

**Name:****Corn bunting***Miliaria calandra***UK status:**[UK BAP Priority](#). Rapid recent decline. BoCC Red List.**London status:**

Rare, localised breeding resident. Historic and continuing decline, and now possibly extinct.

**Protected status:**

- W&CA S.1(1-3); general protection from intentional killing, injury and catching, possession, and nest destruction.

'Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England' (CRoW Act, 2000)

**Relevant London HAPs:**

Farmland; Reedbeds (wintering); Hedgerows Statement

**Citation:**

A characteristic species of lowland arable farmland and one of the few British breeding birds largely dependent on cropped land. The bird has been in general decline since the 1970s, and its severe range contraction has resulted in many local extinctions. Reasons relate to changing farm practices; intensification of yields reducing nesting habitat and food availability, particularly in winter. In London the corn bunting had several breeding strongholds in working Green Belt farmland, including the Fairlop/Hainault area (LB Redbridge), rural Havering, Harefield (LB Hillingdon), Crayford (LB Bexley) and on downland in southern Bromley, but only occasional pairs are now recorded from these areas. Important winter roost sites include reedbeds at Stockers Lake in LB Hillingdon and the Ingrebourne Valley in Havering. Managing authorities; mostly private farming tenancies



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**Conservation priorities:**

- Farmland biodiversity conservation practices (sympathetic hedgerow management, headland creation etc.)
- Green Belt development control
- Reedbed maintenance and creation [All address UK SAP target T3]

**References:**

Baillie, S R et al. (2005). [Breeding birds in the Wider Countryside: their conservation status 2004](#). BTO

Hewlett, J. Ed. (2002). *The Breeding Birds of the London Area*. LNHS

RSPB (2002). *The Population Status of Birds in the UK - Birds of conservation concern: 2002-2007*

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