



**Did you know** that the number of women running farms has steadily increased to just over 25,000? (see page 47)

## Research



The GWCT will be the lead partner in this exciting new project, aiming to improve biodiversity in northern Europe. © Markus Jenny

## GWCT-led partridge project launched

The GWCT has secured funding for a North European project which will look at how new management solutions can improve biodiversity and ecosystem services by up to 30%.

The four-year project, called PARTRIDGE (Protecting the Area's Resources Through Researched Innovative Demonstration of Good Examples), aims to make the North Sea Region more innovative, resilient and sustainable by developing and demonstrating new and

improved methods for the long-term management of farmland ecosystems.

PARTRIDGE, led by the GWCT, is a close partnership between Birdlife Netherlands, the Georg August University in Germany, the Flemish Land Agency (VLM) and the Research Institute for Nature and Forest in Belgium (INBO), the Flemish Hunters Association and regional farm and conservation advisory organisations, local farmers and hunters. The project will showcase best practice models at ten 500 ha farmland

demonstration sites in four countries – UK, Netherlands, Germany and Belgium.

Dr Francis Buner, a GWCT senior conservation scientist and head of the project comments: "The main emphasis is to demonstrate how the loss of farmland biodiversity can be reversed successfully across our partner countries. The focus will be on grey partridge-tailored habitat improvements, the loss of which are a key factor in the decline of farmland wildlife and ecosystem services across Europe."

## New Director of Fundraising

We are pleased to welcome Jeremy Payne, the new director of fundraising. Dividing his time between London and Fordingbridge, Jeremy was appointed in October to take over from Edward Hay in leading on fundraising for the GWCT.

Jeremy has worked extensively as a fundraiser in the charity sector both in the UK and abroad for over 20 years. He has worked for several charities including the Samaritans, Shooting Star Chase, and City University London. He also acted as a fundraising consultant for clients such as Friends of the Earth, Dogs Trust

and Motor Neurone Disease Association.

On a voluntary basis, he does work for the International Coalition for Children's Palliative Care, and is Vice Chair of Tools for Self-Reliance, an international development charity.

Born in Hereford but growing up in the Isle of Man, Jeremy is based in Hampshire



where he lives with his family. He holds a degree in Medieval History from St Andrews University.

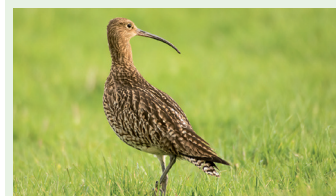
Of his appointment Jeremy comments: "This is an exciting challenge, and I look forward to building on the successes that Edward has achieved, working with Trustees and the regional team of fundraisers. I strongly believe in the GWCT model of finding the best balance between man and the environment and recognising the interdependencies."

Teresa Dent added: "I am delighted to welcome Jeremy, and he has already visited our projects in Scotland, the Allerton Project, East Stoke and the uplands, which has enabled him to build up a good understanding of the activities for which he will be fundraising in the future."

## Research Successes



AT the Allerton Project, a reared pheasant shoot with additional breeding season predator control has been associated with a 93% increase in songbird numbers.



© Tom Streeter

BASELINE surveys at Auchnerran have highlighted a high abundance of pheasant, lapwing, oystercatcher, curlew and woodcock.



## Setbacks



THE average pair density across all Partridge Count Scheme sites decreased by 6.5% compared with 2015.



PARR densities recorded during 2016 tagging were very low, a phenomenon reported across the UK.