



for birds  
for people  
for ever

# Focused

THE RSPB 2001-2002

# on action



## THE RSPB

*Works with decision makers on behalf of birds and the environment*

*Researches wildlife problems and promotes practical solutions*

*Protects, restores and manages important areas for wildlife across the UK*

*Works internationally through a global conservation partnership called BirdLife International*

*Shares expertise and knowledge to help young and old enjoy the natural world*

*Tackles wildlife crime and habitat loss*

*Works with landowners and farmers to help countryside birds*

*An elected Council and committees for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales oversee our work. The Chief Executive reports to Council. Divisional directors – Conservation, Finance, Human Resources, Public Affairs, Marketing, Scotland, International, and the English regions, Northern Ireland and Wales, form the Management Board.*



# Clear objectives

After a year as President, I am much clearer about the scale and complexity of the challenge facing the RSPB. I am also hugely impressed by the professionalism of the Society's response.

The RSPB works for a healthy environment and to conserve wild birds and the habitats on which they rely. The focus of our remit will always be on birds but today it entails a wider perspective. As we now know, the health of the global bird population reflects the health of the planet; it has become a crucial measure of success or failure in the task of creating a sustainable future for all life on earth.

Facet by C H Gomersall (RSPB Images)

This means that the RSPB's case for conservation has two facets: we must share 'our' world more effectively with the birds that so enrich our lives and we must do this by protecting the biodiversity of the planet on

which future generations of all species – including our own – will depend. But we can only hope to succeed in this because we have such wonderful support from our members and supporters. This generosity and commitment allows the RSPB to face the future with the confidence and conviction that the challenge requires.



Jonathan Dimbleby  
RSPB President.

# A natural role

Given the scale of our ambition as outlined by our President, Jonathan Dimbleby, working for a healthy environment for birds and for people, what, practically, does the RSPB aim to do and where does it choose to focus its actions?

We have long campaigned to protect vulnerable and valuable places for wildlife, and have helped to make wildlife law increasingly effective. From the pinewoods of Strathspey to the heathlands of southern England, many habitats of critical importance for birds are probably more secure now than for decades. The system of UK and European site designations is beginning to work.

Yet the area remaining of some habitats is pitifully small and often not well managed for wildlife. The outlook for the 'soft' coastline – the sand, mud and saltmarsh crucial to the survival of vast numbers of waders and wildfowl – is deeply concerning. Inevitable losses to sea level rise may now be compounded in south-east England by large-scale reclamation for development.

So 'protecting the best' of the natural heritage remains a core part of our agenda but we place an increasing emphasis on restoring degraded habitats and, more ambitiously, re-creating lost landscapes to make new places for wildlife. Success with freshwater wetlands, heathlands and native woodlands encourages us to be even bolder in future. We are just starting to remove 900 hectares of conifer plantation from the peatlands of Caithness. In Lincolnshire we plan to create new inter-tidal habitats by setting back a section of the sea defences. These projects are expensive and difficult, so we work with a range of partners. But such projects also catch the imagination and show that our work is about much more than simply stemming the losses of wildlife – we can make a positive difference.

Hand in hand with restoring the fortunes of 'biodiversity hotspots' we must find a brighter future for the farmed landscape and the birds that depend on it, from the curlew to the skylark. In the wake of last year's devastating foot and mouth outbreak, a lot of farming remains under enormous stress, but there is growing accord on key elements of the way forward. We lobbied hard for the recommendations of Sir Don Curry's Commission on the Future of Farming and Food to be implemented. Of central importance is the early introduction of a new broad agri-environment scheme, so that farmers can be properly rewarded for stewardship of the natural environment. We also value



Niall Benzie (RSPB Images)

Not only do we protect untouched peat moorlands in Scotland, we are also restoring damaged areas to good condition.

*We spent a record £4 million adding to our nature reserves, including our first reserve on the Isle of Wight, at Brading Marshes*

*After 15 years of negotiations we secured an important nature reserve at Cliffe Pools, on the North Kent Marshes*

*More than a quarter of a million people took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch in January*

*Bitterns increased for the fourth successive year*

*After a decade of campaigning, we helped to stop peat extraction from some of the UK's finest lowland peat bogs*

*We lobbied hard to ensure that farmers are rewarded for environmental management*

*Membership grew to 1,022,000*

the work we do directly with farmers to help them help bird life. From policy to action on the ground, influencing how the countryside is farmed is a core part of our agenda.

On the species front, there is good news, including the spread of ospreys into northern England and the reappearance of choughs in Cornwall. Red kites and white-tailed eagles, which we have helped to reintroduce, continue to thrive, although our satisfaction is tempered by concerns about poisoning and persecution.

If people are to support conservation, they must have the opportunity to see wildlife close to where they live. We have embarked on a programme of opening more reserves close to major population centres, and upgrading facilities at some existing sites, such as Rye Meads to the north of London in the Lea Valley. We are also extending our field teaching programme because we believe there is no better way to spark enthusiasm for nature and the environment than giving young people real, first-hand experience.

Through BirdLife International, a global partnership of organisations with similar aims to the RSPB, we are able to help with some of the most pressing international conservation problems. Perhaps our biggest contribution is working with partners to develop their capacities to tackle their own conservation and education priorities. One stunning product of the last year has been an authoritative inventory of the Important Bird Areas in Africa.

With a record level of support, we have seen gains for some of our most threatened birds, major nature reserve acquisition and restoration projects, and some significant policy advances. We are immensely grateful for the generosity of those who helped make this possible – the charitable trusts, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the landfill trusts who work closely with us, Government, corporate organisations with whom we work in partnership and, above all, our members.

*John Croxall*  
*Graham Wynne*

John Croxall, *Chairman of Council*  
Graham Wynne, *Chief Executive*

Stone-curlew by George McCarthy (RSPB Images)





Wildlife and landscapes at RSPB nature reserves can be enjoyed by anyone, of any age, from all walks of life.

Cobalt Ltd

Buying and managing land is a cornerstone of our work. Our 168 nature reserves together represent one of the RSPB's biggest contributions to UK wildlife conservation: but buying and then managing them is expensive and demanding.

# Nature reserves —

## Brading Marshes, Isle of Wight

Our first nature reserve on the Isle of Wight, this wetland will be managed to attract bitterns, marsh harriers, bearded tits and wildfowl.

*'Before I touch this place, I must get to know it well and establish a good understanding with my neighbours. I look forward to seeing some really large wetlands and big gains for birds in the UK: I'm certainly going to have great fun here at Brading.'*

*Les Street, RSPB warden, Brading Marshes*

**Cliffe Pools, Kent** We bought a big area of lagoons and wet grassland of great value for breeding and migrant waterfowl. Following 15 years of negotiations to save the site, our huge job of restoration and management now begins.

## Lakenheath: turning on the tap

Baroness Young (Environment Agency Chief Executive) and Graham Wynne opened the pipe to flood newly created marsh and lagoons at Lakenheath Fen, Suffolk. Staff and volunteers planted a quarter of a million reeds and created 20 km of channels, meeting more than 10% of the UK

government's target for reedbed creation by 2010. Members' support for the Lakenheath appeal in 1996 produced a magnificent £623,000 and the Heritage Lottery Fund granted almost £700,000. Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) part of the Waste Recycling Group (WRG) gave £350,000 to help buy the land and pay for engineering works.

