

## Researching The Grey Partridge and the reasons it is under threat

In the film "Fact File 9- The Grey Partridge" you learned how the loss of habitats threatens species such as the grey partridge.

### Further Research- Activity 1

There are 4 major factors, discussed in the film, which have led to a catastrophic loss in grey partridge numbers over the last 70 years.

1. Loss of dedicated conservation managers such as gamekeepers.
2. Changes in farming methods so that crops are now planting in the autumn rather than the spring, and there is no fallow or stubble left over the winter.
3. A requirement to produce more food and therefore intensify farming methods.
4. The increased use of insecticides (chemicals to kill insects which damage food crops) and herbicides (weed killers to kills plants that are not wanted).

Research these factors and find out details of other animals affected by the intensification of agriculture since World War 2.

**Activity 2-**The film suggests ways that land can be managed to halt and in part reverse the decline in the grey partridge population- research the following conservation practices mentioned in the film.

Winter feeding of wild birds.	
Creation of beetle banks	
Leaving stubbles over winter and planting crops in the spring instead of the autumn.	

Legal predator control.



The numbers of grey partridges in Northern Europe have declined by 80% in the last 60 years. These birds are now on the 'Red List' for birds of conservation concern.

**Activity 3-**this table lists some other UK ground nesting birds on the red list. Research current projects to help protect these species of birds. Some web links have been given.

**Research what actions are being taken to encourage these rare birds to breed and increase in numbers. Are any of these actions the same for all birds?**

Species of conservation concern	Web link to projects to protect these birds.
Grey Partridge	<a href="#">Royston Grey Partridge Recovery Project - Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (gwct.org.uk)</a>  <a href="#">Allerton Project (UK), Interreg VB North Sea Region Programme</a>
Woodcock	<a href="#">Woodcock   BTO - British Trust for Ornithology</a>
Lapwing	<a href="#">Lapwing Conservation   Advice For Farmers - The RSPB</a>
Black Grouse	<a href="#">Black grouse UK - Published in support of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan for black grouse</a>
Ring Ouzel	<a href="#">Rosedale (northyorkmoors.org.uk)</a>