



**Other advisory materials available**  
Whether it is farmland or woodland, heathland or wetland, RSPB provides a wide range of habitats for a variety of habitats. These include advisory sheets for specific species and habitats, detailed handbooks, CDs and electronic and paper newsletters.

# LAND MANAGEMENT: knowledge borne out of experience

The RSPB delivers training in best practice management of a wide range of habitats. This is based on the extensive experience gained from managing our own 200 reserves (over 131,000 hectares) and advising over 4,000 land managers annually. Led by our specialist advisors, each training course is designed to provide delegates with the latest knowledge and practical examples of how to maximise the wildlife benefits of their land management.

Each course costs just £75+VAT (unless stated otherwise) including a buffet lunch. Each delegate will receive a specially designed pack of supporting materials including the relevant RSPB Handbook (where appropriate).

**Special Offer**  
Book on two or more courses at same time and receive a discount of £10

**Special Offer**  
£10 discount on each booking for RSPB Members

**Please use this form to reserve your place**

Please send the completed booking form to RSPB Conservation Management Advice at least two weeks before the date of the event you wish to attend.

Cost: £75+VAT per person per event or £140+VAT per person for two events

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Tel no .....

E-mail .....

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to 'The RSPB'

RSPB Member:  Yes  No

Course title	Event date	Name of delegate and e-mail address (if different from above)	Cost
<b>Total cost</b>			

**Please send to: RSPB Conservation Management Advice (Training), The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL**

Alternatively, reserve your place by phone or e-mail using your credit card by contacting the Conservation Management Advice Co-ordinator on 01767 680551 or conservation-advice@rspb.org.uk

**Data protection statement:** The RSPB is continually researching new ways for land managers to help wildlife on their land. As these become available the RSPB would like to send you further details. If you would prefer us not to use your details in this way, please tick here. The RSPB will not sell your details onto any third parties.

**Important notice:** A standard cancellation charge of £25 will be made per person if received within 15 working days of the event being held. Details of the training programme were correct at point of publication. RSPB reserves the right to change the details if necessary, though delegates will be informed of any significant change and a full refund will be available if required.



for birds  
for people  
for ever

## MAXIMISE THE BENEFITS OF LAND MANAGEMENT Training Programme 2008

Expert training from the RSPB



Cover: Water vole; Steve Austin (rspb-images.com), Winchat; Mike Lane (rspb-images.com), Stripping topsoil; Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)



BASIS and CPD points available

# 2008 Training Programme

Managing land for wildlife or advising others is both challenging and rewarding. It requires skill and knowledge of both the wildlife needs as well as the site-specific circumstances you are working with. The RSPB's training programme has been specially designed to help those creating and managing habitats or advising others, to keep up to date with the latest research and management practices to benefit wildlife.

Each course offers the opportunity to get out on site and discuss the successes and pitfalls of habitat management, equipping you with the knowledge needed to inform your own land management decisions.

## AMENITY LANDSCAPE

### Managing amenity spaces for people and wildlife

**Date:** September 2008 **Location:** Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

Our parks and community spaces offer an excellent opportunity to connect wildlife and people. This course examines how amenity landscapes can be managed and maintained to benefit wildlife, offering the opportunity to find new ways in which conservation measures can be integrated with existing management protocols.



Mike Read (rspb-images.com)

### Managing for urban birds

**Date:** September 2008  
**Location:** Glasgow

A number of bird species associated with urban areas have declined in recent years. This course will be aimed at land managers involved in the continued maintenance of parks and gardens. The course will review the circumstances surrounding declining bird populations in urban areas and assess management options aimed at benefiting these populations.

## HEATHLAND

### Getting to know heathland birds

**Date:** 12 March **Location:** Farnham Heath, Surrey  
**Date:** 14 March **Location:** Cannock Chase, Staffs

Birds are an important part of heathland biodiversity, and several species remain vulnerable. In this workshop we will take a look at the full suite of heathland birds, their status, ecology and the threats they face. Delegates attending this course will also benefit from the companion course detailed below.

