

The scale of these losses is such that most of us feel powerless to do anything about them. They are remote problems that do not specifically infringe upon us. They appear not to be 'our' responsibility.

In Britain, however, we have our own statistics. We have lost:

99% of our pinewood forests	98% of our water voles
97% of our flower-rich meadows	95% of our tree sparrows
94% of our lowland bogs	86% of our grey partridges
75% of our wild ponds	52% of our skylarks

And in Tayside:

- 1,000km of hedges (a 25% reduction since 1940) have disappeared;
- 35% of our heather moorland has been lost;
- 86% of our stone dykes are derelict.

and, as with the rest of Britain, we are experiencing serious losses of our wild plants, birds, mammals and invertebrates.

The closer to home we draw the more responsible we are for safeguarding what we have left. It becomes 'personal' to us – something every individual can contribute towards, however small – and however inconsequential our actions may at first appear.



BEARDED TIT



GREATER YELLOW RATTLE



LIZARD

## TAYSIDE IS UNIQUE

There is much to be proud of within the 7,500 square kilometres that make up Tayside. It provides winter quarters for more than half the entire world population of Pink-footed geese; it houses a third of the UK's breeding population of Ospreys; Britain's most continuous stand of reedbeds plays host to the only breeding site in Scotland of the rare Bearded tit. The same habitat holds the largest population of Water rail in Britain and is the national stronghold for breeding Marsh harriers.

We play host to the only UK populations of such wonderfully-named plants as:

- Greater yellow rattle – found on one sand dune site in Angus, it grows nowhere else in Scotland.
- Alpine fleabane and Alpine gentian in the internationally significant arctic-alpine habitats of Perthshire and Angus.
- Blue dew moss and Vauchers feather-moss.
- Hair silk moss and Large yellow feather-moss.

### Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



BIODIVERSITY  
THE VARIETY OF LIFE