

THE
FARMHOUSE
YORKSHIRE

A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE

TO WILDLIFE

AT

THE FARMHOUSE



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This album of photographs illustrates the wild birds and animals that you may be lucky enough to see at Orchard Farm. Our conservation work over the last 25 years has resulted in a very varied habitat that suits numerous species.

Orchard Farm is a small and very private estate with a varied landscape that includes extensive mature hedges, wild woodland, river banks, ponds and new plantations. The land stretches from the boundary of Goathland village to Beckhole and includes about 30 acres of grassland and ancient woodland that is registered as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The farm is run as a traditional stock farm and for many years was the home of the Murkesk herd of pedigree Aberdeen Angus cattle. The herd has been sold and our efforts in the future will be concentrated on conserving, maintaining and improving what we believe to be a unique landscape.

Our guests at The Farmhouse are very welcome to explore the estate which covers almost 100 acres of some of the most beautiful landscape in the National Park. We have created a network of hidden paths through the fields and woods with strategically placed benches and hides where you can linger and enjoy the peace and quiet.

Please respect the landscape, the peace and privacy that the estate affords and ensure that all gates are kept closed at all times.

The following are some of the birds and animals that you may see during your stay at The Farmhouse. Game birds, Waders, Finches, Woodpeckers, Tits, Corvids, Owls, Hawks and numerous farmland, woodland and garden favourites. Look out for our more secretive animals if you are up early or about at dusk. Please let us know if you spot anything we have not mentioned and we will add it to the list.



Cock Pheasant

One of the first to welcome you to Orchard Farm. We have a healthy population of wild pheasants



English Grey Partridges

Occasional visitors to the farm but often seen on the moor edge



French Partridges

A pair visit the garden every Spring



Red Grouse

Native to the moorland surrounding the village and occasional visitors to the farm in bad weather



Woodcock

Migratory birds arriving in the autumn to join some permanent residents on the farm



Snipe

They like the boggy edges of our ponds and wet hollows



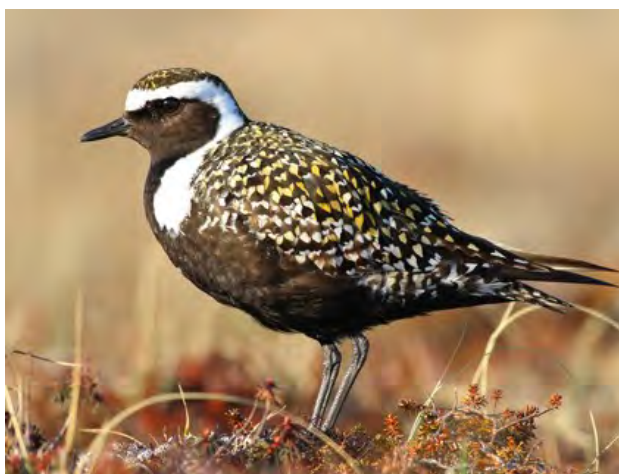
Curlew

Listen for their lovely haunting call in the Spring



Green Plover or Lapwing

Nesting by the roadside just outside the village



Golden Plover

Often seen on the moor and occasionally on the farm



Bullfinch

They love the orchards around the farm and particularly the new buds !



Greenfinch

Often in the gardens and always to be seen around the farm, often in groups



Chaffinch

Regular visitors to the bird table throughout the year



Goldfinch

A beautiful finch that feeds on the farm, particularly the thistles



Yellowhammer

To be seen occasionally on a walk around the farm



Starling

A less common sight now, but resident in the area throughout the year



Redstart

Loves old woodland on the riverside. Keep your eyes open near West Beck



Siskin

Only rarely seen in the area. Let us know if you spot one



Green Woodpecker

Recognized by its bright green and red plumage and its loud laughter like call



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Quite rare in Yorkshire so you will be lucky if you spot one



Greater Spotted Woodpecker

A relatively common visitor to the bird table that nests adjoining the farmhouse every year



Nuthatch

"Nutty" Nuthatch. A regular and quite aggressive visitor to the bird table



Tree Creeper

Not easy to spot amongst summer foliage. Creeps up and around tree trunk and branches. Referred to by the family as "Pop Pop's" !!



Heron

To be seen following the course of the river or standing
At the edge of the farm ponds looking for frogs and fish



Dipper

Always to be seen on stones in the areas rivers



Kingfisher

A flash of blue as it follows the course of West Beck is
a rare and special sight



House Sparrow

Likes to be near us and our buildings



Tree Sparrow

A small "gang" take regular dust baths in the rose garden



Hedge Sparrow

Also known as the Dunnock. A regular victim of the Cuckoo



Blackbird

We are lucky enough to have a big population in the garden



Robin

Everyone's favourite.



Song Thrush

Although not as common as it was, always around the garden. Loves worms and snails. Referred to as "the wise thrush" by Robert Browning as it repeats its song.



Mistle Thrush

The largest of the thrushes. Leaves the garden for the moorland after nesting



Wren

"Jenny Wren". Keep an eye out for their lovely mossy nests around the buildings and gardens



Garden Warbler

Most likely seen in the oak woodland. " A little brown bird " !!



