

Upper Onny Wildlife Group Bird Survey 2021

Curlew Lapwing and Other Target Species

New helpers needed, please



The Upper Onny Wildlife Group has been monitoring local Curlews, Lapwings and other birds since 2004. We are planning on starting the 2021 survey at the end of March. We need more helpers please, so if you have some time to spend monitoring the iconic birds in our area, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

The main target species are Lapwing and Curlew. If you can recognise these two birds (and preferably their calls), you can make an important contribution.

We cover a total area of about 125 square kilometres, between the Long Mynd and the Welsh Border (from just north of Bridges, Pennerley and Shelve, as far south as Horderley and Bishops Castle). A map can be found on the website.

The area is divided into squares, each of 2x2 kilometres. Participants take on one of these survey squares and visit three times, on dates to suit you around 1st April, 1st May and 15th June, about half a day each visit, so it doesn't take much time. It's easy to do, and participants are provided with simple survey instructions and a map to record sightings on. If possible we'd also like you to record Kestrel, Cuckoo and other target species, but that's an optional extra.

In 2021 the survey will be conducted in accordance with whatever Government Coronavirus restrictions are in place at the time, but as survey visits are usually made by people on their own, or by couples, and can be done as daily exercise, they will be allowed. The Government Road Map, published on 22 February, included several relaxations of the Coronavirus lockdown restrictions while being outside, most importantly that the "Stay at Home" rule is planned to end on 29 March.



We normally hold a meeting in March to report back on last year's results, and explain what's involved to new participants. However, we won't be able to do that this year. New helpers will be briefed by email. There will be a practical (socially-distanced) training session, explaining how to go about the survey, and record what you see, in early April, if you feel you need it.

You can choose your own square, and do more than one if you want. However, we have to try and get all the squares covered, so it would be appreciated if you'll be a bit flexible, and tell me the rough area that you'd like to do, and I'll choose a square for you

You can find the survey reports from 2020 and previous years, on the relevant part of the Community Wildlife Groups website, www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk.

Ours is one of 10 Community Wildlife Groups monitoring Curlews in Shropshire. You can see where they operate, and what they found in 2019 and 2020, on the map attached.

If you're interested in helping, or want more information, email Leo Smith (leo@leosmith.org.uk)