*'One of the pleasures of my job is, now and again, to visit our nature reserves*

*and see the difference that we are making on the ground. I was able to "turn on the taps" to flood part of our reserve at Lakenheath where we are recreating a huge wetland on land that only five years ago was growing carrots. We are rapidly putting some of the "fen" back into Fenland.'*

*Graham Wynne, RSPB Chief Executive*



Andrew Hay (RSPB Images)

Lakenheath Fen in Suffolk is rapidly becoming one of East Anglia's prime wetlands. New reedbeds and lagoons attract special birds.

# their developing role

**Rye Meads advances** The Rye Meads Partnership secured £1 million for conservation and an environment centre for the Rye Meads nature reserve, Hertfordshire. The Heritage Lottery Fund added £600,000 to £200,000 from the Lee Valley Park Authority and £100,000 from Thames Water. A state-of-the-art centre, using innovative energy and water-saving devices, will soon provide wonderful educational and visitor facilities.

**Visionary support** Challenges facing the natural environment often require ambitious responses. Increasingly the RSPB is looking to develop nature reserves on a larger, 'landscape' scale. Funding environmental regeneration on such a scale is complex and takes many years. We are particularly

grateful for the visionary support of major funders, including the Heritage Lottery Fund and, via the landfill tax credit scheme, Hanson Environment Fund and WREN. These organisations share our ambitions for a healthy environment, rich in wildlife, which enhances the quality of all our lives.

Our nature reserves' role in conserving birds and habitats is unchanged, but they increasingly meet the needs of other wildlife and also people.





Grey plover by Bob Glover (RSPB Images)

The UK's estuaries are enormously rich in birds that breed in the Arctic and northern Europe, but are still often threatened by developments.

# On the case

Conflicts between conservation and development are often avoidable if addressed early in the planning process. Where proposals threaten important habitats, we take the case for wildlife as far as necessary. Together with English Nature and the Dorset Wildlife Trust, we presented a case against development next to Holton Heath, Dorset, at a public inquiry; the Inspector recommended rejection of the proposal.

**Dibden Bay** We objected to a new port proposal in Southampton Water, Hampshire. A Public Inquiry began in November 2001. The proposal would result in destruction of and disturbance to habitats of international value protected under EU and UK law.

*'The bottom line is that EU and UK law only permits developments that damage internationally important sites in exceptional circumstances, including by demonstrating an overriding public need and that no alternative solutions exist. The RSPB does not believe that Associated British Ports has met these requirements and is urging the Secretary of State to refuse consent.'*

Gavin Bloomfield, Conservation Officer



Photofisc

Despite past cases and inquiries, arguments for the protection of heaths and wetlands need to be repeated year after year. We face one of the most damaging development proposals ever with the identification of marshes in North Kent as a possible site for a new airport for London.

For too long the marine environment around the UK coasts has been neglected. RSPB pressure helped to bring some promise of improvements. Overfishing in waters used by UK seabirds threatens future problems, although undersized fish thrown overboard from trawlers fuels a temporary boom in the numbers of gannets.

**Marine protection** The RSPB supported MP John Randall's Marine Wildlife Conservation Bill, which would have provided improved protection for nationally important wildlife sites in the marine environment around England and Wales. Unfortunately, the Bill was not successful in getting through the House of Lords, but it attracted cross-party support in the Commons and the backing of Ministers. We hope similar legislation may soon be forthcoming from the Government, but looking back at this process, there is no doubt that the support of RSPB members helped the Bill progress as far as it did.

*'I know from the many letters which I and other MPs have received from our constituents that there is a genuine appetite for better marine nature conservation in the country at large.'*

John Randall, MP for Uxbridge

**Royal endorsement of albatross campaign** HRH Prince Charles endorsed BirdLife International's 'Save the Albatross Campaign' at a St James's Palace reception on 14 January 2002. An RSPB video outlined the dangers of longline fisheries to birds at sea and the Prince extended the focus to the marine environment. Threats to albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters have increased at a frightening pace.



Press Association

# Marine matters

Prince Charles has expressed to RSPB staff his deep personal disquiet about the perilous position of albatrosses.

*'I want to say, as someone who has followed the plight of the world's albatrosses with great concern over the years, how encouraged I am by the campaign that BirdLife International has launched. I wish the Save the Albatross campaign every possible success in its efforts to save these magnificent seabirds from extinction and hope it will receive the backing it really deserves.'*

HRH The Prince of Wales

[www.princeofwales.gov.uk/speeches](http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/speeches)

Seabirds receive protection at their breeding sites on land, but they and their food require better protection at sea.

Puffins by David Kjaer (RSPB Images)



# Climate change

Climate change arguably poses the biggest single long-term threat to wildlife and the environment. We want to see action to prevent further damaging change to the climate through human activities. As the government reviews energy policy, the opportunity to give stronger backing for energy efficiency and the production of energy from renewable sources, such as offshore wind turbines, must be grasped.

**Electrifying** *'Already 12,000 households use RSPB Energy, our ground-breaking 'green' electricity scheme, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and at the same time raising over £350,000 to be spent on new renewables and RSPB land purchases. This scheme is a wonderful way for people to help the environment, help the RSPB and probably save money at the same time.'*

[www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/climate](http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/climate)

*Nigel Wood, RSPB energy project manager*

*Call Scottish & Southern Energy and enquire about 'RSPB Energy', on 0800 0288 552.*

**Reshaping the shore** Realigning sea defences on the coast is an imaginative response to sea level change. At the RSPB Freiston Shore nature reserve, Lincolnshire, the

old sea wall will be breached to allow the creation of new saltmarsh and lagoons, removing the need for an unyielding concrete wall. Already avocets have nested and large numbers of wildfowl use the marsh. This, the UK's biggest realignment project, involves a partnership with the Environment Agency, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and Boston Borough Council.

**Safely damp** Tackling the effects of changing climate on threatened species, we leased an area of fields just outside the Ouse Washes, Cambridgeshire, to return arable land to wet grassland for breeding black-tailed godwits. They have

found it difficult to breed on the Washes, due to increasingly frequent summer flooding. The new wetlands outside the Washes will provide nesting areas that are safe from unseasonal flooding.

[www.rspb.org.uk/wildlifeconservation/climatechange](http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlifeconservation/climatechange)



CH Gomersall (RSPB Images)

Avocets have been quick to exploit new habitat created by the RSPB's coastal realignment projects.

Offshore wind power may be one answer to the need to increase renewable power generation.

AMEC Wind

# Big Garden Birdwatch

Thousands of people enjoy getting involved with birds and the RSPB. More than 262,000 people counted garden birds over one weekend in January.

The results give a very good snapshot of numbers and distribution of garden birds in winter: more than four million birds were reported. They also show that tens of thousands of people can be excited by simple surveys involving all the family.

[www.rspb.org.uk/features/surveys](http://www.rspb.org.uk/features/surveys)

The life and colour of garden birds enthuse families throughout the UK.

