

PLAN-GNÌOMHA  
GNÈ NA  
GEALAG-  
BHUACHAIR

CORN BUNTING  
SPECIES ACTION  
PLAN



WESTERN ISLES LOCAL  
BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

PLANA-GNÌOMHA  
BITH-IOMADACHD  
IONADAIL NAN EILEAN SIAR

## 1. SPECIES PROFILE

### Common Name:

Corn Bunting.

### Scientific Name:

*Miliaria calandra*.

### Description:

Similar in size and colour to a Skylark, but with a heavy beak. Song is a distinctive jingling rattle, often delivered from a fence or overhead wire.

### UK Biodiversity Status:

UK Priority Species

### Statutory Protection:

Within the Western Isles populations are restricted to the west coast of the Uists and Barra. The corn bunting is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and the EC Birds Directive.

### Associated Habitats and Species:

In general, the corn bunting is found on arable land. Little is known about the ecology of the species outside the breeding season, but its breeding behaviour has been well studied. Corn buntings begin nesting later than most other species, with the first eggs at the end of May. Two or even three broods may

## 2. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

	Objective	Target
1	Map the current range of the corn bunting in the Western Isles.	Produce a map by 2006.
2	Maintain the current range of the corn bunting in the Western Isles.	Ensure no net loss of range.
3	Expand the range of corn buntings.	Expansion of its range within area from Berneray to Barra by 2010. To date population is sparse and patchy – attempt to link populations.
4	Promote the relationship between traditional crofting practice and the conservation of corn bunting.	Create an exhibition by 2006.

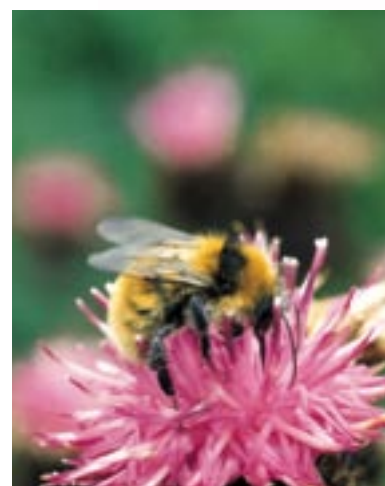
be reared in a good season. The nest is usually placed outside the growing crops on uncultivated areas of the machair, which are dominated by hogweed or marram grass. For much of the season the males occupy conspicuous song perches.

Outside the breeding season, flocks of corn buntings roost in marshland or in patches of vegetation have decreased markedly and if birds are constrained by the distance they can fly from a roost to feed, a reduction in roost sites will limit the availability of winter food sources.

The corn bunting is closely associated with other priority habitats, machair, cereal field margins and neutral grassland. It shares many of the conditions enjoyed by other priority species, species of conservation concern and those classified as of local

interest such as Great Yellow Bumblebee *Bombus distinguendus*, Corncrake *Crex crex* and Skylark *Alauda arvensis*.

*In general, the corn bunting is found on arable land.*



## 1. CUNNTAS GNÈ

### Ainm Cumanta:

Gealag-bhuachair.

### Ainm Saidheansail:

*Miliaria calandra*

### Cunntas:

Coltach ann am meud agus dath ri Uiseag, ach le gob trom. Tha an t-òran aice furasta aithneachadh, seòrsa de ghliogadaich, gu tric bho shuas air feansa no uèir.

### Inbhe Bith-iomadachd na RA:

Prìomh Ghnè na RA

### Dìon Reachdail:

Anns na h-Eileanan Siar tha àireamhan air an cuingealachadh gu taobh siar nan Uibhistean is Bharraigh. Tha a' ghealag-bhuachair air a dìon fo Achd Fiadh-bheatha is Dùthcha 1981, Pàipear-taice 1 de Òrdugh Fiadh-bheatha (Èirinn a Tuath) 1985 agus Riaghailt Eun an EC.

### Àrainnean agus Gnèithean Co-cheangailte ris:

San fharsaingeachd, tha a' ghealag-bhuachair air a faighinn air talamh-àitich. Chan eil mòran lorg air eag-eòlas na gnè taobh a-muigh na seusan briodaidh, ach chaidh iomadh sgrùdadh a dhèanamh air a modh briodaidh. Tha a' ghealag-bhuachair nas fhaide gun tòiseachadh a' neadachadh

na a' chuid as motha de ghnèithean eile, leis a' chiad uighean aig deireadh a' Chèitein. Faodaidh dhà no eadhan trì àil a bhith aca ann an seusan math. Mar as trice tha an nead air taobh a-muigh bàrr a tha a' fàs air pàirtean den mhachair nach eil air an àiteach, agus air a bheil mòran odharain is murain. Airson mòran den t-seusan bidh na h-eòin fhìreann air spirisean seinn glè fhaicsinneach.

