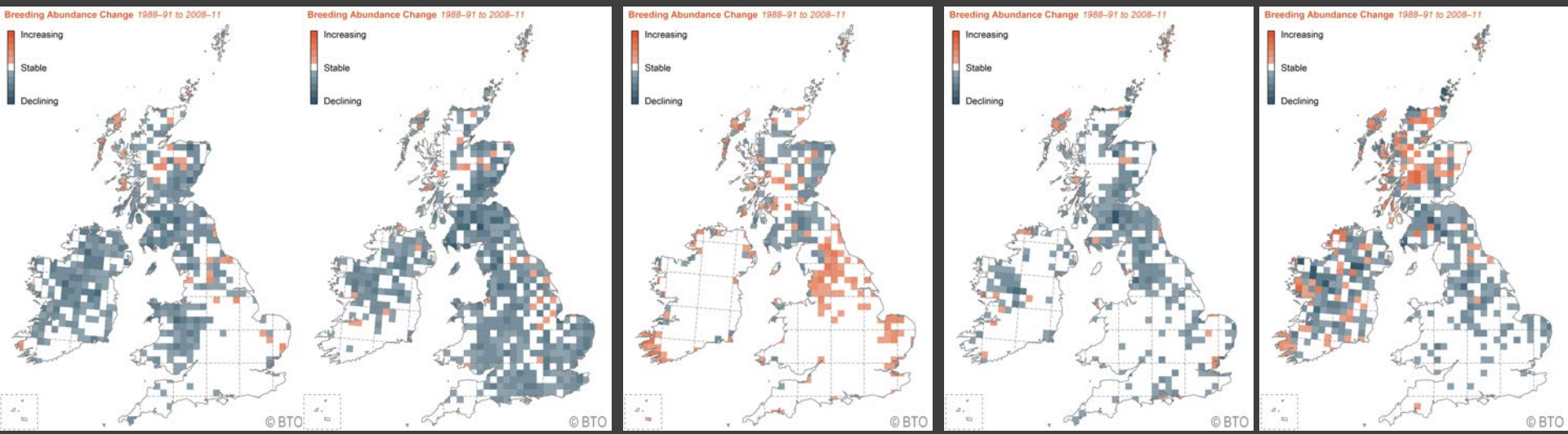
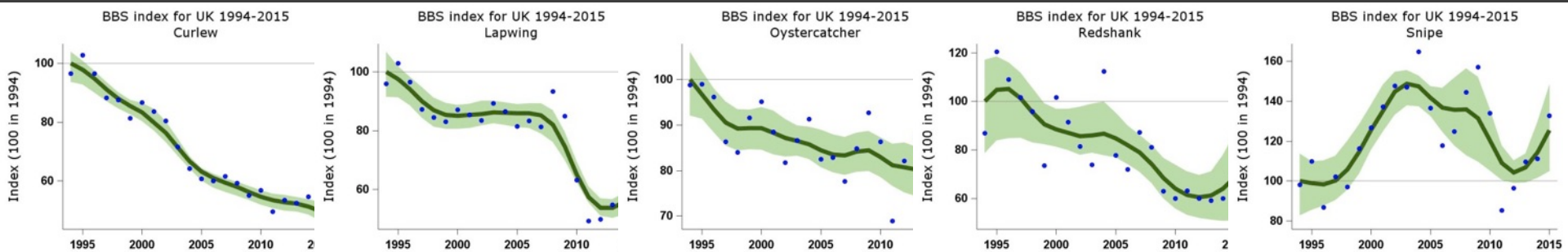




