



for birds
for people
for ever

The RSPB year 2005 - 2006



Highlights of last year

We encourage you to read these highlights if you want to know more about what the RSPB does and why, and how it is funded and supported. You may also wish to help our efforts to conserve wild birds and the places where they live: there are many ways in which you can do this. The continuing support of our members is the cornerstone of our work.



Chairman of Council



RSPB Chief Executive



Professor Ian Newton



Graham Wynne

Nature reserves consolidated

Aim: to increase the pace of acquiring and managing priority habitats.

Outcome: seven new nature reserves were acquired and some existing sites were extended to improve their effectiveness, after fewer opportunities in recent years. We acquired 2,023 ha, taking our total to 131,127 ha, across more than 190 reserves.

More sites in good condition

Aim: to improve the quality of special habitats on our nature reserves.

Outcome: we improved the status of designated sites on reserves. On English reserves, 82% of land of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) now meets the Government's target. In Scotland, of 410 SSSI features on 55 RSPB nature reserves, 78% are now in favourable condition or recovering towards it. These percentages are ahead of national averages. Progress on remaining areas is hindered by circumstances outside our control, such as spring flooding in the Ouse Washes, Cambridgeshire.

Rare birds recovering

Aim: to improve the fortunes of the UK's threatened and vulnerable birds, such as the bittern and red kite.

Outcome: threatened species are recovering thanks to RSPB projects and the efforts of landowners. Stone-curlews, corncrakes, curlew buntings and red kites all increased. On our reserves, birds such as the lapwing did well despite declines elsewhere. Of 28 priority species with recovery targets set in 2002, we helped 24 to reach an improved status.

Helping farmland birds

Aim: to continue to help to reverse the dramatic declines in farmland birds such as skylarks.

Outcome: work at Hope Farm in Cambridgeshire continued to show how farmers can farm profitably while helping birds to thrive. We influenced the new English Environmental Stewardship Scheme, and helped increase the uptake of agri-environment schemes across the UK. We offer an extensive range of free advice and assist farmers in gaining access to such schemes.

Getting the policies right

Aim: to make things better for birds and other wildlife by influencing government policies that affect the environment, in areas such as climate change, energy, agriculture, water, forestry and fisheries, and to protect valuable sites threatened by damaging development proposals.

Outcome: we made modest progress and built strong relationships with decision makers in many key areas, but in others improvements were frustratingly slow. A notable success was our work on strengthening environmental policy, particularly in Scotland and Northern Ireland. We did even more work than in previous years on safeguarding important sites from inappropriate developments.

Working for birds worldwide

Aim: to increase the capacity of BirdLife International Partners and to work with them to save two large rainforests; to protect Asian vultures that are on the brink of extinction, and albatrosses that are needlessly threatened with extinction.

Outcome: we made exciting progress towards protecting 75,000 ha of wildlife-rich rainforest in Sierra Leone, and 100,000 ha in Sumatra, Indonesia. Both albatross and Asian vulture conservation work achieved vital breakthroughs.

Connecting people with birds

Aim: to increase involvement of our supporters in our work.

Outcome: the Big Garden Birdwatch, the biggest so far, involved 480,000 people. Aren't birds brilliant! schemes, showing people exciting birds, attracted 480,000 visitors, more than twice the 2004 total. More than 12,500 volunteers gave 655,000 hours of time. Visitor facilities on our nature reserves were improved and visitor numbers increased.

Learning in the real world

Aim: to increase the opportunities for young people to experience the natural world at first-hand, especially on our nature reserves.

Outcome: almost 61,000 children – 20% up on the previous year – benefited from our inspirational field teaching schemes at 40 sites.

Membership numbers

Aim: to continue to increase our membership, and to sign up more members into the Gift Aid scheme.

Outcome: membership rose to 1,051,582 people, including more than 150,000 youth members in Wildlife Explorers. The proportion of adults signed up to Gift Aid rose to 75%, and continues to rise.

New trading operations

Aim: to give supporters a better service and to generate more resources for conservation.

Outcome: setting up our trading operation was a highlight of the year and income for conservation activities strengthened across RSPB shops, mail order and retail outlets.

How is the RSPB run?

The RSPB is governed by a Council of individuals elected for their expertise relevant to running a wildlife conservation charity.

The Council sets policy and is responsible for the conduct of the RSPB's affairs and for ensuring that we operate in accordance with our constitution and the law.

The Council is answerable to the Charity Commission, which ensures that the RSPB uses its funds wisely.

Day-to-day management of the RSPB is delegated to a Management Board headed by a Chief Executive who reports to the Chairman of Council.

For more information on the RSPB's strategy, history, governance and membership, visit www.rspb.org.uk/about

Saving special places as nature reserves

Our nature reserves protect spectacular pieces of countryside for wildlife and people – for ever. They provide a wonderful opportunity for everyone to enjoy the benefits of being out in the natural world. Many host education visits for thousands of schoolchildren and help to boost tourism income for local communities.



C Knights (rspb-images.com)

'Manor Farm is already great for wildlife and it will become so much better. Every week something new turns up. Stone-curlews are already nesting again. It is great to see all this going on – exciting times.'

**Jane Brookhouse,
Reserves Manager**



B Hall (rspb-images.com)

We manage more than 190 nature reserves. Saving and improving the best wildlife sites as nature reserves is more important than ever in the face of intense pressures on the countryside. New nature reserves and extensions, costing £7 million, added 2,023 hectares to our reserves. This made up for fewer land acquisition opportunities in recent years.

In the past some habitats have been drastically altered or damaged by neglect, but not destroyed beyond repair. We have been able to step in and restore impressive areas of heathland (by removing planted conifers or bushes and trees), reedbeds (reversing the tendency for them to dry out) and the peatlands of northern Scotland on our Forsinard reserve (which had been extensively drained and planted with trees).

Working to restore chalk grassland has long been an RSPB ambition, and a chance arose in the shape of Manor Farm in Wiltshire. The Heritage Lottery Fund agreed a grant in record time and a membership appeal was marvellously supported. This will become a stunning place for stone-curlews and a wealth of downland wildlife.

'The only bird you might expect that is missing is the tree sparrow. There are 40 pairs of skylarks, as well as corn buntings, whitethroats and lesser

whitethroats, linnets and yellowhammers. Butterflies include marbled whites, small blues and dark green fritillaries and there are several species of orchids,' says Jane Brookhouse, RSPB Reserves Manager.

Land added to The Lodge reserve, around our UK headquarters in Bedfordshire, allowed us to begin clearing large areas of dense conifers. This area is being returned to the wonderful heathland that used to be so widespread on the Cambridgeshire–Bedfordshire border. Almost all of it was ploughed or planted with conifers long ago. The open spaces will attract heathland birds and the work has already opened up panoramas not seen for decades.

At Wood of Cree, Dumfries and Galloway, one of the RSPB's most beautiful reserves, we acquired 380 hectares of farmland between two stands of woodland, one on and one off the reserve, so that we create a continuous chain of high quality wildlife habitat, particularly for woodland birds.

A new reserve at Troup Head, Aberdeenshire, Scotland's only mainland gannetry, has 150,000 breeding seabirds. We will develop suitable visitor facilities so that people can enjoy the spectacle, without compromising the wildness of the place.

For more information visit
www.rspb.org.uk/reserves

Saving threatened birds

Many species we have been most concerned about are now increasing in numbers, in part thanks to our efforts. The stone-curlew, after a long decline, has recovered to more than 300 breeding pairs. Working closely with farmers and landowners, we helped the UK to hit its Biodiversity Action Plan target for this bird five years early. Black grouse declines can be stopped, as a small recovery in Wales shows, but more hard work by many people and organisations is needed to save them.



'There are now more places where you can see bitterns in winter than you might think, such as the Lee Valley Country Park north of London. So wrap up warm, sit quietly and you might just see one – I can assure you it's worth it.'

Simon Wotton, RSPB bittern monitoring team



After a long-term, massive decline, in 2005 more than 1,100 corncrakes called in Scotland, compared with 470 in 1993. Their numbers have increased in response to conservation efforts and crofters' and landowners' co-operation, but there has, as yet, been no expansion of range.

