

# **Camlad Valley Community Wildlife Group**



Meadows at White Grit Photo c. Rob Rowe

## **Annual Report 2022**

**Camlad Valley Community Wildlife Group**  
**Annual Report**  
**Introduction**

Welcome to this report and to those attending our Annual Meeting, including Ric Morris, whose talk we look forward to following the evening's business.

My first duty is to thank the National Trust and Green Recovery Challenge Fund for our funding as participants in the 'Stepping Stones' project. This has enabled us to plan and carry out a programme of free events, which continues until the end of March this year.

We continue to benefit from the expertise and enthusiasm of Rob Rowe and Leo Smith, whose reports on their activities throughout the year form the major part of this document.

Thanks are due to all the current committee members, in particular our Secretary Sandy Scott, who organised the recent successful 'Bird Fest' here in Churchstoke, and to Peter Fenner, who manages our publicity and web presence. We were sad to receive the resignation of our Treasurer, Huw Prole, due to ill health and send Huw many thanks for his support and our very best wishes for his recovery.

The committee would be delighted if a member of the group would take over the role of Treasurer, even if just for a year. It is not too onerous and the finances are in good order! You will notice that the financial report is for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022; this is in line with previous reports but of course does not reflect more recent activity. As Acting Treasurer I have therefore included a brief update on the current situation.

*Mary Napper-White, Chair, CVCWG*

***Treasurer's Report for financial year 2021 - 2022***

Camlad Valley Community Wildlife Group

Receipt and Payments for year ending 31/3/22

**Monies Carried forward from previous year as at 30.3.21. £602.52**

Payments in

Date	Receipt	£
04.06.21	Credit from Nat. Trust	500.00
22.03.22.	Cash deposit	23.00

Payments out

Date	Cheque No.	£
14.04.21	100022 Zoom fee	71.94
09.08.21.	100023 PLI	183.00
07.12.21.	100025 CSRA	12.80
10.12.21.	100024 website	10.00
21.03.22.	100026 Hall hire	43.20
14.01.22.	Bank charge	5.80
14.02.22.	Bank charge	5.00
17.03.22.	Bank charge	5.00

Payments in £1125.52

Payments out £336.74

**Monies in bank as of 5/3/22 £788.78**

*Mary Napper-White, Chair, standing in as Treasurer*

***For information, the bank balance as at 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 is £1784.50, plus £116 cash in hand. We are on course to use our grant from the Stepping Stones project and should start the year from April 2023 with a reasonable balance in hand.***

## **Community Wildlife Plant Group 2022**

**The Community Wildlife Plant Group covers the areas of the Camlad, Rea Valley and Upper Onny Wildlife Groups and is open to anyone interested in plants and fungi, whether a complete beginner or an experienced botanist.**

**A series of outings and training days started in 2014, with backing from Natural England. The outings are designed to identify and record the plants at each site and provide informal training for participants to improve their knowledge and identification skills, and then, if they wish, carry out their own survey work.**

**A leaflet was produced with the help of Cassy Clayton from Natural England. These were distributed electronically and the events were advertised through the Community wildlife groups and the Shropshire Hills AONB.**

**I am particularly grateful for funding from the Stepping Stones project Green Recovery fund**

**As well as plants and fungi we recorded birds and insects where possible.**

**These sessions were very popular with a total of ninety-five attendees.**

**In 2022 we organised 9 visits and 1 workshop all of which were well attended.**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

**Ancient Trees of Rorrington**

A walk with 14 people around Rorrington estate to look at some of the ancient trees, their fungi and their past management and place in the landscape.

**In May we worked with a project to help the Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary which requires violets for the caterpillars to feed on.** We spent two days carrying out a survey of Marsh Violet in the wetlands on the east side of the Stiperstones, to which 10 people came on each survey.

This was based on transects set up with help from Caroline Uff and contributed to a larger survey and report.

**On the 10<sup>th</sup> May**

**We surveyed for Marsh Violet and other butterfly nectar plants above the Gatten and Hollies farm SSSI and on 25<sup>th</sup> May we continued on SWT land at Brook Vessons and the Hollies.**

Later in the year, in November, volunteers helped rake up rushes on the SWT land that had been strimmed, to enable the more vulnerable plants to flourish [especially the Marsh Violet]

**We organised some site visits led by their owners to hear about their experiences and involvement with their land over the years.**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

**White Grit Meadows SSSI** led by the owner. A family-owned farm with particularly rich flora which has been managed very sympathetically for many years. The only site in the locality where Greater Burnet occurs. It was thriving and spreading into an adjacent field.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

**Lower Aston Farm Meadows near Bishops Castle** led by the owners who are creating wetland pools and scrapes, doing tree planting and who have some good wetland areas and species rich hay meadows.

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

**Meadows at Upper Alport near Churchstoke** led by the owners who own species rich meadows and a bank which is managed as a hay meadow by horse grazing late in the year

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

**Getting to know grasses: what to look out for, how to identify them and how they came about.**

This was a very popular day learning about grasses with indoor and outdoor sessions. Led by Dr Richard Gulliver

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

**Hope Common**

A look around the plants of the churchyard, then going on to the diverse habitats of Hope Common.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

**Roundton Hill Fungi**

Identifying fungi on the MWT nature reserve

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 10.30am-3pm**

**Blakemoorgate Fungi**

Identifying grassland fungi in the abandoned settlement. Jointly with Shropshire Fungi Group.

### ***Invasive Plant Species***

**Himalayan Balsam is a non-native invasive plant that is colonising many rivers and streams. The Group secured funding for a seventh year. We had funding for 2022 from the Stepping Stones project.**

**Himalayan Balsam was originally found right at the top of the West Onny just into Wales at White Grit, in a tributary near the Bog, and there were large amounts along the Criftin Brook. Pulling it up has been the major part of the project. We have now worked downstream to the A488 bridge near Horderley, and many areas are now clear.**

**In 2022 work did go ahead much as planned and some volunteers were recruited to help with clearance again. There was a contribution of 6 volunteer days. We were able to work with National Trust volunteers again on the lower reaches of the river and on the Plowden estate. We again had the benefit of 2 days with large numbers of enthusiastic National Trust volunteers [total 20 volunteer days] and on another day with members of the local Plowden fishing club. [7 volunteer days].**

**Landowners have been sympathetic, and the problem is being kept under control with much less of the Balsam occurring now higher in the catchment. A full report can be found on the website.**

**Rob Rowe January 2023**

*Camlad Valley*  
*Community Wildlife Group*



*Bird Group Report*

*2022*



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# Curlews, Lapwings and Other Birds Survey

## **Introduction**



A bird survey has been carried out in the Camlad Valley Community Wildlife Group (CVCWG) area, shown in Appendix 1, since 2014. It complements surveys carried out by the Upper Onny Wildlife Group since 2004, and the Rea Valley CWG, also initiated by the Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) in 2014. It is intended to repeat the survey annually, to monitor long-term population trends for key species, as well as

establish the current population and distribution.

The aim is to locate the territories of breeding pairs of Lapwing and Curlew, and record behaviour, to estimate the population. No attempt is made to locate nests. Although the survey concentrates on the two main target species, and their habitats, surveyors are asked to also record on their maps any of 23 other target species seen, if they were confident that they could do so.

The area has been divided up into 20 tetrads (2x2 kilometre squares, each made up of four of the one-kilometre squares shown on Ordnance Survey maps). These tetrads, and their reference code, are shown on the map in Appendix 1.

The survey consists of three visits to each of these tetrads, once during each of three specified two-week periods, around 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> May and mid-June. with visits concentrating on habitats where the main target species might be found, and lasting around three hours each. The surveys are conducted from Public Rights of Way, unless individual surveyors obtained landowners permission to leave them. Survey maps and recording instructions were supplied. A practical fieldwork training meeting was held for those that wanted one.

In 2020, coverage was limited due to Government restrictions to limit the spread of coronavirus. However, particular efforts were made to continue to record Curlews, and coverage was probably better than usual, with people exercising from home, but coverage of Lapwing was less good than usual.



Participation in 2021 was similar to what was achieved in earlier years, and 23 members spent over 150 hours on the survey. Recording of the Other Target Species resumed. Only two survey squares received no coverage.

In 2022, the same number of Participants (23) spent the same amount of time on the survey (just over 150 hours), and all except one survey squares received some coverage.

Eleven out of 22 target species were recorded, the best coverage yet.

