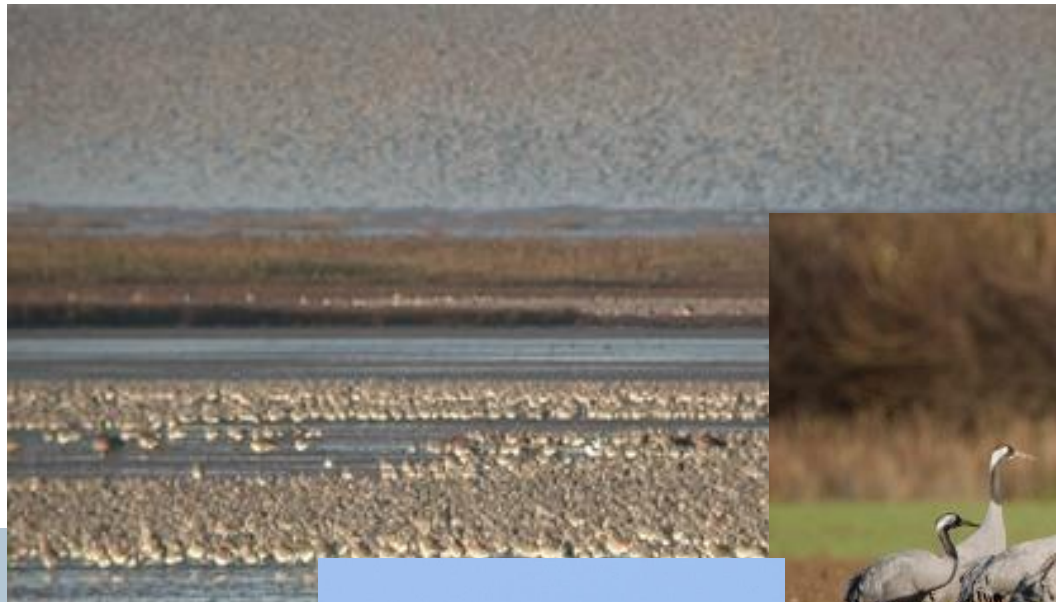


# Changing Aviculture at the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust



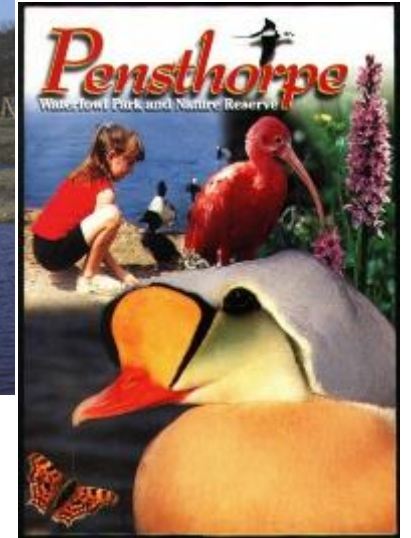
Kat MacPherson





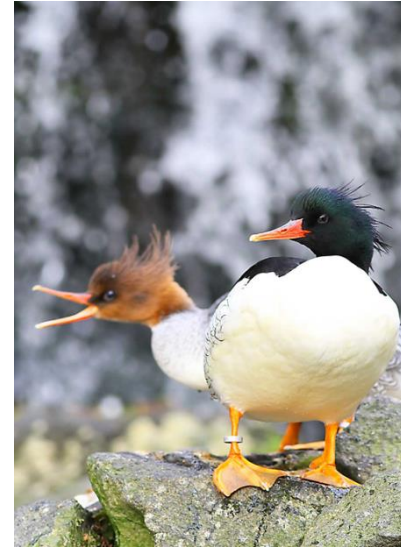
# Pensthorpe

- Lakes created from gravel extraction pits
- Reserve built by Bill Makins
  - Once largest bird collection in UK
  - Large off show breeding centre
- Bought by Bill and Deb Jordan in 2002
  - PCT formed in 2003 to carry on work of the Pensthorpe Waterfowl Trust



# Captive collection

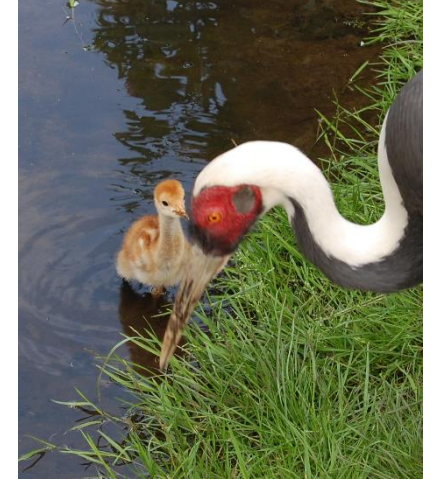
- Wildfowl and wetland bird collection
  - Mill Pond
    - Wildfowl
  - Waterfall Aviary
    - Scaly-sided Merganser, Bear's Pochard
  - Wader Aviary
    - Waders, Turtle Doves
  - Conservation Centre
    - Wetland bird collection
      - Cranes, storks, flamingos in mixed species enclosures





