



SNIPE

Ireland's most common breeding Wader. The Snipe has a long, straight bill and is most commonly seen when flushed from cover in a zig-zagging flight. Breeds in marshes, callows, bogs and close to inland lakes. Needs wet pools and habitats for feeding and probing.



REDSHANK

Medium sized wader with vivid red beak and legs. Breeds on inland marshes, lakes and wet meadows and callows. Often seen perched on fence posts during the breeding season. Highly vocal if disturbed.



LAPWING

Unmistakable black and white Wader, this is Ireland's National bird. Lapwing are communal breeders and form small breeding colonies on suitable inland and coastal habitats. Highly vocal with a spectacular display flights over their breeding grounds.



DUNLIN

Starling-sized Wader with intermediate bill length. Breeding plumage sees birds develop a distinctive black belly patch. Often seen in large Wintering flocks and on migration, these birds are confined to a small number of upland and costal breeding sites in Ireland.



RINGED PLOVER

A neat, plump Wader with orange legs and bill and with distinctive black and white features on its face and neck. Breeds on open shores by the sea or lakes, prefers gravel or sandy patches, also breeds on some inland bogs.



GOLDEN PLOVER

Golden Plover in full breeding plumage are one of the most spectacular sights in nature. Seen in very large migratory flocks during Spring and early Summer, this species breeds in open upland, bogs and mountainsides.



COMMON SANDPIPER

A small-medium sized Wader that can be identified by its habit of continually bobbing its rear body, especially after movement or upon landing. Nests on the ground amongst stones and low vegetation, usually very close to water and often on river, lakeside beach or coastal woodland.



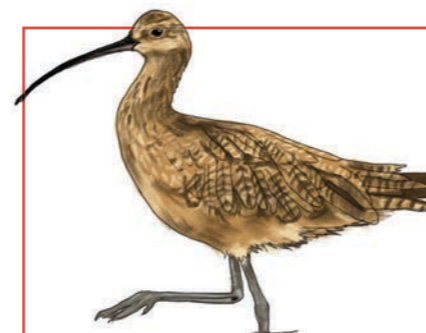
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

One of Ireland's rarest breeding species, this bird only breeds in very select sites in Ireland. Breeding sites are generally waterbodies and small pools with emergent vegetation.



OYSTER CATCHER

Large, robust Wader with a striking contrast between its straight orange-re bill and its black and white body. Breeds on open, flat coastlines and on inland lakes. One of the few Wader species that actively feeds its chicks.



CURLEW

Ireland's largest Wader, with unmistakable long curved bill. The Curlew's call is one of the most evocative sounds in the Irish countryside. Remnant breeding populations are confined to pockets of raised and blanket bogs, wet grassland, arable fields and the large inland lakes.



BREEDING WADERS

E I P

FARMING alongside BREEDING WADERS

How landowners & farmers can help



FARMING alongside BREEDING WADERS

How landowners & farmers can help

Every site is unique, and the habits and requirements of the different breeding wader species may vary slightly. This requires individual plans for individual farms and areas.

Here we provide a general overview of the capital actions and management tasks that can help increase the breeding productivity of these endangered birds, while maintaining a viable farming enterprise.

Please speak to a member of our team before carrying out any of these actions, to ensure optimal benefits for all.



Ringed plover with chick



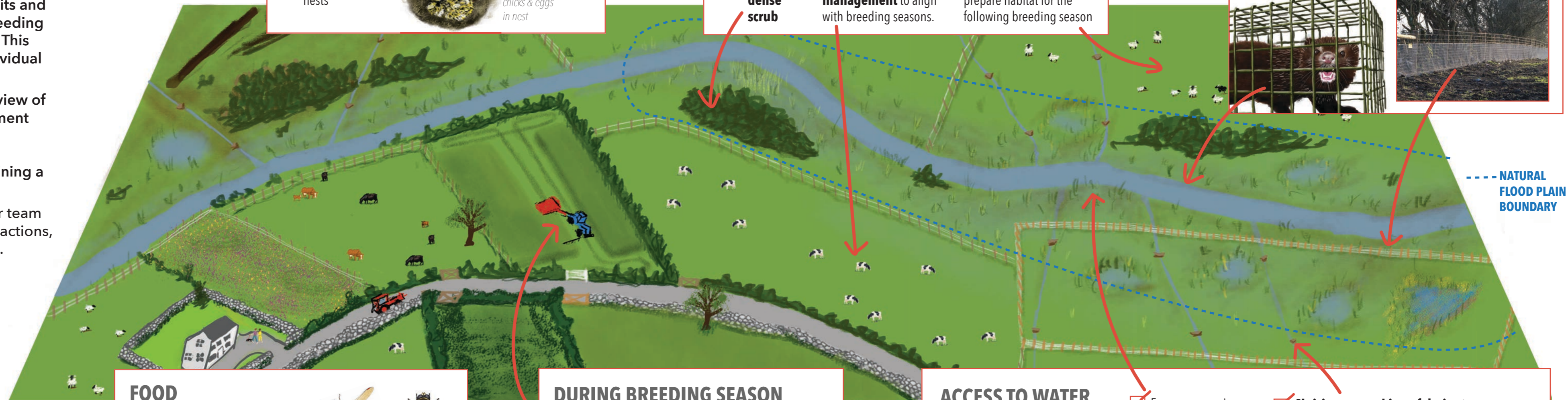
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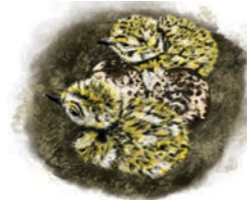
HEALTHY HABITATS