Andrew Hay (RSPB Images)



Starling by Gerald Downey (RSPB Images)

## BIRDWATCH TOP 15

*Average number per garden*

1	Starling	4.52
2	House sparrow	4.33
3	Blue tit	2.93
4	Blackbird	2.65
5	Chaffinch	2.38
6	Greenfinch	1.98
7	Collared dove	1.62
8	Great tit	1.48
9	Woodpigeon	1.26
10	Robin	1.26
11	Dunnock	1.00
12	Magpie	0.90
13	Coal tit	0.72
14	Wren	0.39
15	Song thrush	0.33

[www.rspb.org.uk/surveys](http://www.rspb.org.uk/surveys)

For more details and information about the 2003 survey, contact [richard.bashford@rspb.org.uk](mailto:richard.bashford@rspb.org.uk)



# Birds in the countryside

If farming is to play its part in helping wildlife as well as producing food, we need fundamental reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy. Current policies encourage farming practices that reduce the wildlife value of the countryside, as reflected by widespread declines of some countryside birds. RSPB research and innovative projects help unravel the reasons for these declines and suggest ways to reverse them, while strengthening the role of farmers and rural communities.

**The RSPB farm** *'Having established data while managing the farm exactly as the previous owner did, we can now begin to assess the effects of different management methods, including new ways to help skylarks, while maintaining a profitable farm.'*

*Roger Buisson, Hope Farm manager*

**Lapwing lifeline** The RSPB Lapwing Lifeline projects in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Dorset, Shropshire and Oxfordshire offer farmers advice on how to help lapwings on their land. The service, provided by volunteers, runs alongside protection of nests during farming operations. The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, the National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association support the scheme.

**Volunteer & Farmer Alliance** We offer farmers across the UK a free, no obligation survey of bird life on their farms by skilled RSPB volunteers. Following foot and mouth disease the project resumed with renewed vigour – 800 farmers benefited from this service in 2002.

From questionnaires returned from English farms we found that:

- 97% felt the experience was worthwhile
- 92% are happy to be contacted again by project staff
- 83% implemented our farmland bird management guidelines
- 70% had species they were not aware of
- 55% are now more positive towards the RSPB
- 34% used results to support Countryside Stewardship applications.

• For information please contact [jenny.atkins@rspb.org.uk](mailto:jenny.atkins@rspb.org.uk)

*'Getting involved with the RSPB Volunteer & Farmer Alliance has been thoroughly worthwhile. It's helped to confirm the best ways to manage my farm for wildlife while maintaining a viable business. I believe this partnership can really help the environment – I'd like to see more farms getting involved.'*

*Stephen Bumstead, Bedfordshire*



*Andrew Hay (RSPB Images)*

Supporters of the RSPB's Hope Farm in Cambridgeshire were shown around by farm manager, Roger Buisson.

*'The real value of the Alliance was proved early on. I got to know the song of the blackcap and knew more about what birds were on my farm, while the RSPB volunteers began to realise the crucial role of the farmer in wildlife conservation. I hope that this message will be the one that is most loudly sung from the conservation song perches.'*

*Martin Hole, East Sussex farmer*

**Birds of the moorland fringe** Farm and rural community projects in England and Wales encourage management techniques that help wildlife. In the South Pennines, with English Nature and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, we helped farmers apply for the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS). Sixty-one landowners contacted FWAG and 15 CSS applications will bring 600 ha into conservation management, with payments to landowners of almost £700,000 over 10 years. This will provide crucial food and habitat for twites, whose numbers have halved in the last decade, and lapwings, which have declined by at least 40% since 1970.

Bob Glover (RSPB Images)



Lapwings and skylarks have declined where cereals are sown in autumn, as the crop is too tall and dense in spring.



# Lifelong learning

The next generation will only protect the environment if they care about it – and they will only care enough if they have the opportunity to be inspired. From the earliest age, learning helps to stimulate wonder and respect for the world around us.

**Aren't birds brilliant!** Thousands of people agreed that birds are brilliant, when the RSPB showed them bitterns, peregrines, black grouse, choughs, gannets, ospreys and red kites. Cruises took people to the heart of teeming seabird colonies at Fowlsheugh and Bempton Cliffs and showed them seabirds at sea between Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The ninth season of Poole Harbour boat trips began, while avocet cruises on the Exe celebrated their 21st year, having delighted more than 25,000 people with close views of wintering avocet flocks.

**Environmental education** *'Nobody will value that which they do not understand. Conservationists spend a great deal of time trying to persuade people why they ought to care for the natural environment. It's naive and condescending*

*unless people have a first hand grasp of what we are talking about. Sadly a large number of children do not have that firsthand experience; there is no equality of opportunity.'*

*Graham Wynne, RSPB Chief Executive*

A Council for Environmental Education (CEE) conference stressed the value of real experience in environmental learning. Recognising the expertise and professionalism of organisations such as the RSPB, Baroness Ashton, Department for Education and Skills, said: 'I am extremely grateful for all you do and keen to find ways to involve you more in the lives of our schools, colleges and universities.' Graham Wynne welcomed the requirement for the National Curriculum to develop understanding and respect for the environment.

The RSPB aims to treble the number of opportunities for fieldwork for young people on its nature reserves within five years.



*David Tipling*

RSPB Wildlife Explorers caters for children and teenagers, with activities and magazines tailored for three age groups.

In Europe, we work strenuously to ensure that countries joining the EU will be properly prepared to implement its Bird and Habitat Directives. EU policies must take conservation needs into consideration. Unless they do so, EU-funded developments and intensified farming threaten to repeat the damage already done in existing member states.

**Building on experience** *'A major role of the RSPB is to use our experience to help the growth and development of younger conservation organisations worldwide. We are co-ordinating a training programme, based on needs identified by BirdLife partners, to help them improve fundraising, resource management and building relationships with partners.'*

*Ken Smith, International Training Manager*

**Monitoring Important Bird Areas in Europe** Most of the Important Bird Areas in Europe have been identified and described. We are now concentrating on the protection of these sites on the ground. This relies on establishing an effective network of conservationists, to survey and monitor sites and develop local conservation projects.

**Bird books in European languages** Involving local people in nature conservation is essential for an effective programme. But in some countries, appreciation of the value and beauty of nature is low.

# International scope

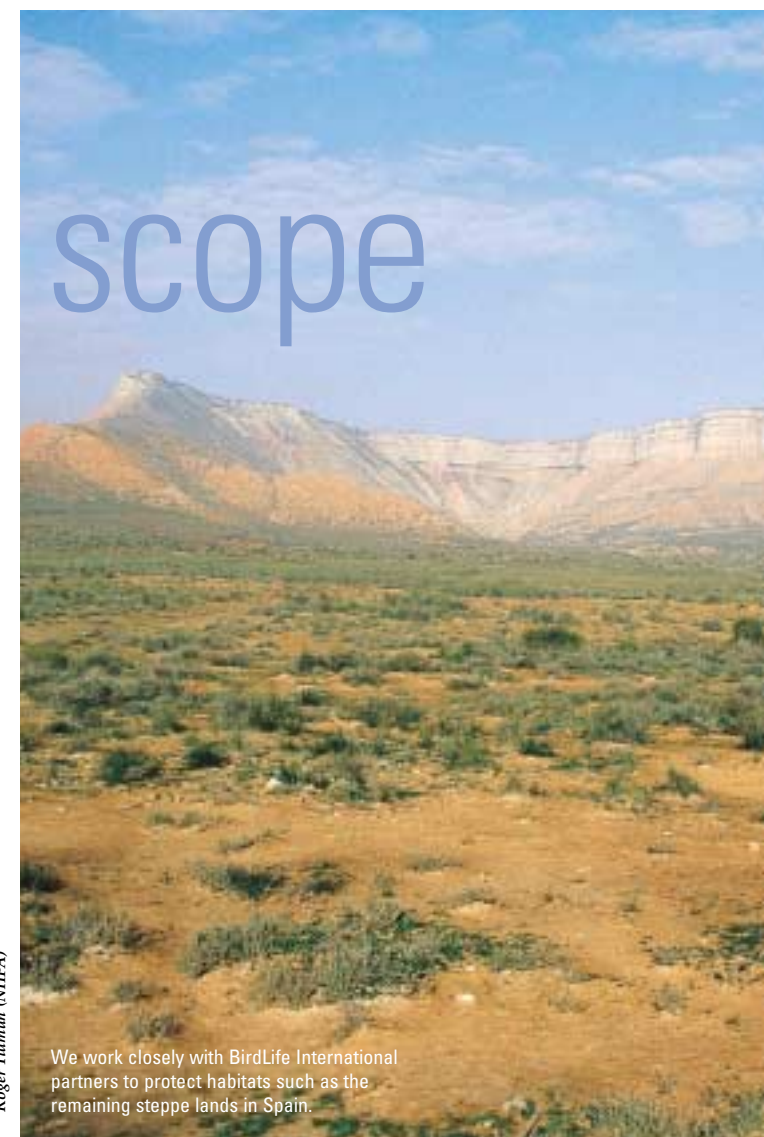
By encouraging birdwatching across all levels of society, we aim to increase local responsibility for protecting sites and species. One important first step is to make good bird field guides available in relevant languages. We helped to produce the first ever field guide in Turkish, and this will be followed by a Portuguese edition of one of the best guides in the market.