Taobh a-muigh na seusan briodaidh, chithear sgoathan den ghealag-bhuachair ann am boglach no muran. Tha na mìrean den fhàs-bheatha sin air lùghdachadh gu mòr agus gun chothrom aig na h-eòin sgèith ro fhada air falbh bho spiris airson biathadh, bidh lùghdachadh anns na làraichean sin a' ciallachadh nach bi uimhir de dh'àiteachan aca airson biadh geamhraidh.

Tha dlùth cheangal aig a' ghealag-bhuachair ri prìomh àrainnean eile, machair, oirean achaidhean arbhair agus talamh-fèidh neo-phàirteach. Tha i a' mealtainn mòran shuidhichidhean co-ionann ri prìomh ghnèithean eile, gnèithean le cudrom glèidhteachais agus an fheadhainn den t-seòrsa le ùidh ionadail mar an Seillean Mòr *Bombus distinguendus*, an Traon *Crex crex* agus an Uiseag *Alauda arvensis*.

*San fharsaingeachd, tha a' ghealag-bhuachair air a faighinn air talamh-àitich.*

## 2. AMASAN AGUS CUIMSEAN

	Amas	Cuimse
1	Mapa a dhèanamh de raon làthaireach a' ghealag-bhuachair anns na h-Eileanan Siar.	Mapa a dhèanamh ro 2006.
2	Cumail suas raon làthaireach a' ghealag-bhuachair anns na h-Eileanan Siar.	Dèanamh cinnteach nach bi call lom ann a thaobh raon.
3	Raon na gealag-bhuachair air feadh nan Eilean Siar a leudachadh.	An raon aige taobh a-staigh sgìre bho Bheàrnaigh gu Barraigh a leudachadh ro 2010. Gu ruig seo cha robh ann ach àireamhan beaga an - siud 's an seo - feuchainn ri ceangal àireamhan.
4	Adhartachadh na dàimh eadar obair croitearachd thraidiseanta agus gleidheadh na gealag-bhuachair.	Taisbeanadh a chruthachadh ro 2006.



Photos (left to right):

Corn bunting; Great yellow bumblebee shares many of the conditions required by the corn bunting; Machair – one of the habitats associated with the corn bunting.

Dealbhan (a' gu deas):

Gealag-bhuachair; Tha an t-seillean mòr feumach air mòran shuidhichidhean co-ionann ris a' ghealag-bhuachair; Machair – aon dhan na h-àrainn a tha co-cheangailte ris an gealag-bhuachair.



### 3. CURRENT STATUS

Corn buntings became extinct on Lewis and Harris in the 1980's. Chances of recolonisation of these islands are seen as unlikely due to lack of suitable habitat and changes in agricultural practice.

The corn bunting is a sedentary bird with a restricted established population on the Uists, associated with crofted land. These birds tolerate cooler summers and much higher rainfall than other British populations.

An estimated 120 - 140 territorial males were recorded during survey work in 2004. Birds are spread erratically from Berneray to Vatersay, with the core population on South Uist.

*The corn bunting...has a restricted established population on the Uists, associated with crofted land.*

