



Shropshire Community Wildlife Groups

Bird Surveys: Curlew Lapwing and Other Target Species

All 10 Community Wildlife Groups have been monitoring local Curlews, Lapwings, and other birds for some years. The survey starts at the end of March. We need more helpers please, so if you have some time to spend monitoring these iconic birds in your local area, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

The survey is an outdoor activity, usually undertaken by couples or people on their own, so it is not affected by any Government Coronavirus restrictions or guidance.

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. If possible, we'd also like you to record Kestrel, Cuckoo, and other target species, but that's an optional extra.

Each survey area is divided into squares, each of 2x2 kilometres. Participants take on one of these survey squares and visit it three times, on dates to suit you, around 1st April, 1st May and 15th June. Each visit takes about three hours, so it doesn't take much time. It's done from public rights of way (public footpaths and lanes), so you don't need to ask for any landowner permission. It's very easy to do, and participants are provided with simple survey instructions and a map to record sightings on.

Most Groups normally hold a meeting in March to report back on last year's results, and explain what's involved to new participants. Meetings have been arranged for 2022, and each Group will consider whether or not to go ahead nearer the time. However, the survey itself will go ahead. 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 late March or early April, but only for those who feel they need it.

Depending on which Group you want to help, you can find more details, including arrangements for a local meeting, a map of the survey area, and the report of results from previous years, on that Group's pages on this website.

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 can be a bit flexible, and tell us the rough area that you'd like to do, and we'll choose a square for you.

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