

defra

**ECO-TERRORISTS
EXTRAORDINAIRE**

Defra.

An in depth look at precisely what's happening with farming under its guidance and in this we have made a long and exhaustive list of precisely what's wrong with the countryside today. This paper presents the facts most others will shy away from.



Go for that walk in the wider countryside and you will find empty skies and eerily silent trees.

Many conservation groups delight us with colourful magazines whilst often campaigning for the complete opposite of what's actually needed. They fail abysmally to explain what's really going on but things are becoming progressively worse as each and every decade passes with ever increasing threats coming from everywhere imaginable.

There's the media with its programmes like Countryfile and Springwatch giving us this misleading impression things are nowhere near as bad as they actually are whilst they too deliberately fudge key issues. But the birds on the other hand, who are surely the ultimate authority in all of this, are telling us a completely different story. With three UK extinctions and species disappearing like rats from a sinking ship just what is happening out there?

There have been just a few positive moves in recent years but all of it far too little and far too late and most of that's been down to the efforts of conservationists in any case.

The reintroduction of the Pine Marten into England and Wales by the Vincent Wildlife Trust is more significant than many realise. Pine Martens predate heavily on Grey Squirrels to the point of literally wiping them out allowing species like Red Squirrels and Hawfinches to return once again. And this in turn will change the whole dynamics of the UK's ecology having profound and far reaching benefits for the whole British countryside long into the future. The now familiar inclusion of recognised log-piles which have become an active part of countryside management too has been a very welcome change. These were a long time coming and only came about after years of campaigning but they are a must for the survival of all kinds of amphibians and invertebrates. And the re-establishment of willow pollarding around twenty years ago now was another very welcomed change back then.

There have been talks of rewilding the countryside but unfortunately most of this has only been talk. We have also seen species like Beavers, Wild Boar, Common Cranes and Great Bustards brought back. While the formation of Marine Protection Zones seems like a distant with the government very predictably dragging its feet kicking and screaming. But with everything else in an appalling state disarray the governments' only answers are to build some wind farms so they can pretend to be oh so caring. Whilst in really of course making things considerably worse than they already are. And don't expect those charities to step in either because as I've explained they have no interest in helping at all. They're far too busy sucking up to governments and corporations for that.

Ask yourselves when was the last time you saw a Song Thrush, other than as an occasional winter visitor, or in some remote corner of Britain. They were once a common garden bird but now they're nowhere to be found. Flocks of 200 Lapwings or more in the skies, Curlews and Golden Plovers flying overhead, just look around, and where they have all gone? Turtle Doves, Bullfinches and Linnets, and many others besides, all of them ghosts of the past that you will rarely if ever see any more.

Anyway let's go through the various causes but unlike the charities we'll say it as it is.

PESTICIDES:

Ever since their advent at around the time of the second world-war, back to the days of DDT when everything was almost wiped out, pesticides have had a long very corrupt and sordid history. It was something that was needed to boost food-production, or at least that was the spiel being foisted upon us all at the time, boosting great profits for the industrialists and governments more like. But nowadays of course things have improved since those dark old times and there's now very little to be worried about. And if you believe that then good luck because we know things are far from alright.

Since the mid 1970s we've seen the widespread use of organophosphate (OP) chemicals and from there on, contrary to anything any organisation or government would admit to, we saw the most appalling situations unfolding right in front of us. Pairs of Grey Partridge, which in previous years had eight to ten chicks, were then flying around with no chicks at all and within three or four years they'd all but disappeared from the fields. Populations were being decimated everywhere we looked, Brown Hares, Lapwings, Turtle Doves, Bullfinches, Linnets, Tree Sparrows and even the humble House Sparrows on our very rooftops were disappearing fast. In addition to this the Red-backed Shrike was declared UK extinct, egg collectors were blamed at the time who clearly wouldn't have helped, but there was so much more going on for it to be a coincidence. **These are facts the authorities want everyone to forget about but we will keep digging and raking them over year after year after year. In fact we will never give up on this even though you will scarcely hear these matters mentioned anywhere else.**



Crop Sprayers. They're evil looking machines.

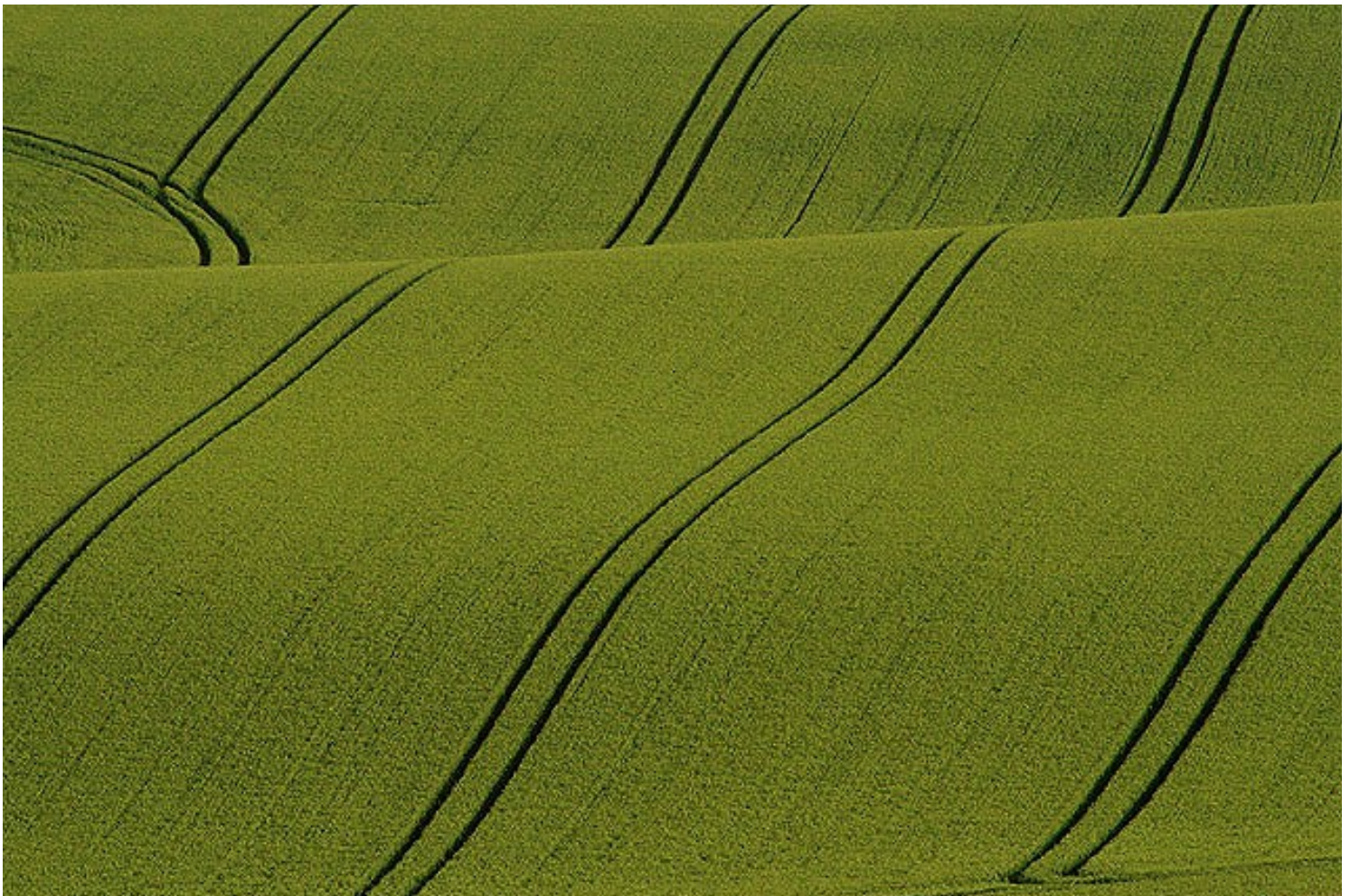
The Health & Safety Executive:

Let's not forget about their role in this either. Despite the name 'Health and Safety' they are in fact the driving force behind all of the legislation for making everything legal and above board. Purporting to be there to protect public health and indeed was what they were originally set up to enforce. With pesticides what few safety regulations there are they will use every loophole in the book to ensure a pesticide related prosecution never takes place.

