

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



Lapwing and Curlew Survey 2020

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 their populations. This is necessary before any conservation measures to try and reverse the declines can be attempted.

Survey in the Strettons

A similar survey was launched by our two local groups in 2017, in the area east of Church Stretton, shown on the map overleaf. It was repeated in 2018, and again in 2019, and all three surveys have produced excellent results, finding between 5 and 8 pairs of Curlew and 5 and 9 pairs of Lapwing each year. This is far fewer than there used to be. Survey reports have been sent to participants. They are also available on the website www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk

Plans for 2020, and the future

We need to get a better fix on some of 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.

Several Community Wildlife Groups are involved in a "Save our Curlews" campaign, with the support of Shropshire Ornithological Society. See www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/ Here in the Strettons area, we now have a good idea of where most of the Curlew territories are, and in 2020, when the survey pinpoints them, we hope to work with local farmers and landowners to find the nests and protect them with electric fencing. Without the efforts of the survey, this conservation work would be impossible, but we need more helpers, please.

Aim and Method

The Aim is to 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, and only needs three half-days. 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 2019 survey, and plans to repeat in in 2020, will be considered at

7.30pm Tuesday, 17th March 2020

Methodist Church Hall, Watling Street, Church Stretton.



Survey areas 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 square.

Further Information

- Leo Smith leo@leosmith.org.uk 01694 720296
- Nigel Green nigel662@btinternet.com 01694 722043
- David John dalison@hotmail.co.uk 01694 724772

Area

The survey area is shown on the map below. It is bounded roughly by Leebotwood, Marshbrook, Shipton and Hughley. It is divided into 30 squares, each of 2x2 kilometres, known as tetrads, and the "name" of each is shown.

Method

- Helpers each take on a 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 a large scale map of the square (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 22 other target species



www.shropshirebirds.com

Please help
All welcome at the meeting