Curlews in Crisis: The national story

Samantha Franks
British Trust for Ornithology

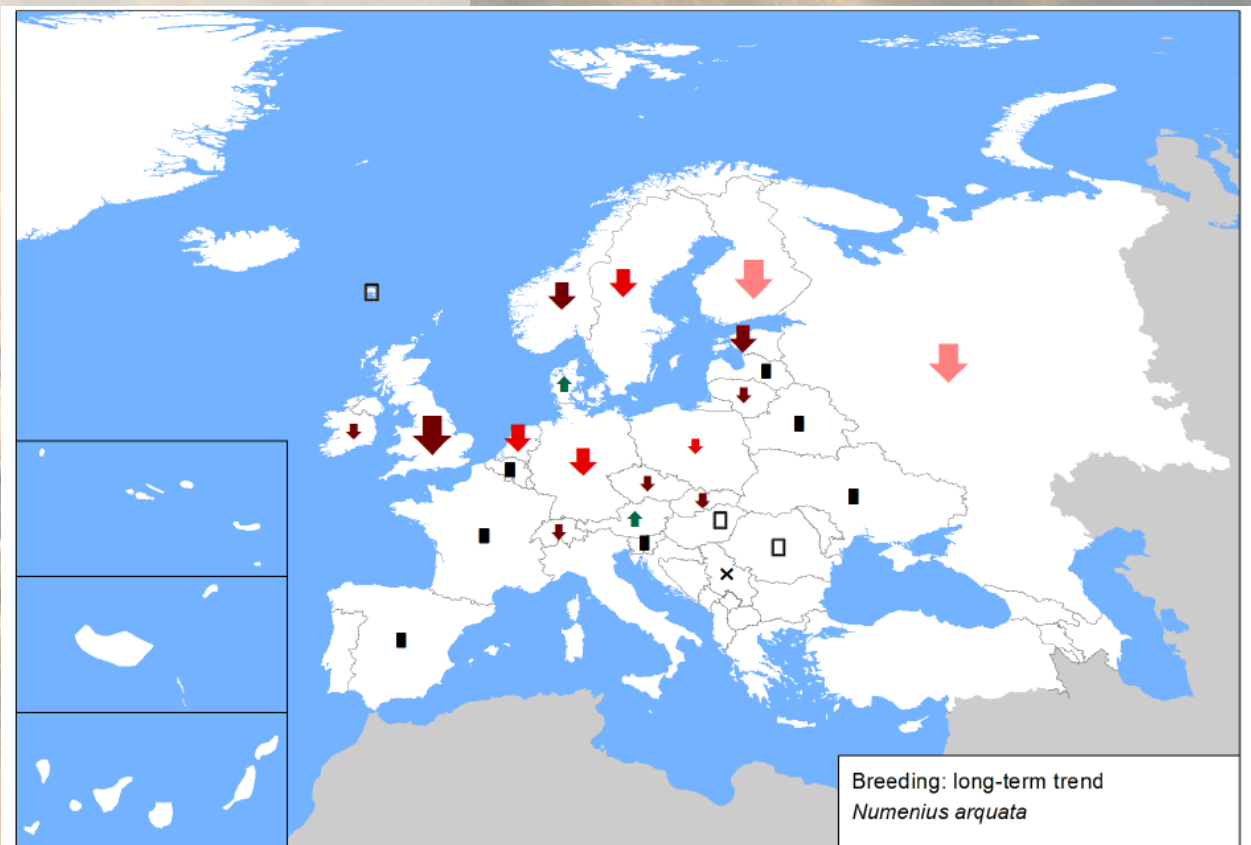



Globally:

IUCN near-threatened

In Europe:

Vulnerable – declines of
30-50%





Globally:

IUCN near-threatened

In Europe:

Vulnerable – declines of
30-50%

In the UK:

Red-listed

28% of European
population ~68,000 pairs

19-27% of global
population

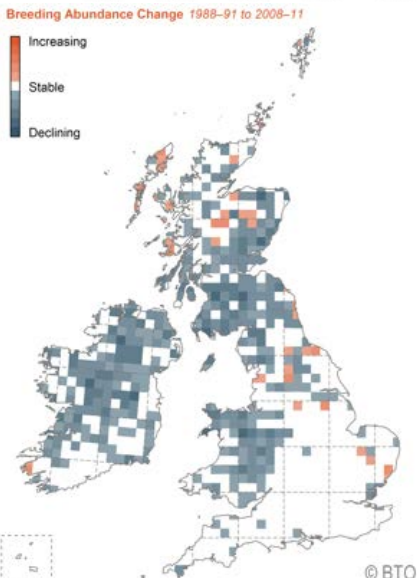
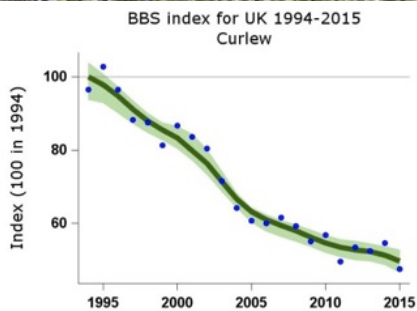




The UK has lost nearly half its breeding curlew in 20 years

119,000 birds

5,500 birds/year



The Eurasian Curlew – the most pressing bird conservation priority in the UK?

Daniel Brown, Jeremy Wilson, David Douglas, Patrick Thompson, Simon Foster, Neil McCulloch, James Phillips, David Stroud, Sian Whitehead, Nicola Crockford and Rob Sheldon

Abstract Based on its adverse global conservation status, and the global importance but rapid decline of the UK's breeding population, the Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* should now be considered the UK's highest conservation priority bird species. A co-ordinated UK recovery programme is urgently required to help ensure that this species does not suffer the same fate as that of some other *Numenius* species.



