the global partnership of bird conservation organisations. We are closely involved with partners in the 26 countries. It is pleasing to see them achieving increases in membership, in income and in conservation work. It makes me proud to see our efforts rewarded, and some of our most threatened bird populations pushed back from the brink of extinction.”

1 Satellite technology enabled us to track a **sociable lapwing** for **17,000 miles** and discover a stopover site in Kazakhstan.

2 Our **Harapan Rainforest project in Sumatra** received our largest ever single **grant of £6.6 million**, from the German Ministry for Environment, through KfW, the German development bank.

3 Research showed that a **rat eradication programme** to protect **seabirds on Henderson Island** in the Pacific is feasible.

4 At our **vulture programme in India**, we achieved the **world's first ever hatchings of slender-billed vultures** in captivity. This will help them recover from huge declines through poisoning by a drug used on livestock.

5 We work with other **BirdLife Partners in 26 countries**, combining our expertise to achieve great things for wildlife.

6 We were pleased that there was **no legal spring hunting** of quails and turtle doves in Malta. The European Court found Malta in breach of the Birds Directive for allowing a hunting season for these birds in previous years.

96%

fewer albatross deaths

Now we have come up with simple steps to stop albatrosses being caught on fishing lines and drowning, we have seen 96% fewer albatrosses killed in Chile. Martin Abreu describes what it's like being on-board trying to help fishermen to save albatrosses.

“I've always been fascinated by the sea, and originally wanted to be the captain of a small fishing vessel. I actually ended up as part of the Albatross Task Force in Uruguay.

My last trip at sea lasted 15 days, aboard a vessel fishing for swordfish. We chose it to test a tori line (a line of streamers to scare away albatrosses) as part of the experimental work that Albatross Task Force Uruguay is carrying out this year.

We set ten lines, five with and five without the tori line. Despite a couple of minor glitches, the tori lines worked

well and scared away seabirds.

Getting the crew used to using these tori lines is a challenge, because they have to do something different in their daily routine. However, it was a pleasure to work with them, finding the most comfortable way to incorporate the task into their day and trying to ensure that it would be as little effort as possible.

Watching alongside the crew, we got predictable results. The hooks set under the protection of a tori line caught no birds, while those without ended with seabirds being killed. This was a very important step. ”

Martin Abreu, Albatross Task Force



7 We were pleased that **UK bases in Cyprus** took action to **reduce the illegal killing of migrant birds**.

8 Work with BirdLife International in **Belarus** to restore **huge peat wetlands** was boosted by a grant of £0.6 million from the German Ministry for Environment, through KfW, the German development bank.

9 A similar project for £4.6 million started with our partner in **Ukraine**, allowing us to protect its **amazing wetland wildlife**.

10 We were delighted that **Sierra Leone and Liberia** agreed to create a massive trans-boundary **Gola Peace Park**. Our surveys in the rainforest of Gola, where we are working, found **several butterflies new to science**.

11 At Altyn Dala in **Kazakhstan**, we helped stop the hunting of **saiga antelopes** in 1.3 million hectares of steppe grassland.

12 We have started a project with our **BirdLife International colleagues** to study where **warblers** spend the winter in West Africa. This should help us discover the reasons why some are declining.



strong and
persuasive

The financial year 2009-2010

Before you start yawning, have a look at how we did at balancing our books during a time that was difficult for all. You and all our supporters helped us to weather the storm.

Here's to 2009-10

Weathering the storm was the dominant theme in our report on 2008-09 and with the continued economic uncertainty it may yet be the dominant theme for 2010-11. So, let's pause for a moment to celebrate 2009-10; not a self-congratulatory celebration, but one to acknowledge that, even in tough recessionary times, there are many individuals and institutions with sufficient passion for nature and the environment to continue to give it their support. Undoubtedly, resolve will be tested in the weeks and months ahead but the fact that support has held firm to date is surely worthy of a glass or two of whatever tickles your fancy!

The headlines

You can see more detail of our income and expenditure on page 42, but here's a summary of where we are.