### **Curlew**

Curlew is the “most pressing bird conservation priority in the UK” (Brown *et al*, *British Birds* 2015), because the UK has an estimated 28% of the European, and 19-27% of the world population, and is on the national *Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern* 4 (Eaton *et al*, *British Birds* 2015), because of a decline of 62% in the UK between 1969 and 2014. The BTO Breeding Bird Survey has found a 48% decline in the UK, a 29% decline in England and a 73% decline in Wales, over the 25-year period 1995-2020.



*The Birds of Shropshire* (Smith, 2019) showed a decline from about 700 breeding pairs in 1990 to 160 in 2010 (a loss of 77%), and it disappeared from 62% of the Atlas survey squares (tetrads) between 1985-90 and 2008-13. The decline has continued, and there were probably only about 120 pairs left in the whole of the County in 2021. This is almost 30% of the total in southern England (*Saving England's lowland Eurasian Curlews* Colwell *et al* *British Birds* 2020). At the current rate of decline, the County population will halve in about 12 years, and become virtually extinct in 25. Curlew is on the *Red List of Breeding Birds of Conservation Concern in Shropshire*, recently published by Shropshire Ornithological Society.

In Montgomeryshire, a survey of the eastern half of the County found 176 breeding pairs in 1986. An MWT survey in 2000 located only 42 pairs at 30 sites, “a catastrophic decline”, while a further survey showed a 69% decline between surveys in 1993 and 2006 (Holt & Williams 2008). In 2021, a total of 45 potential breeding pairs were located by a survey (Mick Green, pers.comm.). The results show a broad spread of Curlew across the area. Upland pairs, found during previous windfarm related surveys, had declined considerably. For example, in Nant y Eira, heading North from Talerddig no pairs were found. This valley contained 11 pairs in 2005. A windfarm at Mynydd y Hendre, north of Carno, held no birds having previously holding up to 5 pairs. This is despite extensive habitat

management done as part of the development. This survey did not include the area covered by the Camlad CWG survey.

#### Survey results

The map summarises the estimated number and distribution of Curlew territories in the Camlad Valley area in 2022.

The methodology requires observations of a pair together, or a territorial display, or a single bird on two of the three surveys, to confirm a territory. However, Curlews 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 birds are seen or heard concurrently. If that does not happen, the methodology requires the analysis to produce the lowest population estimate consistent with the records, in this case 5 – 7 pairs, compared with the 7 - 8 pairs found last year.

A pair has been found in SO29Y every year since 2014 (except 2015), but in 2020, two pairs were found for the first time. Only one was found in 2021. In 2022 there was definitely one pair, but possibly two.

Apart from that, Curlews were found at all the sites except two where they were found last year. There were definitely two pairs in SJ20K, where one was found in 2021, 2020 and 2019 (the first year this square was covered).

For the first time, there were no records from SJ20Q, so this pair may have been lost. A pair found in SO39B in previous years was not present, and may have been lost as well. There are several pairs in SJ30B, outside our area, so it is unknown whether records from SJ30B relate to a pair from our area, or from outside it.

The record of one heard in the north-east, near Marton, may have been in the Camlad area, but might equally have been in the adjacent square to the east, in the Rea Valley area, where Curlews are also known to breed.

There were no records from local residents in SO29S, as this pair had been lost by 2020.

Judging from their behaviour, it is likely that the pairs in SJ20K had chicks, but there is no evidence that any young Curlews fledged in the area.

**From the observations and analysis, it is estimated that the Curlew population in the area in 2021 was 5 - 7 breeding pairs,**

## 2 – 4 in England and 3 - 4 in Wales

The apparent discrepancy is because, if there was a second pair in SO29Y, it is not known if the nest was in England or Wales, so a possible additional pair has been counted in both countries.

**The 2014 - 22 surveys have been the start of regular annual monitoring to establish the number of pairs actually present, better knowledge of nesting and foraging areas, and the population trend. The survey will be repeated in future years.**

### Population Trend

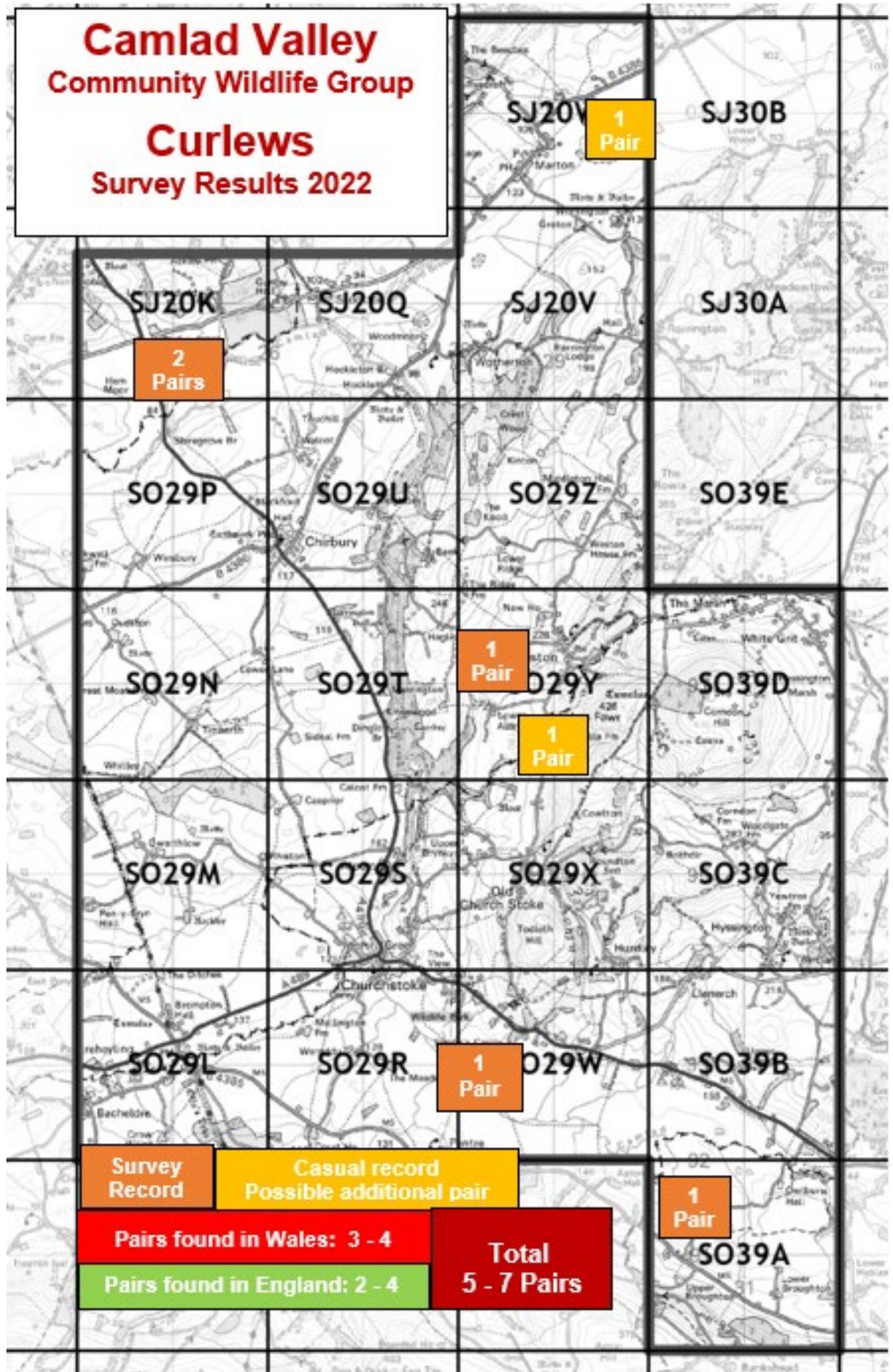
Table 1 shows the estimated number of pairs found in each year since 2014, and the chart shows the annual trends. In most years the number of pairs has not been established precisely, so a range has been given, and the pair in SO29S nested right on the border, so it has been counted as possibly breeding in both countries up until 2017. A possible additional pair near the border in SO29Y in 2022 has been treated the same way. The chart is based on the mid-point of each range. Therefore, the total population shown is not necessarily the sum of the English and Welsh populations.