### Lowland Heathland: Integrating Management for Birds, with other wildlife and issues

**Date:** 22 April **Location:** Farnham Heath, Surrey  
**Date:** 24 April **Location:** Cannock Chase, Staffs

Lowland heathland is a fragmented and vulnerable habitat and particularly important for birds and other biodiversity. This workshop will inform on the ecology and habitat requirements of heathland dependent birds and address the thorny issue of how to integrate their needs with those of other wildlife, visitors and the survival of the heath itself.



Jackie Cooper (rspb-images.com)

## LOWLAND FARMLAND

### Maximising the benefits of Rural Development Contracts for birds

**Date:** March 2008 **Location:** Aberdeenshire  
**Date:** March 2008 **Location:** Easter Ross

The new Rural Development Contracts scheme provides a range of opportunities for land managers to help birds and other wildlife. These courses will aim to identify bird priorities within the region, review the evidence showing how to improve conditions for these species, consider the management issues for available RDC options.

### Corn buntings and other seed-eating birds

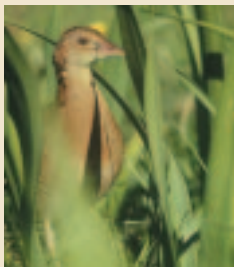
**Date:** April 2008 **Location:** Fife  
**Date:** May 2008 **Location:** Angus  
**Date:** May 2008 **Location:** Borders/Northumberland

Each course will identify the local issues that landowners need to address to maintain or improve conditions for corn buntings and other key farmland birds. Delegates will find out the latest research on what corn buntings require and how best to deliver this through agri-environment scheme option deployment.

### Corncrakes and other wildlife

**Date:** May 2008 **Location:** Lewis  
**Date:** June 2008 **Location:** Orkney

Corncrakes are a priority species for Scottish agri-environment schemes. Building on success elsewhere in Scotland, this course will review the current evidence for successfully increasing corncrakes, will consider the old and new options available under Rural Development Contracts, will assess the extent to which other wildlife, in particular bumblebees, might also benefit from RDCs and will visit a site to assess practical examples of what can be achieved.



Chris Gomersall (rspb-images.com)

### Maximising Environmental Stewardship on an Arable Farm

**Date:** 15 May **Location:** RSPB Hope Farm, Cambridgeshire

Hosted at the RSPB's own arable farm, where farmland birds have been increased by 89% in just seven years, this course will explain how to maximise farm wildlife conservation on an arable farm: how to determine which species to focus on, putting together the right package of measures, and how to manage them to get the best results for the farmer and the wildlife.

### Grassland wildlife

**Date:** July 2008  
**Location:** Plockton/South Skye  
Grassland managed in a traditional manner in North-West Scotland can provide a fantastic environment for birds and other wildlife. Opportunities exist through the agri-environment schemes to either retain, or return to traditional management, or to use innovative techniques replicating the benefits of traditional grassland management. This course explains how.



Tony Morris (RSPB)

### Farming and birds

**Date:** Autumn 2008 **Location:** Duchy College, Cornwall

An event for farmers, agents and advisers to find out how Environmental Stewardship can be used to deliver for farmland birds in Southwest England. Find out what are the priority farmland birds of the region, which scheme options benefit them and how to best integrate these within a farming system.

### Maximising Environmental Stewardship on a Mixed Farm

**Date:** July 2008 **Location:** Lincolnshire  
**Date:** October 2008 **Location:** Shropshire  
Mixed farms offer many ways to provide habitats for wildlife. Find out how to determine which species to focus on, put together the right package of measures, and how to manage them to get the best results for the farmer and the wildlife.

