

Alauda arvensis (Skylark)

Full report outputted on the 30/07/2003 16:40:51

1. Status of the habitat / species

Please give your most accurate assessment of the status of your species or habitat for the UK and for each country. Leave the row blank where the species or habitat does not occur in that country.

	Amount:	Units:	Year:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK					
E	514000	Breeding pairs/units	2001	Informed guess	Chamberlain 2000, Bird Study 47, 52-65 (incorporating BBS trend)
NI	100000	Displaying males	1990	Partial or sample survey	Gibbons, Reid & Chapman: The New Atlas
S	331000	Breeding pairs/units	2001	Informed guess	Chamberlain 2000, Bird Study 47, 52-65 (incorporating BBS trend)

W	53000	Breeding pairs/units	2001	Informed guess	Chamberlain 2000, Bird Study 47, 52-65 (incorporating BBS trend)

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2. Trend in Biological Status

Please give your best estimate of the current trend for your species or habitat for the UK, and each appropriate country, using the following categories. Please give an estimate unless there is absolutely no information on which to assess status.

	Trend:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	Declining (continuing/accelerating)	Partial or sample survey	http://www.bto.org/birdtrends/wcrskyla.htm (data for 1994-2000)
E	Declining (continuing/accelerating)	Partial or sample survey	http://www.bto.org/birdtrends/wcrskyla.htm (data for 1994-2000)

NI	Not know n		Small sample size
S	Stable	Partial or sample survey	http://www.bto.org/birdtrends/wcrskyla.htm
W	Stable	Partial or sample survey	http://www.bto.org/birdtrends/wcrskyla.htm

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3. Status of knowledge

To what extent is our scientific knowledge of the habitat / species (e.g research information, autecological knowledge, knowledge for effective re-introduction or habitat restoration/re-creation) sufficient to deliver the plan targets?

Please give an assessment for the UK overall but if there is significant difference in knowledge between different countries this should be noted.

Status of knowledge:	Know ledge sufficient to effectively deliver the plan targets.
Notes:	Less know ledge about upland and pastoral habitats than arable

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4. Progress on targets

Each of the revised targets from the 2001 Targets Review is listed below.

For each one please give a qualitative assessment of progress for the UK and each country. You can also enter quantitative information on progress by entering data in each of the target boxes and entering the current amount in the amount box. For more information see Help.

T1: Maintain the BBS population index for skylarks at or above the 1995 level.

Target start date:	1995
Target end date:	Ongoing
Target units:	Breeding pairs/units ▼

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	No progress ▼			Partial or sample survey ▼	Yes ▼
E	No progress ▼	635000	514000	Partial or sample survey ▼	Yes ▼
NI	Unknown ▼				
S	Some progress (on schedule) ▼	331000	331000	Partial or sample survey ▼	Yes ▼
W	Some progress (on schedule) ▼	52000	52000	Partial or sample survey ▼	Yes ▼

T2: Maintain the number of wintering skylarks at or above 1997/98 level as determined by the JNCC/BTO survey.

Target start date: 1995

Target end date: Ongoing

Target units: Individuals

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Unknown				No
E	Unknown				No
NI	Unknown				No
S	Unknown				No
W	Unknown				No

T3: Maintain the range of skylarks as measured by the frequency of occupation in BBS squares at or above the 1995 level.

Target start date: 1995

Target end date: Ongoing

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	No progress	71	65	<input type="text"/>	Yes
E	Unknown	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Under consideration
NI	Unknown	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Under consideration
S	Unknown	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Under consideration
W	Unknown	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Under consideration

T4: Reverse the population decline on lowland farmland and other habitats, where found to be declining, as measured by BBS indices

Target start date: 1995

Target end date: 2005

Target units: Breeding pairs/units

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	No progress	100	92	Partial or sample survey	Yes
E	No progress	100	81	Partial or sample survey	Yes
NI	Unknown	100		Partial or sample survey	Yes
S	Some progress (on schedule)	100	100	Partial or sample survey	Yes
W	Some progress (on schedule)	100	101	Partial or sample survey	Yes

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5. Current factors affecting the habitat

When your plan was published the factors (threats) that were thought to be causing loss or decline were listed (in section 2). Re-assessing the current situation may help prioritise actions for your species or habitat. In addition, this enables identification of the main threats to biodiversity across all plans. It is useful to assess whether the importance of different factors is changing and whether there are new issues emerging.

The threat section from the original plan is duplicated below, and a first attempt at categorising the threats has been made. Please confirm that you agree with the categorisation of the original threats identified in the plan (by deleting any wrongly categorised threats and adding the correct category). Please also add to the list any significant threats that have emerged recently, being mindful of environmental issues that have increased in profile or been recognised since plan publication (e.g. climate change). Once you are happy that the list contains all the threats identified in the published plan together with any new ones, please rank them in order of severity (1= highest threat). If the situation has changed and one of the published threats is no longer significant, please leave this in the list but give this rank = 0.