Establishing trends is not easy, as some squares have not been surveyed every year, and the 2018 report stated *“The weather in 2018 was not helpful to Curlew. Strong winds and wet weather (“the beast from the east”) restricted the availability of invertebrate food, and delayed the growth of grass to provide cover for nest sites, so it is possible that some pairs delayed nesting, never tried, or moved on”. Three pairs found in 2017 were not found in 2018, but were re-found in 2019 and 2020.*

*The same may apply to 2022, which also had a cold dry spring.*

**Camlad Valley  
Community Wildlife Group**

**Curlews  
Survey Results 2022**



**SJ20V**  
1 Pair

**SJ30B**

**SJ20K**  
2 Pairs

**SJ20Q**

**SJ20V**

**SJ30A**

**SO29P**

**SO29U**

**SO29Z**

**SO39E**

1 Pair

**SO29N**

**SO29T**

**SO29Y**

**SO39D**

1 Pair

**SO29M**

**SO29S**

**SO29X**

**SO39C**

1 Pair

**SO29L**

**SO29R**

**SO29W**

**SO39B**

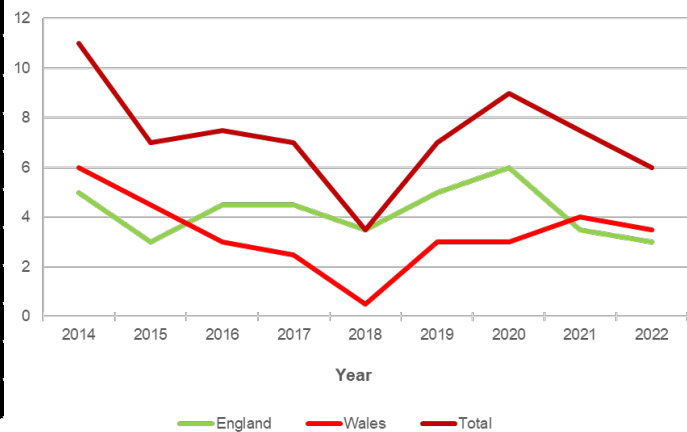
1 Pair

**SO39A**

**Table 1. Curlew population**

**2014 – 22**

Year	Number of Curlew pairs		
	England	Wales	Total
2014	4 - 6	5 - 7	9 - 13
2015	2 - 3	4 - 5	6 - 8
2016	4 - 5	2 - 4	7 - 8
2017	4 - 5	2 - 3	7
2018	3	0 - 1	3 - 4
2019	5	3	7
2020	5 - 7	3	8 - 10
2021	3 - 4	4	7 - 8
2022	3	3.5	6



In addition, at least one pair, possibly two, were found in SJ20K in 2019. A pair had not been recorded there before, but the part of the square where it was found had not been surveyed previously. Two pairs were found there in 2020, only one again in 2021, but two in 2022. It is likely that there have been two pairs in this square every year.

The population apparently increased in 2020, compared to 2019, as a second pair was found south of Priest Weston, in SO29Y, but again this second pair was not found in 2021. It may have been present in 2022.

Overall, since 2014, it appears that the population in both the English and Welsh part of the area has declined. Certainly some of the apparent increases during the period are due to improved survey effort. Even with them, the number of pairs in 2022 was lower than it was in 2014 in both England and Wales.

### Colour-ringing



Around 200 wild Curlews have been caught and colour-ringed by the Mid-Wales Ringing Group since March 2015 at the Dolydd Hafren Montgomery Wildlife Trust Reserve on the River Severn near Welshpool, mainly on spring migration as they make their way back to breeding sites. All the “headstarted” chicks released by Curlew Country near the Stiperstones since 2017, and a large number at autumn and wintering sites in Wales, have also been colour-ringed.

An example of the colour-rings can be seen in the photo, taken in the Upper Clun in 2017.

Prior to 2020, four colour-ringed wild Curlews had been found breeding in the area, one near Owlbury, one near Hockleton and two near Marton. In 2020 both birds in the pair in SO29W, and one in each of the pairs in SO29Y, were colour-ringed, and three of these four were seen again in 2021, but most individuals were not observed closely enough to see whether they were colour-ringed or not. There were no observations of colour-rings in 2022, but this does not necessarily mean that none were present.

All these Curlews were caught and ringed at Dolydd Hafren MWT reserve near Welshpool, in March on their way back to their breeding areas. No headstarted Curlews have been found.

## **Lapwing**

Lapwing was added to the national *Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern* in 2009, and this status was confirmed in 2015 (Eaton *et al*, *British Birds* 2015), because of a decline in the UK of 63% between 1969 and 2014, and 57% over the previous 25 years. The BTO Breeding Bird Survey has found declines of 48% in the UK, 34% in England and 51% in the English West Midlands, over the 25-year period 1995-2020. There are no BBS figures for Wales, because the decline has been so great that Lapwing is not found in sufficient squares to calculate a trend (only an average of 30 are needed for the whole period).



*The Birds of Shropshire* (Smith, 2019) showed a decline from about 3,000 breeding pairs in 1990 to 800 in 2010 (a loss of 73%), and it disappeared from 46% of the 870 Atlas survey squares (tetrads) between 1985-90 and 2008-13. The decline has continued, certainly in the areas monitored by several Community Wildlife Groups. Lapwing is on the *Red List of Breeding Birds of Conservation Concern in Shropshire*. The decline is partly obscured by the much larger numbers seen in winter flocks, which comprise birds escaping from the frozen ground in northern Europe.

In Wales, it was estimated that breeding numbers in the 1990s had crashed to about 10% of the population in the early 1970s. In Montgomeryshire, 144 pairs were found by a survey of the eastern part of the county in 1986, while a survey of the whole County in 2000 found that a minimum of 38 pairs attempted to nest at 24 sites, but there was no evidence of any fledged chicks. Lapwings face extinction as a breeding bird in the county" ((Holt and Williams 2008).

In 2020 four breeding pairs were found about one mile east of Churchstoke, very close to the border, but in Wales. In 2021, two Lapwing were seen at the same site on 8 March, and one was seen there on 30 March. It is likely that at least one breeding pair was present, but they were not seen on subsequent visits to the site. No Lapwing were seen anywhere in the area in 2022.

Lapwings have nested in this vicinity in some previous years. However, unlike Curlew, they are not site-faithful. They need short vegetation or bare ground to nest on, and those that nest on arable land have to move round to follow the farm crop rotation and find bare earth or spring crops, so the annual population fluctuates. It is therefore important to survey squares every year, even if no Lapwings were found in the previous year.

There have been previous years when few Lapwing were found, as low as two pairs in 2015 and one in 2018, but, apart from 2022, 2019 is only year when none were found (although two squares where they have been found previously, SO29L and N, were not surveyed in that year). There were 10 -12 pairs in 2016.

**From the observations and analysis, it is estimated that the**

**Lapwing population in 2022 was no breeding pairs.**

### ***Anecdotal Evidence for the Decline of Lapwing and Curlew***

Members of the Bird Group who live in the area, and other local residents, have said that Lapwings and Curlews are less common now than they used to be. In previous years, some members talked to local farmers in the course of their surveys, and they too said that Lapwings and Curlews are less common now than they used to be.

Lapwings have apparently declined much more than Curlews.

## Kestrel



Kestrel is on the national *Amber List of Birds of Conservation Concern 4* (Eaton *et al*, 2015), because of a decline in the UK of 46% between 1969 and 2014, and 33% over the previous 25 years. The BTO Breeding Bird Survey has found declines of 40% in the UK, 26% in England and 41% in the English West Midlands region, over the 25-year period 1995-2020. There are no BBS figures for Wales, because Kestrel is not found in sufficient squares (only an average of 30 are needed for the whole period) to calculate a trend.

*The Birds of Shropshire* (Smith, 2019) showed that records of confirmed or probable breeding declined by 46% in the 870 Atlas survey squares (tetrads) between 1985-90 and 2008-13, and the population probably halved in that time. Kestrel is on the *Red List of Breeding Birds of Conservation Concern in Shropshire*.

In Montgomeryshire, "there continues to be a smattering of breeding records from various quarries and cliffs . . . and from tree nesting sites, but this species is clearly much reduced in numbers since Forrest's time" [the early twentieth century] (Holt and Williams 2008).

Kestrels defend a small territory around the nest, but their home range, where they find most of their food, is at least 1 km square, but can be as large as 10 km square. Most hunting is carried out within 1.8km of the nest, but the home range is often partly shared with neighbouring pairs.

The local decline appears to have continued in recent years, and the Shropshire Ringing and Raptor Groups have launched a nest box scheme to help improve breeding success, and try and find out the reasons for the decline. To help get a better understanding of the population and distribution, members doing CWG surveys have been asked to make a special effort to record Kestrels.

