

# EXTRA EXTRA!

## READ ALL ABOUT IT

### Hope for Britain's at-risk woodland birds

This is an edited version of a story from  
© The Guardian [8/11/2023]

Woodland birds are facing an accelerating decline in the UK, with species at risk of extinction if the government does not act, experts have said.

Data released by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has revealed that almost all bird types are reducing in abundance.

Bird campaigners have warned that urgent measures must be taken to "bend the curve" of nature loss.

The government said factors causing woodland bird decline included increased deer browsing pressure, which reduces habitats for foraging and nesting. Removal of hedgerows and the cutting down of woodland, removing habitat, are also driving declines. Defra said that restoring woodland would have a positive impact on species.

More work needed to be done to boost farmland birds, experts said, because although their recent decline is less pronounced than woodland species at 8%, they have faced a 60% drop since 1970.

Vanessa Amaral-Rogers from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) said: "This is not a situation without hope, however, with good evidence that well-designed



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and targeted schemes can allow farmers to support species' recovery alongside productive farming."

The RSPB said there was some reason for hope, as without conservation efforts made by charities it was likely that declines would be steeper.

It added that some birds which were too rare to be included in the indicators, those which had fewer than 500 pairs such as the bittern and white-tailed eagle, were having great success, so conservation efforts were boosting some of the very rarest birds in the UK.

Gregory said: "We have the knowledge to turn things around. We need all politicians to stand up for nature while there is still time."

A Defra spokesperson said: "We are already taking robust action to reduce key pressures on wild birds and improve their habitats. For example, our targeted species recovery efforts have helped to improve the conservation status of species such as the curlew and bittern – but we do not underestimate the scale of the challenge ahead."

## TRUE OR FALSE?

**Not all news is based on truth. Do you think this story is based on true or false news?**

The US government is running a programme to bring back the extinct Dodo bird.



## READ MORE



Extraordinary Birds by Sandy Stark-McGinnis  
Bloomsbury

## LEARN MORE



### Learn

Watch [this report](#) on how to make a birdbox.

This worksheet is available every weekday at 6:30am London time from <https://theday.co.uk/resources/news-detectives>.  
For any feedback or help please contact [buildthechange@theday.co.uk](mailto:buildthechange@theday.co.uk). Thank you.

Answer to Find the truth. This is false, but they are [backing a company](#) that claims to want to.





# CHECK YOUR FACTS

1

**WHAT**  
do most  
birds eat?

**ANSWER:**  
Insects

**WHO**  
especially  
likes  
berries?

**ANSWER:**  
Blackbirds,  
thrushes and  
redwings

**WHERE**  
can you find  
wrens?

**ANSWER:**  
Doing the same  
route to hunt  
for spiders

**WHEN**  
will you see  
redwings in  
Britain?

**ANSWER:**  
In winter

**WHY**  
does Lara  
"ring" birds?

**ANSWER:**  
To track  
and identify  
birds

**HOW**  
big a garden do  
you need to  
help birds?

**ANSWER:**  
Any size, even a  
tiny one will help  
if managed for  
wildlife



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