Current factors affecting the habitat from the original publication:

- 2.1 Intensive management of arable fields has reduced ephemeral weeds and insect prey through the use of agrochemicals. An increased trend to autumn-sown cereals has reduced the number of essential winter stubble fields and may provide unsuitable habitat in comparison with spring-sown varieties.
- 2.2 Conversion of lowland grassland to arable.
- 2.3 Intensive management of grasslands.
- 2.4 Early silage cutting, which destroys nests and exposes skylarks to predators.

Keyworded factors:

To add factors click the add button, to delete factors check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Rank:	Keyword:
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture Intensive crop regimes
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture Intensive grassland management
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Pollution - land Agricultural (other agro-chemicals)

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6. Constraints (optional)

Select the three most significant constraints to achieving the targets of the plan, and indicate the order of priority (1-3 with 1 being the most significant constraint). Only include constraints that are acting as a real blockage to delivering the plan targets or leading to a substantial delay in their delivery. For each constraint, please indicate whether you feel that it is within the ability of the lead partner or steering group to resolve the constraint.

Constraint 1:	
Constraint keyword:	Country:
Policy, legislation and designation Agriculture (incl. Common Agricultural Policy)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:	Solution type:
Persuade EU to implement appropriate changes at mid-term review	Legislation and policies
Able to resolve:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Constraint 2:	
Constraint keyword:	Country:
Funding and incentives Agricultural schemes - changes needed to structure / payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:	Solution type:
UK Govts to make more money available through further modulation	Funding and incentive schemes

Able to resolve:		<input type="checkbox"/>
Constraint 3:		
Constraint keyword:		Country:
Funding and incentives Agricultural schemes - changes needed to structure / payments		<input type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:		Solution type:
Devolved Assemblies to develop agri-environment schemes alongside Defra model		Funding and incentive schemes
Able to resolve:		<input type="checkbox"/>

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7. Steering Group

Please list all organisations that are represented on the steering group for your species/habitat (include all organisations that have contributed either directly or by correspondence within the last 3 years). Where a steering group does not exist please leave this form blank.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete: Organisation:

- British Trust for Ornithology
- Countryside Council for Wales
- DEFRA
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland
- Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland
- English Nature
- Environment and Heritage Service
- Game Conservancy Trust
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- National Assembly for Wales Agriculture Department
- Pesticides Safety Directorate
- Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Division

<input type="checkbox"/>	Scottish Natural Heritage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Syngenta

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8. Other Groups/Organisations

Please list any additional groups/organisations that are actively involved in implementing your action plan. (This is to try to assess which groups are involved where there is no steering group and any additional contributors). If you do not have any other organisations involved, click here.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

9. Linkages to LBAPs

a) Which of the following most accurately describes your interaction with LBAPs, up to now?

Little or no contact with LBAPs.

b) If you have been in contact with LBAPs how was it initiated?

c) Irrespective of current contact, how important do you consider LBAP co-ordinated action will be in achieving the targets of the plan? Select from category:

Unimportant ▼

d) If you consider LBAP action to be anything other than unimportant, which of the following forms of engagement do you think would be appropriate? (Note, you may tick more than one category.)

- Indirect contact (e.g. posting information on UKBAP website, sharing work programmes, meeting schedules, articles in Biodiversity News, newsletter)
- Provision of generic information on habitat and/or species (e.g. advice and guidance on habitat/species ecology and management)
- Direct provision of advice (e.g. proactive approach to LBAP, response to consultations from LBAPs, advice on LBAP target setting)
- Reciprocal attendance at meetings
- Development of collaborative projects

Other (please specify):

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10. Successes (optional)

Have there been key successes in the implementation of your plan that should be drawn to the attention of government, the wider BAP partnership, or the public? Please give a brief description (i.e. 2-3 sentences) of up to three successes and allocate a topic area to each of them:

Success 1:

Description:

Partnership between DEFRA, SCAs, NGOs & Industry to deliver research results and policy change

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Partnership | Government support

Success 2:

Description:

Introduction of Arable Options into Countryside Stewardship Scheme

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Funding and incentives | Agricultural schemes - beneficial changes to structure / payments

Success 3:

Description:	Country:
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Increased environmental opportunities in set-aside management</p> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> UK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W
Keyword:	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Funding and incentives Agricultural schemes - beneficial changes to structure / payments</p> </div>	

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Thank you for answering the questions. You have not yet completed all of the questions. You can go back and answer the additional ones or edit the ones you have already answered whenever you want.

Sign-off:

When you have completed all of the questions that you are able to, you must sign off your reporting.

I agree that the steering group (if present) have agreed the information in this report and that the following contact point has also signed it off:

Contact point:	Defra	email:	andy.evans@
Your name:	Andy Evans		
Date:	13 01 03		