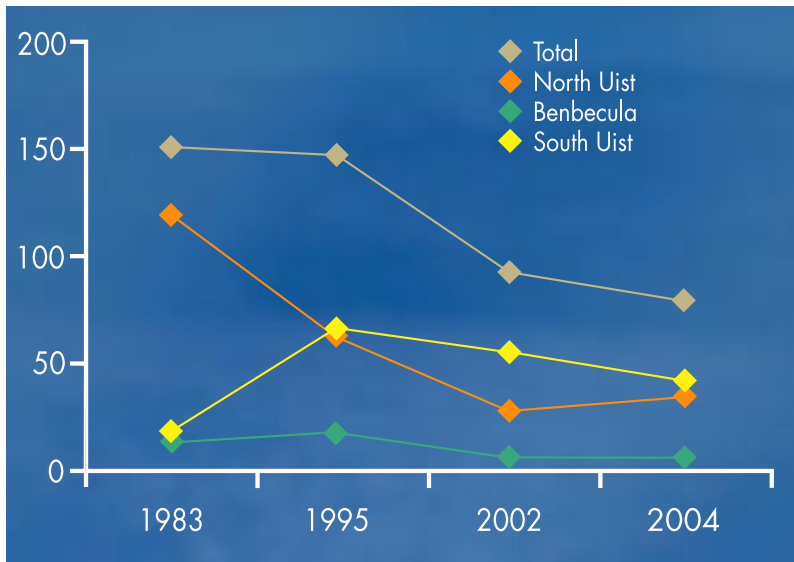


Figure 1 shows the trend in territory numbers on each island. The counts refer to study areas on the machair and are not complete island counts. However, the counts do represent a large proportion of the total population. The Uists' corn bunting decline correlates with the preponderance of arable silage. In recent years, crofters have moved increasingly away from traditional reaper-binder harvesting of ripe corn to arable silage stored in plastic bales. The availability of a seed source is therefore greatly reduced when arable silage is made – see Section 4 for more detail.

(Source: RSPB)

Tha Dealbh 1 a' sealltainn a' ghluasad ann an àireamhan àrainn air gach eilean. Chan eil na h-àireamhan a' gabhail a-steach ach ceàrnaidhean sgrùdaidh air a' mhachair agus chan e àireamhan iomlan nan eilean. Ach, tha na h-àireamhan a' riochdachadh tomhas mòr de na h-eòin a tha ann gu h-iomlan. Tha ceangal eadar crìonadh na gealag-bhuachair sna h-Uibhistean agus na tha ann de fheur-fioraidh. Anns na bliadhnan mu dheireadh, tha croitearan mean air mhean air falbh bho bhùain coirce abaich le inneal-buana-ceangail traidiseanta gu feur-fioraidh air a stòradh ann am bèilichean plastaig. Mar sin chan eil faisg uimhir de chothrom air sìol bho fheur-fioraidh – faic Earrann 4 airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh.

(Bho: RSPB)



### 3. INBHE LÀTHAIREACH

Chaidh a' ghealag-bhuachair à bith an Leòdhas is na Hearadh anns na 1980an. Chan eil mòran dòchais gun fill i dha na h-eileanan sin ri linn cion àrainn agus atharrachaidhean ann an dòighean àiteachais.

Cha bhi a' ghealag-bhuachair a' dèanamh mòran gluasaid, agus tha àireamhan beaga dhiubh stèidhichte anns na h-Uibhistean, co-cheangailte ri talamh croitearachd. Fuilingidh na h-eòin sin samhraidhean nas fhuaire agus barrachd uisge na feadhainn eile ann am Breatainn.

Bha mu 120-140 eòin fhireann air an clàradh sna h-eileanan ann an sgrùdadh a rinneadh an 2004. Tha eòin sgapte an siud 's an seo bho Bheàrnaraigh gu Bhatarsaigh, leis na h-àireamhan as motha an Uibhist a Tuath.

*Tha àireamhan  
beaga dhan  
ghealag-  
bhuachair  
stèidhichte anns  
na h-Uibhistean,  
co-cheangailte  
ri talamh  
croitearachd.*



Photos (left to right):

Corn bunting; Skylark, an associated species;  
The corn bunting is commonly found on arable  
land.

Dealbhan (a' gu deas):

Gealag-bhuachair; Uiseag, gnè a tha  
co-cheangailte; Tha a' ghealag-bhuachair  
bitheanta air a faighinn air talamh-àitich.

#### 4. ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

On Tiree the population became extinct very rapidly following large changes in agricultural practice, notably the switch away from oat and barley production. There is a possibility that this could be mirrored on the Western Isles.

Birds are associated with cultivated machair, where cereals grown for winter cattle fodder provide grain. Traditional reaper-binder harvesting of ripe corn fed to cattle on-the-sheath is, however, being replaced by green-harvested arable silage, stored in black bales. This may reduce the availability of winter grain to corn buntings both on stubbles and at livestock feeding stands.

Analysis shows that corn bunting presence has been maintained at sites where traditional harvesting practices are dominant, but lost from areas where cereals are now mostly harvested as arable silage. However, there is always some corn left to ripen and harvest as seed for the following years arable silage crop. The quantities and location of these seed areas need to be established. Fieldwork is assessing grain availability and corn bunting occurrence at livestock feeding stands, to test whether corn fed on-the-sheath to cattle is richer in grain and able to support more feeding corn buntings than arable silage.

