

Tanat to Perry

Community Wildlife Group



Bird Survey Results 2018



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Tanat to Perry (Oswestry south) Community Wildlife Group

The Group was established in March 2018, primarily to look for Curlews as part of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) and Shropshire Ornithological Society (SOS) *Save our Curlews* Campaign. There were already

Community Wildlife Groups surveying Lapwing and Curlew in most of the areas in the County where several pairs of Curlew had been found during Bird Atlas surveys carried out in 2008-13, but there was no previous coverage of the important area south of Oswestry.

Both Lapwing and Curlew have suffered a massive contraction in range and population decline in the last 20 years or so, nationally and locally. Curlew has been described as the UK's highest bird conservation priority, as we have an estimated 28% of the European breeding population, and 19 – 27% of the world population.

The aim of the Group is therefore to involve local people in surveying the area for Lapwing and Curlew, to see if the populations have continued to fall here following the Bird Atlas survey. The survey aims to locate the territories of breeding pairs, estimate the population, and if possible pin-point the fields with nests. No attempt is made to look for nests.

The area covered extends from Oswestry in the north to Kinnerley in the south, and eastward from the Welsh border to Ruyton-XI-Towns: from the Tanat to the Perry.

The launch meeting on 7 March received a presentation on the methodology and results of similar surveys carried out by Community Wildlife Groups in the Shropshire Hills since 2004, and the organisation of a similar survey in the Severn-Vyrnwy Confluence in 2018.

An introductory leaflet, outlining the reasons for the survey and how it would be carried out, with an appeal for volunteers and publicising the meeting, was distributed in the area, and sent out to SWT and SOS members. Posters were put up, and a press release was sent out.

The meeting was well attended, by 60 people, most of whom agreed to help. Several others, who were unable to come to the meeting, also volunteered to help. In total, 69 people, including 16 couples, plus one of the Shropshire Wild Teams, did survey work.

CURLEWS, LAPWINGS AND OTHER BIRDS SURVEY

Objectives

Participants were asked to find out where Curlew and Lapwing occur in the breeding season, record behaviour indicative of breeding, and record other species, most of which are of nature conservation importance (i.e. they are Target Species for Government Agri-environment Schemes operated by Natural England, or they are on the *Red List* or *Amber List of Birds of Conservation Concern* in the UK because they have suffered large declines in the last 25 or 50 years, and/or are Target Species in the national Biodiversity Action Plan).

In addition to Lapwing and Curlew, the other target species were:-

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| • Kestrel | • Cuckoo | • Tree Sparrow |
| • Red Kite | • Dipper | • Linnet |
| • Barn Owl | • Swift (nest sites only) | • Bullfinch |
| • Grey Partridge | • Yellow Wagtail | • Yellowhammer |
| • Snipe | • Dunnock | • Reed Bunting |
| • Skylark | • Wheatear | • Corn Bunting |
| • Meadow Pipit | • Spotted Flycatcher | |

This was the first year in which a bird survey was carried out in this area. It is intended to repeat it annually, to monitor long-term population trends for the two main species, as well as establish the current population and distribution, and use the results to promote conservation and attempt to reverse the decline.

Methodology

The area covered by the Community Wildlife Group was divided up into 43 tetrads, 2km x 2km squares, each made up of four of the one-kilometre squares shown by the pale blue grid lines on Ordnance Survey maps. A map showing these tetrads, and their reference codes, is shown at Appendix 1.

People who agreed to help were allocated a tetrad, and requested to survey it once during each of three specified two-week periods, around the end of March, end of April, and mid-June.

- The first period follows the arrival of Lapwing and Curlew back on their breeding grounds. This is the best time to find breeding Lapwing (first egg date is usually around 1st April).
- The second period is the best time to find breeding Curlew (first egg date is usually around 30th April).
- The third period is timed to find any Curlews that have successfully hatched and still have chicks. It is also the best time to find the other target species.

Each survey visit concentrated on suitable habitat for the two main target species, and was expected to take around three hours. Participants were provided with detailed survey instructions, and a large scale map of their tetrad (the map filled an A4 sheet of paper) for each survey. The aim was to establish the number of territories (number of breeding pairs)

for Lapwing and Curlew, no attempt was made to find nests. All survey work was carried out from public rights of way, unless a surveyor obtained the landowner's permission to look in specific fields.

A training meeting was held for those who wanted one, on Sunday 25 March. Two sessions were arranged, in the morning and the afternoon, and a total of 19 participants attended. All were treated to several pairs of displaying and breeding Lapwing, and a pair of Curlew, while those attending the afternoon session saw evidence of four pairs of Curlew.

A feedback meeting was held on 6 June, to present the results of the first two surveys, discuss them, provide clarification where necessary, and iron out any difficulties experienced by the participants; 45 people attended. Corn Bunting was added to the list of Targets.

Survey work was carried out in all of the 43 tetrads, and members spent just over 600 hours on it. This represents an excellent effort.

Many surveyors, and other local people, sent in casual records (observations in their survey squares when not actually doing the survey, or in other parts of their area at any time) of Lapwing, Curlew, Kestrel and Red Kite. Such records are extremely useful, as they often include a higher number of birds than seen on the surveys, and they help distinguish between different territories.

Note that some records, of birds heard calling from an unknown position, or seen only in flight with origin or landing place unknown, or believed to be post-breeding flocks or passing through, are not shown on the species maps showing the records received, because they are not helpful in establishing the territories of breeding pairs (the aim of the survey). However, these records are included in the count of records in each tetrad shown in Appendix 2, for completeness. Note also that records listed in Appendix 2 are attributed to the square surveyor, although the survey map has sometimes shown the bird(s) in an adjacent square, which is where they are shown in this report.

The methodology requires observations of a pair together, or a single bird on two of the three surveys, to confirm a territory. However, Curlews in particular often have large territories, and may be seen a kilometre or more from their nest site, so interpretation of the observations is sometimes difficult, unless singing or displaying birds are seen or heard concurrently. It must be stressed that on some surveys both the birds in a breeding pair might be seen, but on others only one is seen; that the same birds will probably be seen on more than one survey; and a pair nesting close to the corner of a tetrad might also be recorded in up to three adjacent tetrads, in either different survey periods, or different surveyors. Therefore the total number of observations made on the surveys will almost certainly be rather more than the total population in the area, and analysis of the results aims to estimate the total number of breeding pairs or territories, and the approximate location of the centre of each territory (i.e. the nest site). The rules of the methodology (the territory mapping method) requires the analysis to produce the lowest population estimate consistent with the records.