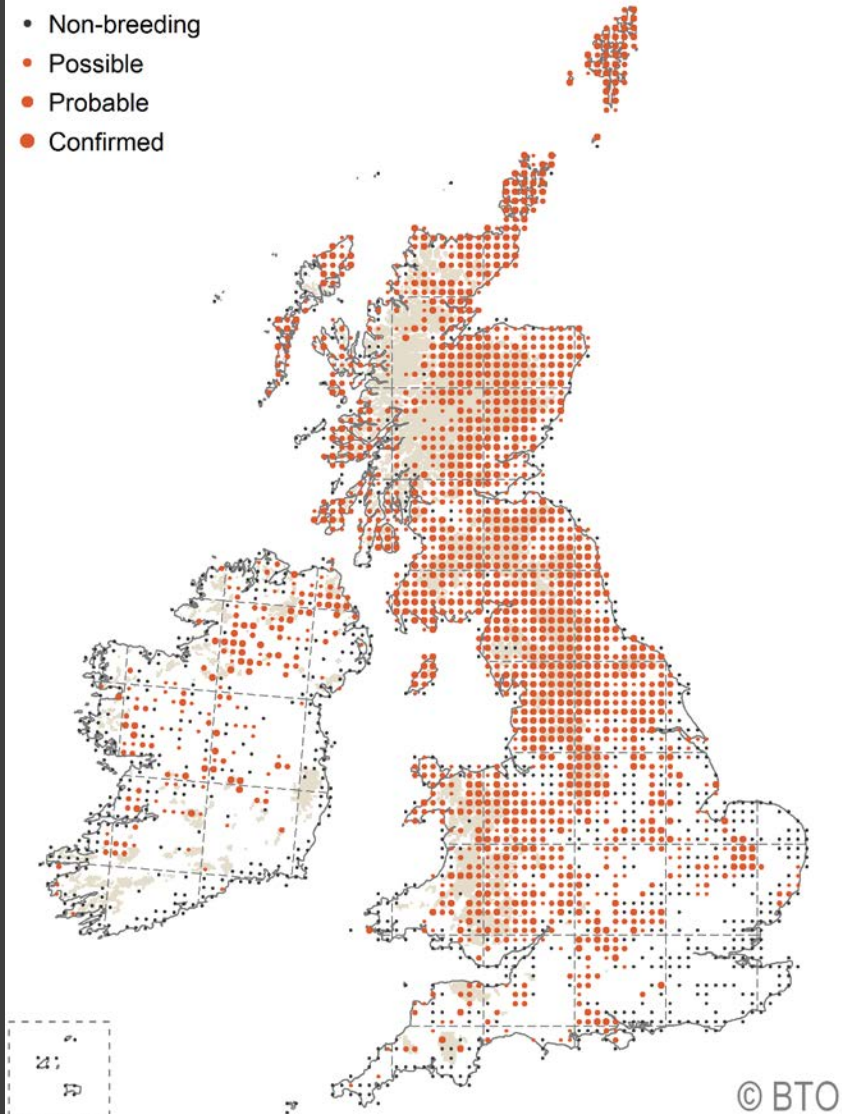
Phil McLean/FIPA

386. Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Lammermuir Hills, Borders, June 2012. Most of the UK's breeding Curlews are in Scotland and England but these populations have declined by 55% and 32% respectively between 1995 and 2013 (see text for further detail).