Corn buntings require plenty of seeds to eat throughout the year; insects in summer for chicks to eat; undisturbed uncultivated machair or dunes to nest in until late summer (one of the latest nesting birds); open landscape (avoids wooded farmland).

Loss of winter seed sources, impacts of pesticides on abundance of chick food invertebrates and earlier harvesting operations may all have contributed to declines in population.

*Birds are associated with cultivated machair, where cereals grown for winter cattle fodder provide grain*



## 4. EAG-EÒLAS AGUS RIANACHD

Ann an Tiriodh bhàsaich na h-eòin a-mach gu fìor luath an dèidh atharrachaidhean mòra ann an obair àiteachais, gu sònraichte an gluasad air falbh bho bhith a' cur coirce is eòrna. Dh'fhaodadh an dearbh rud tachairt anns na h-Eileanan Siar.

Tha eòin co-cheangailte ri machair àitichte, far am faigh iad gràn bho arbhar a chaidh a chur airson fodair gearmhraidh do chroth. Ach tha feur-tioraidh air a bhvain ann an dòigh uaine agus air a stòradh ann am bèilichean dubha a' dol an àite coirce abaich air a bhvain le inneal-buana-ceangail traidiseanta a bhiodh air a thoirt do chroth anns-an-sguab. 'S dòcha cuideachd nach bi uimhir de chothrom aig a' ghealag-bhuachair air gràn gearmhraidh ann an asbhvain agus ionadan biathadh stuic.

Tha mion-sgrùdadh a' sealltainn gu bheil a' ghealag-bhuachair fhathast air làraichean far a bheil barrachd de na dòighean buain traidiseanta, ach tha i air falbh à ceàrnaidhean far a bheil arbhar air a bhvain mar fheur-tioraidh. Ach, tha beagan coirce air fhàgail an-còmhnaidh airson abachadh gus am faighear sìol airson feur-tioraidh na h-ath bhliadhna. Feumar faighinn a-mach càit a bheil an sìol sin agus co mheud achadh mar sin a tha ann. Tha obair-làraich a' dèanamh

measadh air na tha ann de ghràn agus den ghealag-bhuachair aig ionadan biathadh stuic, gus dearbhadh a bheil barrachd gràn agus comas air barrachd ghealagan-bhuachair a bheathachadh aig coirce air a thoirt air an sguab do chroth.

Feumaidh a' ghealag-bhuachair pailteas sìl ri ithe tron bhliadhna; meanbh-fhrìdean as t-samhradh dha na h-iseanan; pòran no feur neo-ghluaste anns an nedaich iad gu deireadh an t-samhraidh (aon de na h-eòin as fhaide gun neadachadh); talamh fosgailte (bidh i a' seachnadh tuathanas le craobhan).

'S dòcha gu bheil call àiteachan le sìol gearmhraidh, buaidh puinnsean-bhiastagan air na tha ann de neo-dhruim-altachain airson biadh do na h-iseanan agus obair foghair nas tràithe air cur ris a' chrìonadh ann an àireamhan.

*Tha eòin co-cheangailte ri machair àitichte, far am faigh iad gràn bho arbhar a chaidh a chur airson fodair gearmhraidh do chroth.*



Opposite (top): Corn bunting.

Opposite (bottom): Birds are associated with cultivated machair where cereal crops are grown.

Left: Cereals grown for winter cattle fodder provide grain for cornbuntings.

Mu choinneimh (gu h-àrd): Gealag-bhuachair.

Mu choinneimh (gu h-ìosal): Tha eòin co-cheangailte ri machair air àiteach far a bheil arbhar air a chur.

Clì: Tha arbhar a chaidh a chur airson fodair gearmhraidh do chroth, a dèanamh gràn don ghealag-bhuachair.



## 5. BIODIVERSITY CONTEXT

The corn bunting is a characteristic resident species of lowland arable farmland and is one of the few British species largely dependent on cropped land. It was once widespread, but is now largely restricted to coastal areas. Its distribution is curious with the bulk of the population found across southern and eastern England but with small outlying groups as far away as Cornwall, the Western Isles and north-east Scotland (Buchan).