The HSE is one of most corrupt and evil government departments ever to have existed. In 2010 along with their counterparts in Spain, following an interim period of withdrawal, they worked determinedly to have OPs reinstated for widespread use throughout the EU once again. And thanks to them that was indeed what happened. At the end of their meeting they were seen to be patting each other on their backs congratulating each other. I'll bet they damn well were.

They are also the authority by the way everyone has to phone if they've been poisoned by a farmer. Good luck with that!

PESTICIDES. If you can smell it, taste it, feel its effects; you're getting it. Don't listen to those HSE simpletons.



Tramlines in fields. The trademark of bad practice you will find everywhere.

The RSPB.

An excerpt from *Bird Notes*, Winter 1963-64, pages 8-9.

It was only by contacting the sellers of ancient books and publications we managed to get hold of a copy of this.

Since our note in the last issue, there has been a constant stream of birds in for chemical analysis. These birds are either sent to the London firm of Consulting and Chemical Analysts or to the Nature Conservancy, who in their turn often send the specimens on to the Government Chemist. The analyses are time consuming and very costly. This means that there are delays of three or four months between the despatch of the body and the receipt of the results. We apologise for the delay and hope that those who send us corpses do not feel too frustrated.

TOXIC CHEMICALS

The Association of British Manufacturers of Agricultural Chemicals, The Nature Conservancy, the British Trust for Ornithology, the Council for Nature, the Game Research Association, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have formed two Joint Working Committees. The first Committee will meet regularly to study problems of wild life and agricultural chemicals and recommend practical measures to solve these. The second Committee will deal with communication and education into the safe use of chemicals.

At a meeting of the Agriculture Committee of the Council of the Farmers' Union of Wales it was recommended that the use of dieldrin in sheep dips should be discontinued until such time as positive assurances had been received, following intensive research, that there was no possible danger of harmful effects resulting therefrom. The Committee reached its decision after careful consideration of evidence from medical sources and bearing in mind that New Zealand had prohibited the use of this insecticide.

Members will, no doubt, have heard that the Osprey's egg from the second nest at Inchriach, Inverness-shire, which was taken under licence from the Nature Conservancy and sent to the Government Chemist for chemical analysis, was found to contain 2.7 parts per million of DDE, 0.5 parts per million of TDE and 0.4 parts per million of DDT. We feel that it is dangerous to say that these quantities could have rendered the egg infertile, but it is clear that the Osprey, as well as many other species, is now having to face other hazards than egg-collectors.

Among the eggs which we have recently had back from the Nature Conservancy Analyst have been the eggs of a Red-backed Shrike from our reserve at Minsmere which contained 0.8 parts per million of DDE, 0.9 parts per million of TDE and 0.6 parts per million of DDT; also the eggs of a Dipper from Bannerdown, Bath, which contained 1.2 parts per million of DDE, 1.3 parts per million of TDE, 1.6 parts per million of DDT, 1.1 parts per million of Dieldrin and 0.3 parts per million of Heptachlor epoxide.

More recently, the Joint Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, which works in collaboration with the Game Research Association, has been examining the residues in organisms which could form the food supply of birds. The Committee has examined a number of samples of worms, slugs and insects from various fields and gardens and every sample so far analysed has contained residues of chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides. It has also begun examining fish and other forms of wild life.

The Committee is, at the moment, awaiting the report to the Minister of Agriculture of his Advisory Committee on Poisonous Substances Used in Agriculture and Food Storage. However, the Committee will continue to collect evidence of the effect of these pesticides on bird life. Any information about their effects if used in agriculture, horticulture and forestry should be sent to the R.S.P.B., The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

Oh how times have changed.

The licensed collecting of failed eggs for chemical analysis was a common and routine practice back then. Then they talked seriously about the effects pesticides were having on our birds and other wildlife with infertility and egg anomalies caused by chemicals treated like it was an actual problem. Using terms like parts per million, and eagerly awaiting reports, in those days the RSPB was a different breed.

It was revolutionary stuff coming from people who were clearly committed to bringing this scourge of industrial farming to an abrupt end. They weren't going to be told chemicals presented no threats and neither would they have supported its use what's more. They were people who had fight and determination which today's RSPB think tank could sorely learn from.

But sadly within just ten years or so of this article being written outsiders had moved into the organisation, infiltrated its ranks, and very successfully broke the mold from within. Even though these organophosphates, which replaced the earlier organochlorines, if not as bad were probably not a whole lot better. The almost simultaneous disappearance of so many species following its increased use in the 1970s I believe was testimony to this.

The RSPB since those good old days has been well and truly taken over with a very different set of 'elected' board members with new executives waving their highly controversial new policies through. Now, fully signed up to what we call the green-sludge-movement, pesticides were not only fine to use but were even said to be somehow 'beneficial' to birdlife in some of their written statements. It was an appalling situation where a few decision makers, those with a bit of power and persuasion at the top, could override the very principles of a once fine organisation. It's all in here see the following pages 4, 12 & 14. Also while you're there have a look at pages 29-33 and see who's paying them their wages.



See A Case Against The RSPB.

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_8183b59e65b646ba912315b53efb38d7.pdf

In 2010 the UK via HSE and Spain Reinstated OPs in the EU.

In this you will read about the very inactive role the RSPB played in all of this. Because in distancing themselves from the debate the way they did allowed the HSE to very successfully pushed this legislation through. There was absolutely nothing blocking them.

Note particularly Exhibit 11 where it says. “We did not engage in the organophosphate review.” “As I'm sure you can appreciate we do not have the resources to engage in every environmental issue.” It was like it was something and nothing to be concerned about and what an amazingly stark contrast this was looking back at the efforts demonstrated 45 years earlier when the RSPB actually meant something.

They could so easily had done the right thing by contesting it or by mobilising their members to add their voices on the issue but they did not. What they actually did of course was to throw away any chance there was of getting bird populations back to the way things should have been and I fully believe it was that serious.

Bees:

In recent years entire bee populations have died out with industries and governments both kicking and screaming their innocents as to there's no connection with this an neonicotinoid insecticides.

One thing I have noticed, is that blossom crops like orchards, beans and rape etc., are routinely sprayed on hot sunny days when the blossom is wide open and right at the time when bees are most active. The pesticides' industries talks about best practice this and best practice that but a more dangerous practice for bee conservation is difficult to imagine.

These are details we need to be aware of when wondering just what's killing off our insects.



Industrial researchers never have faced the facts and said they've made a right mess of the countryside. **Their opinion seems to be in order to sort problems out the world needs more and yet more of their kind of science of chemicals and GMOs. But it's precisely their brand of 'help' that's pushed the countryside into the backwater we know today.** Wall to wall carpeting of generously sprayed wheat fields never was going to be great for insects and yet they would have us believe they've done nothing wrong and they can sort problems out with yet more of the same.