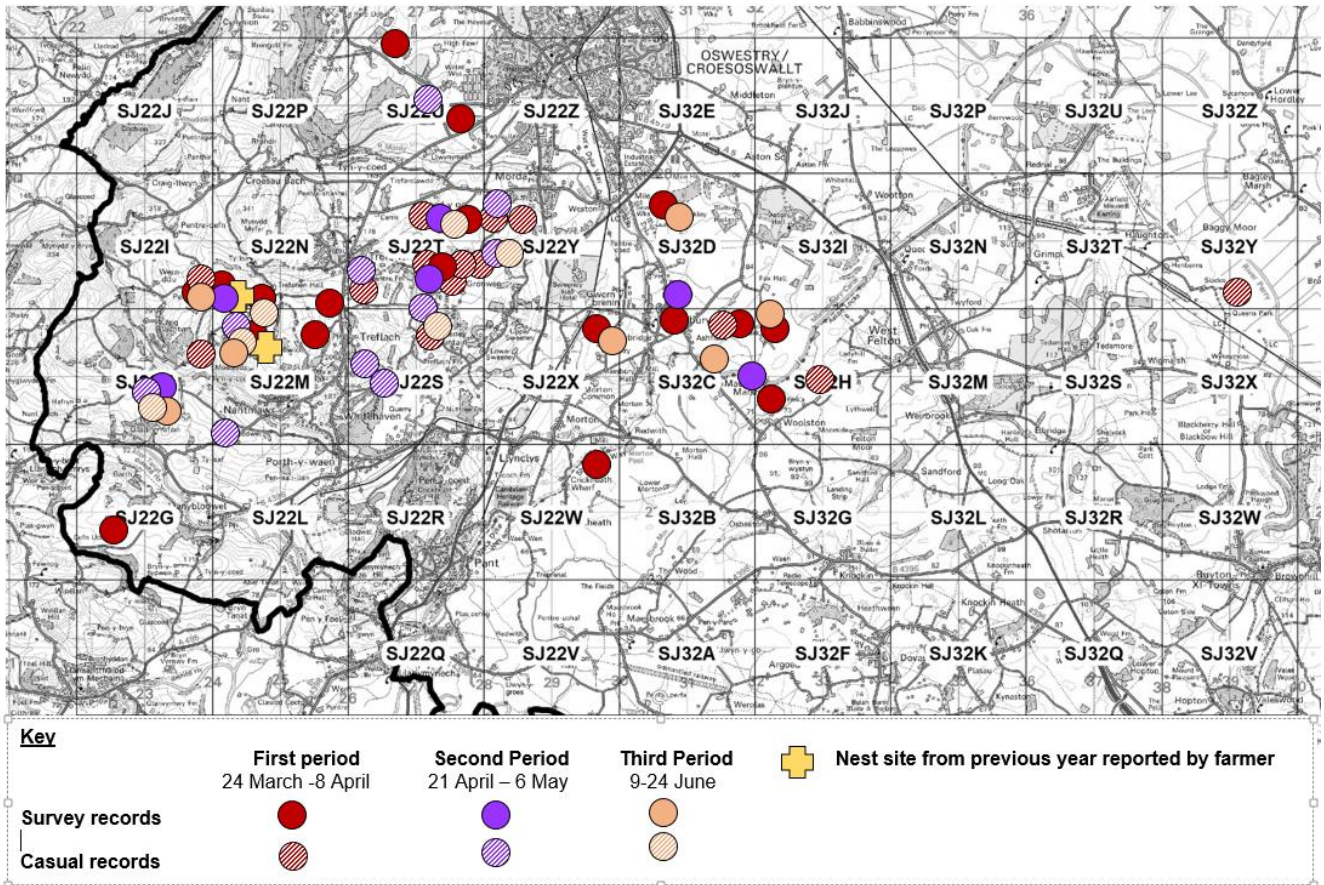
Curlew

The first map on page 4 shows the location of Curlews seen during the surveys. They were seen in 13 tetrads altogether. The casual Curlew records received are also shown on the map, with hatched shading.

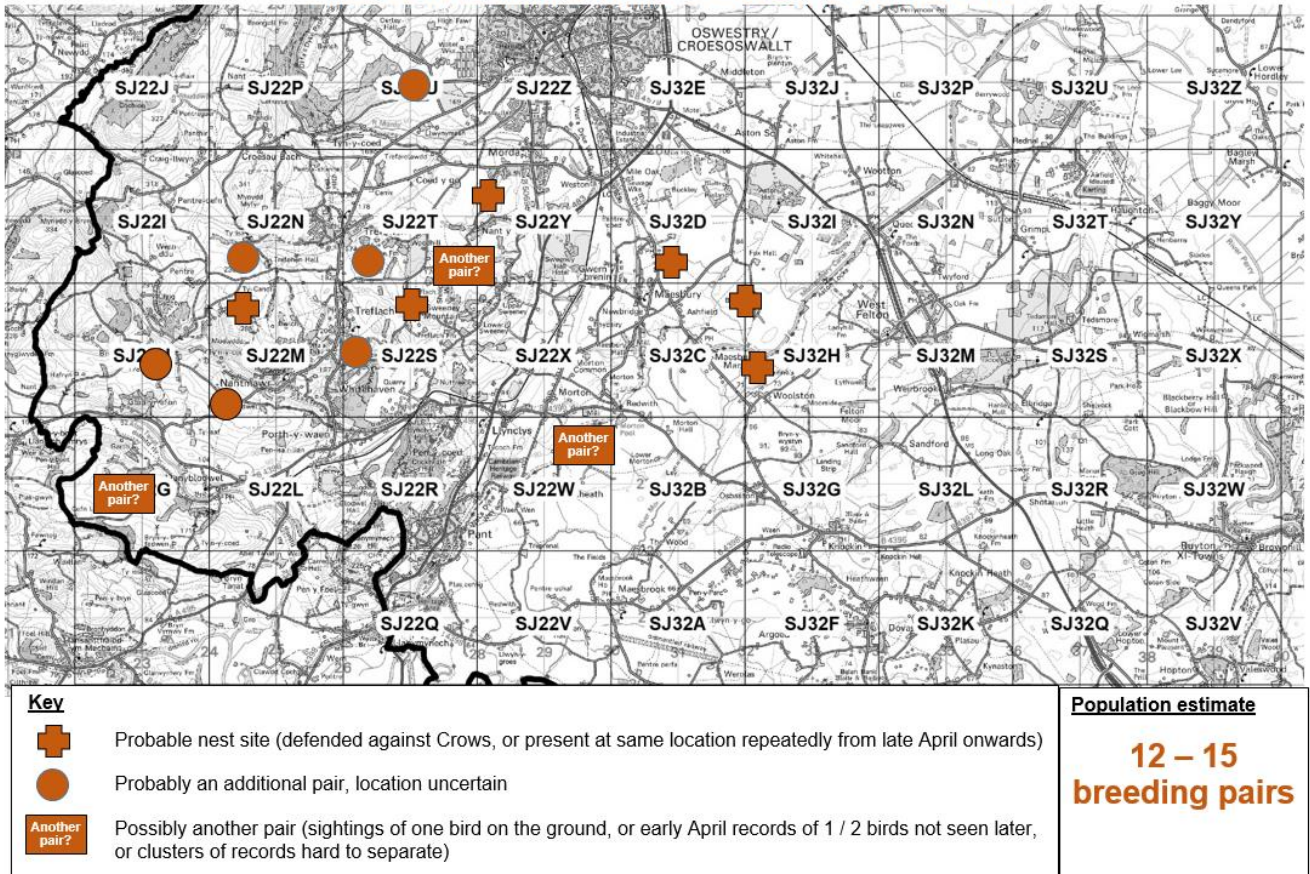
The second map shows the estimated number and location of Curlew territories in the area.

The methodology requires the analysis to produce the lowest population estimate consistent with the records, in this case 12-15 pairs, possibly more. Experience of undertaking this type of survey with more long-standing Community Wildlife Groups suggests that it takes several

Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group: Curlew Records 2018



Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group: Curlew Territories 2018



years to get a complete understanding of the populations, and that, in future years, evidence may be found to confirm a higher population.

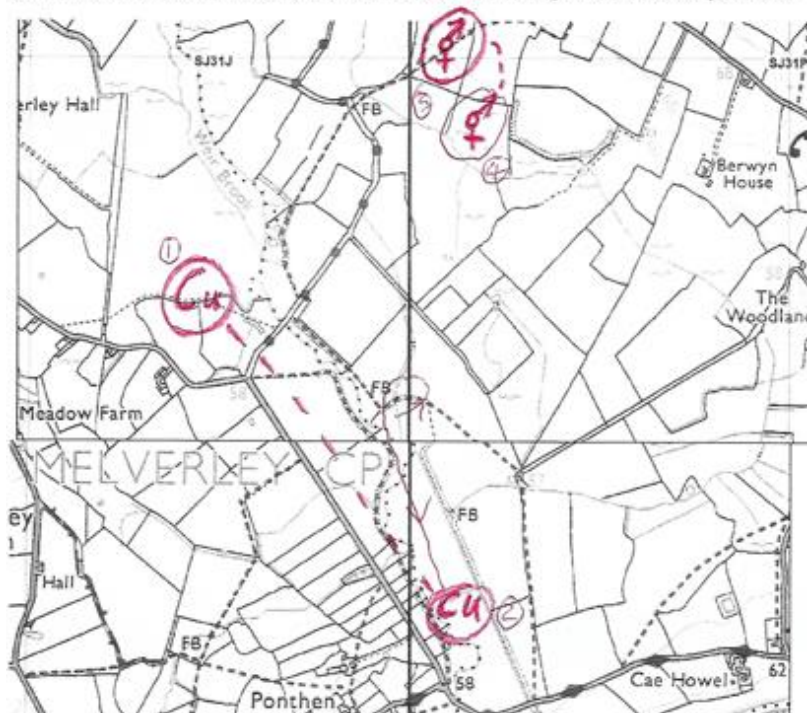
The most useful records are of two singing or displaying males or pairs seen or heard concurrently. The boundary between the two territories will be somewhere between them. As an example, on the training sessions in the vicinity of Holly Banks (in the Severn-Vyrnwy Confluence area), Curlews were seen or heard concurrently on several occasions, as summarised on the fieldwork survey map below. This allowed a dense cluster of records collected during the subsequent survey work to be separated into five territories. Surveyors in

