



BTO Research Report No. 482

**Lark Rise Farm, Barton, Cambs (Plot 1571)
The Countryside Restoration Trust
Report on Breeding Birds 2005**

Author

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**Fieldwork carried out by:
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June 2007

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 2005, the seventh successive annual census of the breeding bird community supported by Lark Rise Farm was completed. As in previous years, an ongoing crop rotation programme was maintained, with cereals as the dominant crop type with winter wheat covering almost half the total area and spring barley a further 11%. There were also spring beans and linseed (10%) as well as grass cut for hay (9%) and 4% natural regeneration, fallow/weedy rotational set-aside (4%) and some woodland (see Appendix II, Habitat Summary Form). No new habitat features were introduced although the cultivated margin strips were replaced by grass margins. An updated, colour Habitat Map, greatly enhanced the interpretation of the study.

2. METHODS

A full mapping census was completed using the Common Birds Census (CBC) methodology laid down by the BTO guidelines (Marchant *et al.* 1990). Coverage was excellent with eleven complete visits to map bird activity from mid March through to late June, similar to coverage in 2003 and 2004. Field effort expended (23.4 h) was slightly lower than in 2004 (24.4 h, Carter 2006). Particularly useful were two evening visits, in late April and mid June, to sample for crepuscular species (visits D and J). The findings are considered to be broadly comparable with previous years.

3. RESULTS

Overall 57 species were observed within or flying over Lark Rise Farm, exceeding the number noted in 1999, 2002 and 2004 (50, 51 and 56 species, respectively) but slightly lower than in 2000, 2001 and 2003 (59 species in the first two years and 58 in the last). The increase over 2002 is probably a product of the reduced field effort in that year. Thirty-two species merited acceptance of one or more confirmed territories under CBC criteria (see Appendix I, CBC Master Sheet). This is again more than in 2002 but lower than most other years (Table 1). The total number of territories of all species has increased from the low of 162 in 1999 to over 200 in 2005 (Table 1).

Lark Rise Farm continued to hold a rich bird community for a medium-sized, arable farm in eastern England.

3.1 Waterbirds

The damp southern streamside and meadow supported three territories of Mallard, one less than in 2004, but Moorhen was not observed at all for the first time during CBC visits. Grey Heron and Cormorant were flyovers, as in most previous years. Redshank was absent after being recorded for the first time during CBC visits in 2004 but only as a flyover in late March. Greylag Goose was also absent after being recorded as a flyover in 2004, for the first time. Two Canada Geese were seen as a flyover during the first visit in mid March. A male Mandarin was seen flying near the stream in mid April, only the second year this species has been seen during CBC visits.

3.2 Diurnal Birds of Prey

Kestrel was observed on five occasions, confirming one territory. Hobby, for the third year running, was not recorded on any of the visits. Sparrowhawk was, again, not noted enough to warrant a confirmed territory, with only a single sighting of a female flying over the northwest corner of the farm.

3.3 Gamebirds

Pheasant increased its territories to 12, an increase of one from 2003 and 2004. Birds ranged widely although they were concentrated along the southern edge. Numbers of both partridge species increased. Red-legs, with six territories, ranged widely but with most of the foraging being along the southern edge in the spring barley and set-aside and in the winter wheat fields in the north of the plot. Grey Partridge, with three territories after only two in 2004, was widely scattered over the farm. No young gamebirds were seen during CBC visits.

3.4 Waders to Doves

A single Lapwing was seen as a flyover in the southwest corner, during the first visit in mid March. Lesser Black-backed Gull was observed as a flyover on one occasion.

Woodpigeon were confined to the edges of the site, with few birds noted within the plot. Limited song and allied territorial display provided few discrete clusters of breeding activity and made accurate assessment of the nesting population a challenge. The 10 territories calculated should be considered with caution, being lower than most previous seasons. Six Feral Pigeons were noted on one occasion in spring beans, as in 2004. Stock Dove held two territories, compared with four in 2004 and two in 2003. Most foraging was associated with wheat, beans and set-aside fields, as in 2004. Collared Dove held one territory along the northern edge of the plot, largely associated with the housing.

