

Curlews in Shropshire

Population estimates 2010 – 2025, and forecast decline to 2047

The Shropshire Curlew Population was estimated at 160 pairs in 2010, based on analysis of Timed Tetrad Visits by BTO, carried out as part of the fieldwork for the national Bird Atlas 2007-11, and the local results of the Shropshire Bird Atlas 2008-13.

The vast majority of the county's Curlews have been monitored by 10 Community Wildlife Groups (CWGs) since 2019. The first started in 2004, the network was completed by 2018, and some minor adjustments to boundaries were made in 2019.

A map showing the areas covered by the 10 CWGs, overlain on the Curlew Distribution Map 2008-13 from *The Birds of Shropshire* (Liverpool University Press 2019), is attached.

A revised population estimate of 130 pairs was made in 2018, based on the results of the CWGs that had monitored their Curlew populations for some years.

A revised estimate has been made each year since 2022, by adding together the survey results from all 10 Groups. The estimate fell below 100 pairs in 2024, and declined further in 2025.

A projection of the population estimates since 2010 forecasts that the Curlew population will halve in 11 years, and disappear altogether (become local extinct), in 22 years, in the year 2047