- ◆ We spent £86.3m on charitable activities in 2009-10; 6% ahead of 2008-09.
- ◆ With net income having risen by 10% to £94.7m, our operating statement shows £8.4m available to add to financial reserves – increasing the total from £24.5m to £32.9m.
- ◆ But this increase in financial reserves has to be treated with caution, as the trustees need to earmark over half of this increase (£4.9m) for specific purposes.
- ◆ The earmarked sum is partly to cover expenditure that was scheduled to be spent in 2009-10 but had to be carried forward to

2010-11 (for example because of poor weather), partly to cover a land purchase commitment for which income was received in 2009-10 and finally as a precautionary measure in anticipation of a tough 2011-12, in the wake of the public sector expenditure cuts.

- ◆ This still leaves £3.5m to bolster our modest free financial reserves, taking them to £13m. This represents about nine weeks' expenditure.

INCOME HIGHLIGHTS

Membership

Throughout the recession, one of the most reassuring trends has been the number of RSPB members joining and renewing each month. Achieving membership growth during a recession was always going to be tough, so to be able to report an increase to 1,076,112 members and subscription income growth of 2% is pleasing to say the least. If you are a member, thank you for your support.

International funding

One of the more surprising income streams of the year must be that arising from our relationship with a German development bank. This organisation shares the RSPB's determination to make a significant contribution to addressing the issue of climate change. The bank in question is KfW and their medium-term commitment to these projects, totalling more than £10m, will help underpin our forestry work in Indonesia and to restore peatlands of Eastern Europe on

a scale previously unimaginable. We received £2.3m of this in 2009-10.

Wallasea Island

And whilst on the subject of large-scale projects, we should mention the funding associated with the acquisition of Wallasea Island. It is difficult to envisage how this project could have been contemplated without our partnerships with Crossrail and the Environment Agency. Crossrail are contributing to the project as the best means of securing a dedicated site for disposal of excavated material from their tunnelling. The imported material is an essential part of our habitat design. The Environment Agency is contributing to meet its obligations to re-create intertidal habitat that will be lost through maintaining sea defences elsewhere. These contributions explain the sharp year-on-year increase in the "Grants, commercial donations and trusts" line on page 42. The expenditure is shown in "Acquisition of nature reserves".

RSPB trading

Retail, catering, mail order and trade (eg via DIY stores and garden centres) each recorded healthy growth, with mail order in particular benefiting from recent investment in service levels. Our customers certainly appeared to appreciate the improvements and voted with their orders. Even the Bank of England noted that the sale of bird food was one of few activities to prosper in the depths of a snowy UK winter!

Legacies

Last year we reported that legacy income appeared to be falling and that we would have to adjust to lower expectations; barely was the ink dry on that observation before the trend reversed and by year-end income finished above the prior year level. This was clearly assisted by recoveries in house prices and stock markets, but we are very pleased to admit that we got this projection wrong. These wonderful bequests are so important to our work and we are extremely grateful to all those who contribute in this way.

EXPENDITURE

We find ourselves in the slightly curious

position of needing to report on what we haven't spent as well as what we have. For a variety of reasons, most notably the unusually persistent snow over the winter, progress was delayed on several major projects, particularly at nature reserves. Examples include further development of visitor facilities at Minsmere and Fowlsheugh. As mentioned in the summary above, financial provision has been made for a catch-up, weather permitting.

More nature reserves

In spite of expenditure constraints, we were able to continue adding high priority sites. Inevitably (and justifiably), Wallasea dominates the RSPB's UK land acquisition headlines – but with more than a little help from our members, we were also able to add the fantastic Crook of Baldoon, a coastal wetland in Dumfries and Galloway. Of course, adding to existing reserves is every bit as important as acquiring new ones and we are pleased to report extensions to old favourites such as Rainham and Vane Farm.

Not taking grants for granted

Much of the RSPB's income growth over recent years has come in the form of grants. As these are often restricted, the work they support is typically of a project nature, such as reserve improvements at Rainham and Saltholme and modifications at Titchwell Marsh in anticipation of continued sea-level rise. Grant funding is a vital source of income and we had to be mindful of the possible consequences of the long-anticipated cuts in public spending and avoid overstressing core commitments.

