



Farmland bird species to look out for...

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In all cases, the distance between the options on the ground plays a vital part in the success of the birds. Well sited options no more than about 500m apart to provide safe nesting habitat, summer chick food and winter seed food are very important. The less energy the birds expend moving between habitats the more successful they will be.

Corn bunting



- Nesting habitat: Ground nest in cereals, particularly barley, grass field margins (away from hedgerows) or unimproved grassland.
- Adult food: Cereal grains and weed seeds from plants such as fat hen and chickweed. Particularly associated with barley and quinoa rich wild bird seed mixtures.
- Chick food: Spiders and insects like caterpillars and grasshopper nymphs from adjacent grasslands and crops, also ripening grain and weed seeds in wet weather.

Grey partridge



- Nesting habitat: On the ground in hedge bottoms, grass margins, beetle banks, game cover and nettle beds. Dead tussocky grass from the previous year is excellent as nesting cover.
- Adult food: Seeds, cereal grains and shoots throughout the year. Suitable areas include winter stubbles, harvested root crops, newly-sown crops and weeds in the crop margins.
- Chick food: Feed entirely on invertebrates, particularly sawfly larvae, caterpillars, beetles, bugs, and aphids. Chicks take these mainly from crop margins.

Lapwing



- Nesting habitat: Fallow ground, spring sown cereals and wet grassland.
- Adult food: Mainly on earthworms, leatherjackets, insects and their larvae. They generally feed where they can find lots of these, such as in grazed pasture.
- Chick food: Same as adults, they are led from the nest site to good feeding areas.
NB. In the winter lapwing from across Europe form flocks that can be seen on arable land, in severe weather they will move to the coast.

Tree sparrow



- Nesting habitat: Mature dense hedgerows, small copses and woodland edges, areas of mature scrubs and open barns. Take very well to loose colonies of nest boxes
- Adult food: Predominantly seed based, preferring small seeds from weed plants like fat hen, but particularly likes millet and quinoa based wild bird seed mixtures.
- Chick food: Fed mainly on invertebrates, including small flies, spiders, caterpillars and beetles.

Turtle dove



- Nesting habitat: Tall dense and mature hedgerows, mature dense scrub and young woodland. Particularly associated with climbers such as clematis and honeysuckle.
- Adult food: Particularly associated with weed seeds, especially fumitory and chickweed.
- Chick food: Seeds, especially those of fumitory, knotgrass, chickweed, oilseed rape and cereal grains.
NB. Turtle dove are a migratory species and winter in sub-Saharan Africa.

Yellow wagtail



- Nesting habitat: On the ground in arable crops including peas and cereals.
- Adult / chick food: A wide range of insects particularly taking flying insects in sparse vegetation or open ground.
NB. Yellow wagtails are migratory and over-winter in sub-Saharan Africa.

Skylark



- Nesting habitat: On the ground in grasslands and arable crops, skylark plots can increase productivity of skylarks in winter cereals by 50%.
- Adult food: Insects and spiders during the summer, with leaves and seeds of crops and weeds all year, showing a strong association with weedy stubbles in winter.
- Chick food: Invertebrates like beetles and spiders.

Yellowhammer



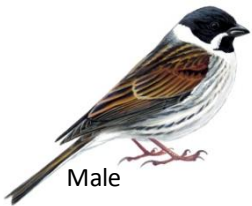
Male

- Nesting habitat: On or close to the ground at the base of thick hedgerows and scrub especially if there is a wide grass margin.
- Adult food: Cereal grains and seeds from plants like chickweed and grasses. With insects and spiders also taken during the summer.
- Chick food: Invertebrates such as grasshopper nymphs, sawfly larvae, spiders and caterpillars.



Female

Reed bunting



Male

- Nesting habitat: Off the ground in a variety of farmland habitats including field margins, crops and occasionally hedges.
- Adult food: A variety of insects and seeds. In summer mainly found in grassland such as field margins and hay meadows, in winter on stubbles.
- Chick food: Invertebrates such as caterpillars and spiders.



Female

Linnet



Male

- Nesting habitat: Hedgerows, low dense scrub including gorse and bramble.
- Adult food: Small seeds throughout the year, such as fat hen and chickweed, but also sorrel, charlock and dandelions.
- Chick food: Oil-seed rape and the associated broad-leaved weeds provide ideal food for chicks in the spring.



Female

Bullfinch



Male

- Nesting habitat: Thick scrub, dense hedges or woodland undergrowth in broad leaved woodlands.
- Adult food: Buds of native trees such as hawthorn and blackthorn, and seeds from plants like bramble and nettle.
- Chick food: A mixture of plant material and small invertebrates like caterpillars and spiders.



Female

Goldfinch



- Nesting habitat: Likes areas with small trees and scattered bushes.
- Adult food: Small seeds from plants such as thistle, teasel, burdock and forget-me-nots.
- Chick food: Invertebrates like caterpillars, spiders and flies.



Dunnock

- Nesting habitats: Bramble thickets, hedges and low dense areas of shrub.
- Adult/ Chick food: Invertebrates such as spiders, flies, worms and spiders.



Barn owl

Barn owl / Kestrel

- Nesting habitat: Holes in buildings, trees, nest boxes and cliff faces.
- Adult / chick food: year round small mammals and in summer large invertebrates found in areas of rough grassland and field margins.



Male kestrel