

Community Wildlife Group Bird Surveys 2021

Curlew Lapwing and Other Target Species

New helpers wanted, please



There are 10 Community Wildlife Groups in Shropshire that have been monitoring local Curlews, Lapwings and other birds, for many years. The first seven are in the AONB, and other three are in the north-west

- Upper Onny
- Upper Clun
- Clee Hill
- Strettons area
- Rea Valley
- Camlad Valley
- Abdon District
- Three Parishes
- Tanat to Perry
- Severn-Vyrnwy Confluence

All are planning on starting the 2021 surveys at the end of March. We need more helpers please, so if you have some time to spend monitoring the iconic birds in your 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.

The area covered by each Group can be seen on the map attached. Each 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, most importantly that the "stay at home" rule is likely to end on 29 March.



We won't be able to hold a planning meeting this year, so 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.

The results contribute to the monitoring of the Curlew population in the County by the Shropshire Ornithological Society *Save our Curlews* Campaign.

**You can find more details of your nearest group,
and the survey reports from 2020 and previous years,
on the Community Wildlife Groups website www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk**

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