

Lapwing



Lapwing



Lapwing in flight

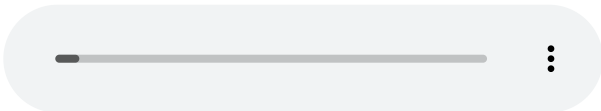
Scientific name: **Vanellus vanellus**

Bird family: Plovers

UK conservation status: Red

Protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Lapwing call audio



Patrik Åberg, Xeno-canto

Key information

Also known as the peewit in imitation of its display calls, its proper name describes its wavering flight. Its black and white appearance and round-winged shape in flight make it distinctive, even without its splendid crest. This familiar farmland bird has suffered significant declines recently and is now a Red List species.

What they eat:

Worms and insects.

Measurements:

Length:
28-31cm

Wingspan:
82-87cm
Weight:
140-320g

Population:



UK breeding:

UK breeding is the number of pairs breeding annually. UK wintering is the number of individuals present from October to March. UK passage is the number of individuals passing through on migration in spring and/or autumn.

Identifying features:

Lapwing

Feather colour: Black Brown Green Grey Orange White

Leg colour: Brown Pink

Beak: Black Medium length Medium thickness

Natural habitats: Farmland Grassland Marine and intertidal Upland Wetland

Where and when to see them

Lapwings are found on farmland throughout the UK particularly in lowland areas of northern England, the Borders and eastern Scotland. In the breeding season prefer spring sown cereals, root crops, permanent unimproved pasture, meadows and fallow fields. They can also be found on wetlands with short vegetation. In winter they flock on pasture and ploughed fields. The highest known winter concentrations of lapwings are found at the Somerset Levels, Humber and Ribble estuaries, Breydon Water/Berney Marshes, the Wash and Morecambe Bay.

* This map is intended as a guide. It shows general distribution rather than detailed, localised populations.

Resident

Passage

Summer

Winter

 Lapwing distribution map

You can see lapwings all year round. They leave upland areas after the breeding season and move to lowland fields for the winter. Large numbers of N European birds arrive in autumn for the winter.


This bird can be seen in the UK in: jan feb mar apr may jun jul aug sep oct nov dec

RSPB reserves

[RSPB Frampton Marsh](#)

[RSPB Insh Marshes](#)


[RSPB Loch Leven](#)
[RSPB Loch of Spiggie](#)
[RSPB Lower Lough Erne Islands](#)
[RSPB Medmerry](#)
[RSPB Middleton Lakes](#)
[RSPB Otmoor Reserve](#)
[RSPB Portmore Lough](#)
[RSPB Adur Estuary](#)
[RSPB Balranald](#)
[RSPB Beckingham Marshes](#)
[RSPB Belfast's Window on Wildlife](#)
[RSPB Broubster Leans](#)
[RSPB Buckenham Marshes](#)
[RSPB Cattawade Marshes](#)
[RSPB Coll](#)
[RSPB Crook of Baldoon](#)
[RSPB The Loons and Loch of Banks](#)
[RSPB Udale Bay](#)
[RSPB Winterbourne Downs](#)
[RSPB Rainham Marshes](#)
[RSPB Exminster and Powderham Marshes](#)
[RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes](#)
[RSPB Geltsdale](#)
[RSPB Hesketh Out Marsh](#)
[RSPB Loch Gruinart](#)
[RSPB Marshside](#)
[RSPB Mersehead](#)
[RSPB North Warren](#)
[RSPB Northward Hill](#)
[RSPB Pulborough Brooks](#)
[RSPB Saltholme](#)
[RSPB Sandwell Valley](#)
[RSPB Onziebust](#)
[RSPB Amberley Wildbrooks](#)
[RSPB Berney Marshes and Breydon Water](#)
[RSPB Bowers Marsh](#)
[RSPB Boyton and Hollesley Marshes](#)
[RSPB Brading Marshes](#)
[RSPB Brodgar](#)
[RSPB Campfield Marsh](#)
[RSPB Carsington Water](#)
[RSPB Cliffe Pools](#)
[RSPB Cors Ddyga](#)
[RSPB West Canvey Marsh](#)
[RSPB Ynys-hir](#)
[RSPB Conwy](#)

 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*,
amongst grass

Red Alert appeal

1 in 4 UK birds are now on the Red List of Conservation Concern. Together, with your support, we can help shape their future.

In more depth

 Breeding and nesting habits

 Population trends

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nesting habits

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