Its numbers and distribution have been declining in some areas since the last century and steadily, in most places, since the early 1970s, a trend which appears to be continuing. The results of the Common Bird Census suggest that there was a 76% decline in the breeding population between 1968 and 1991. In addition, a decline of 32% in its British range between the two breeding atlas periods (1968-72 and 1988-91) has led

to further fragmentation of the remaining high-density areas and the loss of the species from many areas such as Devon, Shetland, and parts of the West Midlands and south-east England. The Farmland Bunting Survey, organised by the BTO in 1993, recorded only around 20,000 territories remaining in Britain, with no confirmed breeding in Wales. None were found breeding in Northern Ireland during the 1988-91 atlas survey. In recent years the species has become extinct on islands such as Tiree due to changes in agricultural practice. The species is declining over much of north-west Europe but remains common and widespread in southern Europe.

The UK Action Plan for Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* can be viewed at:

[www.ukbap.org.uk/ukplans](http://www.ukbap.org.uk/ukplans)

(UK Biodiversity Group Tranche 2 Plans, Volume I Page 85)

*Its numbers  
and distribution  
have been  
declining in some  
areas since the  
last century...*





## 5. SUIDHEACHADH BITH-IOMADACHD

Tha a' ghealag-bhuachair den ghnè a bhios a' còmhnaidh air talamh-aitich iosal agus 's i aon den bheagan ghnèithean Breatannach a tha an urra gu mòr ri talamh le bàrr. Bha i air a faicinn an iomadh àite uaireigin, ach a-nis tha i cha mhòr air a cuingalachadh ris an oirthir. Tha sgaoileadh annasach aice leis a' chuid as motha de na h-àireamhan air am faighinn air feadh ceann a deas agus ceann an iar Shasainn ach le buidhnean beaga iomallach cho fada air falbh ris a' Chòm, na h-Eileanan Siar agus iar-thuath na h-Alba (Bochan).

Tha na h-àireamhan agus an sgaoileadh aice air a bhith a' dol sìos ann an cuid de cheàrnaidhean bhon linn a dh'fhalbh agus mean air mhean, sa chuid as motha de cheàrnaidhean, bho thoiseach nan 1970an, le coltas gu bheil sin a' leantainn fhathast. Tha coltas bho thoraidhean Cunntas nan Eun Cumanta gu robh crìonadh 76% anns na h-àireamhan briodaidh eadar 1968 agus 1991. A thuilleadh air sin, tha crìonadh de 32% san raon aice am Breatainn eadar an dà ùine briodaidh atlas (1968-72 agus 1988-91) air leantainn gu tuilleadh sgapaidh air na tha air fhàgail de

cheàrnaidhean le mòran eòin agus call na gnè bho iomadh ceàrnaidh mar Devon, Sealtainn, agus pàirtean de na Midlands an Iar agus ear-dheas Shasainn. Cha do chlàraich an Suirbhidh Gealag-bhuachair Fearann Taca, a rinn am BTO ann an 1993, ach mu 20,000 àrainnean air fhàgail am Breatainn, gun bhriodadh idir air a dhearbhadh sa Chuimrigh. Cha deach gin a lorg a' briodadh an Èirinn a Tuath rè sgrùdadh atlas 1988-91. Anns na bliadhnan mu dheireadh tha a' ghnè air a dhòla bhith ann an eileanan mar Tìriodh ri linn atharrachadh ann an dòighean àiteachais. Tha a' ghnè a' crìonadh thar mòran de iar-thuath na h-Eòrpa ach tha i fhathast cumanta agus pailt ann an ceann a deas na h-Eòrpa.

Chithear Plana-gnìomha na RA airson na Gealag-bhuachair *Miliaria calandra* aig:

[www.ukbap.org.uk/ukplans](http://www.ukbap.org.uk/ukplans)

(Planaichean Cuibhreann 2 Buidheann Bith-iomadachd na RA, Leabhar 1, Taobh-duilleig 85)

*Tha na  
h-àireamhan  
agus an  
sgaoileadh aice  
air a bhith a'  
dol sìos ann  
an cuid de  
cheàrnaidhean  
bhon linn a  
dh'fhalbh...*



Photos (left to right):

Corn bunting; Traditional reaper-binder harvesting of cereals provides grain for corn buntings.

Dealbhan (a' gu deas):

Gealag-bhuachair; Tha arbhar air a bhain le inneal-buana-ceangail traidiseanta a dèanamh gràn don ghealag-bhuachair.



## 6. CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES

- ✚ Loss of traditionally cultivated machair.
- ✚ Lack of winter foraging areas and change in agricultural practices.
- ✚ Lack of nesting habitat.
- ✚ Increased use of herbicides and pesticides.
- ✚ Climate change.

