

Introducing Curlews and the Curlew Recovery Partnership

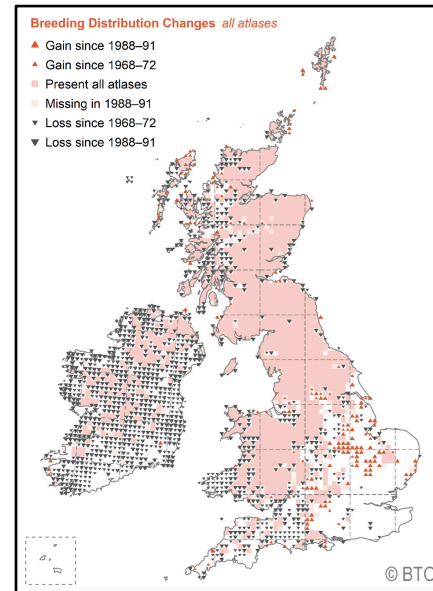
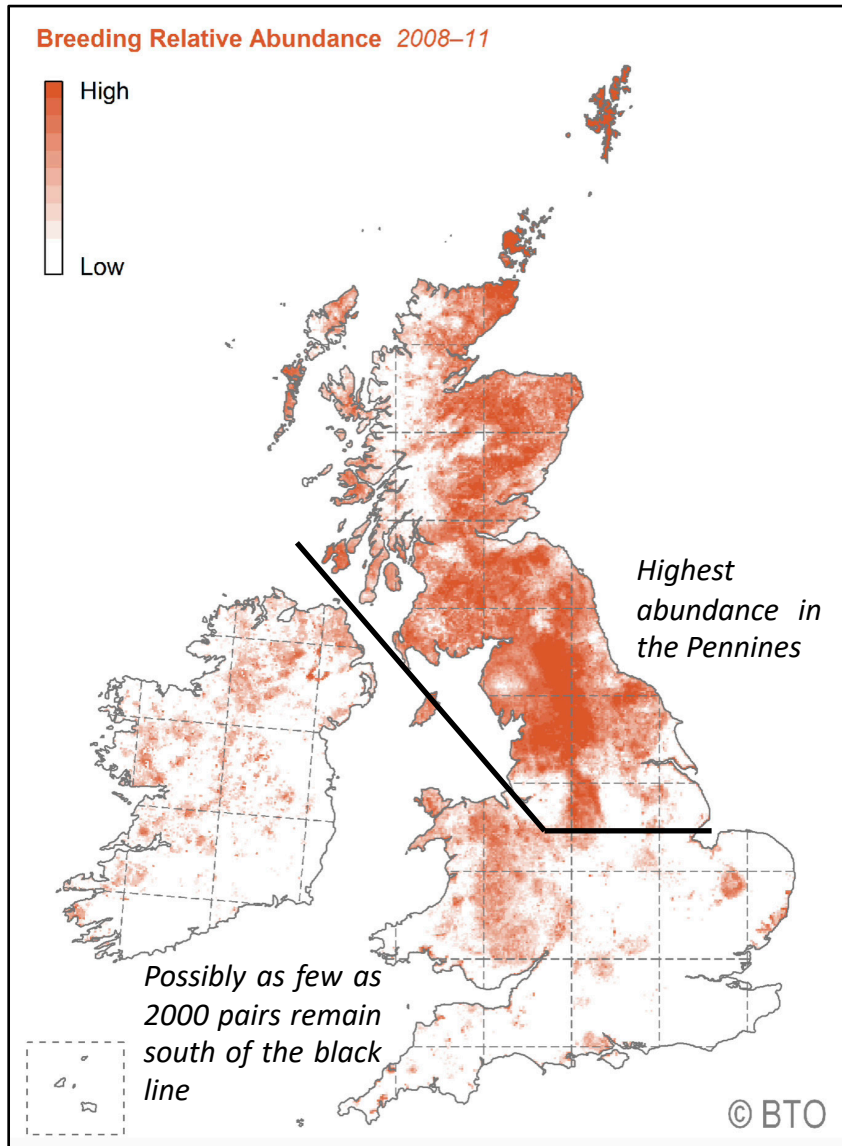


Photo: Tom Streeter

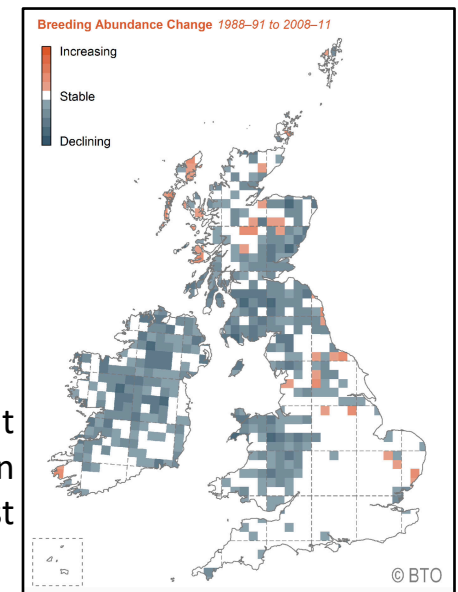
The Eurasian Curlew: Ecology



The Eurasian Curlew: Distribution and status



This map shows that Curlews have been lost from much of Ireland and western and lowland UK



This map shows that Curlews are declining in abundance across most of their remaining range

The Eurasian Curlew: Threats



The Eurasian Curlew: Conservation action



The Curlew Recovery Partnership: Origin and aims



Photo: WWT



The Curlew Recovery Partnership: Steering Group



CRP Steering Group comprises nine organisations that represent a wide range of interests in Curlew conservation

Chair
Mary Colwell



Manager
Prof Russell Wynn



The Curlew Recovery Partnership: Engagement

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Curlew: Urgent work needed to save 'loved' endangered bird

By Steve Mather
BBC News

© 15 March



TOM STREETER

The newly-launched Curlew Recovery Partnership aims to work with farmers, gamekeepers and researchers to support the wading bird

A project has been launched to secure the future of the curlew which faces regional and national level extinction.