# Captive Rearing at PCT

- Hand rearing
  - Arnie tanks
  - Outside runs for geese
  - Wader rearing
  - Corncrakes and cranes
- Parent rearing
  - Cranes, storks, ibis, turtle doves, avocets, geese
- Foster rearing
  - Cranes, turtle doves



# Changes to the collection

## Why the change?

- Changes in public opinion
- Change in ownership
  - Jordan's more interested in native conservation
  - Attracting families through play and education
- Impact on the current collection
  - More focus on native species
  - Focus species to educate about wetlands and farmland
    - Cranes, storks, turtle doves, corncrakes
  - Showcasing our conservation programmes
    - Actively Saving Species



### Pensthorpe, actively saving species

Turtle Dove	Red Squirrel	Corncrake	Eurasian Crane
			
<b>Factfile</b> Scientific name   Streptopelia turtur Length   24-25 cm Weight   140-175 g Diet   Insects Did you know?   The name Turtle comes from the latin name for a tortoise which refers to its plump cap.	<b>Factfile</b> Scientific name   Sciurus vulgaris Length   19-24 cm Weight   120-150 g Diet   Bark, acorns, seeds, green leaves, berries and fungi Did you know?   Red squirrels young are called kittens.	<b>Factfile</b> Scientific name   Crex crex Length   22-26 cm Weight   140-200 g Diet   Invertebrates and plants Did you know?   The scientific name Crex crex refers to the sound that the male use when calling.	<b>Factfile</b> Scientific name   Grus grus Length   150 - 225 cm Weight   4.5 - 6 kg Diet   Seeds and invertebrates Did you know?   Eurasian cranes fly at altitudes up to 52,800 feet (16,000 metres).
<b>Conservation</b> The name Turtle Dove is a project formed in partnership with the RSPB, Natural England, Conservation Grade and the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust. Once common across England and Wales, the turtle dove is now on the brink of extinction in the UK. The causes of the population decline are not fully understood, however changes in farming practices have resulted in a scarcity of favoured feeding and nesting habitats in our countryside. Pensthorpe Conservation Trust is working alongside scientists from the RSPB and Conservation Grade's sustainable farming experts to research the bird, alter and enhance habitats. Find out what you can do to help the Turtle Dove and keep up with the latest news at <a href="http://www.pensthorpeconservationtrust.org.uk">www.pensthorpeconservationtrust.org.uk</a>	<b>Conservation</b> The red squirrel is part of a national Red squirrel Action Plan and there are breeding programmes underway to increase the numbers of native red squirrels. The reason for the decline in red squirrel populations are complex but the main threat is grey squirrels which outcompete for food and in an unrelenting corner of the European Virus which is fatal to red squirrels. Young red squirrels reared at Pensthorpe have been released on Anglesey in North Wales as part of a reintroduction project. Meeting Kingbirds other members of the East Anglian Red Squirrel Group, we continue to support future squirrel breeding and release projects. Find out what you can do to help red squirrels and keep up with the latest news at <a href="http://www.pensthorpeconservationtrust.org.uk">www.pensthorpeconservationtrust.org.uk</a>	<b>Conservation</b> The Pensthorpe Conservation Trust is working with the Zoological Society of London, RSPB and Natural England in order to re-introduce the Corncrake as a breeding species in England after an absence of 50 years. Modern farming practices and the resulting loss of habitat caused the initial decline in the bird's population. Due to early or premature mowing affecting first and second clutches, Corncrakes find it hard to raise many chicks as the survival rate from independence to return home is very low. The captive breeding of birds from Pensthorpe and Whitnash and release at the King Hedges in Lincolnshire is ongoing and coupled with research will try to safeguard the future of this special bird. Find out what you can do to help the Corncrake and keep up with the latest news at <a href="http://www.pensthorpeconservationtrust.org.uk">www.pensthorpeconservationtrust.org.uk</a>	<b>Conservation</b> The Great Crane Project is a partnership between the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust, RSPB, and Whitnash and Bedouin Trust. Eurasian cranes were last seen as a breeding species around 400 years ago as a result of the draining of their natural nesting sites and extensive hunting. Loss and fragmentation of habitat will continue to be a contributing factor in the long term survival of this species. The project aims to re-establish this iconic wetland species in the UK, initially by creating a viable population of 100 cranes on the Somerset Levels and Moors by 2025. Find out what you can do to help the Eurasian Cranes and keep up with the latest news at <a href="http://www.pensthorpeconservationtrust.org.uk">www.pensthorpeconservationtrust.org.uk</a>