## 7. OPPORTUNITIES AND CURRENT ACTION

- ✚ Supplementary winter-feeding is currently being carried out for the species in the Western Isles.
- ✚ Some prescriptions under ESAs could directly enhance corn bunting populations.
- ✚ Opportunity to target more precisely under new agri-environment schemes such as the Rural Stewardship Scheme (RSS). Suitable RSS options include Extensive mown grassland, Open grazed grassland, Species-rich grassland, Grass margins, Conservation headlands, Extensive cropping, and Unharvested crops.
- ✚ Opportunity to support traditional and organic crofting.
- ✚ Potential of growing Biofuel grass crops may provide additional habitat and food supplies for birds linked to arable agriculture.

- ✚ Funded schemes for corncrake management indirectly enhance the environment for corn buntings. Opportunity to direct this to the advantage of corn buntings without in any way altering its effectiveness for corncrake. RSPB is working on a plan to do this on their reserves.
- ✚ Opportunity to encourage and enhance the local production of seed corn and minimise the need to import seed while at the same time benefiting the species.

*Supplementary winter-feeding is currently being carried out for the species in the Western Isles.*



## 6. NITHEAN A THA A' TOIRT BU Aidh AIR A' GHNÈ

- ✚ Call machrach air àiteach san dòigh thraidiseanta.
- ✚ Cion àiteachan solair geamhraidh agus atharrachadh ann an dòighean àiteachais.
- ✚ Cion àrainnean neadachaidh.
- ✚ Barrachd puinnsean-lusan is puinnsean-bhiastan gan cleachdadh.
- ✚ Atharrachadh cliomaid.

*Tha biathadh-geamhraidh leasachail ga dhèanamh an-dràsta airson na gnè anns na h-Eileanan Siar.*

## 7. COTHROMAN AGUS OBAIR LÀTHAIREACH

- ✚ Tha biathadh-geamhraidh leasachail ga dhèanamh an-dràsta airson na gnè anns na h-Eileanan Siar.
- ✚ Dh'fhaodadh cuid de òrdaighean fo ESAan agus RSS leasachadh neo-dhireach a dhèanamh air àireamhan na gealag-bhuachair.
- ✚ Cothrom air cuimseachadh nas cinntiche fo sgeamaichean ùra àiteachais-àrainneachd mar an Sgeama Stiùbhartachd Dùthchail (RSS). Tha roghainnean RSS freagarrach a' gabhail a-steach Talamh-feòir air a spealadh, Talamh-feòir le ionaltradh fosgailte, Talamh-feòir le iomadh seòrsa lus, Oirean feòir, Oitirean glèidhteachais, Mòran cur bàrr, agus Bàrr nach deach a bhuain.
- ✚ Cothrom air taic a thoirt do chroitreachd traidiseanta agus fàs-bheairteach.

- ✚ 'S dòcha gun toir comas a bhith a' cur bàrr feòir Bioconaidh àrainn agus biadh eile do eòin co-cheangailte ri àiteachas.
- ✚ Tha sgeamaichean maoinichte airson rianachd an traoin a' dèanamh leasachadh neo-dhireach air an àrainneachd don ghealag-bhuachair. Tha cothrom ann seo a stiùireadh gu buannachd nan gealag-bhuachair gun atharrachadh sam bith a dhèanamh air a' bhuanachd don traon. Tha RSPB ag obair air plana gus seo a dhèanamh air na tèarmannan aca.
- ✚ Cothrom air misneachadh is leasachadh air cur sil gu h-ionadail agus nas lugha feuma air sìol a cheannach a-steach cuideachd a' toirt buannachd don ghnè.



Opposite: Supporting traditional crofting practices can benefit corn buntings.

Left (top): Funded schemes for conrcape management indirectly enhance the environment for corn buntings.

Left (bottom): Corn bunting

Mu choineamh: Tha taic do dhòighean gnàthail croitearachd na bhuanachd don ghealag-bhuachair.

Cli (gu h-àrd): Tha sgeamaichean maoinichte airson rianachd an traoin a' dèanamh leasachadh neo-dhireach air an àrainneachd don ghealag-bhuachair.