Nightjars have increased by more than a third since 1992, due to restoration of heaths, including our long-running projects in Dorset and Devon, and sensitive forestry management.

After annual increases since 1997 came a modest reversal to 46 male bitterns at 28 sites in 2005, although recovery remains on track and the number on our reserves increased from 16 to 17 (with 10 at Minsmere, Suffolk). Progress is good, but there is more to do. Another reedbed bird, the marsh harrier, has reached a 200-year high point of 360 nesting females, after being reduced to just one pair, nesting at Minsmere nature reserve in the 1970s.

A black grouse survey revealed mixed fortunes. In Wales, the small population has increased, and in England the decline has stopped, but Scottish black grouse are in serious decline. We are doing a great deal of work, from research to practical partnership projects, to try to give this marvellous bird a boost.

The red kite reintroduction project has been spectacularly successful. We are putting wonderful birds back into places that have not seen them for a century or more. Most re-introduced populations are self-sustaining and the original Welsh one is growing naturally. Persecution remains a concern, particularly in Scotland, and there are worries over accidental poisoning from poisons used to control rats.

Finding ways to help declining farmland wildlife is a tough proposition. It requires good science, good advocacy and tenacity to influence agriculture policy, and well-informed advice to help farmers who want to improve conditions for wildlife.

Studies of yellow wagtails, twites, corn buntings and spotted flycatchers are yielding crucial information to aid their recovery (they have all declined dramatically across the UK).

We were behind a good agri-environment scheme in Scotland to help corn buntings. The demise of this small bird, its repetitive song a symbol of summer in the countryside, seems set to replicate the decline and shrinkage of the range of the corncrake.

For more information visit www.rspb.org.uk
See *The State of the UK's Birds 2006*
and the annual *Conservation Science in the RSPB*
available from the RSPB UK Headquarters

Why do bird numbers change?

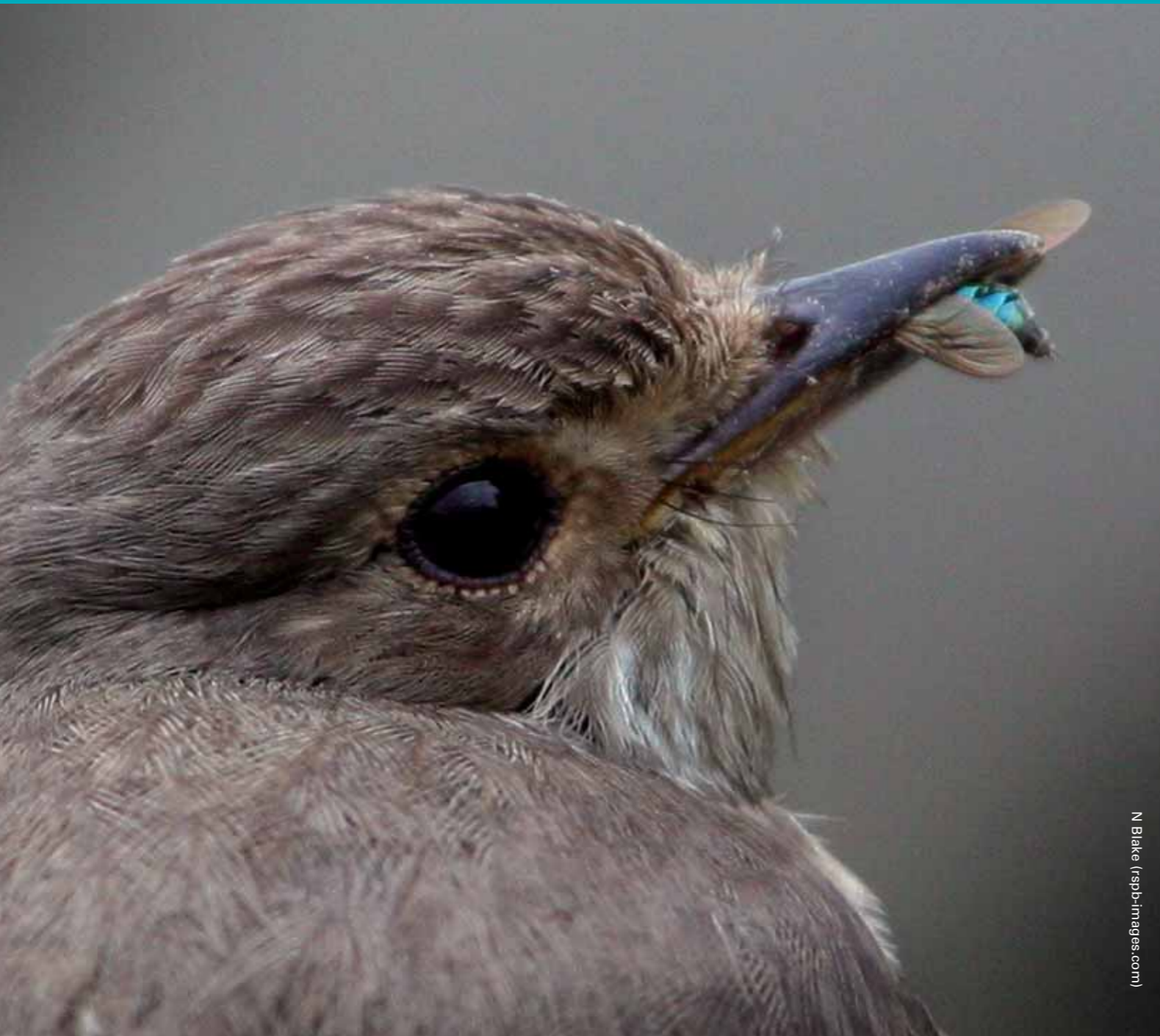
While some wild species are increasing, others are in decline. Turning downward trends around depends on understanding the reasons behind them. RSPB research aims to identify problems and steer practical action.



R Brookes (rspb-images.com)

'Recent increases in tree sparrows are probably due to conservation projects and the various agri-environment options that are now available to farmers, thanks in no small part to our research and determined lobbying.'

Guy Anderson, RSPB research scientist



N Blake (rspb-images.com)

Our research covers a wide range, with attention recently turning to the declines of woodland birds. We are working hard to find out why this is happening. It seems that those species that migrate to Africa in winter do less well, on the whole, than those that do not. It is, however, not so simple, as many year-round residents, such as the hawfinch, lesser spotted woodpecker and marsh tit, are also shrinking in numbers and range.

Farmland wildlife has been declining in the face of intensive farming for decades. Tree sparrows, having declined by 95% from 1970–1998, have become symbolic of this. Thanks in part to our work, numbers have started to recover over the last 10 years. Being able to find enough food is vital: enough seeds to see them through the winter and plenty of invertebrates to feed their chicks in the spring and summer.

Backed by our research, we have been pushing for government schemes for farmers to help tree sparrows and other farmland birds, many of which face similar problems. Farmers now have choices to help provide food for farmland birds year-round.

Birds such as tree sparrows, and more restricted species as varied as corncrakes and ciril buntings, do well when helped by well-designed agri-environment schemes. We have the means to help these birds; we

just need to make sure that they are available and attractive to farmers.

Our researchers studied subjects as varied as dung insects (important food for insect-eating birds such as swallows) in relation to veterinary treatment of cattle; the effectiveness of bells and other devices on collars in reducing predation by cats and lead poisoning in birds of prey.

We are co-operating with BirdLife International Partners on many birds and habitats elsewhere in the world. We are finding ways to save a range of species from the Azores bullfinch to Asian vultures, and from sociable lapwings in Kazakhstan to Gurney's pittas in South-east Asia.

We have examined the impact of forest fragmentation on threatened species in West Africa, the bird communities of oil palm and rubber plantations in Thailand (especially compared with those of undamaged rainforest) and the populations of spotted eagles in Belarus.

For more information visit www.rspb.org.uk
Conservation Science in the RSPB 2005 available from Conservation Science at the RSPB UK Headquarters

Preventing damage to precious places

We work, with considerable success, to ensure that sites rich in wildlife are not destroyed by development. We negotiate so that damage is avoided, whenever possible. We oppose destructive proposals robustly, where necessary.



