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ANDREW D. EVANS joined the RSPB as a field biologist in 1988, studying the reasons behind the near extinction of the curlew in the UK. This put him at the forefront of the unfolding story of bird population declines as a result of agricultural intensification. He is currently Head of Species Recovery at the RSPB.

PHILIP V. GRICE has worked professionally as an ornithologist in the government's nature conservation bodies since 1991, and is now a senior specialist in ornithology at Natural England. He has worked on a broad range of bird conservation issues but has become increasingly concerned with addressing the declines in farmland birds since the mid-1990s.



Populations of many species of farmland birds in Britain collapsed during the 20th century, creating one of the biggest conservation problems of the day and sparking a wave of research to find out why this happened, and devise practical solutions. This book summarises this story, exploring relationships between bird populations and agricultural land management. The first part of the book sets the historical context of change in agriculture and bird communities since the 18th century, and introduces the bird communities of agricultural land today. The second part provides an overview of this very active area of applied conservation science, including in-depth case studies of 16 species that have been the subject of detailed research effort and that, taken together, illustrate the many ways that agricultural intensification has affected bird populations. The last part shows how this evidence base, coupled with recent greening of agriculture policy, has provided opportunities to manage agricultural land to better integrate the needs of food production and bird conservation. The book concludes with a look forward to challenges that the conservation of bird populations on agricultural land is likely to face in the near future.

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