

Eurasian Curlew

Numenius arquata

The Curlew was once a common sight across Ireland and the UK and their distinctive calls could be heard along coasts and farmland. Today, it is in serious decline. It is believed that this is a result of habitat loss and climate change.



Curlew breed in Northern and Central Eurasia, including the UK and Ireland. Some birds winter in Western and Southern Europe, Africa, South Asia and Indonesia.

What's in the name?

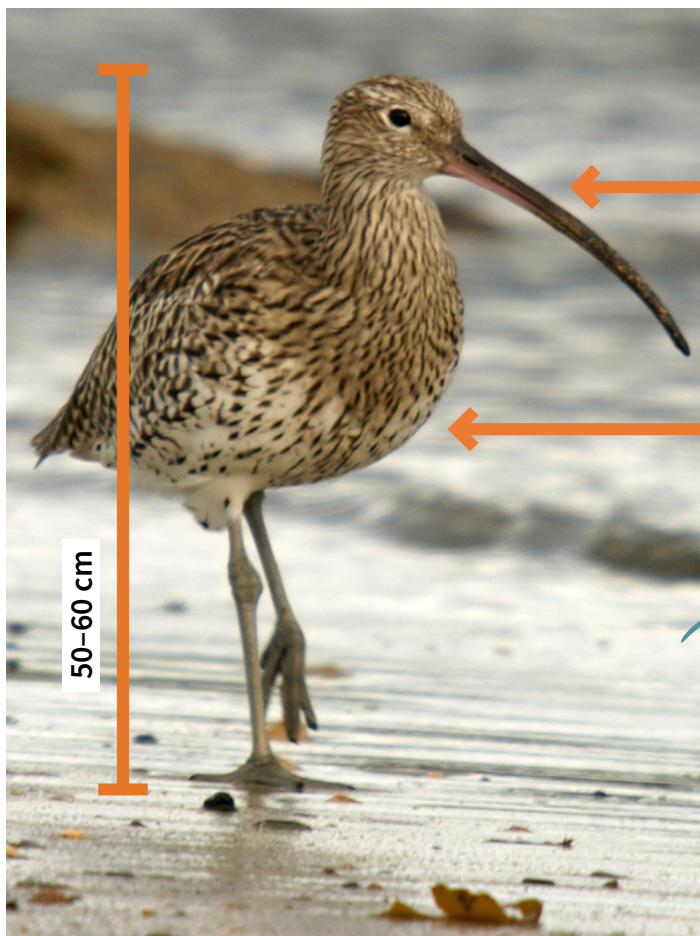
The genus name *Numenius arquata* refers to the shape of the Curlew's bill.

Numenius comes from two Greek words: 'neos' meaning new, and 'mene' for moon. This creates 'of the new moon'.

Arquata is the Latin word for the bow used in archery.



Curlew love the estuaries around the Irish Sea. Here they find mudflats and saltmarshes, full of food. When it's time to breed, they move inland, or abroad, to find some lush grassland, moorland or boggy ground where they can lay their eggs.



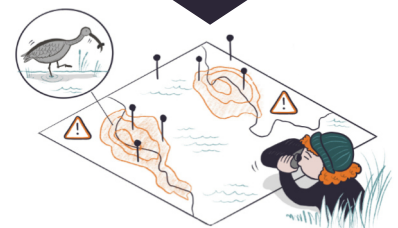
The long bill is perfect for probing wet ground for invertebrates and crustaceans.

Its mottled brown plumage provides camouflage, which is important to a ground-nesting bird.



90%

Decrease of curlews in Southern Ireland over the last 40 years. In Wales the number is 80%.



The ECHOES project is studying overwintering curlews in Ireland and Wales. By learning about their movements and feeding patterns, we hope to help in preserving their habitats for the future.



ECHOES

Effect of climate change on bird habitats around the Irish Sea
Effaith Newid Hinsawdd ar Gynefinoedd Adar o gwmpas Môr Iwerddon