### Corn buntings – bringing them back from the brink

**Date:** October 2008  
**Location:** Bettisfield, Cymru  
Following severe declines in Wales, the last small population of corn buntings in NE Wales is hanging on, straddling the border with England. The course will discuss the needs of the corn bunting and practical ways of managing habitat to provide these.



David Morris

### Seed-eating birds on farmland

**Date:** October 2008 **Location:** Caithness  
**Date:** November 2008 **Location:** Carse of Stirling  
Seed-eating birds on farmland, such as linnets, twite and yellowhammers have declined substantially since monitoring began in the 1960s. This course will review the priority species within the region and looks at the evidence that indicates how to improve conditions for these species including use of Rural Development Contract options.

### Farmland birds and arable habitats in Wales

**Date:** November 2008 **Location:** Machynlleth, Cymru  
Many seed eating birds such as the yellowhammer and tree sparrow are in decline, probably due to fewer seed food sources being available to them on farmland, especially on all-grass farms. This course will look at practical ways of putting back seed-rich arable habitats into the farming landscape and managing them to benefit these birds.

## REEDBED

### Reedbed design, creation and management for the minerals industry

**Date:** 24 / 25 June **Location:** The Hanson-RSPB wetland project; Ouse Fen  
Restored minerals sites offer exciting opportunities to create new reedbed and other wetland habitats for wildlife and people. Based at the UK's largest reedbed restoration site, this course will cover all aspects of site restoration planning and design, including the early years of establishment and management. The venue offers a unique opportunity to view and consider the various extraction cells, from pre-extraction compartments through to those in the early years of restoration.  
*Cost: £140 for both days.*



Richard Reels (rspb-images.com)



Nigel Symes (RSPB)

### Sustainable reedbed and fen management...?

**Date:** 6 August **Location:** RSPB Sutton Fen  
An interactive workshop covering current and future reed and fen management practices. Against the backdrop of RSPB's spectacular Sutton Fen reserve, delegates will learn about a variety of management techniques, including the role of commercial reed and sedge cutters, from both a conservation and commercial cutting perspective.  
*In association with The Broads Reed and Sedge Cutters Association.*

### An introduction to reedbed design, creation and management

**Date:** 22 October **Location:** RSPB Otmoor  
Otmoor's reedbed was established as part of a broader wetland restoration project. Created from arable fields, it now supports species such as water voles, wintering bitterns, and a varied invertebrate community. This course is aimed at those who want to gain a thorough and practical understanding of the fundamentals behind reedbed design, creation and management. Valuable for land managers and their advisors alike with a need to understand basic design considerations, reed establishment techniques and habitat management operations.



Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

## SCRUB

### Scrub management for wildlife

**Date:** February 2008 **Location:** Eastern England  
**Date:** June 2008 **Location:** RSPB Leighton Moss  
Scrub can often be thought to be invasive and damaging, but actually has a valued place within the wider landscape and is important for many groups of wildlife. This one-day course will look at the ecological and cultural importance of scrub, the requirements of local key species and how to manage scrub in order to help meet those needs.

## UPLAND FARMLAND/FORESTRY

### Black Grouse and Upland Farmland

**Date:** May 2008 **Location:** Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park

### Black Grouse and Forestry

**Date:** May 2008 **Location:** Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park

These two complementary courses identify the issues that landowners need to address, depending on whether sites are predominantly open moorland or afforested. We will review the latest evidence for improving conditions for black grouse and consider management issues of options available to benefit them under the Rural Development Contracts.



Chris Gomersall (rspb-images.com)

## WATER MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

### Practical Water Management for Wetlands

**Date:** 1-2 October **Location:** RSPB Minsmere and Berney Marshes

Everything you ever wanted to know about bunds, sluices and right-angled bends, but were too afraid to ask! You will view and assess a range of practical techniques, equipment and structures used by site managers to control and manipulate water on wetlands. Relevant to a range of situations and visiting two sites, the event will focus in particular on wet grassland and reedbed habitats.  
*Cost £140 for both days.*

## WET GRASSLAND

### Managing lowland wet grassland for lapwing

**Date:** 20 March **Location:** RSPB Ynyshir reserve, Powys

Lowland wet grassland at RSPB Ynyshir forms part of a farming operation managed to create habitat to benefit breeding lapwing and other waders. The course will cover lapwing ecology and the practical management issues of managing grassland to benefit these birds.

