

## Reading Progress Test 1

YEAR 6

Birds in Danger



## Birds in Danger



Hello, I'm Tom. Here are a few words you've probably never used: wryneck, dotterel and capercaillie. Perhaps you've never seen those words before. I'm not really surprised. Read the information below, based on my research into birds and their habitats, to find out why.

### Bird Conservation: The Traffic Light System

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) uses a traffic light system – red, amber and green – to classify birds according to how well they are doing in the UK. This is how the three lists work:

**Red:** these birds, like the dotterel and capercaillie, are threatened globally; they have declined over the past 200 years; or there are much fewer of these birds nesting and producing young in the UK. An example is the wryneck, which used to nest in our gardens but not now. This data guides the RSPB, which is a charity, in deciding how to spend its money and which birds need its help to survive.

wryneck



bittern

**Amber:** these birds are doing better. Their numbers might have gone down over the past 200 years, but are beginning to increase; they might still be found in fewer places than in the past; or there are only 1-300 breeding pairs. Just over 20 years ago, there were fewer than 12 male bitterns. With the right kind of protection, the bittern population has increased, and the species has been moved from the red to the amber list.

**Green:** these birds are not endangered and are a common sight or else are thriving in their natural habitat. A major success story is the red kite, which was once a threatened species, found only in one or two Welsh valleys. It is now on the green list and can be seen in a number of places.



red kite

Research is done by scientists for the RSPB, but some data is collected by volunteers. It all helps the RSPB to focus on which habitats and nesting sites to protect.