



# Curlew Action

## Newsletter October 2021

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**Vote for us and help win £5000 for curlews!**



Leica Sport Optics are holding a competition between six nature charities – the one with the most votes wins £5000 in funding for their work. It would be incredible if Curlew Action could win the money to put towards all our hard work coming up in the next year, so please vote for us [HERE](#). If you want to go the extra mile (and be in with a chance of winning a bundle of fantastic curlew prizes!) you can visit our social media to enter our giveaway by voting and/or sharing the news with your friends.

**GIVEAWAY**



**VOTING CLOSSES  
1ST NOVEMBER**

**CURLEW ACTION NEWSLETTER**  
| October 2021



# Christmas shopping? Look no further!

Have you seen our fantastic new Christmas cards and gifts? As well as our new t-shirts and the brilliant cards we already stock, we have some new cards designed by the amazing Jessica Holm. Check out our ever-expanding range of sustainable, nature-friendly cards and gifts [here](#).



## The Junior Curlew Network

We are excited to officially announce a project we have been working on behind the scenes for the last few months. Curlew Action is establishing a Junior Curlew Network; a network of primary schools across the UK that will learn about the plight of the curlew and what is being done to protect them. Increasing Natural History Education across the UK is something that Curlew Action has been pushing for since the charity was formed in early 2020. The Junior Curlew Network aims to engage young people with the nature around them and to teach them about wildlife and conservation in the UK. For more information about the Junior Curlew Network, read our blog post [Here](#).

## Be inspired by nature this November



We can't wait for the 'New Networks for Nature' conference in Bath from 19-21st of November. This is going to be a fantastic event with a packed schedule of fascinating talks, interviews and workshops. A wide range of experts and enthusiasts will be discussing nature through the prism of fields such as youth, art, wildlife-film, music, and spirituality. A particular highlight will be Curlew Action patron David Gray speaking to our founder Mary Colwell about his creative life and its profound links with nature and the wildlife around him, as well as playing a few of his songs (including a new one about the curlew!). Tickets are available on the event's website and concession prices are offered for students, under-25s and unemployed delegates.



[Click here to visit the website](#)



# Curlew Heroes



One of the best things about being part of the Curlew Action team is our incredible supporters. We are blown away by the creative and thoughtful activities done by you to help to raise awareness and funds for curlew conservation. In this issue we want to say a huge thank you to Pat Gilbert for choosing Curlew Action as one of the charities to support at her Birthday Bash. Pat had a table of publicity materials and a donation box and instead of presents, she asked her guests to donate to charity! Thank you so much Pat and the Curlew Action team hopes you had a fabulous party!



Moira Court is another curlew hero who not only ran a curlew art competition for children in the local Staffordshire Moorlands area, but also created some beautiful thank you tokens for the XR Camino to COP26 Climate Emergency walkers as they arrived in her town, halfway between London and Glasgow. Each of her tokens were inscribed with a curlew drawn in ink on one side with the date, place and Thank You inscribed on the reverse. What a charming, original way to say thank you and to raise awareness by carrying the curlew to COP26.



Iona Laing helped raise awareness at the Scottish Games Fair by handing out leaflets and chatting to people about the plight of the curlew. Another amazing way to spread the word and support curlew conservation.

We love hearing from you about the inspiring things you're doing to help curlews! If you would like publicity materials, Curlew Action donation box or a special Curlew Action Fundraising Pack with lots of tips and ideas, please contact Ellen, [ellen@curlewaction.org](mailto:ellen@curlewaction.org)

# Bitesize breeding season



- Unusual early season weather heavily impacted breeding for curlews in the English lowlands
- A particularly cold April (1.7°C below average April temperatures), followed by an incredibly wet May (171% of the UK's typical May rainfall),
- This caused heavy delay (and in some cases abandonment) of breeding for many pairs
- For example, the Severn and Avon Vales in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire produced as few as seven fledged chicks from 35 pairs
- However, some hard work paid off as a curlew pair successfully raised a chick in Warwickshire for the first time in years



The Curlew Recovery Partnership (CRP) has now published their work programme to help curlew recovery across England. This work, with Curlew Action and its partners right at its core, will be vital for curlews, as the group gets underway carrying out effective fieldwork and influencing policy.

[Click here to read their work programme](#)

## Fieldworker's notes

With breeding attempts often failing early this year, many Curlews returned sooner than usual to moulting and wintering areas on estuaries and coasts. Flocks of Curlews began forming as early as June, and good numbers were to be found in July and August, often with their wing feathers in heavy moult. Like other waders, Curlews replace their flight feathers once a year, making this an important and stressful time for them. This period, when they are concentrated in considerable flocks and have not started to feed on inland fields, is a good time to look closely at them, to note any colour-rings and thus follow their movements.

During the summer, young Curlews have been raised from eggs on Dartmoor and in Norfolk. These "head-started" youngsters were released in July, and observers are now keeping a sharp watch out for them, as they are recognisable by their colour-rings. Thus AO, released on Dartmoor, was seen near Liskeard in Cornwall in August, and has been seen repeatedly on the Isles of Scilly in recent weeks.

AO in Scilly

