



Grey partridge News

Issue 15: Summer 2011

Introduction

Welcome to another *Grey Partridge News*. I know that we are renowned for talking about the weather, but this spring has been the driest for more than 20 years, and in some areas such as East Anglia, the lack of rain (only 28.1mm) has made it the driest for 101 years, beating the previous record set in 1996. As always there were exceptions to the rule with parts of Scotland recording above average rainfall this spring.

Early grey partridge reports have been quite favourable with many keepers telling me that nesting started earlier than usual with birds sitting well. Of course the moment Ascot week drew near (usually considered to be the peak hatching time for grey partridges) the skies darkened and the heavens opened. Throughout July, skies remained grey and there were a number of localised torrential downpours. Hopefully there were enough periods of sun among the showers to allow broods to feed up so that they could return to be brooded once again as the next batch of rain started.

Establishing brood-rearing cover and wild bird mixes has proved difficult, with many people having areas of bare soil. When dealing with wild bird seed mixes, I knew that once it rained the mix would start to grow and, if not, there were plenty of crops that could be planted right through to harvest time that would provide cover and in some cases, seed too. However, of far more concern were brood-rearing strips that had hardly emerged at hatching time, resulting in little available insect-rich foraging cover. Those who had established autumn-sown brood strips were lucky as generally this provided excellent habitat. Cereals had grown well but had not tillered out much, so that the crop had an 'open' aspect, which is exactly what the chicks need. Many of the weeds in the bottom of the brood-rearing crops had suffered from the drought conditions too and were stunted – ideal for partridges.

Insect numbers recorded in the Sussex study area were above average, however, some keepers felt that numbers were not particularly high until the rains arrived, then numbers seemed to increase rapidly.

There has been a lot of speculation, but once harvest is over we will know the truth. Please let us know how the greys have fared on your land. We want the GWCT Partridge Count Scheme (PCS) to remain the biggest farmer/keeper-led count scheme in Europe – remember that it's your counts that make a difference.

Peter Thompson
Biodiversity Advisor

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East Anglia

The East Anglian grey partridge group meeting is being held at Bennington Lordship, Hertfordshire on Wednesday 14 September at 5pm. Andrew Bott has used Stewardship schemes to provide a haven for grey partridges. He has recently won the East Anglian grey partridge trophy for his efforts and he is also a Beacon farmer for the Campaign for The Farmed Environment. Visitors will be shown how to create and manage essential habitat and how to make the most of Stewardship options. There will be an update on predation control techniques and a round-up of grey partridge news. Drinks and a light buffet will be kindly provided by our sponsors, CastleAcre Insurance. Places are limited. Please contact Lynda Ferguson on 01425 651013.

www.gwct.org.uk

Special thanks to all those individuals,
gamekeepers, landowners and estates, who have
contributed to the Partridge Count Scheme.



Game & Wildlife
CONSERVATION TRUST
Partridge Count Scheme



Place feeders where there is minimal chance of raptors detecting feeding birds. Predator control can be targeted when you are on a budget and have time restraints.

Focused predator control

In 2004 I started using a 270-hectare arable farm in south Wiltshire for the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust's research on fox snares. There was no shooting interest on the farm and foxes were plentiful. I quickly discovered the farm also supported a scattering of wild grey partridges, perhaps two or three spring pairs. During the spring and summer of 2004 and 2005, I snared and removed around 20 adult foxes from the farm. Although I wasn't specifically monitoring grey partridges, my impression was that their numbers increased during this period. I encouraged the farm manager to join the Partridge Count Scheme and together, in March 2006, we counted 10 pairs. With no change in habitat, it seems likely that partridge numbers increased as a result of fox removal during the previous two nesting seasons.

In 2007 I was invited to help the farm develop a small wild bird shoot. It seemed likely that good use of Stewardship options to create better farmland bird habitat, along with some seasonal predation control and development of a feeding programme, would generate enough wild pheasants and red-legged partridges to provide half-a-dozen rough-shooting days. Greys would be strictly off-limits and we would do our best to boost their numbers. Today, we have created a first-class rough shoot, and for the past three years we have averaged 18 pairs of greys in the spring and 38 birds per 100 hectares in the autumn. Most of our greys are found on small south-facing fields where Stewardship has helped create good brood-rearing habitats and seed-rich winter covers. Because we operate on a tiny budget and have busy day-jobs, our predation control effort has to be extremely focused.