Behind the scenes support

There is an ever-present temptation to scale back on the support services such as Finance, Personnel and computer technology – or, worse still, on the long-term income-generating capacity of the organisation. Indeed, savings were sought and made in these areas; but it was also necessary to invest. The upgraded trading process is an obvious example – for success depended upon the services mentioned working together; and the upgrades were delivered on time and on budget. We

have similarly invested in scaling up our member recruitment activities – and to great effect.

Pensions

We commented last year that most pension schemes had suffered in the wake of the financial crisis and that the RSPB's scheme was no exception. With the three-yearly valuation behind us, we now know the scale of the problem – without changes, annual contributions would need to increase by at least £2m; a level we could not contemplate. While a proportion of the shortfall is the result of increased longevity, most is due to the reaction of the financial markets to the banking crisis which, given time, should reverse. But such a "wait and see" approach is not to be recommended (and nor would it be acceptable to The Pensions Regulator).

Over recent years, many changes have been made to the scheme, including increased retirement age, increased employee contributions, introduction of a lower risk alternative for new members of staff – and, yes, increased RSPB contributions. After long deliberations, further changes have now been agreed to reduce the rate at which pension entitlement is earned in the final salary section and to introduce an arrangement to reduce RSPB exposure to rising life expectancy. The savings made as a result of these changes will enable the RSPB to meet the increased pension obligations without significant impact on operational budgets.

Looking to the future

The months ahead will be a challenge. The entire charity sector seems to be in the brace position, fearful of the direct and indirect impacts of public sector cuts. The questions on everyone's lips

seem to be: How soon? How deep? And for how long?

For the RSPB's part, cost constraint and some quite remarkable income successes have put us in good shape to face 2010-11. It is of course you, through your support, who really set the pace at which our conservation work progresses and, as always, we are hugely appreciative. But we would like to record here also our appreciation of RSPB staff. They took in their stride the pay freeze of 2009 and, together with our industrious volunteers, responded to the economic challenges with the same enthusiasm with which they embrace every challenge. Their hard work, constraint and creativity, combined with your financial support, has enabled work to continue apace on most fronts. We are confident that this successful partnership of supporters, volunteers and staff will continue to serve well the interests of conservation and our birds, through whatever challenges lie ahead.

Here's to 2010-11...and beyond!



Alan Sharpe,
Director of
Finance



Alan Martin,
Honorary
Treasurer



What money we received and what we spent 2009-10

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

We have examined the summarised financial statements set out on page 42.

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.

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 2010.

Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP

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

29 June 2010

THE FULL AUDITED ACCOUNTS were approved on 29 June 2010 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, 29 June 2010

OPERATING STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 2010

	2010 £m	2009 £m
INCOME		
Membership subscriptions and donations	37.0	36.4
Legacies	27.9	26.6
Grants, commercial donations and trusts	31.8	25.5
Commercial trading	19.6	17.6
Land rents, farming and advisory	4.6	4.7
Financial income – interest and profit on sale of fixed assets	1.0	1.0
TOTAL INCOME	121.9	111.8
COST OF GENERATING INCOME		
Cost of goods for resale	12.0	10.4
Other cost of generating income	15.2	15.1
TOTAL COST OF GENERATING INCOME	27.2	25.5
NET INCOME AVAILABLE FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES	94.7	86.3
EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE PURPOSES		
Acquisition of nature reserves and operating assets	9.2	9.3
Conservation on RSPB nature reserves	27.6	25.2
Conservation – research, policy and advisory services	32.0	30.0
Education, publications and films	13.3	13.0
Membership services and enquiries	3.8	3.9
Governance	0.4	0.4
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	86.3	81.8
NET OPERATING INCOME	8.4	4.5
OTHER MOVEMENTS		
Gain / (Loss) on investment assets	1.8	(2.1)
Pension scheme	(1.9)	(1.5)
Stock, debtors and creditors	1.1	0.6
TOTAL OTHER MOVEMENTS	1.0	(3.0)
MOVEMENT IN AVAILABLE CASH AND INVESTMENTS	9.4	1.5