### Managing habitats for lapwing

**Date:** September 2008 **Location:** Merthyr Tudful, Cymru

The Heads of the Valleys area in South Wales is a post-industrial landscape created by the coal mining industry. It is also a stronghold for lapwing in Wales and this course will focus on the management of post-industrial sites to provide suitable habitat for breeding lapwing.

### Wet grassland: site assessment, habitat design and restoration

**Part I:** 13 March **Location:** Upper Thames, Oxon  
**Part II:** 21 August

The RSPB's Lapwing LandScapes project has been successfully working with farmers to restore wet grassland habitats for breeding waders across the Upper Thames in Oxfordshire. Part I of this two-stage event will utilise the project's experiences to help delegates learn and practice the step by step process of assessing a site, gathering and interpreting information on hydrology, topography and soils. Delegates will then use this information to begin to develop their own draft habitat restoration plan.

On the second part of this course, delegates will focus on the operations required to implement their draft restoration plan. Project case studies and site visits will once again provide opportunities to examine practical techniques for the habitat restoration and management of critical site features such as water, soils and sward. Delegates will compare and contrast their own restoration plans with that of the real life implementation. *Cost: £140 for both days.*  
*NB: Delegates must book/attend both days of this course.*

### Wet grassland restoration and enhancement – rotary ditcher workshop

**Date:** 30 July **Location:** RSPB Otmoor  
Interested in cost effective and efficient wet grassland management? Find out how shallow wet features such as grips and scrapes can be created to benefit wading birds – giving access to invertebrates to feed their chicks in spring. On site with the 'Big Wheel' Rotary Ditcher, we cover all aspects of deploying and using the machine,



Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)

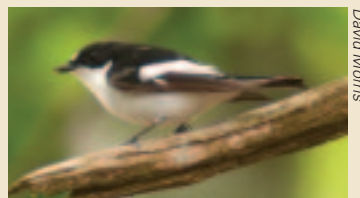
drawing upon RSPB research of habitat design, and bird usage of features, and provide would be users with a thorough understanding of its capabilities and applicability in habitat creation and restoration projects. In addition, we will review the current guidelines and regulations for carrying out habitat works on floodplains, and compare use of the ditcher with other conventional machinery options, to identify opportunities and constraints.

## WOODLAND

### Woodland management and declining woodland birds

**Date:** June 2008 **Location:** Cumbria  
**Date:** June 2008 **Location:** Kent  
**Date:** June 2008 **Location:** Dorset  
**Date:** June 2008 **Location:** Midlands

Recent research suggests changes in the structure of broadleaf woodland as a significant driver of alarming woodland bird declines. Find out more on woodland bird status, the latest research findings on causes of declines, and discuss the preferred woodland structures and how management can improve them. Each course will be relevant to all woodland managers and advisors, whilst paying special attention to a particular woodland type.



David Morris



## Farm Wildlife Events

Practical, one-day events will discuss specific management for the benefit of wildlife. Key experts in the ecology and practical management of these habitats will be on hand to answer the most detailed questions, taking your knowledge beyond the generic level given in most advisory literature. It will also explore how to get the advice right for every scenario.

### Farm Wildlife Hedgerow Management Event

**Date:** January 2008

### Farm Wildlife Field Margin Management Event

**Date:** Summer 2008

### Farm Wildlife Wild Bird Seed Mixtures/Game Cover

**Crop Management**

**Date:** Autumn 2008

Visit [www.farmwildlife.info](http://www.farmwildlife.info) for more details