The population varies from year to year, depending on prey abundance, mainly voles, but Kestrels are much more likely to be observed in good breeding seasons, when they have to spend more time hunting for food for chicks, and travelling to and from the nest. In 2019, the numbers of Kestrels seen were much lower in all the CWG areas than in 2018, suggesting that 2019 was a very poor year for them. 2020 appears to have been generally better, but 2021 has been another very poor year, probably due to the persistent cold and dry northerly winds in April and May, which delayed the growing season and reduced the availability of prey.



Observations in the Camlad Valley area in 2022 indicate three pairs, near Priest Weston, Roundton and Aston Hall (SO39A), with a possible additional pair near Chirbury. 2021 records suggested three pairs, near Priest Weston, Roundton and Hyssington, compared with four pairs in 2020. The 2022 territories map is shown in Appendix 3.

## **Cuckoo**

Cuckoo has declined considerably in recent years, and was added to the *Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern* in the UK in 2009. By 2015 the decline reached 60% decline in the previous 25 years. The BTO Breeding Bird Survey has found declines of 34% in the UK, 71% in England, and 81% in the English West Midlands region, between 1995 and 2020, and a decline of 43% between 2010 and 2020 in Wales.

In *The Birds of Shropshire* (Smith, 2019), a comparison of the 1985-90 and 2008-13 Atlas distribution maps showed it had disappeared from 56% of the tetrads occupied in the earlier period. The population estimate for the later period was 90–95 pairs, less than half that estimated in the earlier Atlas.

In Montgomeryshire, “a massive decline has taken place since Forrest’s day”, with no recent reports from this area.

The characteristic Cuckoo call is made only by the male, and he defends a “song territory” to attract females and deter other males. The female has a different, rarely heard, “bubbling call”. Each male will chase other males out of his home patch, but the cuckoo isn't strongly territorial, and several males and females have been found to share overlapping ranges.

It is one of the Other Target Species that members have been asked to record each year, and in 2022, there was two records, from near Rhiston (SO29S) and from Corndon Hill (SO39D), where it has been heard in most years, and has been the only regular site. In 2021, there were no records on surveys, but there was one casual record from Priest Weston, near the usual area on Corndon Hill. However, in 2020 there were more Cuckoo records than usual. It was not clear whether there were actually more Cuckoos about, or that people were better able to hear them in the peace and quiet, or were at home rather than work, because of the coronavirus lockdown. Members were therefore specifically encouraged to submit Cuckoo records, which probably represented around six territorial males, substantially more than recorded in previous years, or since.

## **Red Kite**

The number seen each year has steadily increased, and 17 were seen in 10 squares in 2019. In view of the limited coverage in 2020, no direct comparison could be made, but in 2021, 20 were seen in 10 squares (half the survey area, while in 2022 the numbers increased again, to at least 25 birds in 15 squares.

A nest was found in the Welsh part of the area in 2020, in an oak tree in SO39C, and two young fledged. No nest was found in 2021 or 2022. In the English part of the area, nests have been found occasionally since 2012.



Given the rapid spread and population increase (over 50 known nests in Shropshire in 2021

– the first successful breeding for 130 years occurred as recently as 2006), it is likely that breeding will become a regular occurrence in the near future.

## ***Other Target Species***

Apart from the five main Target Species listed above, members were also asked to resume recording 19 Other Target species: Barn Owl, Bullfinch, Dipper, Dunnock, Grey Partridge, Linnet, Meadow Pipit, Red Kite, Reed Bunting, Skylark, Snipe, Spotted Flycatcher, Stonechat, Swift (nest sites only), Tree Sparrow, Wheatear, Whinchat, Yellow Wagtail and Yellowhammer. The results are shown in Table 1.

Eight species were not recorded at all: Barn Owl, Dipper, Grey Partridge, Snipe, Spotted Flycatcher, Swift (nest sites), Whinchat, and Reed Bunting

No Swift Nest Sites were reported, but the habitats visited by surveyors, to look for the main target species, do not hold many suitable Swift breeding sites. Swifts are on the *Red List of Breeding Birds of Conservation Concern in Shropshire*, and a Species Recovery Action Plan has been drawn up. Swifts are known to breed in Hyssington, Hurdley, Churchstoke and Chirbury, and almost certainly do so in other towns and villages. The Group would welcome a volunteer to be Swift Species Champion in the area, to recruit local volunteers to try and locate breeding sites.

## ***Nest Box Schemes***

The Group has organised nest box making sessions in the last few years, so some members have a few boxes on their own land, and the Group has a small number in stock, but so far no systematic recording, or large schemes of several boxes, have been organised. We need a volunteer to co-ordinate this, please.

**Table 1. Other Target Species - Summary**

Tetrad	Number of Each Species Recorded (Individual Birds)													
	Kestrel	Red Kite	Snipe	Skylark	Meadow Pipit	Yellow Wagtail	Cuckoo	Duncock	Wheat-ear	Stone-chat	Tree Sparrow	Linnet	Bullfinch	Yellow-hammer
SJ20 K		1		2		1								
SJ20 Q	(None of these target species recorded)													
SJ20 V		3												
SJ20 W		2												
SO29 L		1		1		1		2						1
SO29 M				4										2
SO29 N	(Square not surveyed)													
SO29 P		1												
SO29 R				2										
SO29 S		2					1	5			2			
SO29 T	(None of these target species recorded)													
SO29 U	1	3						1						
SO29 W		2		1				2						1
SO29 X	1	2			2			3	2	4		1	2	
SO29 Y	2	2		4	1				2	4		3		
SO29 Z		1												
SO39 A		1			1									
SO39 B	(None of these target species recorded)													
SO39 C		1						1		1			1	
SO39 D				6			1							
<b>Total (Max bird counts)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total squares recorded</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

## **Barn Owl**

The Montgomeryshire Barn Owl Group has been active in the Welsh part of the Group's area for many years, and has installed a number of nest boxes.

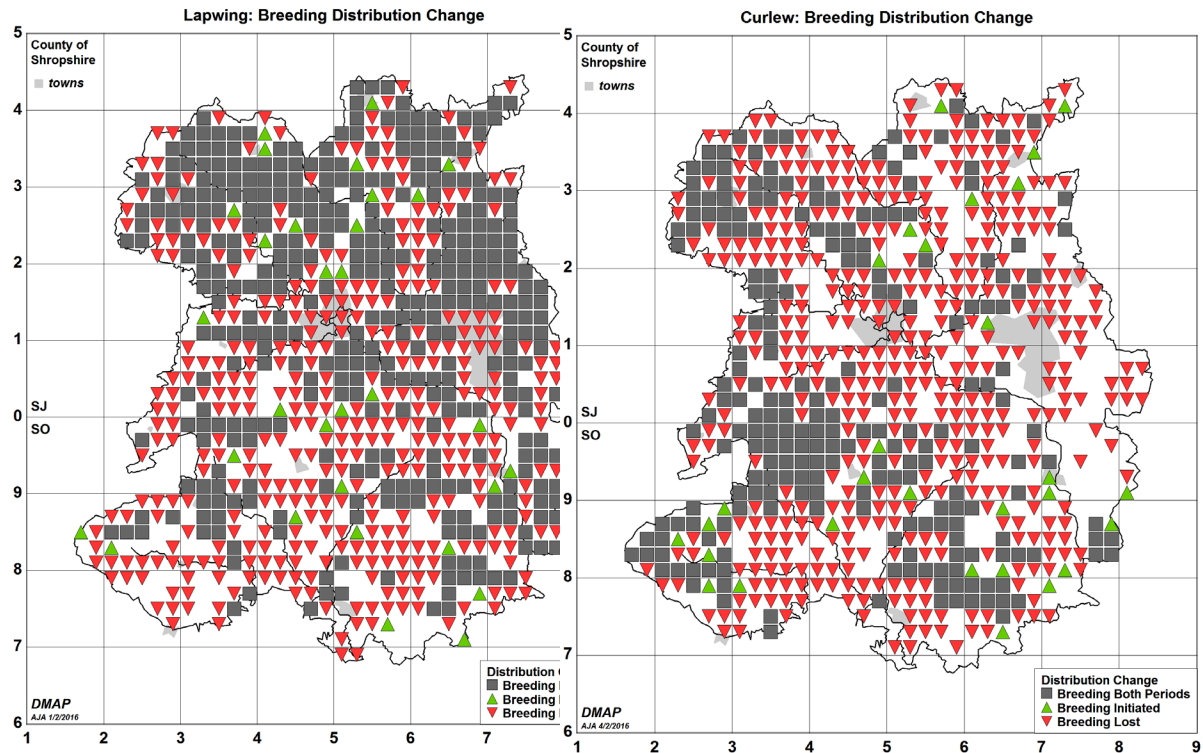
To support MBOG, and with the support of the Shropshire Barn Owl Group, the Community Wildlife Group intends to install some boxes in the English part of its area. The boxes are more likely to be used if they are put up in places with suitable habitat, where Owls are already present.



