



Lapwing © northeastwildlife.co.uk

Working with Wildlife

## Upland Waders Species Action Plan

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Latest version	January 2008

### Description

This upland waders action plan covers the following species:

- Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)
- Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)
- Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)
- Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

The upland hill areas of Northumberland are important locations for wading birds. Some of these species winter in the coastal areas of Northumberland and return to the uplands in spring, specifically to breed. Other species are long distance migrants.

Enclosed and improved farmland such as pastures and moorland edge are important feeding areas for several species including curlew and lapwing and higher altitude blanket bogs are used by species such as dunlin and golden plover.

Damp upland pastures and meadows with low levels of grazing are ideal habitat for ground nesting waders. Wader species have characteristic bills of differing length which they use to pick small invertebrates out of the mud and soft soil. Areas of rushy vegetation provide important cover for nests and chicks.

### Conservation Status

EC Birds Directive, Annex 1 – Golden Plover  
 Bern Convention, Appendix 2 - Dunlin  
 Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 1 (all birds)  
 UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species – Curlew & Lapwing  
 North East Biodiversity Action Plan Species (all birds)  
 UK Birds of Conservation Concern: Amber Conservation Status – Curlew, Dunlin, Lapwing, Redshank & Snipe

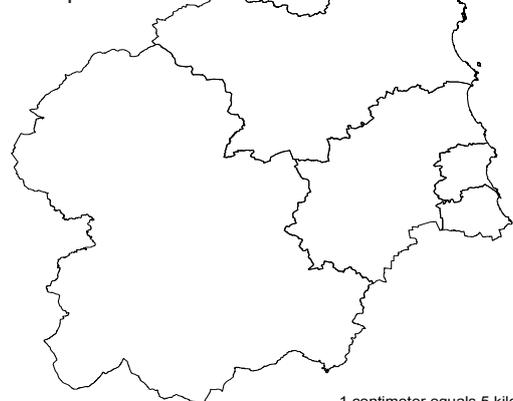
### Current Extent in Northumberland

The North Pennines AONB is of significant importance for the populations of wading birds that breed in the area. The RSPB estimates that the AONB is home to upwards of 22,000 pairs of wading birds, making it the most important area in England for breeding waders. The area is particularly important given the significant declines of wader populations throughout the UK, particularly those in lowland areas.

Annual monitoring of waders occurs on the Otterburn Training Area. A predator control experiment is currently in progress to monitor the effects of foxes, crows and mustelids on ground nesting bird breeding success.

The RSPB is currently running a specific project for upland waders called 'Pastures for Plovers'. The project provides management advice to landowners and farmers on the work that most benefits nesting birds and encourages take up of agri-environment schemes.

A map of upland wader distribution in Northumberland is currently being developed by the Northumberland Biodiversity Partnership



1 centimeter equals 5 kilometers

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## Upland Waders Species Action Plan

### Current Factors Causing Loss or Decline

- Overgrazing and trampling
- Predation
- Spring machinery operations
- Visual obstructions e.g. conifer shelter belts
- Drainage
- Disturbance
- Undergrazing resulting in rush infestation

### Associated Action Plans

Heather Moorland  
 Upland Hay Meadows  
 Rivers and Streams  
 Blanket Bog

### Further Information

This upland wader action plan links to the curlew and lapwing UK BAP action plans.

RSPB website - <http://www.rspb.org.uk/>

British Trust for Ornithology website - <http://www.bto.org/>

Pastures for Plovers website – <http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/farming/working/projects/pasturesforplovers.asp>

The Population Status of Birds in the UK - Birds of Conservation Concern: 2002-2007, RSPB.

### Targets

**Maintain the current range of upland waders in Northumberland by 2010**

**Increase the current range of upland waders in Northumberland by 2015**

Code	Priority Actions	Date
UW A01	Compile a list of the key upland fields that are used as nesting and feeding sites by wading birds	2008
UW A02	Quantify the maintain and increase range targets based on identified key upland fields	2008
UW A03	Encourage ELS and HLS schemes to increase feeding and nesting sites and address unsuitable agricultural management regimes	ongoing
UW A04	Promote the importance of Northumberland's upland waders through publicity material, events and training	ongoing
UW A05	Ensure continuation of the Pastures for Plovers project beyond March 2008	2008