Severn-Vyrnwy Confluence
Community Wildlife Group
Lapwing, Curlew and Other Birds Survey

Tetrad SJ31N & P
Training Map
(Holly Banks)

Survey period: Year
Observer Leo Smith Date(s) 25.3.18 Total Time(hrs)..... mins;

Please mark on the Map, with a coloured pen, the location, as far as you are able to judge, and the number of birds, every time you see or hear Lapwing and Curlew (and, if you wish, the other species listed overleaf). Please indicate with a different light-coloured felt-tip pen the route you took or the area you searched. If the survey is discontinuous, make clear which records relate to which dates / times. Mark the locations using the species letters and activity codes listed overleaf. Make clear where possible if you are recording the same or different birds. Include records just outside the edge of the square. Please also give an estimate of number of different birds you saw (write the number next to the species name overleaf). Record other interesting wildlife you see if you wish. Make notes overleaf. Post each form as soon as possible after end of each survey period to: Michael Wallace, 75 Larkhill Road, Kingswood, Shrewsbury, SY3 8XJ.



the Tanat to Perry area are encouraged to note Curlews seen or heard concurrently, as such observations would also help separate clusters of records at several locations.

Notes

Singing Curlews are shown with a circle round the Cu symbol.

A pair are shown with the male: female symbol.

Concurrent observations are marked with a dashed line.

The observations are numbered 1 – 4.

Observations

1. Heard calling

2. Flew in and called back (couldn't possibly be same bird)

Later

3. Pair seen feeding

4. Another pair called, visited the same field (all 4 birds in sight at same time)

The Curlew population in the area is estimated at 12 - 15 pairs, but there is no evidence that any young fledged.

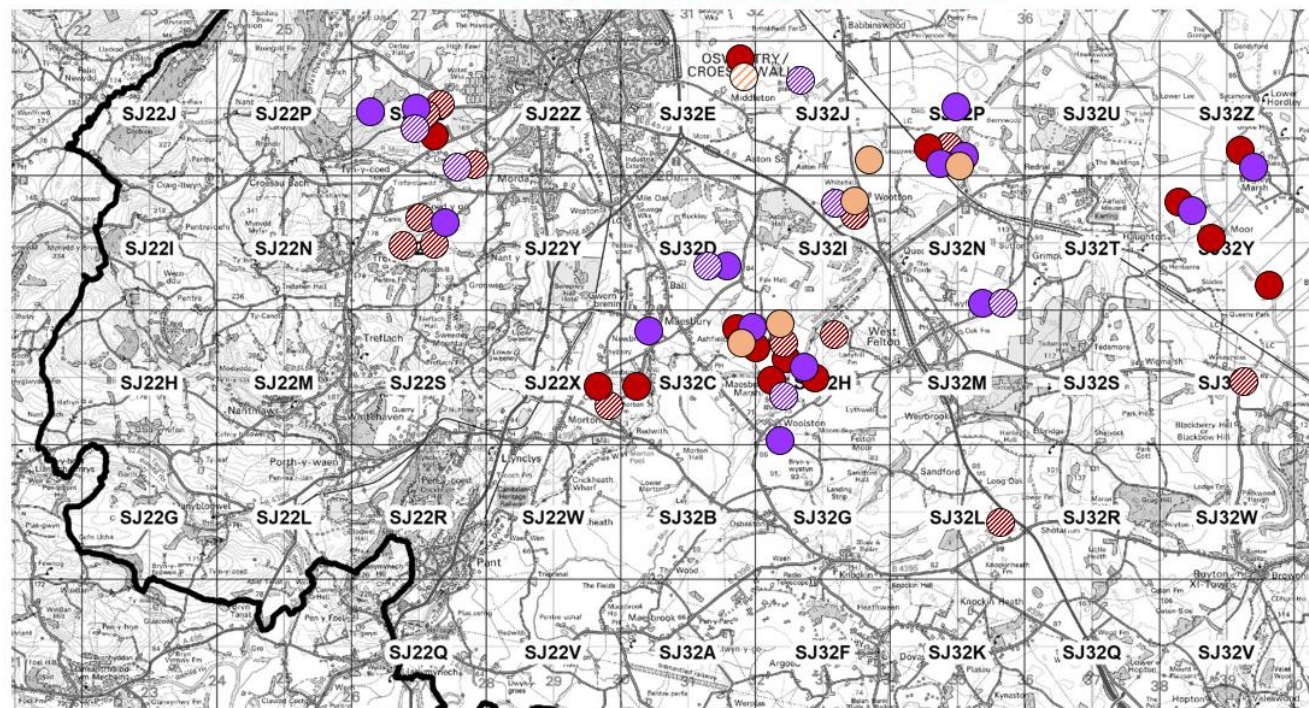
Over 150 Curlews have been colour-ringed since 2016, mainly at Dolydd Hafren Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust Reserve on the River Severn near Welshpool during March, when they are passing through on their way to their breeding sites. Each of these Curlews is individually identified by the two letters on the yellow ring on the left leg. Several of them have been found at breeding sites elsewhere in Shropshire. Surveyors in this area were asked to check any Curlews that were seen on the ground at breeding sites for rings, but none were.

Lapwing

The first map on page 6 shows the location of Lapwings found during the surveys. There is no indication on this map of the number of birds seen.

The second map groups the observations from the first two surveys into territories, taking into account the number of birds reported on the survey maps, and additional casual records, which often reported more birds than seen on the survey visits.

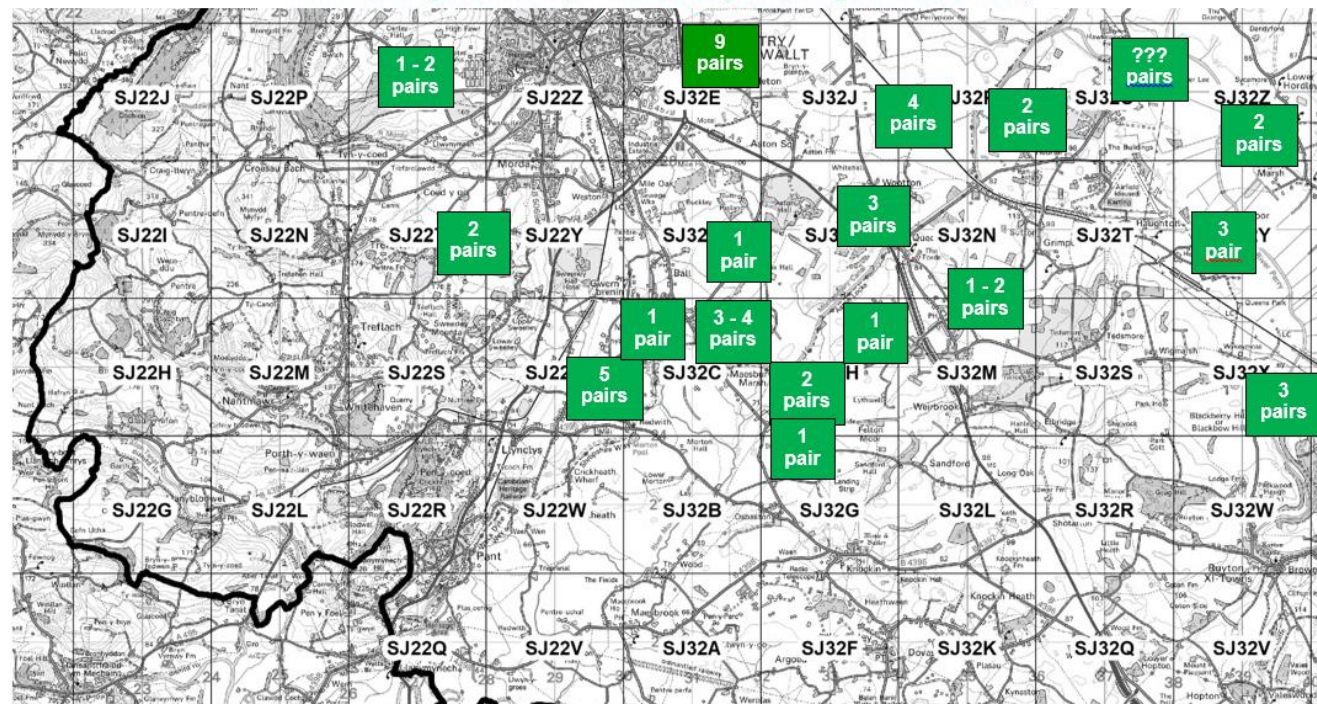
Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group: Lapwing Records 2018