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

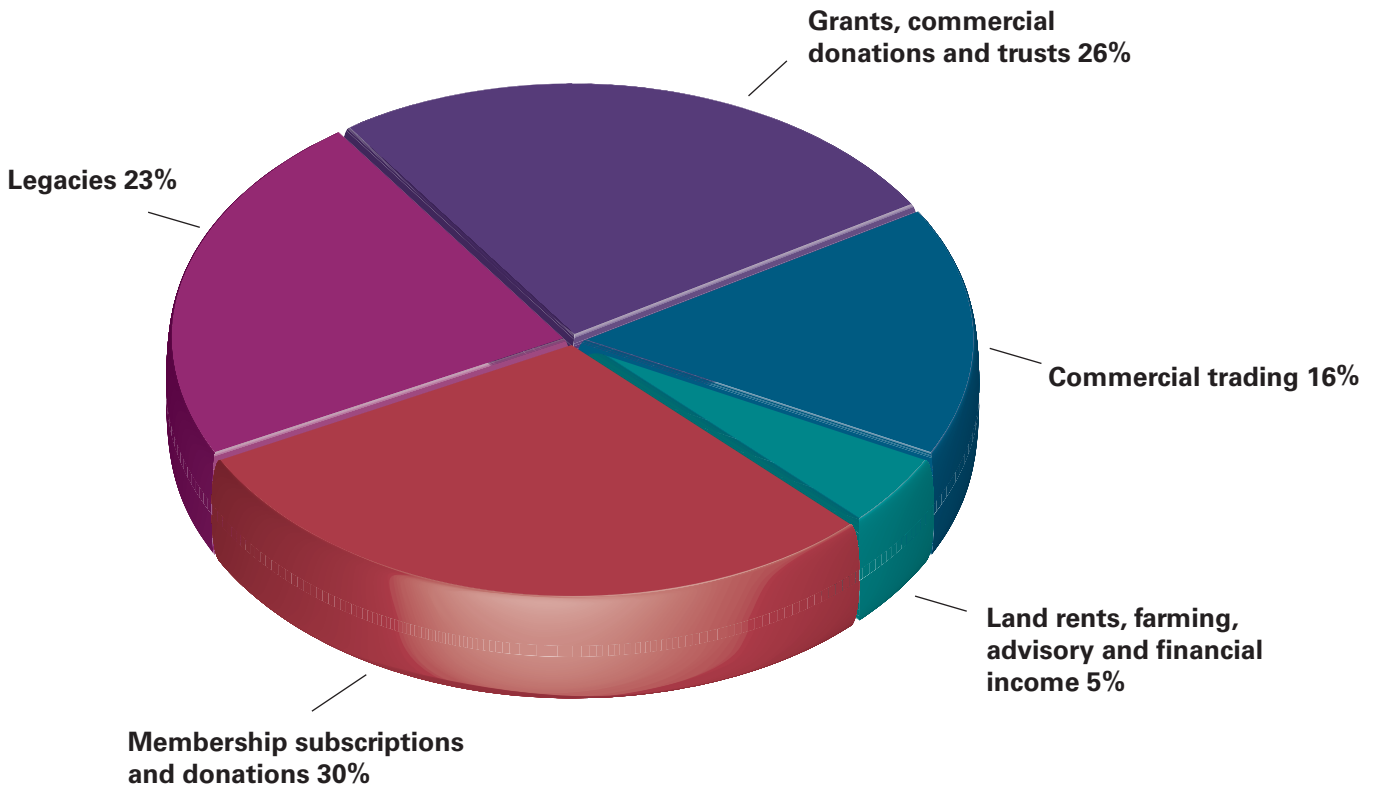
as at 31 March 2010

	2010 £m	2009 £m
Nature reserves	118.8	109.6
Tangible assets	4.2	4.2
Cash and investments	30.1	20.6
Stock, debtors and creditors	2.8	3.8
Pension liability	(34.7)	(22.1)
NET ASSETS	121.2	116.1
FINANCIAL RESERVES		
as at 31 March 2010		
Available reserves	32.9	24.5
Held for specific purposes	(19.9)	(15.0)
FREE FINANCIAL RESERVES	13.0	9.5