C Gomersall (rspb-images.com)

'We really can tackle climate change without putting wind farms in highly sensitive places, such as the Lewis peatlands, and destroying wonderful species and habitats. This shouldn't be beyond us.'

Anne McCall, Head of Planning and Development in Scotland



John Maclean

The RSPB seeks to influence developers and decision makers to protect and enhance biodiversity and to create sustainable development. We support renewable energy, so long as it does not damage wildlife. Some developers, however, continue to promote highly damaging schemes within protected areas. Proposals for a wind farm on Lewis in the Western Isles involve more than 100 turbines over a vast area, which would cause massive damage to protected peatland habitats and threatened birds, such as divers and eagles. In many cases we are able to work constructively with developers. Between 2000 and 2005, the RSPB objected to only 84 wind farm proposals, 9% of the 933 windfarm cases that we dealt with. The lack of strategic planning to ensure wind farms are not proposed near sensitive areas remains a key issue, but progress has been made in Wales and the Highlands.

The Government gave an amber light for a port on the Thames, requiring a habitat compensation package. We argued that this, plus expansion at Felixstowe, would satisfy the national need for container port capacity and do least harm to wildlife. Nevertheless, the Government approved a further port at Bathside Bay in Essex, within the Stour Estuary SSSI and Special Protection Area, for which we agreed a habitat compensation package. A recent

Government consultation on ports policy finally accepted our argument for a strategic assessment of national port capacity.

The Government is undertaking a limited review of options to dual the A303 at Stonehenge, as rising costs have caused a tunnel option, recommended at a public inquiry, to be re-examined. Several options would damage both the wildlife and archaeology of the area. One suggested route goes straight through our Normanton Down reserve. The RSPB is urging the Government to approve the tunnel option, which we consider the least damaging available for biodiversity and the cultural heritage of the area.

Increasing numbers of houses being built next to heathland, particularly in the Thames Basin, pose a risk that increased recreational use will cause disturbance to birds such as nightjars and woodlarks. We are working with English Nature and local authorities to ensure that alternative areas for recreation reduce the dependence on heaths, so that housing needs can be met and people can continue to enjoy this special landscape and its birds.

For more on the RSPB's actions to protect irreplaceable sites, visit www.rspb.org.uk/countryside/sites
Get involved in local issues: for a *Planning for Wildlife* leaflet e-mail wildlife@rspb.org.uk

Influencing policies for the environment

Government policies, from trade to agriculture, from water to planning, from local issues to global ones, all affect wildlife dramatically. Much of our extensive advocacy work on these subjects is complex and time consuming, but we are making good progress. Our involvement in the Stop Climate Chaos coalition gave strong support to a call for effective government action.



P Cairns (rspb-images.com)

‘Climate change is a frightening prospect: one that too few of us are taking seriously. Incentives for renewable energy are hugely welcome but they do not mean wildlife sites are now up for grabs.’

Paul Jefferiss, Head of Environmental Policy



P Cairns (rspb-images.com)

Climate change is the biggest threat, to wildlife and people alike. We focused on the UK chairmanship of the G8 and presidency of the EU, as climate change topped their agendas. We attended the international Kyoto Protocol and Climate Change Convention and talks in Montreal, where negotiations began on emission reductions after 2012. We helped found the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, to increase public pressure on politicians for urgent action. Energy saving and efficiency are top priorities. Renewable technologies have a major role to play, but we are alarmed that some proposals for green power threaten to destroy environments that renewables are intended to help save. We published a report to show how Scotland can meet its future energy needs by developing renewables in a wildlife-friendly way.

In Northern Ireland, we campaigned successfully for a review of environmental governance. Scotland’s new Nature Conservation Act contains many ideas championed by the RSPB and focuses on SSSI management, biodiversity plans and wildlife crime.

Our response to the threat of avian flu helped guide the Government and counter media excesses. A silver lining was a temporary ban on the wild bird trade – we will strive to make the ban permanent.

We made strong recommendations to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), particularly regarding

agriculture. Trade rules shape markets and affect farmers’ livelihoods, the way they manage their land and the well-being and economic prospects of 1.3 billion people who depend on farming worldwide. The expansion and intensification of agriculture is a major threat to global biodiversity.

After recent reform of the Common Agricultural Policy to favour environmentally-aware farming, the EU budget settlement, negotiated by the UK, was a backward step. The environment of southern and eastern Europe, in particular, will suffer.

Most UK seabirds have reared few young in recent summers. Climate change, re-shaping ocean currents and the distribution of fish on which seabirds feed, and overfishing, are probably implicated. We influenced the Scottish Executive’s offshore fisheries strategy, with a commitment to safeguard marine habitats and the biodiversity of our seas. The EU Fisheries Council ignored scientific advice on UK fish quotas, however, rejecting, for example, a ban on cod fishing. Ministers did agree to continue the closure of the North Sea sandeel fishery, good news for seabirds, which suffer from sandeel shortages as stocks remain far below safe levels.

For more information visit www.rspb.org.uk
For details of the report on Scotland’s energy, see www.rspb.org.uk/scotland/policy/renewables

Working for birds around the world

Saving albatrosses from extinction will take years of effort, but we now have people on vessels in the Southern Oceans helping fishermen to avoid killing albatrosses. Saving vultures in South Asia is another huge challenge we chose to take on with partner organisations. This work led the Prime Minister of India to announce a ban on the veterinary drug that kills vultures.



M Gore (FLPA)

'Fantastic news: the Indian government has told drug companies to stop making diclofenac, which poisoned vultures, and instead sell a drug that we have helped prove is safe. This could be the turning point that saves the vultures.'
Chris Bowden, Vulture Programme Director



A Rouse (NHFA)

Albatross conservation continues to be a priority, as they are killed in horrifying numbers, day after day, caught and drowned on longline fishing hooks. A fundraising dinner, with Prince Charles and Dame Ellen MacArthur, highlighted the plight of the world's albatrosses and allowed us to launch our Albatross Task Force, to work with fishermen to make longlining less lethal to birds.

The crucial conservation breeding programme to save Asian vultures from extinction was helped by an expansion of the Haryana centre, and new aviaries in Bengal. Once diclofenac is eliminated from the environment, captive-bred birds can safely be released to repopulate the region.

As our forest protection project gets underway in the Gola Forest, Sierra Leone, 50 people have been marking boundaries, enforcing legislation and surveying birds. The presence of elephants and pygmy hippos was confirmed.

'This unique development has helped us to conserve our forest. We extend gratitude to the RSPB and I appeal to the international community to support the project as well as environmental protection of other areas,' said President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

In Poland, the EU LIFE Nature Fund agreed to support a £3.7 million project to restore wetlands for

a host of species, including the threatened aquatic warbler. With BirdLife Poland (OTOP), we played a pivotal role in getting the grant and will help to buy and restore 1,800 ha (4,300 acres) of fens next to the Biebrza National Park over the next few years.

Killing of migratory birds around the Mediterranean has long been a source of dismay and huge frustration. There are signs of progress. In Cyprus, action to get wildlife laws enforced has saved 20 million birds since 2002. A complaint to the EU, by BirdLife Partners including ourselves, about slow progress in Malta reduced the notoriously high level of killing there.

Also in Europe, a set of wild bird indicators, released by the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring scheme, painted a mixed picture, much of it bad. Common farmland birds have declined sharply, and common forest birds have declined moderately, over the last 25 years. Common generalist birds increased. Changing agricultural methods, especially increased specialisation and intensification, is behind the decline of farmland birds, but why forest birds have declined is not so well understood.

Visit www.vulturerescue.org
Read the Albatross Task Force diaries at:
www.savethealbatross.net

Inspiring people

A record 480,000 people enjoyed Aren't birds brilliant! events. Nesting ospreys in Gwynedd attracted more than 75,000 visits. In London, 32,000 visitors saw peregrines at Tate Modern in August. The BBC's *Springwatch* brought white-tailed eagles and the RSPB's work on Mull into the homes of millions of families, and helped illustrate the power of wildlife as a tourist attraction. Connecting people with nature helps build a passion for wildlife and support for conservation.



