

KNOWLEDGE

What are open country birds?

To go with this diverse mix of fields, hedges, bushes, scattered trees and so on, are a range of birds to suit the land.

These include birds we usually associate with traditional farmland, such as larks and Meadow Pipit, Linnet and buntings, as well as Stock Doves, corvids, gamebirds and certain birds of prey. But they also include birds which associate with livestock, such as Yellow Wagtails, as well as those few specialised species which love the heathery, gorse-rich acid heathland, such as the Tree Pipit and the scarce Dartford Warbler.

Open country birds are united in their choice of broad feeding habitat. Damp fields can offer rich pickings for birds such as corvids, thrushes, Lapwings or Golden Plovers, on the hunt for worms and other soil-living invertebrates. But they can also be good places for shuffling buntings and finches to find discarded seed.

And as habitats rich in small mammal life, grasslands are the favoured hunting grounds of birds which hunt from the air, such as Kestrels, Buzzards and Barn Owls.

Lapwing



Chris Lloyd (Alamy)

Dartford Warbler

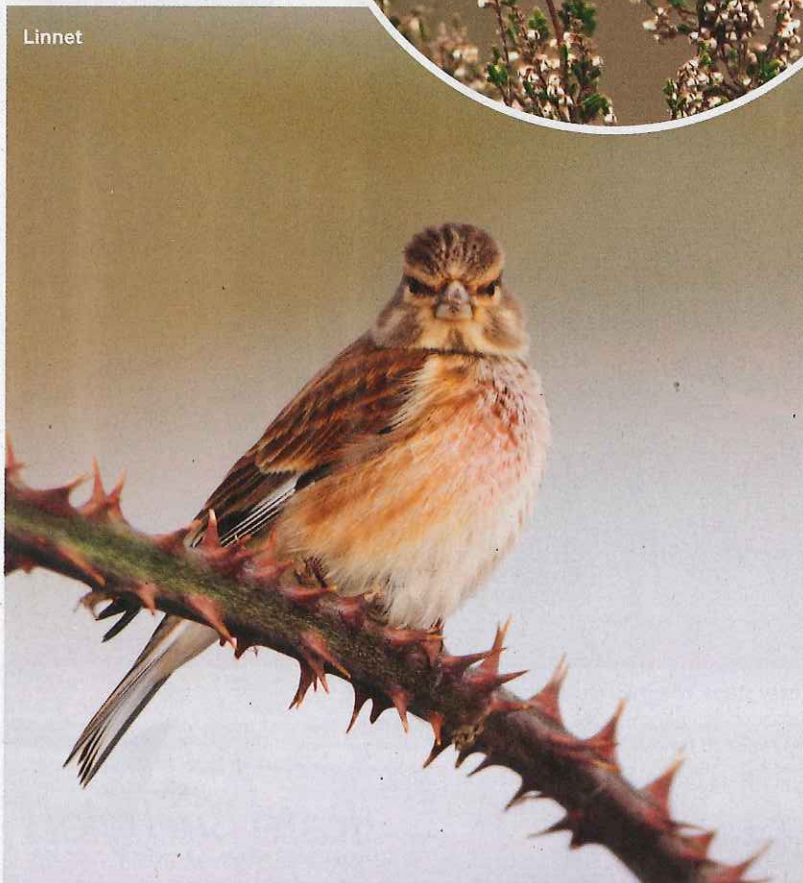


Buzzard



Mike Lane (Alamy)

Linnet



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