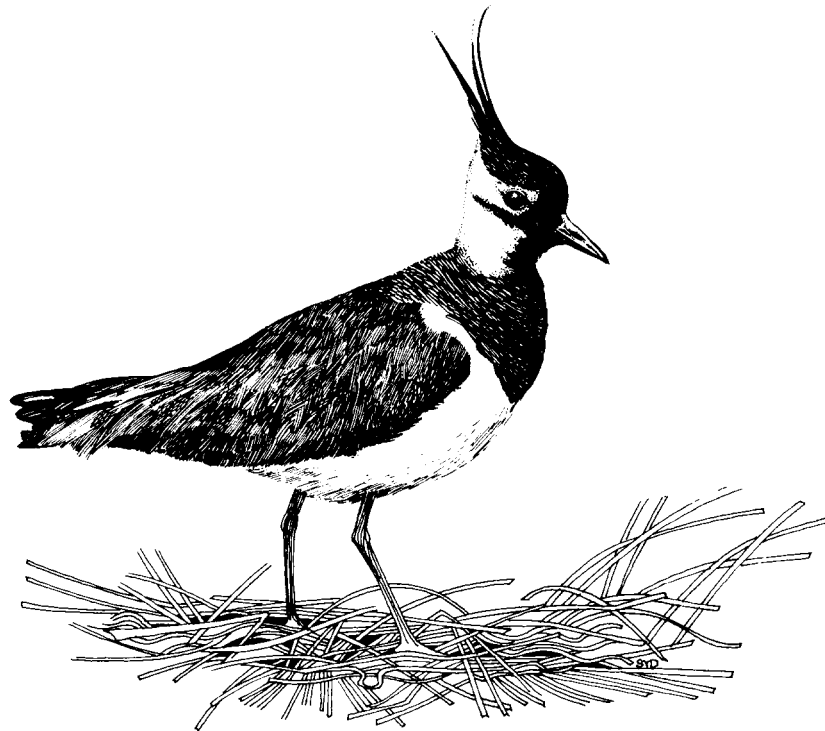


- The decline in mixed/arable farming in the area has probably also contributed to the decrease in numbers. There is now very little arable farming in Gwynedd.
- The very low productivity at breeding sites in the county, typically less than one chick fledged per pair on average with some colonies failing completely. This is largely due to predation of eggs and young chicks by crows, gulls and foxes, though bad weather in spring could also be a factor. Disturbance by humans or stock increases the exposure of nests to predation. Chick productivity can also be reduced by chicks drowning in steep ditches.
- Severe winters, such as 1962-3, can cause declines in the population, but this has not been a factor in recent years



3. ASSOCIATED GWYNEDD SAPS / HAPS

Lowland dry acid grassland, Lowland meadows and pasture, Mudflats, Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, Coastal saltmarsh

Farmland birds

4. CURRENT ACTION IN GWYNEDD

4.1 Site and habitat protection

- A number of designations are relevant to the two key sites for lapwing in Gwynedd, either covering areas where the birds are known to breed or nearby areas which are important for winter feeding: Abermenai to Aberffraw dunes candidate SAC, Morfa Dinlle SSSI, Y Foryd SSSI, Y Foryd LNR, Menai Strait and Conwy Bay candidate SAC, Traeth Lafan SPA, Traeth Lafan SSSI, Traeth Lafan LNR (Morfa Madryn).

4.2 Management and programmes of action

- RSPB Cymru carried out a 3 year European funded Lapwing Recovery Project to try and reverse the decline of the lapwing in Wales by devising new, or modifying existing agricultural practices.
- This work is to be continued within the Aren't Welsh Birds Brilliant project, which commenced during 2003, funded by EU Objective 1 funds and by a number of partners and led by the RSPB, and includes lapwing as one of its 7 focal species.
- Countryside Council for Wales have included appropriate management prescriptions for breeding lapwing in the Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme.
- Lapwing is one of the species eligible for funding from Countryside Council for Wales Species Challenge Fund.

