



**Eden Species Report: Top ten threatened animal species in the UK – their distribution and what you can do to conserve them**

# EDEN SPECIES REPORT



## Capercaillie

Primarily found in Scotland



## Red Squirrel

Primarily found in Scotland but also in Cumbria and Northumberland. Also found in small isolated populations in Southern England, specifically, on three islands in Poole Harbour in Dorset, at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire, on the Isle of Wight and at Thetford in Norfolk.



## Natterjack Toad

Main colonies along the Sefton Coast between Lancashire and Dumfries. A few colonies exist in Norfolk and Lincolnshire.



## Cuckoo

Found throughout the UK in the summer months, the only time it is present in the UK.



## Hedgehog

Patchily distributed throughout the UK with the exception of the Scottish islands



## Red-necked Phalarope

Breeds on the Western and Northern Isles of Scotland, mostly on Fetlar, Shetland



## Scottish Wildcat

Only found in Scotland, primarily in the Grampians and Northern Highlands



## Black-tailed Godwit

Breeds mainly in East Anglia and also Shetland. Winters mainly along south and east coasts of England



## Brown Hare

Found throughout most of the UK where suitable habitat is present



## Turtle Dove

Southern and Eastern England



## Top ten endangered UK species

Species	Main Threats	Approximate numbers remaining in UK	Estimated Rate of Decline
Red-necked Phalarope	Climate change	36 breeding pairs	25% over 10 years (1996 – 2006) At risk of extinction
Black-tailed Godwit	Agricultural intensification, increased Spring flooding	50 breeding pairs	33% decline over 15 years
Scottish Wildcat	Hybridisation with domestic cats, loss of habitat	400 genetically 'pure' individuals remain	Genetically pure species may be extinct by 2050
Capercaillie	Habitat quality and climate change	900 birds	80% over last 42 years At risk of extinction
Cuckoo	Over-winter survival in Africa	Under 19,000 pairs	58% decline over last 25 years
Red Squirrel	Habitat loss, competition from Grey Squirrels, disease	140,000	95% in England over the last 50 years
Turtle Dove	Decline in agricultural production, hunting	45,000 breeding sites	90% over the last 40 years
Natterjack Toad	Habitat loss, climate change, sea-level rise, potentially disease	60 colonies 2,500 breeding females in the UK	75% over last 100 years
Brown Hare	Habitat loss	750,000	80% in last 100 years
Hedgehog	Habitat loss, road traffic	1,000,000	25% over last 10 years May be extinct by 2025

# Top 10 animals – Distribution and what can be done to conserve them:

## #1. Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)

### Distribution

Bred on the Western and Northern Isles of Scotland, mostly on Fetlar, Shetland.

### What can be done to conserve it?

- More research into the current decline and its change in distribution would improve current attempts to manage the species for conservation. Sites where the species formerly bred are now being restored to resemble the favourable conditions on Fetlar, Shetland
- The primary need is to reduce levels of global warming by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions

### Where can you go for more information?

- The action plan for the breeding population on Shetland can be viewed at:  
<http://www.livingshetland.org.uk/documents/RedNeckedPhalaropeSAP2004.pdf>
- View the breeding distribution and abundance of the species here:  
<http://www.sovon.nl/ebcc/ea/default.asp?species=5640>

## #2. Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosalimos*)

### Distribution

Breeds mainly in East Anglia and also Shetland. Winters mainly along south and east coasts of England.