Convenience Spraying:

It is mainly believed farmers only spray where there's a problem with weeds, insects or fungi etc. What's not commonly known is that harvesting's made so much more convenient when you don't have all that bulky foliage to deal with. So they spray potatoes, rape, feed beans, peas and many others crops with herbicides around two weeks before harvesting commences. **That way life for the farmer is that much easier. Never mind the poor saps who have to eat the muck. That's not even a consideration.**

Herbicides kill weeds right down to the roots.

Yet another one of their lies of course. And if indeed they did kill right down to the roots they wouldn't come up again and again as good as new and need to be sprayed the following year, the year after that and indeed every year after that. And yet as anyone who uses this muck knows that is what they have to do.

The industry doesn't mind of course, the more their stuff doesn't actually kill weeds, the more of it has to be bought and the more profits they make. As of always those who buy it are completely unaware of the lie they're sold.



All this pollution and the weeds come back the following year as healthy as ever.

Slug Pellets or Molluscicides, active ingredient metaldehyde.



Metaldehyde Slug Pellets Banned.

An announcement from DEFRA has banned metaldehyde slug pellets from Spring 2020. They say "metaldehyde poses an unacceptable risk to birds and mammals." The ban will also stop farmers from creating wide spread pollution of rivers and freshwaters with these toxic pellets.

<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/news/metaldehyde-slug-pellets-banned>

Great news that slug pellets had at last and not before time been banned. Or at least that was what we thought.

Metaldehyde slug pellet ban overturned after legal challenge.

The ban on metaldehyde slug pellets is being overturned after the High Court in London agreed with a challenge on the legality of the ban, and the pellets will now return to the market.

The decision by former Defra secretary Michael Gove has been declared unlawful by the court and this overturns the December 2018 Defra ruling that withdrew from the market all products containing metaldehyde, with immediate effect, with their use on farm banned from 2020.

<https://www.fwi.co.uk/arable/crop-management/pests/metaldehyde-slug-pellet-ban-overturned-after-legal-challenge>

We've long argued unsuspecting Song Thrushes consuming non-lethal doses of pellets, but enough to render them infertile, is why they're no longer around any more and the same's true with the Hedgehogs. There were all of the other threats out there of course but this was at least a step in the right direction.

And so what happened? A government secretary just for once does the right thing and the High Court overturns it. What right did they have they to do that anyway? When a genuinely good decision like that was made a far bigger fight against the court should have occurred. It all seemed too easy. We the government can do the right thing in banning the stuff but you the courts can bring it back in again. There was never the government challenge there should have been.

The big problem with pesticides, other than the obvious one of pollution, is the more that's used the better it is. It's exactly the same with every commodity you can think of. We are encouraged, made to feel guilty even, if we're not consuming or spending enough. The economy in fact demands it. Whether we need or even want the crap, heaven forbid, that's not even a consideration.

Manufacturers want everyone to consume more and more so that they the corporates backed by the governments can make more and more profits for themselves and their shareholders. And that is the bottom line as to why we have so much unnecessary pollution in the world today. With pesticides, having hoodwinked everyone into believing there was ever a need for the contaminating filth, they now want to force it down everyone's throats.



This kind of attitude was always going to be all the more obscene wherever there were polluting or otherwise exploitative industries got their strangleholds into everyone's psyche. Look on every shop shelf and you will find aerosol cans of every description, furniture polish, hair spray, body deodorant, biocide, air freshener, fly spray, highly toxic lubricants whereas once an oil can would've done, and the list goes on. **And if you don't buy the latest product, you're made to feel somehow unclean, inadequate or otherwise worthless, that's if you're suckered in by the bullshit.** **Non-organic potatoes dipped in anti-sprouting agent, enjoy your jacket potato next time you eat one.** Additive filled diet cokes and diet everything else, the nation's favourite health drinks, meat on the counter that's not fit for pigs, micro-wave emitting wireless routers and mobile phone masts, with a whole lot worse to come, you name it.



WD40, from squeaky hinges to rusted joints, just squirt this stuff around and it does the perfect job.

The problem is of course it's about as toxic as any fly-spray. One breath and you'll be feeling pretty sick for the rest of the day with symptoms like dizziness, respiratory illness and nausea, and with long term exposure there's no knowing what the medical effects might be.

Pharmaceuticals have no interest in genuine health matters either, they'd much prefer sell you their patented drugs to cure your illness, rather than preventing it in the first place by not poisoning you.

Cancer Research UK. Read about its close ties with the agrochemical industry.

https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_3c351fe27bc94f47956a38c58dc11b71.pdf

It's a sick old world out there, with no birds, allergies, diabetes and autism at all time highs with everyone dying of cancers and unexplained heart failures all over the place. All of this and I've not even mentioned vehicle fumes or smoking.

A Can of Fly-Spray on the Shop Shelf.

If you see a can of fly-spray on a shop or restaurant shelf, then give the place a wide berth, it's not for decoration it's there for use. They will greet you with an inane grin completely oblivious to the fact they've poisoned your air space.



HOUSE MARTINS:



One of nature's natural pest controls. I always think those who deter or knock these nests down, in many cases deliberately destroying eggs and chicks, are often the first ones to reach for the chemicals.

SPRING VERSES AUTUMN SOWING:



Stubble fields with plenty of winter-feed and shelter.



Ploughed fields with little winter-feed or shelter.

One of the best ways of seeing birds through the winter is to make early spring-sowing the norm rather than autumn and with a simple government-backed initiative which rewards farmers towards the former and away from the latter is all it would take.

Most farmers prefer to douse the whole field with glyphosate after harvesting, plough it up, leaving birds with precious little to eat and this is somehow said to be the best they can do.

GMO. CROPS AND THE PROBLEMS CAUSED:

The problems caused would seem to far outweigh any claimed benefits the multinationals would have us believe. With close on 300,000 suicides in India so far, GMO crops have done wonders for the welfare of the local farmers there.

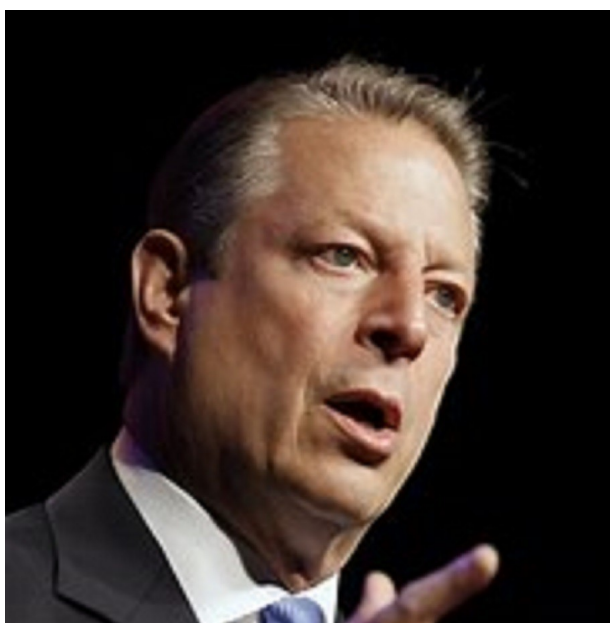
<http://naturalsociety.com/monsantos-gmo-seeds-farmer-suicides-every-30-minutes/>

http://www.naturalnews.com/046193_GMO_crop_failures_farmer_suicides_India.html

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/feastandfamine/2014/03/gm-crops-indian-farmers-and-suicide>

It's all about profit for the big seed companies with some 'convenience for the farmers' thrown in as a close second. Producing crops that are herbicide resistant is one of the criteria so they'll be able to spray even more of their chemicals than they already do. Drought resistant, just look what's happened in India. And another one, growing crops that produce their own toxins in order to protect them from insect pests, which would be fine if people weren't gonna be forced to eat the muck.

