

SUSSEX: BIRDS

LINKS TO NATIONAL CURRICULUM

Science

- Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats (*Year 2, Living things and their habitats*).
- Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things (*Year 4, Living things and their habitats*).

KEY AREAS COVERED

1. Where to see birds in Sussex
2. Tips for identifying birds
3. Conservation status of UK birds and how we can help protect those birds that are endangered
4. Birds most commonly seen in Sussex - either residents or visitors
5. Suggested activities linked to the Science National Curriculum

Note to Teachers

- These notes run alongside a Powerpoint presentation and all slides are referred to in the notes.
- The notes are designed to provide key information about the region, whilst the presentation is full of effective images that will bring it to life for students in the classroom.
- Can be adapted to suit different ages of students by adding/deleting slides on the presentation and/or varying the level of detail used from the teacher notes.

GLOSSARY OF KEY WORDS

RSPB - the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Now the largest nature conservation charity in the country.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - a conservation designation denoting a protected area in the United Kingdom.

Special Protection Area (SPA) - strictly protected sites to safeguard the habitats of migratory birds and certain particularly threatened birds.

Wetland - an area of land (such as a marsh or swamp) that is covered with shallow water.

Nature reserve - an area where animals and plants are protected and that has few buildings or homes.

Plumage - the feathers of a bird.

Juvenile birds - young birds.

Warble - if a bird warbles, it sings continuously but with notes that change frequently.

Twitter - if a bird twitters, it makes a high singing sound.

Stroke - a single complete movement of a bird's wings during flight

Roost - when birds roost, they go somewhere to rest or sleep.

Preen - if a bird or animal preens or preens itself, it cleans and arranges its feathers or fur with its beak or tongue.

Migrate - if a bird migrates, it travels to another part of the world for warmer weather at a particular time of the year.

1. WHERE TO SEE BIRDS IN SUSSEX

There are many birds that can be spotted in your garden, playground or local park. But if you are keen to see a wider range of birds, there are many fantastic nature reserves and areas in Sussex that you can visit, including:

Slide 3: Pulborough Brooks - an **RSPB**-run wetland area. The **reserve** is home to barn owls, nightingales, warblers and dozens of other species. The flooding of the River Arun in the winter makes the Brooks a home to many wading birds.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/pulborough-brooks>

Slide 3: Amberley Wildbrooks - this RSPB reserve is a key location for wintering wildfowl.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/amberley-wildbrooks>

Slide 4: Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve (RSPB) - this sheltered tidal inlet reveals acres of mudflats each tide, attracting flocks of feeding birds to the area. It is an internationally important **wetland** site for wildlife.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/pagham-harbour-local-nature-reserve>

Slide 5: Rye Harbour Nature Reserve - One of 12 nature reserves run by the Sussex Wildlife Trust. It has been recognised as a **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** and a **Special Protection Area** for birds.

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/visit/rye-harbour>

Slide 6: Warnham Local Nature Reserve - Run by Horsham District Council, this is a thriving nature reserve where you can see herons and other birdlife.

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/parksandcountryside/parks-and-countryside/parks-and-countryside-sites/warnham-nature-reserve>

Slide 7: Arundel Wetland Centre - looked after by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT). Here you can ride a boat along the Arun River with an expert on board to point out different birds.

<https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/arundel/>

2. TIPS FOR IDENTIFYING BIRDS

Appearance Varies

Real birds do not often look exactly like the identification pictures, as every bird is slightly different. Many species of bird have different identifying features depending on the following:

- **Season (slide 8):** the **plumage** of many changes from summer to winter
- **Age (slide 9):** young birds (**juveniles**) often change when they become adult birds
- **Sex (slide 10):** male and female birds can have different features

Remember that different lighting conditions or wet feathers can also make a bird look different.

Slides 11: Knowing the names of the main body parts for a bird is helpful when trying to identify them, as they will be referred to in descriptions.

Slide 12: The main things to look out for when trying to identify a bird are its size, shape, colour, habitat and sound:

Size

Try to estimate, perhaps by comparing with another species (that you do recognise) alongside it.

Shape

Look at the overall shape first. But then also look at the bill, legs and feet as these will give you clues.

Colour

Look at the overall colour, then look for any differences in colour on the back, wings, underparts, head or tail. Are there any obvious markings such as stripes or streaks?

Habitat

Some species favour a particular type of habitat e.g. woodland, wetland or coastal - so where you see the bird may help you identify it.

Sound

Listen carefully. The noises birds make - their call or song - can be a great help when identifying them.