'Some haven't experienced anything like it. Even wet weather doesn't dampen their enjoyment. A group of four year-olds on a pouring wet day didn't mind a bit – fascinated by the colours and the sound of the rain!'

**Malcolm Evans,
Education Officer,
Sandwell Valley**



Our RSPB Wildlife Explorers membership for young people reached 150,000, catering for three age groups up to 16 years old. RSPB Phoenix membership is available to older teenagers: their conference saw 29 committed teenagers putting MPs and Ministers – including the Chancellor – on the spot about climate change.

Our reserves that welcome children on educational visits, such as Rye Meads in Hertfordshire, Lochwinnoch in Renfrewshire and Conwy in North Wales, are hugely successful. Teaching on reserves continues to grow, against the UK trend, testifying to the quality of the experience: it was rated excellent or very good by 96% of visiting teachers, who accompanied 61,000 children, up by 20%. RSPB teachers visited thousands of children in schools.

Sandwell Valley, West Midlands, is one example of a reserve widely used by local communities and schools. More unusual courses on offer include a poetry day linked to literacy for primary children, and a science revision day for Year 6 children. Even recycling is not neglected. Children are encouraged to sort the rubbish from their packed lunches and recycle it.

For many children, 'the Sandwell experience' continues during school holidays. Financed by the local council, our field teachers run popular holiday

clubs for 5–7 and 8–11 year olds and, by special request, a more challenging club for 12–16s.

Sandwell's staff work imaginatively to involve the community. Groups that meet at the reserve include a parent and toddler group called Baby Birds, an over-50s group and RSPB Wildlife Explorer and Phoenix clubs. Site manager Lee Copplestone speaks of his drive to encourage an ever-wider spectrum of the population to visit and learn from this wonderful green nature reserve, so close to the M5 and M6 and to Birmingham.

Away from our nature reserves, Aren't birds brilliant! events went from strength to strength, attracting thousands of people to enjoy birds, from remote countryside sites and coastal cliffs to unexpectedly urban locations. Excellent working relationships with partners ensure the success of many schemes. Five Aren't Welsh Birds Brilliant! schemes welcomed 113,000 visitors. Symonds Yat Rock, Herefordshire, is a long-running public viewpoint with RSPB staff and volunteers on hand. Here, 42,000 people enjoyed seeing peregrines. At Rockingham Forest, Northamptonshire, a camera relayed pictures of nesting kites to a public viewpoint.

To find out more about seeing birds near you, visit www.rspb.org.uk/brilliant

Focus on Scotland

Scotland has many of the UK's most exciting birds and wildlife places, which attract increasing numbers of people. Yet here we also face some of the UK's greatest conservation challenges. The RSPB is working with others to protect and restore species and habitats, some of which are in serious decline. This work conserves and enriches Scotland's assets for the future, while creating new opportunities for thousands of people to enjoy our spectacular wildlife today.



'From the crofter who stooks oats to help corn buntings, to the volunteer who explains the habits of ospreys to enthralled visitors, we depend on the support and enthusiasm of many people in our conservation work.'

**Stuart Housden,
Director, Scotland**



Farmers and crofters using corncrake-friendly techniques helped create a record year for corncrakes in Scotland – Coll enjoyed an 18% increase. Some older residents say the night-time rasp of the corncrakes is almost matching childhood memories.

At least 75 pairs of red kites bred in 2005, including 12 in Dumfries and Galloway, where the Kite Trail has helped build support for the birds. Sadly, in the Black Isle, kites suffer poor survival and the population struggles to expand. In 2005, four young birds were killed and five went missing.

Our work to stem the capercaillie's decline continues. While a survey of 75 capercaillie display sites found fewer males, more hens were seen than at any time in the last decade. Sadly, few chicks survived the wet June. We are working hard, too, to solve the problems faced by black grouse. Change is needed at a landscape scale if we are to reverse a 29% decline in 10 years in Scotland. We are collaborating closely with Forestry Commission Scotland and other landowners on this.

We are working harder to understand the impacts of climate change on birds, to help us adapt without losing familiar wildlife. Ring ouzels are declining fast, and changing climate patterns may partly be responsible, both in the UK and in North Africa.

We contributed knowledge and expertise to discussions on agricultural reform, so that changes will benefit wildlife as well as supporting a sustainable rural economy. Our work with farmers takes many forms. In Angus, Tayside and Fife we increased the number of farms taking steps to help corn buntings. Tackling declines in farmland wading birds, such as lapwings and redshanks, is a high priority. The declines were reduced but not eliminated on farms signed up to the Rural Stewardship's 'wader-friendly' options. Other farmland birds are doing well on our reserves despite declines elsewhere, such as breeding skylarks at Mersehead beside the Solway.

We launched a partnership project to help the great yellow bumblebee, once common throughout Britain but now confined to the Western Isles, Coll, Tiree, Orkney and a few sites in Caithness and Sutherland. With farmers and crofters, we will restore flowery machair and hay meadows along with their unique wildlife, including these bees and corncrakes.

Thanks to generous members, we extended our Wood of Cree nature reserve in Dumfries & Galloway (above), helping to realise the ambition of dedicated local people, in the Cree Valley Community Woodland Trust, to link fragments of ancient woods in the Cree Valley.

continued overleaf

Safeguarding Scotland's seas

The marine environment contains half of Scotland's biodiversity, including magnificent populations of breeding seabirds and wintering shorebirds. These are threatened by developments of many kinds, from overfishing to poorly designed renewable power schemes.

We helped ensure that sustainable development is at the heart of the Scottish Executive's strategy for coasts and seas. We wish to see marine protected areas, sustainable frameworks for all fisheries and aquaculture, and a comprehensive coastal strategy.

Seabirds continue to be a priority following another disastrous breeding season. A single Arctic tern chick was reared on our North Hill reserve in Orkney, where in the past almost 2,000 pairs have bred.

We stepped up our research to understand what is happening. Climate change probably plays a part. Shortages of sandeels are significant; we welcomed the continued closure of the North Sea fishery. Given the importance of Scotland's seabirds – some 45% of Europe's seabirds breed here – this will continue as a major focus of our work.



A Rouse (andy.rouse.co.uk)

'Mull is the UK's wildlife watching capital. White-tailed eagles are important to us. They are doing so well only thanks to local volunteers, the police, the farmers and land managers who all do so much to help.'

David Sexton, Mull Officer



G Eaton (eatonphotography.co.uk)

Our work to protect Scotland's wildlife sites includes monitoring and, when necessary, opposing development proposals. Wind farm proposals create a huge workload, as we offer guidance to developers to minimise impacts on wildlife. Overshadowing this came the proposal for a huge wind farm on a designated site on Lewis, home to iconic species such as eagles and divers, and to breeding dunlins and golden plovers.

A strategy for the Flows of Caithness and Sutherland, developed with local people, farmers, crofters and other landowners, economic and community groups, aims to bring local benefits without damaging the peatland. We were deeply involved with developing the strategy and have already removed 1,800 ha of planted conifers in 10 years, restoring vast areas of precious habitats.

More than 11,500 children in Scotland enjoyed learning about nature with us, many benefiting from specialist field-teaching on our nature reserves. We also helped EcoSchools, which involves some 80% of Scotland's schools, to develop a biodiversity learning module.

With Glasgow City Council, we installed displays in Glasgow, encouraging people to pause and look at wildlife around them. We reached 100,000 people through talks, events and activities, from projecting

wildlife films on a city centre plasma screen to activities on our nature reserves.

Many local people took advantage of our guided walks on Lewis, and we have extended these to the Uists. We do a huge range of work, from the practical such as new footpaths to innovative projects such as Caperwatch at the Loch Garten Osprey Centre, to help people get closer to nature while minimising disturbance to vulnerable wildlife. Within the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, we try to ensure that access rights are exercised responsibly.

