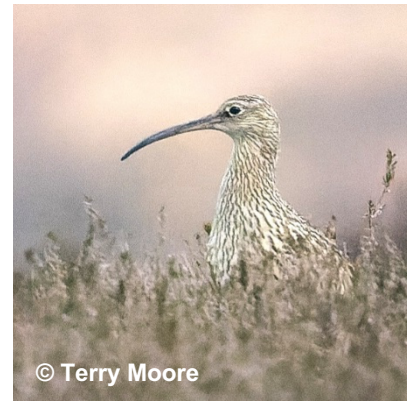




Shropshire Ornithological Society

Save our Curlews

Campaign & Appeal



© Terry Moore

The Birds of Shropshire estimated that the Curlew population declined by 77% between 1990 and 2010, down to around only 160 pairs, and had disappeared from 62% of the area they occupied in 1990. They have continued to decline since, down to below 120 pairs. At the current rate of loss, the population will halve in 12 years, and virtually disappear within 25. There is a real danger that Curlew will become extinct in the County, unless urgent and effective action is taken to save them.

Shropshire Ornithological Society 2005 (SOS 2005)* has recently extended its commitment to support a long-term County-wide *Save our Curlews* Campaign, by providing funding for three more years, promoting an Appeal to SOS and Community Wildlife Group (CWG) members, and the general public, hosting banking facilities, and supporting grant applications and other funding requests. The Campaign will continue to undertake nest finding, protecting nests with electric fencing, and radio-tagging and tracking chicks to find out how they use the landscape, and what happens to them. Understanding the reasons for low levels of chick survival is part of the key to an effective conservation plan.

Campaign work also involves ten independent CWGs from across the County, over 300 people who are monitoring almost all of the County Curlew population. 88-98 pairs were located in 2023.

Last year, project work continued in the Strettons CWG area, and started in the Three Parishes and Tanat to Perry CWG areas, around Oswestry. Four nests were found in the former, which were all predated, and one nest was found and fenced near Oswestry. Three chicks hatched, but all were predated. However, chicks fledged from two other nests near-by, a very welcome success.

More funds are needed to continue with this ground-breaking work. In 2024, it is intended to continue in the same areas, to obtain results that are not distorted by abnormal years.

The results are sent to the South of England Curlew Forum, the UK and Ireland Curlew Action Group and the Curlew Recovery Partnership for England, so the work is an integral part of the case to Government for effective Curlew conservation measures.

You can read more detail about campaign and project results since 2018, and future plans, on the SOS website www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/. It also describes the overwhelming evidence that predation by foxes and other predators is the main cause of Curlew's continuing decline. It is clear that the annual release of millions of pheasants for shooting, only a third of which are actually shot, results in an over-abundant food supply which maintains the numbers of all the Curlew's main predators at well above naturally sustainable levels. We must continue to produce the evidence and call for immediate action to reduce the release of gamebirds.

Donations to the Appeal are vital, both to help pay for the work, and because they demonstrate to potential funders the commitment of local people to saving Shropshire's Curlews. You can donate by sending a cheque, a bank standing order, an internet banking or a bank transfer payment (see details overleaf). Please note that it is essential that whilst donations should be made out to Shropshire Ornithological Society (SOS) they should be clearly marked "Curlew Appeal." If you are a UK taxpayer, you can increase the value of your donation by 25% if you sign and send in the Gift Aid certificate (also overleaf), so please do so.

* SOS 2005 is the not-for-profit limited company created to handle SOS's financial and property affairs.

**Shropshire will be a much poorer place without Curlews.
Please support the Appeal**

For further information, please contact Leo Smith
SOS Curlew Campaign Co-ordinator, email leo@leosmith.org.uk, or ring 01694 720296.

Shropshire Ornithological Society - Registered Charity No. 514487
Shropshire Ornithological Society 2005 - Company Limited by Guarantee Reg. No. 5322294
Reg. Charity No. 1108166
Registered Office 6 Sytche Close, Much Wenlock TF13 6JJ

Donations

Please note that it essential that all donations can be identified as being for the “Curlew Appeal”

Cheques should be made payable to SOS, endorsed on the reverse “**Curlew Appeal**” and posted to Leo Smith, The Bryn, Castle Hill, All Stretton SY6 6JP, together with the signed Gift Aid Certificate below.

Donations by internet banking, bank transfer or bank standing order should be paid in to the **Shropshire Ornithological Society Account at CAF Bank:**

Sort Code: 40 52 40
A/c No.: 00011946

Please ensure that your payment carries a Reference which will identify you and the fund to which it is to be paid e.g.: Ref: Smith, L.N. Curlew Appeal

N.B. If you make your donation by internet banking, bank transfer or standing order, and have not already sent a Gift Aid Certificate to SOS, please sign the declaration below and post it to Leo Smith as well.

Donation amount

Name:

Address:

Gift Aid Declaration

Tax rules allow us to claim 25p for every £ you donate to the Curlew Appeal from HMRC. If you are a UK taxpayer, please sign the appropriate section below.

UK Taxpayers - make your gift worth more for wildlife...at no extra cost to you

I would like to Gift Aid all subscriptions and donations I make today and any I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Shropshire Ornithological Society. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that I if pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature

Date

Register me for Gift Aid with Shropshire Ornithological Society (please sign)

I am NOT a UK tax payer (do not need to sign)

I do not wish to Gift Aid my donations (do not need to sign)

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax refund due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid Donations on your Self-Assessment Tax Return or ask HM Revenue & Customs to adjust your tax code. Please notify Shropshire Ornithological Society if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax equal to all of your Gift Aid donations on your income or capital gains.