**EU transport needs** The RSPB highlighted the dangers of EU funded proposals for new road and waterway links across Europe. These threaten no fewer than 85 Important Bird Areas and some of Europe's rarest species such as the Dalmatian pelican, great snipe, red-breasted goose and aquatic warbler. [www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/scisuro/international/TINA.asp](http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/scisuro/international/TINA.asp)

*'Most threats come from road-building fever in EU candidate countries, but schemes to turn rivers into canals could endanger many great wetlands. Hungary, Poland and Bulgaria come off particularly badly.'*

*Zoltan Waliczky, EU Accession Officer*

**Dramatic declines in Asian vultures** Indian vultures that have declined by more than 90% in 10 years are probably infected by a virus. It could spread to other species: Himalayan and Eurasian griffon vultures may already have been exposed. With the Bombay Natural History Society, the Institute of Zoology (London), the National Bird of Prey Centre (UK) and a laboratory (PDRC) in India we are trying to identify the problem. The project is funded by the UK Government Darwin Initiative. [www.vulturedeclines.org](http://www.vulturedeclines.org)



# scope

*Roger Tidman (NHPA)*

We work closely with BirdLife International partners to protect habitats such as the remaining steppe lands in Spain.

# Northern Ireland

Our work in Northern Ireland reflects concerns elsewhere in the United Kingdom, with declining farmland birds often at the forefront of our minds. We have also been able to expand and enhance our network of nature reserves, to the benefit of people and wildlife.

## Irish Birds of Conservation Concern

A new guide with red, amber and green lists of birds under threat, in need of careful watching or currently secure, is being used to formulate conservation strategies. It also helps inform the Volunteer & Farmer Alliance and Biodiversity Action Plans. It reflects the RSPB's targeted approach to conservation, based upon the best available information.

**Tern island** An RAF airlift of cockleshells helped our bid to entice common terns to nest on an artificial island in the Belfast Harbour nature reserve. Adding to this, staff floated out 700 wooden pilings to encircle and enlarge the island for the 2002 season and erected an electric fence to protect terns from foxes.

**New nature reserves** Aghatirourke, 695 ha of blanket bog and limestone grassland on the slopes of Cuilcagh Mountain, Co Fermanagh, will be jointly managed by the RSPB and Fermanagh District Council (FDC). It is home to many rare plants, hen harriers, golden plovers and other wildlife. The area is part of the recently announced European Geo-Park and has a long list of other national and European designations. The FDC was instrumental in involving the RSPB and we look forward to a long and beneficial partnership.

**Yellowhammer project** A project with Killinchy Primary School 'primary 7' pupils focused on yellowhammers. Before the project began, about an eighth of the children felt they had seen a

yellowhammer but none knew its name. They made intelligent suggestions for the preferred food and nearly half suggested the reason the yellowhammer was declining could be lack of food.

The project involved talks, setting up a feeding station and experimenting with foods. The school's waste milk cartons were used to grow sunflowers for their seeds for yellowhammer food. Geography and natural history elements were added to the project.



Andrew Hay (RSPB Images)

Our nature reserve at Belfast Harbour exemplifies our efforts to bring birds and people together in urban areas.

**Achieving the vision** We spent the year lobbying the Department of Agriculture intensively. We produced the report *Achieving the Vision: towards a sustainable agri-food industry in Northern Ireland* and ran an extremely successful postcard campaign. We met privately with the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development to discuss our recommendations and continued to develop our relationship with the Environment Committee and Agricultural Activity in the Northern Ireland Assembly. The RSPB is seen as a leading voice on progressive and sustainable agricultural policies. As testimony to our work in habitat and farm management, choughs bred for the first time in six years here and fledged three young successfully.

Philip Newman (RSPB Images)



In Northern Ireland the yellowhammer is becoming an emblematic bird for the wrong reasons: it is fast disappearing.

Steve Kneil (RSPB Images)



Common terns have increased following co-operation with the RAF in providing new nesting islands in Belfast Harbour.

# Scotland

Scotland is fortunate to support some of Europe's most exciting wildlife habitats, from bird-thrugged coastal waters to native pine forests and mountain summits. The RSPB is active across Scotland, working with local people, protecting and enhancing wildlife and habitats and welcoming visitors.

*We maintained pressure for new wildlife legislation in Scotland, against a backdrop of continued persecution of birds of prey and other wildlife crime. The first prison sentences handed down in England for egg collectors highlight the deficiencies of the law in Scotland.'*

Stuart Housden, Director, Scotland

**Nàdair** The Argyll Islands project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, continues to work hard for conservation. The Nàdair Trust provides support for 32 projects designed to enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the Argyll islands. An additional expenditure of £3.3 million has created numerous new jobs in the region; RSPB work for choughs and corncrakes has

benefited and new visitor facilities at Loch Gruinart nature reserve have been established.

**Volunteer & Farmer Alliance** The scheme is flourishing in Scotland, with 62 trained volunteers surveying 50 farms across the Central Belt. Many farmers request help with improving their farms for wildlife.

## Rare species

- **white-tailed eagles:** a record 24 pairs established territories in 2001, an increase of three on 2000.
- **red kites:** illegal persecution is slowing population growth. In North Scotland only one extra nesting pair was found. The lack of expansion and increasing numbers found poisoned is very worrying.

- **Slavonian grebes:** an increase, from 31 to 39 pairs, was the first for several years. Our nature reserve at Loch Ruthven has 18 pairs, just under half of the UK total.

- **Capercaillie:** on our Abernethy nature reserve they enjoyed their best breeding season since 1996, with males up from 22 to 31 and an excellent number of young fledged. More than 1,500 people visited the Osprey Centre at dawn in spring to see the capercaillie lek. The Scottish Executive gave £770,000 for a scheme to target the removal or marking of deer fences within good forests for capercaillie. The scheme was launched in September 2001, to try to reduce the number of birds killed by flying into these fences.