Willow Warbler

The Willow warbler and the Chiffchaff look almost identical. Early migrants, arriving in March and staying until October. The Willow Warbler nests on the ground and the Chiffchaff in a low bush.



Chiffchaff



Blue Tit

Gregarious little birds always on the bird table



Great Tit

Largest of the tit family and a common sight on the bird table



Coal Tit

Shy little birds but regular visitors to the garden



Long Tailed Tit

Always around the farm and in the garden during the winter months. Unmistakable domed and feather lined nests. On cold nights they nest in groups, crowding together for warmth



Pied Wagtail
Often to be seen around the farm buildings



Grey Wagtail
Despite its name, bright yellow underneath. Moves south during the autumn



Jay

A woodland bird with exotic plumage, a low flopping flight and screeching call



Magpie

A very intelligent member of the crow family. Treated as vermin on Orchard farm due to their predilection for robbing birds nests of both eggs and fledglings.



Jackdaw

Nesting in trees and chimneys around the village and often in large chattering groups.



Rook

Favours open farmland and can be seen feeding on grubs in meadows around the village.
Twig nests high up in mature trees in communal rookeries



Carrion Crow

Another cunning predator that gets the same treatment as magpies at orchard farm.



Woodpigeon

Always around the farm and in the garden. Comical waddling walk but a pest in the veg plot !



Collared Dove

They nest in the farm buildings and almost always lose their youngster's who fall out of the nest at some stage !



Fieldfare

A member of the thrush family. They arrive in autumn flocks and strip the berries from the hedgerow holly trees.



Redwing

The smallest of the thrush family and like the fieldfare a winter visitor from northern Europe. Often to be seen feeding alongside fieldfares in the fields around Goathland



Skylark

Rarely seen on the farm but regularly on the moors surrounding the village. Their singing prowess at its height between February and early July.



Brambling

Flocks arrive from north of the Baltic from late September and return in the Spring. Not a common sight on the farm.



Blackcap

The male has a glossy black cap and the female red-brown. Arriving in April and leaving in October. They favour the surrounding woods and moorland but are occasionally seen in the garden.



Cuckoo

Arriving from Africa during early April they are sometimes mistaken for a male sparrowhawk. We look forward to hearing them every Spring when they arrive at the Incline wood that borders the farm and links Goathland with Beckhole



Swift

We are so lucky that they nest above the conservatory. They never land apart to nest and are a thrill with their screaming high speed flight around the garden



Swallow

There seem to be fewer each year nesting in the sheds



House Martin

None nesting at Orchard farm but a regular in the skies



Barn Owl
An occasional visitor to the farm



Tawny Owl
Regularly nesting in the woods adjoining the gardens



Little Owl

Our smallest owl. Can be seen during the day on the Farm but hunts mainly at dawn and dusk



Short Eared Owl

An owl of the moorland edges hunting in broad daylight And at dusk.



Kestrel

At home on the farm and the surrounding moors. Typically hovering before dropping to catch mice and voles in the grassland.



Sparrowhawk

Increasing numbers of this deadly hunter breed on the farm. The male is far smaller than the female. Small birds are its main Prey



Hobby

Once restricted to the south, now occasionally
Seen on the North York moors



Goshawk

Not often seen. Hunts the woods and moors.



Buzzard

The most common large bird of prey. To be seen soaring above the farm and woods



Red Kite

Rare and restricted to Wales 40 years ago, the Kite is now regularly seen in Yorkshire following releases from the Harewood estate near Leeds. Distinctive forked tail.



Mallard

A duck (female) mallard with ducklings



Teal

Smaller than a mallard and favours flooded scrub woodland



Red Fox

The wily Fox. Hunting the farm in the early morning and evening



Roe Deer

We have a good stock of roe deer. Buck's, Doe's and you may spot a fawn if you are lucky



Badger

A common sight throughout the country. Out and about at dusk and dawn.



Brown Hare

Our hares have prospered in recent years.. We now have between 6-10 pairs breeding on the farm



Rabbit

Our heavy land does not suit rabbits but there is still a healthy population



Grey Squirrel

Amusing but they need to be controlled to protect the birds



Hedgehog

For twenty years we had no hedgehogs. Like the Hare's, Hedgehogs have recovered over the last few years and we are seeing them around the garden



Polecat

Only seen once on the farm and killed by our old greyhound who had no teeth!



Weasel

Only about 175-200 mm long. A fierce hunter capable of killing a rabbit



Stoat

The same family as the weasel but larger at 190-320mm and even more deadly



Mole
Present in almost every field but rarely seen



Brown Rat
Not everyone favourite



Fieldmouse

Unfortunately for it, everybody else's favourite meal



Field Vole

The Owls favourite meal. Fortunately very prolific breeders



Common Shrew

Tiny at 40mm and very aggressive.

We have bound in several blank pages at the rear of this book so that if you spot anything that we have not, you can make a note of your sighting, together with the date and the location on the estate. Happy twitching.