

# Contents

**This document** provides a snapshot of the RSPB and its work during the year 2006–2007: enough, we believe, to give the reader an honest picture of the scope of our efforts, successes and the problems we continue to face.

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## speaking up for nature

The RSPB is an environmental charity specialising in the conservation of birds and biodiversity.

We are primarily UK-focused, but have exciting and visionary international projects, and work with many partners around the world. Our work is science-based, seeking practical solutions from rational analysis. This shapes our policies and our actions. We combine research, campaigning and education with hands-on action on our 200 nature reserves across the UK.

**More than a million members support our actions, providing an opportunity to create real and effective change, and helping to give nature a voice.**

## Welcome

A year in the RSPB's life is full of excitements, achievements and challenges. There are many successes and special moments to celebrate.

Our successes provide welcome highlights in a world that increasingly focuses on short-term economic growth, often at great environmental cost. Our legacy for future generations threatens to be a world filled with problems, not least because of our changing climate.

The RSPB strives to ensure that as much as possible of the world's natural riches survives. Birds, through their changing fortunes, offer a remarkably clear indication of the health of the planet on which we also depend. Birds and other wildlife also enrich people's lives in countless ways. We believe that conservation of life on earth, in all its forms, is crucially important and is, anyway, a moral imperative.

The spectre of climate change has put the environment high on the political agenda. Paradoxically, the intense focus on this issue threatens to push other conservation considerations down the agenda: indeed, some developments in the name of climate change mitigation, intended to protect the environment, may themselves

create new environmental threats. The RSPB strives to maintain a broad and balanced view.

We can do nothing on our own. We depend, as a charity, on the support of others, financially, morally and politically. Our members provide us with the bulk of our income and their continuing commitment and belief give us the backing we need for our conservation work. We are constantly aware of this and grateful for the enthusiastic support we get and the confidence that so many people show in our efforts on their behalf.

We enjoy support, too, from many trusts, organisations, businesses and others, and acknowledge these at the end of this document.

**Thank you to all our supporters.**



Graham Wynne  
RSPB Chief Executive



Professor Ian Newton  
Chairman of Council



Graham Wynne

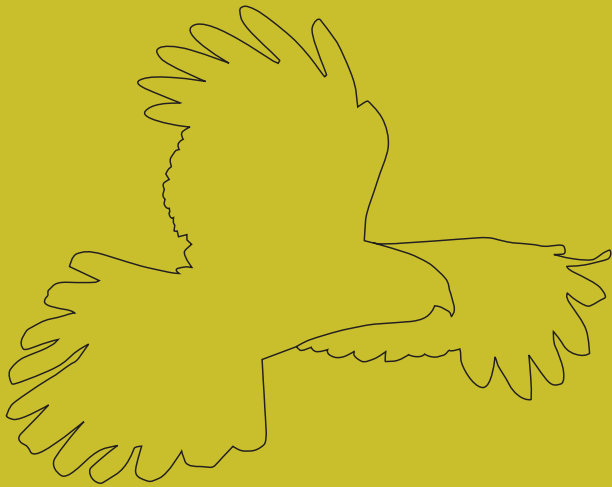
Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

**This short review** highlights just a sample of the RSPB's work during the year 2006–2007. You can find out more, and see how some of the issues and our projects develop during the year, by visiting [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk).



Professor Ian Newton

Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)



'We have 200 nature reserves and they are wonderful places for some of our most exciting and threatened wildlife – as well as a fantastic range of commoner birds, plants, insects and mammals. They are also great places for people to enjoy the countryside and I know from my own experience that they are marvellous for enthusing children about the world around them.'

**Gwyn Williams, Head of Reserves and Protected Areas**



## protecting birds and wonderful places

We are excited by our 200th nature reserve, Sutton Fen in Norfolk, already one of the finest unspoilt reedbeds in western Europe. It excited our supporters, too, who gave us wonderful financial backing. We will manage the fen for its whole range of wildlife, including bitterns, cranes, harriers and bearded tits and many once common species that are now localised. A special plant is milk parsley, the food of the caterpillar of the magnificent swallowtail butterfly.

Two new reserves in Gwynedd are our first in Wales for 12 years: grassland for nesting lapwings at Morfa Dinlle, near Caernarfon, and beautiful uplands with important birds on the Migneint moors.

Extending current reserves is as valuable as buying new ones. In Scotland, we added land to the Loch of Kinnordy reserve in Angus and the Oa on Islay. We added to the Wood of Cree reserve in Dumfries & Galloway and to our holdings in the Caithness and Sutherland flows. In Northern Ireland, we enlarged important reserves at Lough Foyle and on Rathlin Island, both in Co Antrim.

A notable landmark was the 200th white-tailed eagle chick fledged in Scotland since a reintroduction project began in 1975. While red kites in Wales

(the native population) and England (reintroduced) continue to do well, illegal killing has halted their recovery in North Scotland and continues to affect the range and numbers of hen harriers and golden eagles. Our report, *Peak Malpractice*, tells a tale of poisoning, shooting and destruction of nests of goshawks, peregrines and ravens in the Peak District National Park. We will maintain pressure to see an end to this.

**'After years of watching them, I'm still captivated by hen harriers. Fortunately, United Utilities and their farm tenants in the Forest of Bowland make them welcome. Each year I look forward to their return and to seeing their displays on a sunny morning – the wait is well worth it.'**

**Pete Wilson,  
Bowland Project Officer**

We continue to work hard to help birds in Wales, especially through schemes that allow farmers to do more for wildlife on their land, but the effects of intensification continue to be felt.

Two birds that seem inseparable from the life and atmosphere of the Welsh uplands are steadily disappearing. A 2006 survey revealed only 1,099 pairs of curlews in Wales, an 81% decline since 1993. Lapwings proved too scarce to be monitored by normal sample survey methods. The continuing loss of once-common elements of the Welsh countryside is sad and frustrating.

Other birds have declined, too: we do not know of any breeding turtle doves in Wales at all, and a survey of ring ouzels in the Welsh hills revealed a shocking 69% decline in the few years since 1999.

In Scotland, it was a great year for corncrakes on the Argyll islands. We secured many positive agreements with farmers and crofters to help the continued recovery of this remarkable bird. Providing early spring and late summer cover for corncrakes on Papa Westray, Orkney, resulted in a tripling of the number of calling males there.

In a hugely beneficial move for birds worldwide, the EU banned imports of wild-caught birds from July 2007. We campaigned for decades against the iniquities of this worldwide trade. The ban was introduced primarily to reduce risks of disease rather than on conservation grounds, but Tony Blair backed our campaign, citing unacceptable levels of suffering and damage to wild populations. Before the ban, the EU imported 1–2 million wild birds each year and up to 60% more may have died on the way.

#### For extra information

*The state of the UK's birds is an annual report on population trends: see [www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/science/sotukb](http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/science/sotukb)* We also produce annually *The state of birds in Wales*

*Conservation science in the RSPB is an annual report on RSPB scientific work with a selection of results.*



Choughs

Andy Jay (rspb-images.com)

'In 1956 I saw and heard the last choughs in Cornwall: that magical call embodies all that's romantic. I followed up rumours of choughs at the Lizard in 2001 and that cry rang out even before I saw them – my spirits soared. The chough was home. Now their offspring have even reached remote cliffs near my home: a brilliant beam of hope for our threatened wildlife.'

**Roy Phillips, chough watch volunteer**



Comcrake

Nigel Blake (rspb-images.com)



"We spend a lot of time relating our science and policies to real proposals for development on the ground. We commented on 1,200 cases during the year, to make sure that new ports, new roads, new wind farms, new houses – developments of many kinds – do as little damage as possible to places that are important for birds. Our efforts behind the scenes proved well worthwhile, as more than three quarters of our objections were successful and developments were cancelled or moved to less sensitive sites. Protecting great places is only part of the job: we also work hard to make sure that government policies affecting farming, fishing, water, forestry and other areas do more to help wildlife flourish."

**Mark Avery, Director of Conservation**



Lapwing

## saving important places for birds

Work on wind farm proposals (especially in Scotland) continued to be challenging. The RSPB supports renewable energy proposals such as wind farms, as long as they do not harm wildlife. We continue to work constructively with the industry to try to get wind farms placed in non-sensitive locations. Where significant problems arise, we vigorously resist unnecessary damage in the name of climate change mitigation.

With Natural England we welcomed an agreement with the developers of the London Array offshore wind farm on a phased development to avoid harm to the Thames estuary's red-throated divers. We appreciate the positive way that London Array Ltd worked with us on the project.