Ospreys, white-tailed eagles, hen harriers and red kites offer many people a fantastic experience; they also make a multi-million pound contribution to Scotland's economy. Ospreys brought an additional £2.2 million into the economy through visitor expenditure. In Orkney, £1.3 million is spent by the 9,000 tourists drawn to the islands specifically to see their dramatic seabird cities, flowers and mammals.

From giving former drug and alcohol abusers outdoor volunteering roles, to helping people back to work by developing new skills, our volunteer network continues to grow. Some 1,800 regular volunteers, our members and many other supporters and funding partners make our work possible. We extend our sincere thanks to them all.

For more information visit www.rspb.org.uk/scotland

Focus on Northern Ireland

In 2006, we celebrated 40 years of the RSPB in Northern Ireland, with a gala fundraising dinner and our 40th anniversary environment awards. Conservation work continued apace, amidst some major changes to the system of government in Northern Ireland. These, including a wide-ranging examination of wildlife and habitat protection, will affect our work in many ways.



'Our nature reserves are more important than ever as birds such as lapwings, snipe and curlews continue to decline in the countryside. Our reserves are home to nearly half of Northern Ireland's breeding redshanks.'
Gregory Woulahan, Reserves Manager



When a review of environmental governance was announced, we called for an independent environment protection agency to be established. The public administration system in Northern Ireland is being streamlined, reducing the number of local councils from 26 to seven and handing some planning responsibility to them. We have been closely involved with these reviews, which have far-reaching implications for conservation.

We responded to a rural development plan consultation and to proposed new charity legislation. We were closely involved in creating Northern Ireland's first sustainable development strategy. Our campaign to ensure the designation of nationally important sites as Areas of Special Scientific Interest – ASSIs – criticised progress so far, with just 200 of more than 400 qualifying sites designated. We brought together politicians, statutory agencies and schools in a unique event at Stormont to draw attention to the problem.

Our education work continued to develop and our partnership with the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has seen nearly 6,000 school children enjoying RSPB-led field-teaching sessions throughout the year.

We launched our vision for agriculture, *A Living Countryside*, which advocates profitable wildlife-

friendly farming through the provision of public funds for biodiversity, clean water and clean air. Recovery projects were developed for breeding wading birds, especially lapwings, and for seed-eating farmland birds, especially yellowhammers. A key species is the hen harrier, with nearly 60 breeding pairs. We are researching their lifestyles and requirements, co-operating with Quercus, at Queens University.

Our Rathlin Island nature reserve was extended by 23 ha (58 acres). This means that we can do an even better job for corncrakes in future. At Carlingford and Larne Loughs, we installed roseate tern nestboxes. Portmore Lough now has good lapwing habitat: six nesting pairs were a first there.

Our members and volunteers are, as always, vital to our work, with an invaluable contribution by more than 160 volunteers and eight local groups. Nearly 130 members attended our annual members' day in November and the Big Garden Birdwatch saw a 60% rise in the number of participants, to 6,200.

For more information visit www.rspb.org.uk/nireland
For a copy of the agriculture report, *A Living Countryside*, contact the Northern Ireland HQ

Left: we are working hard to make cliff-top habitats better for birds such as the chough.

Focus on Wales

Wales has breathtaking landscapes and evocative birds. Much of our effort was directed at the 27 species of highest conservation concern in Wales, including the hen harrier. Some, such as the black grouse, show what can be done when circumstances are right and partner organisations work closely together. Our work continues to attract essential support from members, dedicated staff and volunteers and from external funders and partners listed at the end of this Review.



nageistock.com (Alamy)

‘Our new, detailed handbook shows how organic farming at our Lake Vyrnwy reserve can produce top quality beef and lamb, while helping birds of the farm to recover their numbers.’

**Richard Farmer,
Reserves Manager**



M Schuyf (Alamy)

Lapwings continued to decline across Wales but, at our Ynys-hir reserve, a healthy 81 pairs nested on areas managed specially for them. Black grouse are doing better in Wales than elsewhere in the UK, with a 30% increase since 1995–96, but even here their range has contracted.

At Lake Vyrnwy, five pairs of hen harriers, the most persecuted birds in the UK, raised 13 young, a record for the reserve. A partnership project to save the turtle dove as a breeding species in Wales recorded four singing males, in Monmouthshire, a faint glimmer of hope.

Arctic terns on The Skerries nature reserve off Anglesey reached a record 2,500 breeding pairs, excellent news for a species that has declined historically, and against a backdrop of seabird declines across the north of the UK.

Our Aren’t birds brilliant! schemes attracted a record number of visitors to see black grouse, red kites, peregrines, honey buzzards and the only nesting pair of ospreys in Wales, which reared two young in the Glaslyn valley. Our mobile cinema took wildlife spectacles to more than 25,000 people at shows and events across the country. More requests for radio and television interviews than ever gave more than 100 opportunities to see and hear about a broad

spectrum of our work. In 2006, 25,000 people took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, a record for Wales, counting 481,540 birds. House sparrows remained number one, despite declines in much of the UK.

After more than five years’ hard work, £3.2 million was secured for an education and visitor centre at Newport Wetlands. In north Wales, with the help of more than £113,000 of grant aid, we upgraded the visitor centre and teaching facilities at our Conwy nature reserve.

Sharing good practice with European neighbours, the RSPB hosted a four-day conference in Cardiff with BirdLife International colleagues from 13 countries. Delegates learned how European Union funding has helped conservation projects in Wales, including Aren’t Welsh Birds Brilliant! They visited the Newport Wetlands and attended an event at the new Assembly building, hosted by Sandy Mewies AM, Chair of the European External Affairs Committee, and Carwyn Jones AM, Minister for Environment Planning and Countryside.

Following several years of bilingual publications, the RSPB’s Welsh Language Scheme was approved by the Welsh Language Board. This represents a long-term commitment by the RSPB towards producing all of its communications bilingually in Wales.

Continued overleaf

Left: a record number of hen harrier chicks at Lake Vyrnwy is good news for a persecuted bird.

Volunteers make their mark in Wales

Volunteers in Wales contributed more than 34,000 hours of time – an increase of more than 6,000 hours over the past year. They performed everything from office-based tasks and letter-writing, to practical work on reserves and showing people birds at Aren't birds brilliant! sites.

Community fundraising volunteers helped to raise a spectacular £63,000 through local collections and

pin badge sales. Voluntary work is extremely valuable to the RSPB, in terms of the number of jobs completed, many of which we could not otherwise contemplate, but also financially.

For more information visit www.rspb.org.uk/wales
For more about organic farming at Lake Vyrnwy, go to www.rspb.org.uk/wales/action/organic

Golwg ar Gymru

Yng Nghymru mae tirluniau bendigedig ac adar rhagorol. Canolbwynt llawer o'n ymdrechion oedd y 27 rhywogaeth o adar sy'n peri'r pryder mwyaf o ran cadwraeth yng Nghymru, yn cynnwys y boda tinwyn. Dengys achosion fel yr ymdrech ar ran y rugiar ddu bod modd cyflawni llawer pan fo'r amgylchiadau yn iawn a phan fo cyrff yn cydweithio'n agos mewn partneriaeth. Mae ein gwaith yn parhau i ddenu cefnogaeth hanfodol ein haelodau, staff a gwirfoddolwyr ymroddedig yn ogystal ag arianwyr allanol a'r partneriaid a restrir ar ddiwedd yr Adolygiad hwn.

Parhaodd y gornchwiglen i brinhau ledled Cymru ond, ar ein gwarchodfa yn Ynys-hir, nythodd 81 pâr ar lecynnau o dir a reolir yn arbennig ar eu cyfer. Mae sefyllfa'r rugiar ddu yn well yng Nghymru na manau eraill o'r DU, gyda chynnydd o 30% ers 1995-96, ond hyd yn oed yma mae eu cynefin wedi crebachu.

