

Peoples' Walk for Wildlife...



A powerful new [video](#) set in one of Britain's cherished woodlands highlights the stark reasoning behind the Peoples Walk For Wildlife – a major public rally planned to take place at Hyde Park in London on Sept 22.

The campaign video shows a woodland full of bird song – and then we realise the sound is coming out of a stereo, while the reality is Britain has lost more than 44 million birds, and British conservation is in crisis.

There are many more stark figures like this that present a wake up call and have driven TV presenter and campaigner Chris Packham to organise this public rally in September. I will be there, as will very many of Britain's leading conservation groups, alongside independent campaigners, writers, ecologists, scientists, film makers, naturalists and nature lovers.

Below I have summarised some of the shocking evidence on Britain's wildlife losses, to highlight what all the fuss is about. I've collated them from some of the latest published data on Britain's wildlife declines, all referenced at the end. For updates on this story, follow the hashtags [#PeoplesWalkForWildlife](#) and [#WeWantWildlife](#).

THE PEOPLESWALK OF WILDLIFE

SAVE THE DATE

More information will follow soon.
Check chrispackham.co.uk



SEPTEMBER 22nd LONDON

Flyer design and more details on: www.chrispackham.co.uk

THE LATEST FACTS

- * We're officially one of the world's most nature-depleted countries. Data show that very few are worse (we are 189th out of 218).
- * 1/5 of British wild mammals are now at risk of extinction.
- * 67 bird species are now on the UK 'red list' = severe decline/contraction over 25 years.
- * Estimated 75% decline in flying insects since 30 years ago in northern Europe.
- * Of 8,000 species assessed using Red List criteria, 15% are extinct or threatened with extinction in GB.
- * Population trends for 213 priority British species of special conservation concern have fallen by 67% since 1970.
- * 97% of wild flower meadows have been lost since the 1940s.
- * That's 4 million hectares of flower rich grassland lost since WW2. Only 100,00 hectares are left!
- * 20 British plant species are now extinct; 67 more are critically endangered, including 12% of the flowers we once saw regularly on road verges. Many more have shown severe declines.
- * British butterflies just suffered their 7th worse year on record.
- * 69% decline in urban butterfly abundance; 45% loss in rural areas.
- * 40% decline in moth numbers in southern England; 28% decline overall in Britain, since 1968; 66% of the larger species (of which 75 of them by >70%).
- * Most bumblebee species in decline (6 have crashed by >80% in 50 years).
- * More than 250 pollinator species are in danger of extinction.
- * Overall, 56% of British species have declined since 1970.

SO WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

- * Despite knowing all this, scientists say the UK loss of nature continues.
- * The UK is set to fail to meet its 2020 Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Targets.
- * Policy-driven agricultural change was by far the most significant driver of declines listed in the UK State of Nature Report 2016; other sources cite pesticides and habitat loss among key drivers.

A quote from the State of Nature Report:

"We have a moral obligation to save nature... We must save nature for our own sake, as it provides us with essential and irreplaceable benefits that support our welfare and livelihoods."

We need biodiversity to sustain a healthy ecosystem and to sustain us. If we don't act now, they - and us - are well and truly stuffed.

SOURCES:

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/.../about.../moths-in-decline>

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Also: @DrTrevorDines, @MattEAShardlow, Mammal Society, Plantlife.

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