An appeal for sightings has been launched. (See Appendix 2).

## Decline of Lapwing and Curlew

Lapwing and Curlew are in decline, across the UK, in England and Wales, and in Shropshire. Objective evidence for the local decline comes from Bird Atlas work. The distribution maps showing the results of the recent 2008-13 Bird Atlas, published in *The Birds of Shropshire* (2019), can be compared with the maps in *An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Shropshire*, based on six years fieldwork 1985-90, and published in 1992. Both sets of maps have been compiled on the same basis, with similar amounts of fieldwork effort, so the massive decline is undoubtedly real.



The maps show tetrads where each species was found in both Atlas surveys (grey squares) and tetrads where it was found in the earlier period, but not the more recent period (red downward triangles). The Camlad Valley CWG area is shown approximately by the blue circles.

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. The Curlew population has fallen from about 700 pairs in 1990 to about 160 pairs in 2010 (a decline of over 73% for both species).

Other evidence for the decline of Lapwing and Curlew, including the BBS results quoted above, can be found on the website of the British Trust for Ornithology [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org)

Conservation Action is also being taken nationally to reverse the decline of these two species. Both 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, and both species are now on the *Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern 4*, published in December 2015.

Both species nest on farmland, and recent and current agri-environment schemes have included rewards for farmers for sensitive management of habitat on their farms, and providing other environmental benefits. Farmers can apply for funding to maintain the habitat requirements of a number of birds, including Lapwing and Curlew, if they bred on or near the farm, or used land there for feeding. Many farms in the area will benefit from HLS agreements for 10 years from the date of signing, the last in 2014.

The Government has recently announced (January 2023) the arrangements for the main Agri-environment Scheme to replace the European Union Common Agricultural Policy. The Sustainable Farming Incentive - a key part of the Government's Environmental Land Management Schemes - will provide farmers with a diverse range of paid actions to manage hedgerows for wildlife, plant nectar-rich wildflowers and manage crop pests without the use of insecticides. This includes nine standards, meaning farmers can receive payment for actions on hedgerows, grassland, arable and horticultural land, pest management, nutrient management, and improve soil health and moorlands.

It is hoped that such schemes will help reverse the decline of these species.

## **Recommendations**

*Natural England and the Welsh Government are recommended to encourage farmers with breeding Lapwing or Curlew on or near their land, to join the appropriate agri-environment scheme, utilising the appropriate options to maintain and*

*enhance the habitat for these priority species*

### **Curlew Country**

The Stiperstones-Corndon Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) operated a Curlew Recovery Project in the area from 2014 to 2017. Fieldwork research established that almost all nests were predated (more than half by foxes), and when the nests were protected with electric fencing, most nests survived but productivity didn't improve because the chicks were predated before fledging.

The LPS ended in March 2018, but the Curlew project has continued, under the name "Curlew Country". It has concentrated on the trialling of "headstarting". This involves removing eggs from Curlew nests, incubating them artificially, rearing chicks in captivity, and then releasing them into the wild after they fledge, at or near a potential breeding site. It is considered to be a short term measure to try to boost the Curlew population while discovering the appropriate measures to improve breeding success to the level needed for recovery. Under a Natural England licence, seven Curlew chicks were reared and released in 2017, 21 in 2018 and 33 in 2019. While this has been a successful technique for other species, it is not known whether our local Curlew chicks will survive and return to their natal area to breed. However, if it does work it is expected to lead to a significant short-term increase in the local Curlew population.

Curlews generally stay on their wintering grounds during their first year, and return to their natal area to breed when they are two years old, and wild Curlew survival rate to two years old is 36% (Rob Robinson, BTO, *pers.comm*) (i.e. we could reasonably expect 36% of the 61 headstarted birds (i.e. 21 birds) released 2017-19 to return by 2021).

The whole of the Curlew Country area is within the area covered by three CWGs, Upper Onny, Rea Valley and Camlad Valley, and there is no evidence from the 2021 or 2022 surveys of the three groups that that number of Curlews has come back to the area, so results so far are not encouraging. The location of any pairs of Curlew found by the Bird Survey will be passed on to the Curlew Country fieldworkers to check for colour-rings.

## ***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. Strettons Area 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 (north of Oswestry), also 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.

All these groups (except Kemp Valley, which has no breeding Curlews) have continued with their annual surveys in 2019, and each year since. Clee Hill and Abdon extended their areas, to close the gap between them and monitor known additional Curlew territories. Between them, the 10 groups cover around three-quarters of the County's breeding Curlews. They covered 267 survey squares (tetrads), totalling 1,048 square kilometres. There are about 300 participants each year, who spent a total of more than 2,000 hours on survey work, and around 100 Curlew territories are monitored. 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.

The Curlew distribution map from the County Bird Atlas 2008-13, overlain with the Community Wildlife Group areas, and their 2019 results, can be found on the SOS website [www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/](http://www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/)

The Groups all also survey Lapwing, but they monitor a much smaller proportion of the County population, which is concentrated in north and north-east Shropshire.

In 2020, it is believed that only one of the 100 or so pairs of Curlew monitored produced any fledged young, and none are known to have fledged in 2021. Results for 2022 are still being compiled, but

again around 100 pairs were monitored. Results will be posted on the website as they become available.

Further information can be found on the joint website for all the Community Wildlife Groups in Shropshire, [www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk](http://www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk)

### ***The SOS Save our Curlews Campaign and Nest Finding and Protection Project***

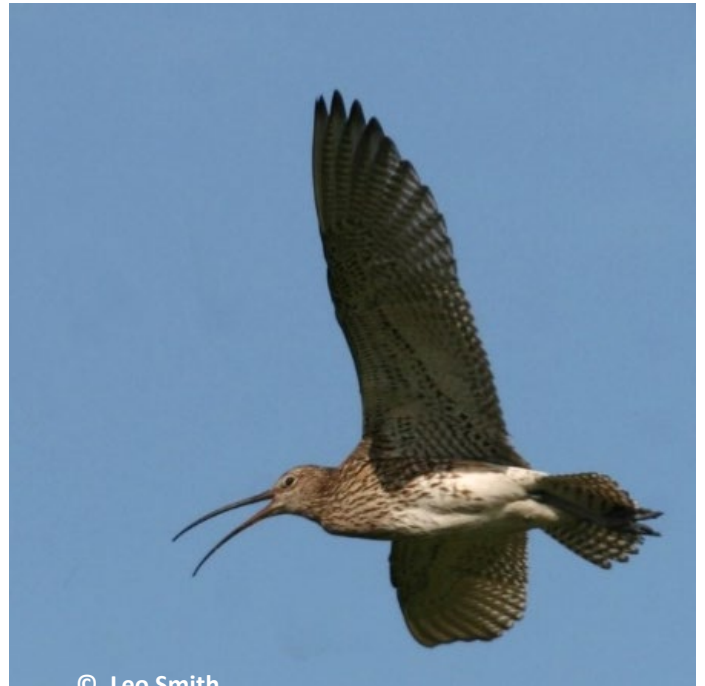
The Shropshire Ornithological Society (SOS) has been carrying out research with other Community Wildlife Groups to find nests, put an electric fence around them to protect the eggs from predators, and then fix radio-tags to the chicks and track them to see how they use the landscape, and what happens to them. Not enough young birds fledge to replace the older birds dying off. We need to know why.

The project is expensive, and has been funded by Shropshire Ornithological Society (SOS), an Appeal, and several grants..

In 2022, nine nests were found and fenced, and 18 chicks from five nests hatched, and were radio-tagged. Tracking the tagged chicks aims to show how they use the landscape, and what happens to them. Failure of chicks to survive and fledge is a major cause of the Curlew population decline, locally and nationally, and we need a better understanding of the reasons so we can develop effective conservation measures.

All of the chicks were lost within a few days, three from natural causes, and 15 were predated, Chicks usually leave the nest within a couple of days of hatching, and are on the ground for 5-6 weeks before they can fly. They are vulnerable for the whole of this period. Only three out of 18 chicks (17%) survived beyond 8 days, with the longest surviving chick (19 days) still more than two weeks from fledging. The average lifespan of the 18 chicks was less than only 6.8 days, only a small fraction of the fledging period.