However, a revised application for a 181 turbine wind farm on the Lewis Peatlands Special Protection Area (SPA) failed to reduce the severe damage that the development would do to the SPA and to the peatlands themselves. Acceptance of this development on an SPA would seriously challenge the value of the UK and European site protection system.

We opposed a number of airport expansion schemes during the year, because of likely effects on wildlife

and climate. Lydd Airport, near Dungeness, Kent, submitted plans to carry 500,000 passengers per year (currently 4,000), aiming to increase to 2 million. We are concerned about the effect on the area's fabulous wildlife, implications for climate change and impacts on the Dungeness National Nature Reserve and on the adjacent RSPB nature reserve.

**'You can locate many wind farms without problems. In 2006, across the UK, we were involved with 430 wind energy proposals, but still had to object to 33. To try to avoid difficulties in Scotland, we published a bird sensitivity map to guide wind development.'**

### **Anne McCall, Planning and Development, Scotland**

Housing pressures on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA came under scrutiny at the South East Plan Examination in Public. Natural England's proposed mitigation framework, developed with RSPB input, seeks to facilitate housing development without damage to the SPA. New research confirms earlier

findings that heathland birds suffer from increased housing and associated recreation. Dartford warblers on these heaths have suffered an alarming 30% decline between 2005 and 2006.

We work hard to make sure that wildlife is helped by government policies relating to farming, fishing, water, forestry and other areas affecting the countryside. At Hope Farm, our farm in Cambridgeshire, we put policy into action. Breeding birds were up by 63% since 2000 and we saw the largest numbers of wintering birds yet, while maintaining crop yields and profitability.

Our Volunteer & Farmer Alliance surveyed birds on 500 farms, bringing the number surveyed across the UK to more than 3,350. With our assistance, similar projects have been set up in Sweden and Portugal.

In the upper Thames river valleys, 10,000 metres of wader-friendly ditches and 2,000 square metres of scrapes were created in Lapwing Landscapes, a project with Natural England. Forty volunteers helped in surveys there.

The RSPB, the Rivers Agency and Caledon Estate will restore an Important Bird Area (IBA) for breeding waders and wintering water birds in Northern Ireland. Annaghroe

Meadows, within the River Blackwater floodplain, were dried out by a drainage scheme in the mid-1980s. The meadows used to support 50 whooper swans and 90 Greenland white-fronted geese, but numbers are now very low. The excellent working relationship between partners bodes well for other restoration projects in the country.

We have long advocated a UK Marine Bill. In 2005, the Government promised a draft Bill, and there was a comprehensive consultation during 2006, to which we responded in full. We were disappointed that the Bill was not mentioned in the November 2006 Queen's Speech, but were assured that work was progressing. We continue to press for its speedy introduction.

#### For extra information

For much more about our site protection work in the four UK countries, please see [www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/sites](http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/sites)

For more on Hope Farm, including annual updates, see [www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/farming/hopefarm](http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/farming/hopefarm)



Dartford warbler

Mike Read (rspb@rspb.org.uk)

'A survey of Dartford warblers in 2006 estimated 3,208 pairs, 70% more than there were in 1994. There were 71 in Wales, where they didn't even nest until 1998, and 85 in the Channel Islands. While this is excellent news, there is no room for complacency, as there have been recent declines on the Thames Basin heaths.'

**Simon Wotton, Research Biologist**



Andy Hay (rspb@rspb.org.uk)





'We need facts to help us make decisions, to decide on our policies and to promote action by other people to help birds. RSPB science aims to provide the evidence, so that my colleagues can then give nature a stronger voice. Climate change has put the environment high on the political agenda, and rightly so, but we are nevertheless determined that it doesn't push other vital conservation considerations into the background.'

**David Gibbons, Head of Conservation Science**



Willow tit

## policies for the natural world

A UK Government Aviation White Paper announced a huge increase in airport expansion, to 500 million passengers by 2030. Air travel is the fastest growing sector for greenhouse gas emissions. The Government declared its support for sustainable aviation, yet rejected the idea of constraining growth in airport capacity. While some proposals for airport expansion have direct impacts on biodiversity, we objected to others, too, because of the implications of climate change for global biodiversity. Such cases require a great deal of research, preparation and skilful presentation.

Having asked the Government to cut UK greenhouse gas emissions by 3% per year, we set ourselves the same target in RSPB business activities.

We were sceptical when an outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza in Suffolk was immediately blamed on wild birds, when the information available suggested otherwise. Our scepticism proved to be justified: it seems that infection came in poultry products from Hungary. As well as ensuring that public and media knowledge about avian flu is based on good information, we played a critical role in Defra's Avian Influenza Surveillance Strategy. As the largest contributor,

we undertook 1,000 assessments on RSPB wetlands. We shoulder the costs of this, and would welcome some Government support.

As environmental awareness increased, we joined others to set politicians six tests of political leadership to ensure their words are backed by action. This was followed by valuable meetings with the leaders of the three main UK political parties.

'A survey of woodland birds showed that a number have declined steeply. Changes in woodland structure might have something to do with it – but for some species the problems may be elsewhere, as most of those that are declining are long-range migrants.'

### Arjun Amar, Research Biologist

A widely distributed and discussed RSPB report, *Wellbeing through wildlife*, highlighted the benefits of wildlife and wild places to people in the EU.

More than 1,000 RSPB members attended a 25,000-strong Stop Climate Chaos rally in London in November. We urged the Government to ensure that global greenhouse gas emissions fall by 2015; to reduce UK emissions by at least three per cent per year; and to help poor countries cope with disasters caused by climate change and get access to clean energy to help eliminate poverty. Our own linked event included inspiring talks from Professor John Lawton, Chair of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and former RSPB Chairman, and Ruth Johnson (still at school) speaking for the RSPB's Phoenix Forum.

A few days later, we again demonstrated mass public backing for our campaign by handing the Prime Minister 150,000 pledges of support—60,000 from RSPB supporters. We were delighted by the Government's declared intention to introduce a Climate Change Bill.

#### For more information

For details of our full range of policy work, visit [www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy](http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy)

For more on climate change activities, visit [www.stopclimatechaos.org](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org)



Climate chaos rally 2006

**'A third of all land species** could be on the way to extinction by 2050. Forecasts like that are sobering, but it's not too late to stop the catastrophe. There are reasons for hope, and each one of us can do many things to help stop climate chaos.'

**Mairi Dupar, RSPB Climate Change communications team**



Ptarmigan



'Birds and other wildlife face accelerating threats all over the world. I wish we could fight them all, but, with limited resources, we recognise that we must select areas of work in which we can make a positive difference. I know there is so much more to do, but we enjoyed a number of important and welcome successes during the year.'

**Alistair Gammell, Director of International**



Light-mantled sooty albatross

## saving threatened birds worldwide

Our Albatross Task Force gives first-hand advice to crews on fishing vessels in the Southern Ocean, to help stop seabirds – including 100,000 albatrosses each year – being killed by longlines. We pressured governments to insist on fishing vessels using albatross-friendly fishing techniques. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) passed a measure requiring its longline vessels to use at least two means of reducing the risk of killing albatrosses. BirdLife International's Global Seabird Programme, hosted by the RSPB, played a key role in this success. The WCPFC manages the largest tuna fishery in the world and nearly half of the global distribution of albatrosses falls within WCPFC waters. We are working towards similar measures in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Our efforts to prevent the extinction of three vulture species in Asia began to bear fruit. The India, Nepal and Pakistan governments announced bans on the veterinary drug that has largely wiped out these vultures. The first chicks hatched in a breeding facility in India but, probably due to the inexperience of their parents, they did not survive. The future for these vultures, however, looks more positive than it has for a long time.

We helped OTOP, our BirdLife Partner in Poland, in long-term plans to improve the management of habitat for Europe's most threatened songbird, the aquatic warbler.

Also concerning Poland, pressure from OTOP, helped by the RSPB, resulted in the European Commission starting proceedings against the Polish Government, which failed to designate

**'Extreme emotional and physical boundaries were reached in the past few weeks. I almost cracked many times – the sea, the food, the smell. I've just got back from a trip on a tuna longliner. It was sad, as we came back with 12 dead albatrosses and three turtles. One of the hardest things is when a dead bird is hauled up. Every time it breaks my heart, but I know I have to be strong and not let my feelings show.'**

**Meidad Goren, Albatross Task Force, Southern Oceans**

a sufficient number of Special Protection Areas for birds (only 70 out of OTOP's 140 Important Bird Areas). Poland has also been warned because of failure to comply with the EU Birds and Habitats Directives in eight road projects in the Via Baltica (Helsinki–Warsaw) corridor, which will damage habitats including the Biebrza Marshes.

