



## Skylark Facts!

Skylarks are small, brown birds with a crest on their heads that is shown when they are excited or alarmed.

They nest on the ground on farmland, feeding their chicks on insects in the summer and eating seeds and grain in the winter months.

The males mark their nesting territories with spectacular song flights, reaching up to 1000 feet!

Modern farming methods are threatening their ability to breed successfully, as crop sowing schedules and cutting grasses for silage make much farmland inhospitable to them. Sadly, skylark numbers have seen rapid declines since the 1970s.

Areas like the commons, that are farmed traditionally with cattle grazing non-intensively, offer a vital refuge for these iconic birds.



Image: Tom Henderson



## How you can help care for the Commons

The commons are a wonderful place to visit, and we can all play a part in helping to protect them for now and for future generations by:

- During the ground nesting season (1st March to 31st July) keeping dogs on a lead
- Always clearing up after your dog. Dogs should always be on a lead when they are around cattle or livestock
- Watching your speed when driving over the commons and parking only in designated areas
- Trying to stick to main footpaths
- Sharing your love of the commons, and how they can be protected, with your family, friends and neighbours



Image: Tom Henderson  
Image (front): SVP Picture Archive

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## Landscapes of the Lark of



## Minchinhampton Common



Become a Stroud Skylark Spotter!

