

KNOW YOUR CURLEW



Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Summer: 58,500 pairs

Winter: 125,000

UK conservation status: **Red**

Protected by The Wildlife and
Countryside Act 1981.

Movements and Migration

UK breeding birds migrate south-west into France and Spain, but numbers are replenished by birds migrating from Scandinavia and Russia.

Voice

Common call is a distinctive 'cour-ee' from which it gets its common name. In spring, songflight is accompanied with a lonely-sounding, bubbling trill.

Food

In winter, it probes into soft mud for crabs, lugworms, ragworms, small shellfish, cockles, marine snails and shrimps. And in pastures for earthworms. Males and Females have different length beaks so they can live alongside each other feeding at different levels in the mud.

Threats

Loss of breeding and roosting habitat is the Curlews main threat. As well as disturbance along coastal sites. Their flight initiation distance is 214 metres.

Migration:

1,375-3,000 miles

Flight Initiation Distance:

214 metres

Wingspan:

80-100 cm

Oldest Bird:

32 years

