



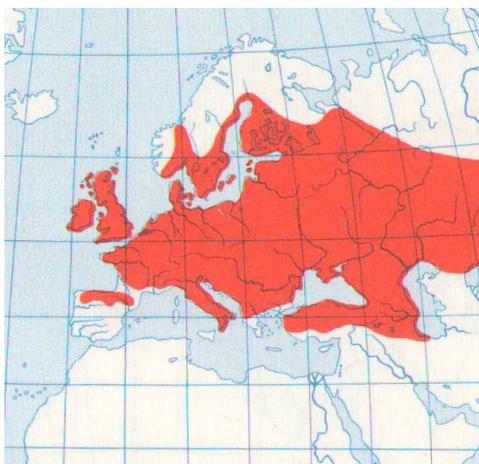
CATES State Of UK Birds Report 2017

With the RSPB. releasing its own document, in order to balance things up and to get the real facts out there, we're bringing ours out too. In our version we don't even try to produce the endless reams of apologist's bumf the RSPB. is always so good at but instead we focus on the straight and basic facts. In order to explain exactly what's happened to our birds we need to go back forty years to when and where we think many of the troubles began and to do this we'll refer readers to page 5 of this link.

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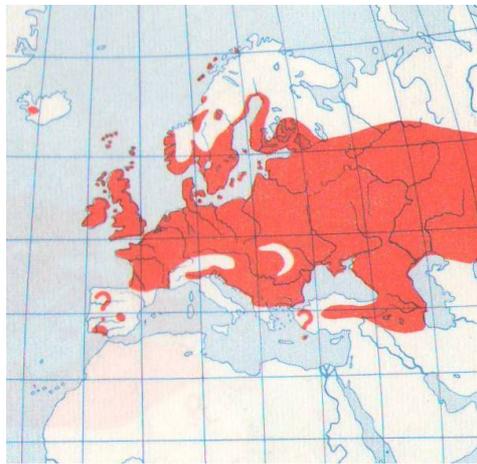
At that time there was this new group of organophosphate pesticides appearing on the market, species that were once common suddenly began disappearing fast, and most amazingly of all nothing was being said about it. All that destruction going on and there was no response from the bird authorities and to this day these species have shown no signs of recovery.

In order to get to the truth of it all we've listed some indicator species below and have lined them up in these rather regimented rows. It is these species, whose populations collapsed so dramatically then, and it is these species we believe hold the key to finding out what may have gone wrong. We need to look at them in a bit more detail to see whether they hold any clues. By comparing each and every one we are trying to build up an overall picture and see for ourselves exactly what it is they do indicate.



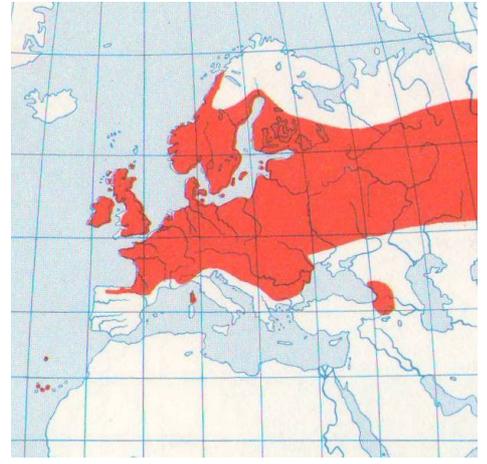
Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix



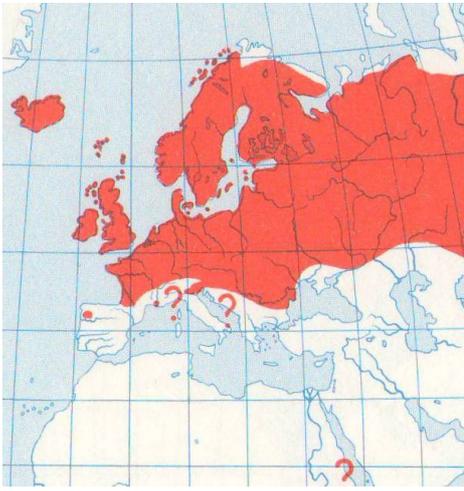
Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus



Woodcock

Scalopax rusticola



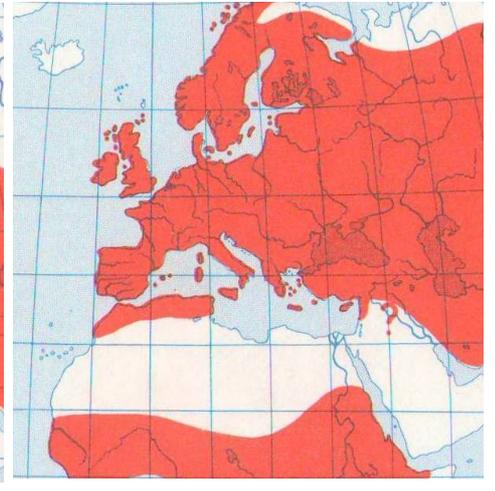
Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago



