

# Have you seen a colour-ringed Curlew?

If so please report it to Tony Cross  
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Tony Cross of the Mid Wales Ringing Group has colour-ringed over 150 different Curlews, either as wintering birds on the Ceredigion coast, breeding adults, chicks, or when passing through the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust Reserve, Dolydd Hafren (near Welshpool), on their way to or from breeding sites. The project started in March 2015 with the first 20 birds ringed at Dolydd Hafren. The British Trust for Ornithology kindly provided financial support in 2016, which is gratefully acknowledged.

Each colour-ringed bird can be identified individually, and many of them have been re-sighted already. Two of the first 20 were found breeding in the south-west Shropshire Hills, in the Stiperstones – Corndon Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) area in 2015, and the same two were breeding at the same nest sites in 2016 and 2017. In total, 16 colour-rings were read on nesting birds (9 male and 7 female) in 2017 in the LPS area, and two were nesting in the Upper Clun. One was photographed at Wood Lane in September 2017. Two wintered on different estuaries in south-west England in 2015-16, and they each returned to the same estuary in 2016-17 and 2017-18. There have been reports of other wintering individuals too - 3 in Ireland, 2 in Devon, 1 in North Wales, 1 in Cheshire and even one in Jersey so a good start has been made in building up a picture of local Curlew movements between their breeding sites and wintering grounds, the survival rate of breeding adults, and turnover within breeding pairs.

Wherever possible, please check each Curlew you see for colour rings (see photo). The orange ring is much more conspicuous than the yellow. The two-letter code, which identifies each bird uniquely, is on the yellow ring only. The rings sit on top of the knee (not to be confused with the white feather “trousers” at the top of each leg).



Even if you can't read the code, it would be helpful to have a report of the location and date, please, so we can check it out