The Harapan Rainforest project in Sumatra, Indonesia, remains challenging. In April 2006, the BirdLife International consortium won the auction for the concession licence for 53,000 ha of the 101,000 ha restoration site, and completed a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment. In August, we signed an agreement with the holder of the other 48,000 ha, and legal logging has ceased. A success for Burung Indonesia (our Partner in Indonesia) was a new law, increasing the licence period for restoration concessions from 55 to 100 years.

The Gola Forest conservation project in Sierra Leone, with the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone and the Forestry Division, continued to make good progress. It is a marvellous example of rainforest protection in partnership with local people and with strong interest and support from the national government. Logging has been very considerably reduced and President Kabbah of Sierra Leone has confirmed his government's intention to protect the forest.

After seven years' work we produced a directory of Important Bird Areas in the 14 UK Overseas Territories. The UK Government has failed to meet its responsibilities for conservation there, or to help biodiversity in these important places. Its attitude towards wildlife in the UKOTs was described by the House of Commons' Environmental Audit Committee as shameful.

**'The Galician writer Rosala de Castro wrote "The real homeland of mankind is the entire world." For me that's the real point: the RSPB is a worldwide necessity. I'm proud to be 'one in a million', a member. We have to give life a chance. That's why the RSPB must go on – for birds – for people – for ever.'**

**HS Pinheiro, member, Portugal**

**For extra information**

Please visit [www.savethealbatross.net](http://www.savethealbatross.net)

Also see [www.rspb.org.uk/supporting/campaigns/sumatra](http://www.rspb.org.uk/supporting/campaigns/sumatra) and [www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/projects/sierraleone/upperguinea](http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/projects/sierraleone/upperguinea) and [www.rspb.org.uk/international](http://www.rspb.org.uk/international)



Aquatic warbler

Mike Lane (rspb-images.com)

**'Europe's most threatened** songbird is the aquatic warbler and we didn't know much about where it went in winter. Now we've found 5–10,000 wintering in Senegal. And three bald ibises from the last tiny colony in Syria were tracked by satellite to Ethiopia last winter: a brilliant result for our efforts to save this bird.'

**Debbie Pain, head of International Research**



Bald ibis

Chris Gomersall (rspb-images.com)



'Enthusing people, especially children, is the best way to make sure they care enough about wildlife to want to protect it for the future. We do a great deal of varied and energetic work to encourage people and its success gives us real optimism for the future.'

**Mike Hodgson, Director of Public Affairs**



Wren

## opening eyes to wildlife

More than half a million people enjoyed seeing birds at 'Aren't birds brilliant!' sites across the UK and more than 1.5 million people visited our nature reserves. More than 44,000 people visited the Aren't birds brilliant! scheme to see peregrines at the Tate in London and 10,000 came to see peregrines on Chichester cathedral.

A three-year project, 'Birds near you', was launched in Birmingham with Severn Trent Water, including a peregrine viewing scheme right in the heart of the city.

At Rainham Marshes, Essex, Bill Oddie and Ruth Kelly (Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government), opened our award-winning, greenest and most unusual visitor centre to date, and highlighted our work throughout the Thames Gateway.

The Big Garden Birdwatch again involved more than 400,000 people. Our Homes Fit for Birds project, helping people to help wildlife, brought an excellent response from 22,000 households asking for advice. We are expanding this pilot work into a more ambitious and wide-ranging project in future.

Our Bird Friendly Schools project matches enthusiastic volunteers with

receptive schools, and trains and resources them to bring learning and fun to children. Pilot projects in England and Scotland demonstrated that the RSPB can find, train and motivate volunteers and that schools are keen to take part.

Junior membership in RSPB Wildlife Explorers continued to grow steadily, reaching 167,947: a healthy and encouraging sign for the future. Wildlife Explorer school groups were up by 60% in Eastern England.

**'Someone asked** my son if he would like to look at the osprey through his telescope. He looked, took his eye away, then looked again, a huge smile welling up like a spring tide. Wow, he said, this is better than a PC game.'

**Nick Saville, RSPB member, Leicestershire**



The RSPB has long been involved in encouraging children to care for wildlife and their own environment. We celebrated 40 years of inspirational teaching of children at our nature reserves. Against a falling national trend, numbers of children benefiting from RSPB field teaching leapt from 49,000 in 2005 to 62,000.

As well as enjoyment of wildlife first hand, we provide an extensive enquiry service for members and offer a huge amount of current information on our website. In 2006, 5.4 million visitors viewed 55.7 million pages on the RSPB website, which was relaunched with an updated, more appealing and more usable design.

It was an excellent year for our work with the media, including, for example, good collaboration with the BBC *Springwatch* team, and beneficial relationships with national newspapers and magazines.

### **'In the Big Schools**

**Birdwatch**, the children really learnt a lot this year, enjoyed the good job they were doing and, above all, had fun. They are keen to do it again and I think we have set a foundation stone for tomorrow's birdwatchers, nature lovers and RSPB members. What a great day for us all.'

**Julie Peeling, field teacher and teaching assistant, Kent**

#### **For extra information**

Search for events on  
[www.rspb.org.uk/events](http://www.rspb.org.uk/events)  
[www.rspb.org.uk/brilliant/sites](http://www.rspb.org.uk/brilliant/sites)  
[www.rspb.org.uk/webcams](http://www.rspb.org.uk/webcams)

Also see  
[www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)  
[www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/teaching](http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/teaching)



Many people watched seabirds on special cruises

Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

**'After my time** volunteering at South Stack nature reserve on Anglesey, I came away feeling privileged to have had the chance to make a useful contribution to the RSPB's work. I recommend volunteering to anyone.'

**Sandra Carter,  
RSPB volunteer, Hampshire**



Waiting for hen harriers at an Aren't birds brilliant! site

Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)



'The challenges we – that is, wildlife – face are ever increasing. Our members remain the cornerstone of our influence, and our ability to carry out conservation work. Nevertheless, we have to explore all possible ways of increasing our income. There is never enough money in conservation: for us, more income simply means more work for birds.'

**Karen Rothwell, Marketing Director**



Red kites

## generating resources for our work

Members' support for the RSPB's work through their subscriptions exceeded £20 million for the first time. Some 77% of members have now signed up to Gift Aid, adding a further £5 million at no cost to themselves.

We received more than £24 million from legacies and extend our grateful thanks to all those who think far ahead and remember the RSPB in their wills. Legacy income has a huge influence on our ability to deliver tangible, long-lasting conservation results through our nature reserves.

Members supported three special appeals in the year, raising £1.7 million to help us buy Sutton Fen; to support our work to stop illegal bird killing in the Mediterranean; and to protect birds of prey in the UK. Long-term projects, including Hope Farm, the Flow Country and albatross work, continued to be supported by members making regular monthly donations.

The RSPB/Co-operative Bank Visa card is still very popular with members, who contributed nearly half a million pounds at no extra cost to themselves, simply by using their card. RSPB raffles and pin badges are as popular as ever, raising over £1.5 million.

Two funding milestones were passed. The Heritage Lottery Fund has now awarded the RSPB more than £20 million and the Landfill Communities Fund more than £10 million. During the past 10 years, they have supported more than 250 projects; in most cases, the project couldn't have gone ahead without their help.

RSPB birdfood is now on sale in more than 650 retail outlets across the UK, including Tesco, Pets at Home and a wide range of garden centres. This improves sales and promotes the RSPB in new locations, to new people.

The total number of RSPB members at year end was 1,045,191. The number of young people involved through their membership of RSPB Wildlife Explorers continued to increase, reaching 167,947.

**'We changed our trading operation completely in 2005. It was a big challenge, but well worth it, as results this year were excellent. Running it ourselves means that all of the profit goes to our conservation work.'**

**Peter Carroll, Marketing**



Peregrine falcon

## The RSPB in Wales

'The breadth of our work in Wales continued to draw welcome support from our members, supporters and partners. After many years of planning, our first new reserves for more than 10 years were a welcome addition to our existing network of sites. There is still much to do to reverse the declines of wading birds in Wales, but a new initiative for lapwings will give us improved population data. External funding was an important factor again in 2006, not least in buying the new reserves, and all of our generous supporters are listed at the end of the review: I am particularly grateful for their commitment.'