3. CONSERVATION STATUS OF UK BIRDS

Slide 13: It is important to be aware of those birds that need urgent protection due to their numbers being much lower than they used to be. The UK's birds can be split into three groups:

Red - highest conservation priority with species needing urgent action

Amber - the next most critical group

Green - the least critical group

NB: Introduced species are those that have escaped and bred in the wild or been deliberately released into the wild at some point in the UK's history. As these species are not native to the UK, they have no conservation status here.

How You Can Help

Slide 14: There are many ways we can help protect those birds on the red list. For some ideas from the RSPB, see here:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/?Help=34>

For a fact sheet on how to create nest boxes for birds please see here:

<http://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/nestboxes-for-birds/introduction>

For advice on feeding birds in your own garden, including what to feed them, when and where to feed them and a recipe for bird cake, please see:

<http://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/feeding-garden-birds/when-to-feed-birds>

For a fact sheet on birds found in urban areas and how to garden for them:

<http://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/birds-in-the-city/birds-in-the-city>

4. MOST COMMONLY SEEN BIRDS OF SUSSEX

This section looks at the birds that are most commonly seen in Sussex, either as residents or visitors. They are organised by their bird family group - shown in red. The species name is shown in green and some background information is given for each one - its conservation status, natural habitats and diet.

Please note that whilst the photographs on the accompanying slides will help with identification, they do not all show how the appearance of a species can vary according to season, age and sex. For a comprehensive identification guide, please see:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/>

Divers

Red-Throated Diver (slide 15)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural Habitats: marine & intertidal, wetland
- Diet: fish
- A common winter visitor to Sussex
- Usually jump up to dive and can stay underwater for a minute and a half

Boobies & Gannets

Gannet (slide 16)

Conservation status: amber

Natural habitats: marine & intertidal

Diet: fish

Grebes

Great Crested Grebe (slide 17)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: marine & intertidal, urban & suburban, wetlands
- Diet: mainly fish
- A waterbird that dives to feed and escape, preferring this to flying

Petrels and Shearwaters

Fulmar (slide 18)

- Conservation status: amber
- Natural habitats: marine and intertidal
- Diet: fish waste, crustaceans and sand eels
- Breeds on the Sussex coast

Rails, Crakes and Coots

Moorhen (slide 19)

- Endangered status: green
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, wetland, urban & suburban
- Diet: Water plants, seeds, fruit, grasses, insects, snails, worms and small fish

Coot (slide 19)

- Endangered status: green
- Natural habitats: grassland, marine & intertidal, urban & suburban, wetland
- Diet: Vegetation, seeds, snails and insect larvae

Water Rail (slide 20)

- Endangered species: green
- Natural habitats: grassland, urban & suburban, wetland
- Diet: small fish, snails and insects
- Smaller and slimmer than the moorhen

Sandpipers, Snipes and Phalaropes

Redshank (slide 21)

- Endangered status: amber
- Natural habitats: grassland, marine & intertidal, upland, wetland
- Diet: insects, earthworms, molluscs and crustaceans

Snipe (slide 22)

- Endangered status: amber
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, upland, marine & intertidal, wetland
- Diet: small invertebrates including worms and insect larvae
- The UK population of snipe has undergone moderate declines in the past twenty-five years

Plovers

Ringed plover (slide 23)

Endangered status: red

Natural habitats: grassland, marine & intertidal, wetland

Diet: flies, spiders, marine worms, crustaceans, molluscs

Gulls and Terns

Black-headed Gull (slide 24)

- Endangered status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, marine & intertidal, urban & suburban, wetland
- Diet: worms, insects, fish and carrion
- Found commonly almost anywhere inland

Herring Gull (slide 25)

- Endangered status: **red**
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, marine & intertidal, urban & suburban, wetland
- Diet: carrion, offal, seeds, fruits, young birds, eggs, small mammals, insects and fish
- Can be seen at most seaside towns in the breeding season and inland all year round especially at rubbish tips, playing fields and reservoirs
- For more information about the herring gull, please see:
<http://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/gull-herring/overview>

Common Tern (slide 26)

- Endangered status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: marine and inter-tidal, wetland
- Diet: fish
- A common summer visitor in Sussex
- can often be seen hovering above water before diving down for a fish

Sandwich Tern (slide 27)

- Endangered status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: marine & intertidal, wetland
- Diet: fish

Herons, Storks and Ibises

Grey Heron (slide 28)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, tidal & intertidal, urban & suburban, wetland
- Diet: Lots of fish, but also small birds and small mammals
- These unmistakeable birds can be seen around any kind of water
- For a YPTE factsheet on the grey heron, please see:
<http://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/heron-grey/overview>