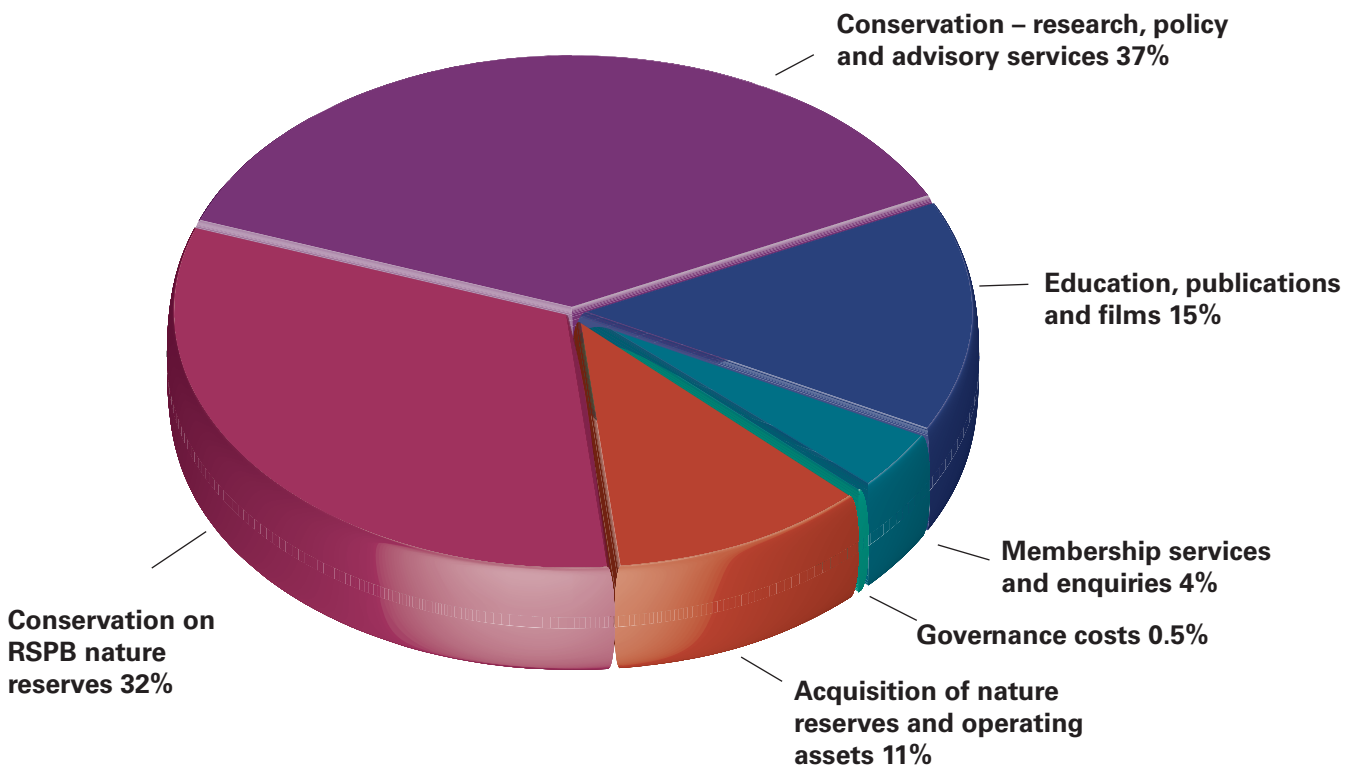
Representing future expenditure cover of

9 weeks 7 weeks

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



1,000,000+ thank yous

We couldn't have done this alone. There are lots of people – individuals and organisations – who have helped us to speak up for nature. Here are just a few of our supporters who we would like to give a big thank you to.

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 equally 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 £298,000 for RSPB conservation projects. Wildlife Explorers (our junior members) raised more than £33,000 to plant trees in Sumatra through the Save the Rainforest Animals appeal.

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 over 14,900 volunteers last year, giving the RSPB 812,480 hours of their time. This is equivalent to an extra 416

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, 529,076 people spent an hour doing the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch, and 69,239 took part in our new Make Your Nature Count survey.