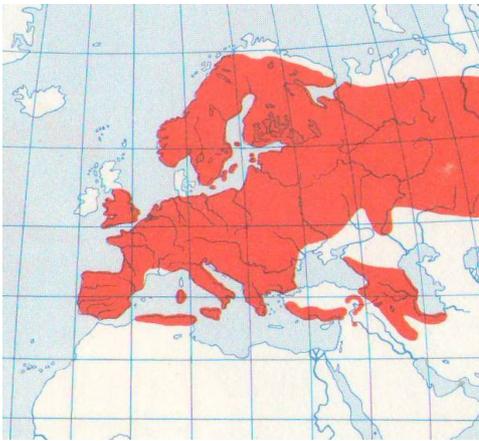
Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur



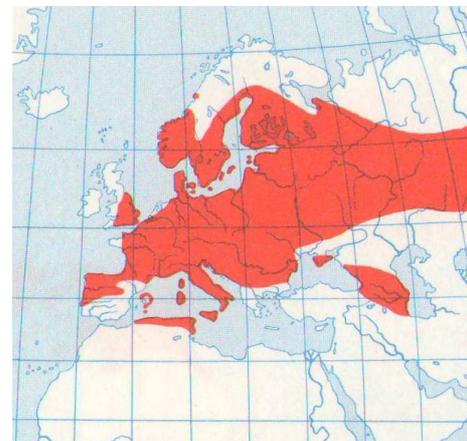
Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus



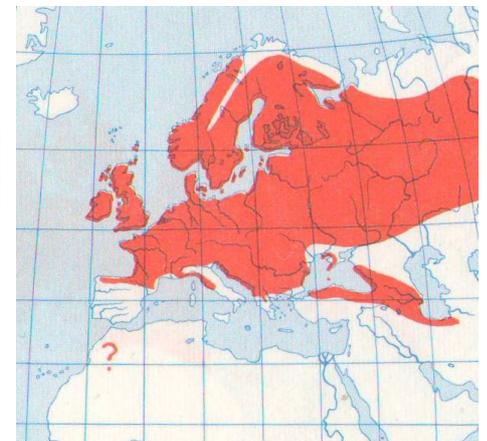
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos minor