All this is nothing of course compared with what goes on out of sight behind the scenes, and nowhere is this more especially the case than in the US., where things there took on a whole new rationale.



Al Gore personally phoned the French Prime Minister urging him to allow GMOs. to be grown on European soil.

Here we uncover both the Clinton's and Gore's efforts, for getting GMOs. accepted into mainstream food production, both in the US. and in Europe.

Please see link. https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_daab654a10394e769510ddbdc61955f7.pdf

USDA Organic - Organic in name only!



Most sinister of all perhaps is the one of 'perceived ownership.' If pollen for example is carried by wind or bees onto a nearby field technically that farmer could then be sued by Monsanto for growing their patented seed without permission. Such is the aggression these companies want to exact onto the world. Never mind the GMOs might be contaminating their crops, that's not even a consideration, the law in this case favours the multinationals. An example found in this link.

<https://www.rt.com/usa/monsanto-patents-sue-farmers-547/>

And finally, we have some 'experts' from the Corn Growers Guidebook and the University of Minnesota rather ambitiously giving their advice on how we might, 'minimizing pollen drift' and 'prevent the commingling of GMO with non-GMO corn.'

It has to be asked just what planet are they on? And with the best will in the world how would it even work?

https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/news/articles.00/gmo_issues-000307.html

http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/master-gardener/volunteers/teaching-tools/docs/minimizing_gmo_contamination.pdf

Jeffrey M. Smith - Are GMOs Safe?



<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Jeffrey+Smith+GMO&&view=detail&mid=7DE882BDC78269C360487DE882BDC78269C36048&&FORM=VRDGAR>





Roundup “Garden Moments Protected.” What a wonderful message to send out.

Jury Awards Terminally Ill Man \$289 Million In Lawsuit Against Monsanto



This former groundsman had his garden moments protected.

The former school groundskeeper sued the company, arguing that an herbicide in the weed killer Roundup, likely caused the disease. His lawyers also contended Monsanto failed to warn consumers about the alleged risk from their product.

<http://www.wunc.org/post/jury-awards-terminally-ill-man-289-million-lawsuit-against-monsanto#stream/0>

GRASSY BUFFER STRIPS:

These grassy buffer zones that surround the edges of arable fields were introduced in order to enhance the prospects of farmland birds and other wildlife as well as to somehow 'absorb' the effects pesticides were having on our natural environment (how that was ever going to work).



A grassy buffer zone. One of the better examples given here.

Our research however has revealed they come in many guises. Some it has to be said, like this one shown here are grown with real conservation in mind, plenty of nesting cover together with seeds for winter feeding etc.

But all too often, they are nothing more than a box to tick for farming subsidies, with examples of mowing right in the middle of the nesting season which of course kills everything nesting there, spray-drift affects visible and routine, while others doubled up as footpaths, heavily trampled upon and strewn with dogs' shit. If mown at all it should be right at the end of the season say November. It is highly doubtful whether things would've changed that much over the years since our research was carried out either. As with most other government schemes it's best not to get your hopes up.

MEADOWS:

A good meadow should be left strictly alone during the spring and summer but nibbled to within an inch of its life all throughout the autumn and winter. But instead of that what we're commonly finding is that even within recognised nature reserves the management regimes can be abysmal.



This is a meadow.

But all too often we find very poor imitations even within protected sites.

See Keep Meadows Special Campaign.

https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_31818479d41b4569aa695aaab7d74029.pdf

NATURAL RESOURCES WALES:



Management Natural Resources Wales.

According to Natural Resources Wales this was perfectly acceptable management for their triple SIs. But after around eight long years of heated letter writing and bitter wranglings this is what was finally achieved. Compare the picture above, where the site was completely nibbled down to the nub, to the one below where the vegetations been allowed to naturally grow. And although the no grazing period began a full month later than was ideal it still demonstrated a considerable improvement.

Unfortunately most of the Heath Spotted Orchids and other species, that once peppered this supposedly protected site, have nearly all been chewed out over the years of appalling treatment. But hopefully with proper and more sensitive management in the future there are enough plants remaining for them to return back to their former numbers once again.

See A Case Against Natural Resources Wales.

https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_c664930944eb45a487024610b783df28.pdf

See Case Study:

https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_12b43558e3234109b51ce6fc465dd30f.pdf

The before and after shots.....



Conservation courtesy of Natural Resources Wales.



Meanwhile this is what real conservation looks more like and always has done.

LIVESTOCK EATING EGGS & CHICKS:



In one of the Springwatch episodes there was footage shown of livestock eating chicks. It was remarked upon in the programme at the time but has never been mentioned since nor indeed was I able to find it anywhere. It is obviously a common problem and surely casts 'conservation grazing,' as they like to call it, at inappropriate times of year into even further doubt.

SILAGE-CUTTING:



Most farmers nowadays cut their grass once in May and then again in July leaving no windows for anything to happen in between. Even grass scarcely has time to produce seed and remember no seeds or sproutings no food for birds throughout the year.

ROLLING:



It's difficult to imagine a more pointless or destructive practice than rolling grass throughout the spring and summer, crushing insects and smashing up any birds' eggs that get in the way, and yet for whatever reason it goes on as common practice.

HAY BALER PRESERVATIVE APPLICATOR:



Anyone paying attention to what's happening in the countryside cannot be unaware of these ominous looking tanks appearing on the tops of balers recently. They're a relatively new addition and are for the application of a preservative. There was never any excuse needed to use more and more chemicals of course but now, presumably because silage wrapped in plastic traps in moisture, there's an ever increasing need for this too.

Back in the day when farming was done properly, hay cut at the right time of the year, without plastic and far less intensification, problems like this simply never happened. This preservative, and there's no saying exactly what it is, will obviously be ingested by any animals fed the stuff and eventually onto consumers through the food-chain. It's bad enough using plastic at all but to add extra chemicals in order to counter its effects is just not right. And this is over and above what they're generally swilling around in any case.

<https://www.farmprogress.com/equipment/hay-baler-preservative-applicators-pay-quickly>

NATIONAL TRUST FARMS:



For a number of years now we've been looking around some of these farms and it has to be said the management there is no different from anywhere else.



Typically managed National Trust land.

In fact what was once an extensive patchwork of flower-rich meadows under their guidance has been rendered to this averagely bland bit of pasturage. The hedges there are clipped and flailed just the same silage-cutting too is carried out just as with every other bog-standard farm in the area. And so what's the difference? We did send them both copies of our 'Keep Meadows Special' and 'Lay Off the Hedges Campaigns' but weren't interested enough to even get back to us. For a conservation organisation it just shows a distinct lack of imagination more than anything else. One of these other properties at Pwll Caerog Farm in Pembrokeshire has even been turned into a theme-park.



A former flower-rich meadow on this same National Trust property now converted to ryegrass.



And further over on the estate is a field is treated with glyphosate.

Whilst most farmers these days busily cut their silage in this almost military styled fashion there are others who fortunately who leave their meadows completely untouched until the end of the season. By which time any birds would have reared their broods, insects would have time to breed and the wildflowers would have produced their seeds. Basically it's all about leaving an open window for things to develop and to do their job. Unfortunately these practices are becoming increasingly rare and it's sadly one of the main reasons why there's no wildlife left in the countryside today.