Ducks, Geese and Swans

Mute Swan (slide 29)

- Conservation status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, tidal & intertidal, urban & suburban, wetlands
- Diet: water plants, insects and snails
- To find out more about the mute swan, please see here:
<http://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/swan-mute/overview>

Canada Goose (slide 30)

- Conservation status: introduced
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, tidal & intertidal, urban & suburban, wetlands
- Diet: roots, grass, leaves and seeds

Mallard (slide 31)

- Conservation status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, tidal & intertidal, urban & suburban, wetlands
- Diet: Seeds, acorns and berries, plants, insects and shellfish

Greylag Goose (slide 32)

- Conservation status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, urban & suburban, marine & intertidal, wetland
- Diet: Grass, roots, cereal leaves and spilled grain

Brent Goose (slide 33)

- Conservation status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, marine & intertidal, wetland
- Diet: vegetation, especially eelgrass

Tufted Duck (slide 34)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: marine & intertidal, urban & suburban, wetland
- Diet: molluscs, insects and some plants

Shelduck (slide 35)

- Conservation status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, marine & intertidal, wetland
- Diet: invertebrates, small shellfish and aquatic snails

Pintail (slide 36)

- Conservation status: **amber**
- Natural habitats:
- Diet: a variety of plants and invertebrates
- The pintail flies with a curved back, pointed wings and a tapering tail - this distinguishes it from other ducks in the UK.

Kites, Hawks and Eagles

Red Kite (slide 37)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, upland, urban & suburban
- Diet: Mainly carrion and worms, occasionally small mammals
- This graceful bird of prey has been saved from national extinction by one of the world's longest-running protection programmes.

Buzzard (slide 38)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: woodland, grassland, farmland, upland, heathland
- Diet: small mammals, birds and carrion
- Now the commonest and most widespread UK bird of prey
- For a fact sheet on buzzards, please see:
<http://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/buzzard/overview>

Sparrowhawk (slide 39)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: grassland, farmland, heathland, urban & suburban, wetland
- Diet: mainly small birds

Falcons

Kestrel (slide 40)

- Conservation status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, heathland, urban & suburban
- Diet: small mammals and birds, worms and insects
- Their typical hunting behaviour is to hover at a height of around 10-20 metres over open country and swoop down on prey
- They have adapted readily to man-made environments and can survive right in the middle of cities

Pheasants, Partridges and Quails

Pheasant (slide 41)

- Conservation status: introduced
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, urban & suburban
- Diet: seeds, grains, shoots and insects
- Males and females have different colourings

Red-Legged Partridge (slide 42)

- Conservation status: introduced
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, heathland, urban & suburban
- Diet: seeds and roots

Grey Partridge (slide 42)

- Conservation status: red
- Natural habitats: farmland and grassland
- Diet: leaves, seeds and insects
- Once very common and widespread, it has undergone serious declines

Pigeons and Doves

Collared Dove (slide 43)

- Endangered status: green
- Natural habitats: farmland, urban & suburban
- Diet: seeds, grains, buds and shoots
- Distinctive black neck collar
- Their monotonous cooing is a familiar sound to many people

Woodpigeon (slide 43)

- Endangered status: green
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, urban & suburban
- Diet: Crops like cabbages, sprouts, peas and grain. Also buds, shoots, seeds, nuts and berries.
- The UK's largest and most common pigeon
- Cooing call can be a familiar sound in woodlands

Stock Dove (slide 44)

- Endangered status: amber
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, urban & suburban
- Diet: seeds

Cuckoos

Cuckoo (slide 45)

- Endangered status: **red**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, heathland, upland, urban & suburban, wetland
- Diet: insects, especially hairy caterpillars
- Females lay their eggs in the nests of other birds, especially meadow pipits, dunnocks and reed warblers.
- Recent population decline

Owls

Tawny Owl (slide 46)

- Conservation status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, urban & suburban
- Diet: Small mammals and rodents, small birds, frogs, fish, insects and worms
- Makes the familiar "too-wit-too-woo" call during the night - it is actually the male and female calling to each other. The female makes the "too-wit" sound and the male answers with "too-woo"!
- For more information about the tawny owl, please see here:
<http://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/owl-tawny/overview>

Little Owl (slide 47)

- Conservation status: introduced
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, urban & suburban
- Diet: small mammals and birds, beetles and worms
- For more information on the little owl please see here:
<http://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/owl-little/overview>

