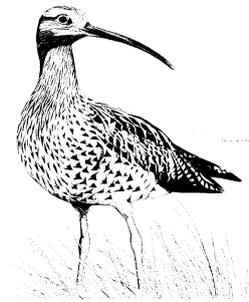


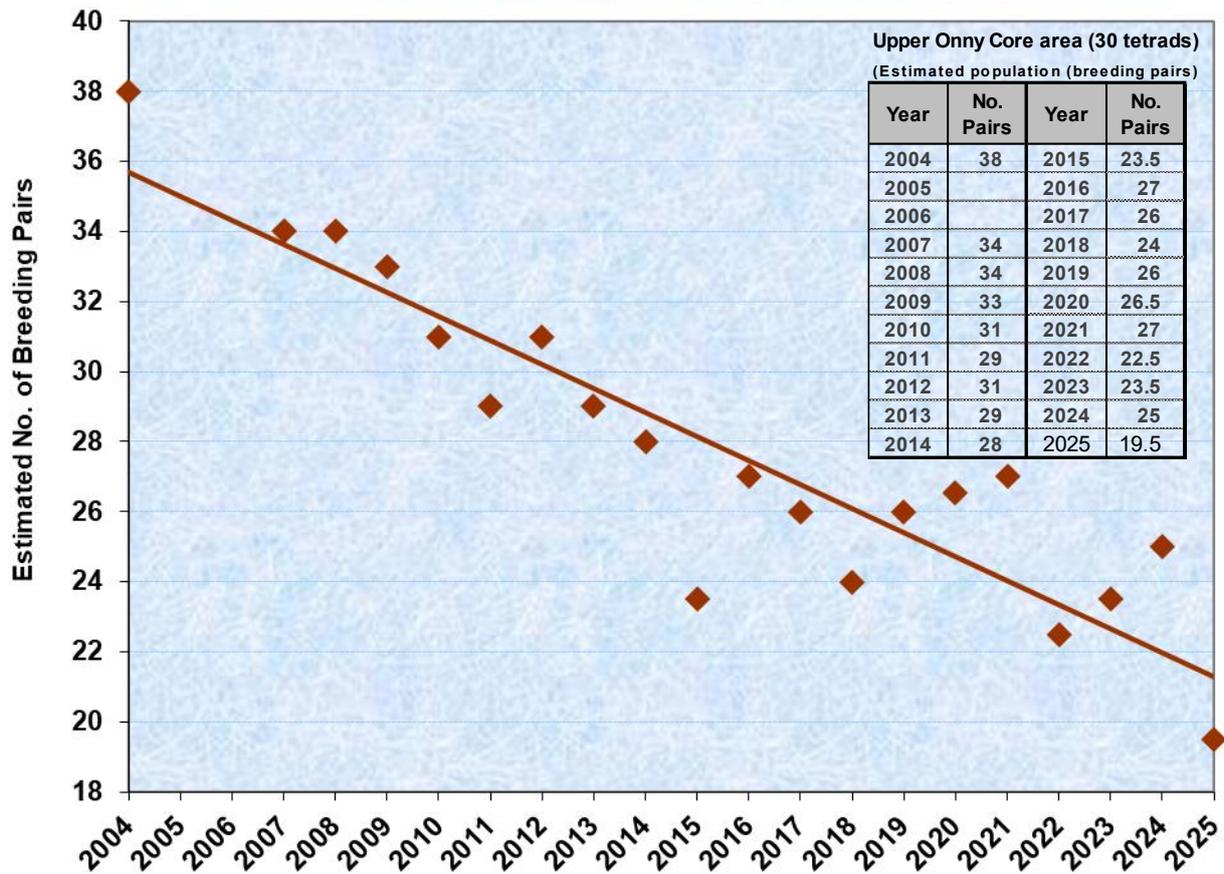


THE UPPER ONNY WILDLIFE GROUP



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Decline in the Upper Onny area Curlew Population 2004 - 25



The Curlew population declined by an estimated 10 pairs over 10 years (26%), around one pair per year, between 2004 and 2014. The apparent loss of a further 3 – 4 pairs in 2015 probably reflected the dry and cold spring; some pairs may not have attempted to breed. The slight recovery in 2016 was expected, as several young that fledged in 2014 should have returned to their natal area. No young fledged in 2015 or 2016, so no further recovery was expected in 2018.

At least one captive-reared (“headstarted”) Curlew returned in 2019, and there were five in 2021, partly accounting for the small increase since 2018. The decline resumed in another dry and cold spring in 2022, but numbers recovered slightly in 2023 and 2024. However, the hoped-for substantial short-term boost to the local population does not appear to have occurred, and 2025 was another poor weather-related breeding season.

There are now an estimated 11 individual headstarted Curlews in the wider area. If the return rate was the same as the naturally occurring survival rate for two-year old birds, there should have been more than 50 in 2025

**The net decline 2004 – 2025 is now
50% in 21 Years**