3.5 Owls to Wagtails

Barn Owl was seen on one occasion, in late May during a morning visit, flying over meadowland just off the farm.

Of the two woodpeckers only Green held confirmed territories. Its two territories were made up of observations scattered across the farm. Great Spotted Woodpecker was only seen on one occasion, in the northwest corner. Both species are still largely reliant upon the marginal hedges and scrub, meadowland and wildlife strips around the edges of the farm.

The Skylark population reached a new high in 2005 with 30 territories, ten more than in 1999 when the survey started. Birds were spread over the whole farm, but were especially concentrated in the fallow and set-aside in the southwest corner.

Swifts were seen on three visits, in mid May to early June, while House Martin was noted on just one visit. Swallow was observed on four visits. None, again, showed any evidence of nesting on site.

Meadow Pipit, with six territories, up from four in 2004, maintains its impressive level for a lowland arable farm in the area. All of these territories were in southwest sector, especially in the set-aside and fallow favoured by Skylarks.

Yellow Wagtail was not observed during CBC visits after holding at least one territory in all earlier years. Pied Wagtail, was also not observed during CBC visits after being present in 2004.

3.6 Thrushes and Allied Species

Wren, with 14 territories, maintained the record level set in 2004. Much of the activity was in the boundaries and copses adjacent to Nans Meadow and Holly Field (six territories) as in 2004. Nearly all records were from the fringes of the site, with only one internal record.

Robin with seven territories, declined from the record nine territories in 2004. There is still no sign of Robin moving into the farmed area along the new hedges and margins. Most of the records were along the western and eastern edges.

Duncock with seven territories reached a record level. All territories were on the edges of the farm, with one territory along the hedgerow between the farm and the non-CRT land to the west.

Blackbird, with seven territories, is about half its all-time high of 13 territories in 2003. One pair's territory included birds along the boundary between Six Acre and Blackthorns fields. Otherwise the records were from around the edges of the farm. Song Thrush held two territories with one in the northwest corner and the other in the southeast sector. Mistle Thrush was only present during one visit. Fieldfare and Redwing, winter visitors, were only seen during the first visit.

3.7 Warblers and Tits

Sedge Warbler maintained its tenuous presence on the farm, with one singing bird recorded in the hay meadow near the stream. This is in contrast to the three and four territories recorded in 1999 and 2000. Sedge Warbler populations tend to oscillate, with the dynamics being driven by winter survival, which is dependent on rainfall in the Western Sahel. At the moment rainfall is low, which has reduced survival and populations have declined from 2000 (www.bto.org/birdtrends) matching the situation at Lark Rise. Reed Warbler, the other wetland warbler on the farm, maintained its presence (first recorded in 2003), with one territory from the stream area in the south.

Whitethroat remains by far the commonest warbler on the farm, with 16 territories, up four from 2004 and the highest level so far. They were spread across the whole farm, but were concentrated along the southern fringe and the boundaries with grass margins. Its rarer cousin, the Lesser Whitethroat also had its best year so far, with three territories, all located around the edges of the farm. Blackcap also had three territories, as in 2004, was restricted to the south-eastern and south-western boundaries. Garden Warbler was not observed during CBC visits after holding one territory in 2004. Willow Warbler, held one territory located on the non-CRT land in the west. Goldcrest was observed once in the north-west corner.

Blue and Great Tits, with three and seven territories respectively, had mixed fortunes with Blue Tit reaching its lowest level and Great Tit its highest level, three more than in 2004. They still have not shown any signs of penetrating the slowly maturing elements of wildlife-friendly plantings. Presumably, nest site availability is the limiting factor. Long-tailed Tit maintained its tenuous presence on the site with one bird being seen on each of two visits along the southern edge.

3.8 Corvids

Carrion Crow and Magpie, with three territories each, were the most numerous members of the crow family breeding on Lark Rise Farm. No nests of either species were located. Carrion Crow records were from across most of the farm making it difficult to assign territories. Magpie was confined more to hedges and thickets and wildlife strips, especially in the southwest corner. Rook commonly flew over the farm and there were some flocks feeding on the farm and on the non-CRT land, but no rookery was present. Jay was seen on three separate occasions and so was considered to hold one territory, as in 2004. Jackdaw was seen several times during the first visit only and hence was not considered to be holding territory.