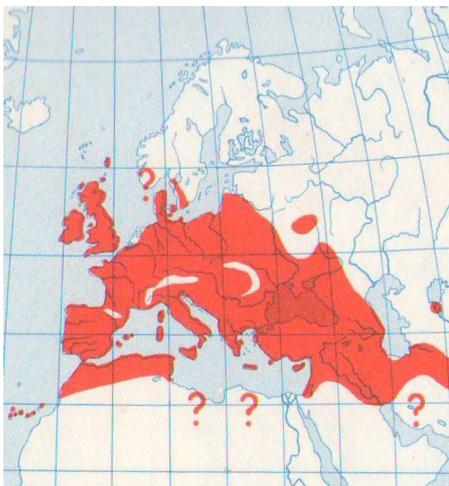
Wryneck

Jynx torquilla



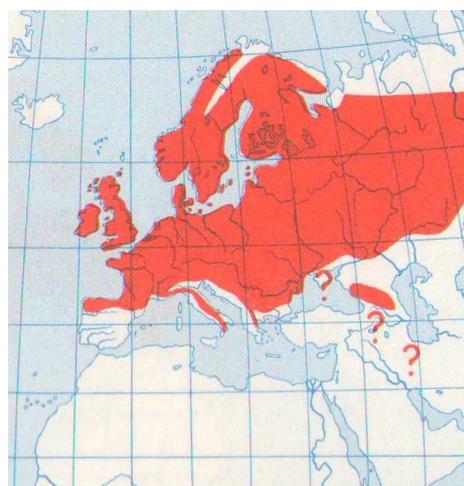
Song Thrush

Turdus iliacus



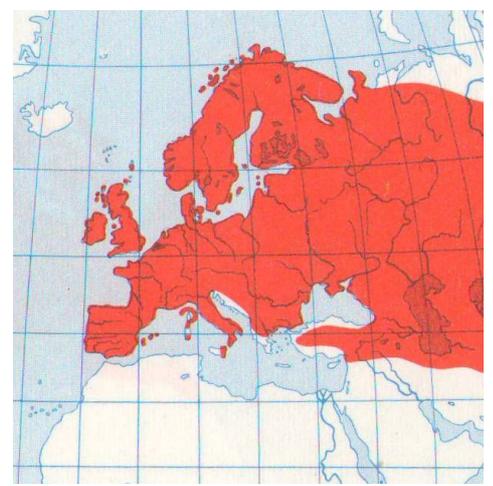
Corn Bunting

Emberiza calandra



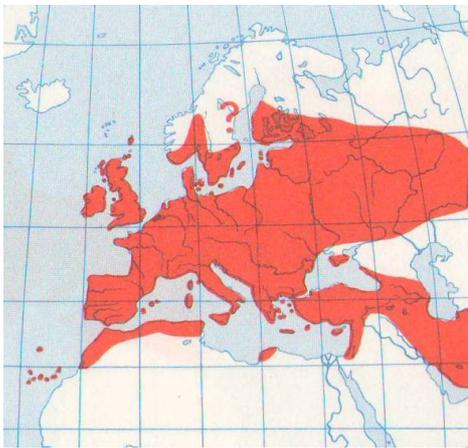
Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella



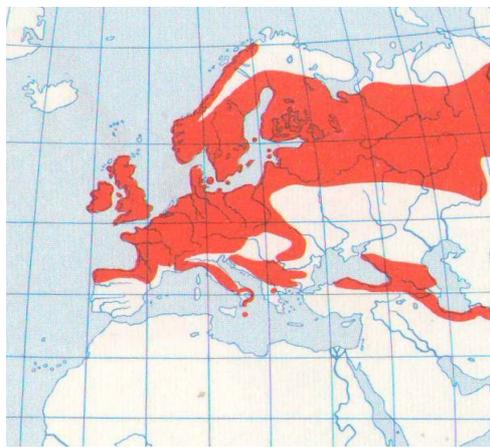
Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus



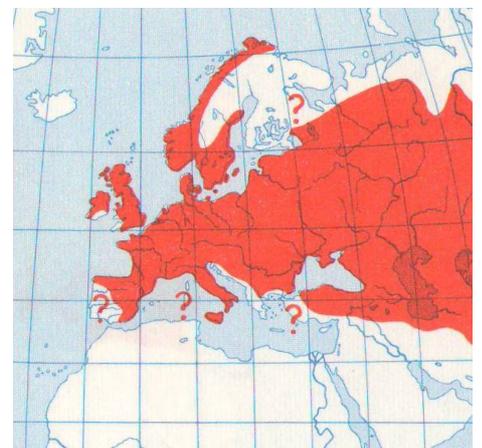
Linnet

Carduelis cannabina



Bullfinch

Pyrrhula pyrrhula



Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Maps courtesy of Atlas of European Birds, publishers Nelson.

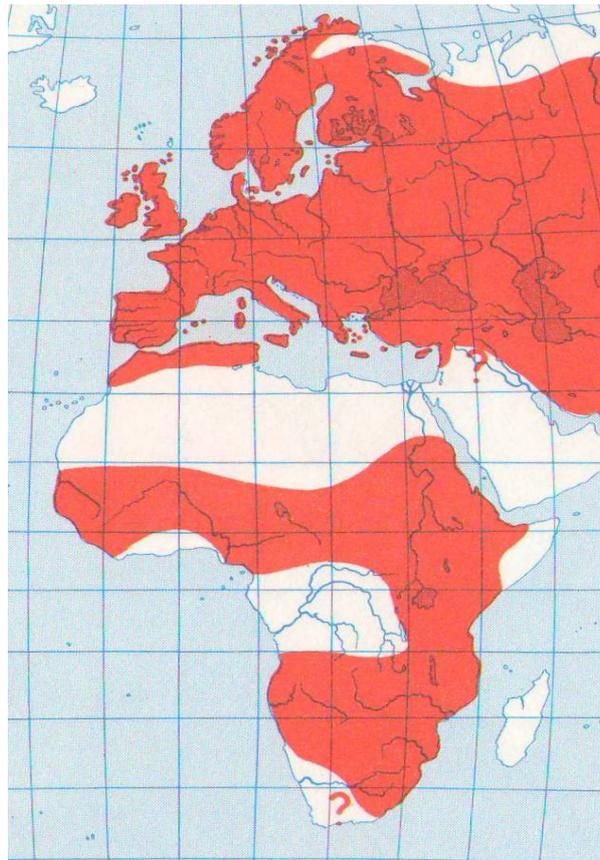
Other species that disappeared at that time and we'll add are **Kentish Plover, Red-backed Shrike, Marsh Tit** and **Willow Tit**. Since then countless others have joined the sorry ranks, with conservationists no nearer to helping now than they were then, in fact if anything things have gotten considerably worse. Although everything points to these organophosphate pesticides, with things going so dramatically wrong directly after they made an appearance, we should also be considering what else may emerge as we generally build up a more complete picture on a case by case level.