**Dr Tim Stowe, Director, Wales**

Under the Government of Wales Act 2006, we have opportunities to influence future law making in Wales. We can call for new powers, we can comment on powers that others are calling for and, if a power is being implemented in Wales, we can work to influence the wording and detail.

Proposals to harness tidal energy in the Severn estuary give us cause for concern, as the Welsh Assembly Government revived the long-standing idea for a tidal electricity-generating barrage. We remain opposed to a Severn barrage, which would have a massively damaging effect on the environment and ecology of the estuary, including areas protected for wild birds under European law. We were quick to respond to the Welsh Assembly and through the media.

The Stop Climate Chaos coalition in Wales held a number of events at major shows, festivals and at political party conferences. A significant contingent from Wales joined supporters from across the UK at the *I Count* rally in London.

#### Working for special birds in Wales

Conservation action for lapwings in Wales received a major boost, as work began to stop population declines, focusing on the Heads of the Valley area in south Wales and the Hiraethog area in north Wales.

A curlew survey in 2006 confirmed an 81% decline for these enigmatic, but charismatic, birds since 1993. We worked hard to improve conditions for curlews at Lake Vyrnwy, one of the two RSPB reserves where curlews breed. Black grouse had a record year at Lake Vyrnwy, with 18 displaying males at spring leks – up from eight in the previous year. Habitat management for black grouse away from reserves focused on eight areas, and 189 males were counted in 74 leks.

We launched the annual *State of birds in Wales* report at The Senedd, which was attended by the Minister for the Environment. This publication documents the fluctuations of birds in Wales and is becoming increasingly useful year by year.

The future for farmland birds in Wales remained a core consideration. We responded to the draft Rural Development Plan for Wales consultation, and campaigned for improved targeting of species within the agri-environment scheme, Tir Gofal. Target species include curlew, yellowhammer, tree sparrow and lapwing. Forty farms were surveyed as part of the Volunteer and Farmer Alliance in Wales. The RSPB's senior advisory officer in Wales was seconded to the Welsh Assembly Government for a year, to advise on the priorities for farmland bird species within Tir Gofal.



Wheatear

Ben Hall (rspb.org.uk)

#### Nature reserve focus

Construction work started on a new environmental education and visitor centre at Newport Wetlands. Funding was secured for a new southern reedbed and for signs and displays at the site, thanks to support from a range of external funders. All of the primary schools in the Newport area were offered a free teaching session, to help children experience the inspiring surroundings and wildlife at Newport Wetlands. We also welcomed members and supporters to see and hear more about the exciting developments, and almost 300 people attended.

The first new Welsh RSPB nature reserves for more than 10 years were acquired in north Wales: an area of moorland on the Migneint and an area of wet grassland on the coast near Caernarfon. The Tan-yr-allt site on the Migneint was bought as part of the Active blanket bog in Wales partnership project, paid for by the EU LIFE-Nature programme. This is the last EU LIFE funded project and will focus on the restoration of blanket bog on special sites in north Wales.

Lapwings will be helped by habitat management at the Morfa Dinlle reserve, near Caernarfon, purchased as part of the Heritage Lottery funded Wetlands for Wales project.

We improved facilities for people coming to the Conwy reserve. A new centre and café helped to attract a record number of visitors to this already popular site in the shadow of Conwy Castle on the North Wales coast.

### Involving people

The house sparrow remained the most counted bird during the Big Garden Birdwatch in Wales. More than 21,000 people took part in the survey, with a further 2,000 Welsh children taking part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch. From red kites to puffins, our Aren't birds brilliant! schemes attracted more than 80,000 visits to six places in Wales. The Glaslyn ospreys returned for the third year and successfully raised two young, and a grant from Environment Wales helped provide better camera equipment for future years, to bring live pictures from the nest to the visitor centre. Interest surrounding bird spectacles in Wales was supported by another strong year for media coverage of the work of the RSPB.

Volunteers continued to play a pivotal role, as the number of volunteer hours donated to our work in Wales surpassed an incredible 52,000. Volunteers continued to carry out many roles, including practical conservation work, fundraising and office-based jobs. Community-fundraising volunteers helped to raise an impressive £72,000 through pin badge sales and local collections: a magnificent effort for which we are extremely grateful.

Our head of lifelong learning started a three-year secondment as the Welsh Assembly Government's Champion for Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship. This secondment is the pinnacle of many years of work to support this activity by the RSPB and its education partners.

### For extra information

Please visit  
[www.rspb.org.uk/news/wales](http://www.rspb.org.uk/news/wales)  
[www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/area](http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/area)  
[www.rspb.org.uk/brilliant/sites](http://www.rspb.org.uk/brilliant/sites)



Gylfinir/curlew

She Trainer (rspb-images.com)

## RSPB ar Gymru

O ganlyniad i ehangder ein gwaith yng Nghymru cafwyd cefnogaeth barhaol ein haelodau, cefnogwyr a phartneriaid. Wedi llawer blwyddyn o gynllunio, roedd ein gwarchodfeydd newydd cyntaf am fwy na deng mlynedd yn ychwanegiadau gwerthfawr i'r safleoedd sydd gennym eisoes. Mae llawer i'w wneud eto i wrthdroi prinhad adar rhydiol Cymru, ond bydd menter newydd ar gyfer y gornchwiglen yn sicrhau gwell gwybodaeth am y boblogaeth a gwaith rheoli cynefin. Roedd ariannu allanol yn ffactor pwysig eto yn 2006, gan ein galluogi i brynu'r gwarchodfeydd newydd, a rhestrir pob un o'n cefnogwyr hael ar ddiwedd yr adolygiad.'

**Dr Tim Stowe, Cyfarwyddwr, Cymru**

O dan Ddeddf newydd Llywodraeth Cymru 2006, mae gennym gyfleoedd newydd i ddylanwadu ar lunio deddfau yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol. Gallwn alw am bwerau newydd, gallwn wneud sylwadau am bwerau y mae eraill yn galw amdanynt ac, os yw pwrer yn cael ei weithredu yng Nghymru, gallwn weithio i ddylanwadu ar y geiriad a'r manylion.

Roedd cynigion i ddefnyddio ynni'r llanw yn Aber Hafren yn peri pryder i ni, wrth i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru adfywio'r hen syniad ar gyfer creu bared llanwol i gynhyrchu ynni. Fe wnaethom barhau i wrthwynebu bared Hafren, oherwydd byddai ei effeithiau yn hynod o niweidiol i amgylchedd ac ecoleg yr aber, yn cynnwys manau a warchodwyd ar gyfer adar gwyllt o dan ddeddf Ewropeaidd. Paratowyd ymateb cyflym i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a thrwy'r cyfryngau. Cynhaliodd y glynblaid Atal Anrhefn Hinsawdd yng Nghymru nifer o ddigwyddiadau mewn sioeau a gwyliau pwysig ac mewn cynadleddau pleidiau gwleidyddol. Ymunodd mintai sylweddol o Gymru gyda chefnogwyr o'r DU gyfan yn rali *Rwy'n Cyfri* yn Llundain.

### Gweithio dros adar arbennig Cymru

Cafodd gwaith cadwraeth dros y gornchwigen gryn hwb wrth i'r gwaith ddechrau ar atal prnhad y boblogaeth, gan ganolbwyntio ar ardal Blaenau'r Cymoedd yn Ne Cymru ac ardal Hiraethog yng Ngogledd Cymru.

Cadarnhaodd arolwg y gylfinir yn 2006 bod yr adar dirgel a hudolus yma wedi prnhau o 81% ers 1993. Buom yn gweithio'n ddygn i wella amodau ar gyfer y gylfinir ar lan Llyn Efyrrnwy, un o ddwy warchodfa'r RSPB lle mae'r gylfinir yn dal i nythu. Cafodd y rgiar ddu flwyddyn ragorol ar lan Llyn Efyrrnwy, gyda 18 o geiliogod yn arddangos eu hunain ar lecynnau paru yn y gwanwyn – cynnydd o'r wyth yn unig a gofnodwyd y flwyddyn gynt. Canolbwyntiodd y rhaglen rheoli cynefin ar gyfer grugieir duon nad ydynt ar warchodfeydd ar wyth ardal, a chofnodwyd 189 ceiliog ar 74 llecyn arddangos.