3.9 Starling, Sparrow and Finches

Starling declined from three territories in 2003, its highest density, to no territories in 2005, although it was seen on three occasions. House Sparrow was sighted during two visits, including a family party, but it was not considered to be holding territory on the farm. This continues to be negative news for these two species of high conservation concern, after the more positive developments in 2003.

Chaffinch maintained its 14 territories from 2004, but down from 16 in 2002 and 2003. It remains the most abundant finch species (Table 1). Territories were concentrated along the peripheral areas of hedge, scrub and thicket with birds rarely venturing into the internal parts of the farm. The fine-billed finches had mixed fortunes. Linnet, with five territories (the same as in 2004), ranged widely across the farm, including internal hedgerows and margins. Greenfinch, with two territories, has a low but stable population on the farm, with singing most strongly associated with the hedgerow cover in the northwest near the housing, as in previous years. Goldfinch was not considered to be holding territory in contrast with the four territories in 2004. Bullfinch, has been present every year, except 2002, but has yet to establish a breeding territory on the farm. It was only seen once during CBC visits in 2005.

3.10 Buntings

The trio of 'red-listed' buntings on Lark Rise Farm enjoyed mixed fortunes. Yellowhammer, with 19 territories had its best year yet. Its territories encompassed sections of both boundary and young internal hedgerow, scrub, set-aside and grass margins across the farm. Reed Bunting, with 11 territories, a decline from its record 15 territories, means that Yellowhammer returns to being the commonest bunting after losing out to the former species in 2004. Much Reed Bunting activity was centred on boundaries bordering cereals and linseed, and hedges bounding the meadow along the damper ground to the south. Like Yellowhammer it occurred over much of the farm. Corn Bunting, with song records from the northwest corner, in winter wheat and spring beans, merited one territory, and thus maintains its precarious hold at Lark Rise.

4. DISCUSSION

Only 32 species registered one or more territories, down one from 2004 and four from 2003 (Table 1). Six species were lost as territory holders compared with 2004: Moorhen; Yellow Wagtail; Sedge Warbler (still present); Garden Warbler; Starling (still present) and Goldfinch (still present). Five species were gained as territory holders: Kestrel; Green Woodpecker; Reed Warbler; Lesser Whitethroat and Willow Warbler. All had been present in 2004 and Kestrel, Green Woodpecker and Lesser Whitethroat had held territories in 2003.

The total number of species observed during CBC visits was 57 compared with 56 in 2004 and 57 in 2003. Greylag Goose, Redshank and Pied Wagtail (none holding territory in 2004 and first two first seen in 2004) were not observed during CBC visits in 2005. Canada Goose, Mandarin, Lapwing, Barn Owl, Redwing and Mistle Thrush were present during CBC visits in 2005 after not being present in 2004. Goldcrest was seen for the first time during CBC visits in 2005. None of these species were considered to be holding territory.

The different species enjoyed mixed fortunes. Pheasant, Green Woodpecker, Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Wren (equal to 2004 record year), Robin, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, Great Tit, and Yellowhammer achieved highest-ever levels. None of these species, except Wren (9%), showed significant increases in England between 2004 and 2005 (Raven & Noble 2006). Eleven territory-holding species declined: Mallard; Stock Dove; Wood Pigeon; Collared Dove; Robin; Blackbird (second year running); Blue Tit; Magpie; Carrion Crow; Greenfinch and Reed Bunting (in addition to those listed above as being lost as territory holders). None of these species showed a significant change between the two years in England. Only Stock Dove (-15%), Greenfinch (9%) and Reed Bunting (13%) recorded changes that were greater than 5%.

Summer visitors generally maintained their 2003 levels. Whitethroat sustained its very impressive density while Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler and Willow Warbler maintained their precarious presence on the farm. Two former breeding summer migrants, Yellow Wagtail and Garden Warbler, were not recorded at all. Yellow Wagtail has declined by 32% in eastern England between 1994 and 2005 (Raven & Noble 2006).