But by first looking at what similarities they have in common we can perhaps work out what may or indeed what may not have happened to them? By simply viewing the maps we can see many of them throughout historic times up until recently occupied really quite sweeping ranges from the very near desert conditions of the south to the tundra like terrains of the north. And the one thing that stands out for me is that these species as individuals would have been open to just about every conceivable weather-related condition imaginable and they could therefore hardly have been thought of as being particularly vulnerable to climate-change.

They are tough little cookies, they're certainly not the flowers ready to wilt at half a degree of global-warming as is so often described by the official line. To talk about them in such a dismissive way is an insult not only to them but to their entire ancestral lines from where they originate. These birds in fact lived and bred in these regions of the world quite happily and unmolested for millions of years until we came along and affected things with our chemicals and our wind-farms.

Take a look at this extraordinary full length breeding distribution map of the **Cuckoo**. A migratory species, sweeping across the two hemispheres, from the high Arctic on one end of its journey to the southern tip of the Cape to the next.

This a just pet theory of mine and it would fit if they were on some kind of a migratory loop. Moving north here to breed as we know they do, going well beyond the Arctic Circle in some parts of its range, moving south where they perhaps continue to breed in the northern tropics, continuing on from there breeding throughout the rest of southern Africa and then onto the southern tropics, and from thereon the whole process perhaps begins again. The reality of course is still a complete unknown but it's an interesting thought nonetheless.



But whatever the **Cuckoo** gets up to throughout its stay in Africa, in all of that heat, I guess it's really its business and not ours. It's only when it arrives to our shores do the effects of global-warming ever kick in of course. Nowadays they're having to reside in Scotland to avoid our searingly hot summers, escaping the pesticides-ridden drenchlands of the south more like would be my guess, but try telling that to anyone.

With the **Song Thrush** we believe added to the general background problem there was always the ever real threat of slug-pellets which were never demonised as much as they could've been. The RSPB. always likes to steer away with its criticisms of most things. Best not to upset too many of those who are paying them their wages.

The **Capercaillie**, a spectacular, large woodland grouse of old world boreal and temperate forests. Birds breaking their necks by flying into deer fences has been a problem for decades now, but even after knowing what the issue was for all those years, still it goes on. The unnecessary black and thinnest of the mesh makes them almost invisible in the dense to dappled shade of commercial forest stands where many **Capercaillies** breed.

Please write to the companies and ask them to manufacture, use and indeed replace the current fencing, with a more visible and thicker-gaged material.

erin@bennerdeerfencecompany.com; rob@bennerdeerfencecompany.com; Emma.Stayton@fountainsforestry.co.uk; Alan.Guy@fountainsforestry.co.uk; enquiries@fountainsforestry.co.uk

A simple enough campaign like this would've been all that was needed to make them at least think about what they are doing but knowing the RSPB. it's doubtful whether this would ever had been considered.

The decline in **Fulmars** and other marine birds is doubtlessly in part down to ingestion of plastics as well as off-shore wind-farms. Dead birds are turning up at labs on a daily basis and the findings are not encouraging.

Rats have long been recognised as being disastrous for island nesting species and it is at least good to see the RSPB. is still taking this very important matter seriously.

But with all of the obvious problems still as yet unresolved, such as pesticides, hedge-flailing, gross meadow-mismanagement, as in seasonal considerations being taken seriously, as well as the general manicuring of the countryside to mention but a few, we now have wind-farms added to the mix. With literally millions of extra birds, on top of what we were losing anyway, being killed each and every year as well as the countless trillions of insects going the same way.

With the RSPB. still insisting we need more and more of the things that has sent our wildlife into terminal decline in the first place they're taking us all on a collision course to oblivion. There's nothing much wrong with farm chemicals, constantly citing climate-change without even stating once wind-farms are a horrendous problem they so obviously are.

All of this happening and we're wondering why it is we have no wildlife left any more. It's not much of a surprise really is it!

Incidentally, want to know why the RSPB. never criticises these industries? Go to pages 29-32 in the link below and see who's paying them their wages.

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/74da12_8183b59e65b646ba912315b53efb38d7.pdf?dn=A+Case+Against+The+RSPB.+5.pdf

It all makes good reading but some bits are more revealing than others.

As for global-warming we do not oppose green-energy but would suggest there are far better ways of going about it than having more and more wind-farms built. Please see link.

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For details of other campaigns please visit <http://cates1980.wixsite.com/cateswebsite> and go through the various Projects pages.