Curlew in the British Isles

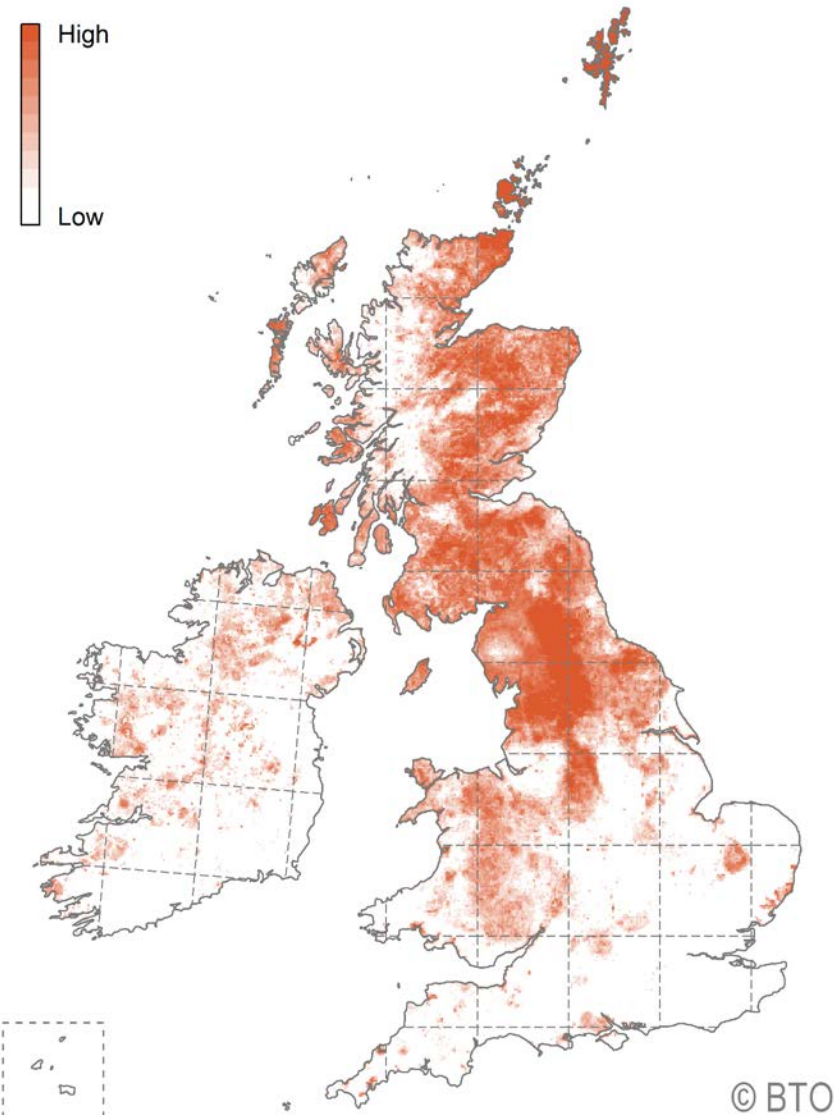
Breeding Distribution 2008–11

- Non-breeding
- Possible
- Probable
- Confirmed

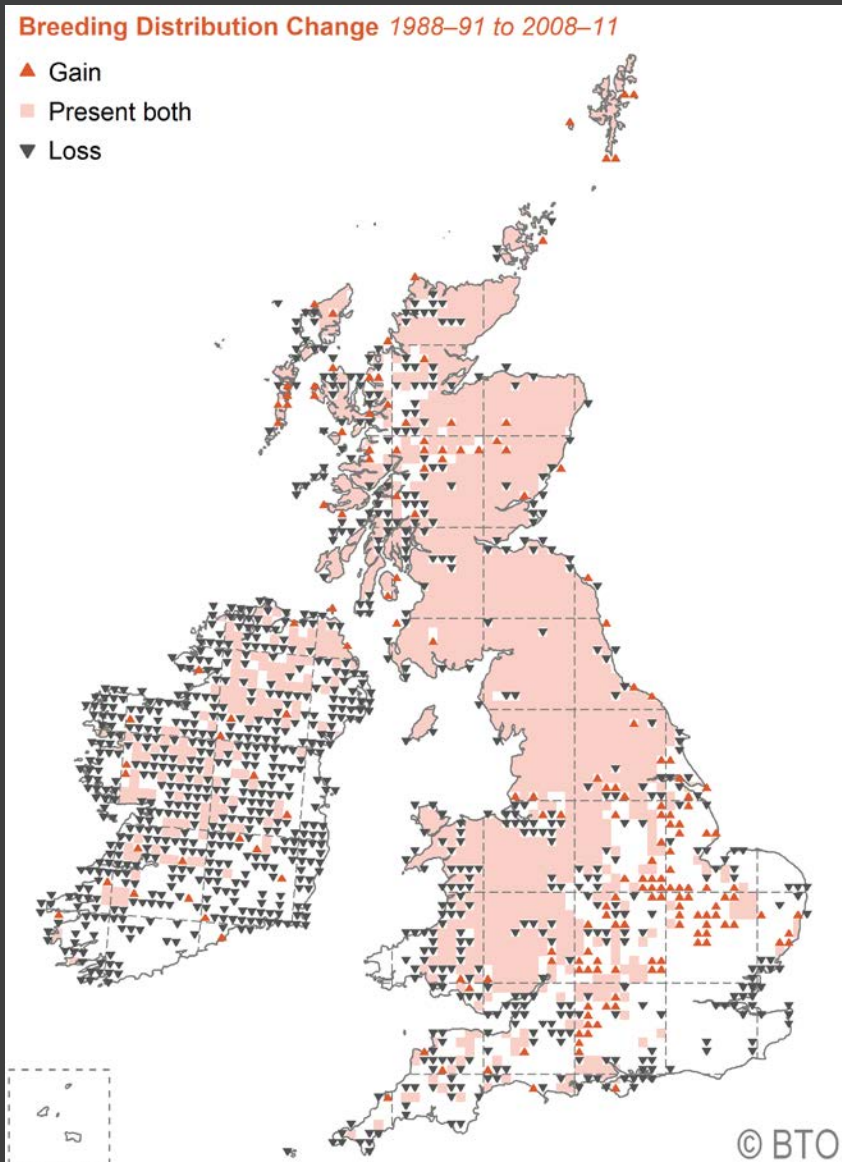


Curlew in the British Isles

Breeding Relative Abundance 2008–11