In 2005, 15 amber-listed and 10 red-listed species (Gregory *et al.* 2002) occurred on the farm, the same as in 2004. Of these, 13 were holding territory (six amber-listed and seven red-listed, compared with four and eight respectively in 2003, Table 1). Since the study started in 1999 two red-listed breeding species, Grasshopper Warbler and Starling have been lost as breeding species. Grasshopper Warbler only occurred in 2001 (one territory) but Starling has held territory every year except 2005, although it was present during CBC visits in that year. Corn Bunting, which had declined from three territories in three earlier years to just being present in 2003 held one territory in 2005. Two amber-listed, species, Redshank and Yellow Wagtail, were lost between 2004 and 2005, although only the former is unlikely to breed on the site because of a lack of suitable breeding habitat.

The red-listed Skylark, the most numerous breeding bird on the farm, had another good year in 2005, reaching an all time high of 30 pairs. This is in contrast to the 20% decline in the region between 1994 and 2005 (Raven & Noble 2006). It is interesting that numbers rose again in 2005 after so much of the farm was under winter wheat, a relatively poor breeding habitat, in 2004.

Grey Partridge, which declined significantly in eastern England by 30% between 1994 and 2005 (Raven & Noble 2006), has increased from one pair in 1999 and 2000 to four pairs in the next three years on the farm, before declining to two pairs in 2004 and increasing to three in 2005. Interestingly Red-legged Partridge also declined between 2003 and 2004, and then it and Pheasant increased again in 2005.

Song Thrush is another red-listed species that has generally increased on the farm during the study, from one pair in 1999 and 2001 to three pairs in 2003, but then down to one pair again in 2004 and up to two pairs in 2005. The regional trend for this species between 1994 and 2005, was a significant decline of 18% (Raven & Noble 2006).

The two newcomers to the red-list, Starling and House Sparrow, are both just hanging on, although neither was considered to be holding territory on the farm. Starling, which is declining in the region (30%), has increased from one pair, in 1999, to three pairs in 2003, then back down to one pair in 2004 and only present in 2005. House Sparrow has never been considered to have held more than one territory.

In contrast to Corn Bunting, the other red-listed finches and buntings are either increasing (Yellowhammer) or relatively stable (Linnet, Bullfinch and Reed Bunting), although Bullfinch has not yet registered a territory during the study. The improved margin management on the farm has possibly improved winter survival through providing more seeds. The breeding Yellowhammer population increased markedly in 2005 after being relatively stable in previous years. The provision of internal hedges, as this species favours low, scrubby hedges for nesting is now allowing the species to spread internally on the farm. These increasing or stable populations are in contrast to the continuing declines that are occurring in England and the region.

Of the amber-listed species, Stock Dove, increased, from two to four territories in 2004, but then declined back to two territories in 2005. One interesting result was Yellow Wagtail, which has maintained at least one territory every year up to 2004, in contrast to the 24% regional decline since 1994, was lost, as was Redshank. Kestrel, Green Woodpecker and Willow Warbler all held territory in 2005, after only being present in 2004, but all had held at least one territory in the past. Meadow Pipit and Dunnock both increased to their highest levels in 2005.

Goldfinch has shown a significant decline (23%) in eastern England between 1994 and 2005 (Raven & Noble 2006) and now seems to be suffering on the farm, being only recorded as present in 2005 after holding two to four territories in earlier years.