4.3 Survey, research and monitoring

- British Trust for Ornithology and RSPB Cymru have carried out lapwing surveys in recent years.
- Cambrian Ornithological Society publish records in the Cambrian Bird Report

5. ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain a breeding population of lapwings in Gwynedd.
2. Encourage recolonization of areas with recent historical records of breeding lapwings.

6. PROPOSED ACTIONS

Code	Action	Partner(s) ⁱ
Policy and legislation		
1	Use planning conditions to ensure developments in sensitive locations are compatible with conservation of lapwing TARGET/TIMESCALE: Ongoing	GC , Relevant partners
Species / habitat management and protection		
2	Promote and support grant schemes including <i>Tir Gofal</i> , <i>Llyn ESA</i> and / or use management agreements where appropriate to secure favourable management of important lapwing feeding grounds and breeding areas, including adjacent fields, taking into account the needs of associated LBAP species and habitats TARGET/TIMESCALE: To be set, Ongoing	CCW , CLA , DEPC , FWAG Cymru , FUW , GC , NFU Cymru , NT , RSPB Cymru
3	Promote and support grant schemes including <i>Tir Gofal</i> , <i>Llyn ESA</i> and / or management agreements where appropriate to encourage the restoration of suitable breeding sites in areas with recent historical records of breeding lapwings, with the aim of encouraging recolonization, taking into account the needs of associated LBAP species and habitats TARGET/TIMESCALE: To be set, Ongoing	CCW , CLA , DEPC , FUW , FWAG Cymru , GC , NFU Cymru , NT , RSPB Cymru
4	Seek funding for land management by developing a biodiversity grant scheme, which would include grants for appropriate management, restoration and / or creation of lapwing feeding habitat TARGET/TIMESCALE: By 2005	GC , Relevant partners
Advisory		
5	Provide advice on appropriate management options to landowners / managers in areas with lapwing present or with nearby populations TARGET/TIMESCALE: To be set, Ongoing	RSPB Cymru , CCW , DEPC , FWAG Cymru , GC
Survey, research and monitoring		
6	Monitor all known breeding sites annually TARGET/TIMESCALE: Ongoing	RSPB Cymru , BTO
Communications and publicity		
7	Raise the public profile and general awareness of lapwing and it's requirements with local farmers, land managers and the general public by attending local agricultural shows and events, through the media, and in producing / distributing advisory / information material for landowners TARGET/TIMESCALE: Ongoing	RSPB Cymru , CCW , GC
8	Encourage birdwatchers and landowners to record breeding lapwings and monitor wintering populations by attending local agricultural shows and events, through the media, and in producing / distributing advisory / information material TARGET/TIMESCALE: Ongoing	COS , BTO , RSPB Cymru

ⁱ Lead partner for this action is indicated by bold typeface, see section 7.2 for explanation of abbreviations

7 PARTNERS & OPPORTUNITIES

7.1 Overall Lead Partner for SAP

RSPB Cymru

7.2 Key partners

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)

Cambrian Ornithological Society (COS)

Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)

Country Land and Business Association (CLA)

Department for Environment, Planning and Countryside (Welsh Assembly Government) (DEPC)

Farmers Union of Wales (FUW)

Gwynedd Council (GC)

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group Cymru (FWAG Cymru)

National Farmers Union Cymru (NFU Cymru)

National Trust (NT)

7.3 Opportunities

Volunteers, students, farming unions, landowners and managers, wildfowling associations

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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9. ABBREVIATIONS

BAP: Biodiversity Action Plan, ESA: Environmentally Sensitive Area, HAP: Habitat Action Plan, JNCC: Joint Nature Conservation Committee, LBAP: Local Biodiversity Action Plan, LNR: Local Nature Reserve, SAC: Special Area of Conservation, SAP: Species Action Plan, SPA: Special Protection Area, SSSI: Site of Special Scientific Interest

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¹ Wilson, A.M., Vickery, J.A. & Browne, S.J. (2001) Numbers and distribution of Northern Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* breeding in England and Wales in 1998. *Bird Study* 48: 2-17.