

Name:**Yellowhammer***Emberiza citrinella***UK status:**

UK SCC. Rapid recent decline. BoCC Red Listed.

London status:

Increasingly rare breeding resident.

Protected status:

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

Relevant London HAPs:

Open landscapes with ancient trees; Farmland; Hedgerows; Chalk grassland

Citation:

The yellowhammer began to decline on farmland during the 1980s and this has continued, resulting in the species' relatively recent BoCC re-evaluation. Largely a farmland species, a reduction in winter food availability as a result of agricultural intensification is widely believed to be responsible for the national decline. In London the bird has been steadily decreasing for a lot longer. Most suburban breeding sites had been lost by 1990. Now even the former Green Belt strongholds are under pressure, and London's remaining yellowhammers are largely confined to a handful of sites (mostly protected) in the boroughs of Kingston, Croydon, Bromley, Barking & Dagenham (The Chase) and Havering.



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Conservation priorities:

- Supplementary winter feeding at known sites
- Farmland biodiversity conservation practices
- Annual London-wide breeding surveys

References:

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

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