Andrew Hay (RSPB Images)

The RSPB helps farmers to manage land sympathetically for wildlife.

Few birds are so charismatic as the capercaillie, a rare inhabitant of native Scots pine forest.

Laurie Campbell (RSPB Images)

- **Black grouse:** we now have 35 males at our Corrimony nature reserve, more than double the number when we purchased the reserve in 1997. Our focus on the plight of black grouse in Dumfries & Galloway and Argyll was made possible by money from Scottish Natural Heritage, the Forestry Commission, Scottish Power and Argyll and Bute Council. In Dumfries & Galloway, Scottish Power allocated much of its Rural Care Funds to landowners who are managing land for black grouse with RSPB advice.

**Combating sea level rise** In April, we announced a large extension to Nigg and Udale Bays nature reserve in the Cromarty Firth. The reserve can hold four-fifths of the Cromarty Firth's large wintering populations of knots, bar-tailed godwits and pink-footed geese. A pioneering re-alignment project will be trialled on part of the new site. This is the first in Scotland to develop techniques to combat the loss of mudflats to the rising sea levels linked to climate change. We are grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Scottish Natural Heritage for their support.

C H Comersall (RSPB Images)



The magnificent white-tailed eagle – now re-established in Scotland.



The redshank faces problems both inland, where it breeds, and on the coast where it spends the winter.

C H Gomersall (RSPB Images)

#### Peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland

We added Dorrery Estate to our existing reserve at Forsinard in Caithness. The reserve has blanket bog with innumerable pools. Greenshanks, black-throated divers and common scoters breed. We now manage 13,800 ha in Caithness & Sutherland, making it the RSPB's biggest nature reserve, reflecting the international importance of the Flows. We are very grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund, EU LIFE Nature and RSPB members for helping to buy this wonderful peatland reserve.

*For further information visit the project website [www.lifepeatlandsproject.com](http://www.lifepeatlandsproject.com).*

**Introduced species** Conservation problems associated with introduced species on islands are severe and widespread throughout the world. Mink and hedgehogs on the Western Isles are two examples of this serious problem. Both were introduced by people and threaten the islands' wildlife. We are discussing how these difficult and controversial problems can be tackled with SNH and the Scottish Executive.

**Agriculture policy** Stuart Housden, the RSPB's Director in Scotland, has been invited onto the Steering Group to implement the *Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture*, published by the Scottish Executive. The strategy is a big step forward for the integration of wildlife issues into agriculture in Scotland. The strategy commits the farming industry to be 'a leading player in the protection and enhancement of our environment'. Opportunities for wildlife include a review of the impacts of agriculture on the environment and the development of land management contracts as a way of paying subsidy in ways that benefit the environment.

#### The Scottish Wildlife and Countryside Fair 2001

Organised by the RSPB, the National Trust for Scotland, WWF, Scottish Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, the Fair welcomed a record 12,500 visitors. Opened by Rhona Brankin MSP, the Fair inspired visitors to take part in volunteer activities from recycling at home, to helping on reserves, or undertaking survey work.



C H Gomersall (RSPB Images)

We are working to protect the magnificent peatland landscape and its remarkable wildlife in Caithness and Sutherland.

With many partners, we create better environments for birds and for people in Wales. The future for choughs and black grouse is brighter. Gyda sawl partner, rydym yn creu gwell amgylcheddau i adar a phobl yng Nghymru. Mae'r dyfodol i frain coesgoch a grugieir duon yn edrych yn well.

# Wales

**Black grouse comeback** Numbers of black grouse stabilised after a 15-year battle against extinction. The Welsh Black Grouse Recovery Project, with Forest Enterprise and the Countryside Council for Wales, helped the grouse to have a good breeding season in 2001, with an overall increase in displaying birds in six key areas where we have been managing habitat. The project has managed more than 1,000 hectares for black grouse, part-funded by an EU grant.

**Choughs** A successful bid for £120,000 from the EU boosted the Chough Habitat Restoration Project in Wales. Once the Welsh chough population has been made secure, we will work towards increasing numbers at 19 sites that hold 80%

**Y rugiar ddu yn dychwelyd** Mae nifer grugieir duon wedi sefydlogi ar ôl brwydr 15-mllynedd yn erbyn difodiant. Gyda chefnogaeth Project Adfer y Rugiar Ddu yng Nghymru, Menter Coedwigaeth a Chyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru, sicrhawyd tymor nythu llwyddiannus yn 2001 a chafwyd cynnydd drwyddo draw yn y nifer o adar a oedd yn arddangos eu hunain yn y chwech prif ardal lle buom yn rheoli'r cynefin. Mae'r project, a ariannir yn rhannol gyda grant Amcan 5B o'r UE, wedi rheoli mwy na 1,000 hectar ar gyfer y rugiar ddu.

Three-quarters of the UK's choughs live in Wales, mostly on the western headlands. Mae tri chwarter o frain coesgoch y DU yn byw yng Nghymru, yn bennaf ar yr arfordir gorllewinol.

# Cymru

Chough Brân goesgoch gan by Andrew Hay (RSPB Images)





Our farm at Lake Vyrnwy will be even better for wildlife having switched to organic production.

Bydd y fferm ar Llyn Efyrrwy yn well fyth i fyd natur wedi'r newid i gynhyrchu'n organig.

Andy Hay (RSPB Images)

of the current population. Declines locally, especially inland, have been balanced by increases in some coastal areas and an extension of range: around 180 pairs now breed, three-quarters of the UK population.

**Vyrnwy goes organic** The farm at Lake Vyrnwy gained organic accreditation, two years after the conversion process started. Owned by Severn Trent Water, the farm is managed by the RSPB, showing that a commercial operation and nature conservation can go hand in hand. We believe that organic farming can bring environmental and economic benefits to rural Wales. We expect to produce 2,000 organic lambs and 40 organic calves annually and will market the meat through a local company.

**Members' conference** Members joined us for a day at Maesmawr Hall Hotel, Caersws, in November, to meet staff and fellow members and hear about various species recovery projects and how we are tackling wildlife crime in Wales.

**Farmland bird efforts** Many once-common countryside birds in Wales have declined and become restricted to small areas in recent years. Breeding yellowhammers and starlings have declined since 1994 by 31% and 41% respectively. To supplement our own surveys we analysed data from 20 years of local bird reports. We also pursued our work with farmers and RSPB volunteers, although this was severely hampered by the foot and mouth disaster.

*'The RSPB in Wales is seriously concerned that Wales's flagship agri-environment scheme, Tir Gofal, will fail to restore farmland bird populations. This excellent scheme to protect farmland wildlife provides money for wildlife-friendly farming and jobs in rural areas, but has too little funding to support all farmers who wish to join.'*

Tim Stowe, RSPB Director, Wales

Black grouse numbers have stabilised in Wales after a long period of decline. Mae nifer grugieir duon yng Nghymru wedi sefydlogi ar ôl cyfnod hir o brinhau.

**Brain coesgoch** Cafwyd hwb i Broject Adfer Cynefin y Frân Goesgoch yng Nghymru gyda chais llwyddiannus i'r UE am £120,000. Unwaith y byddwn wedi sefydlogi poblogaeth y brain yng Nghymru, byddwn yn anelu at gynyddu'r niferoedd ar 19 safle sy'n cynnal 80% o'r boblogaeth bresennol. Er bod eu nifer wedi lleihau'n lleol, yn enwedig i mewn i'r tir, cafwyd cynnydd mewn ambell i ardal arfordirol ac ehangiad yn y cynefin. Mae oddeutu 180 pâr yn nythu erbyn hyn, tua 75% o boblogaeth y DU.

