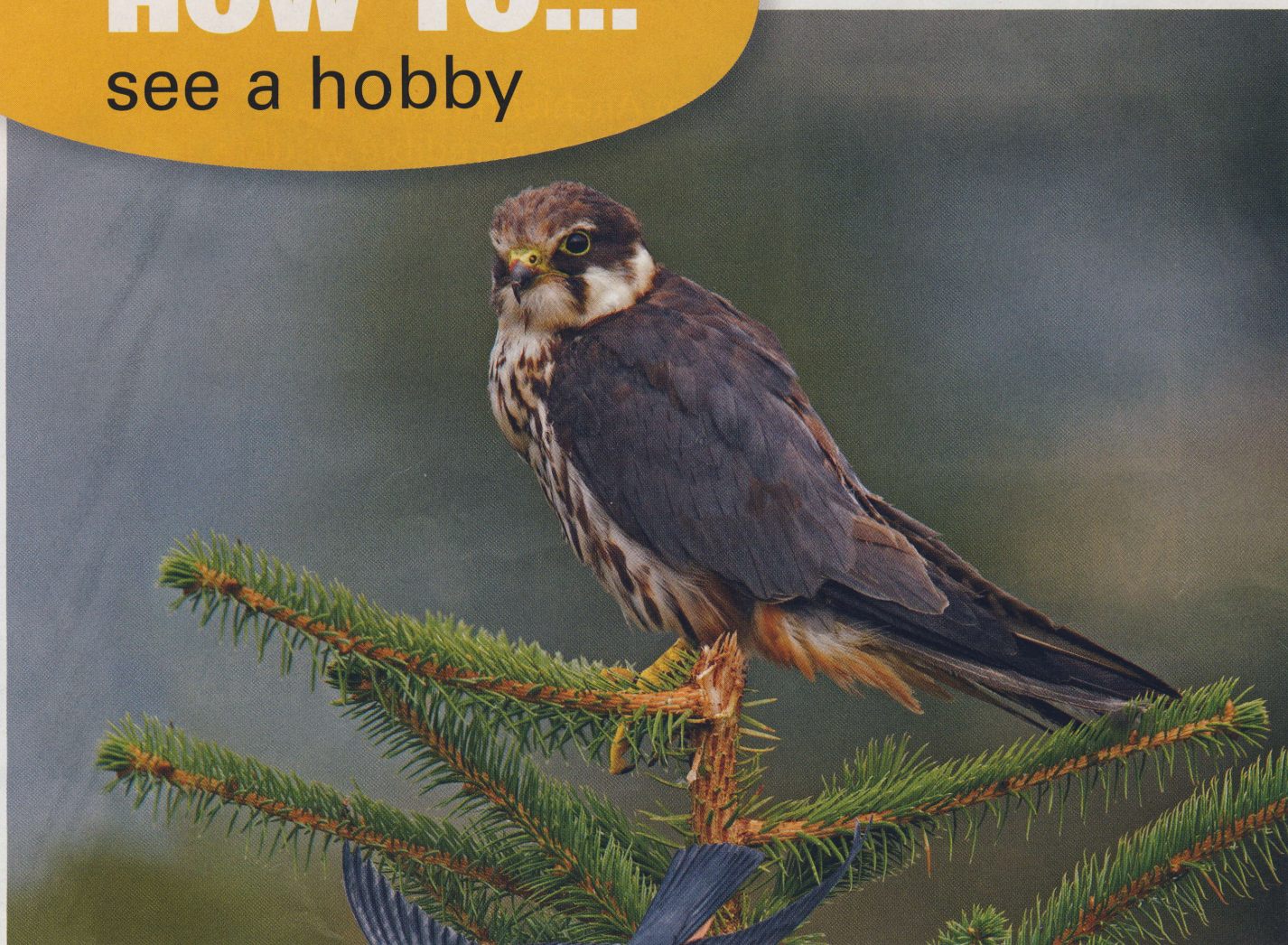


HOW TO... see a hobby

Paul Hobson (FLPA), illustrations by Richard Allen



THESE SLEEK FALCONS are on the increase and expanding their range. Hobbies catch dragonflies in mid-air and congregate together in spring – flocks of 50+ hobbies have been counted at some wetlands in recent years.



Find one near you

- 1** Listen for alarm calls from swallows and house and sand martins – these can reveal the presence of a hobby on the hunt.
- 2** Head for water: hobbies hunt over lakes and marshes, snatching dragonflies in their talons and transferring them to their beaks to eat (left).
- 3** RSPB reserves are excellent places to see hobbies. Hotspots include Lakenheath Fen in Suffolk, Fen Drayton Lakes in Cambridgeshire, West Sedgemoor in Somerset and Inner Marsh Farm in Cheshire.
www.rspb.org.uk/reserves