

If you see a colour-ringed Curlew please tell us



Over 340 Curlews have been colour-ringed by Tony Cross of the Mid-Wales Ringing Group since March 2015. Most have been caught at the Dolydd Hafren Montgomery Wildlife Trust Reserve, or at Caersws, both on the River Severn, as they pass through on their way to breeding sites. Some have been caught elsewhere, and all the “headstarted” chicks released by Curlew Country since 2017, and a few young that were about to fledge, have also been colour-ringed.

Several colour-ringed Curlews have been found breeding in the area in previous years, and in 2020 there were at least 10 in the Shropshire Hills, but most individuals were not observed closely enough to see whether they were colour-ringed or not. There should be more in 2021.

Each colour-ringed bird can be identified individually, if the ring is read through a telescope, or photographed. This builds up a picture of local Curlew movements between their breeding sites and wintering grounds, the survival rate, and turnover within breeding pairs.

Wherever possible, please check each Curlew you see on the ground for colour rings (see photo). In this local scheme, the orange ring is much more conspicuous in the field than the yellow one. 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). Now the yellow ring has been replaced by a black one, and there are different, colour-ringing schemes elsewhere, so you might find different colour combinations from this.

For more information about the headstarting project, see <https://curlewcountry.org/> and for the SOS Save our Curlews campaign and appeal, and monitoring work by the Community Wildlife Groups, see www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/



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.

Please report it to the ringer, Tony Cross

Email: midwales.ringing@btinternet.com

Phone or text: 07837 521673

Shropshire birders and Community Wildlife Group members can send reports to Leo Smith

leo@leosmith.org.uk

01694 720296