**Efyrrwy'n troi'n organig** Ddwy flynedd wedi dechrau'r broses o droi'n organig, cafodd y fferm ger Llyn Efyrrwy achrediad organig.



Niall Bennie (RSPB Images)

Rheolir y fferm, sydd ym mherchnogaeth Dŵr Hafren Trent, gan yr RSPB, ac mae'n dangos bod modd i fenter fasnachol a chadwraeth natur fynd law yn llaw. Credwn y gall ffermio organig sicrhau buddion amgylcheddol ac economaidd i Gymru wledig. Disgwyliwn gynhyrchu 2,000 o ŵyn organig a 40 o loi organig bob blwyddyn a byddwn yn marchnata'r cig drwy gymni lleol.

**Cynhadledd aelodau** Ym mis Tachwedd cynhaliwyd ein diwrnod i aelodau yng Ngwesty Neuadd Maesmawr, Caersws. Yma cafodd aelodau'r RSPB yng Nghymru gyfle i gyfarfod staff a chyd-aelodau a chlywed am amryw o brojectau adfer rhywogaethau a sut rydym yn mynd i'r afael â throseddau yn erbyn bywyd gwylt yng Nghymru.

**Ymdrechion dros adar ffermdir** Yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf mae llawer o adar ffermdir fu unwaith yn gyffredin wedi prnhau ac wedi eu cyfyngu bellach i ardaloedd lleol. Ers 1994 mae nifer y bras melyn a'r

ddrudwen wedi prnhau o 31% a 41%. I ychwanegu at ein harolygon ein hunain dadansoddiwyd gwybodaeth o adroddiadau adar lleol dros yr 20 mlynedd diwethaf. Hefyd, buom yn parhau a'n gwaith gyda ffermwyr a gwirfoddolwyr yr RSPB, er y cyfyngwyd yn ddifrifol ar y gwaith gan ystyriaethau clwy'r traed a'r genau.

*'Mae'r RSPB yng Nghymru yn bryderus iawn na fydd Tir Gofal, cynllun amaeth amgylchedd arloesol Cymru, yn adfer poblogaethau adar ar ein ffermdir. Mae'r cynllun ardderchog hwn i warchod bywyd gwylt ffermdir yn sicrhau arian ar gyfer amaethu mewn dull sy'n gyfeillgar i fyd natur a swyddi mewn ardaloedd gwledig, ond nid oes digon o arian wedi ei glustnodi i gefnogi'r holl ffermwyr sy'n dymuno.'*

*Tim Stowe, Cyfarwyddwr yr RSPB, Cymru*

*Black grouse Crugiar dda gan by C H Gomersall (RSPB)*



# Special species and habitats

Threatened species and habitats require urgent action if they are to be saved. Here are just two examples from the many projects we undertake, which aim to maintain and enhance the range of habitats and numbers of birds UK-wide.

*'News that the Government, English Nature and The Scotts Company agreed an early end to peat extraction at the UK's three most important lowland raised bogs followed more than 10 years of campaigning and lobbying by the RSPB and others in the Peatlands Campaign Consortium. At last we see real alternatives to the destruction of peatlands.'*

*Olly Watts, RSPB policy officer*

Peat extraction ceased at Thorne Moors SSSI, Yorkshire, and Wedholme Flow SSSI, Cumbria. At Hatfield Moor SSSI, Yorkshire, it has been curtailed to two years of limited cutting. This will allow a huge area to be managed for peatland conservation. Environment Minister Michael Meacher secured £17.3 million to compensate the extraction company, which will assist English

Nature to restore the sites. The Government now requires 90% of growing media and soil conditioners to be peat-free by 2010. The use of green compost in peat alternatives was advocated in the RSPB/English Nature report *Peaterring out*.

Contact [olly.watts@rspb.org.uk](mailto:olly.watts@rspb.org.uk)

**Bitterns increase** *'The RSPB has been researching bitterns for 10 years now. They are fascinating birds. An increase for the fourth successive year is really satisfying: 30 males were heard at 19 sites, double the number occupied in the mid-1990s. We are restoring and creating reedbeds through the Bittern EU LIFE project. On RSPB nature reserves, we have created 134 ha of reedbed so far with a further 170 ha partly established, something I'm delighted about.'*

*Gillian Gilbert, research biologist*



Andrew Hunt (RSPB Images)

Raised bogs form over millions of years, but their wildlife value can be destroyed in a short period of excavation for peat.

From a precarious position, the bittern is increasing, slowly, with a greater prospect of survival in the UK.

Malcolm Hunt (RSPB Images)

The RSPB aims to improve its environmental performance, in the office, on nature reserves and in our daily travel. We do not have all the answers, but we are doing a lot and will do more.

# A gentler impression

Inevitably the RSPB has some negative impact on the environment. As any business, we leave a footprint. This comes about through our work and indirectly, through the actions of members and the public (for example, when visiting our nature reserves). We strive to minimise this by managing our use of transport, energy, water, paper and other resources, and by seeking ways to reduce the indirect pressure we place on the environment.

**Visiting reserves** Encouraging people to visit nature reserves presents an intractable dilemma. Personal experience is the most powerful way to increase understanding of wildlife and support for conservation. Yet, many nature reserves are naturally remote and poorly served by public transport and most visitors prefer to travel by

car. We promote public transport wherever possible and plan to add to our reserves near towns, bringing birds closer to more people. We are also exploring the possibilities of improving local transport to serve some of our nature reserves.

**Lifestyles** Having a million members, we have both a responsibility and an opportunity to promote changes needed to bring about greener lifestyles. The RSPB Energy scheme shows that we can encourage people to do things that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We are determined to reduce the RSPB's environmental impact by using greener working methods wherever we can.

E.A. James (RSPB Images)

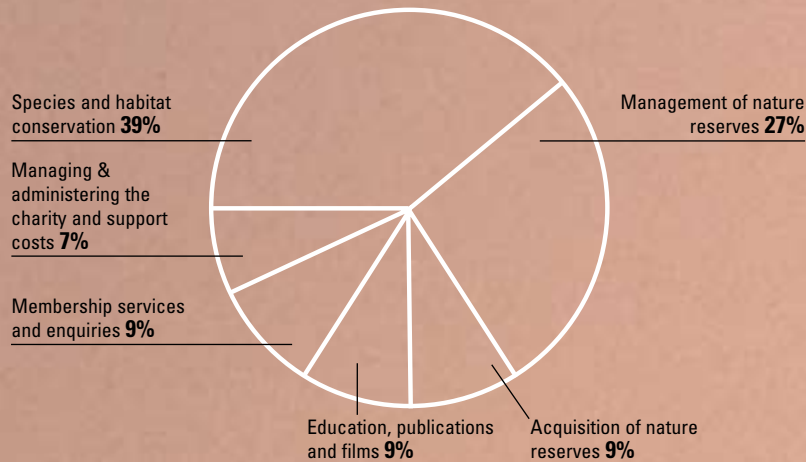


*'On the whole, the state of the Society's finances gives cause for sober satisfaction. It must, however, be borne in mind that the work of the Society increases daily and if we are to carry out all that we ought to do, far greater sums will need to be expended annually.'* **The RSPB, 1947**

The year of the Queen's jubilee prompted a fascinating rummage in the archives. We are indebted to Mr Dent, former Honorary Treasurer, for the above quotation, from the 1947 Annual Report. It refers to an income of £5,902 15s 1d generated by a

Many of the financial matters that are important today would be familiar to our predecessors. Members have always been the lifeblood of the organisation. We are pleased to report a modest increase over the past year to 1,022,000.