Ar lannau Llyn Efyrynwy, llwyddodd pum pâr o fodaod tinwyn, yr adar sy'n dioddef fwyaf ledled y DU o ganlyniad i erledigaeth, i fagu 13 o gywion, y nifer uchaf erioed ar y warchodfa. Mewn project partneriaeth i achub y durtur dorhog fel rhywogaeth sy'n nythu yng Nghymru cofnodwyd pedwar ceiliog yn canu yn Sir Fynwy, sy'n rhoi rhyw lygedyn o obaith ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Ar Ynysoedd y Moelrhoniaid oddi ar Ynys Môn nythodd y nifer uchaf erioed, sef 2,500 pâr, o fôr-wenoliaid y Gogledd. Dyma newyddion ardderchog i rywogaeth sydd wedi prinhau'n hanesyddol, yn enwedig o ystyried bod adar môr yn prinhau ledled gogledd y DU.

Ymwelodd y nifer uchaf erioed o bobl â'n projectau 'Tydy adar yn wych!' er mwyn cael cipolwg ar y rugiar ddu, y barcud, yr hebog tramor, boda'r mêl a'r unig bâr o weilch y pysgod sy'n nythu yng

Nghymru, a lwyddodd i fagu dau gyw ar lannau'r Afon Glaslyn. Dangoswyd lluniau o fywyd gwylt rhyfeddol i fwy na 25,000 o bobl yn ein sinema symudol a deithiodd i sioeau a digwyddiadau ledled y wlad.

O ganlyniad i fwy na 100 o geisiadau am gyfweiliadau radio a theledu, mwy nag erioed o'r blaen, cafwyd cyfleoedd lu i sôn wrth bobl am ein gwaith amrywiol. Yn 2006, bu 25,000 o bobl yn cymryd rhan yn y cynllun Gwyllo Adar yr Ardd, y nifer uchaf erioed yng Nghymru, a llwyddwyd i gyfrif 481,540 o adar. Yr aderyn y to oedd ar y brig unwaith eto, er ei fod wedi prinhau mewn llawer ardal yn y DU.

Wedi mwy na phum mlynedd o waith dygn, sicrhawyd £3.2 miliwn ar gyfer canolfan addysg ac ymwelwyr ar warchodfa Gwlyptir Casnewydd. Yng Ngogledd Cymru, gyda chymorth grant o dros £113,000, sicrhawyd gwelliannau i'r ganolfan ymwelwyr ac i'r adnoddau addysg ar ein gwarchodfa natur yng Nghonwy.

Gan rannu ymarfer da gyda'n cymdogion Ewropeaidd, trefnodd yr RSPB gynhadledd bedair diwrnod yng Nghaerdydd gyda chydweithwyr BirdLife International o 13 gwlad. Dysgodd y

parhad ar dudalen 31



Gwirfoddolwyr yn gadael eu hól ar Gymru

Cyfrannodd gwirfoddolwyr yng Nghymru fwy na 34,000 awr o amser – cynnydd o fwy na 6,000 awr dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Bu'r gwirfoddolwyr yn gwneud pob math o bethau yn amrywio o orchwylion mewn swyddfa ac ysgrifennu llythyrau i waith ymarferol ar warchodfeydd a dangos adar i bobl ar safleoedd Tydy adar yn wych!

Gyda chymorth gwirfoddolwyr codi arian cymunedol llwyddwyd i gasglu'r swm anhygoel o

£63,000 drwy gyfrwng casgliadau lleol a thrwy werthu bathodynau pin. Mae gwaith gwirfoddol yn hynod o werthfawr i'r RSPB o ran y nifer o orchwylion y mae'n bosibl eu cyflawni, oherwydd ni fyddem fel arall yn gallu ystyried rhoi llawer o'r rhain ar waith, heb sôn am eu hariannu.



'Dengys ein llawlyfr newydd a manwl sut all ffermio organig ar ein gwarchodfa ar lan Llyn Efyrrwy gynhyrchu cig eidion a chig oen o'r ansawdd gorau, tra'n helpu adar y fferm i adfer eu niferoedd.'

Richard Farmer,
Rheolwr Gwarchodfeydd



cynadleddwyr sut roedd arian gan yr Undeb Ewropeaidd wedi helpu projectau cadwraeth yng Nghymru, yn cynnwys Adar Campus Cymru! Trefnwyd ymweliad â Gwlyptir Casnewydd a mynychwyd digwyddiad yn adeilad newydd y Cynulliad. Yn eu croesawu yma roedd Sandy Mewies AC, Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Materion Allanol Ewropeaidd a Carwyn Jones AC, Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad.

Yn dilyn sawl blwyddyn o gyhoeddi dogfennau dwyieithog, cymeradwywyd Cynllun Iaith Gymraeg yr RSPB gan Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg. Mae hyn yn cynrychioli ymrwymiad tymor hir gan yr RSPB tuag at gynhyrchu ei holl chyfathrebiadau yng Nghymru yn ddwyieithog.

Am ragor o wybodaeth, ewch i www.rspb.org.uk/wales
Am fwy o wybodaeth am ffermio organig yn Llyn Efyrrwy, ewch i www.rspb.org.uk/wales/action/organic

The financial year

A summary of the financial highlights

For the RSPB, more income means more conservation work. We do not build up large financial reserves, and our conservation effort therefore depends on sustainable funding. We are extremely grateful for all the support from members and others that made our work possible during the year.

A doubling of expenditure is normally reported with some trepidation—but we are celebrating it. The RSPB spent £7 million on land for nature reserves last year, and more than £3 million on building facilities for visitors, field teaching and the host of other activities that form part of everyday life at an RSPB reserve.

The corresponding total in 2004–05 was £5 million. Acquisitions included both extensions to important existing reserves, such as Brading Marshes, Isle of Wight and The Lodge, Bedfordshire, and brilliant new places, such as Manor Farm, Wiltshire.

Thinking big isn't restricted to UK nature reserves. Plans to support Burung, our BirdLife International Partner in Indonesia, to protect a large tract of Sumatran rainforest, were well advanced by the end of the year. This visionary work is made possible by several organisations working together and the 2005–06 accounts include a significant part of the RSPB's contribution.

But there is much more to the RSPB than these headline projects. Our work depends upon many people, on nature reserves and elsewhere, undertaking detailed analysis or seeking to persuade others to act in the interests of the environment.

Projects large and small need paying for. As always, RSPB members provide the bulk of the income that

enables us to embark on programmes with confidence. Most importantly, 90% of our one million members renew their subscriptions each year. And 75% (and rising) boost the value of their payments by allowing the RSPB to claim Gift Aid.

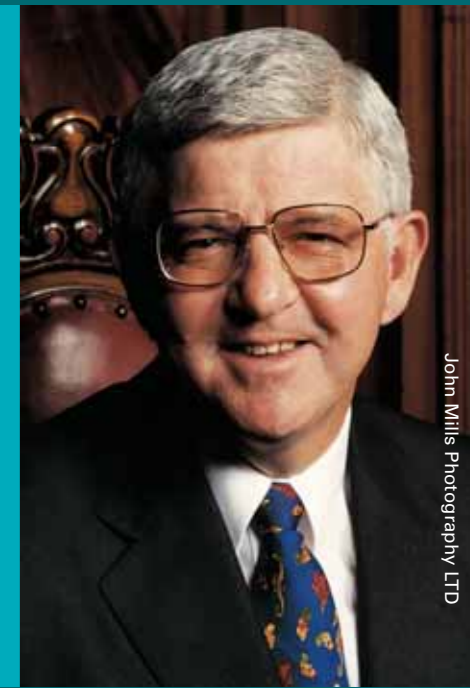
A glance at the 'Incoming Resources' in the financial report overleaf underlines the importance of membership subscriptions and legacies. But we particularly draw attention to a couple of captions below these.

Grants, commercial donations and trusts income grew by 27%, through support for projects and land purchases. General donations increased by 39%, mainly a result of increased fundraising in local communities, boosted considerably by the popularity of our pin badges.

Moving in the opposite direction, appeals income fell, following a good year in 2004–05. It would, however, be remiss not to mention the generous response from RSPB members to the Nature Trust, a charity established specifically to stimulate projects supported by the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. We were delighted by the response, which generated more than £580,000, including over £100,000 of Gift Aid. Combined with the contribution from landfill operators, this will enable conservation work to benefit by an impressive £5 million.