5. References

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Table 1. Number of breeding territories on Lark Rise Farm in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 & 2005

Species	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<i>Cormorant</i>	-	Present	-	Present	Present	Present	Present
Grey Heron	-	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
<i>Mute Swan</i>	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
<i>Greylag Goose</i>	-	-	-	-	-	Present	-
Canada Goose	-	Present	-	Present	-	-	Present
Mandarin	-	-	Present	-	-	-	Present
Mallard	Present	1	4	3	4	4	3
<i>Marsh Harrier</i>	-	Present	-	-	-	-	-
Sparrowhawk	-	Present	1	Present	Present	Present	Present
<i>Kestrel</i>	1	1	1	Present	1	Present	1
Hobby	1	Present	Present	Present	-	-	-
<i>Peregrine</i>	-	-	Present	-	-	-	-
Red-legged Partridge	4	5	8	6	6	4	6
Grey Partridge	1	1	4	4	4	2	3
Quail	-	-	Present	-	-	-	-
Pheasant	2	3	7	9	11	11	12
Moorhen	Present	Present	1	1	1	1	-
<i>Lapwing</i>	-	Present	-	-	-	-	Present
Snipe	-	-	-	-	Present	-	-
<i>Woodcock</i>	-	Present	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bar-tailed Godwit</i>	-	Present	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Redshank</i>	-	-	-	-	-	Present	-
<i>Lesser Black-backed Gull</i>	-	Present	-	Present	Present	Present	Present
Feral Pigeon	-	-	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Stock Dove	1	2	3	3	2	4	2
Woodpigeon	15	13	c.15	12	10	15	10
Collared Dove	1	2	2	Present	Present	2	1
<i>Cuckoo</i>	-	1	Present	-	-	-	-
<i>Barn Owl</i>	-	-	-	Present	-	-	Present
Swift	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
<i>Kingfisher</i>	Present	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Green Woodpecker</i>	-	Present	Present	Present	1	Present	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	-	Present	-	Present	Present	Present	Present
Skylark	20	25	26	26	24	29	30
<i>Sand Martin</i>	-	-	Present	-	-	-	-
<i>Swallow</i>	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
<i>House Martin</i>	Present	-	-	-	Present	Present	Present
Tree Pipit	-	-	-	-	Present	-	-
<i>Meadow Pipit</i>	3	4	4	4	4	4	6
<i>Yellow Wagtail</i>	1	3	1	1	1	1	-
Blue-headed Wagtail	Present	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied Wagtail	Present	Present	-	-	1	Present	-
Wren	10	8	9	11	11	14	14
<i>Dunnock</i>	5	5	3	6	5	5	7
Robin	5	7	8	7	7	9	7
Whinchat	-	-	Present	-	-	-	-
Wheatear	-	-	Present	-	Present	-	-
Blackbird	8	7	10	10	13	8	7
<i>Fieldfare</i>	-	-	Present	-	Present	Present	Present
Song Thrush	1	1	2	1	3	1	2
<i>Redwing</i>	-	-	-	-	Present	-	Present

Species	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<i>Mistle Thrush</i>	-	-	Present	-	-	-	Present
Grasshopper Warbler	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Sedge Warbler	3	4	1	Present	1	1	Present
Reed Warbler	-	-	-	-	Present	Present	1
Lesser Whitethroat	Present	2	2	1	2	Present	3
Whitethroat	12	12	14	10	10	12	16
Garden Warbler	1	-	Present	-	Present	1	-
Blackcap	3	4	5	2	2	3	3
Chiffchaff	Present	Present	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Willow Warbler</i>	1	1	1	Present	-	Present	1
<i>Goldcrest</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	Present
Long-tailed Tit	1	1	1	Present	1	Present	Present
Coal Tit	-	Present	-	Present	-	-	-
Blue Tit	5	4	4	4	4	5	3
Great Tit	3	3	2	2	2	4	7
Nuthatch	Present	-	-	-	-	-	-
Treecreeper	-	Present	-	-	-	-	-
Jay	1	Present	1	-	Present	1	1
Magpie	2	1	1	2	2	4	3
Jackdaw	1	1	1	1	1	Present	Present
Rook	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Carrion Crow	4	4	3	3	2	5	3
Starling	1	1	1	2	3	1	Present
House Sparrow	Present	1	1	-	1	Present	Present
Chaffinch	12	13	14	16	16	14	14
Greenfinch	2	2	2	3	3	3	2
Goldfinch	4	4	3	3	2	4	Present
Linnet	3	4	3	8	7	5	5
Bullfinch	Present	Present	Present	-	Present	Present	Present
Yellowhammer	13	11	12	14	13	12	19
Reed Bunting	8	7	6	7	10	15	11
Corn Bunting	3	3	1	3	Present	1	1
Total No Territories	162	172	190	186	192	205	206
Total No Species	50	59	59	51	58	56	57
Number Territory Holding Species	36	37	41	32	37	33	32



