

**Name:****Turtle dove***Streptopelia turtur***UK status:**

[UK BAP Priority](#). Rapid recent decline. BoCC Red Listed.

**London status:**

Increasingly rare summer breeding visitor and passage migrant

**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:**

Woodland; Open landscapes with ancient trees; Farmland

**Citation:**

The turtle dove is a long-distance migrant at the extreme edge of its breeding range in Britain. Its decline was first noted in the 1970s and has continued steadily since. The species faces many dangers on passage and in its wintering range, not least from sport shooting and hunting, especially in southern Europe. As a species predominantly of farmland landscapes in the UK, it has probably also suffered alongside other Priority species from agricultural intensification. In London it is now a very rare breeding species, with only sporadic records coming from sites in various outer boroughs, especially the north-east.



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**Conservation priorities:**

- Farmland biodiversity conservation practices [addresses UK SAP target **T3**]
- Support campaigns to enforce Birds Directive to ban hunting of the species within the EU

**References:**

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