Farming practices, predators and loss of habitat have led to a huge drop in breeding pairs and chicks being born.




The Curlew Recovery Partnership: Resources

CRP Fieldworker Toolkit

Factsheet 1

Basic Fieldcraft



CURLEW RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP ENGLAND

1. Introduction

This factsheet is primarily aimed at inexperienced fieldworkers who are undertaking fieldwork activities for the first time. It aims to provide guidance relating to the preparation of field gear, basic health and safety, survey preparation and basic fieldcraft skills. Note that the CRP and its partners may be able to help with connecting Curlew fieldworkers to experienced individuals or groups, in order to provide training and useful advice about local conditions.

2. Pre-fieldwork preparation

To ensure a safe and productive time in the field, it is important to be prepared prior to starting fieldwork. The sections below cover optical equipment, in addition to basic fieldwork health and safety, and how to behave in the field to minimise disturbance and maximise your time. Information on clothing, footwear and other useful field equipment can be found in the Appendices.

3. Optical equipment

Binoculars and spotting scopes are essential and field monitoring cannot realistically be undertaken without them. A minimum requirement is a good pair of binoculars, but a spotting scope will likely be of equal importance, especially when monitoring from a distance. If there is any doubt regarding the suitability of your optics, check with an experienced fieldworker before you start.

- Binoculars** – a magnification of 8x or 10x is ideal, along with an objective lens size of 32 mm or 42 mm. Binoculars with an objective lens smaller than 30 mm are likely to be too small and harder to use in low light conditions, whilst binoculars with an objective lens larger than 42 mm are likely to be too heavy and bulky.
- Spotting scope** – a scope with an objective lens of 60–80 mm is ideal. The choice of a fixed magnification (e.g. 30x) or zoom (e.g. 20–60x) eyepiece will be a personal one but a zoom eyepiece will be essential if colour-ring reading from a distance is required.
- Tripod** – essential if using a spotting scope. A lightweight model similar to the *Yelbon Sherpa 200* will be sufficient. Big, heavy tripods are not recommended if the fieldworker will be covering large distances.
- Window mount tripod/bean bag** – if using a vehicle then a window mount tripod or bean bag will be required for the spotting scope.


4. Health and Safety Procedures

- Risk Assessment** – before setting foot in the field the potential hazards and risks that fieldworkers may encounter should be assessed via a Risk Assessment. All individuals should read, understand and sign it prior to commencing fieldwork. If new risks arise during the fieldwork, then the Risk Assessment should be updated accordingly.
- Lone working/remote working** – if working alone or in remote and/or isolated areas, fieldworkers should use the 'buddy' system in which the fieldworker informs a 'buddy' of their location of work, arrival time and estimated time on site before heading into the field. This can be done via a text message or phone call. After finishing on site they should inform their 'buddy' of their safe arrival back home.
- Communicating your location** – fieldworkers may also want to use the 'what3words' smartphone app. The app has divided the world into 3 m squares, each with a unique three-word combination. This can then be used to direct people to your exact location if required, which can be incredibly useful in areas where there are no obvious landmark features. It is also advisable to identify your nearest A&E department, access points to your fieldwork location, and the time required to get there.


www.curlewrecovery.org

BTO Wader Calendar

Wader Calendar Survey 2021



Breeding waders are in steep decline and our society urgently needs more information about how many are left in different areas, and whether they are managing to rear young. **Farmers are well placed to gather valuable information on waders** with this simple weekly survey methodology.



Wader Calendar
Captures information on breeding waders on farms

| Week start | Lapwing | | |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| | Core count | With young | Alarm/agitation |
| 31-May | 30 | ✗ | ✗ |
| 07-Jun | 24 | ✗ | 10 |
| 14-Jun | 10 | ✓ | 8 |
| 21-Jun | 11 | 2 | 6 |

Fill in a single row each week, estimating the minimum number of birds of **five wader species** you have observed on your farm throughout the week.

The waders to look out for are: Lapwing, Redshank, Curlew, Oystercatcher, and Snipe.

Optionally, please estimate the minimum number you observed 1) with young and 2) alarming or agitated.

Zero counts are just as important – even if you have no breeding waders on your farm at all. A recording form and instructions can be downloaded from www.workingforwaders.com/resources, or you can request these by email from waders@bto.org.

Don't forget to return your form to us at the end of the summer!

Non-breeding season

Key stages for breeding success

See **Behaviour Guide** in the Survey Instructions for recognising behaviour

Outcomes

- Beginning a record of breeding waders on your farm may assist future agri-environmental applications
- Information from the Wader Calendar Survey will be used to inform future conservation action for these threatened species in the UK

Curlew, Edmund Fellowes; Snipe, Chris Knights; Lapwing eggs, Hugh Insley; Redshank, Patrick Laurie; Oystercatcher, Allan Drewitt; duck, Iovemark – stock.adobe.com

The Curlew Recovery Partnership: Future research



The Curlew Recovery Partnership: Join our network



Photo: Tom Streeter



Email: hello@curlewrecovery.org
Website: www.curlewrecovery.org