Key

	First period 24 March - 8 April	Second Period 21 April - 6 May	Third period 9 - 24 June
Survey records			
Casual records			

Tanat To Perry Community Wildlife Group: Lapwing Territories 2018



Confirmed breeding in SJ22T, SJ32C and SJ32P from surveys and casual records. Nine pairs + fledged young reported in SJ32E by farmer. 5 pairs in SJ22X on 21 March, but only one on 12 April after field ploughed and reseeded. Pairs at other nearby sites with records in second period but not the first may have been relocations, but most sites had records in both periods. Some Lapwings move sites between breeding attempts, if the first site becomes unsuitable (crop grows too high, or ground dries out), so estimating the population is difficult. Flock feeding in SJ32U may have been dislodged by ploughing near Pen-yr-estyn (counts were lower in second survey - 4 birds, not 8).

Population estimate: probably at least 44 - 47 pairs

Lapwings usually lay their first clutch in late March or early April. If they lose this clutch, usually due to either agricultural operations or predation, they will probably re-lay. However, if the field with the nest has become unsuitable (probably because the crop has grown too tall, or stock have moved onto the field, or the food supply has gone because the field has dried out) they will have to move to a new nest site, perhaps some distance away. If the eggs hatch, the adults usually move the chicks to good feeding sites, perhaps some distance from the nest. If all breeding attempts fail, the adults start to form post-breeding flocks, and might move out of the area. Thus fewer Lapwings will be seen on the third survey, and those that are might have already been counted in a different tetrad in the first two surveys.

Numbers seen on the third survey cannot therefore be reliably added to the population estimate from the first two surveys, but evidence of confirmed breeding might be obtained. A pair was seen defending eggs or chicks from crows in SJ32C and SJ32Z, and eight Lapwing were seen in SJ32P accompanied by at least two young. A farmer in SJ32E reported nine nests (more than the three pairs seen on the surveys) and fledged young. These confirmed breeding records have been added to the pair with a chick in late April in SJ22T, making confirmed breeding in five tetrads altogether.

There was no evidence of fledged young from the surveys, but the dates for the third survey would probably have been too soon to find them.

From the observations and analysis, it is estimated that the Lapwing population in the area is 44 - 47 pairs, probably more.

Kestrel

The location of Kestrels seen during the surveys is shown on page 8.

Kestrels forage up to about 1.5 kilometres from their nest site, so several of the dots will be different observations of the same individuals. However, it is likely that the clusters of dots represent around seven pairs.

Two nest sites were found, in SJ32C and SJ32Z. A young Kestrel was reported with a parent in July in SJ22T.

Kestrels have also declined considerably in recent years, and the Shropshire Ringing and Raptor Groups are launching a nestbox scheme to help improve breeding success, and try and find out the reasons for the decline.

Other Target Species

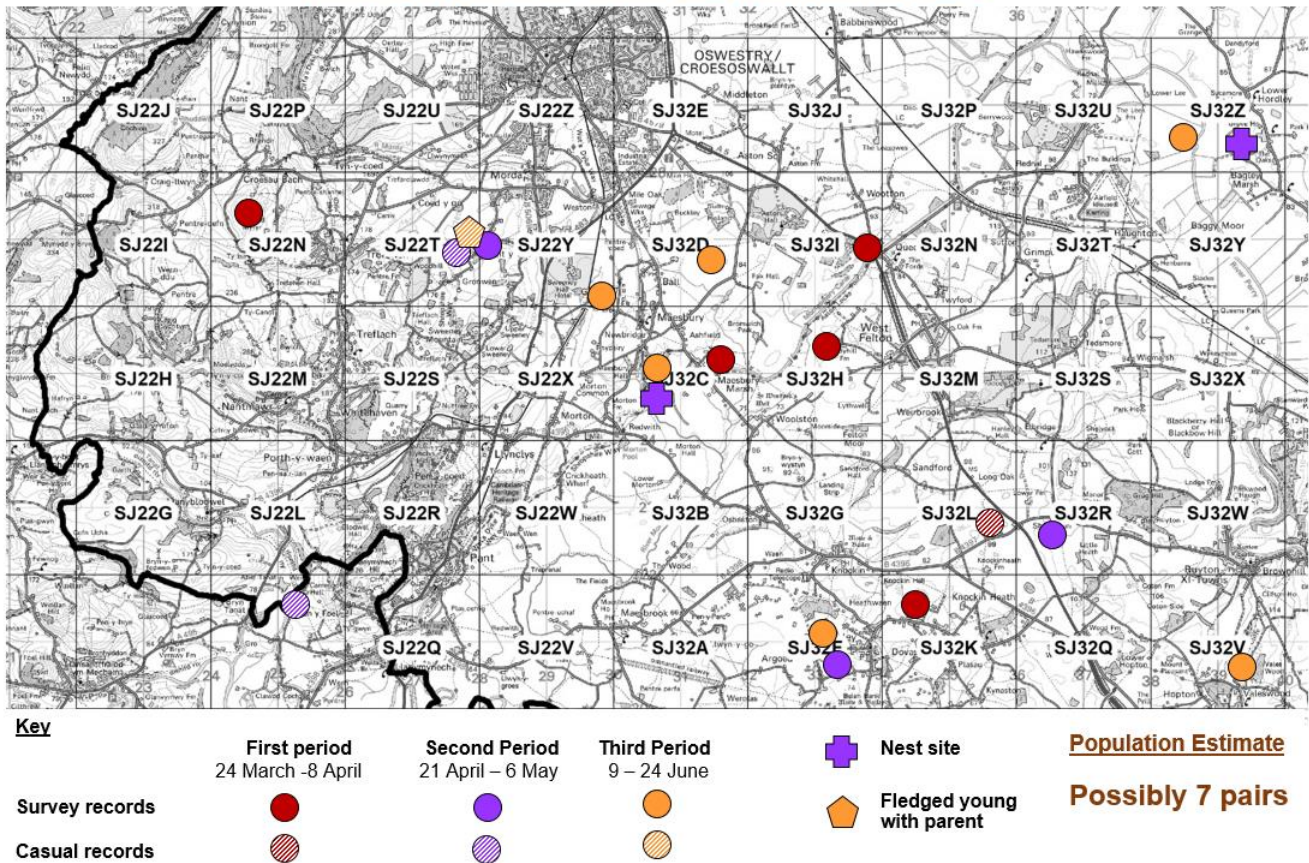
The Other Target Species recorded during the surveys are summarised in Table 1.

As expected in a survey of this type, the expertise of members, and the time they had available to undertake the surveys, varied considerably. The primary aim was to look for Lapwing and Curlew, and all participants were familiar with both these two species, but several participants made no attempt to look for, or record, the other target species.

However, participants were requested to make an effort to record Kestrels, as they too have declined considerably in recent years.

Note that participants were asked to record individual birds, not pairs (so at some locations both the birds in the pair were recorded, and in the final survey some recently fledged juveniles may have been recorded as well).

