

PRESS RELEASE



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Over 2800 People Call on BBC To Bring Back Live Nightingale Broadcast

On the anniversary of the first of the BBC's famous annual live broadcasts of a singing Nightingale, started May 19 1924, and continued until 1942, 2802 people have signed a 38 Degrees petition (<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/nightingales>) calling on the BBC to re-start the tradition.

Chris Rose, campaign organiser says: "For a voluntary unfunded campaign it's a great response. Thank you so much all who signed. Nightingales are in steep decline and we must not lose the live birds. What a tragedy it would be if they live on only in recordings on Tweet of the Day, and in books and poems but our children have no real, live, singing Nightingales to listen to and marvel at. It could happen in just 20 years".

The petition has been sent to the Production Team of Springwatch, which is about to go on air (Monday) from Minsmere RSPB Reserve in Suffolk, a stronghold of Britain's remaining Nightingales. Rose says: "Last year over a thousand of us asked Tony Hall for help and the BBC broadcast a recorded programme but the whole point is to find and broadcast a *live* bird, to focus attention on their plight and what can be done to help them. This year the best part of 3,000 are asking Springwatch to use their formidable resources to broadcast a Nightingale while they are still singing". (The birds sing most in early May but some continue throughout the month).

As well as members of the public and birders, [sound recordists](#) and [singers](#) have supported the call, including singer Ziazan who lives near Minsmere and who on May 1 [recorded a duet](#) with a Nightingale. [Folk singers in the nearby Southwold Harbour Inn](#) also recorded a traditional song about Nightingales.

"Nightingales are victims of their fame" says Rose. "So well known in our culture that people assume they are still out there but in fact there are now [more people](#) with the surname Nightingale in Britain than live singing birds." Nightingales have disappeared from over 40% of the areas they used to live in, and numbers are falling almost everywhere except for some conservation successes like the [Knepp rewilding project](#) in Sussex and [Anglia Water's super-hedge creation](#) at Grafham Water.

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<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/nightingales>

www.nightingalenights.org.uk

twitter @NgaleNights

SoundCloud <https://soundcloud.com/groups/nightingale-nights> [open group for uploads]

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nightingale-Nights/448120478680858>

Over/ Some of what people have said about why they signed the petition (from petition website):

"Hearing a nightingale is one of life's magical moments". Alison R

"If the last nightingale sings its last song, we are all in serious trouble..." Cat D

"FOR OUR CHILDREN" Alison H

"The song of the nightingale is amazing and shouldn't be lost. Let's give everyone the chance to hear it" James R

"I've never heard the nightingale!" Anne L

"I heard the last nightingale sing itself to extinction in my old home patch - For four years it came, each time, perfecting its singing voice further as it tried to sing down a mate. The pathos of its carrying power, depth and range of notes was breath taking and heartbreakingly beautiful. Every nightingale I've heard since (fewer each year) could not hold a candle to this torch singer." Nicola C

"This is a great opportunity to highlight the plight of these fabulous birds". Chris M

"It is years since I last had the privilege to hear Nightingales sing. This would be a wonderful thing in its own right for the BBC to broadcast but it would also help raise awareness of the species plight and help save it as a British species". Jonathan W

"Would be tragic if this beautiful bird disappeared from our country" Hetty L

"This is a song never to be lost" Julian P

"A beautiful sound that we need to hear" Felicity B

"To hear a nightingale sing at night on a still May evening in the moonlight is just magical - there simply is nothing better in the natural world in my opinion. To learn that nightingales are heading to extinction in England is truly shocking. Let's do everything we can to support this campaign and keep those magical nightingales nights in May alive". Tim B

"it's been years since I heard a Nightingale sing!" Giorgio M

"Another member from our natural world, sadly on the decline, there are so many in this sorry situation. Nightingales, as the rest, need to be protected. So, if in the natural world, they are not heard as they once were, the BBC broadcasting its song would be a chance for so many to hear its song". Jason S

"Because it is a truly life enhancing experience to hear. A wonderment !!" Norman C

"I've never heard a Nightingale sing and I'm sure loads of others haven't either; so give us a chance, BBC, before it's too late!!" Claire B

"To have experienced at first hand the magical song of a nightingale is to have tasted some of the richest and most powerful and uplifting sensations of the world....." Rachel H

"I signed because this little bird needs all the help it can get to avoid extinction". David W