



Shropshire Wildlife Trust



Dear supporters,

Curlews: the essence of wildness

A project for their recovery run by Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Shropshire Ornithological Society

The haunting call of the curlew is the very essence of wild Shropshire. Sadly, curlew numbers have plummeted by an estimated 77% in the last 20 years. We are determined to stop this decline, but need your help.

We are lucky enough to still have curlew hotspots on grasslands around the Stiperstones, Clees, Stretton Hills, Clun Forest, Oswestry Hills, Meres & Mosses and the Severn-Vyrnwy confluence. However, this still only amounts to around 160 breeding pairs.

Curlews are ground-nesting and have suffered from the rise in early silage making, rather than traditional hay, and a loss of damp feeding grounds. Predators too, have taken their toll.



Research over the last few years has shown a way forward. Together we will work with community organisations and landowners to:

- Identify spring nest locations – protecting them from predators and letting farmers know where they are
- Radio tag some chicks to monitor their behaviour and inform conservation work
- Recruit and train volunteers to monitor birds and nests
- Advise landowners
- Work to ensure new agri-environment schemes support curlew conservation

Reversing the decline will take prolonged effort, but if we can raise £15,000 we can start this vital conservation work in earnest in 2018. If, like us, you think Shropshire will be a much poorer place without curlews please support our appeal.

Yours sincerely,

Lady Cossons
President Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Peter Deans
President, Shropshire
Ornithological Society