Kingfishers

Kingfisher (slide 48)

- Conservation status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: farmland, marine & intertidal, wetland, urban & suburban
- Diet: fish and aquatic insects
- Found by still or slow flowing water such as lakes, canals and rivers in lowland areas. In winter, some move to estuaries and the coast

Woodpeckers

Green Woodpecker (slide 49)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, urban & suburban

- Diet: ants
- Spend most of their time feeding on the ground
- For a fact sheet on the green woodpecker, please see:
<http://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/woodpecker-green/overview>

Great Spotted Woodpecker (slide 50)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: woodland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects, seeds and nuts

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (slide 50)

- Conservation status: red
- Natural habitats: woodland, urban & suburban, wetland
- Diet: insects
- Increasingly uncommon as they have undergone a decline of 73% over the last 25 years.

Larks

Skylark (slide 51)

- Conservation status: red
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, heathland, marine & intertidal, upland
- Diet: seeds and insects
- Likes open countryside
- Renowned for its display flight, vertically up in the air

Swallows and Martins

Swallow (slide 52)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, upland, urban & suburban, wetland
- Diet: small invertebrates
- They are extremely agile in flight and spend most of their time on the wing

House Martin (slide 52)

- Conservation status: amber
- Natural habitats: farmland, urban & suburban, wetland
- Diet: insects
- Spends much of its time on the wing collecting insect prey. The bird's mud nest is usually sited below the eaves of buildings

Pulpits and Wagtails

Grey Wagtail (slide 53)

- Conservation status: red
- Natural habitat: marine & intertidal, wetland, urban & suburban, upland
- Diet: insects

Meadow Pipit (slide 54)

- Conservation status: amber
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, heathland, upland, marine & intertidal, wetland
- Diet: insects and spiders
- Have been declining in numbers since the mid 1970s

Pied Wagtail (slide 55)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, urban & suburban, marine & intertidal, wetland
- Diet: insects
- Often seen standing and frantically wagging its tail up and down or dashing about over lawns or car parks looking for food

Yellow Wagtail (slide 55)

- Conservation status: red
- Natural habitats: farmland, grassland, wetland
- Diet: small insects
- Spends much of its time walking or running on the ground and wags its tail from time to time
- Serious declines in breeding numbers

Old World Flycatchers and Chats

Robin (slide 56)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, urban & suburban
- Diet: worms, seeds, fruits, insects and other invertebrates
- Well known for their tameness and can even be encouraged to eat from your hand
- Familiar throughout the year and sing nearly all year round
- Find out more about the robin here:
<http://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/robin/overview>

Chats

Nightingale (slide 57)

- Conservation status: red
- Natural habitats: woodland, grassland, wetland
- Diet: insects
- Males especially sing for hours on end each night during breeding season and females select mates depending on the quality of their musical performance
- Declined in recent years as grazing deer have reduced the density of shrubs that nightingales inhabit

Warblers

Sedge Warbler (slide 58)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: farmland, urban & suburban, wetland
- Diet: insects and berries

Reed Warbler (slide 58)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: farmland, urban & suburban, wetland
- Diet: insects and berries

Whitethroat (slide 59)

- Conservation status: red
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, heathland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects, berries and fruit

Blackcap (slide 59)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects and berries

Wrens

Wren (slide 60)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, heathland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects and spiders
- The most common UK breeding bird
- For such a tiny bird it has a remarkably loud voice!

Accentors

Duncock (slide 60)

- Conservation status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects, spiders, worms and seeds
- Inhabit any well vegetated areas with scrub, brambles and hedges
- Quiet and moves with a rather nervous shuffling gait

Thrushes

Blackbird (slide 61)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects, worms and berries

Song Thrush (slide 62)

- Conservation status: **red**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, urban & suburban
- Diet: worms, snails and fruit
- Sing for much of the year - a loud clear song with repetition of short phrases
- Likes to eat snails which it breaks into by smashing them against a stone with a flick of the head
- Numbers have declined significantly on farmland and in towns and cities

Long-Tailed Tits

Long-tailed tit (slide 63)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, heathland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects, occasionally seeds
- In winter they form flocks with other tits species

Tits

Blue Tit (slide 64)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects, caterpillars, seeds and nuts
- Widespread across the UK - often seen in gardens, parks, woodland and hedgerows
- A colourful mix of blue, yellow, white and green
- For a fact sheet on the blue tit, please see:
<http://yppte.org.uk/factsheets/blue-tit/overview>