Lansiwyd ein hadroddiad blynyddol *Sefyllfa adar yng Nghymru* yn y Senedd, ac yn bresennol roedd y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd. Mae'r ddogfen hon yn nodi'r amrywiadau ym mhoblogaethau adar Cymru ac mae hi'n fwyfwy defnyddiol bob blwyddyn.

Parhaodd dyfodol adar ffermdir Cymru i fod wrth wraidd ein gwaith. Lluniwyd ymateb i ymgynghoriad y Cynllun Datblygu Gwledig drafft, a buom yn ymgyrchu am well targedu rhywogaethau o fewn y cynllun amaeth-amgylcheddol, Tir Gofal. Ymysg y rhywogaethau targed mae'r bras melyn, y gylfinir, golfan y mynydd a'r gornchwigen. Arolygwyd deugain fferm fel rhan o Gynghair Gwirfoddoli a Ffermwyr Cymru. Daeth prif swyddog ymgynghori'r



David Keen (rspb-images.com)

Gwybedog brith/pied flycatcher

RSPB yng Nghymru i weithio gyda Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru am flwyddyn, i gyngori ar y blaenoriaethau ar gyfer rhywogaethau o adar ffermdir o fewn Tir Gofal.

### Canolbwyntio ar warchodfeydd natur

Cychwynnwyd ar y gwaith o adeiladu canolfan addysg ac ymwelwyr newydd ar Wlyptiroedd Casnewydd. Sicrhawyd arian ar gyfer cors ddeheuol newydd ac ar gyfer arwyddion ac arddangosiadau ar y safle, diolch i gefnogaeth gan ystod o noddwyr allanol. Cynigwyd sesiwn ddyssu am ddim i bob ysgol gynradd yn ardal Casnewydd, i helpu plant i gael eu hysbrydoli gan amgylchedd a bywyd gwyllt Gwlyptiroedd Casnewydd. Rhoddwyd croeso hefyd i aelodau a chefnogwyr a chyfle iddynt weld a chlywed mwy am y datblygiadau cyffrous, a daeth bron i 300 o bobl draw i'n gweld.

Prynwyd y gwarchodfeydd natur Cymreig cyntaf gan yr RSPB ers dros 10 mlynedd yng Ngogledd Cymru: ardal o rostir ar y Migneint ac arwynebedd o laswelltir gwlyb ar yr arfordir ger Caernarfon. Prynwyd safle Tan-yr-allt ar y Migneint fel rhan o'r project partneriaeth Gorgors Fyw Cymru, gydag arian o raglen LIFE-Natur yr UE. Dyma'r project olaf i'w ariannu gan LIFE yr UE a bydd yn canolbwyntio ar adfer yr orgors ar safleoedd arbennig yng Ngogledd Cymru.



Hwyaden wyllt/mallard

Bydd rheoli cynefin yn helpu cornhwiglod ar warchodfa Morfa Dinlle, ger Caernarfon, a brynwyd fel rhan o'r project Gwlyptir i Gymru a ariennir gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri.

Cwblhawyd y gwaith o wella cyfleusterau ar warchodfa Conwy, gan gynnwys canolfan a chaffi newydd, ac o ganlyniad daeth y nifer fwyaf erioed o ymwelwyr i'r safle hwn sydd eisoes yn boblogaidd yng nghysgod Castell Conwy ar arfordir Gogledd Cymru.

#### **Pobl yn cymryd rhan**

Unwaith eto yr aderyn y to oedd yr aderyn mwyaf niferus yn ystod wythnos Gwyllo Adar yr Ardd yng Nghymru. Bu dros 21,000 o bobl yn cymryd rhan yn yr arolwg, ynghyd â 2,000 o blant Cymru fu'n cymryd rhan yn arolwg Gwyllo Adar yr Ysgol. O'r barcud i'r pâl, llwyddodd ein cynlluniau Tydy Adar yn Wych! i ddenu dros 80,000 o ymweliadau â chwe man yng Nghymru. Dychwelodd y gweilch y pysgod i lannau'r Glaslyn ar y Traeth Mawr am y drydedd flwyddyn gan fagu dau gyw, a gyda chymorth grant gan Amgylchedd Cymru darparwyd gwell offer camera ar gyfer y blynyddoedd i ddod, er mwyn darlledu lluniau byw o'r nyth i'r ganolfan ymwelwyr. Cefnogwyd y diddordeb yn rhyfeddodau byd yr adar yng Nghymru gan flwyddyn gref arall o ran cyhoeddusrwydd am yr RSPB gan y cyfryngau.

Parhaodd gwirfoddolwyr i chwarae rhan hanfodol, a chofnodwyd y cyfraniad anhygoel o 52,000 o oriau gwirfoddol tuag at ein gwaith yng Nghymru. Parhaodd gwirfoddolwyr i wneud llawer o swyddi, yn cynnwys gwaith cadwraeth ymarferol, codi arian a gwaith swyddfa. Llwyddodd gwirfoddolwyr codi arian cymunedol i gasglu cymaint â £72,000 drwy werthu bathodynau pin a chasgliadau lleol: rydym yn hynod o ddiolchgar am yr ymdrech arbennig hon.

Cychwynnodd ein pennaeth dysgu gydol oes ar leoliad tair-mlynedd fel Hyrwyddwr Addysg dros Ddatblygu Cynladwy a Dinasyddiaeth Fyd eang Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Roedd y secondiad hwn yn ffrwyth blynyddoedd lawer o waith i gefnogi'r gweithgaredd hwn gan yr RSPB a'i phartneriaid mewn addysg.





Capercaillie

## The RSPB in Scotland

'Watching capercaillie, or black grouse, in the early hours of a spring morning is very special. Seeing them sparring and hearing their extraordinary calls is not only captivating, it is also a reminder of why our work in Scotland is so important. As we celebrate 10 years at our Corrimony reserve, in the Central Highlands, black grouse numbers are up from 16 to a record 57 males. That should make us all proud. But we could never have managed it alone. We are indebted to the support from our members, our partners in Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the BP-funded Scottish Forest Alliance programme, amongst others. Despite such success, the challenges facing Scotland's wildlife, from seabirds on our Northern Isles to nesting lapwings on a Lothian farm, are ever more demanding. The RSPB is well placed to help address these issues, but only with the support of a growing and active membership can we hope to succeed.'

**Stuart Housden**  
Director, RSPB Scotland

Our Loch of Strathbeg reserve was boosted by the East of Scotland European Partnership, the HLF, SNH, the Gillman Trusts and the Friends of Strathbeg. The reserve's spectacular wintering wildfowl include a fifth of the world's pink-footed geese. The money created new habitats for breeding birds, helped improve access and involved local people here and at our neighbouring Troup Head reserve.

Close relationships with the crofting community on North Uist have been the key to the success of our Balranald reserve. In its 40th year, with the agreement of four crofting townships and three landowners, Balranald is our longest established reserve without RSPB ownership. It is a stronghold for corncrakes, but we're also working for the threatened corn bunting.

In the Uists, with land managers and the Glasgow Natural History Society, and funds from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, we helped the globally threatened great yellow bumblebee. The Biodiversity Action Grant Scheme funded a Hebridean education programme, encouraging children to learn about these bees and the flowers they need for survival.

Our work to protect Scotland's finest wildlife sites and habitats has grown hugely over the past year. We made more than 500 representations to planners, up by 25% in one year and half of all the RSPB's UK casework.

Much of this increase concerns renewable energy, as Scotland's potential is exploited. We support renewable energy but believe that targets can be met without threatening important wildlife habitats and sites. We worked hard to inform power companies of the sensitive areas for wildlife, and to reach sensible schemes. We objected to 10% of the several hundred cases examined.

A notable success was the halting of a wind farm proposal at Largie in Argyll. The local Council accepted our evidence on the likely impact on internationally important goose populations. Another campaign of international significance is the Lewis Wind Power proposal, which attracted 11,500 objections. As this report goes to print, we await a decision from the Scottish Government as to whether or not a public inquiry will be held.

Throughout 2006, we closely followed the passage of the new Scottish planning legislation, working with other environmental organisations and community representatives. We secured improvements to the final Planning Act and will work to ensure birds and biodiversity are properly considered as the Act is implemented.

We continued our campaign for a robust marine bill in Scotland to complement proposed Westminster legislation. Scotland supports 45% of all the EU's nesting seabirds, as well



Crested tit

Steve Knell (rspb-images.com)

as important economic activity. Action for coastal waters is essential. The prospect of ship-to-ship oil transfers in the Firth of Forth, together with another poor seabird breeding season, highlighted the fragility of our seas.

