

Corn Bunting

Species Description

Scientific name: *Emberiza calandra*

The Corn Bunting is a sparrow-sized, streaky brown bird of hedgerows and farmland that feeds on seeds and invertebrates. In the winter, it will join mixed flocks of buntings, finches and sparrows to feed on seeds on farmland. Male Corn Buntings are often seen perched on top of bushes singing loudly - a song that sounds just like a jangling set of keys. Male Corn Buntings may mate with up to 18 different females in a season. The female builds her grass nest in rough grassy margins or arable crops and incubates the eggs by herself. The male may help to feed the chicks once they have hatched.

This species is classified in the UK as Red under the Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the Red List for Birds (2015). Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.



Key ID features

Often perched on fence posts or wires.

Similar to skylark, but thicker bill and no crest on head

Pale breast with darker streaks