### What can be done to conserve it?

- Converting arable land peripheral to breeding grounds back to wetland may afford the Black-tailed Godwit better protection from flooding, if flood resistant areas are chosen
- The species is also likely to benefit from the conversion of agricultural land surrounding the Holme Fen and Woodwalton Fen Reserves back to fenland, creating a large, 14 square mile reserve known as the Great Fen Project
- Compensating farmers for loss of income as a result of such sympathetic habitat management under Agri-environment schemes can provide a financial incentive for land managers that help to conserve the species
- A Europe-wide ban on shooting Black-tailed godwits would relieve the additional pressure from hunting
- Policies of managed coastal retreats in areas with salt marshes and eroding coastlines will permit new salt marshes to form on current farmland. This will ensure that suitable habitat for the species remains, despite the continuing rise in sea levels

### Where can you go for more information?

- An illustrated account of the fate of the Black-tailed godwit has been put together by UNEP and can be found online at: [http://www.unep-aewa.org/publications/books/btg\\_engl\\_sm.pdf](http://www.unep-aewa.org/publications/books/btg_engl_sm.pdf)
- The Natura 2000 Management Plan for the species is available online at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/hunting/docs/black\\_tailed\\_godwit.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/hunting/docs/black_tailed_godwit.pdf)

### #3. Scottish wildcat (*Felissilvestrissilvestris*)

#### Distribution

Only found in Scotland, primarily in the Grampians and Northern Highlands.

#### What can be done to conserve it?

- Identifying and protecting genetically pure wildcat populations will be crucial to prioritise areas for conservation
- The neutering or removal of feral cats in these areas can be prioritised, which aside from relieving the threat of cross-breeding, reduces competition for space and prey. Live trapping and removal of feral cats is essential, to avoid accidentally killing the few remaining wildcat individuals
- Varying the age of trees in plantations and the restoration of Caledonian pine forests may provide additional habitat during the early stages of forest development

#### Where can you go for more information?

- More information on the species can be found in The Mammal Society's *Mammals of the British Isles: Handbook*
- Information on its conservation is available and updated regularly on the Scottish Natural Heritage website at: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/species-action-framework/species-action-list/wildcat/update/>; <http://www.scottishwildcats.co.uk/>;

## # 4.Capercaillie (*Tetraourogallus*)

### Distribution

Primarily found in Scotland.

### What can be done to conserve it?

- Improve habitat by cutting down some trees to open up forestry plantations
- Increase number of blueberry plants and provide additional ground cover
- Remove deer fences where not needed and make other fences visible to birds
- Continue to monitor alternative designs of deer fence at Abernethy forest reserve

### Where can you go for more information?

- Information on Capercaillie conservation is available on the following websites:  
<http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/keyspecies/birds/capercaillie.aspx>;  
<http://www.animalcampaigns.com/index.php/groups/viewgroup/87-Action+for+capercaillie.html>;  
<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B458510.pdf>;

## # 5. Cuckoo (*Cuculuscanorus*)

### Distribution

Found throughout the UK in the summer months, the only time it is present in the UK.

### What can be done to conserve it?

- The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has satellite-tagged five Cuckoos in an effort to find out where migrating Cuckoos stage and spend the non-breeding season
- Basic information is also being obtained regarding the routes that Cuckoos take when flying to Africa, when they arrive in their wintering grounds, the habitats they use and how they move around within Africa. This information is urgently needed in order to form conservation strategies and initiate action

### Where can you go for more information?

- Information on its conservation is available on the following websites: <http://www.garden-birds.co.uk/birds/cuckoo.htm>; <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/research/biodiversity.aspx>



## # 6. Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)

### Distribution

Primarily found in Scotland but also in Cumbria and Northumberland. Also found in small isolated populations in Poole Harbour in Dorset, at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire, on the Isle of Wight and at Thetford in Norfolk.

### What can be done to conserve it?

- It has been suggested that the only practical and humane way forward is the strategy of red squirrel refuge areas where control of grey squirrels bringing in disease could be targeted locally along likely entry points
- As the main habitat of red squirrels is coniferous forests, increasing the planting of large coniferous forests is an important factor in helping them to thrive. Determining which trees are preferred by red squirrels and planting these, would improve the habitat for them, while at the same time allowing grey squirrels to survive in the surrounding deciduous woodlands
- Continue research on feeding ecology, bait hoppers, supplementary feeding, red/grey interactions, methods of control and eradication, translocation, population reinforcement and habitat manipulation (including nestbox provision)

### Where can you go for more information?

- More information on the species can be found in The Mammal Society's *Mammals of the British Isles: Handbook*
- Information on its conservation is available on the following websites:  
<http://www.squirrelactiongreenhead.co.uk>; <http://www.pensthorpe-trust.org.uk/red-squirrel/>;  
<http://www.snh.org.uk/ukredsquirrelgroup/popInfo.asp>; <http://www.rspp.org.uk/id17.html>

## #7. Turtle Dove(*Streptopelia turtur*)

### Distribution

Primarily found in southern and eastern England.