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 practical. However, there are a few people that we would like to mention for their special contributions:

Eric Desmond Boyland
Eileen Doris Callan
Joan Dora Crane
Stephanie Neville Davies
Thomas Henry Farrer
George Heath
Elsie Sheila Kendall
Raymond Collie Lang
Richard Martin Lee
Donald Bruce Moseley
Harry Albert Ruffle
Annette Barbara Smith
Margaret Mary Turner

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 of 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
Basel Zoo – Across the River
The Baxters Foundation
BBC Wildlife Fund
Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund
BirdLife International
BirdLife Preventing Extinctions Programme Lost Species Fund
British Trust for Ornithology
Cambridge Conservation Initiative
Care-for-Nature Trust
The Charities Advisory Trust (Good Gifts)
City Bridge Trust
Conservation International – Global Conservation Fund
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
Peter Cruddas Foundation
Dansk Ornitologisk Forening
Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund
The Jane Durell Charitable Trust
Ellon Foundation
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Donald Forrester Trust
The Gannochy Trust
The Helen and Horace Gillman Trusts
Groombridge and Eridge Alternatives to Rubbish (GEAR)
Highland Foundation for Wildlife
Alan John Fraser Hoby Discretionary Trust
International Association for Bear Research and Management
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Ibis Project
J E V B Charitable Trust
Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
The A G Leventis Foundation
R S MacDonald Charitable Trust
The MacRobert Trust
Michael Marks Charitable Trust

William and Doreen Moss
 Mull and Iona Community Trust
 Mull Eagle Watch
 Natural Research Ltd
 The Nature Trust (Sandy)
 Harold James Newcombe
 Discretionary Trust
 Daniel O'Connor Discretionary Trust
 Oglesby Charitable Trust
 The David & Lucile Packard
 Foundation
 Paignton Zoo Environmental Park
 The Jack Patston Charitable Trust
 Pensthorpe Conservation Trust
 People's Postcode Trust
 Restore UK
 The Robertson Trust
 The Helen Roll Charity
 John Graham Russell Discretionary
 Trust
 Santander UK Foundation Ltd
 Scottish Crofting Foundation
 Scottish Environment LINK
 Scottish Power Green Energy Trust
 SeaWorld & Busch Gardens
 Conservation Fund
 The Shears Foundation
 Shropshire Wildlife Trust
 Nini Isabel Stewart Trust
 Sussex Ornithological Society
 Teesside Environmental Trust
 The Tree Council
 Tubney Charitable Trust
 Muriel Maud Florence Goldsmith
 Walker Discretionary Trust
 Whitley Animal Protection Trust
 Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
 WWF

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
 Barr Environmental Ltd
 Belfast City Council
 Biffaward
 Cory Environmental Trust in Britain
 Down District Council
 Falkirk Environment Trust
 Glasgow City Council
 GrantScape
 Green Leeds Ltd
 Highland Council

Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust
 Lisburn City Council
 Newry & Mourne District Council
 Perth & Kinross Quality of Life Trust
 Shanks First Fund and Argyll & Bute
 Council
 SITA Trust
 Smith Skip Ltd
 Solway Heritage
 South West Environmental Action
 Trust (SWEAT)
 Staffordshire Environmental Fund
 St Modwen Environmental Trust
 Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment
 with funds from Viridor
 Credits' Oxfordshire Fund
 Ulster Wildlife Trust Landfill
 Communities Fund
 Veolia Environmental Trust
 Veolia Havering Riverside Trust
 Veolia 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
 BBC Countryfile Magazine
 BBC Worldwide Ltd
 Bemrose Booth Ltd
 Boehringer Ingelheim
 BP through the Scottish Forest Alliance
 The Caravan Club
 CEMEX UK Ltd
 Chevron
 Concept Research Ltd
 Co-operative Financial Services
 Co-operative Group
 Crossrail Ltd
 Dorling Kindersley Ltd
 Earthwatch
 Enesco Ltd
 European Bank for Reconstruction
 and Development
 The Famous Grouse
 Fulham Heating Merchants Ltd
 GDF Suez Energy UK Ltd
 Goldman Sachs
 Hanson Aggregates Ltd