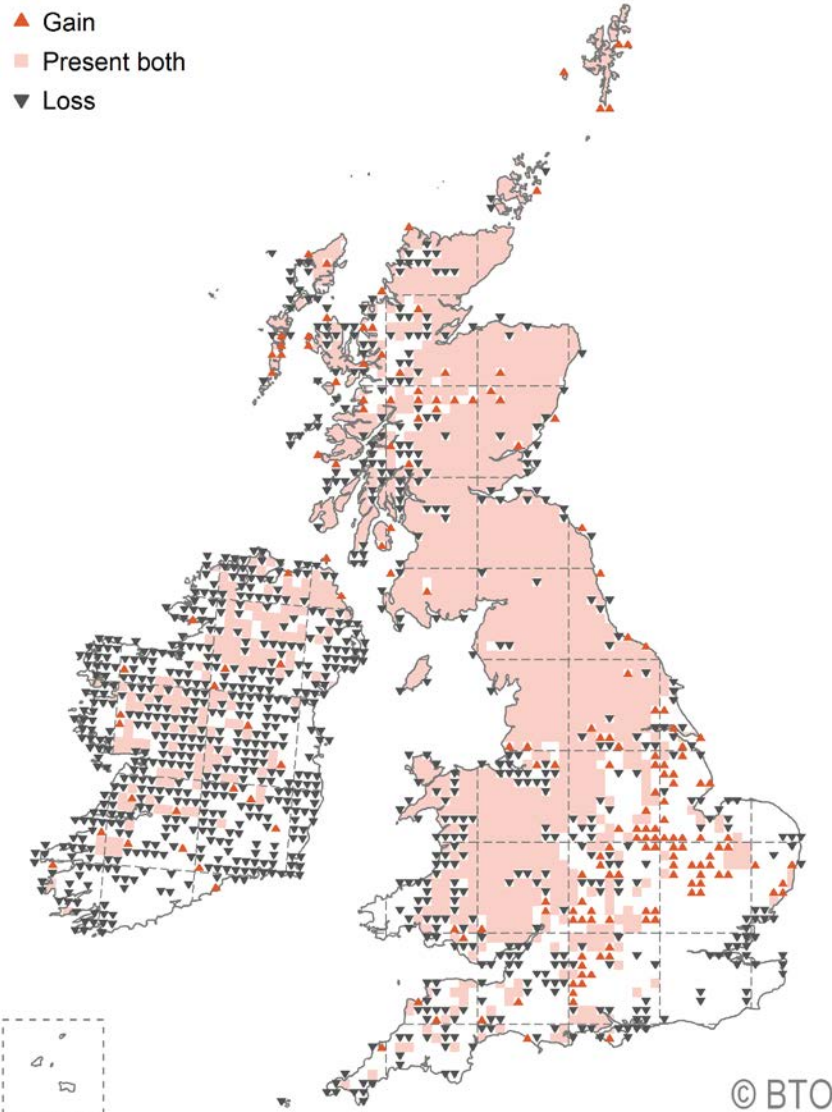
The steady loss of Curlew in the British Isles



78% range contraction in Ireland, 17% in Britain

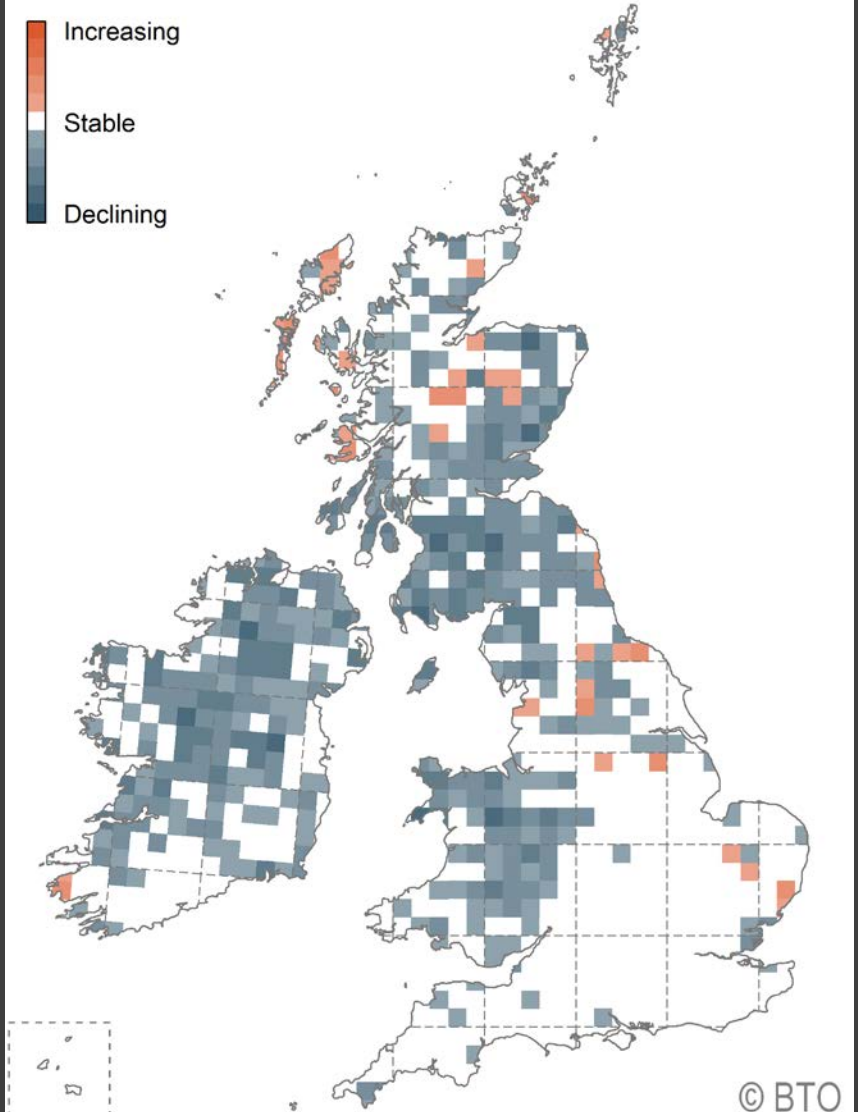
Breeding Distribution Change 1988–91 to 2008–11

- ▲ Gain
- Present both
- ▼ Loss



Breeding Abundance Change 1988–91 to 2008–11

- Increasing
- Stable
- Declining



Habitat change



Climate change



Predation pressure



Potential reasons for declines



Breeding
success



Curlew
numbers

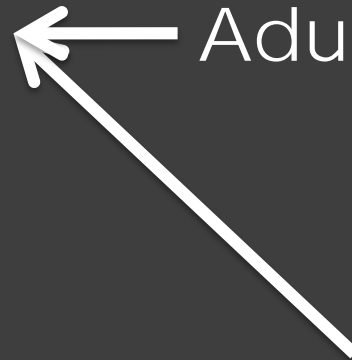


Adult survival



?