Farmland Common Birds Census:

estimates of breeding numbers from
territory mapping, March - July



British Trust for Ornithology

Name					County: O N				
BOB SCOTT & ROGER BUISSON.					CAMBS.				
Code	Year	Area	Region	Altitude	Easting	Northing			
1571	2005								
005	LG	Little Grebe	304	CK	Cuckoo	472	1	WW	Willow Warbler
035	✓ CA	Cormorant	307	✓ BO	Barn Owl	482	✓	GC	Goldcrest
039	✓ H	Grey Heron	313	LO	Little Owl	484		SF	Spotted Flycatcher
057	MS	Mute Swan	314	TO	Tawny Owl	486		PF	Pied Flycatcher
059	GJ	Greylag Goose	327	✓ SI	Swift	388	✓	LT	Long-tailed Tit
068	✓ CG	Canada Goose	332	KF	Kingfisher	386		MT	Marsh Tit
071	SU	Shelduck	338	2 G	Green Woodpecker	387		WT	Willow Tit
075	T	Teal	341	✓ GS	Gt Sp Woodpecker	382		CT	Coal Tit
072	3 MA	Mallard	345	LS	Lr Sp Woodpecker	380	3	BT	Blue Tit
087	TU	Tufted Duck	357	30 S	Skylark	379	7	GT	Great Tit
105	GD	Goosander	365	SM	Sand Martin	391		NH	Nuthatch
113	✓ SH	Sparrowhawk	361	✓ SL	Swallow	394		TC	Treecreeper
115	BZ	Buzzard	364	✓ HM	House Martin	375	1	J	Jay
148	1 K	Kestrel	497	TP	Tree Pipit	372	3	MG	Magpie
143	HY	Hobby	493	6 MP	Meadow Pipit	371	✓	JD	Jackdaw
157	6 RL	Red-legged Partridge	506	YW	Yellow Wagtail	370	✓	RO	Rook
160	3 P	Grey Partridge	505	GL	Grey Wagtail	368	3	C	Carrion Crow
162	12 PH	Pheasant	503	PW	Pied Wagtail	367		RN	Raven
173	MH	Moorhen	397	DI	Dipper	518	✓	SG	Starling
177	CO	Coot	398	14 WR	Wren	525	✓	HS	House Sparrow
182	OC	Oystercatcher	490	7 D	Dunnock	528		TS	Tree Sparrow
191	RP	Ringed Plover	400	7 R	Robin	555	14	CH	Chaffinch
185	✓ L	Lapwing	402	N	Nightingale	533	2	GR	Greenfinch
221	SN	Snipe	407	RT	Redstart	535	✓	GO	Goldfinch
223	WK	Woodcock	409	WC	Whinchat	536		SK	Siskin
202	CU	Curlew	412	W	Wheatear	537	5	LI	Linnet
206	RK	Redshank	424	7 B	Blackbird	539		LR	Redpoll
214	CS	Common Sandpiper	431	2 ST	Song Thrush	548	✓	BF	Bullfinch
263	BH	Black-headed Gull	432	✓ M	Mistle Thrush	558	19	Y	Yellowhammer
255	CM	Common Gull	439	GH	Grasshopper Warbler	574	11	RB	Reed Bunting
257	✓ LB	Lesser Black-back	450	✓ SW	Sedge Warbler	557	1	CB	Corn Bunting
256	HG	Herring Gull	446	1 RW	Reed Warbler	.....	✓	FF	FIELDFARE
275	CN	Common Tern	462	3 LW	Lesser Whitethroat	.....	✓	RE	REDWING
297	✓ FP	Feral Pigeon	461	16 WH	Whitethroat	.....	✓	X MN	MANDARIN
298	2 SD	Stock Dove	460	GW	Garden Warbler	.....		
299	10 WP	Woodpigeon	457	3 BC	Blackcap	.....		
302	1 CD	Collared Dove	475	WO	Wood Warbler	.....		
300	TD	Turtle Dove	473	CC	Chiffchaff	.....		