Decades of research by the Trust

has shown that foxes and corvids are the predators responsible for most partridge and pheasant nest failures. In the 1990s, the Trust's Salisbury Plain Predator Removal Experiment demonstrated that the breeding success of grey partridges greatly improved when predators were controlled during the spring and early summer. Taking a lead from this research, we only conduct fox and corvid control on the farm between mid-March and July. The Trust's fox radio-tagging research indicates that within a week, areas where foxes have been removed will be exploited by neighbouring territory-holders, and dispersal from further afield can also result in rapid replacement. So for us, controlling fox numbers outside the nesting period is of very limited value as they will be replaced by others when our wild game starts nesting.

Fox control

Our campaign begins in mid-March, lamping and night-shooting foxes, which is effective until late April. Thereafter, the height of autumn-sown crops limits vehicular access and reliable detection of foxes, but our spring-sown crops facilitate lamping until mid-May. 'Calling' foxes to locations where they are clearly visible for a safe shot has also proved very worthwhile.

In late April, we check every known historical fox cubbing earth on the farm, and all hedgerows bordering oilseed rape crops; my experience suggests that these are prime locations for cubbing earths. For resident foxes, the cubbing earth is the focal point of their territory, and once you locate it, you've pinpointed exactly where to put in your control effort. Snares are set on route ways leading to the earth, but no closer than 50 metres to it. This reduces the risk of disturbing the earth, which can lead

to adults moving cubs to new unknown locations. Snaring effort continues around the earth until adult activity there stops. Thereafter, we dispatch any cubs present. Experience suggests that the farm supports at least three family groups of foxes each spring, each consisting of a dog and up to three vixens. The Trust's fox radio-tagging studies suggest that fox densities are similar in other parts of Wessex.

Away from the earth, snares are set only in locations where foxes are known to be active, eg. where they have been seen, or where fresh tracks or scats have

We find lamping effective from mid-March until late April when the autumn-sown crops limit vehicle access.



been found. This maximises our chances of catching a fox and greatly reduces non-target captures. Snares are never set where the captive could become entangled around woody material or other obstacles (this greatly increases the risk of injury), and they are inspected early morning and late afternoon. This approach to snaring conforms to 'best practice' as defined in Defra's Code of Practice on Snaring, and underpins the message behind the new research-based GWCT Fox Snaring Course. (See box or contact our Advisory Service on 01425 651013 for more details.)

To give an idea of how efficient our strategy is, this year we spent 26 man-hours night-shooting and 64 snare nights (ie. eight snares set for eight nights), which yielded five dog foxes, seven vixens and two litters of cubs. This seasonal, focused control effort may not account for every fox present, but it fits our constraints and greatly relieves fox predation pressure when grey partridges are most vulnerable.

Corvids

We use Larsen traps only in areas where magpies or crows have been sighted from

mid-March to July. Active crow nests are destroyed using heavy shotgun loads, preferably when the hen is in residence.

Other predators

Although the farm manager controls rat numbers around farm buildings, there is currently no effort to control rats on farmland. If additional resources were available, this would become the next priority and we would tackle localised problems by gassing in late winter. (Incidentally, Trust research indicates that foxes are prolific 'ratters', and foxes resident on the farm over winter must help to keep rat numbers down.)

I have seen a stoat once on the farm since 2004, but we can't justify spending time, money and effort on running a network of tunnel traps.

To help reduce raptor predation on greys in late winter, feed hoppers are strategically located to minimise detection of feeding birds. Hoppers are fitted with coil-spring nozzles so that partridges can feed quickly. The opportunity for a 'quick feed' must lessen the likelihood of birds being detected by hawks.

The future

Our focused, seasonal predation control effort has given the farm's grey partridge population a real boost, but undoubtedly the key to maintaining it is to provide for their habitat requirements. Grey partridges have evolved to deal with high predation rates by producing large clutch sizes. If sufficient chick-food insects are available to partridge broods, partridge numbers can rise rapidly. As the habitat on the farm continues to improve, there is every chance that our grey partridge population will continue to increase.

Mike Short

GWCT Fox Snaring Course

The Trust's new fox snaring course, based on our research and Defra's Code of Practice on Snaring, will bring you up-to-date on the legal aspects of snaring and the different techniques. These courses can be customised to suit your requirements. Please contact Lynda Ferguson on 01425 651013 for more information.