### What can be done to conserve it?

- Determine whether turtle doves are disappearing from certain habitats or geographic areas
- Monitor nesting productivity and foraging habitat selection of turtle doves on farmland
- Trial and evaluate conservation management options aimed at increasing breeding productivity by providing a source of seed food in farmland
- Determine effects of trial management options on foraging behaviour and breeding productivity
- Partnerships between countries that the species winters and summers in could be reinforced, to ensure a coordinated conservation response
- Offering subsidies and improved technologies for cereal production would help to provide the turtle dove with a more stable food supply in its wintering grounds
- A hunting ban, both in Europe and wider afield, could help numbers recover

### Where can you go for more information?

- Explore the population statistics more closely at:  
<http://www.bto.org/birdtrends2010/wcrturdo.shtml>

## #8.Natterjack Toad (*Epidaleacalamita*)

### Distribution

Main colonies along the Sefton Coast between Lancashire and Dumfries. A few colonies exist in Norfolk and Lincolnshire.

### What can be done to conserve it?

- Improving the quality of existing habitats for the species would help to stabilise existing populations of the species
- In addition, suitable sites for habitat creation are being identified as part of the Species Action Plan put together by the relevant conservation agencies. This plan has also seen successful reintroductions of the species into former parts of its range that it has disappeared from

### Where can people go for more information?

- The Species Action Plan for the natterjack toad is available at:  
[http://www.arc-trust.org/downloads/Natterjack\\_toad\\_SAP\\_Aug\\_09.pdf](http://www.arc-trust.org/downloads/Natterjack_toad_SAP_Aug_09.pdf)
- Hear how the natterjack gets its name at:  
[http://www.herpconstrust.org.uk/animals/natterjack\\_call.htm](http://www.herpconstrust.org.uk/animals/natterjack_call.htm)

## # 9. Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*)

### Distribution

Found throughout most of the UK where suitable habitat is present.

### What can be done to conserve it?

- Avoid removing hedgerows to create larger fields and avoid damaging unimproved grassland by ploughing or planting woodland on it
- Breaking up large blocks of cereal mown grass strips running across fields will provide summer grazing for hares
- On livestock farms try to leave some areas uncut and ungrazed for leverets to hide in

### Where can you go for more information?

- More information on the species can be found in The Mammal Society's *Mammals of the British Isles: Handbook*.
- Information on its conservation is available on the following websites:  
[http://www.ifaw.org/ifaw\\_united\\_kingdom/save\\_animals/hares/brown\\_hare.php](http://www.ifaw.org/ifaw_united_kingdom/save_animals/hares/brown_hare.php);  
<http://www.hare-preservation-trust.co.uk/status.html>;  
[http://www.mammal.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&id=224](http://www.mammal.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&id=224);

## # 10. Hedgehog (*Erinaceuseuropaeus*)

### Distribution

Patchily distributed throughout the UK, with the exception of the Scottish Islands.

### What can be done to conserve it?

- Improve accessibility to gardens
- Provide food and water
- Rake through bonfires before setting alight
- Provide stepping out points in ponds
- Remove all trailing netting from gardens
- Use wildlife-friendly slug pellets
- Dispose carefully of tin cans and plastic rings for beer cans etc

### Where can people go for more information?

- More information on the species can be found in The Mammal Society's *Mammals of the British Isles: Handbook*
- Information on its conservation is available on the following websites:  
<http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/>; <http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>;  
<http://www.thehedgehog.co.uk/>; <http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/facts/hedge.htm>