This seemingly unremarkable looking site further up the road actually has more going for it than it appears because it literally contains tens if not hundreds of thousands of Ragged Robins and numerous other characteristic damp meadow plants. There was a horse grazing towards the latter half of the season but almost exclusively restricted itself to this less rich corner, which was a bit more by luck than judgment, and in the example before that the hedge was laid a few years earlier tied back with non-degradable plastic string. But this is reality we're dealing with. If we were to have looked around for absolute textbook perfection we'd 've probably never found it. On further inspections in subsequent years this horse has now become more adventurous and is now grazing everywhere.

But the important question must be what happens to places like this when they're sold up or in the event of a death? The next farmer taking them on would almost certainly not be so laid back but more likely be trying to get ever inch of productivity they could out of them. They'd be stripped for silage at least a couple of times a year and grazed to within inches of their lives for the rest. One way could be you would at least think is to sell them on to the National Trust but looking at what they generally do with the farms they already own that option is best avoided. Or they could be listed as SSSIs for National Resources Wales to get involved with but unless anyone's prepared to actively scrutinise each and every bit of management taking place thereafter there's no guarantee that treatment would be any better either. And even with scrutiny it's by no means certain a good outcome would be achieved.

DEAD WOOD:

Quite recently we are finding more and more log-piles being constructed in countryside, at least within our own area, and this I have to say is a very welcome and long awaited development. Credit where it's due is what I say and long may this continue as standard practice. But we need far more dead wood than anything we have here both as standing trees as well as these recognised log-piles below. Hole nesting birds, hibernating amphibians, Hornets, Stag Beetles and fungi all require massive amounts of the stuff for their very survival.



A row of recognised log-piles. A long awaited addition to the wider countryside.

The ring-barking of unwanted trees is a good way of creating standing dead wood. Certain non-native poplars, Sycamore and the various commercial fir trees etc., basically anything that's unwanted on a site. This way alien tree species cluttering up a piece of habitat within a reserve can be transformed into something really useful.

Coppicing, although undoubtedly beneficial for all kinds of plants and insects, initially Defra., in its undying wisdom came up with their 'wood burning initiative' as an incentive to encourage landowners to cut their trees for household burning. But this scheme as ever was very poorly thought through, allowing few provisions until only recently, for dead wood other than an occasional handful of twigs scattered around as an afterthought. But let's face it anything governments come up with generally are a disaster, it really was the best they could do at the time. It never was about conservation, it was always about profit and 'what landowners aim to do' as they like to describe it. Any old activity, if farmers and landowners wanted to do it, there are lobby groups set to ensure that was what happened.

Trees And Woodland Management And Conservation.

This guidance was withdrawn on 27 July 2015

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trees-and-woodland-management-and-conservation>

And so it came as some relief to see some common-sense policies being put in place such as these log-piles.

HEATHS:



See How We Might Create More Heathland.

https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_b628d1d9e4d3446c9372660e1fce2c17.pdf

HEDGES:



Ripping the guts out of our hedge-rows.

Hedge Flailing.

These operations are officially allowed to occurred from September, a time of year when insect numbers are still very high, although it can occasionally be earlier. Add this to pesticide's use and wind farms all collectively causing so much carnage we can hardly be surprised insect numbers are in such steep decline. Everything adds up.

Assuming this needs to be done at all, and it's highly doubtful that it does, it could at least be carried out from November onwards we'd recommend. But far better surely, having laid a hedge some years previously, to simply allow each section to develop and fulfill its own distinctive character. Rather than us being forced to look at these bland, nondescript, featureless landscapes.



A close up view shows a section of hedge splintered and trashed to pieces.

If you wanted to obliterate 80% of the insects on your land you could do worse than copy any of these. And this is just one small sample area of an approximately 2 mile radius so it can only be imagined as this practice is replicated nation or even nations-wide.

WIND-FARMS:



**Two lone Swallows sit briefly on the wires where only
a few years previously thirty to forty once sat.**

**Causing the deaths of birds, bats and insects on an unprecedented scale with pitiful sights
like these becoming increasingly common!**

Two Rookeries collapsed in a town within four years of some wind-turbines being installed.



The university grounds where there were once a dozen regular nests there are now no nests at all.

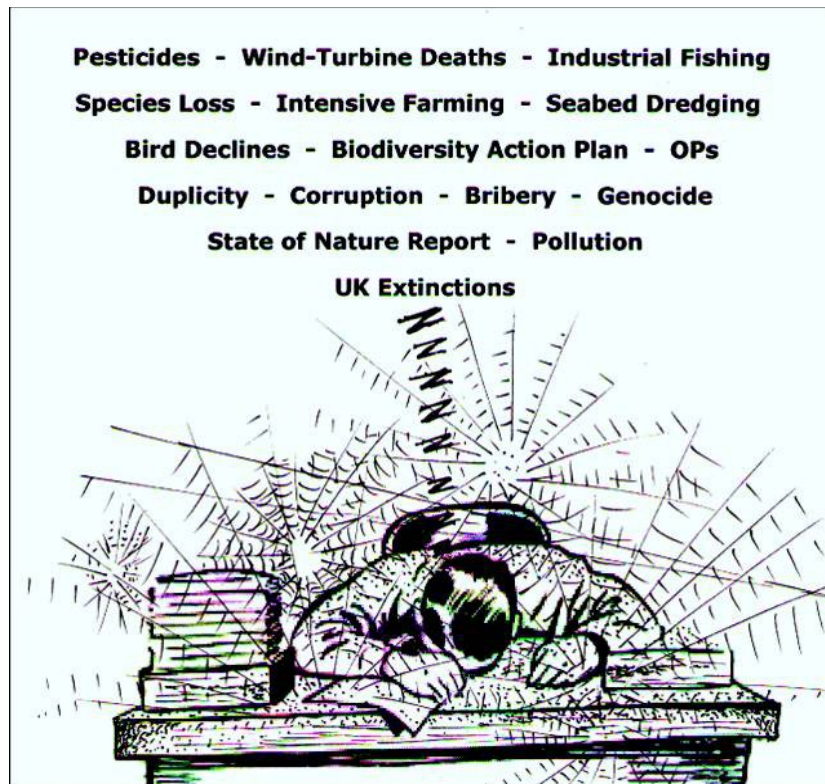


Since then however new developments have occurred.

It's seems some birds at least are learning to avoid the dangers. That's very good news for Corvids but sadly not for much else. But the fact that crashes in numbers occurred at all meant all was far from well at least for a time.

Local Rookeries Update.

https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_66f5e9ff46ef43ad8fed3cf58befb66f.pdf



RSPB 1970-2021

THE RSPB:

Our birds do not belong to any given bird charity and never did and yet they treat them as if they were their own personal preserve to be done with as they will. Ever since the end of the sixties birds have pretty well had to manage without very much help from them. In fact in many ways they've only been made things worse for them. The added issue is they're an authority, the go to if you like, where everyone including the media gets its information from. They can basically feed, and frequently do, any old spiel and that then gets reported as fact.

They make everything sound so very reasonable as we the public listen to their every word. Believing just about anything provided it's coming from an outwardly reputable source, and if their papers are 'peer reviewed' then so much the better, and thereby lies the problem. Everything is backed up with money talking all the way.

Please note! We have no argument with those fieldworkers who are doing a really great job in protecting our birdlife particularly with nesting terns and other species. Our problem lies with those policy makers involved in the most appalling decisions at the top. It is from those we get terms like sustainable, well-sited wind-farms and conservation grazing etc., to name but a few.