There is more information about what has been done on the SOS website [www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/](http://www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/). This describes the results from 2018 to 2022 in detail, our future plans, and the overwhelming evidence that predation by foxes and other predators is the main cause of Curlew's continuing decline. It is clear that the annual release of millions of pheasants for shooting, only a third of which are actually shot, results in an over-abundant food supply which maintains the numbers of the Curlew's main predators well above naturally sustainable levels. SOS has called for the number of gamebirds released each year to be reduced to the number actually shot, within five years.



You can find more information about the Appeal, including details of how to make donations and where to send them, on the SOS “Save our Curlews” Campaign website, [www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/](http://www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/)

### ***Curlews and Pheasant Release***

Because of the effect of releasing large numbers of Pheasants on the landscape and other wildlife, the RSPB tried to persuade the game bird shooting industry to enter into a voluntary agreement to improve environmental standards, reduce the number of gamebirds released and ensure better compliance with existing rules about reporting releases. After two years of trying, RSPB has recently concluded that there is no prospect of achieving such an agreement, and will now press for tighter regulation of large-scale gamebird releases. For further information see [www.rspb.org.uk/gamebirdreview](http://www.rspb.org.uk/gamebirdreview)

The number of Pheasants and Red-legged Partridges released in the UK EACH YEAR has increased from 4 million in 1961, the first year for which there are figures, to almost 60 million now. Only 35% are shot, and the remainder don't live very long, so they provide a year-round supply of food for every other predator and scavenger. While the number of Pheasants released since 2004 has increased by one-third, the number shot has not increased since the 1990s.

In Shropshire, 726,000 Pheasants were released in 2018 alone, so predation of Curlews (collateral damage from foxes hunting Pheasants) is very high, and the Curlew population is heading for extinction (down 80% since 1990). Conversely, the feral breeding population of Pheasants increased by 62% between 1997 and 2014 (County BBS results), and it is now the tenth most common breeding species in the County (and far and away the biggest in terms of biomass). They have spread from the release sites to virtually every part of the County now.

BTO has published research showing a disproportionate increase in the Buzzard and Crow population in areas with a high number of released Pheasants (Pringle *et al* 2019).

The massive increase in Pheasant carrion has allowed Buzzard and Raven to spread eastwards across most of England since 1990 and is undoubtedly the food source that has allowed Kites to spread into, and right across, Shropshire in only 15 years.

In 2014 there were an estimated 44,000 pairs of breeding pheasants, all descended from previous releases (Pheasant is an introduced species), compared to 160 pairs of Curlew and 800 pairs of Lapwing.

Again, further information about this can be found on the SOS website [www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/](http://www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/)



## ***Use of CWG Survey Results***

In addition to feeding into the monitoring of the County population by SOS, the reporting of Curlew results to the South of England Curlew Forum, the UK and Ireland Curlew Action Group and the Curlew Recovery Partnership, and helping the Curlew Country fieldworkers, the survey results are made available to Natural England.

They show the importance of particular areas for these species, which will hopefully encourage farmers to manage their land more sensitively, and provide Defra with objective evidence to judge individual farm applications to join agri-environment schemes in future, enabling them 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, which together now cover well over 500 square kilometres, around two-thirds of the Shropshire Hills AONB. These results help inform the AONB Management Plan, which now covers 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 them so they retain their value for wildlife.

The report is also sent to the Montgomeryshire County Bird Recorder

## ***Acknowledgements***

Most importantly, thanks to the Group members who undertook the survey work, or sent in casual records:-

Simon Boyes, Ros Burns, Penny Carter, Hazel Cribb, Stuart Dickinson, Jude Duffy, Gemma & Martin Fenn, Peter Fenner, Bernard Gillespie, Ian Kidd, Andy Knight, Tony Lennon, Mary Napper, Steve Pastfield, Huw Prole, Chris Radford, Paul & Libby Russell, Mark Sulway, Jackie Thomas, Neil Willcox and Steve Wright.

The photos are individually credited (where necessary). Thanks to the photographers for permission to use them.

## ***Plans for 2023***

The Bird Group intends to repeat the Bird Survey. New participants are needed, so we hope to recruit new members.

A Bird Group meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 14 March, at The Horse and Jockey, Churchstoke, primarily to plan the bird survey. New members, anyone interested in birds, will be very welcome.

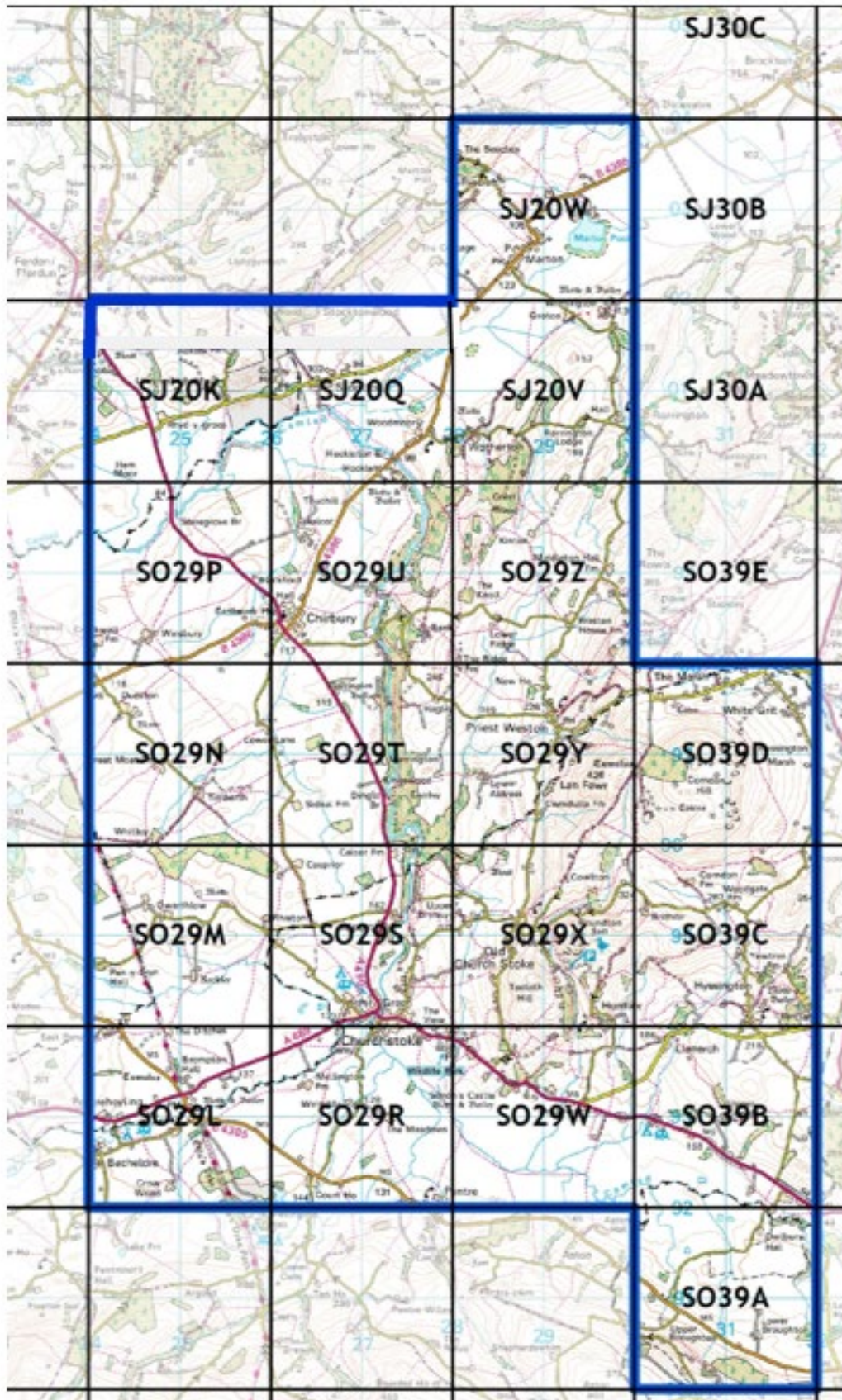
We also hope to find a volunteer to co-ordinate the systematic recording of the use of nest boxes, and another to act as a Swift Species Champion to recruit other local volunteers to try and locate breeding sites.