Juvenile
survival





The Breeding Bird Survey 2015

The population trends of the UK's breeding birds





Variable	Effect on curlew abundance or population change
----------	---

Arable farming	—
----------------	---

Afforestation	—
---------------	---

Semi-natural grassland	+
------------------------	---





Variable	Effect on curlew abundance or population change
Arable farming	—
Afforestation	—
Semi-natural grassland	+
Summer temperatures	—



Variable	Effect on curlew abundance or population change
----------	---

Arable farming	—
----------------	---

Afforestation	—
---------------	---

Semi-natural grassland	+
------------------------	---

Summer temperatures	—
---------------------	---

Crow & fox abundance	—
----------------------	---

Gamebird abundance	+
--------------------	---





Variable	Effect on curlew abundance or population change
----------	---

Arable farming	—
----------------	---

Afforestation	—
---------------	---

Semi-natural grassland	+
------------------------	---

Summer temperatures	—
---------------------	---

Crow & fox abundance	—
----------------------	---

Gamebird abundance	+
--------------------	---

Strip burning	—
---------------	---





Variable	Effect on curlew abundance or population change	
----------	---	--

Arable farming	—	★
----------------	---	---

Afforestation	—	★
---------------	---	---

Semi-natural grassland	+	
------------------------	---	--

Summer temperatures	—	
---------------------	---	--

Crow & fox abundance	—	★
----------------------	---	---

Gamebird abundance	+	
--------------------	---	--

Strip burning	—	
---------------	---	--



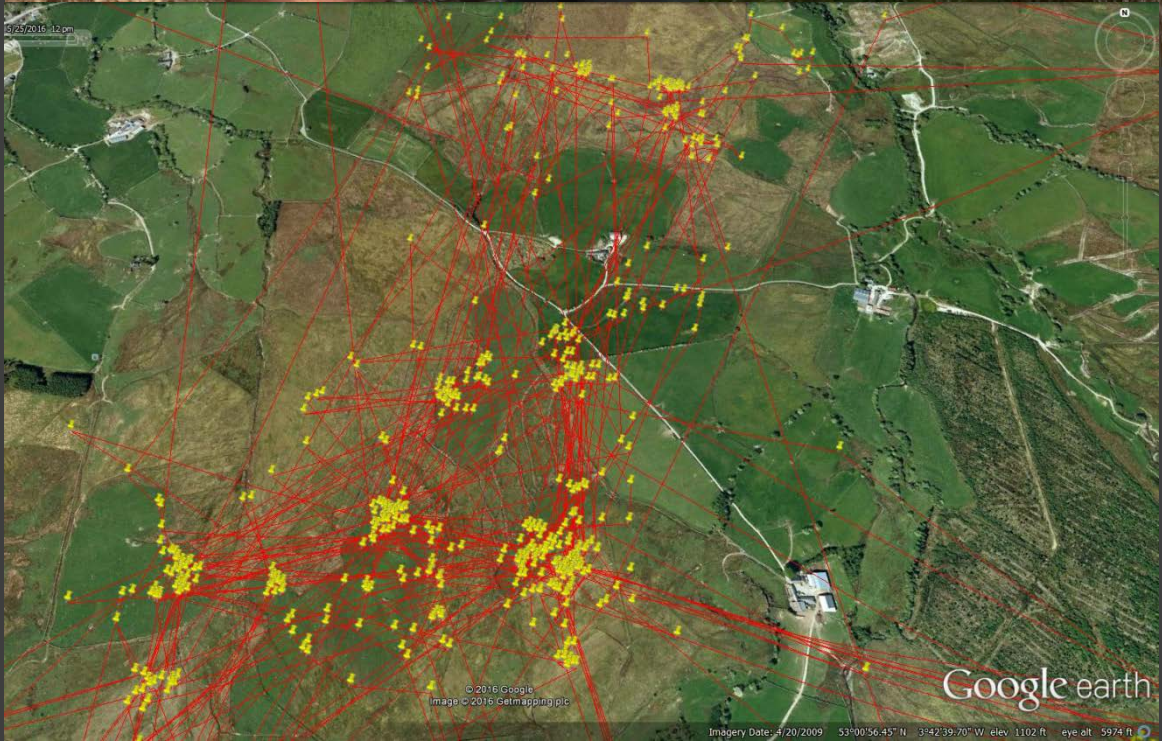




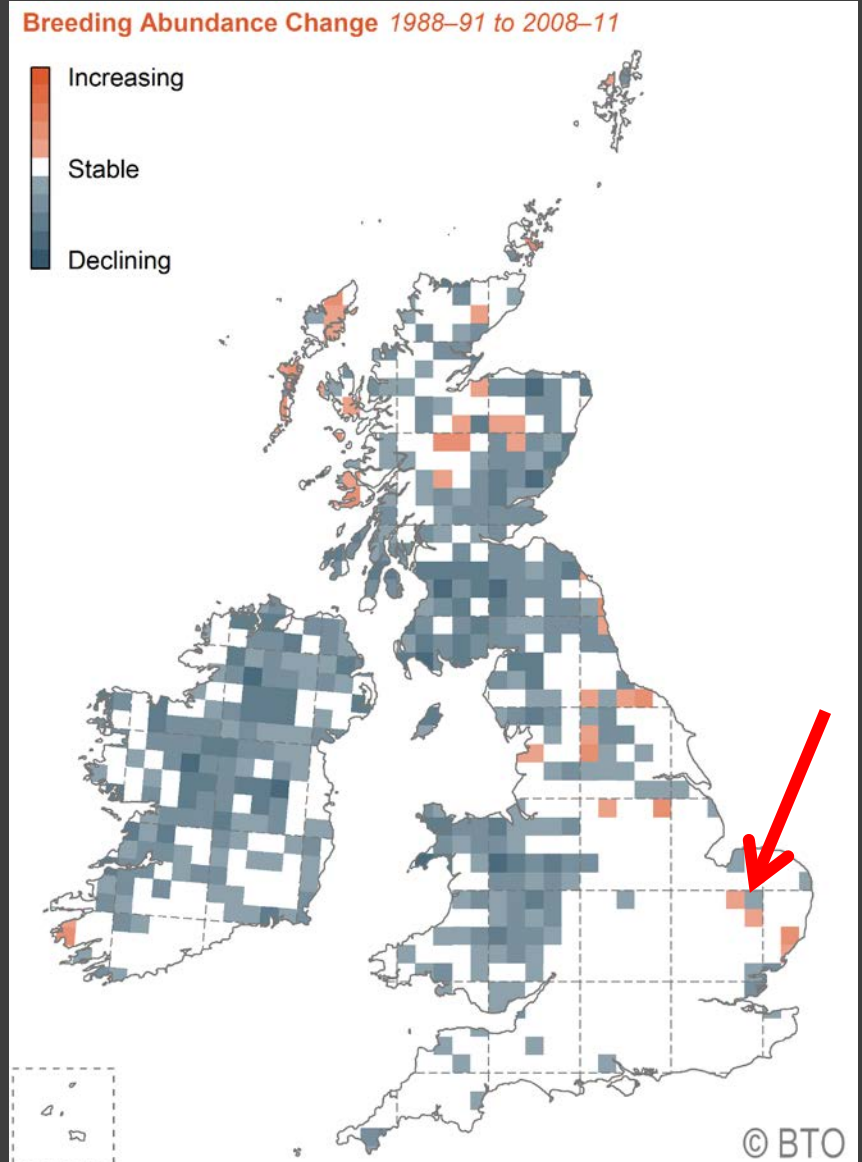
Habitat use &
home range

Location every 15
min

2000+ locations



Curlew habitat preferences in the Brecks



Engaging local stakeholders



UNDERSTANDING PREDATION

A review bringing together natural science and local knowledge of recent wild bird population changes and their drivers in Scotland



Gill Ainsworth (University of Aberdeen), John Calladine (BTO Scotland), Blaise Martay (BTO Scotland), Kirsty Park (University of Stirling), Steve Redpath (University of Aberdeen), Chris Wernham (BTO Scotland), Mark Wilson (BTO Scotland) & Juliette Young (CEH Edinburgh)

