

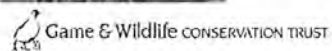
# Game management in woodlands

Peter Thompson

Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust  
biodiversity advisor



Shooting – £1.6 billion to UK economy  
& 70,000 full time jobs



## GWCT release pen guidelines




- 700 birds per hectare of pen
- Limit releases to 250 - 300 birds per hectare of woodland

## Woodland with beautiful Bluebells – BUT!!




## A Chainsaw is needed!!



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## Areas of coppice within woodland



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## Highest density of Pheasants found in coppiced woodland



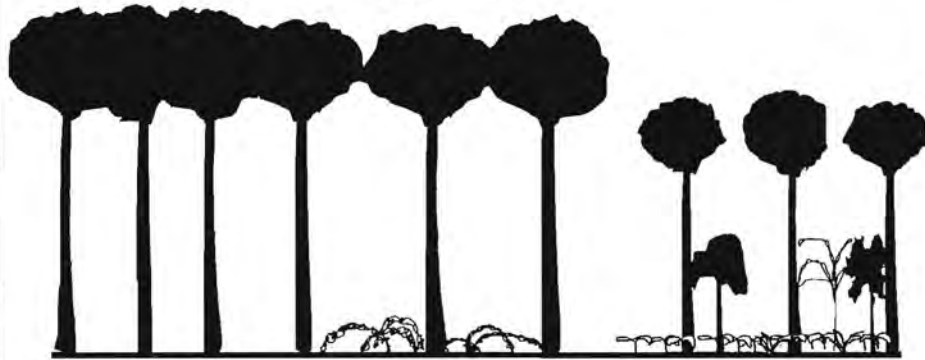
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## Woodcock research



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## Summary of habitat use



Mature woodland,  
no ground cover


Little use by  
woodcock

Mature woodland,  
sparse brambles,  
bracken

Nesting


Younger trees,  
shrubs, continuous  
field layer vegetation

Feeding and broods

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## Ring barking



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
## Standing dead wood



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## Wonderful array of woodland spring flowers



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## Small pearl-bordered Fritillary



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
Rides make up for 13% of woodland area in game woods, but just 8% in non game woods



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## Planting woodland



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Pheasant shooting is one of the main reasons that landowners plant small woods




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Butterfly numbers were 2.2 times higher and the number of species 1.5 times higher in game woods than non-game woods in East Anglia



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## Deer



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## Open rides used for deer control