Tanat to Perry Community Wildlife Group: Kestrel Records 2018



The survey squares also vary considerably, in accessibility and terrain. The “detectability” of the birds themselves also varies considerably, according to prevailing weather conditions, time of day, stage in the breeding cycle, and the normal behaviour of each species. Thus the survey results will give an indication of the species present, and perhaps their habitat preferences, but only a very small proportion of the total population will have been recorded.

The summary table shows the maximum count for each species on any one survey in each tetrad. This may under-record some species, but the alternative – adding all the counts together – would lead to considerable double or triple counting of some individual birds. The results of every survey are shown in Appendix 2.

The Red Kite sightings were the first time some of the observers have seen them in the area, reflecting the rapid spread of Kites in recent years. The first successful breeding in Shropshire for 130 years occurred as recently as 2006, but there are well over 30 pairs now, still mainly in the south-west hills, but a nest north of Shrewsbury was reported in 2017, and a likely nest in this area is the furthest north in the County to date, so it is likely that breeding will become a regular occurrence here in the near future.

Most species were found only in small numbers, reflecting the scarcity of their habitat, and four were not recorded at all: Grey Partridge, Barn Owl, Cuckoo and Stonechat. Grey Partridge has virtually disappeared, and there is little suitable habitat in the area for the other three. Cuckoo is increasingly rare – it has declined by 43% in the UK between 1995 and 2016, and by 70% in England and 75% in the English West Midlands in the same period. Four other species were recorded in one tetrad only Snipe (12 in SJ32C), Dipper (one in SJ22Y), Swift (four nest sites in SJ32C), and Tree Sparrow (two in SJ32H). The large count of Snipe, on the first survey, were almost certainly migrants passing through on their way north. The four Swift nests near was welcome news, as the Swift population in the UK and in England has declined by 53% over the same period.

Table 1. Other Target Species - Summary

Tetrad	Maximun single count from all surveys in each tetrad																
	Kestrel	Red Kite	Snipe	Skylark	Meadow Pipit	Dipper	Swift (sites)	Yellow Wagtail	Dunnoch	Wheat-ear	Spotted Flycatcher	Tree Sparrow	Linnet	Bullfinch	Yellow-hammer	Reed Bunting	Corn Bunting
SJ22 G		2		1					2					1			
SJ22 H																	
SJ22 I									5								
SJ22 J																	
SJ22 L																	
SJ22 M				1					1					1			
SJ22 N	1	1			5									2			
SJ22 P		1							1								
SJ22 Q		1			2				6				2	5	2	2	
SJ22 R									2								
SJ22 S														1			
SJ22 T	1									2							
SJ22 U				1													
SJ22 V																	
SJ22 W		1							1								
SJ22 X									1					1	1		
SJ22 Y	1			1	2	1			13				1	2			
SJ22 Z																	
SJ32 A									6		1		2	1	1	1	
SJ32 B																	
SJ32 C	3	1	12	3			4	1	2		2			3	4	1	
SJ32 D	1			2					1								
SJ32 E				1					2						1		
SJ32 F	1																
SJ32 G				14				2	3	1			11				3
SJ32 H	1			9	1			3				2	4	2	1	2	4
SJ32 I	1	1															
SJ32 J				5					5								
SJ32 K	1			1													
SJ32 L				1													
SJ32 M																	
SJ32 N				1					3	1			2	3	1		
SJ32 P		1		7					5								
SJ32 Q				4					3								
SJ32 R	1			2					4				2		1		
SJ32 S																	
SJ32 T				3	1				2				23		1		
SJ32 U		1		2													
SJ32 V	1	1							1						2		
SJ32 W																	
SJ32 X																	
SJ32 Y				16					2						1		6
SJ32 Z	2			8					3	7			19		3		1
Total	15	11	12	83	11	1	4	6	74	11	3	2	66	22	19	6	14

Corn Bunting was added to the list of Other Target Species at the feedback meeting at the beginning of June, after three had been recorded in SJ32F, and three more in adjacent squares, on the second survey.

Anecdotal Local Evidence for the Decline of Lapwing and Curlew

Participants who live in the area, and other local residents, say that Lapwings and Curlews are less common now than they used to be. Some members talked to local farmers in the course of their surveys, and they too said that Lapwings and Curlew are less common now than they used to be.

Objective Evidence for the Decline of Lapwing and Curlew

In England, Lapwing and Curlew are in decline, nationally, and in Shropshire. Objective evidence for this comes from Bird Atlas work, the Breeding Bird Survey carried out each year by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), and the summary tables in the annual State of the UK's Birds.

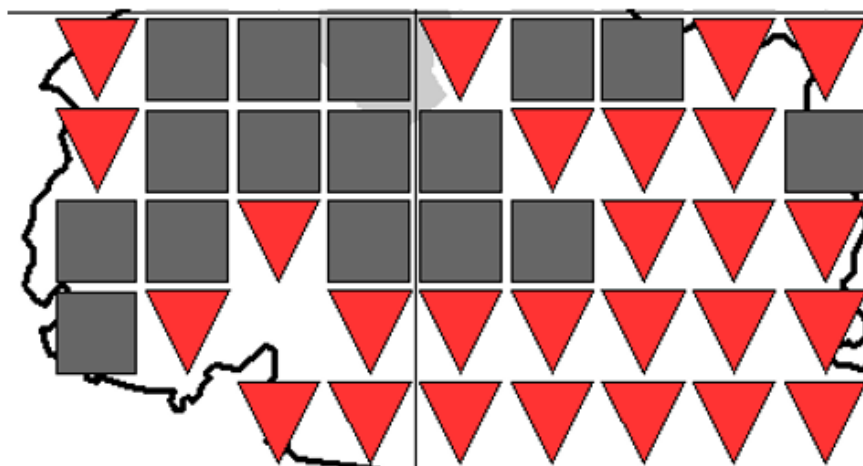
In the UK, Curlew has declined by 65% between 1970 and 2015, and 48% between 1995 and 2016. In England the decline has been 30%, and in Wales 63%, between 1995 and 2016.

Lapwing has declined by 64% in the UK between 1970 and 2015, and 42% between 1995 and 2016. In England the decline has been 26%, between 1995 and 2016. The decline in Wales since 1995 has been so large that there is insufficient data now to calculate a change.

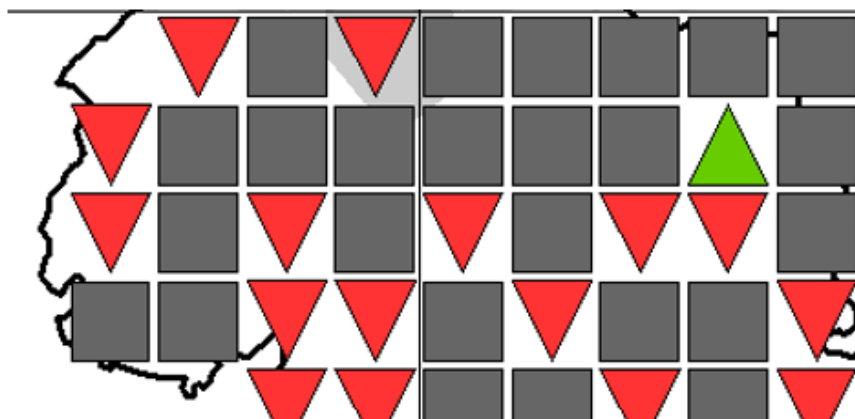
Shropshire Ornithological Society undertook six years fieldwork between 1985 and 1990, and covered all 870 tetrads in the County. The results were published in *An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Shropshire* in 1992. The survey was repeated in 2008-13, with similar amounts of fieldwork effort, and the Atlas maps produced are directly comparable.

Breeding Distribution Change Maps for the Tanat to Perry CWG area (1985-90 to 2008-13)

Curlew



Lapwing



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The resulting breeding distribution change maps for the Tanat to Perry CWG area are shown here. The black line along the left of each map is the border with Wales, and the background pale grey shape at the top in the middle is the town of Oswestry. The grid lines enclose the 10km squares SJ22 and SJ32 on the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Each symbol represents a tetrad (2x2km square on the OS grid, 25 tetrads in the 10km square SJ32, but seven mainly in Wales in SJ22 are excluded).