New demonstration project

Our Grey Partridge Recovery Project at Royston was situated on optimal grey partridge ground, and although numbers of wild grey partridges were initially low, within five years we increased the density of breeding pairs from three to 18 per 100 hectares (ha).

To demonstrate the feasibility of grey partridge recovery on less prime areas of the UK we have started a new demonstration project (2010-2014) at the Rotherfield Estate in east Hampshire. Aimed at increasing numbers of wild game in general, this site is heavily wooded and will be an example to large parts of the UK where wild game, once common, has dwindled away and where recovery will be more challenging, but not impossible.

Rotherfield comprises around 647ha of arable land on medium clay loam, 405ha of well managed ancient semi-natural woodland and 271ha of grassland. Excluding over-wintered stubbles, 129ha of conservation areas are managed under Environmental Stewardship, Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) and the Campaign for the Farmed Environment. Particular emphasis of this project will be on increasing high-quality nesting, brood-rearing and escape cover, plus expanding the species-rich grassland. A 10-year Higher

Level Stewardship application has been submitted to replace the CSS.

Grey partridges at Rotherfield became locally extinct by the 1990s and all gamebird releasing ended in the early 2000s. Our aims are to recover wild pheasants through habitat and predator management only and grey partridge recovery will follow our *Guidelines for re-establishing grey partridges through releasing*. We anticipate three to five years for game to start thriving, during which time we will be having as many pheasant shoot days as the stock will allow and bag numbers as high as we can make them. To help maintain shooting interest during the critical transition

period we will release a moderate number of around 600 reared cock pheasant poults during late July/early August. This will be done annually until good bag numbers can be achieved with wild game only.

As with previous Trust demonstration projects a key objective is to monitor the impact of game management on a wide range of species. We have begun surveying farmland and woodland songbirds, woodcock, lapwing and butterflies. We will report on our progress in future editions of the newsletter and hope many readers will be able to apply our findings to their own ground.

Habitat has been improved for game and wildlife at the Rotherfield Demonstration Project.





It was encouraging that the number of spring counts rose this year and there was a 26% increase in grey partridges.

Partridge Count Scheme

We extend our gratitude to everyone in the Partridge Count Scheme (PCS) who gave up their time to count their ground this spring and kindly sent the information to us. The results of the spring counts of the PCS are summarised in Table 1.

Overall the weather this winter and spring has meant that conditions were unpromising at best for grey partridges, following a good summer production in 2010. December 2010 turned out to be the coldest December for over 100 years. The cold winter was followed by an extremely dry but sunny spring, especially in the south and east of the UK. So it was a winter and spring of extremes. What this would mean for grey partridges was

uncertain ahead of the spring counts.

The response of PCS members was promising. It was very encouraging that the number of spring counts we received rose to 785 (up from 750 in spring 2010) and covered an area of 225,000 hectares (555,990 acres). This equates to a 5% increase in returns compared with spring 2010. A total of 10,673 pairs were recorded compared with 8,484 last year (+26%). There has been a slight increase in spring pair density overall (see Table 1). When we calculate densities controlling for the location of different count areas (see Figure 1), we found that densities had increased by 25% over the past year; from 4.8 to 5.8 pairs per 100 hectares. This increase was found on

both long-term and recent members of the PCS and is a heartening reflection of last year's high young-to-old ratios. The continuing efforts of PCS members means that we have produced an average spring pair increase of 12% per year since 2001, despite the knockbacks from weather in some years, and we are very happy to see that within the PCS pair densities have increased to a level last seen during spring 1980.

However, the overall small increase in pair density illustrated in Table 1 masks the variations in regions across the UK. Count areas in the eastern and northern regions showed small increases in pair density (15% and 4%), densities in the Midlands were slightly down (-9%), while spring pair

Table 1

Regional spring pair densities and over-winter survival of grey partridges in Great Britain for 2010 and 2011

Region	Number of sites		Spring pair density per 100ha		Comparison	Over-winter survival*	
	2010	2011	2010	2011		2010	2011
Southern	113	125	2.1	1.4	(-33%)	40	27
Eastern	205	221	5.4	6.2	(15%)	58	43
Midlands	145	146	3.5	3.2	(-9%)	77	65
Wales	2	0.0	0.0		-		
Northern	195	200	4.5	4.7	(4%)	39	51
Scotland	91	93	3.1	3.1	(0%)	50	53
Overall	750	785	4.0	4.1	(2%)	54	46

* Calculated using densities

densities on areas in the southern region declined by a third.