Seabird cruises on the Firth of Forth raised our profile in marine matters, as well as involving MSPs, MEPs, councillors and the public. Showing people fantastic colonies of seabirds, not five miles from Edinburgh, is a rewarding experience. The phrase 'I had no idea' was never heard so often.

#### Protecting iconic species

Sadly, persecution of birds of prey continues, particularly on some upland sporting estates. Numbers of confirmed poisoning incidents made 2006 the worst year on record, with half of all UK incidents occurring in Scotland. For the first time, we offered a reward for information on poisoned golden eagles in the Cairngorms National Park: so far, unclaimed. We helped the police to secure the first conviction of its kind when a former Aberdeenshire gamekeeper was found guilty of killing a hen harrier.

For the capercaillie, 2006 was the best breeding season for 15 years. Work to restructure forests, remove fences and reduce disturbance, as well as encouraging the right mixture of heather and blaeberry on our reserves and in private and state

forests, brought major benefits. Increasingly, working with SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland, we can support private landowners keen to carry out similar work and undertake legal predator control.

Our Abernethy reserve has more species than any other RSPB reserve, so our work is sensitive to the requirements of pine specialities such as the one-flowered wintergreen, twinflower, red squirrel, narrow-headed ant, pine hoverfly and the incredibly rare green shield moss, to name but a few. Our capercaillie tartan, launched by Lochcarron of Scotland in conjunction with the Scottish Tartans Authority, raised much needed funds.

### **A Scottish education**

Our work to ensure that young Scots learn about sustainable development and the environment in schools bore fruit in the Scottish Government strategy *Learning for our Future* and the new school curriculum. We campaigned for outdoor learning at all stages in education. Our teaching scheme at Vane Farm beside Loch Leven has run for nearly 40 years and we have excellent teaching facilities on several reserves. The number of children visiting these increased by 18% and a new programme at Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow will expand our ability to enthuse children and adults alike in this urban setting.

### **Working in partnership**

We cannot achieve any of this work alone. Our goals are more easily reached when working with like-minded individuals and organisations. We have been pleased to establish agreements with SNH, to create a closer working partnership and secure significant funding for our work. This ensures that we help SNH care for Scotland's wildlife, and reduces the administration associated with many smaller grant applications. We are extremely grateful to SNH for the assistance they give us – it makes a real difference to our conservation programme across Scotland.

Hundreds of farmers received a free survey of birds on their farm, and tips on how they can encourage birds, through our Volunteer & Farmer Alliance. We thank the many RSPB volunteers who gave freely of their time to survey the farms.

The Scottish Forest Alliance, including the Forestry Commission Scotland, Woodland Trust Scotland and the RSPB, and funded by BP, is helping to establish hundreds of thousands of native trees at some of our biggest nature reserves.

### **Volunteer awards**

Members are a vital part of what we do and volunteers play a huge role. We are indebted to them for their wide variety of skills. Two long-standing



Puffin

Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

volunteers – Jim Coyle from Glasgow and Aileen Fox from Edinburgh – were recognised with the President's Award at a ceremony in London. Jim has raised the RSPB's profile in Glasgow and pioneered numerous projects. Aileen has been pivotal in a number of roles – most recently co-ordinating our Scottish community talks.

### **Bird flu**

In April 2006, Scotland hit the headlines with the arrival of avian influenza. An infected swan was found at Cellardyke in Fife and the world's media focused on the tiny village. The RSPB regularly featured in the news, a trusted source for journalists across the UK and beyond seeking informed comment. We work closely with government agencies in Scotland to monitor wild bird populations in case of any future outbreak. This work comes at a real cost and, while our enhanced monitoring efforts are appreciated and indeed relied on by the authorities, they are not financially reimbursed.

### **The benefits of wildlife**

Fourteen projects enthused the public with fantastic birdwatching opportunities. A CCTV system at the Ardnamurchan Natural History Centre showed people live views of golden eagles: a first for Scotland, and an example of collaboration providing opportunities for people to see the special wildlife around them.



Whooper swans

## The RSPB in Northern Ireland

'Working in a fast changing environment, the RSPB Northern Ireland team continued the successful delivery of our work here. The return of the Assembly and major changes to the machinery of government have required a flexible and responsive approach. We have successfully positioned our policy development and advocacy alongside on the ground conservation and a growing range of public affairs work, and in so doing have increased the level of support and external funding. It has been a superb effort by staff volunteers, local groups and our supporters.'

**Aidan Lonergan, Director**

In an era of unprecedented change to the machinery of government, the RSPB positioned itself as a major player in Northern Ireland. Work on the review of environmental governance culminated in June's final report. This recommended all of our major requirements, including an independent environmental protection agency for Northern Ireland. We launched our policy advocacy document *Playing our Part* just as the Assembly was returning and developed good working relationships with relevant ministers.

Our efforts to protect the best places for birds reached a crescendo at an event at the Odyssey centre in Belfast, bringing our education and site protection work together in a wonderful evening of entertainment.

Our work to return scarce species to their former numbers developed, with projects on the yellowhammer, lapwing, chough, roseate tern and tree sparrow. We have also successfully developed Northern Ireland's first species recovery project and plan to reintroduce red kites here in 2008.

We successfully influenced the development of NI policy on the Rural Development Programme, Modulation, Sustainable Development strategy, Climate Change Bill, Marine Bill, Forestry Policy, Flood Defence and Charities Legislation.

In November, our 40th Anniversary awards event honoured those who have made a significant contribution to the protection of our environment. The All Ireland Conference in Bangor with more than 200 delegates and a host of top class speakers, including Ian Newton, Mike Dilger and Brian Black, was a highlight.

Our members are vital to our work as are our volunteers, who now number 180. In January, we again increased the numbers participating in the Big Garden Bird watch to an amazing 7,200, while 6,000 schoolchildren had an RSPB field teaching experience.

Our reserves grew modestly in size (23 ha on Rathlin) but continued to produce notable results in terms of breeding birds, with some of the Lower Lough Erne islands now having some of the highest concentrations of breeding waders in the UK. Lapwings returned to Portmore after a long absence and we had the very welcome return of choughs to Rathlin Island. Our new facilities at the West Light on Rathlin have also been completed, adding substantially to the visitor experience on the island.

This year we saw an increase in our grant income and we renewed funding from EHS for our reserves and education work. We also developed a second agri-environment officer position, joint-funded by DARD.



Yellowhammer

# Money matters

**RSPB Director of Finance**, Alan Sharpe, and Honorary Treasurer, Bryan Barnacle, report on a successful year

One of the more significant features of the current financial landscape is the general decline in the effectiveness of direct mail and off-the-page advertising.

The obvious alternative for the RSPB is to take further advantage of face-to-face opportunities to enthuse people about birds, the environment and our work. Recently, we have been investing to ensure that we can inspire people, wherever they may be – including on RSPB reserves and in other popular countryside destinations. It is still the case that people generally remain members for many years—so it is vital for us to continue to find efficient ways of attracting people’s attention in the first place.

Turning to the accounts themselves, the first thing to mention is that income (grandly labelled ‘Net resources available for charitable purposes’) increased from £70 million in 2005/06 to £79 million in 2006/07. As always, this was due in no small measure to our members. All but one of our membership income streams showed increases and we are particularly pleased to report further

strong growth in the new trading operation that was launched early in 2005.

But member and supporter income isn’t the whole story. For the second year running, capital expenditure on buying and setting up nature reserves was significantly ahead of the historic average, at £14.8 million, with several long sought after opportunities coming to fruition. This programme was generously supported by grant and trust fund income, totalling £5.6 million. And it was not only the land acquisition programme that attracted generous funding – adding visitor facilities, undertaking habitat restoration work and investing in international work are all examples of projects supported by grant and trust funding. In 2006/07, we received a record £24 million in total. We are grateful to all the organisations that contributed to this impressive figure.

The RSPB helps the Government and devolved administrations to meet their objectives for birds and biodiversity, and we are pleased that our contribution is recognised by Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Countryside Council for Wales and the

Environment and Heritage Service, whose financial support is much appreciated and included in this total.

In spite of strong growth, free financial reserves fell as planned, from £12.6 million to £10.9 million, representing eight weeks’ expenditure. The main reason for the reduction in reserves is a series of investments in key programmes, as outlined below.