'A glance at the "Incoming Resources" in the financial report overleaf underlines the importance of membership subscriptions and legacies.'



Another key development involves RSPB Trading. To improve our products and service in the growing bird care market, we have taken steps to manage this activity more closely. Our balance sheet reflects the higher stock levels required: an investment made in anticipation of generating increased funds for conservation.

Overall, cash and investments available for future activities fell by £8 million. This was largely budgeted for, in recognition of the land acquisition opportunities highlighted above. This leaves our free financial reserves at £12.6 million, representing eight weeks' expenditure.

This year's report includes our pension fund liability. Under previous guidelines, this information was included only as a note. We have previously drawn attention to a deficit arising mainly as a result of the decline in stock market valuations and explained the steps taken to balance the books. We are pleased to report that stock market performance has outstripped expectations, contributing to the increase in asset values. The RSPB took the opportunity of strong investment returns to transfer

a £3 million lump sum to the pension scheme towards eliminating its deficit.

On the other side of the equation, life expectancy is increasing at an unprecedented rate and this has added to the liability. The net result as calculated on the basis prescribed for our accounts is a deficit of £19.8 million. However, the full 'Triennial Valuation' scheduled for this year will reflect better the significant progress made over the past three years in addressing this issue. Details will be given in next year's Report and Accounts.

A question at last October's AGM reminded us that income should never be taken for granted. It was observed that we had ceased to highlight in our accounts the valuable contribution made every time someone uses an RSPB credit card. We are indebted to the questioner for giving us the opportunity to highlight the £458,000 income received last year from the Co-operative Bank.

This is an important source of income for us, but is just one of the many ways in which our members and supporters choose to support the RSPB.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Sharpe".

Alan Sharpe – Director of Finance

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Barnacle".

Bryan Barnacle – Honorary Treasurer

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 March 2006

	2006 £'000	2005 £'000 (Restated)
INCOMING RESOURCES		
VOLUNTARY INCOME		
Membership subscriptions	24,692	23,668
Legacies	23,354	21,099
Grants, commercial donations & trusts	16,448	12,980
General donations & reserve entry fees	2,983	2,147
Appeals	2,640	3,072
Local groups	344	320
	70,461	63,286
ACTIVITIES TO GENERATE FUNDS		
Mail order & shop income	10,834	10,967
Media advertising & inserts	1,392	1,309
Lotteries	875	857
Commercial sponsorship	652	714
	13,753	13,847
INVESTMENT INCOME AND INTEREST		
	1,155	1,064
ACTIVITIES TO FURTHER THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS		
Land & farming income	1,198	989
Fees & grants for services	1,040	892
Events & media sales	557	580
	2,795	2,461
OTHER INCOME		
Net gains on disposals of fixed assets	120	190
Total incoming resources	88,284	80,848
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
COST OF GENERATING FUNDS		
Costs of generating voluntary income	6,769	6,160
Activities to generate funds including cost of goods	11,721	11,517
Investment management costs	73	63
Total cost of generating funds	18,563	17,740
Net resources available for charitable purposes	69,721	63,108
CHARITABLE REVENUE EXPENDITURE		
Species and habitat conservation	28,728	23,891
Conservation on nature reserves	20,890	18,244
Education, publications and films	10,262	7,566
Membership services and enquiries	3,877	5,078
Total charitable revenue expenditure	63,757	54,779
GOVERNANCE COSTS		
Net incoming resources before (losses)/gains	5,590	7,944
Gains on investments	3,275	1,482
Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension scheme	(5,178)	(612)
Net movement in funds	3,687	8,814

APPLICATION OF NET FUNDS

for the year ended 31 March 2006

	2006 £'000	2005 £'000 (Restated)
Net movement in funds brought forward	3,687	8,814
USE OF NET FUNDS		
Charitable capital expenditure		
Nature reserves	10,399	4,737
Other tangible assets	(321)	52
Movement on stock, debtors & creditors (including pension)	1,754	369
	11,832	5,158
Movement in cash & investments available for future activities	(8,145)	3,656
Cash & investments available at start of period	29,721	26,065
Total cash & investments available for future activities	21,576	29,721

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

as at 31 March 2006

	2006 £'000	2005 £'000 (Restated)
CASH & INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES		
General purposes	8,578	18,215
Designated	6,584	5,346
Restricted	4,373	4,603
Endowment	2,041	1,557
Total cash & investments available for future activities	21,576	29,721
Nature reserves	78,116	67,717
Other tangible assets	4,764	5,085
Stock, debtors & creditors	4,030	498
Net assets excluding pension liability	108,486	103,021
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(19,800)	(18,022)
Net assets	88,686	84,999

AUDITORS' STATEMENT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE RSPB

We have examined the summarised financial statements which comprise the summary consolidated statement of financial activities, application of net funds and statement of net assets set out above.

This report is made solely to the Charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2005* (SORP). Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the SORP. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and

Trustees' Annual Report. We also read the other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work having regard to Bulletin 1999/6 *The auditors' statement on the summary financial statement* and Practice Note 11 *The audit of charities* issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion, the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of the RSPB for the year ended 31 March 2006.

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors,
Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR

4 July 2006

THE FULL AUDITED ACCOUNTS were approved on 4 July 2006 and, together with the Annual Report, have been submitted to the Charity Commission. The opinion of the auditor was unqualified. These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information the full accounts, the auditors' report on those accounts and the Trustees' Annual Report should be consulted. Copies can be obtained, free of charge, from the Director of Finance, The RSPB, UK Headquarters, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

Signed on behalf of the Council:



Ian Newton, Chairman, 4 July 2006

Acknowledgements

Members

The success of RSPB achievements depends on the support and loyalty of its members. Meeting the rigorous conservation targets that we set simply would not be possible without the enormous contributions that members make. Members help in a variety of 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.

Local groups

RSPB local groups and RSPB Wildlife Explorer groups worked unstintingly over the year. They provide a great focus for us in local communities, involving lots of people in our work, and raise valuable funds for RSPB conservation projects.

On behalf of RSPB local groups and Wildlife Explorer groups throughout the UK, we would like to thank Awards For All (supported by the five ‘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 12,500 volunteers last year, giving the RSPB a gift of time of over 655,000 hours. This is equivalent to an extra 335 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.

Legacies

Once again we are astounded by the generosity of supporters 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. Our thanks go posthumously to each and every one. We would like to recognise them all by name, but this is not possible. However, there are a few people that we would like to mention.

Dorothy Irene Dinnage-Allen
Christopher Groves
Lucy Francis Leake
Muriel Ivy Georgina Stevenson
Robert Gulliford Sutton
John Woodgate Brooks

Heritage Lottery Fund

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

Charitable trusts and individual donors

We are grateful for the support received from charitable trusts and from individual donors and would particularly like to acknowledge the following:

A J H Ashby Trust
The Banister Charitable Trust
Bridge House Trust
The Geoffrey Burton Charitable Trust
Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey
The Leslie Mary Carter Charitable Trust
Mr F J Collins and Mrs D M Collins*
Conservation International – Global Conservation Fund
The Ernest Cook Trust
A S Davey*
Doga Dernegi
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation through the Glasgow Natural History Society
The Faslane Trust
Fidelity UK Foundation
Doris Field Charitable Trust
Frankfurter Zoologische Gesellschaft (FZG)
Gannochy Trust
Gillman Charitable Trusts
The A B Grace Trust
Susan H Guy Charitable Trust
Dr Robert Hallelwell
Phyllis Margaret Hole*
The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
The A G Leventis Foundation
Leicestershire Wildlife Trust
David Milne QC
The Nature Trust (Sandy)
The Nemet Trust
The Northern Rock Foundation
Shyam Parekh & Dee Blake
The Jack Patston Charitable Trust
The Peacock Trust
Restore UK
Henrique Santos*
The Shears Foundation
Ian Geoffrey Smith*
Martin Smith Foundation
Michael Otto Stiftung für Umweltschutz
The Tanner Trust
Teesside Environmental Trust
The H H Turner Charitable Trust
Ulster Garden Villages Ltd
Whitley Animal Protection Trust
J & J R Wilson Charitable Trust

* deceased

Business supporters

The RSPB enjoys successful partnerships with many organisations. We are pleased to acknowledge our business supporters and the many other organisations that have helped us.

