



The Eurasian Curlew is hurtling towards extinction and, with it, possibly the most beautiful bird song on earth.

A combination of new farming methods, intense forestation, development and predation has created an environment in which a vanishingly small percentage of each new season's birds successfully fledge. This matters not just of itself, but in view of the curlew's role as an indicator species for all ground-nesting birds and the grasslands they occupy. If they go, we will lose much more than the curlew.

Two years ago, a few of us established Curlew Action a charity that was utterly focused on telling the curlew's story before it was too late. We do not seek to replicate the fieldwork and research that other, larger, organisations are doing, but rather to educate and campaign so that the no farmer, landowner, minister, dog walker or school child is in any doubt about the challenge. And we have already persuaded the government to sponsor the Curlew Recovery Partnership, a wide group of conservationists, campaigners and landowners now actively working under the chairmanship of our own Mary Colwell. We have also been instrumental in the development of a powerful 'tool kit' to help register and protect vulnerable nest sites. Finally, we are a vocal contribution to the campaign to get a Natural History GCSE in place by 2024. Future work will build on these projects and include a focus on teaching school children about curlews and British habitats. We are fully optimistic that, along with the other groups, we can turn things around.

At the age of 62, I am probably old enough for our curlews to outlive me, but not by much. So I cannot think of a more useful thing to do with my energy and resources than to help ensure that your and my grandchildren can still see that bird, and hear that noise, when they are 62.

So, starting on March 8th 2022, I will be walking from the Solent to Cape Wrath, 900 miles or so along the roads footpaths of Britain, and would like to raise the £75,000 that Curlew Action will need for the year to do its work. It will take just under two months. I am under no illusions about the challenges that my normally sedate body will go through in this, but they are as nothing compared to the challenges of the curlew.

Please support me if you can, either by following the link below to our fundraising page, or by contacting me direct (roger@curlewaction.org) to see how else you might be able to help.

Thank you so much.

Roger Morgan-Grenville; Chair of Trustees. Curlew Action



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