Last autumn all regions achieved young-to-old ratios above two (at least a 1.6 young-to-old ratio is needed to maintain numbers). Following the freezing temperatures and snow during winter 2009/10, the last spring newsletter looked at its consequence on Over-Winter Survival (OWS), but no change was detected compared to the preceding milder winter of 2008/09.

The subsequent decline seen in this spring's pair density would point towards a decrease in OWS (see Table 1).

Having endured a second winter of similar conditions, grey partridge OWS has fallen to 46%. This decline is primarily due to the large reduction in OWS within two regions. Count areas in the southern region averaged 27% OWS and those in the eastern region an average of 43%

OWS. These are the same regions that also encountered the driest of this spring's weather; therefore the snow may not have been the problem, but the delay in crop emergence and restricted growth limited the available cover to avoid predation.

Those sites providing effective over-winter feeding and winter cover crops managed to compensate for much of the weather effects. This is a classic example illustrating the need for implementing year-round management for grey partridges. This does not mean that only large well-funded partridge estates can increase numbers, but that efficient management is needed, as Mike Short details on page 2. The size of farm should not be viewed as a barrier to success.

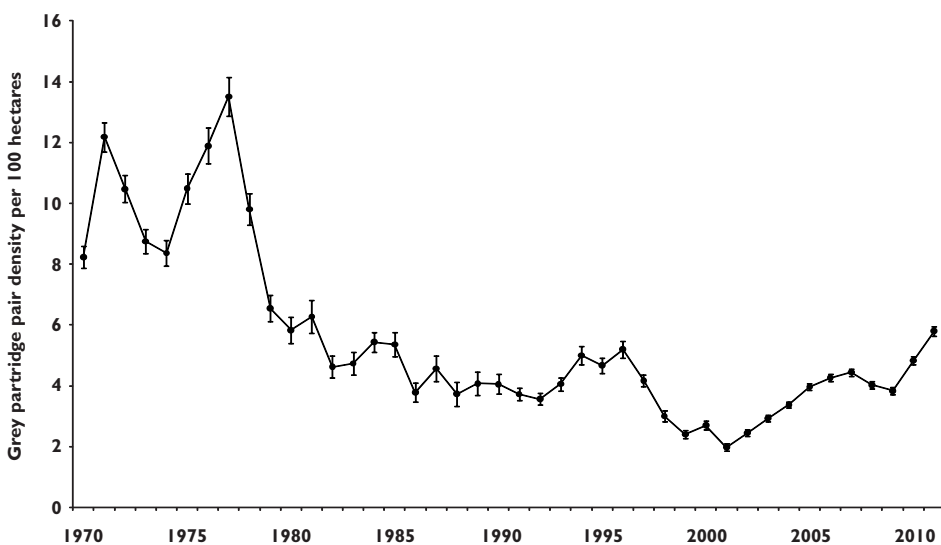
In summary, although the beginning of this year may have been challenging, nationally the PCS has recorded another increase in spring pair density which gives us something to build on for the future.

Help expand the PCS

Through the active involvement of those participating, the PCS is demonstrating that grey partridge recovery is achievable. We need to expand this progress to the wider farmed landscape and encourage everyone to get involved. Together, national recovery in partridge numbers and expanding their range back to areas where they used to occur is achievable. However, we need your help. If you have contacts, friends or family who can help, please encourage them to get involved. Every one counts! Go to www.gwct.org.uk/partridge or contact Neville Kingdon, PCS co-ordinator at nkingdon@gwct.org.uk or call 01425 651066.