See A Case Against The RSPB. Look at pages 29-33 and see who's paying them their wages.

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_8183b59e65b646ba912315b53efb38d7.pdf

The RSPB State Of UK Birds Report 2017. Written as more of a distraction to what's really happening with our birds with certain keywords like the ones we've listed here coming up the numbers of times given. Climate-change 73, pesticides 0, slug-pellets 0, silage/early hay-cutting 0, hedge flailing 0, farming practices 1, habitat change 1, alien invasive species 1, rats 7, predation 1, disease 1, deer fences 1, wildfowling 1, illegal killing 1, unsustainable fisheries 1, sandeel fisheries 1, shellfish fisheries 1, pollutants 1, plastics 0, lead shot 0, marine renewables 1 and wind-farm collisions 0. And as we can see it's climate change, climate change followed by yet more climate change which in fact has had very little to do with declining bird numbers over the years. It certainly doesn't explain why birds have declined like they have since the early 1970s.

In fact throughout the entire text, to the virtual exclusion of every other threat, it is bedaubed on every page making an astonishing appearance of no fewer than 73 times. And we've not even included the variables such as climatic conditions, climate warming or climate-related etc., etc. Issues like pesticides, plastics, industrial fishing, silage-cutting, illegal killing and wind-farm collisions, which are the real dangers birds are facing, were either hardly mentioned or ignored altogether. To be fair Rats did feature reasonably high, with the appalling consequences Rat infestations have on island species being taken into account, so it's at least good to know they're still actively engaged with that particular point. Other than that however it was a poor and an extremely lacking report.



https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_d1401f163dfa4ddd9886576c95a655ab.pdf

Compare their abomination to our own summary of events in. CATES State Of UK Birds Report 2017.



http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_4923e966f01f444cb641c85a823f0573.pdf

HUNTING IN THE MED: Not everything the bird charities do is bad of course. Opposing the mindless hunting practices of migratory birds in countries like Malta and Cypress for example is something we very much support them on.



With an estimated 25 million birds shot or trapped in the Mediterranean countries every year this represents an appalling disregard of life.

<https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news/news/details.aspx?id=tcm:9-254874>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-32274233>

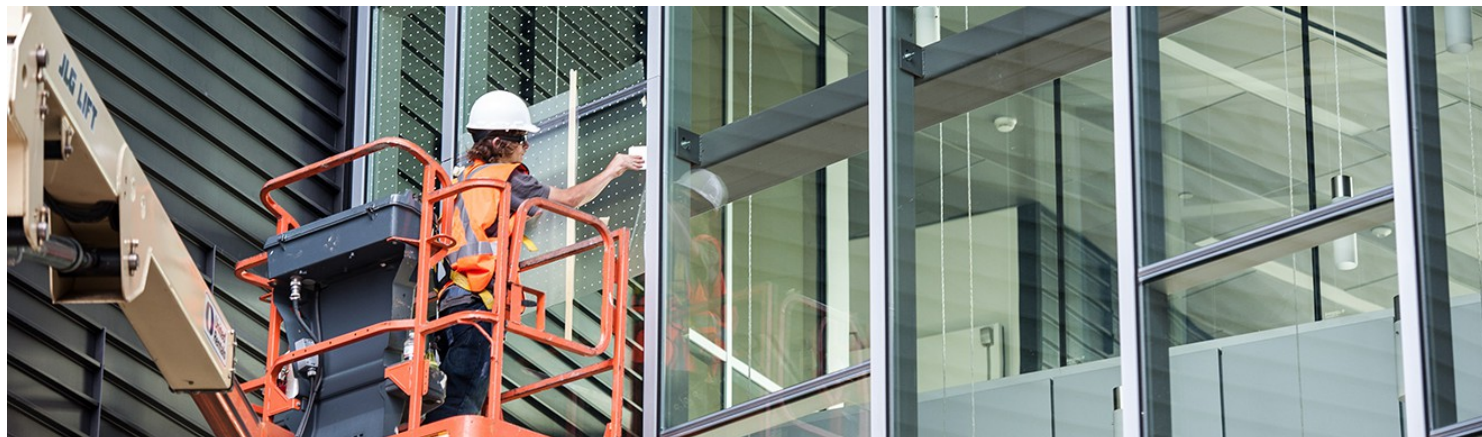
<https://www.responsibletravel.com/copy/stop-the-bird-slaughter-in-malta>

Illegal Killing In Mediterrània.

Please write your messages to the governments concerned. Thank you.

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_d486c3c4a2d74b269e6d025a1b21d90a.pdf

Buildings & Glass.



Making them safe.

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds/collisions/buildings-and-glass.php>

Wisconsin Developers Sue To Keep Designing Buildings Deadly To Birds.

<https://abcbirds.org/article/wisconsin-developers-sue-to-keep-designing-buildings-deadly-to-birds/>

This is so damn typical!

Please write to Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty.

stacy@will-law.org; daniel@will-law.org; vicki@will-law.org; miranda@will-law.org; will@will-law.org;
dan@will-law.org; shannon@will-law.org; rick@will-law.org; libby@will-law.org; barbara@will-law.org;
lucas@will-law.org; luke@will-law.org;

Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty's facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/WILawLiberty/>

SCAVENGING:

Something that's been brought into question in recent years and is seen by many politicians and animal welfare authorities as being somehow unsavoury. These are in fact nature's dustbin men, the clearing away of corpses from the landscapes, is something which has been going on since the beginning of life itself and indeed has always played a vital role in keeping the planet healthy. There are however some 'experts' that assume in their arrogance that scavenging is less than desirable. Dead livestock was once dumped into ravines or simply went unnoticed on the high mountain slopes. But now under EU laws all dead livestock must be incinerated in order to comply with regulations.



Vultures can consume anthrax and remain in good health and are well adapted to their way of living. The EUs contribution has been to cast unfounded doubt as well as to add the drug diclofenac as well as wind farms into the mix. Here in the UK although we don't have Vultures we do have Kites, Buzzards and Ravens and many others besides they all need to scavenge and do an excellent job what's more.

When writing to Defra on this matter their reply was that Southern Europe was not within their remit. However the UK, as a now former EU member, did have a voice and a vote which along with Spain used very forcibly to have certain pesticides reinstated as legal products throughout Europe once again. But the issue of starving Vultures it seems it was not within their remit. Did not give a damn more like. We also know in fact the UK played a very active role and did everything it could to have the law implemented. Everything that's bad for wildlife and conservation you can be sure governments will go along with them.

Please see the link.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fallen-stock>

WILD BOAR CULL:

Writing to the Forestry Commission concerning its involvement with the culling of Wild Boar in the Forest of Dean, their reply was, “Defra announced their national policy for managing Wild Boar which makes it clear that local communities and landowners will decide the future of populations.” And don't they just love it. Defra gives them the green light and they're out there with the guns. The system stinks and they're around 200 years behind the times. Such horrible arrogance in charge of taking care of the countryside. Our predecessors exterminated this species out of ignorance and this self same ignorance is rife in its thinking today.

LEAD-SHOT:

This issue has been around for decades and even now there seems little likelihood of it ever being resolved. The Wildfowl & Wetland Trust is not necessarily wanting an outright ban whereas we and other right minded people would request nothing less on principle. In WWT's own link there's a line about, 'shooters are being asked at www.leadshotcampaign.co.uk to sign a pledge to comply with the law. In the previous line it admitted, “45 per cent of shooters surveyed said they sometimes or never complied with the law.” We would argue if lead pellets were totally banned at the manufacturing stage there would never be an opportunity for lead poisoning to occur at all. Why indeed would we even want lead broadcasted all over the countryside?