tick/P = present, no clusters; nc/X = not counted; N = nest count; blank = absent during census; * = count not comparable with previous year's

BTO Farmland Common Birds Census

Plot code 1571 f	Observer BOB SCOTT & ROGER B WISSON	Year 2005									
Locality LARKRISE FARM ("98LAND"), BARTON, CAMBS		County (new) CAMBS.									
Map reference (6-figure, plot centre) TL415555	Area (ha) 53.2	Altitude (median + range (m))									
Habitat 20m x 20m		Start year									
Storage and provision of data											
1. <input type="checkbox"/> No maps available at HQ.	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Complete habitat map.										
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Tracings stored at HQ.	7. <input type="checkbox"/> Cropping plan.										
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Original species maps at HQ.	8. <input type="checkbox"/> Updated map of habitat changes.										
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Checked onto computer file.	9. <input type="checkbox"/> Notes on habitat.										
5. <input type="checkbox"/> Used in index as year 2.	10. <input type="checkbox"/> Photographs.										
Distribution of visits (letter, date, duration and coverage)											
A	16-03	2.30	1	K	22-06	1.50	1				
B	26-03	2.30	1								
C	15-04	1.35	1								
D	22-04	1.45	1								
E	03-05	2.00	1								
F	15-05	2.35	1								
G	27-05	2.30	1								
H	05-06	2.40	1								
I	15-06	1.45									
J	17-06	2.00									
Total number of species registered						No. species holding territory					
Complete and partial visits 11 complete visits = 3 reg = 1 territory						Total time (hours and minutes) 23.40.					
Plot coverage and changes											
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Observer efficiency apparently low						6. <input type="checkbox"/> Expedition census					
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Effort low (number of visits and time)						7. <input type="checkbox"/> Major habitat change					
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Uneven coverage of whole plot (including group censuses and partial visits)						8. <input type="checkbox"/> Boundary change					
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Edge of plot poorly covered						9. <input type="checkbox"/> Observer change					
5. <input type="checkbox"/> Special problems for one or more species, eg nestboxes						10. <input type="checkbox"/>					

Comments on census quality

Excellent Census



Clusters drawn by: **RMT**
10/2/06.

FARMLAND CBC:

COUNTRYSIDE RESTORATION TRUST ANNUAL HABITAT SUMMARY FORM

LARK RISE FARM ("98 LAND"), BARTON, CAMBS



To make the most of mapping Common Birds Censuses, maps are required for habitat as well as birds. It is vital therefore that you send a map of habitat or habitat change every year, in addition to completing this form as a summary. Please enter below the name(s) of the person (people) who carried out the bird census.

Observer:	ROGER B WISSON + BOB SCOTT	Plot code:	1571.	Year:	19 2005
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Please enter all major habitat types using the codes overleaf. Enter total area in hectares for each habitat category or, if field areas are not known, estimate the approximate percentage of the total plot area.

Code (see overleaf)	Crop or other land-use type	Area in hectares (where known)...	or approximate % of total area
E 4 13	WINTER WHEAT	24.9	47%
E 4 10	SPRING BEANS	7.3	14%
E 4 10	SPRING LINSEED	5.5	10%
E 4 16	SPRING BARLEY	5.7	11%
E 4 23	SET-ASIDE (MAY REGEN)	1.9	4%
E 4 24	FALLOW, WEEDY (=DISCED SET ASIDE)	1.9	4%
E 1 20	GRASS CUT FOR HAY	5.0	9%
B 5 1	NEW WOODLAND PLANTING	1.0	2%
		53.2	

Please summarise the main habitat changes since the end of the previous census. Pay particular attention to changes in field boundaries, such as hedges, ditches and walls. Cross-refer entries here to your habitat map.

