



Shropshire Ornithological Society

Save our Curlews

Campaign & Appeal



Plans for 2021

Projects will be carried out in three Community Wildlife Group areas, Upper Clun, Clee Hill and Strettons. In 2020 these areas held 6-8, 8 and 7-9 breeding pairs of Curlew, respectively.

During April 2021, Community Wildlife Group members will locate pairs that have returned to these areas.

Subject to land-owners permission, a nest-finder will then locate as many nests as possible in each area. We expect to be able to find four in each. We hope to trial the use of a drone to help with the nest-finding.

A habitat monitoring form, and a BTO Nest Record Card, will be completed for each nest.

All found nests will have an electric fence erected and maintained around them.

When the eggs hatch, the chicks will be ringed and radio-tagged, and then tracked to see how they use the landscape, and what happens to them. Failure of chicks to survive and fledge is a major cause of the decline, and we need a better understanding of the reasons so we can develop effective conservation measures.

Any chicks that approach fledging will be colour-ringed.

A full report will be prepared and published for each of the three areas. The results will be sent to the South of England Curlew Forum, and the national Curlew Species Recovery Group, so the work will be an integral part of the case to Government for effective Curlew conservation measures.

Thanks to the National Trust's Stepping Stones Project, which benefitted from support received from players of People's Postcode Lottery, Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund, British Birds Charitable Trust, Wader Quest, the Garreg Lwyd Windfarm Community Benefit Fund and Stretton Focus magazine Community Awards for grants to supplement the SOS's own resources, and donations from individual members of SOS, the Community Wildlife Groups and the general public, who contributed to the Appeal.

You can read more about what has been done since 2018, and future plans, on the SOS website www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/

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