# Money Matters 2001/02



**CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE**

Expenditure broken down into particular areas of work. More than 90% of total expenditure has a direct bearing on nature conservation work and the encouragement of support and a caring attitude towards wildlife.

membership of 6,064. The statement is equally appropriate today – albeit that net income is now almost £48 million.

It is with a sense of ‘sober satisfaction’ that we compare the RSPB of today with that operating around the time of the Coronation. ‘Satisfaction’ in that the organisation has probably fulfilled most of the hopes and expectations of Mr Dent and his colleagues; ‘sobering’ because many of the bird population declines that we now seek to reverse still lay ahead in the 1940s and 1950s. We can only hope that our successors will not have cause for similar reflection in respect of climate change and global warming.

Financially speaking, this is of great importance, but the benefits of a strong and active membership go beyond the financial contribution. It is especially pleasing to note that members and supporters are able to play an ever more active part in our work. Over the past year 9,000 have volunteered for work on our reserves or in our offices, 950 have worked with farmers to help survey the birds to be found on farmland, 1,500 have written to lobby MPs and others in support of our policy work. A massive 262,000 took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch in January.

In our last report, we were pleased to record a fruitful year for land



acquisition – we spent some £3.5 million – and hoped for similar success in 2001–02. In the event, purchase opportunities and availability of funds exceeded all expectations. Generous legacies, enthusiastic response to appeals and visionary grant funding, (notably from EU, HLF and WREN) and a lot of hard work by RSPB staff enabled us to spend a record £4.3 million adding to our land holdings, and we hope for similar success in 2002–03.

Eagle eyed readers of our accounts will note that ‘cash and investments available for future activities’ (ie financial reserves) have increased to £19 million, representing about five months’ worth of expenditure. While low by comparison with other large charities, this is higher than in recent years. The increase is mainly due to income being received late in the year or to money being earmarked for specific work in subsequent years. We have also established modest designated funds in recognition of the financial commitments associated with our increased land purchase programme. Financial reserves available for ‘general purposes’ stand at £14.5 million representing only about three months’ expenditure. Taken overall, Council would expect financial

Curlew by Ray Kennedy (RSPB Images)

reserves to fall modestly over the medium term. In 1947 financial reserves represented 13 years’ expenditure!

Volatile stock markets have long plagued treasurers and probably always will. Following the buoyant years of the late 1990s, we reported a loss on our investments for 2000–01. Regrettably, we find ourselves reporting another for 2001–02, albeit much smaller. Fortunately, the RSPB has not had to raise money from investments over the past couple of years and therefore the losses remain unrealised – nevertheless, we eagerly await an upturn.

In the notes to this year’s accounts, we show for the first time the annual fluctuation in the assets and liabilities of our pension fund. The disclosure is made under the provisions of the widely reported accounting guideline ‘FRS 17’. In common with many organisations, the fund is showing a deficit because of current stock market valuations. This 15% deficit is very sensitive to stock market prices and we would anticipate the shortfall reducing rapidly when markets recover. For information, the pension fund was in balance at the time of the last full actuarial review.

We finish on a note of appreciation for the generosity shown by you, our members and supporters. We are once again humbled by the legacies left to the Society and the trust placed in us to make a lasting impact in memory of those who mentioned the RSPB in their wills. But the last word must go to Lieut-Colonel Lord Forester, Chairman of Council, 1946:

*‘It is very nice to see that our membership now stands at more than 5,000, but there are some 44,000,000 inhabitants in these islands who are not members, and it strikes me that every sane and sensible person ought to be a member.’*

Please excuse an irresistible PS. Boosting the value of your subscriptions and donations by Gift Aid is only a phone call away. Simply call our Membership Services department at The Lodge on 01767 680551. This will boost the value of every £1 we receive to £1.28.

Humphrey Norrington,  
Honorary Treasurer  
Alan Sharpe,  
Director, Finance  
May 2002

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

For the year ended 31 March 2002

	2002 £'000	2001 £'000 (AS RESTATED)
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
<b>VOLUNTARY INCOME</b>		
• Membership subscriptions	19,951	18,171
• Legacies	16,957	15,140
• Grants	7,513	6,585
• Appeals	2,158	2,799
• General donations and reserve entry fees	1,172	1,062
• Commercial donations	1,318	766
• Trusts	528	640
• Members' groups	319	285
	<b>49,916</b>	<b>45,448</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES TO FURTHER THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS</b>		
• Land & farming income	1,062	1,098
• Media sales	459	536
• Fees & grants for services	268	152
	<b>1,789</b>	<b>1,786</b>
Investment income and interest	611	588
Net gains on disposals of fixed assets	207	37
	<b>818</b>	<b>625</b>
<b>TOTAL CHARITABLE INCOME</b>	<b>52,523</b>	<b>47,859</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES TO GENERATE FUNDS</b>		
• Mail order & shop income	7,852	7,376
• Media advertising and inserts	1,324	1,505
• Lotteries	896	842
• Commercial sponsorship	598	647
	<b>10,670</b>	<b>10,370</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>63,193</b>	<b>58,229</b>
<b>LESS</b>		
• Costs related to voluntary income	6,503	6,864
• Cost of goods & activities to generate funds	8,473	7,957
• Cost of investment management	53	35
• Cost of organisational support	484	493
<b>TOTAL COST OF GENERATING INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>15,513</b>	<b>15,349</b>
<b>NET RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES</b>	<b>47,680</b>	<b>42,880</b>

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES ( Cont )**

For the year ended 31 March 2002

	2002 £'000	2001 £'000 (AS RESTATED)
<b>CHARITABLE REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b>		
• Species and habitat conservation	17,628	16,211
• Management of nature reserves	11,939	10,666
• Membership services and enquiries	4,210	4,055
• Education, publications and films	4,079	3,869
• Managing & administering the charity	332	303
• Support costs	2,843	2,782
<b>TOTAL CHARITABLE REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>41,031</b>	<b>37,886</b>
Movement in value of investments	(375)	(677)
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>6,274</b>	<b>4,317</b>
<b>USE OF NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
Charitable capital expenditure		
• Nature reserves	4,203	3,815
• Other tangible assets	82	(269)
Movement on stock, debtors & creditors	(990)	313
	<b>3,295</b>	<b>3,859</b>
<b>INCREASE IN CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2,979</b>	<b>458</b>
<b>CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE AT START OF PERIOD</b>	<b>16,480</b>	<b>16,022</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>19,459</b>	<b>16,480</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS</b> as at 31 March 2002		
	2002 £'000	2001 £'000 (AS RESTATED)
<b>CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES</b>		
• General purposes	14,503	14,919
• Designated	2,217	–
• Restricted	2,739	1,561
<b>TOTAL CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>19,459</b>	<b>16,480</b>
Nature reserves	52,377	48,174
Other tangible assets	4,719	4,637
Stock, debtors & creditors	(1,394)	(404)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>75,161</b>	<b>68,887</b>

THE FULL AUDITED ACCOUNTS were approved on 2 July 2002 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, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

Signed on behalf of the Council:



Professor John Croxall Chairman 2 July 2002

**AUDITORS' STATEMENT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE RSPB**

We have examined these summarised financial statements.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors**  
You are responsible as trustees for the preparation of the summary financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised statements' consistency with the full financial statements, on which we reported to you on 2 July 2002

**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 2002.

Registered auditors: Arthur Andersen  
180 Strand, London WC2R 1BL  
2 July 2002

*Thank you for supporting us*

**Fellows and Life Fellows** The added commitment from those people who chose to upgrade membership to fellowship is greatly appreciated. We understand that this is your way of quietly increasing your support and we are deeply grateful for it.