Figure 1

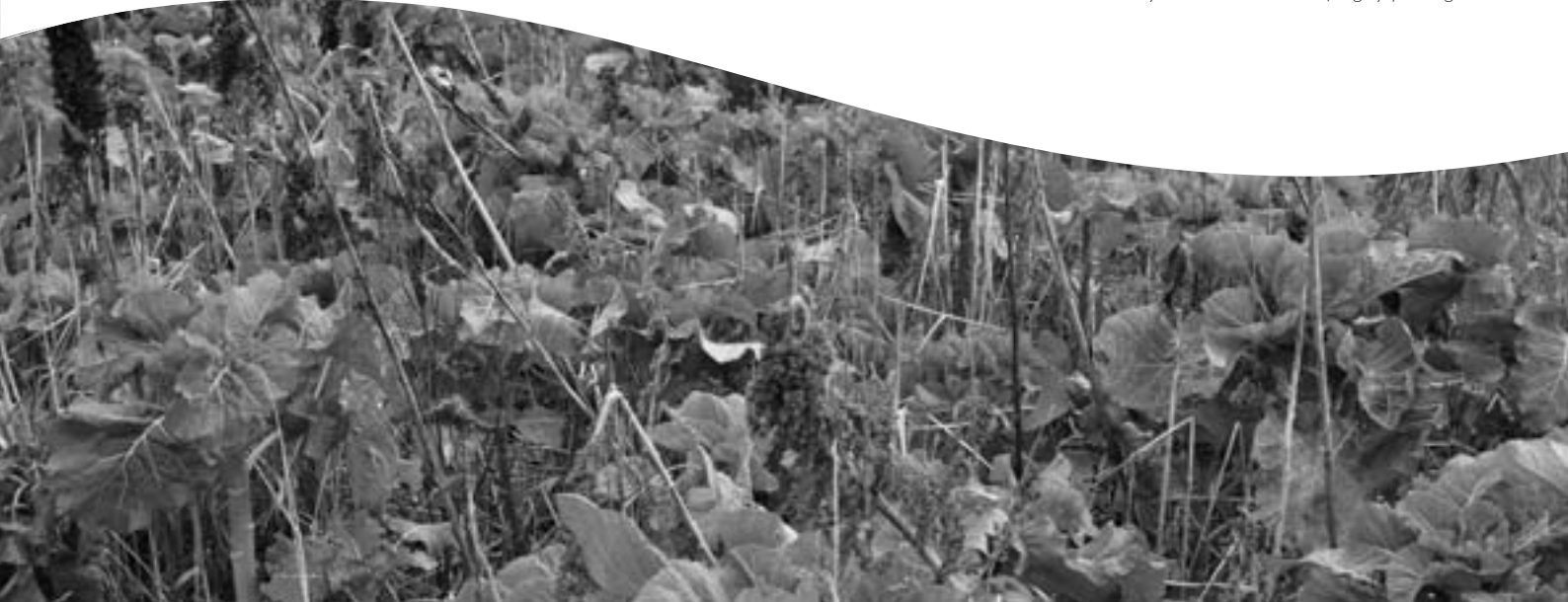
Trends in the indices of grey partridge density, controlling for variation in the different count areas.



Comparing Table 1 and Figure 1

Readers will note the disparity between the results of Table 1 and Figure 1. More complex analysis is used to produce Figure 1 which, unlike Table 1, looks at the between-year changes within each site, then averages those changes across sites. This adjusts for the fact that counts are not available for all sites every year and includes only sites with more than one spring count. This gives a more accurate long-term overview than is provided from Table 1.

Now is the time to think about your over-winter cover for grey partridges.





Unharvested cereal headland with linseed and a hopper.

Justifying habitat – supporting the Campaign

“£200/tonne” is a price I often hear quoted these days. Wheat prices have increased a lot since 2009 and farm managers are keen to maximise production and profits. Crops to support our partridges can lose ground to commercial crops; and Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) options may be biased towards hedges, grassland and farm buildings. But just as a profitable farming business is essential to subsidise many shoots and their conservation work, the continued provision of wildlife crops, such as wild bird seed mixes, are essential to support wild game.

Habitat is the foundation of grey partridge conservation. Feeding is important



Consider growing brassica or kale strips to provide cover for your partridges.

and targeted predator control can make a huge difference, but without nesting cover, brood-rearing crops and winter/spring refuges, we cannot expect greys to get out of the starting blocks. As a valued member of the PCS I'm sure you already know this, but the problem is often convincing the farm manager and getting such habitats on the ground, especially when the price of wheat is so high. Most of you will already know of the Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE), but maybe have not thought of the consequences of the Campaign failing.