Tetrads where each species was found in both Atlas surveys are shown as grey squares, and tetrads where it was found in the earlier period, but not the more recent period, are marked with red downward triangles. It was not found in either period in the blank

squares, and a gain in the later period is shown as a green upward triangle. It will be seen that the range of both species declined substantially in this area in that 20-25 year period. Curlew was still present in 16 tetrads, but lost from 26 while Lapwing was still present in 25, lost from 16 and gained in one.

Surveys including counts complement these maps. The county Lapwing population has fallen from about 3,000 pairs in 1990 to only about 800 in 2013, a decline of around 70%. The Curlew population has fallen from about 700 pairs in 1990 to about 160 pairs in 2010 (a 77% decline).

Surveys carried out by several other Community Wildlife Groups suggest that the population has fallen further since 2010.

Other evidence for the decline of Lapwing and Curlew can be found on the website of the British Trust for Ornithology www.bto.org

Action to reverse the declines must start by improving the breeding success of the remaining pairs, so conservation action in the areas where they are still found, such as the Tanat to Perry CWG area, is vital. Such action is being taken, nationally and locally. Both species have been designated as UK Biodiversity Priority Species by the Government, as part of its commitment to international biodiversity targets, precisely because of the rapid decline.

Both species nest on farmland, and the Countryside Stewardship Agri-environment Scheme (part of the system of payments to farmers through the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union) includes provision to reward farmers for sensitive management of habitat on their farms, and providing other environmental benefits. The scheme includes specific prescriptions, and payments, for Lapwing and Curlew habitat, if the farmer wants to apply, and the application is successful.

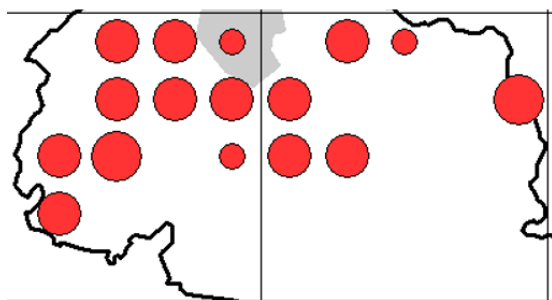
Comparison of Tanat to Perry CWG Bird Survey Results with the Shropshire Bird Atlas 2008-13

The next two pairs of maps show, on the left, the results of the Bird Atlas 2008-13 for the 43 tetrads covered by the survey, and, on the right, the results of the survey in this area, as shown on the maps on pages 4 - 7. Each dot represents at least one observation during the Atlas period, or during the 2018 survey, in the appropriate tetrad.

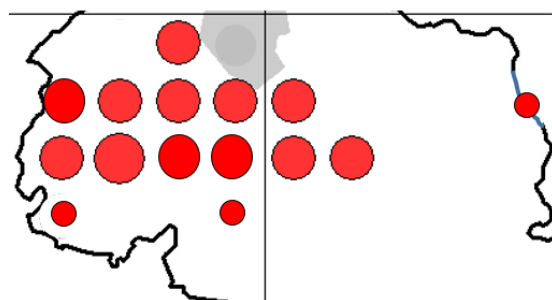
- Large dot = Confirmed Breeding (Bird seen sitting on nest, or chicks seen)
- Middle dot = Probable Breeding (Pair or display seen)
- Small dot = Seen or heard in suitable habitat
- No dot = Not found

Curlew

Bird Atlas 2008-13
SJ 22 (east) & SJ32

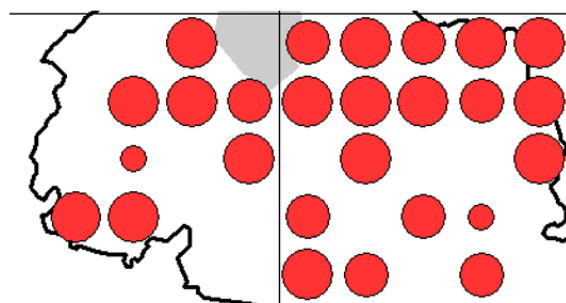


Tanat to Perry CWG 2018
SJ 22 (east) & SJ32

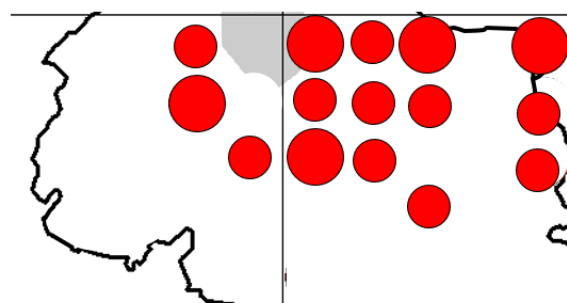


Lapwing

Bird Atlas 2008-13
SJ22 (east) & SJ32



Tanat to Perry CWG 2018
SJ22 (east) & SJ32



It must be stressed that the Atlas map includes survey work over six years, not one, but most tetrads will not have been visited every year, and it was only necessary to find the highest level of breeding evidence once in the six years, and the surveyors were looking for breeding evidence for all species. Even so, it is unlikely that the 2018 survey found all the pairs, and results should improve as surveyors get to know their squares better, and more people find out about the survey and contribute records or information. It is likely to take 2-3 years to build up a complete picture.

However, the two target species are conspicuous and noisy, so most will not have been overlooked, and these maps suggest strongly that the decline of both species has continued since the Atlas survey started in this area too.

Use of CWG Survey Results

In the short term, the survey results will be made available to Natural England. They show the importance of particular areas for these species, which will hopefully encourage farmers to manage their land sensitively, and provide Natural England with objective evidence to judge individual farm applications to join Countryside Stewardship, and information to target the use of their limited resources more effectively.

The results also reinforce and supplement the results from other Community Wildlife Groups operating in the Shropshire Hills, and the north-west. The former now cover well over 500 square kilometres, around two-thirds of the Shropshire Hills AONB. These results help inform the AONB Management Plan, which is now being revised to cover the five years 2019 – 24.

Coupled with the results of other surveys, the results may also contribute to the identification of potential new Local (County) Wildlife Sites. These sites are monitored by Shropshire Wildlife Trust, which encourages the landowners to manage the sites sensitively, so they retain their value for wildlife.

More importantly in the longer term, the location of Curlew territories and nest sites will provide vital information to the SWT / SOS *Save our Curlews* campaign. Subject to locating the approximate locations of the centre of several Curlew territories (i.e. the field(s) containing the nest site), and the appeal raising the necessary funds to employ someone to find the nests and put up an electric fence to protect them, it is hoped to start nest protection in 2019, if a CWG volunteer surveyor locates it, but for a professional ornithologist to be employed to find nests in the area once we are confident that we have located several territories, perhaps in 2020. This will obviously require permission for access to the appropriate land, and co-operation from farmers on how their land is managed, so building relationships with individual farmers will be a crucial part of our work in 2019.

Work With Individual Farmers

Several members talked to local farmers while conducting their surveys, who were friendly and helpful. A lot of useful information was received, including reports of Curlew nests in previous years, and a Red Kite nest. Some volunteered access to their land, particularly to find and protect Curlew nests if and when this work starts in the area.

A record has been kept of the contact details of these farmers, and efforts will be made to keep in touch with them as the group, and the *Save our Curlews* campaign, develops.

Lessons Learnt, to be Applied in 2019

More emphasis will be placed on noting the behaviour of Lapwing and Curlew, to try and ascertain whether birds were part of the same breeding pair, or different ones, and whether

they were defending nests or chicks, indicating the nesting field and level of breeding success.

