

Curlew

(*Numenius arquata*)



Description: Medium sized brown bird, with long legs and a distinctive curved bill

Conservation status: Red (needing urgent action)

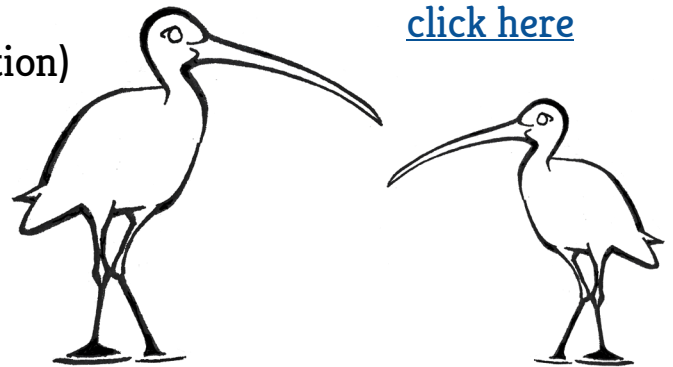
Size: Up to 60 cm long

Habitat: Estuaries and moorland

Food: Worms, shellfish and shrimp

To find out more

[click here](#)



Curlew is the UK's largest European wading bird. It is almost impossible to tell the difference between female and male bird, with females having slightly longer bills. They use their bills like tweezers and then throw their prey in the air and catch it.

The UK breeding population of 58,500 pairs is internationally important.

Surprisingly, until 1942 you could buy curlews to eat.