Cli (gu h-ìosal): Gealag-bhuachair



## 8. ACTIONS

	Action	Lead	Priority	Timescale	Partners	Objective
1	<b>Policy and Legislation</b>					
1.1	Promote the use of the Rural Stewardship scheme (RSS) and other incentives to land managers. Promotion and improvement of Government mechanisms for agricultural support, which benefit the corn bunting. Develop guidance on the use of the schemes for habitat management.	SAC	High	Medium	SEERAD, SCF CnES, SNH RSPB	2, 3
1.2	Seek a more cautious and targeted use of pesticides and artificial fertilisers on farmland. Including support for seaweed application as this will minimise the need for pesticides.	SEERAD	Medium	Medium	SAC, SCF	2, 3
2	<b>Site Safeguard and Management</b>					
2.1	Encourage land managers adjacent to existing sites to "stook" crops.	RSPB	Medium	Long-term	SNH, SAC, SEERAD, SCF	2, 3
2.2	Further research may be needed to develop agri-environment prescriptions to encourage crofting agriculture on the Uists and Benbecula to maintain a winter grain supply for this population.	SNH	Medium	Long-term	SEERAD, CnES, RSPB	2, 3, 4
2.3	Encourage and enhance local seed production (for sowing) and thus ensure that seed mixtures used on the machair are of local provenance.	SEERAD	Medium	Medium	SAC, SCF, CnES, RSPB, Land Managers	2, 3
2.4	Encourage traditional harvesting through support mechanisms.	SEERAD	Medium	Medium	SCF, SAC, CnES,	2, 3
3	<b>Advisory</b>					
3.1	Produce an awareness leaflet and promotional material for all interests including information on how to distinguish it from other farmland birds .	SNH	High	Medium	BRISC, SCF, CnES, RSPB, SWT, Curracag	2, 3, 4
3.2	Advice to landowners on appropriate management for corn buntings and other farmland birds.	RSPB	High	Medium	SAC, SNH, SCF	2, 3, 4
3.3	Publicise availability of free conservation advice from SAC.	SAC	High	Long	SNH, SCF, SEERAD, RSPB	2, 3
4	<b>Monitoring and Research</b>					
4.1	Map the current range of the corn bunting in the Western Isles.	RSPB	High	Short	SNH	1
4.2	Agree and establish a programme of annual survey and monitoring, building on the monitoring already underway by the RSPB. Ensure that data collected is disseminated widely.	RSPB	High	Long	SNH	1
4.3	Further research may be needed to develop agri-environment prescriptions to encourage crofting agriculture on the Uists and Benbecula to maintain a winter grain supply for this population.	RSPB	Medium	Short	SNH	2, 3
4.4	Investigate the potential for comcrake/great yellow bumblebee management to benefit corn bunting and add additional appropriate measures to the plan (e.g. planting knapweed).	RSPB	Medium	Short	SNH	2, 3

### ABBREVIATIONS:

BRISC	Biological Recording in Scotland,
CC	Crofters Commission
CnES	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Curracag	Western Isles Natural History Society
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Scottish Agricultural College
SCF	Scottish Crofting Foundation
SEERAD	Scottish Executive Environment & Rural Affairs Department
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust