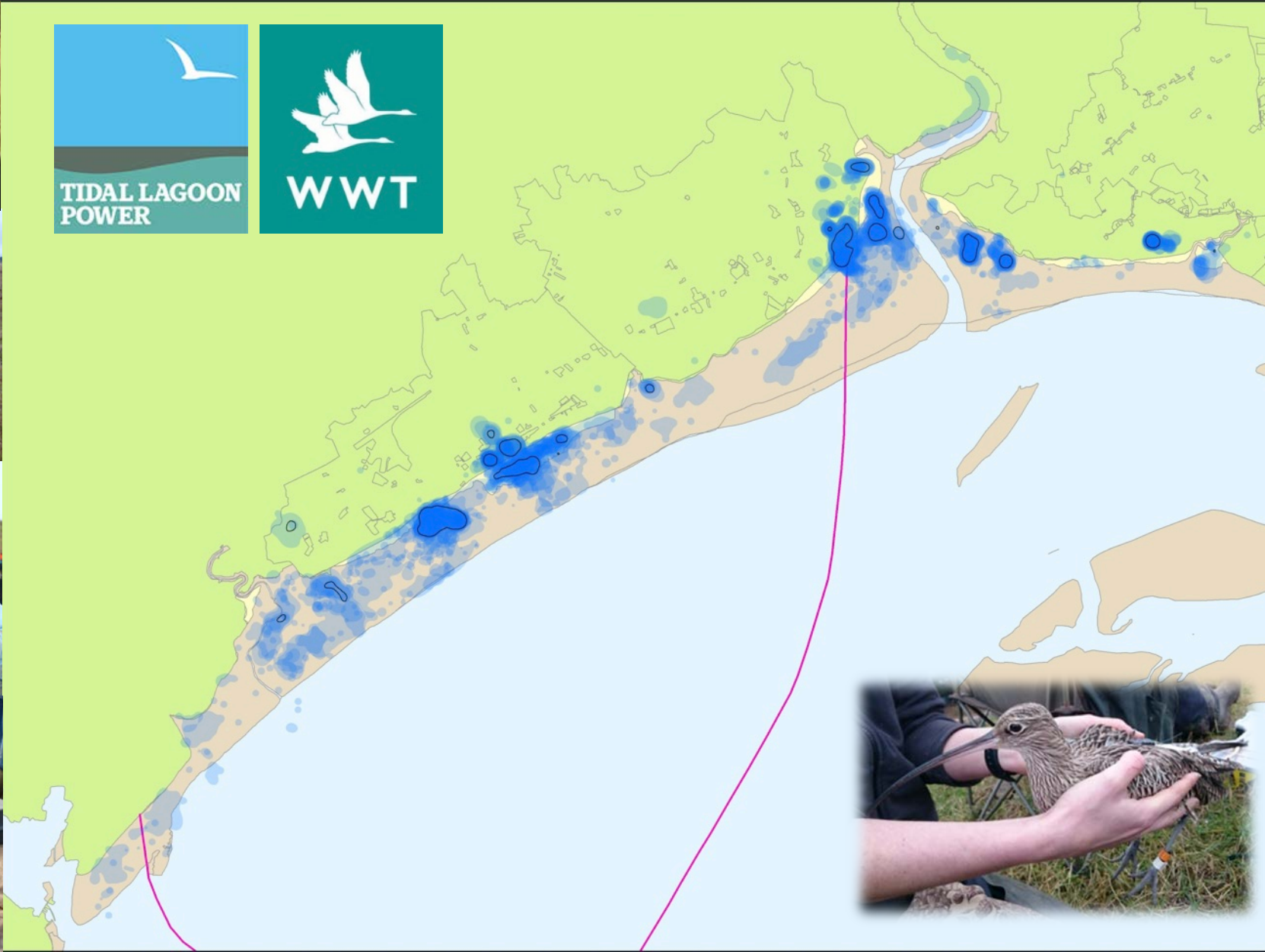


YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



Cairngorms
NATIONAL PARK

Habitat use & home range of wintering curlew

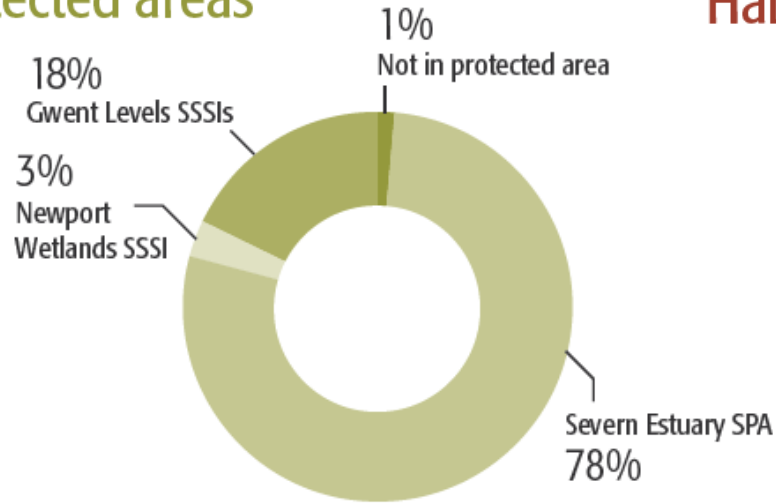


Habitat use & home range of wintering curlew

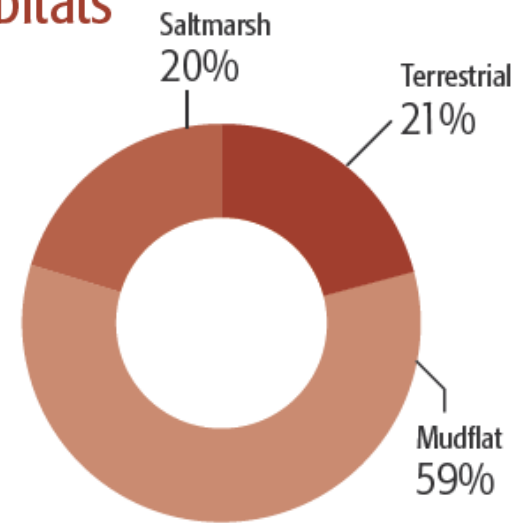
CURLEW



Protected areas



Habitats



Graphic: Tina Smith & Nigel Hawtin





Survival & drivers of winter population change



UK & Ireland Curlew Action Group



- gaps in productivity knowledge
- summary of AES deployed for curlew
- project register
- increased site protection for curlew
- defining a 'favourable status' target for the UK

Acknowledgements

Donors & supporters of the
Curlew Appeal

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Edmund Fellowes, Rachel
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Robertson, Ruth Walker,
Allan Drewitt, D Waistell,
Kirsty Brannan.