Recommendations

Natural England is recommended to encourage farmers with breeding Lapwing or Curlew on or near their land, to join the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, utilising the appropriate options to maintain and enhance the habitat for these priority species

Acknowledgements

Most importantly, thanks to the Group members who undertook the survey work:

Terri Anderson	Jon Ellis	Stephen Morris
Ray & Annice Ayers	Jane Evans	Stephen Owen
Claire Backshall	Melissa Everett	Dave & Gwyn Parish
Linda Baines	Sue Franklin	Carol & Howard Perry
Vic & Cath Baldry	Jeremy & Nyria Gadbury	Carl Pickering
Karen Bell	Simon Gittins	Hilary Rees
Tarik Bodasing	Charles & Sally Green	Phoebe Rees
Liz Brayne	Anthony Griffiths	Susan Rice-Oxley
Simon Brown & Wild Team	Richard Halahan	Sarah Roberts
Carol Carpenter	David Hardwick	Steve Roberts
Cathy & Dennis Carter	Neil & Jeanette Henderson	James Shaw
Christine Corfield	Frank Hulse	Sally Smyth
Bill Coxhead	Dave Jones	Sue & Steve Southam
Warwick Davies	Mary & Vicky Kidson	Sue & Richard Swindells
Allan Dawes	Jacky Leather	Joanne Thompson
Sarah & Joe Dudley	Alison Lindsay	Alec White
Sue & Artie Edmonds	Jeff & Debbie Marais	Helen Williams
Les & Bill Edwards	Erica & Patrick Martin	

Casual records are very important, as they often allow more accurate interpretation of the survey results. Most of the surveyors also supplied additional casual records. Other casual records were supplied by Sue Brown, John Collins, Adrian Davies, Cheryl Davies, Anne Garton-Jones, Carol Jones, Edward Jones, Margaret Jones, Philip Lloyd, Pat Mabe, Gareth Owen, Robert Parker, Dave Pass and Allison Sacre. Thank you too.

Special thanks to Claire Backshall, who publicised all the meetings, distributed information to members, organised the training, co-ordinated the work and collated the results.

Thanks also to:-

- Richard Hammerton, Shropshire Council Biodiversity Data Officer, who provided the survey maps.
- Allan Dawes, for helping with the fieldwork training, and surveying two squares that would not otherwise have been covered.

Other Community Wildlife Groups

The first Group, the Upper Onny Wildlife Group, first surveyed Lapwing and Curlew in 2004, and has done so every year since. Upper Clun CWG started in 2007, Kemp Valley in 2009, Clee Hill CWG in 2012, and Rea Valley and Camlad CWGs (part of the Stiperstones-Corndon HLF funded Landscape Partnership Scheme) in 2014. Stretton Hills CWG was

launched in 2012, and surveyed Lapwing and Curlew for the first time in 2017. The Three Parishes CWG, covering Weston Rhyn, St. Martin's and Gobowen, undertook a Bird Survey in 2017. All these groups continued with a Lapwing and Curlew survey in 2018, when they were joined by new CWGs covering Oswestry south (Tanat to Perry) and Severn-Vyrnwy Confluence.

A further Group, centred on Abdon (near Brown Clee) also started in 2018, the initiative of a local resident.

Between them, these Groups cover well over half of the County's breeding Curlews. The Curlew distribution map from the County Bird Atlas 2008-13 is attached as Appendix 3, overlain with the Community Wildlife Group areas.

In 2018, these Groups covered 137 survey squares (tetrads), totalling 536 square kilometres. There were over 270 participants, who spent a total of more than 2,400 hours on survey work, and 85 – 103 Curlew territories were identified. This is a clear indication of the concern that local people have for the decline of Curlew, and their willingness to support action to do something about it.

Further information can be found on the joint website for all the Community Wildlife Groups in the Shropshire Hills, www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk The three CWGs in the north-west have now joined the website.

SWT/SOS Save our Curlews Campaign

The identification of Curlew territories by the Community Wildlife Groups is the foundation of the campaign. When local knowledge has located them sufficiently for a professional ornithologist to find several, it is intended to find them and protect them with an electric fence, and then radio tag the chicks that hatch, to gain information on how they feed, and the threats they face. The work is funded by a joint SWT/SOS Appeal.

This work was carried out in the Upper Clun and Clee Hill CWG areas in 2018. Three nests were found and fenced in each area. No chicks survived in the Upper Clun, but at least one, probably two, fledged in Clee Hill. Detailed reports of the work in each of these two areas, and more information about the aims of the campaign, can be found on the SOS website www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/ If you want to donate to the appeal see www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/appeals

Summary 2018

This report summarises a very successful first year for the Group. Members showed a high level of commitment in carrying out the surveys.

All of the 43 tetrads were surveyed, and we now have a better understanding of the population and distribution of Lapwing and Curlew, and the status of the Other Target Species.

The populations in the Tanat to Perry CWG area are estimated at 12 - 15 pairs of Curlew and 44 - 47 pairs of Lapwing.

This is valuable information for the conservation of these birds. Further survey work in future years will add to this baseline, and establish population trends.

Plans for 2019

The Group intends to repeat the Bird Survey next year, and in subsequent years, to clarify the number of pairs of Curlew and Lapwing actually present, and the location of nest sites and foraging areas, and work towards regular monitoring to establish a population trend. More participants are needed, so we hope to recruit new members.

The Group's meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5 March 2019 will largely be about planning the 2019 survey. Everyone interested in birds is welcome to participate. The venue is Morda Village Hall, Weston Road, Morda, Oswestry SY10 9NS (turn opposite the Miners Arms, then 200 yards on the left).

Further Information

- Claire Backshall tpcwg@shropscwgs.org.uk 01691 830691
- Leo Smith leo@leosmith.org.uk 01694 720296

Further copies of this report can be obtained from either.

Leo Smith
Claire Backshall
February 2019

This is a detailed topographic map of the Dublin region, Ireland, showing the River Liffey and surrounding urban areas. The map is overlaid with a grid of 10x10 squares, each labeled with a four-letter code (e.g., SJ22J, SJ22K, SJ22L). A thick black line outlines a specific area in the lower-left and bottom-center of the map. The map includes various geographical features like rivers, parks, and buildings, as well as a scale bar and a north arrow.

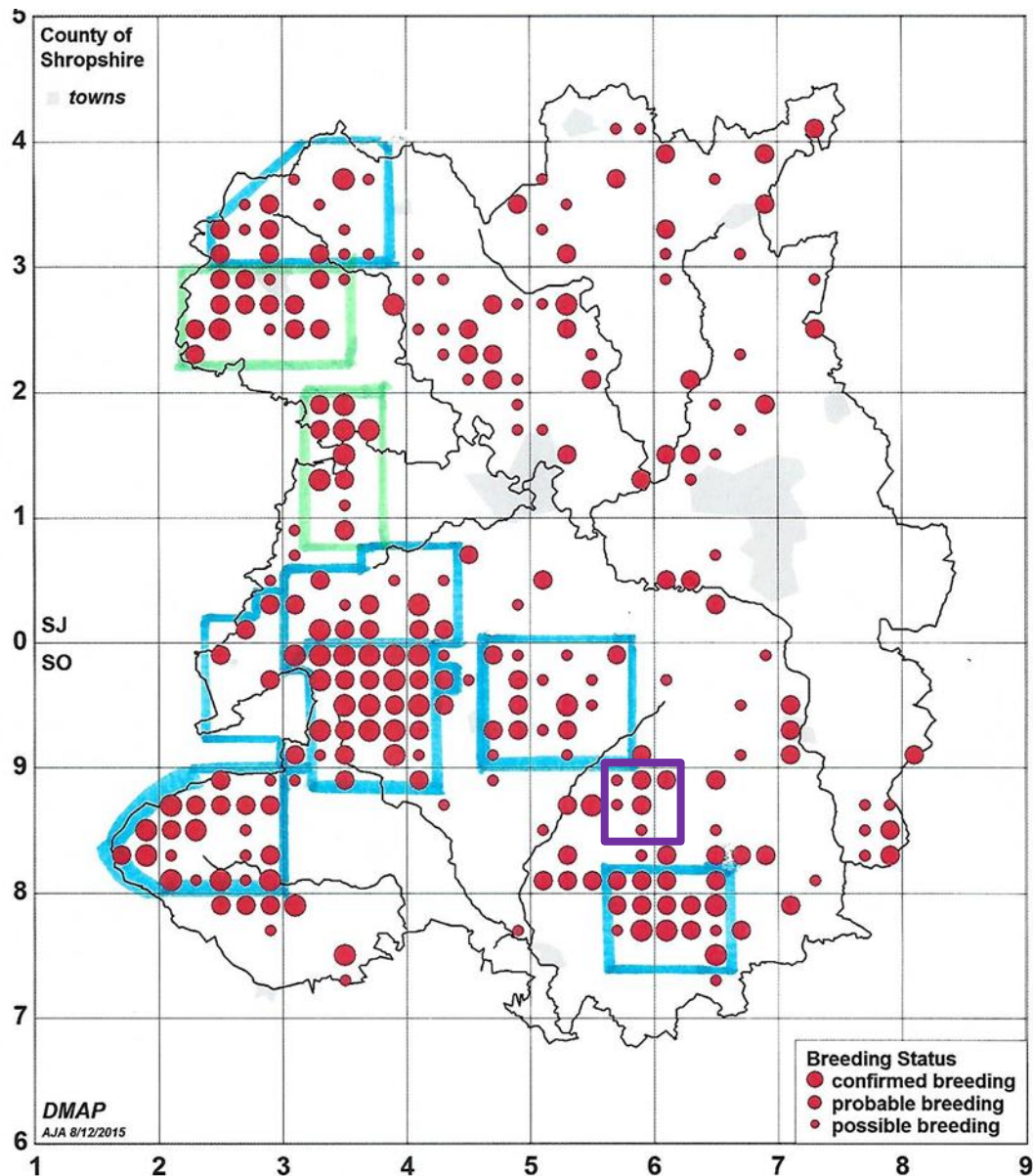
First Survey Period (24 March - 8 April)