**Members** Every member is stating a belief in the RSPB's ideals and vision: without our members, we could not function. Thank you for your support through another year.

will. We would like to recognise each one of them by name, but this is not practical. However, we would like to mention the following:

- Miss Dora Patricia Barrett,  
*Hertfordshire*
- Miss Constance Lilian Cheesman,  
*Derbyshire*
- Mrs Mary Isabella Davis,  
*Gloucestershire*
- Mrs Beatrice May Eccleshall,  
*Nottinghamshire*
- Miss June Emily Gausden, *Kent*
- Miss Vera Jean Hay, *Buckinghamshire*

- Miss Patricia Anne Turton,  
*Hertfordshire*
- Mr Alan Wolstencroft, *Berkshire*

**Charitable trusts** We are extremely grateful for the support received from charitable trusts and foundations and would particularly like to acknowledge the following:

- AJH Ashby Will Trust
- Bridge House Estates Trust Fund
- The Geoffrey Burton Charitable Trust
- The D J H Currie Memorial Trust
- EcologyFund.com

**Local members' groups** Both RSPB and Wildlife Explorers local groups continued to provide local community focus for our work in a host of ways, for which we are most grateful.

**Legacies** Legacies make a tremendous difference to the amount of conservation work the Society is able to undertake. Our thanks go to everyone who has the generosity and forethought to remember us in their

- Miss Daphne Joan Heath,  
*Cambridgeshire*
- Mr Sydney Francis Jones, *London*
- Miss Elizabeth Fourmy Mytton,  
*Worcestershire*
- Miss Anne Marie Salvesen,  
*West Lothian*
- Miss Janet Seligman, *London*
- Dr Rosamund O F Shanks, *Hampshire*
- Mrs Aubrey Vivian Shaw,  
*North Yorkshire*
- Mrs Kathleen Smith, *Clwyd*

- The Doris Field Charitable Trust
- Donald Forrester Trust
- The Helen and Horace Gillman Trusts
- Douglas Glanfield Memorial Trust
- The Lattice Foundation
- The late Mrs Barbara McLellan Martin Trust
- The Northern Rock Foundation
- Michael Otto Foundation
- Patagonia Inc
- The Jack Patston Charitable Trust
- Restore UK

# Acknowledgements



Robertson Trust  
 The late Miss E M P Scott, Miss  
 M Samways & Miss C T C Richards  
 The Shears Charitable Trust  
 The John Slater Foundation  
 The Roger Vere Foundation  
 The EL Woodward Charitable Trust  
 WWF UK  
 John Young Charitable Trust

#### **Sponsorship, donations and grants**

The RSPB has enjoyed successful partnerships with organisations to our mutual benefit. We are delighted to acknowledge our business supporters and the many other organisations that have assisted us.

#### **Corporate support, donations, sponsorships, royalties and promotions**

Amerada Hess  
 Anglian Water Environmental  
 Partnership  
 Anglian Water Services  
 Aylesford Newsprint Ltd  
 Bank of Scotland plc  
 Biffaward  
 Black & Lizars Ltd  
 BP plc  
 Brett Waste Management Ltd  
 British Airways Assisting  
 Conservation  
 Center Parcs Ltd

CJ WildBird Foods Ltd  
 Cleanaway Havering Riverside Trust  
 The Co-operative Bank plc  
 EB Bedfordshire  
 EB Cambridgeshire Ltd (Shanks First)  
 Enventure Northern Ltd  
 The Environment Council  
 The Essex Environment Trust  
 Forest Enterprise  
 Frizzell Insurance Ltd  
 Gloucestershire Environmental Trust  
 Goldman Sachs International  
 Hanson Environment Fund  
 The Harewood Estate  
 Holiday Cottages Group Ltd  
 LWS Lancashire Environmental Fund  
 Manweb plc  
 Northern Ireland Electricity  
 Northumbrian Water Environmental  
 Trust  
 RMC Environment Fund  
 Rock Eagle plc  
 Scottish & Southern Energy plc  
 Severn Trent Water Ltd  
 SITA Environmental Trust  
 Solway Heritage  
 Swarovski UK Ltd  
 Talisman Energy (UK) Ltd  
 Thames Waste Management  
 Thames Water plc  
 Union Railways North Ltd  
 United Utilities plc  
 Victor Barbeau  
 Viking Optical Ltd

Viridor Waste plc  
 Waste Recycling Group (WRG)  
 through Waste  
 Recycling Environmental (WREN)  
 Webb Ivory (Burton) Ltd  
 Welsh Development Agency  
 Wessex Water plc  
 Wyvern Environmental Trust in  
 partnership with Wyvern Waste  
 Services  
 Yorkshire Water plc

#### **Support from statutory sector and other bodies**

Bedfordshire County Council  
 The Community Fund  
 The Countryside Agency  
 Countryside Council for Wales  
 Department for the Environment,  
 Farming & Rural Affairs  
 Department of the Environment,  
*Northern Ireland*  
 Department for the Environment,  
 Transport and the Regions  
 The East of England Development  
 Agency  
 English Nature  
 The Environmental Action Fund  
 The Environment Agency  
 Environment Wales  
 European Commission  
 Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
 Forestry Commission

The Heritage Lottery Fund  
 Horsham District Council  
 Lancaster City Council  
 Leader II  
 Lee Valley Regional Park Authority  
 Leeds City Council  
 National Assembly for Wales  
 Orkney Islands Council  
 Prince's Trust  
 Ribble Valley Borough Council  
 Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum  
 for Environmental Research  
 Scottish Executive  
 Scottish Natural Heritage  
 Water UK  
 Welsh European Funding Office  
 Weymouth and Portland Borough  
 Council  
 Wycombe District Council



## SPANNING THE UK

*The RSPB works for wildlife and the environment across the UK. We have headquarters in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, 10 regional offices and more than 160 nature reserves. These help to give a local focus and accessibility to our work, extending from the southern tip of Cornwall to the northern Shetland Islands, and from the Suffolk coast to the western limits of Northern Ireland.*

*Lapwing by Bob Glover (RSPB Images)*

*The RSPB works for a healthy environment rich in birds and wildlife. It relies on the support and generosity of others to make a difference. The RSPB is the UK Partner of the global federation of conservation organisations, BirdLife International.*

**The Royal Society for the Protection  
of Birds**

[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

**UK Headquarters**

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

**Central England Regional Office**

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

**East Anglia Regional Office**

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

**North England Regional Office**

4 Benton Terrace, Sandyford Road,  
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*Cover: lapwing by Niall Benvie  
(RSPB Images)*

*Regd charity no 207076*

*Printed on paper containing 75%  
post-consumer waste  
by Eclipse Colour Print Limited.*



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