Habitat changes since previous year:	<p>NO NEW FEATURES SINCE 2004</p> <p>CULTIVATED MARGIN STRIPS IN 2004 (PREVIOUS YEARS) NOW REPLACED BY GRASS-SOWN MARGIN STRIP.</p> <p>CROPPING MAP (IN COLOUR) ATTACHED.</p>
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Annual habitat summary form for farmland CBC plots: habitat classification

Please code habitat types according to the guidelines below. Use of the standard list of codes will ensure that similar levels of habitat classification are used across all plots. The codes listed below are based on the standard BTO habitat codes already in use for the Nest Record Scheme, bird ringing, and other BTO programmes. There are three boxes in the coding column overleaf. The first is intended for the initial letter of the code (level 1) and the others for the numbers at levels 2 and 3 (as defined here).

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3		
A Woodland	1 broad-leaved	1 mixed-age or semi-natural		
	2 coniferous	2 coppice with standards		
	3 mixed (at least 10% of each)	3 coppice without standards		
		4 mature plantation (taller than 10 m, closed canopy)		
		5 young plantation (5-10 m, open canopy)		
		6 parkland (scattered trees and grassy areas)		
B Scrubland (or woodland less than 5 metres tall)	1 regenerating woodland (inc. young coppice)	1 broad-leaved		
	5 new plantation	2 coniferous		
		3 mixed (at least 10% of each)		
C Semi-natural grassland & marsh	5 dry grassland	1 ungrazed	3 sheep	
	6 water-meadow/grazing marsh	2 cattle	4 horses	
E Farmland	1 improved grassland	1 ungrazed	15 autumn-sown barley	
	2 unimproved grassland	2 cattle	16 spring-sown barley	
	4 tilled land	3 sheep	17 "don't know" wheat	
	5 orchard	4 horses	18 "don't know" barley	
	6 other farming	5 other stock	19 oats	
		6 bare earth	10 other crops	
		9 root crops	20 cut for hay	
		11 oil seed rape	21 cut for silage	
		12 other brassicas	22 stubble, clean	
		13 autumn-sown wheat	23 stubble, weedy	
		14 spring-sown wheat	24 unsown/fallow	
	F Human sites	2 suburban	1 building	
		3 rural	2 gardens	
			3 municipal parks/recreation areas	
G Water bodies	3 lake/unlined reservoir			
	4 lined reservoir			
J Miscellaneous (specify).				

NOTES

C5 dry grassland: improved grassland should be classified as farmland. **E1 improved grassland:** grass that has been regularly treated with fertiliser and can be distinguished by its bright colour, lush growth and even texture. Include land that has been tilled and reseeded within the last 5 years (a ley). **E2 unimproved grassland:** grass that has not been treated with fertilisers but is usually grazed or mown regularly and may be rank and neglected. **E4 9 Root crops:** include potatoes. **10 Other crops:** i.e. crops not included under codes 9-19. **12 Other brassicas:** includes cabbages, kale and cauliflower. **13-18 Autumn/spring-sown cereals** can be distinguished in April: autumn cereals are taller or bushier and are darker green than spring cereals which will only just have emerged and may be at the single-leaf stage. If you are unsure of the time of planting, record as "Don't know" (17 or 18). Barley ears usually have awns (long bristle-like projections) whereas wheat is usually awnless. Awned varieties of wheat normally have a tough, crisp appearance, contrasting with the soft, drooping ears of barley. **21 Silage:** made from improved grassland, cut earlier than hay in May or June. **22 Stubble, clean:** few or no weeds present. **23 Stubble, weedy:** much weed growth (more than 20% of area contains weeds). **24 Unsown/fallow:** naturally regenerating weeds and self-sown cereals, may contain a sown green cover crop.

EXAMPLE

Always enter a letter in the first coding box and one number in the second box. If a level 3 code is needed, please put it in the third box.

Code	Crop or other land-use type	Area in hectares (where known)...	or approximate % of total area
E 4 13	winter wheat	39.5	
A 2 5	young conifer plantation	2.7	
G 4	farm reservoir	0.8	

1571 f.
2005

CRT Lark Rise Farm
Land purchased 1998
March 2005
No new features since
March 2004
Wildlife strips are now grass
margins