Second Survey Period (21 April - 6 May)17

Appendix 2. Detailed Survey Results (continued)

Third Survey Period (9 - 24 June)																									
Tetrad		Square Surveyor		Time		Other target species looked for	Number of Each Species Recorded																		
				Hrs	Mins		Lapwing	Curlew	Kestrel	Red Kite	Snipe	Skyhawk	Meadow Pipit	Dipper	Swift (sites)	Yellow Wagtail	Dunlin	Wheatear	Spotted Flycatcher	Tree Sparrow	Linnet	Bullfinch	Yellowhammer	Reed Bunting	Corn Bunting
SJ22	G	David Hardwick	4	0	Yes											2									
SJ22	G	Sue & Steve Southam	2	55	Yes				2		1					1				1					
SJ22	H	Sue & Artie Edmonds	3	0	No			1	(Did not look for optional target species)																
SJ22	I	Carol & Howard Perry	3	0	Yes			(Looked for all target species but none found)																	
SJ22	J	Christine Corfield & Frank Hulse	2	15	Yes			(Looked for all target species but none found)																	
SJ22	L	Susan Rice-Oxley																							
SJ22	M	Jacky Leather	5	30	Yes			1	(Looked for optional target species but none found)																
SJ22	N	Cathy Carter	3	5	Yes				1		2														
SJ22	N	Sarah Roberts & Terri Anderson	2	30	Yes			(Looked for all target species but none found)																	
SJ22	P	Hilary Rees	1	45	Yes			(Looked for all target species but none found)																	
SJ22	Q	Claire Backshall	2	45	Yes				1							6			2	1	2	2			
SJ22	R	Susan Rice-Oxley																							
SJ22	S	Jeremy & Nyria Gadbury																							
SJ22	S	Neil Henderson	2	15	Yes														1						
SJ22	T	Warwick Davies	1	45	No			1	(Did not look for optional target species)																
SJ22	T	Phoebe Rees																							
SJ22	U	Carol Carpenter	3	30	No			(No CUL found; did not look for optional target species)																	
SJ22	U	Sarah & Joe Dudley																							
SJ22	V	Alec White	2	0	Yes			(Looked for all target species but none found)																	
SJ22	W	Bill Coxhead						Not surveyed																	
SJ22	X	Sue Franklin	1	55	No			1	(Did not look for optional target species)																
SJ22	Y	Sue & Richard Swindells	2	35	Yes				1							10				1					
SJ22	Y	Steve Roberts	3	20	Yes																				
SJ22	Z	Carol Carpenter	1	45	No			(No CUL found; did not look for optional target species)																	
SJ32	A	Mary & Vicky Kidson	3	30	Yes											2			1		7	1			
SJ32	B	Charles & Sally Green						Not surveyed																	
SJ32	C	Anthony Griffiths	1	45	Yes		2	1		1	1		1			4									
SJ32	C	Tank Bodasing & Melissa Everett	4	0	Yes			1	(Looked for optional target species but none found)																
SJ32	D	Vic & Cath Baldry	3	30	Yes			2		1		2				1									
SJ32	E	Linda Baines																							
SJ32	F	Carl Pickering	3	10	Yes				1																
SJ32	G	VACANT					Not surveyed																		
SJ32	H	Anthony Griffiths	1	45	Yes		1	1					4			3			4	1	1	1	4		
SJ32	H	Tank Bodasing					Not surveyed																		
SJ32	I	Jane Evans/Helen Williams	2	40	Yes		8			1															
SJ32	J	James Shaw	2	0	Yes							5				3									
SJ32	J	Simon Brown/Wild Team	2	0	Yes	1			(Looked for optional target species but none found)																
SJ32	K	Jeff & Debbie Marais																							
SJ32	L	Jeff & Debbie Marais																							
SJ32	M	Gwyn & Dave Parish	1	20	Yes			(Looked for all target species but none found)																	
SJ32	M	Dave Jones	2	0	Yes			(Looked for all target species but none found)																	
SJ32	N	Elizabeth Brayne	6	0	Yes			(Looked for all target species but none found)																	
SJ32	P	James Shaw	4	0	Yes		8					7				2									
SJ32	P	Les & Bill Edwards																							
SJ32	Q	Stephen Owen	2	0	Yes							3													
SJ32	R	Jon Ellis	3	10	Yes							2				3									
SJ32	S	Simon Gittins																			1				
SJ32	T	Erica & Patrick Martin	3	10	Yes								2												
SJ32	U	Karen Bell	6	45	Yes					1		2									1				
SJ32	V	Joanne Thompson	5	20	Yes				1	1															
SJ32	V	Annicc Ayers	3	50	Yes			(Looked for all target species but none found)																	
SJ32	W	Alison Lindsay	1	30	No			(No CUL found; did not look for optional target species)																	
SJ32	X	Alison Lindsay	1	15	No			(No CUL found; did not look for optional target species)																	
SJ32	Y	Richard Halahan	4	10	Yes							15													
SJ32	Y	Les & Bill Edwards																							
SJ32	Z	Stephen Morris	3	30	Yes			2	3	1		7									3		1		
Total			122	10			22	12	6	8	0	51	2	0	4	3	30	0	3	0	6	9	19	5	

Appendix 3. Bird Atlas 2008-13 Curlew Distribution map, overlain by Community Wildlife Group areas, and table of CWG data and survey activity in 2018



Group		Area		First Year	Curlew		Participants			
		Survey squares (tetrads)	(sq. kms.)		Breeding Pairs (2018)		% decline since First Year	No. people	Hours	Min-utes
					Min	Max				
1	Upper Onny	31.5	125	2004	25	- 28	37	27	232	5
2	Upper Clun	31	110	2007	8	- 9	60	19	130	0
3	Clee Hill	20	80	2012	7	- 10	31	28	180	55
4	Rea Valley	25.5	80	2014	9	- 11	n / a	21	179	5
5	Camlad Valley	11 **	44	2014	3	- 3	n / a	15	125	50
6	Strettons area	30	120	2017	6	- 8	n / a	35	356	55
7	Three Parishes	28	100	2017	3	- 4	n / a	29	194	55
8	Tanat to Perry (Oswestry south)	43	172	2018	12	- 15	n / a	70	600	31
9	Severn-Vyrnwy Confluence	27	108	2018	7	- 7	n / a	22	328	
10	Abdon	9	36	2018	5	- 8	n / a	11	109	20
Total		137	536		85	- 103		277	2433	96

Groups 1 – 7 formed before 2018. 1, 4 and 5 (yellow highlight) cover Curlew Country area.
8 & 9 promoted in 2018 by SWT / SOS campaign. 10 formed in 2018 by local resident