Peatlands & Uplands:

- ☺ Reduce fluctuation in the water table
- ☺ Increase invertebrate numbers & variety
- ☺ Make it harder for predators to locate nests

Wetlands and Floodplains:

- ☺ Attract Breeding Waders
- ☺ Supply abundance of food
- ☺ Make it harder for predators to locate nests



Golden plover chicks & eggs in nest

SPACE

- ☺ Breeding waders prefer **open spaces**.
- ☺ **Short swards with scattered clumps and tussocks** are attractive to the birds, early in the breeding season.
- ☹ **Scrub** provides habitat, perching posts and cover for predators.
- ☹ **Very dense swards** can prevent small chicks from feeding, by restricting their freedom of movement.

To help with this, farmers can:

- ☑ **Clear areas of dense scrub**
- ☑ Consider **stocking rates and herd management** to align with breeding seasons.
- ☑ Plan **Autumn and Winter grazing** to prepare habitat for the following breeding season

Curlew chick



PROTECTION FROM PESTS

Breeding waders are **ground nesting birds** and their eggs and chicks can be very vulnerable to losses from generalist predators such as rats, mink, foxes and corvids.

- ☑ Positioning humane **mink traps** at regular intervals along the waterway can have a huge impact on the survival rate of nests and chicks.
- ☑ **Predator exclusion fencing** can also be used to great effect to help protect the nests and chicks from predators during the breeding season.

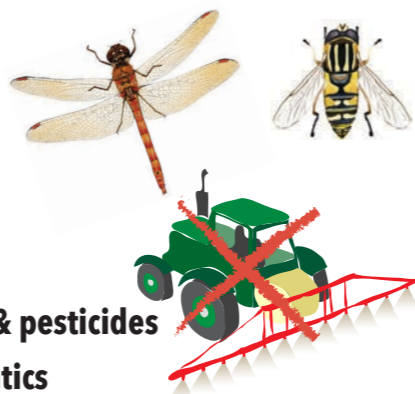


FOOD

Breeding waders need a healthy supply of insects to build up fat reserves once they are hatched.

To help ensure this important food supply is available:

- ☑ Restrict use of **herbicides & pesticides**
- ☑ Strategic use of **anthelmintics**
- ☑ Reduce use of **artificial fertilisers**



DURING BREEDING SEASON

- ☑ Ensure farm **machinery operations** and the bird's breeding season (Mar-June) are aligned. We can advise on best practice for this.
- ☑ Avoid unnecessary disturbance.
- ☑ No dogs.

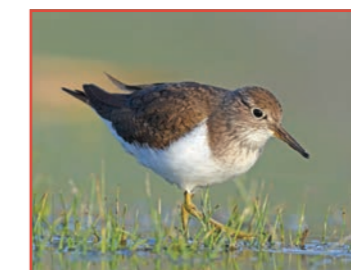


ACCESS TO WATER

Breeding waders need constant access to water, particularly during breeding season.

We can help by managing the water table to keep it close to the surface during the breeding season and by creating depressions, pools and ponds.

- ☑ Ensure **access** is maintained to muddy edges and water features.
- ☑ **Sluicing or stanking of drains** is a very effective way to raise the water table. This should allow natural **water pools to appear**.
- ☑ **Reprofiling** of existing water features.



Common sandpiper feeding at water's edge



--- NATURAL FLOOD PLAIN BOUNDARY