A&C Black (Publishers) Ltd
Adnams Wine
BG Group
BP through the Scottish Forest Alliance
The Caravan Club
Cendant VRG
Cemex Polska Sp zoo
Chevron
CJ WildBird Foods Ltd
Concept Research Ltd
The Co-operative Bank plc
Country Artists Ltd
Energy Saving Trust
Fulham Heating Ltd
Garmin (Europe) Ltd
GB Seeds Ltd
Greene King
Hanson Aggregates Ltd
Jarrod Publishing
Jordans
Kapak Ltd
K&M Europe (UK) Ltd
Lafarge Aggregates Ltd
The Logistics Business
Northumbrian Water
The Penguin Group (UK)
The Puppet Company Ltd
Redeem plc
Scottish and Southern Energy plc
Severn Trent plc
Shopcreator Ltd
Sussex Ornithological Society
Swarovski Optik KG
Talisman Energy
Terra Ecosystems
Thames Water Utilities Ltd
Tourism Partnership North Wales
Two Ten Communications Ltd
United Utilities plc
Viking Optical Ltd
Wakefield Environmental Developments Ltd
Webb Ivory (Burton) Ltd
Wessex Water
WH Smith

Support from statutory sector and other public bodies

We are grateful for the co-operation and support for our work from organisations of many kinds across the UK.

ADAS
Allerdale Borough Council
Broads and Rivers LEADER+ Programme
Broxbourne Borough Council
CAE Fund through the Snowdonia National Park Authority
Cherwell District Council
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Communities Facilities and Activities Programme through the National Assembly for Wales
Community Environmental Renewal Scheme managed by Forward Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Executive
Countryside Agency
Countryside Agency through Defra
Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
Countryside Council for Wales
The Crown Estates through the Marine Stewardship Fund
CTRL Compensation Funds
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
Defra – Darwin Initiative
Defra – Higher Level Stewardship
Defra – Partnership for Environmental Co-operation in Europe Fund
Department for Enterprise Innovation and Networks through the Welsh Assembly Government
Department for International Development (DfID) – Civil Society Challenge Fund
Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
East of England Development Agency (EEDA)
Enfys Grant Scheme funded by The Big Lottery Fund and administered through WCVA
English Nature
English Nature Wildspace!
English Nature through Defra Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
Environment Agency
Environment & Heritage Service
Environment Wales
Essex County Council through Defra Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
European Agricultural Guidance & Guarantee Fund through the Highlands & Islands Special Transitional Programme
European Commission – Tropical Forests & Other Forests in Developing Countries budget line
European Commission – DG Environment direct grant

European Commission – LIFE-Nature programme
European Regional Development Fund through the South of Scotland European Programme
EU Objective One programme through the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)
EU Objective 2 programme through the Welsh Assembly Government via the Newport European Partnership
EU TACIS Programme
EU INTERREG North Sea Programme – Transnational Ecological Network (TEN) III
Fife Council
Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) – Global Opportunities Fund
FCO/DfID – Overseas Territories Environment Programme
Forestry Commission England
Forestry Commission Scotland
Forestry Commission Wales
Fylde Borough Council
Gateshead Council
Hampshire County Council
Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust
Highland LEADER+ Programme
HM Treasury
Kent County Council
Lancashire County Council
LEADER+ in the East Riding of Yorkshire
LEADER+ for work in Somerset
Leeds City Council
Lomond & Rural Stirling Leader+ Programme
Lough Neagh Partnership
Medway Renaissance
Newport City Council
Norfolk Coast AONB Sustainable Development Fund
North Pennines AONB Partnership
North Pennines AONB Sustainable Development Fund
North Pennines LEADER+ Programme
North West Farm Tourism Initiative
Northumberland Coast AONB Sustainable Development Fund
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)
ODPM through Defra Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
Orkney Islands Council
Rail Link Countryside Initiative
Scottish Executive’s Biodiversity Action Grants Scheme
Scottish Executive Environment & Rural Affairs Department
Scottish Natural Heritage

Snowdonia National Park Authority
Solway Coast AONB Sustainable Development Fund
South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)
South Essex Green Grid
South Oxfordshire District Council
South West Regional Development Agency
Suffolk County Council
Suffolk Development Agency
Sustainable Development Fund (Wye Valley)
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Thurrock Council
UNDP Belarus
Union Rail North
Welsh Assembly Government
Welsh European Funding Office
Metropolitan Borough of the Wirral
Yorkshire Forward

Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

We are grateful for funding support through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme.

Angus Environmental Trust
Belfast City Council
Biffaward
Bryson House (Better Belfast) Landfill Tax Credit Scheme
Cleanaway Havering Riverside Trust
Cleanaway Pitsea Marshes Trust
Cory Environmental Trust in Britain
Craigavon Borough Council
Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust
Eggborough Power Station through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme
Essex Environment Trust
Gloucestershire Environmental Trust
Green Leeds through Biffaward
Hanson Environment Fund
Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust
Lancashire Environmental Fund
Mersey Waste Holdings plc
Newport City Council Landfill Tax Credit Scheme
SITA Trust
Suffolk Environmental Trust
Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment with funds from Viridor Credits’ Oxfordshire Fund
Ulster Wildlife Trust Landfill Tax Credit Scheme
Waste Recycling Group Ltd (WRG) through Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN)
Wyvern Environmental Trust
Yorkshire Water

You can help the RSPB: here's how

People are important to us: your support is vital to our work. Here are some of the many ways you can help the RSPB's work for wild birds – just find one that suits you. Thank you: we can't save birds and the environment without you.



A Hay (rspb-images.com)



J. Halliday (rspb-images.com)

Join the RSPB

Whether you want membership for yourself or someone else, why not join today?

Campaigns and appeals

Support our campaigns and appeals and you can help our work to secure a healthy environment for birds and wildlife. We need your support to help wild birds and the wild places they live in – and to campaign for better laws to protect them.

Remember birds in your will

If you have had a lifetime's pleasure from birds, why not help ensure their future by leaving a legacy to the RSPB in your will? Any amount, large or small, will be put to excellent use.

Get involved

Writing letters and e-mails direct to your MP and other decision-makers really can make a difference for birds and wildlife. Join other RSPB campaigners and make sure your voice is heard.

Fundraise for wildlife

Have fun and meet like-minded people. Learn new skills and put old ones to good use. And help birds and wildlife while you do it.

Local groups

Joining an RSPB local group is a great way to meet new friends and help the RSPB where you live. Groups are open to all and you are sure to receive a warm welcome.

Volunteering for the RSPB

Are you looking for an exciting and interesting way to make a difference for wild birds and the environment? Why not consider volunteering? You don't have to know anything about birds to have something to offer to the RSPB.

Buying RSPB goods

Buy your gifts, birdfood, binoculars and a range of other products from the RSPB catalogue. Or support us through RSPB Energy, holidays, wine offers, the RSPB Visa card and more. All sales benefit the RSPB.

For more information on how you can support the RSPB, please visit our website www.rspb.org.uk or telephone Membership Services on 01767 680551.

The RSPB

UK Headquarters

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

ENGLAND

Central England Regional Office

46 The Green, South Bar, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX16 9AB Tel: 01295 253330

Eastern England Regional Office

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

London Area Office

Second Floor, 65 Petty France, London SW1H 9EU Tel: 020 7808 1240

Northern England Region

Westleigh Mews, Wakefield Road, Denby Dale, Huddersfield HD8 8QD Tel: 01484 861148
1 Sirius House, Amethyst Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7YL Tel: 0191 256 8200

South East England Regional Office

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

South West England Regional Office

Keble House, Southernhay Gardens, Exeter, Devon EX1 1NT Tel: 01392 432691

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Headquarters

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

SCOTLAND

Scotland Headquarters

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

East Scotland Regional Office

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

North Scotland Regional Office

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

South and West Scotland Regional Office

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

WALES

Wales Headquarters

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

North Wales Office

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



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

www.rspb.org.uk