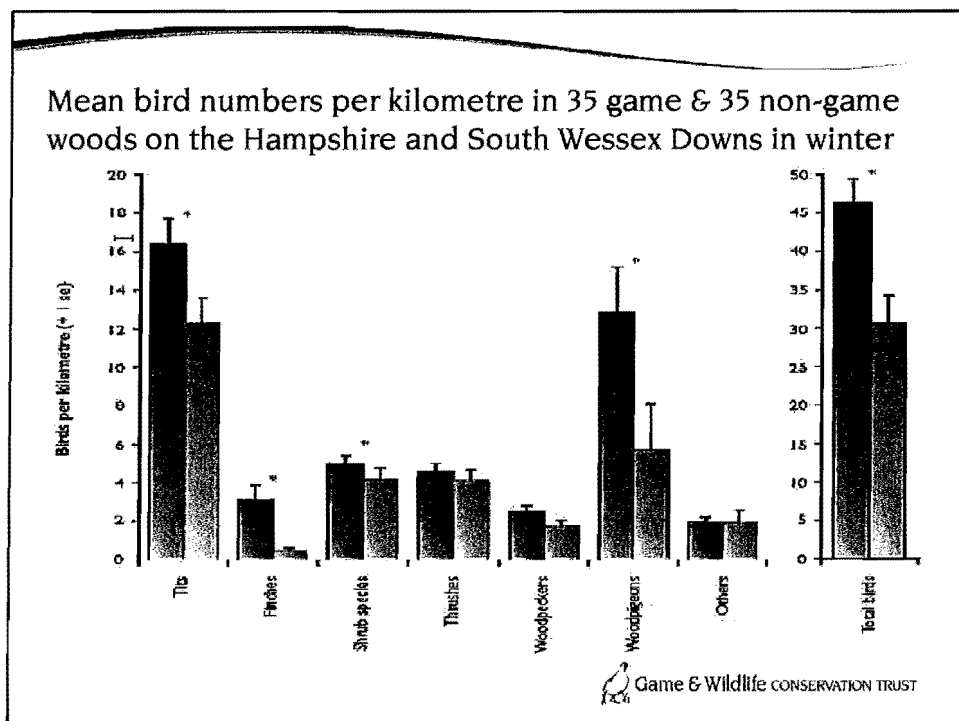
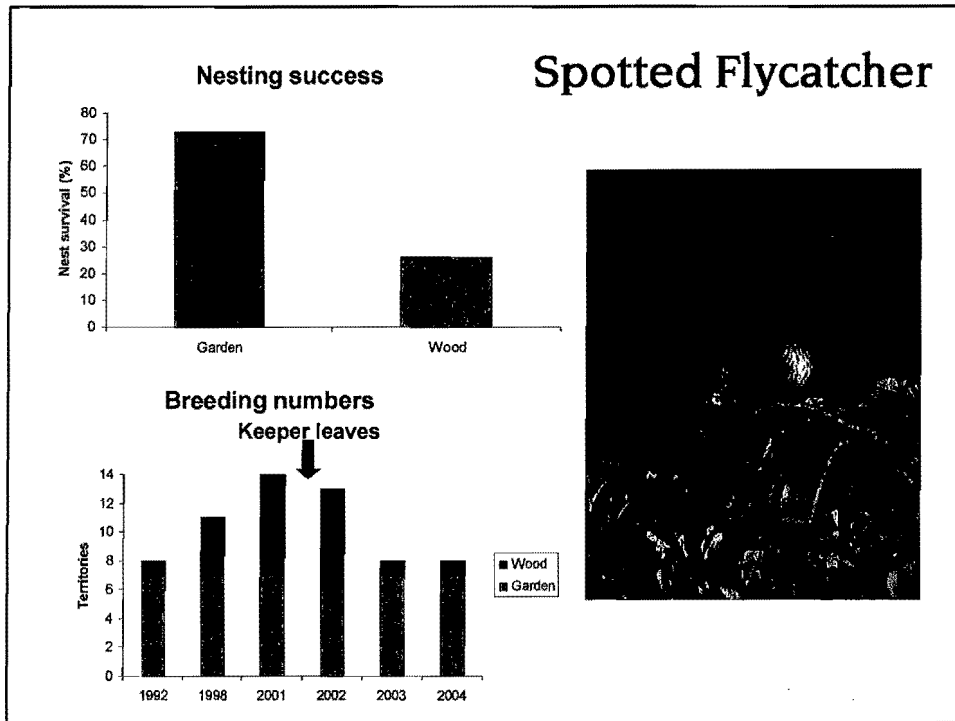


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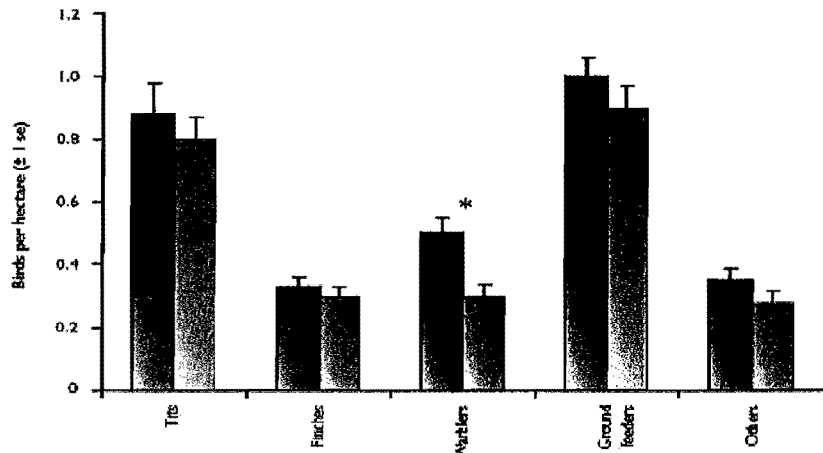
## The role of the Gamekeeper



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Average songbirds per hectare in 80 game managed woods and 79 non-game woods



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Managing habitats for Game can also bring many benefits for other wildlife



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