- The first is land acquisition. With fewer opportunities now in the pipeline (and lower financial reserves) the pace of acquisition looks set to slow for the time being. The priority now switches to habitat restoration and provision of visitor facilities.
- An exciting part of our programme involves working with partners in BirdLife International. This attracts funding from several sources, but the RSPB frequently assists the early stages of visionary projects such as rainforest restoration in Sumatra and Sierra Leone.
- Our new trading operation is starting to deliver the service and financial benefits anticipated at its launch. Nevertheless, such an enterprise requires significant investment, notably in systems, stock and staff.

With our large programme of important work, ensuring value for money and securing a sustainable and growing income stream is vital – which brings us back to enthusing people and in particular recruiting members.

- We will continue with traditional methods – but at reduced levels.
- Recruitment via the internet is important and growing, but the numbers are still relatively small so cannot be the whole story.
- We have concluded that face-to-face recruitment – the original and the best – is the way forward.
- We are investing in Aren’t birds brilliant! sites, to show people birds, and providing increased opportunities at nature reserves.
- We are testing ways of giving people the opportunity to learn about the RSPB in less obvious places, such as garden centres, farmers’ markets and, especially in Scotland, on seabird cruises.

No financial report is complete these days without a section on pension matters. We mentioned last year that we would report the outcome of the latest triennial review. We are pleased

to say that the result is a significant reduction in the deficit, from £19 million to £10 million. Not that it is all plain sailing; with life expectancy steadily increasing, the cost of final salary schemes such as ours is likely to continue rising unless corrective measures are taken.

The RSPB has decided to take two significant steps to reduce this risk. The first is to introduce a phased increase in retirement age. The second is to close the existing scheme to new entrants and to replace it with a lower risk alternative—a good scheme but one with less uncertainty for the charity. The effect of these changes is to enable us to hold employer contribution rates close to current levels and, more significantly, to reduce risk.

This year we will finish with a please as well as a thank you. Please go and enthuse friends and family and help us to reach our recruitment targets. Thank you for helping to provide the bedrock of support that is so vital to our work.

Bittern

Richard Brooks (rspb-images.com)

## Auditors' statement to the trustees of the RSPB

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

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 summary 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 summary 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 summary financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of the RSPB for the year ended 31 March 2007.

**Deloitte & Touche LLP**  
Chartered Accountants and  
Registered Auditors,  
180 Strand, London WC2R 1BC  
3 July 2007

**The full audited accounts** were approved on 3 July 2007 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* Ian Newton, Chairman, 3 July 2007

**SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2007**

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
<b>VOLUNTARY INCOME</b>		
Membership subscriptions	25,278	24,692
Legacies	24,076	23,354
Grants, commercial donations & trusts	24,103	16,448
General donations & reserve entry fees	3,499	2,983
Appeals	3,234	2,640
Local groups	321	344
	<b>80,511</b>	<b>70,461</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES TO GENERATE FUNDS</b>		
Mail order & shop income	11,588	10,834
Media advertising & inserts	1,283	1,392
Lotteries	900	875
Commercial sponsorship	636	652
	<b>14,407</b>	<b>13,753</b>
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME &amp; INTEREST</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>1,155</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES TO FURTHER THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS</b>		
Land & farming income	1,671	1,198
Fees & grants for services	1,290	1,040
Events & media sales	679	557
	<b>3,640</b>	<b>2,795</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Net gains on disposals of fixed assets	332	120
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>99,688</b>	<b>88,284</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
<b>COST OF GENERATING FUNDS</b>		
Costs of generating voluntary income	8,539	6,769
Costs of goods & activities to generate funds	12,490	11,721
Investment management costs	63	73
	<b>21,092</b>	<b>18,563</b>
<b>Total cost of generating funds</b>	<b>21,092</b>	<b>18,563</b>
<b>Net resources available for charitable purposes</b>	<b>78,596</b>	<b>69,721</b>
<b>CHARITABLE REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b>		
Conservation on RSPB nature reserves	23,740	20,890
Conservation – research, policy & advisory services	28,037	28,728
Education, publications & films	11,687	10,262
Membership services & enquiries	3,705	3,877
	<b>67,169</b>	<b>63,757</b>
<b>GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>374</b>
Net incoming resources before gains/(losses)	11,029	5,590
Gains on investments	1,215	3,275
Actuarial gain/(loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	10,003	(5,178)
	<b>22,247</b>	<b>3,687</b>

**APPLICATION OF NET FUNDS**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2007**

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
<b>Net movement in funds brought forward</b>	<b>22,247</b>	<b>3,687</b>
<b>USE OF NET FUNDS</b>		
Charitable capital expenditure		
Nature reserves	14,838	10,399
Other tangible assets	(169)	(321)
Movement on stock, debtors & creditors	2,605	3,532
Movement on defined benefit pension scheme	10,371	(1,778)
	<b>27,645</b>	<b>11,832</b>
<b>Movement in cash &amp; investments available for future activities</b>	<b>(5,398)</b>	<b>(8,145)</b>
<b>Cash &amp; investments available at start of period</b>	<b>21,576</b>	<b>29,721</b>
<b>Total cash &amp; investments available for future activities</b>	<b>16,178</b>	<b>21,576</b>

**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS**  
**as at 31 March 2007**

	2007 £'000	2006 £'000
<b>CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES</b>		
General purposes	4,309	8,578
Designated	6,584	6,584
Restricted	2,911	4,373
Endowment	2,374	2,041
<b>Total cash &amp; investments available for future activities</b>	<b>16,178</b>	<b>21,576</b>
Nature reserves	92,954	78,116
Other tangible assets	4,595	4,764
Stock, debtors & creditors	6,635	4,030
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>	<b>120,362</b>	<b>108,486</b>
<b>Defined benefit pension scheme liability</b>	<b>(9,429)</b>	<b>(19,800)</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>110,933</b>	<b>88,686</b>



# Acknowledgements

## Members

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

## Community groups

RSPB local groups, RSPB Wildlife Explorer groups and RSPB Phoenix groups worked unstintingly over the year. Local groups provide a great focus for us in local communities, involve many people in our work, and raised over £321,000 for RSPB conservation projects. Wildlife Explorers (our young members) raised more than £28,000 to help safeguard the Indian vultures.

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

## Volunteers

The RSPB enjoyed the support of over 12,200 volunteers last year, giving the RSPB a gift of time of 705,000 hours. This is equivalent to an extra 383 full-time staff working for nature conservation. These volunteers helped with virtually every aspect of the RSPB's work, and we cannot thank them enough for their generous support. Additionally, 420,000 people gave an hour of their time to participate in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch.

## Legacies

Once again, we are deeply impressed by the generosity of people who remember the RSPB in their wills. This income makes a tremendous difference to the amount of conservation work the RSPB is able to undertake. Our posthumous thanks

go 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:

James Cadogan Powell  
William Roy Peck  
Hilda Brooke

## Heritage Lottery Fund

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

## Charitable trusts, non-governmental organisations and individual donors

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

H B Allen Charitable Trust  
A J H Ashby Will Trust  
The Banister Charitable Trust  
Mrs Kathleen Mary Bennett Trust  
The Geoffrey Burton Charitable Trust  
The Leslie Mary Carter Charitable Trust  
Cemlyn-Jones Trust  
Conservation International – Global Conservation Fund  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation through the Glasgow Natural History Society  
Ettys Trust  
Doris Field Charitable Trust  
Donald Forrester Trust  
Friends of Conwy nature reserve  
Friends of the Lake District  
Friends of Strathbeg  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
The Helen and Horace Gillman Trusts  
Douglas Glanfield Memorial Trust  
Jordan Charitable Foundation  
The Kullika Charitable Trust 1981  
The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation  
Lancashire Rural Recovery Action Plan  
A G Leventis Foundation  
The Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust

The Nature Trust (Sandy)  
Northern Rock Foundation  
North of England Zoological Society  
The Orr Mackintosh Foundation  
The Jack Patston Charitable Trust  
The Peacock Charitable Trust  
Kathleen Postlethwaite \*  
Patricia Quinn \*  
Restore UK  
Scottish Crofting Foundation  
Mrs Marjorie Sharpe \*  
The Shears Foundation  
David Arnold Smith \*  
Michael-Otto-Stiftung für Umweltschutz  
Sussex Ornithological Society  
Teesside Environmental Trust  
Diana Terry \*  
Titcomb Foundation  
Miss Trevor Fund  
The Tubney Charitable Trust  
May Sylvia Underdown \*  
The Wildlife Trusts through the Wetland Vision Partnership  
Vogelbescherming Nederland  
Whitley Animal Protection Trust  
\*deceased

## Landfill Communities Fund

We are grateful for funding support from the following organisations through the Landfill Communities Fund (previously Landfill Tax Credit Scheme).