<http://www.wwt.org.uk/news/news/2013/07/wwt-news/wwt-news-conservation/lead-shot-poisoning-latest/>

The Lead Ammunition Group, the group overseeing proceedings, was convened by Defra and is made up of the following organisations: British Association for Shooting and Conservation, Country Land & Business Association, The Gun Trade Association, National Game Dealers Association, Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, Countryside Alliance, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Institute of Environment and Health, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust. **I have been onto the sites of some of these groups and they really are awful people. They talk about conservation this and conservation that but all they seem to want to do is broadcast lead-shot. They support species they don't actually kill anymore to remain on the quarry-list and their views on wind-energy are truly terrifying.** The majority of them are people who enjoy killing, they talk about conservation but have no ideas or even interest in saving the natural world. **Lead-free pellets are available and are made of a steel and plastic composite. We would go still further and say plant-based biodegradable plastic be used.**

BASC WELCOMES WELSH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON GREENLAND WHITE-FRONTED GEESE:

The UK's largest shooting organisation, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), has welcomed the Welsh Natural Resources' Minister Alun Davies' decision to continue a voluntary moratorium on the shooting of Greenland White-fronted Geese rather than removing them from the quarry list altogether. I only found this out by going onto their site. 'Making use of wildfowlers' considerable knowledge,' rather than re-listing was seen as the preferred option. A petition was organised shortly after we'd highlighted this.

MACHAIR PROJECT:

It came to our notice a few years back that a cull took place of the Grey-lag Geese on the Machair, Uist. This population is the pink-billed race which is a much wilder bird than the semi-domesticated, orange-billed race you'll normally find on the Norfolk Broads and elsewhere, both races being perfectly native incidentally. This race is Britain's only truly wild resident goose and it is far too important to even be considered for a cull. I heard an RSPB spokesman talking about the Machair a few months earlier mentioning then about controlling the geese. On hearing that I wrote to them and asked what species of goose they were talking about and what methods were being used to 'control' them. They never even answered my first letter but eventually sent me a load of old flannel about using bird-scarers.

I can confirm however that a cull of native Grey-lag Geese, conducted by Scottish Natural Heritage, 'guardians of Scotland's tremendous natural heritage' no less, is taking place and that the RSPB was compliantly lending support as well as having some involvement in a cover-up. For years now they've concealed population declines, and more worrying still the reasons for those declines, and now we have yet another grubby little example of their deceit. They really are very undignified and extremely untrustworthy to the last.

CONSERVATION COURTESY OF SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE:



Please view the link. <https://youtu.be/dFiZV7d5vws>

Their crime they eat grass. Barnacle Geese are a perfectly good rightfully belonging species and have every God-given right to be there.

A Case Against Scottish Natural Heritage - Please write your letters of protest and ask the Scottish Government to cut its funding.

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_e802df7d70264858a51e9182df4ee35b.pdf

LIMING: Lime has to be quarried so the liming of fields is both a waste of a valuable natural resource as well as chronically altering to a local area's soil characteristics.

ASH DIE-BACK: Due to the importance of Ash as a tree that supports many species we will be keeping a watchful eye on what's happening each year. 2017 and onwards saw quite an increase in trees dying back but with many still surviving. We believe those that do make it through will spread their seeds and will become the new naturally occurring disease-resistant strains of Ash. It is essential everyone's not out there with their chainsaws as dead trees are extremely beneficial for wildlife.

REINTRODUCTIONS:

There was a time when the Alladale Est., Ross & Crom, Scotland seems one of the most promising places for this to be realised. They already had European Bison, Wild Boar, Elk and Beaver in their collection and would hope with any determination we could eventually have species like the Brown Bear and the Wolf included too.

It's now been so long since their announcement there seems little likelihood of it ever happening. There are now plans to bring back the Lynx into Northern England. Let's hope this has a bit more success.



See Rewilding.

https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_7cffda3f27714f13b93ff73bfe8e2101.pdf

BLUE-FIN TUNA: The UK, Germany and Japan have all been involved in the exploitation and ultimately demise of this species. Both UK and German governments in the past issuing arrest warrants against those who were working to save this species from extinction while Japan as so often is the main culprit and the driving force. **With the then Foreign Secretary William Hague showing an overly keen interest at the time.**



THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SANDEELS IN THE NORTH SEA: Both the RSPB and Greenpeace once campaigned against the Danish Sandeel fisheries but then both suddenly pulled out. As I remember it was all about some sordid little deal with themselves and the Danish authorities with the Sandeels losing out big time. While these excuses for campaign organisations stand around and ponder, these and many other species are really suffering.

This matter has been dealt with in our other paper, A Case Against the RSPB, pages 20-22.

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_8183b59e65b646ba912315b53efb38d7.pdf

However Greenpeace has since shown a change of heart by dumping boulders all over Dogger Bank in a bid to stop the dredging there.

Greenpeace Dumping Three-Tonne Boulders in Dogger Bank MPA.

<https://thefishingdaily.com/featured-news/greenpeace-dumping-three-tonne-boulders-in-dogger-bank-mpa/>

STATE OF NATURE REPORT: 22nd May 2013, an acknowledgment at last that things were not as great as we all thought they were. **'UK nature is in trouble was the conclusion of a ground-breaking report published by a coalition of leading conservation and research organisations.'** Scientists working side-by-side from 25 wildlife organisations had compiled a stock take of our native species the first of its kind in the UK. The report revealed that 60% of the species studied had declined over recent decades. More than one in ten of the species that were assessed are under threat of disappearing from our shores altogether.' **A good few years further on and what's happened since? Not much!!! And with no real acknowledgement as to what the problems really are things are unlikely to improve any time soon.**

So what's actually happened then? The pesticides, which have long been largely responsible for bringing these species to their knees, are all still in full and widespread use to this day. Wind farms have since been added to the equation with many many more being planned. These with all the other issues raised are still even now as yet unresolved. The only positive changes I have noticed is that Pine Martens have been reintroduced and there are now some log-piles being included within farmland management. There was a promise that slug pellets were at last to be banned but that all fell flat on it's face.

As welcome as those two other developments were it goes nowhere near addressing all of these other issues. And in summing up let's take a look at just what the situation is out there. Below is the list of bird and mammal species we're most concerned about and this doesn't even begin to look at our reptiles, insects and wild plants etc. Nature is in trouble, that much is beyond dispute, but what are these organisations doing to resolve things? It really has to be asked.

The loss of UK bird and mammal species. Full List

Red-throated Diver, Black-throated Diver, Little Grebe, Black-necked Grebe, Slavonian Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Fork-tailed Petrel, Storm Petrel, Fulmar, Grey lag Goose, Shelduck, Teal, Gadwall, Wigeon, Pintail, Garganey, Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Scaup, Common Scoter, Smew, Red-breasted Merganser, Goosander, Osprey, Honey Buzzard, Goshawk, Sparrow Hawk, Golden Eagle, Sea Eagle, Hen Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Peregrine, Hobby, Merlin, Kestrel, Black Grouse, Grey Partridge, Quail, Common Crane, Water Rail, Spotted Crake, Corncrake, Moorhen, Coot, Great Bustard, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Little Ringed Plover, *Kentish Plover, Dotterel, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Dunlin, Common Sandpiper, Ruff, Curlew, Whimbrel, Black-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Greenshank, Woodcock, Snipe, Avocet, Red-necked Phalarope, Stone Curlew, Great Skua, Artic Skua, Stock Dove, Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Nightjar, *Wryneck, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Swift, Swallow, House Martin, Sand Martin, Sky Lark, Wood Lark, Yellow Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, *Red-backed Shrike, Savi's Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Garden Warbler, Willow Warbler, Wood Warbler, Pied Flycatcher (within range), Spotted Flycatcher, Whinchat, Nightingale, Redstart, Ring Ouzel, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Fieldfare, Redwing, Marsh Tit, Willow Tit, Starling, Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer, Cirl Bunting, Reed Bunting, Twite, Linnet, Lesser Redpole, Bullfinch, Hawfinch, Tree Sparrow and House Sparrow.