The CFE is an initiative led by the farming industry to help conserve wildlife, water resources and farmland birds, and avoid the return of compulsory set-aside. We can contribute to the Campaign by adopting key ELS options such as 'wild bird seed mix' and 'unharvested cereal headlands' on 3-4% of arable land – for which we receive annual ELS payments. However, if we take no action, the Campaign will fail and 4-6% of land will be taken out of production as a condition of the Single Farm Payment Scheme, without any additional payments. It is worth remembering that the ELS prescriptions for growing wild bird seed mix are as flexible and user-friendly as they have ever been – what better way to help CFE succeed, than to grow a strip of wild bird seed mix to benefit your partridges.

This added incentive to grow crops such as wild bird seed mix to help CFE succeed also provides a timely prompt for keepers. Maize is a cover crop that many of us are familiar with and we feel comfortable growing. However, for those of you growing 100% maize, consider replacing some of the strips with wild bird seed mix. Such a mix might be orientated around

a seed-bearing sorghum and include red and/or white millet and perhaps linseed. Alternatively try a brassica mix, including kale, fodder radish and one of the oilseed rapes. Although growing kale undoubtedly requires attention to detail and good crop husbandry, a good strong crop that stands for two years is a delight and is much more beneficial than maize. At our Allerton Project demonstration farm at Loddington, we grow maize next to an equally wide strip of brassicas and rotate the crops after two or three years.

Grey partridges require a foundation of habitat of some form for 12 months of the year and a well-grown crop of wild bird seed mix can provide much of what is required, while also providing an added incentive to make CFE succeed. This was so aptly put by Gerald Needham, farmer and this year's winner of the Jas. Martin & Co. Lincolnshire grey partridge trophy who said: "With profits from wheat at £200/tonne farmers can now afford to manage more land, not less, for partridges."

For more information on the CFE please see the website: www.cfeonline.org.uk or contact Alex Butler on 01572 718763.

Wild bird seed mix containing sorghum, millet and quinoa.



Farewell to longstanding chairman



(L-R) Lord Romney receiving his grey partridges from keeper Gerald Gray. (Ian Gould)

In June around 100 members of the Norfolk partridge group met at Gayton Estate, by kind permission of the Earl of Romney to celebrate the group's 25th anniversary. The group was founded in 1986 by Lord Romney and like-minded landowners and farmers, when grey partridges were in serious decline in Norfolk and there were only a few pairs remaining at Gayton. It was Dick Potts who inspired Lord Romney to make sure he was not "the man who lost the last grey on Gayton"! Over the years numbers have increased on the estate, with 100 pairs counted in spring 2011. Having won the Mills and Reeve grey partridge

trophy in 2009, Lord Romney puts the success down to team work, with farm manager Alistair Beales, tractor driver Simon Thaxton and gamekeeper Fraser Tomsett all playing vital roles to ensure that grey partridges have the right conditions to flourish. Environmental Stewardship has been used to ensure that there is sufficient nesting, brood-rearing and over-winter cover, alongside supplementary feeding and efficient and targeted predation control. During the Estate tour, Ian Gould from Oakbank Game and Conservation, discussed game and wild bird cover establishment and Roger Draycott gave an update on the Partridge Count Scheme.

After 25 years, Lord Romney has decided to retire as chairman of the group. To mark the occasion, Nick Sotherton, our director of research, presented a picture of a grey partridge covey bursting over a Norfolk hedge. Nick thanked Lord Romney for his dedication to the group and his commitment to grey partridge conservation. Lord Romney is leaving on a high as partridges in Norfolk are increasing – an average of six pairs per 100 hectares (ha) were counted on farms in 2009, compared with 11 pairs per 100ha in 2011.

Lord Romney commented: "We have come a long way since 1986 and I pay great tribute to those at the coal face, who have successfully stuck with it, and prodded their bosses to put us where we are. Thank you to everyone who has put up with a non-elected chairman for too long and also to Mills and Reeve for their magnificent silver partridge trophy. I hand over to Marcus O'Lone, who has overseen Sandringham's pair count rise to 2,401 in 2011. The group and the grey partridge are in good hands."

Gerald Gray, headkeeper at the Hilborough Estate, paid tribute to Lord Romney stating that he had always been positive and encouraging. On behalf of the gamekeepers in the group, Gerald presented Lord Romney with a fine statue of a pair of grey partridges. We would like to thank Lord and Lady Romney for kindly hosting the event and Oakbank for its generous sponsorship.

News from around the country



Farmers in Scotland are receiving free seed generously sponsored by Dods of Haddington and Wallace of Kelso Limited.