Belfast City Council  
Better Belfast Landfill Communities Fund  
Biffaward  
CEMEX Community Fund  
Cory Environmental Trust in Britain  
Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust  
Derbyshire Environment Trust  
Essex Environment Trust  
Fermanagh District Council  
Gloucestershire Environmental Trust  
Green Leeds through Biffaward  
Hanson Environment Fund  
Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust

Lancashire Environmental Fund  
Lisburn District Council  
Mersey Waste Holdings Ltd  
Perth & Kinross Quality of Life Trust  
Newport City Council Landfill Communities Fund  
SITA Trust  
Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment with funds from Viridor Credits\* Oxfordshire Fund  
Ulster Wildlife Trust  
Veolia ES Cleanaway Havering Riverside Trust  
Veolia ES Cleanaway Mardyke Trust  
Veolia ES Cleanaway Pitsea Marshes Trust  
Viridor Credits  
Waste Recycling Group Ltd (WRG) through Grantscape's Biodiversity Challenge Fund  
Waste Recycling Group Ltd (WRG) through Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN)  
Yorkshire Water

## Business supporters and trading partners

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

A&C Black (Publishers) Ltd  
Alton Garden Centre  
Aylett Nurseries Ltd  
Bemrose Promotional Products  
Bents Garden Centre  
BG Group  
Blooms of Bressingham  
The Blue Diamond Group  
BP through the Scottish Forest Alliance  
British Airways Nestlé Conservation Scheme  
Burston Garden Centre  
The Caravan Club  
Chevron  
Concept Research Ltd  
The Co-operative Bank plc  
Country Artists Ltd  
D J Squire & Co, Ltd  
Dorling Kindersley Ltd  
Downtown Garden Centre  
The Famous Grouse  
Frosts Garden Centres  
Fulham Heating Ltd

Garmin (Europe) Ltd  
 GB Seeds Ltd  
 Greene King  
 Hanson Aggregates Ltd  
 Hayes Garden World  
 Highway Garden & Leisure  
 Home-Grown Cereals Authority  
 Jarrold Calendars  
 Jordans  
 Kapak Ltd  
 Lafarge Aggregates Ltd  
 L Batley Pet Products Ltd  
 Lochcarron of Scotland  
 Nikon  
 Northumbrian Water  
 Notcutts Garden Centres  
 Peter Barratt's Garden Centres  
 Pets at Home  
 The Puppet Company  
 Redeem plc  
 Scottish and Southern Energy plc  
 Severn Trent plc  
 Suttons Consumer Products Ltd  
 Swarovski Optik KG  
 Syngenta  
 Terra Ecosystems  
 Tesco Stores Ltd  
 Thames Water Utilities Ltd  
 Two Ten Communications Ltd  
 United Utilities  
 UPM TIHill  
 The Van Hage Garden Company  
 Viking Optical Ltd  
 Wakefield Environmental Developments Ltd  
 Webbs of Wychbold  
 Wessex Water  
 WHSmith  
 Wild Republic (UK) Ltd  
 Yorkshire Water  
 Zeon Ltd

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

We are grateful for the co-operation and support from organisations of many kinds across the UK, and would especially like to thank the following:  
 African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)  
 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

(Environment Development Fund) for Anglesey  
 Bonn Convention for Migratory Species (CMS)  
 Broadland District Council  
 Cairngorms National Parks Authority  
 Castlereagh Borough Council  
 Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust  
 Cherwell District Council  
 Communities and Local Government (CLG)  
 CLG via Cambridgeshire County Council  
 Community Environmental Renewal Scheme managed by Forward Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Executive  
 Cotswolds Conservation Board  
 Cotswold AONB (Sustainable Development Fund)  
 Countryside Agency  
 Countryside Council for Wales  
 The Crown Estate through the Marine Stewardship Fund  
 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)  
 Defra through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund Partnership Grant Scheme, administered by Natural England (formerly by English Nature and the Countryside Agency)  
 Defra through CLG Sustainable Land-won and Marine Dredged Aggregate Minerals Programme, managed by the Minerals Industry Research Organisation (MIRO)  
 Defra – Darwin Initiative  
 Defra – Partnership for Environmental Cooperation in Europe Fund (PECE)  
 Department for International Development (DfID) – Civil Society Challenge Fund  
 Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
 Dumfries and Galloway LEADER+  
 East Herts District Council  
 East of England Development Agency (EEDA)  
 Enfys Grant Scheme funded by the Big Lottery Fund and administered by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)  
 English Heritage through the Wetland Vision Partnership  
 English Nature  
 English Nature – Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund  
 English Nature Wildspace!  
 Environment Agency  
 Environment Agency Wales

Environment and Heritage Service  
 Environment Wales  
 Essex County Council through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund  
 European Commission (EC) – DG Environment  
 Direct Grant  
 EC – DG Environment LIFE-Nature  
 EC – European Development Fund  
 EC – Tropical Forests and Other Forests in Developing Countries  
 European LEADER+ fund (delivered by the WARR Partnership)  
 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)  
 ERDF through the Eastern Scotland European Partnership  
 ERDF through the Government Office for the North East  
 EU Objective 1 programme through the Welsh Assembly Government (European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF))  
 EU Objective 2 through the Welsh Assembly Government (WEFO) secured via the Newport European Partnership  
 File Council  
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) – Global Opportunities Fund  
 FCO / DfID – Overseas Territories Environment Programme  
 Forestry Commission England  
 Forestry Commission Scotland  
 Forestry Commission Wales  
 French Government's Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)  
 Gateshead Council  
 German Government's Centrum fur internationale Migration und Entwicklung (CIM)  
 Global Environment Facility  
 Government Office South West  
 GreatYarmouth Borough Council through Great Yarmouth's Local Strategic Partnership  
 Heritage Lottery Fund  
 Lancaster City Council  
 LEADER+ in the Somerset Levels and Moors  
 Leeds City Council  
 Lisnaskea Community Enterprises  
 Local Regeneration Fund through Newport City Council  
 Lomond & Rural Stirling LEADER+

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation  
 Lough Neagh Advisory Committee  
 Lough Neagh Partnership  
 Medway Renaissance  
 Natural England  
 New Forest National Park Authority Sustainable Development Fund  
 Northern Ireland Tourist Board  
 North Pennines AONB Partnership  
 North Pennines LEADER+ Programme  
 North West Development Agency  
 North West Farm Tourism Initiative  
 ONE North East via the Tees Valley Partnership  
 Orkney Islands Council  
 Rail Link Countryside Initiative  
 Ribbles Valley Borough Council  
 Scottish Executive's Biodiversity Action Grant Scheme  
 Scottish Executive Environment & Rural Affairs Department  
 Scottish Natural Heritage  
 Snowdonia National Park Authority through the CAE fund (Sustainable Development Fund)  
 Solway Coast AONB Sustainable Development Fund  
 South Downs Joint Committee Sustainable Development Fund  
 South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)  
 Stockton Borough Council  
 Suffolk County Council  
 Suffolk Development Agency  
 Surrey Hills AONB Sustainable Development Fund  
 Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation  
 Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund through English Nature  
 United Nations Development Programme Country Office in the Republic of Belarus  
 The Welsh Assembly Government through the Community Facilities and Activities Programme  
 The Welsh Assembly Government through the Department of Enterprise Innovation and Networks (Visit Wales)  
 The Welsh Assembly Government through the Department of Enterprise Innovation and Networks  
 WHELK LEADER+  
 WYE Valley AONB (Sustainable Development Fund)  
 YouthLink Scotland

## How you can help the RSPB

There are many ways you can help – you could buy something, make a donation or help us as a volunteer. The section outlines the most common ways people want to support us – just choose whatever suits you.

### Join the RSPB

Whether you are interested in membership for yourself or as a gift for someone else, why not join today?

### Shopping

Buy your gifts, birdfood, binoculars and a range of other products. Or support us through RSPB Energy, holidays and more. All sales benefit the RSPB's conservation work.

### Campaigns

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 demand 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 can really 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

RSPB local groups are a great way to meet new friends and help out the RSPB where you live. They are open to all and you will receive a very warm welcome.

### Volunteering for the RSPB

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 volunteer with the RSPB.

For more information on how you can support the RSPB please visit our website [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) or telephone Membership Services on 01767 693680