## 8. GNÌOMHAN

	Gnìomh	Stiùireadh	Prìomhachas	Ùine	Com-pàirtichean	Amasan
1	<b>Polleasaidh agus Reachdas</b>					
1.1	Adhartachadh cleachdadh na Sgeama Stiùbhartachd Dùthchail (RSS) agus iomairtean eile do mhanaidsearan fearainn. Adhartachadh agus leasachadh air modhan Riaghaltais airson taic àiteachais, a bheir buannachd don ghealag-bhuachair. A' cur air dòigh stiùireadh air cleachdadh sgeamaichean airson rianachd àrainn.	SAC	Àrd	Meadhanach	SEERAD, SCF CnES, SNH, RSPB	2, 3
1.2	Sireadh cleachdadh puinnseanan-bhiastagan agus todhar gallda nas fhaiceallaiche agus nas cinntiche air tuathanachas. A' gabhail a-steach taic airson cleachdadh feamainn oir gearraidh seo sìos an fheum air puinnseanan-bhiastagan.	SEERAD		Meadhanach	SAC, SCF	2, 3
2	<b>Dion agus Rianachd Làraich</b>					
2.1	Misneachadh manaidsearan fearainn ri taobh làraich a tha ann am bàrr a chur ann an adagan.	RSPB	Meadhanach		SNH, SAC, SEERAD, SCF	2, 3
2.2	S dòcha gum bi feum air tuilleadh rannsachaidh airson òrdaighean àiteachais-àrainneachd gus àiteachas croitearachd a mhisneachadh anns na h-Uibhistean is Beinn na Faoghla gus am bi gràn gearraidh don ghnè seo air a chumail suas.	SNH	Meadhanach	Fad-ùine	SEERAD, CnES, RSPB	2, 3, 4
2.3	Misneachadh agus leasachadh siol ionadail (airson a chur) agus mar sin dèanamh cinnteach gur e tùs ionadail a tha aig a' mheasgachadh sil a thathar a' cleachdadh air a' mhachair.	SEERAD	Meadhanach	Meadhanach	SAC, SCF, CnES, RSPB, Manaidsearan fearainn	2, 3
2.4	Misneachadh buain thraidiseanta tro mhodhan taic	SEERAD	Meadhanach	Meadhanach	SCF, SAC, CnES	2, 3
3	<b>Comhairleachadh agus Leudachadh Mathachaidh</b>					
3.1	Bileag mothachaidh agus stuth follaiseachd ullachadh airson a h-uile neach le com-pàirt sa chùis a' gabhail a-steach fiosrachadh mun dòigh air aithneachadh bho eòin tuathanachais eile.	SNH	Àrd	Meadhanach	BRISC, SCF, CnES RSPB, SWT, Currag	2, 3, 4
3.2	Comhairle do uachdarain-fearainn air rianachd freagarrach don ghealag-bhuachair agus eòin tuathanachais eile.	RSPB	Àrd	Meadhanach	SAC, SNH, SCF	2, 3, 4
3.3	Cothrom air comhairle glèidhteachais an-asgaidh bhon SAC fhoillseachadh.	SAC	Àrd	Fada	SNH, SCF, SEERAD, RSPB	2, 3
4	<b>Sgrùdadh agus rannsachadh</b>					
4.1	Mapa a dhèanamh de raon na gealag-bhuachair anns na h-Eileanan Siar.	RSPB	Àrd	Goirid	SNH	1
4.2	Aonachadh agus stèidheachadh prògram de rannsachadh agus sgrùdadh bliadhna, a' togail air an sgrùdadh a tha a' dol air adhart leis an RSPB. Dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil dàta a thèid a chruinneachadh air a sgaileadh fad is farsaing.	RSPB	Àrd	Fada	SNH	1
4.3	S dòcha gum feumar tuilleadh rannsachaidh airson òrdaighean àiteachais-àrainneachd a chur air dòigh gus àiteachas croitearachd a mhisneachadh anns na h-Uibhistean agus Beinn na Faoghla gus gràn gearraidh a chumail a' dol don ghnè seo.	RSPB	Meadhanach	Goirid	SNH	2, 3
4.4	Rannsachadh a' chomais air rianachd an traoin/an t-seillein mhòir airson buannachd don ghealag-bhuachair agus a' cur ceuman freagarrach eile ris a' phlana (m.e. a' cur cnapan-dubh).	RSPB	Meadhanach	Goirid	SNH	2, 3

### GIORRACHADH:

BRISC	Clàradh Bith-eòlasach an Alba
CC	Ùghdarras nan Croitearan
CnES	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Currag	Comann Eòlas Nàdair nan Eilean Siar
RSPB	Comann Rìoghail Dion nan Eun
SAC	Colaiste Àiteachais na h-Alba
SCF	Urras Croitearachd na h-Alba
SEERAD	Roinn na h-Àrainneachd & Chùisean Dùthchail Riaghaltais na h-Alba
SNH	Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
SWT	Urras Fhiadh-bheatha na h-Alba



## 9. REFERENCES

Donald PF, Hines P, Jackson P, Dustow J, Hepburn I, Albon GF and Jervis S

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Donald P F, Wilson JD, Shephard M (1994) *The decline of the Corn Bunting*. *British Birds* 87: 106-132.



## 9. FIOSRACHADH

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(1996) *Numbers, distribution and habitat associations of Corn Buntings on the Outer Hebrides and Tiree in 1995*. *Scottish Birds* 18: 170-181.

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Opposite: Loss of traditionally cultivated machair can affect the species.

Left (top): Corn bunting

Left (bottom): In the Uists, the species is associated with croftland.

Mu choinneimh: Faodaidh call machrach air àiteach san dòigh thraidiseanta buaidh a' thoirt air a ghnè.

Clì [gu h-àrd] Gealag-bhuachair.

Clì [gu h-ìosal]: Anns na h-Uibhistean tha a ghnè co-cheangailte ri talamh croitearachd.



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Dealbhan le cead bho Bill Neill, Angus & Michelle MacDonald, SNH & RSPB.

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