South-East Scotland

In south-east Scotland, farmers participating in the East Lothian Grey Partridge Project continued to receive their allocation of free

seed, generously sponsored by Dods of Haddington, for sowing strategically sited brood-rearing and winter holding cover. Likewise in the Scottish Borders, farmers participating in the Farming for Partridges and (Tree) Sparrows Project, were again offered seed for specialist partridge crops from the project's sponsors, Wallace of Kelso Limited. Hugo Straker, co-ordinator for both Projects said: "We remain extremely grateful to our sponsors for all their help. We also welcome the news from the Scottish Government that donations of seed from non-Government sources can be used by farmers sowing wild bird seed mixtures under the Land Managers Options or Rural Priorities funding streams within the Scottish Rural Development Programme."



The Durham & Northern Dales and Northumberland group meeting focused on our hill fringe grey partridge work in Teesdale.

Durham & Northern Dales and Northumberland

The Durham & Northern Dales and Northumberland group meeting focused on our ongoing hill fringe grey partridge work in Teesdale. The Trust's Phil Warren and Tom



Our partridge group meetings have been well attended this year.

Group news continued

Hornby, showed the group the nesting and brood-rearing habitats used by the radio-tagged birds and the winter feeding trial set up. This year the Durham & Northern Dales group trophy, kindly sponsored by Gray's Chartered Surveyors, was awarded to the Raby Estate and presented to Iain Alexander.

Yorkshire

The Yorkshire group held its annual meeting on 7 July at Methley Estate near Castleford, courtesy of Mexborough Estates and Methley Shooting Syndicate. This event considered the management needs of the grey partridge in the context of its life cycle, in an area where natural wild populations flourish, despite flooding and disturbance. The need for all year-round habitat provision, supplementary feeding and how to reduce predation pressure was also discussed. The Yorkshire group trophy, kindly sponsored by Savills, was awarded to Dalton Estates which has consistently shown good pair densities and brood numbers.



(L-R) James Carr, Cumbrian group chairman, Mr Sim, trophy winner and John Bowman, Natural England.

Cumbria and North Lancashire

Cumbria and North Lancashire is holding its annual meeting on 6 December at Lorne Farm near Wigton. This event will focus on farmland birds and will demonstrate the provision of winter cover and food and raised water levels for breeding waders. The 45-hectare mixed farm, owned by Selwyn Sim who is this year's trophy winner, provides year-round habitat and is surrounded by neighbouring farmers who also provide important habitat through agri-environment schemes.

In the north-west

Prolonged snow covering the landscape last winter seems to have had a similar effect on grey partridges in parts of Derbyshire as we have seen on black grouse further north. This is when we see the value of mixed farming with the odd field of roots or a well grown stand of kale in a predominantly grassland landscape.

Central England

As with other regions, the dry spring has played havoc with spring crops including game crops – one of several good reasons to drill your brood-rearing cover in the autumn. Insect numbers also seem to have been affected as there have been relatively empty sweep-net samples and only small broods seen to date. Disappointing but we will know more after harvest.

Lincolnshire

An enjoyable and well populated farm walk, led by Gerald Needham of Manor Farm, Coleby, showed numerous examples of excellent game crops. Post-harvest, the stubble counts will reveal whether some healthy spring counts have been converted into desirable double-figure coveys.

South

Given plenty of good insect-rich brood-rearing habitat, there is every reason to hope that grey partridges have weathered the great British weather, but we shall only really know when the counts come in. So please do send in the results.

This year's South-West partridge group meeting is being held at Powderham Estate near Exeter, by kind invitation of Lord Devon, on 8 September. The event, (kindly supported by Bright Seeds), will focus on creating the right conditions for a successful reintroduction programme.

The South-East group will also hold its annual meeting in early autumn, with date and venue to be announced shortly.

To register for all of the events go to www.gwct.org.uk/courses or contact Lynda Ferguson on 01425 651013.



(L-R) Ian Coghill, GWCT chairman, awarding the Cotswold grey partridge trophy to Ola Baalack, of Stancombe House, Duntisbourne Rouse. The Cotswold grey partridge trophy is kindly sponsored by Ruffer.



(L-R) Teresa Dent, our chief executive, awarding Richard Wills of the Middleton Estate, near Andover, the Wessex grey partridge trophy.



Game & Wildlife
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Partridge Count Scheme

For more information on our grey partridge research and further copies of this newsletter, please contact:

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