Every paying visitor helps the valuable work of the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust - actively saving species [www.pensthorpetrust.org.uk](http://www.pensthorpetrust.org.uk)



# Conservation breeding at the PCT

- 4 main species based programmes
  - Red Squirrel
  - The Great Crane Project
  - Corncrake Reintroduction Programme
  - Operation Turtle Dove



# Corncrakes

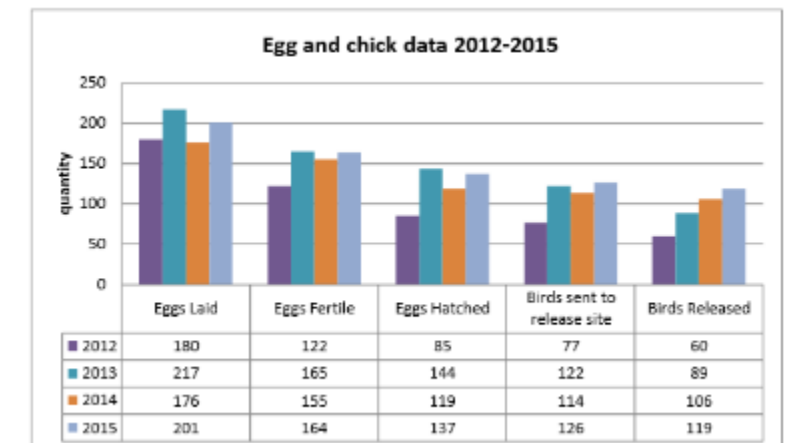
## Breeding Group

- Breeding pairs kept in biosecure off-show aviaries
- No public access
- Genetic management of group



## Rearing

- Puppet rearing
- Researched diet for rearing and live food





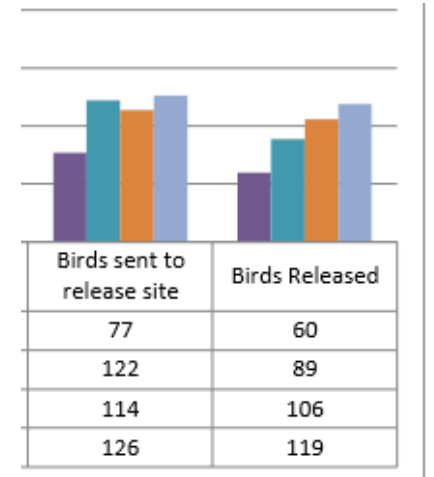
# Release Programme

- Nene Washes

- Started in 2002. Partnership between Pensthorpe, ZSL, RSPB

- North Elmham

- First Release 2015
  - Private land



# Operation Turtle Dove

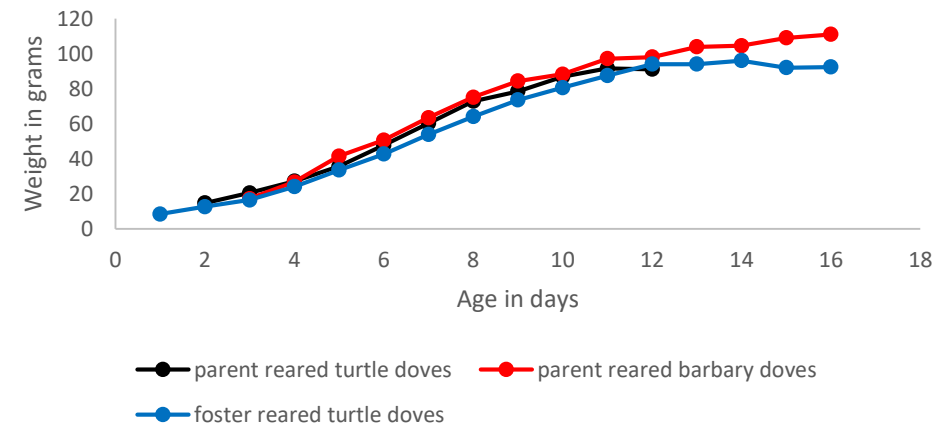


- Turtle dove is only migratory dove species in UK
  - Huge declines in recent years
  - Red list UK breeding bird
  - Up-listed to vulnerable on IUCN



- Trial programme during 2015
  - Continuing in 2016
  - Cross species foster rearing using barbary doves

Comparison of growth of turtle doves and barbary doves





# Operation Turtle Dove



- Satellite tracker trial
  - Trial using captive doves in dedicated off-show aviary.



- Titan migration
  - Successful press coverage



- Francoise
  - 1<sup>st</sup> turtle dove tagged in African wintering grounds



# Changes in Aviculture at the PCT

- Once one of the largest captive collections in UK
- Change to more native species and focus on conservation programmes
  - Move away from exotic wildfowl breeding
- Main differences between captive breeding for release and for public collection
- Future conservation