Details can also be found and downloaded from the joint website for all the Community Wildlife Groups in the Shropshire Hills, [www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk](http://www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk),

Leo Smith

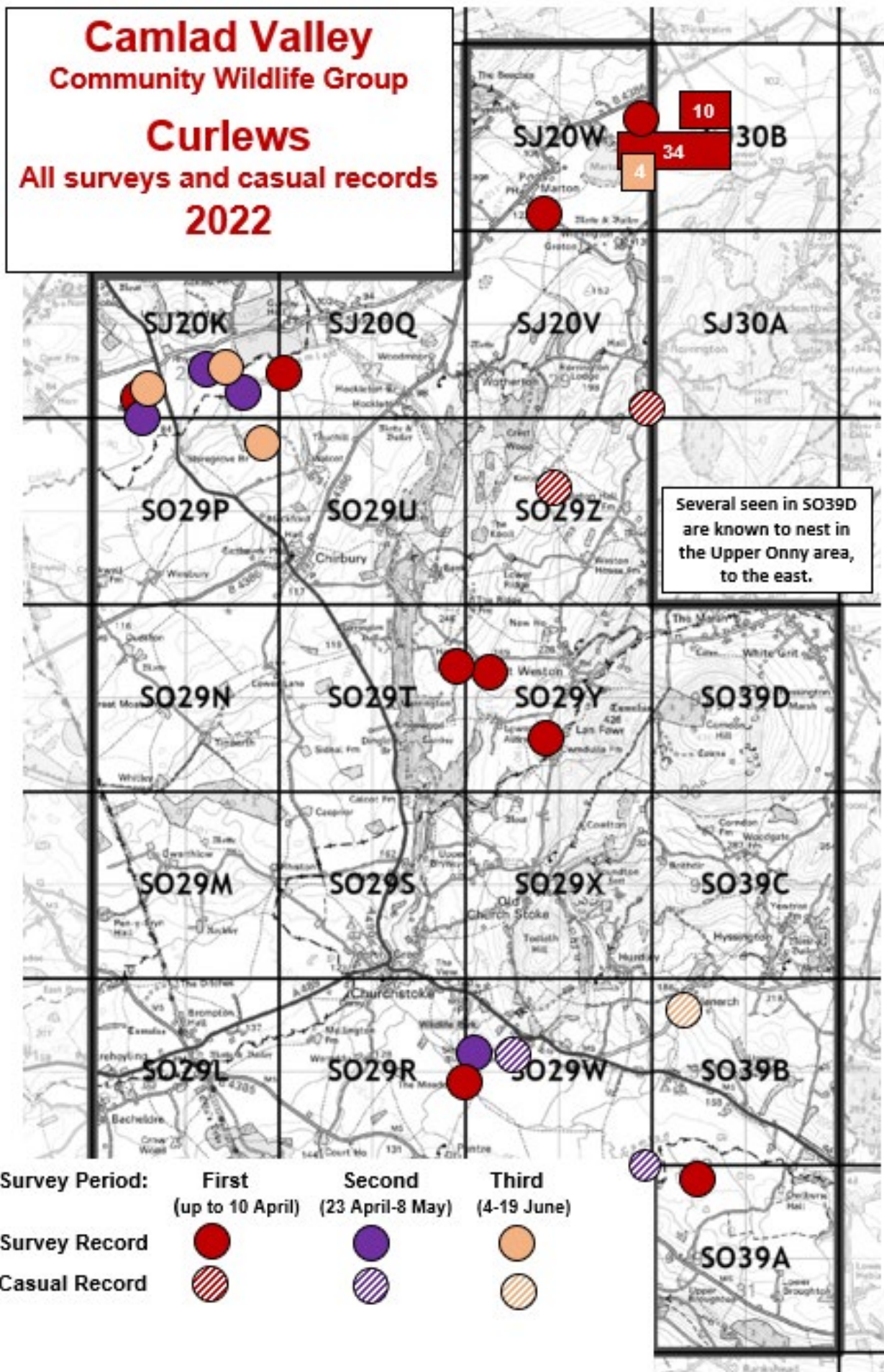
February 2023

Appendix 1. Map of the Camlad Valley Community Wildlife Group Survey Area, showing Square Boundaries and Tetrad Codes



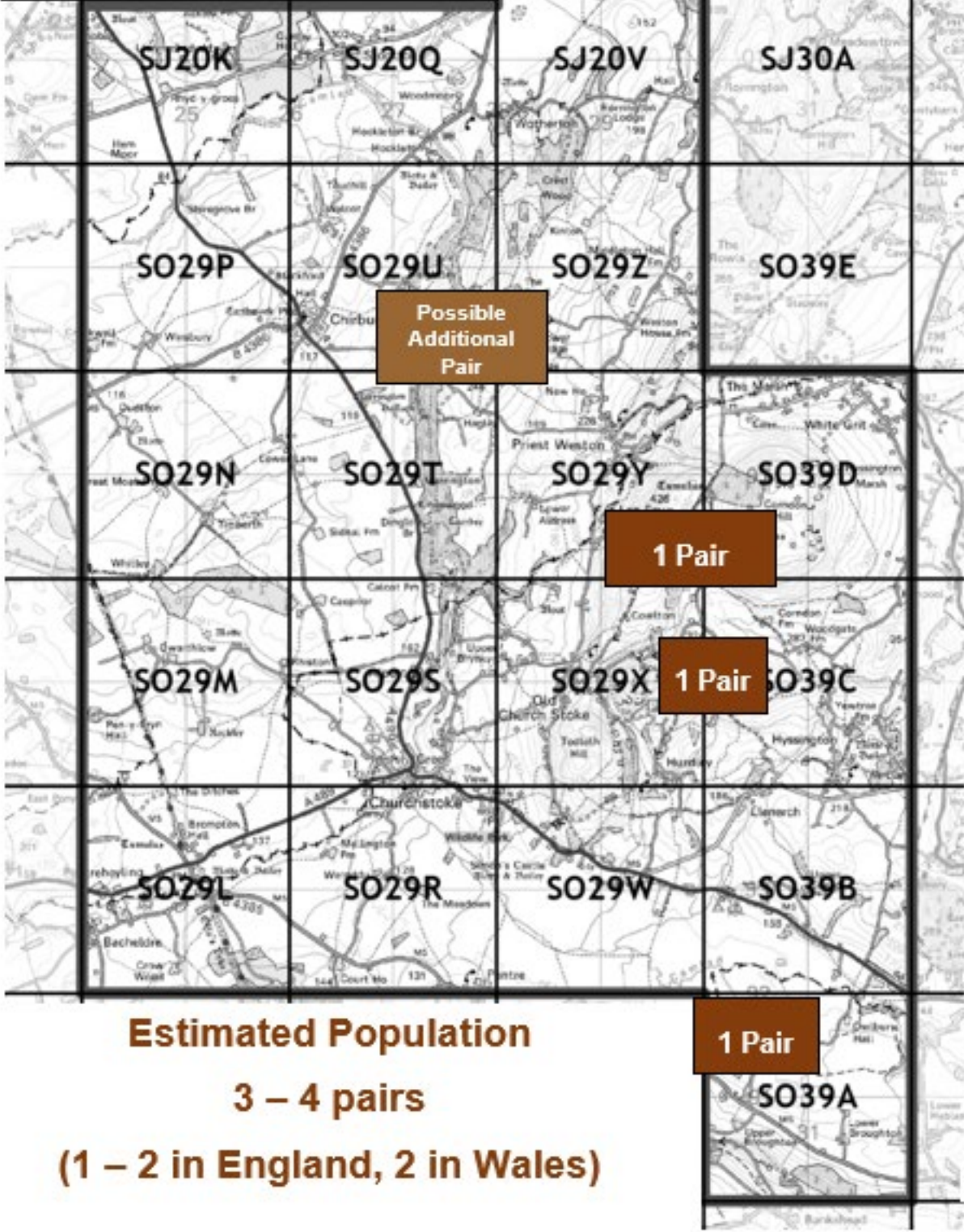
**The Group's area includes Churchstoke, Chirbury and Marton,  
and Corndon and Roundton Hills, and part of Offa's Dyke, as shown on the map.**

**Each square ("tetrad") on the map is 2x2 kilometres, using gridlines marked on Ordnance survey  
maps. Total area: 20 tetrads = 80 square kilometres.**



## Appendix 3. Kestrel Territories 2022

**Camlad Valley**  
**Community Wildlife Group**  
**Kestrel Territories**  
**All surveys and casual records**  
**2022**