Holiday Cottages
 HSBC Climate Change Partnership
 ICB-Diadem
 Jarrold Calendars
 Lafarge Aggregates Ltd
 Landmarc Support Services Ltd
 Loaf Marketing
 Lochcarron of Scotland
 Mineral Products Association
 The Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for
 Europe and Africa
 Nikon UK Ltd
 The Puppet Company
 PURE
 Questmark Ltd
 Redeem plc
 Robinsons
 Scottish & Southern Energy
 Scottish Power
 Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Ltd
 Severn Trent Water
 Southern Water
 Suttons Consumer Products Ltd
 Swarovski Optik
 Talisman Energy
 Tarmac Ltd
 Turcan Connell
 United Utilities
 Viking Optical Ltd
 Volvo Ocean Race
 Wessex Water
 Wild Republic (UK) Ltd
 W. Moorcroft plc
 Woodmansterne Publications Ltd
 Yorkshire Water
 Zeon Ltd

Support from statutory sector and other public bodies

We are grateful for co-operation and support from organisations of many kinds, and would especially like to thank:

Advantage West Midlands' Natural
 Assets Programme in
 partnership with Natural
 England
 Arnside & Silverdale Area of
 Outstanding Natural Beauty
 (AONB) Sustainable
 Development Fund
 Basildon District Council
 Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All
 Programme
 Big Lottery Fund – Community
 Sustainable Energy
 Programme
 Bonn Convention for Migratory
 Species (CMS)
 Cairngorms National Park Authority

Cairngorms Local Action Group	Information and Communication	Lake District National Park Authority
LEADER 2007-2013, jointly funded by the Scottish Government and the European Community	European Commission – LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity	Lancashire County Council, through the Lancashire Locals Climate Change Fund
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	European Commission – Tropical Forests and Other Forests in Developing Countries Programme	Lancashire County Council Local Gateway Grant
Ceredigion County Council	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Leeds City Council Key Fund
Coast, Wolds, Wetlands and Waterways LEADER, through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), jointly funded by Defra and the EU	ERDF – INTERREG IVA 2 Seas Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013	Ministry of Defence
Communities and Local Government (CLG) administered by Cambridgeshire Horizons	ERDF – INTERREG IVB North Sea Region Transnational Cooperation Programme 2007-2013	Natural England
Countryside Council for Wales	ERDF – INTERREG IVB North West Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme 2007-2013	Natural England – Access Management Grant Scheme
The Crown Estate's Marine Communities Fund	European Union (EU) – EDF-9 (through DG Development)	Natural England – Access to Nature, part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme
Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR) under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 (LCBP2)	Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) / DfID – Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP)	Natural England – Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	Forestry Commission England	Natural England – Wetland Vision Grant Scheme
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	Forestry Commission Scotland	Natural Environment Research Council
Defra through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, administered by Natural England	Forestry Commission through Better Woodlands for Wales	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Defra – Darwin Initiative	Forestry Commission Wales	Northern Ireland Tourist Board
Department for International Development (DfID)– Civil Society Challenge Fund	Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER 2007-2013, jointly funded by the Scottish Government and the European Community	Northumberland Coast AONB Sustainable Development Fund
Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD)	French Government's Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)	Oldham Improving Perceptions
Department of Energy and Climate Change	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), via KfW Development Bank	Orkney Islands Council
Devon County Council	German Government's Centrum für Internationale Migration und Entwicklung	Scottish Agricultural College
Dorset AONB Sustainable Development Fund	Heritage Lottery Fund	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
Dorset County Council	Highland LEADER 2007-2013, jointly funded by the Scottish Government and the European Community	Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Homes and Communities Agency's Parklands Funding administered by Essex County Council	Scottish Government Science Engagement Grants Scheme
East Midlands Development Agency	Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	Scottish Government Third Sector Enterprise Fund
English Heritage	Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	Scottish Natural Heritage
Environment Agency		Somerset County Council
Environment Agency Wales		South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)
Environment Wales		South Pennines LEADER
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)		Staffordshire County Council through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
European Commission – DG Environment		Strathclyde Police
European Commission – Environment and Natural Resources Thematic Programme (ENRTP)		Teignbridge District Council
European Commission – LIFE-Nature		USAID STEWARD Programme
European Commission – LIFE+		US Fish and Wildlife Service
		Wales Council for Voluntary Action – Russell Commission Youth Volunteering Grant
		Welsh Assembly Government
		Welsh Assembly Government through the Department of Economy and Transport
		Yorkshire Dales National Park
		Yorkshire Forward

