

**Strettons Area
Community Wildlife Group
Shropshire Ornithological Society
(Church Stretton Branch)**



Lapwing and Curlew Survey 2018

Introduction

Both Lapwing and Curlew have suffered a massive contraction in range and decline in population in the last 20 years or so. Several Community Wildlife Groups are carrying out surveys to find out how many there are, where they are, and monitor the population. This is necessary before any conservation measures to try and reverse the decline can be attempted.

Survey in the Strettons

Local groups launched a similar survey in 2017, in the area east of Church Stretton. The area is bounded roughly by Leebotwood, Marshbrook, Shipton and Hughley, and is shown on the map overleaf. Results included finding 5-7 pairs of Curlew and 8-9 pairs of Lapwing. The report has been sent to participants. It is also available on the website www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk

Plans for 2018, and the future

The 2017 survey produced excellent results, but it is likely that there are more of both species to find, and we need to get a better fix on the curlew territories, and the number of them. We hope to repeat the survey for several years to come, to see if the declines are continuing.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Shropshire Ornithological Society have launched a "Save our Curlews" campaign. See www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/ When we have a better idea of where the Curlew nest sites are, we hope to work with local farmers and landowners to protect them, with electric fencing. Without the continuing results of the survey, this conservation work will be impossible.

Aim and Method

The Aim is find out how many breeding pairs there are in the area, and where they are. The results will be used to promote conservation. The methodology is described in more detail overleaf. It's easy and enjoyable. Good birdwatching skills are not needed. It is only necessary for helpers to be able to recognise the two main target species.

Public Meeting

The results of the 2017 survey, and plans to repeat in in 2018, will be considered on

7.30pm Tuesday, 20th March 2018

Methodist Church Hall, Watling Street, Church Stretton.



Tetrads will be allocated, maps and survey instructions will be handed out, and arrangements for the fieldwork training session will be made. Helpers can choose their own tetrad, but we also need to cover all the squares if possible.

If you want to help, but can't make the meeting, please let Leo Smith know beforehand, with your choice of tetrad.

Further Information

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- Nigel Green nigel662@btinternet.com 01694 722043
- John Arnfield arnfield.2@osu.edu 01694 724170

Method

- Helpers each take on a tetrad (2x2 kilometre square). You can choose your own.
- Three visits are needed (around 1 April, 1 May and Mid-June, with possibly a fourth visit in mid-July for Curlew). Each visit takes around 3 hours.
- Mark sightings of Target Species on Map (provided)
- Simple Survey Instructions are provided
- A practical training meeting will be held at the end of March for anyone that wants it.

We need someone to survey each square, please.

No attempt is made to find nests. It is a different methodology from the Bird Atlas, because it's not necessary to prove breeding, but it is necessary to try and locate and map them all.

As an optional extra, helpers can record the locations of up to 20 other target species

Area

The survey area is shown on the map. It is bounded roughly by Leebotwood, Marshbrook, Shipton and Church Preen. The squares are the tetrads, and the "name" of each is shown.