## Appendix 4. Bird Survey results 2022



**First Period 26 March - 10 April**

Tetrad	Wales	Surveyor(s)	Time Spent		Number of Each Species Recorded (Individual Birds)															
			Hrs	Mins	Lapwing	Curlew	Kestrel	Red Kite	Snipe	Skylark	Meadow Pipit	Yellow Wagtail	Cuckoo	Dunnoch	Wheat-ear	Stone-chat	Tree Sparrow	Linnet	Bullfinch	Yellow-hammer
SJ20 K	Y	Steve Pastfield	4	10		2		1												
SJ20 K	Y	Simon Boyes	inc.																	
SJ20 Q	Y	Simon Boyes	2	0		3														
SJ20 V	N	Penny Carter	?	?	(No target species recorded)															
SJ20 V		Neil Willcox	3	0			3													
SJ20 W	Y	Gemma & Martin Fenn	3	30																
SJ20 W		Mark Sulway	2	50		34														
SO29 L	Y	Jude Duffy	2	30						1				2						1
SO29 M	Y	Steve Wright	1	35																
SO29 N	Tiny Bit																			
SO29 P	N	Ros Burns		15				1												
SO29 R	Y	Mark Sulway	4		(No target species recorded)															
SO29 S	Y	Bernard Gillespie																		
SO29 S		Ros Burns	2	0				1						5			2			
SO29 T	N	Tony Lennon	3	0		2														
SO29 U	N	Andy Knight	2	20				1												
SO29 W		Hazel Cribb	3	0				2						2						
SO29 X	Y	Peter Fenner	5	10			1	2									2			
SO29 X	Y	Mary Napper White	?	?		1														
SO29 Y	Y	Chris Radford	3	0		2		2						1						
SO29 Y	Y	Peter Fenner	inc				2	1									1			
SO29 Z	N	Jackie Thomas	2	40				1												
SO39 A	Tiny Bit	Huw Prole	1	20		1		1				1								
SO39 B		Paul & Libby Russell	2	0	(No target species recorded)															
SO39 C	ALL	Stuart Dickinson																		
SO39 D	Y	Ian Kidd	2	15						6										
<b>Total</b>			<b>50</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Second Period 23 April - 8 May**

Tetrad	Wales	Surveyor(s)	Time Spent		s Recorded (Individual Birds)															
			Hrs	Mins	Lapwing	Curlew	Kestrel	Red Kite	Snipe	Skylark	Meadow Pipit	Yellow Wagtail	Cuckoo	Dunnoch	Wheat-ear	Stone-chat	Tree Sparrow	Linnet	Bullfinch	Yellow-hammer
SJ20 K	Y	Steve Pastfield	4	50		3					2		1							
SJ20 K	Y	Simon Boyes	inc.			4														
SJ20 Q	Y	Simon Boyes	2	0																
SJ20 V	N	Penny Carter			(No target species recorded)															
SJ20 V		Neil Willcox	3	0	(No target species recorded)															
SJ20 W	Y	Gemma & Martin Fenn	4	30				2												
SJ20 W		Mark Sulway	3	0		2														
SO29 L	Y	Jude Duffy	3	15				1		1		1		2						1
SO29 M	Y	Steve Wright	1	50						4										2
SO29 N	Tiny Bit				(No target species recorded)															
SO29 P	N	Ros Burns	1	15	(No target species recorded)															
SO29 R	Y	Mark Sulway	3	0		1				2										
SO29 S	Y	Bernard Gillespie	2	5										2						
SO29 S		Ros Burns	2	0										1			2			
SO29 T	N	Tony Lennon	7	0	(No target species recorded)															
SO29 U	N	Andy Knight	2	20				3												
SO29 W		Hazel Cribb	3	15		1		1		1				2						1
SO29 X	Y	Peter Fenner	inc				1	1								2	3		1	2
SO29 X	Y	Mary Napper White																		
SO29 Y	Y	Chris Radford	3	0																
SO29 Y	Y	Peter Fenner	6	5			2			4					2	4			3	
SO29 Z	N	Jackie Thomas	3	15				1												
SO39 A	Tiny Bit	Huw Prole			(No target species recorded)															
SO39 B		Paul & Libby Russell	2	0	(No target species recorded)															
SO39 C	ALL	Stuart Dickinson			(No target species recorded)															
SO39 D	Y	Ian Kidd	1	50						4			1							
<b>Total</b>			<b>59</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

**Third Period 4 - 19 June**

Tetrad	Wales	Surveyor(s)	Time Spent		s Recorded (Individual Birds)															
			Hrs	Mins	Lapwing	Curlew	Kestrel	Red Kite	Snipe	Skylark	Meadow Pipit	Yellow Wagtail	Cuckoo	Dunnoch	Wheat-ear	Stone-chat	Tree Sparrow	Linnet	Bullfinch	Yellow-hammer
SJ20 K	Y	Steve Pastfield	3	5																
SJ20 K	Y	Simon Boyes	inc.			3														
SJ20 Q	Y	Simon Boyes	2	0																
SJ20 V	N	Penny Carter			(No target species recorded)															
SJ20 V		Neil Willcox			(No target species recorded)															
SJ20 W	Y	Martin Fenn	4	0		4		1												
SJ20 W		Mark Sulway			(No target species recorded)															
SO29 L	Y	Jude Duffy			(No target species recorded)															
SO29 M	Y	Steve Wright			(No target species recorded)															
SO29 N	Tiny Bit				(No target species recorded)															
SO29 P	N	Ros Burns			(No target species recorded)															
SO29 R	Y	Mark Sulway			(No target species recorded)															
SO29 S	Y	Bernard Gillespie	2	20				2					1							
SO29 S		Ros Burns	2	0										2						
SO29 T	N	Tony Lennon			(No target species recorded)															
SO29 U	N	Andy Knight	1	45			1							1						
SO29 W		Hazel Cribb	2	0				2		1										
SO29 X	Y	Peter Fenner	5	35				2				2		3			4			
SO29 X	Y	Mary Napper White			(No target species recorded)															
SO29 Y	Y	Chris Radford	3	0				1										1		
SO29 Y	Y	Peter Fenner	inc				2	1		2	1						3			
SO29 Z	N	Jackie Thomas	2	50				1												
SO39 A	Tiny Bit	Huw Prole			(No target species recorded)															
SO39 B		Paul Russell	1	30	(No target species recorded)															
SO39 C	ALL	Stuart Dickinson	1	30				1						1			1			1
SO39 D	Y	Ian Kidd	1	45	(No target species recorded)															
<b>Total</b>			<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

Appendix 5. Poster requesting Barn Owl sightings

## Camlad Valley Community Wildlife Group



# ***Please Help Barn Owls!!***

## **Special Nest Boxes provided free**

to Farmers & Landowners with suitable habitat, where Barn Owls have been seen, in the Camlad Valley area, and there isn't already a box nearby -

- Isolated farm building, or large isolated tree or pole more than 400 metres from nearest woodland
- 4 hectares (10 acres) of permanent rough grassland nearby, several inches tall to provide cover for voles and other prey

***If you see a Barn Owl,  
we'd like to know, please***

Barn Owls control pests such as rats and mice, but the population has been in long-term decline. Loss of habitat - rough grassland for hunting prey - is the major factor, but loss of suitable nest sites has also contributed. Traditional open barns have been enclosed, replaced by different types of barns, or converted into houses. Other suitable nest sites - holes in large, isolated trees - have also disappeared from the landscape in recent times, as trees have died off or been removed. The local population is still around only half that found by a survey in 1932.

Barn Owl was on the *Amber List of Birds of Conservation Concern 3 (2009)*, but the decline has been reversed by provision of nest boxes. Locally this has been done by the Shropshire and Montgomeryshire Barn Owl Groups, with help from Community Wildlife Groups.

Nest boxes are more likely to be used, and help increase the population, if they are put near to existing Barn Owl territories and foraging areas.



*For further information,  
or to report a Barn Owl sighting in the Camlad Valley area, please contact*

**Peter Fenner**

**(email: [camladvalley@shropscwgs.org.uk](mailto:camladvalley@shropscwgs.org.uk))**

**We need an accurate location, please**

Thanks to the Stepping Stones project (funded by Heritage Lottery) for funding the development of Community Wildlife Groups. This initiative to help Barn Owls in the Camlad Valley complements similar work by several other Groups. See the Community Wildlife Groups website [www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk](http://www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk) for further information about how to get involved.