Great Tit (slide 64)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects, seeds and nuts
- The largest UK tit - green and yellow with a black head and white cheeks
- A familiar garden visitor - can be quite aggressive, fighting off smaller tits for food

Coal Tit (slide 65)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: woodland, heathland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects, seeds and nuts

Marsh Tit (slide 65)

- Conservation status: red
- Natural habitats: woodland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects and seeds
- If they find a good supply of seeds, they may start to hoard them - burying and hiding them for another day

Nuthatches

Nuthatch (slide 66)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: woodland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects, seeds and nuts
- A plump bird that resembles a small woodpecker
- Seldom travel far from the woods where they hatch

Treecreepers

Treecreeper (slide 66)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects and spiders, seeds in winter
- A small, very active bird that lives in trees

Crows

Magpie (slide 67)

- Conservation status: green
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, upland, heathland, wetland, urban & suburban
- Diet: omnivore and scavenger

- Black and white plumage and long tail
- Cheeky thieves that often take brightly coloured objects from gardens - making them unpopular

Jay (slide 67)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, urban & suburban
- Diet: Mainly acorns, nuts, seeds and insects, but also eats nestlings of other birds and small mammals
- Shy woodland bird with a screaming call
- Famous for their acorn feeding habits - in the autumn you may see them burying acorns for retrieving later in the winter

Jackdaw (slide 68)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, upland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects, young birds and eggs, fruit, seeds and scraps
- Its call is a familiar hard 'tchack' from which it gets its name
- Commonly nests in chimneys, buildings, rock crevices and tree holes

Rook (slide 68)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, urban & suburban
- Diet: almost anything!
- Very sociable birds. Feed and roost in flocks in winter, often together with jackdaws.

Carrion Crow (slide 68)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, upland, heathland, wetland, urban & suburban
- Diet: carrion, insects, worms, seeds, fruit, eggs and any scraps
- One of the cleverest, most adaptable of UK birds. Fairly solitary and usually found alone or in pairs

Starlings

Starlings (slide 69)

- Conservation status: **red**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, grassland, upland, wetland, marine and intertidal, urban & suburban
- Diet: invertebrates and fruit

- Look black at a distance but are actually very glossy with a sheen of purples and greens
- Noisy and sociable, they spend a lot of the year in flocks
- Starlings started to decline in the UK in the early 1980s; the cause of this decline is unknown

Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow (slide 70)

- Conservation status: **red**
- Natural habitats: farmland, urban & suburban
- Diet: seeds and scraps - they'll eat just about anything!
- Monitoring has shown a severe decline in their numbers in the UK

Finches

Chaffinch (slide 71)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: woodland, grassland, farmland, heathland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects and seeds
- One of the most widespread and abundant birds in the UK
- Patterned plumage helps it blend in when feeding on the ground

Greenfinch (slide 72)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects and seeds
- Quite sociable but may squabble amongst themselves or with other birds at a bird table

Goldfinch (slide 72)

- Conservation status: **green**
- Natural habitats: farmland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects and seeds

Linnet (slide 73)

- Conservation status: **red**
- Natural habitats: grassland, farmland, heathland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects and seeds
- Numbers have dropped significantly over the last few decades

Bullfinch (slide 73)

- Conservation status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: woodland, farmland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects, buds and seeds

Buntings

Yellowhammer (slide 74)

- Conservation status: **red**
- Natural habitats: grassland, farmland, heathland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects and seeds
- Recent population decline make it a Red list species

Reed Bunting (slide 75)

- Conservation status: **amber**
- Natural habitats: grassland, farmland, wetland, urban & suburban
- Diet: insects and seeds

Corn Bunting (slide 75)

- Conservation status: **red**
- Natural habitats: grassland, farmland,
- Diet: insects and seeds

5. SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

(linked to Science National Curriculum requirements)

Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other (*Year 2, Living things and their habitats*).

Choose a bird that lives or breeds in Sussex. Produce a fact file on your species and try to include photographs and sketches where possible. Your factfile should address the following questions:

- What does your species look like?
- What habitat(s) is it found in?
- What does it need for its survival?
- How is it suited/adapted to the habitat it lives in? Think about the climate, food sources etc.
- Are there any threats to its survival (natural and/or human)?

Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats (*Year 2, Living things and their habitats*).

If possible, visit a nature reserve in Sussex to observe the bird life at first hand in its natural habitat. Try to identify as many different birds as possible and take photographs of any that you cannot identify, so you can find out what they are back at school. Produce a guide on 'The Birds of.....', so that visitors to the area can learn all about the local birdlife.