Hedgehog, Lesser Horse-shoe Bat, Greater Horseshoe Bat, Whiskered Bat, Brandt's Bat, Daubenton's Bat, Natterer's Bat, Bechstein's Bat, Pipistrelle, Leisler's Bat, Noctule, Serotine Bat, Barbastelle Bat, Long-eared Bat, Otter, Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Harvest Mouse and Brown Hare.

***UK. Extinct.**

Underlined. Those species that were once common but today are either declining fast or are hardly found anywhere. In the case of the House Sparrow they are very much still about in those places where they are still found but then drive a few miles down the road in some cases and you will see there are none to be found at all.

Red. Recent entries.

Don't listen to what programmes like Springwatch are telling you either. Look around out there in the countryside and make own minds up. The lack of all of these species paints a much bleaker picture than any of the authorities are telling you so don't be swayed by what the bird charities are saying. We have a countryside today that's not fit for purpose with three UK extinctions and an abysmal void of nothingness everywhere we care to look.

The things you need to know when counting birds:

The species on this list are what we should all be looking out for if you want to register what's really happening out there. They are the real indicators of the truth. Some always were rare, while others were once common and used to be seen every day, and it's these latter ones for me which are the best indications of all.

Look out for Lapwings, Turtle Doves, Song Thrushes, Bullfinches and Linnets, these should be around in large numbers but are simply nowhere to be seen any more. You may think there are still plenty of birds in your gardens, and that may be true but this is because those species we have left are those that are less affected by the various dangers, some of these have actually increased to fill the ecological void left by the loss of so many others. Who would have thought Starlings would've been added to such a list with summer birds now non-existent in most parts of the UK. while the winter birds are becoming thinner on the ground with each passing year too. And the same is true of the House Sparrow still very much found in some parts, including our own area where we live, but absent from so much of its former range.

Defra. will tell you everything's fine while the RSPB. will try to reassure you things are not so bad, while the birds, mammals and insects, who are surely the ultimate authorities in all of this, are telling us otherwise by virtue of them not being around any more. We live in a countryside relentlessly nibbled, trimmed, manicured and sanitised to within an inch of its life, together with alien species invading it. And now added to this we have some of the most bizarre looking structures imaginable every flying migrating species is having to negotiate. All of this and we're wondering why we're losing species the rate we are. And on top of this we've now got 5G being dumped on us.

Listed here are the words various governments have come up with in the past. "We regard safety as paramount." "The government's doing more than ever to protect our wildlife." "Committed to conserving our native species." "The success of conservation measures." And lastly let us not forget those "robust safeguards" regarding the use of pesticides. Statement after statement after meaningless statement, the endless drivel continues. So what exactly are governments doing to protect our wildlife and what does anything ever really mean? Despite all of these fine words and assurances, we have population crashes that have and are occurring right across the country and the rest of the world too, we have a countryside that's clearly not fit for purpose together with a abysmal lack of imagination from all quarters for ever putting anything right.

The plain fact is they simply do not care enough and are doing precious little to put anything right at all. Throughout our entire paper we have discussed matters like pesticides, the inadequacies of those grassy strips which surround crop fields, the nibbling and general bad management of meadows, lack of ponds, wind-farm encroachment, GMOs., the appalling hacking of our hedge-rows, lack of recognised mini-habitats such as ponds, a disregard for life in so many cases, alien invasive species (with many more still entering the country), the unnecessary clearance of dead livestock, unnecessary culls, lead-shot, terrible commercial fishing policies and very few thoughts of reintroducing extinct species.

Much of this wouldn't even be that big a deal either. We have written a detailed inventory here of exactly what the problems are. Simply by banning certain pesticides, digging a few ponds, by not flattening birds' nests and allowing threatened plants to seed once again with some proper meadow management, by not slaughtering the hedges each and every year, not placing the most inconceivable looking obstacles in the way of our birds, bat and fish, all of these things would make the difference between survival of our wildlife or the continued obliteration of it.

A few minor adjustments just for starters and things would at least be given a fighting chance. Those of you who have been with us for the long-haul, will be well aware of the battle we've had with Defra concerning its commitment to the Biodiversity Action Plan the UK. signed up to well over twenty years ago, this is in fact precisely what this very paper has been about over the years. It should've meant, giving them say a decade or so of general feet-dragging, things being well on the way to recovery by now but instead things have only gotten worse.



Government promises. God help us all.

As if not affronted enough by the lack progress, some time ago Defra announced a new '50 year visionary plan' they were planning to unleash. It was like it was some new master-plan all of their own creation, for actually get the countryside in a state of good health and repair once again. What this was of course was yet another delaying tactic of a further five long decades into the future. I saw through this straight away. Delays on top of the delays we've already had. Wildlife simply doesn't have the time to ponce around for yet another 50 years while governments and conservation groups finally get their acts together.

Oh! It's a 25 year one now they must've amended it.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

Now cast your minds back to this picture and message on the opening page.



Go for that walk in the wider countryside and you will find empty skies and eerily silent trees.

Please everyone get into your cars and drive up onto the high moors, or to a piece of forestry land or to perhaps a marshland reserve. Then get out of the car, go for a walk and listen out to what it is you might be hearing. If you're alone so much the better that way you'll have fewer distractions.

Move away from the relative safety of gardens or town parks, where there are birds that rarely fly much further than a few fields away so are hardly likely to have encountered a wind turbine in their lives, to some of these remoter places. Even now there are places with a bit more buzz about them than others so move around to find another spot in order to gain the full on experience where you will be able to witness this eerie quietness.

On the moors you should be hearing the distant sounds of Curlew or the whistling of Golden Plover flying overhead. Ravens, Buzzards, Meadow Pipits or perhaps a passing Peregrine, a Ring Ouzel maybe, they always were a bit thin on the ground even when times were good. But nowadays the chances are you'll be hearing nothing at all other than this deathly silence. You may find it almost otherworldly but it should at least give you this final awakening if you like that things just ain't that great any more.

Please do this if only to prove me wrong and compare it to what we had thirty odd years ago and ask yourselves just what is going on.

Well here's the answer everyone and it's downright terrifying! What we've not been able to annihilate with chemical sprays and other relentless farming practices we've finally managed to obliterated with wind farms. And that is the reality of what has happened.

Always do your own thing and never to rely on the charities to do anything for you. Whether it's protecting whales, saving the rainforests, preventing the poisoning of wildlife or whatever the problem might be. The organisations out there now with very very few exceptions are all corporate-led by the nose poodles who might as well not be there at all for all the good they damn well are.

Other issues not included in the main text:

THE REINSTATEMENT OF MINI-HABITATS:

PONDS:

MOLES:

ALIEN INVASIVE SPECIES:

UK BADGER CULL:

https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_9fbe6bde633945558c8515d82334a701.pdf