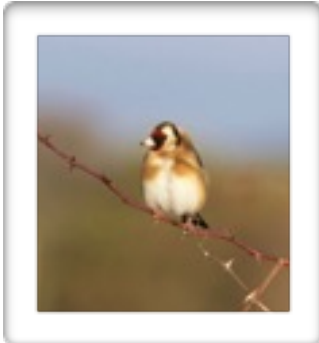


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## Flocks to the Field

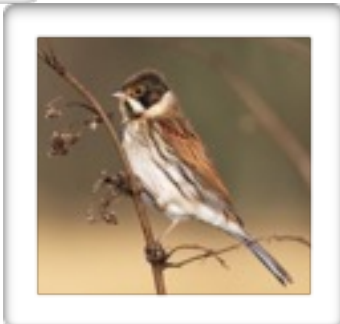


A flock of almost 1000 finches and buntings feeding in the crop during a snowy season. This wild bird crop includes quinoa, linseed and fodder radish.



A goldfinch awaits his turn.

Reed buntings feeding on the crop along The Speyside Way



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## For Wildlife and People

Sites of between a quarter hectare up to one hectare are carefully chosen to ensure that the winter bird crops and wildflower mixes will grow well. We are keen that some sites should be enjoyed for wildlife watching by local people and visitors throughout the seasons.



A white-tailed bumblebee feeding on phacelia. The wild flowers are a mixture of cornfield annuals and phacelia which is a particularly good nectar source.

All images by Desmond Dugan (c)

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## Think Global; Act Local

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Report of 2016 shows that of the four categories of bird populations farmland birds have the most significant decline.

The decline in seed-eating bird populations has been driven primarily by herbicide use and the change from spring sown to autumn sown cereals. And, where winter stubble fields remain, these are so efficiently harvested as to be of limited value to wildlife.

**Speyside Fields for Wildlife** seeks to aid farmers who are sympathetic to wildlife needs and who wish to help redress this trend locally.

**SFW** seek to expand the number of farmers and landowners participating so that several sites in the Spey Valley around Nethybridge and Boat of Garten provide summer nectar and pollen for insects and winter seed feeding for wild birds.

## Farmers and SFW partners examine the crops



Most seed eating birds feed their young on insects.

It is well recognised that there has been a significant decline in the number of insects since 1970. Pesticide and herbicide use and loss of habitats are the principal factors.



Farmers interested in the scheme and who have suitable land, prepare the soil and sow the seed and work closely with SFW. SFW provide funding to the farmers to help with this process. SFW raise funds through private donations from concerned interested individuals and from funding bodies.

**SFW are grateful to CNPA for their support.**



*Together we can make a difference. If you are interested in making a donation or if you think you have part of a field which may be suitable for wildlife crops please contact either [desmonddugan@btinternet.com](mailto:desmonddugan@btinternet.com) or [aileenemfox@gmail.com](mailto:aileenemfox@gmail.com)*



Charity no  
SC 048467

## Speyside Fields for Wildlife

**Speyside Fields for Wildlife is a local initiative which assists farmers and landowners to grow crops to benefit a range of birds, insects and other wildlife.**



We work in close partnership with Cairngorms National Park Authority. We are a small group of local people. We raise funds to buy seed and provide incentives for farmers and landowners to plant crops. The crops are left unharvested throughout the autumn and winter. Flower mixes are also planted to provide pollen and nectar for a range of insects during the summer including bees and butterflies.