1

person who can make all the difference – you

“This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done [nature conservation] and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it.

Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.”

Based on Charles Osgood's *A poem about responsibility*

Please make sure you are Somebody who gives nature a voice. See below for how you can help.

1 If you are already an **RSPB member**, thank you. If not, please consider speaking up for nature by joining us.

2 **Sign our Letter to the Future** and add your voice to a quarter of a million others. **Please help us urge the Government** to ensure nature is not forgotten. Go to www.signtheletter.org.uk or call 01767 693680.

3 **Become a volunteer** and join nearly 15,000 others who care. Call 01767 680551 or visit www.rspb.org.uk/volunteering

4 **Buy from the RSPB shop.** Whether you need gifts, optics, bird food or chocolate, **buying from us will help wildlife.** Shop at www.rspbshop.co.uk or request a catalogue on 0845 1 200 501.

5 **Leave a lasting legacy.** Nearly a third of our income comes from gifts in people's wills. Call 01767 680551 for more details.

6 **Get out there and enjoy nature!** We love nature and we want everyone else to love it too. Remind yourself what it's all about and spread the message. Show your family and friends just how amazing it is.

Our supporters have been magnificent over the last year. They've been with us helping to reverse the decline in farmland birds, on boats saving albatrosses, enjoying our nature reserves and giving a voice to nature in all corners of the globe as well as in their back gardens. Thank you if you are one of them. Please join us to create even more successes this year.

Photos: front cover by Andy Hay (rspb-images.com); page 2, Arctic tern by Andrew Parkinson (rspb-images.com); page 5, Mike Clarke by Andy Hay; page 7, Glanville fritillary by Richard Revels (rspb-images.com); page 8, David Sexton and John Craven by Tom Marshall (rspb-images.com); page 9, white-tailed eagle by Danny Green (rspb-images.com); page 11, black grouse by Mike Lane (rspb-images.com); page 12, otter by Danny Green (rspb-images.com); page 13, Saltholme visitor centre by Andy Hay (rspb-images.com); page 15, boy by Eleanor Bentall (rspb-images.com); page 16, Alison Rymell by Matthew Rymell; page 17, Rathlin Island by Simon Watterson (rspb-images.com); page 19, Marine Bill hand-in by Grahame Madge (rspb-images.com); page 20, peregrine by Mark Hamblin (rspb-images.com); page 21, golden eagle by Danny Green (rspb-images.com); page 23, golden plover by Mike Lane (rspb-images.com); page 24, lapwing by Steve Knell (rspb-images.com); page 25, Portmore Lough by Andy Hay (rspb-images.com); page 27, wind turbines by Ernie Janes (rspb-images.com); page 28, great yellow bumblebee by Mike Edwards (rspb-images.com); page 29, machair by Laurie Campbell (rspb-images.com); page 31, boy pond dipping by Andy Hay (rspb-images.com); page 32, puffin by Steve Round (rspb-images.com); page 33, Ramsey Island by Chris Gomersall (rspb-images.com); page 34, brown hare by Andrew Parkinson (rspb-images.com); page 35, short-eared owl by David Kjaer (rspb-images.com); page 37, Sumatran tiger by iStockphoto; page 38, black-browed albatross by David Osborn (rspb-images.com); page 39, Albatross Task Force by Grahame Madge (rspb-images.com); page 41, money by iStockphoto; page 47, person on Cairngorms by Mark Hamblin (rspb-images.com)

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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.

We belong to BirdLife International, the global partnership of bird conservation organisations.

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England & Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654 350-0251-09-10