

## Shapwick Moor wildlife



Birds of prey are excellent indicators of a healthy environment. As well as barn owl, kestrel and buzzard, and hobby in the summer, we hope a wide range of other wildlife will use the reserve including snipe, lapwing and other wetland birds, otter, brown hare and water vole and a wide variety of dragonflies and other insects.

In the boundary hedge sparrowhawks hunt small birds including bullfinch, and old trees provide food for tits and roosting for barn owls. Kingfishers flash along the open ditches, known as rhyes locally, where herons fish. Their scrubby sides hold reed buntings and wintering stonechats, while the reeds hide a variety of warblers.

Skylarks sing over the newly seeded grassland and lapwings display in wetter areas. Last winter large finch flocks fed here on weed seeds.

The wide skies are full of birds. Skeins of geese, ducks and huge flocks of starlings in winter and in summer swallows, swifts and martins preyed on by hobbies on passage in spring and autumn.