



A Bird at Risk...



Every spring Long-billed Curlews arrive in our grasslands to breed and raise young. They usually nest on dry hilltops where a scrape on the ground serves as the nest. Females will lay between 3 and 5 eggs that hatch after approximately 20 days. The newborn chicks are able to move about within hours of hatching and the new family leaves the nest area after about 24 hours.

Curlews are very good parents. When danger approaches, parents sound an alarm call telling chicks to “freeze” and hide. Parents and neighboring birds also dive from the sky to drive the intruders off.

Feeding primarily on invertebrates such as insects, worms, crustaceans, toads, eggs and even nestlings of other birds, the young grow quickly and prepare for their long journey to their wintering grounds.

Unfortunately, this magnificent bird has declined over a significant portion of their range. As with many other species, they have suffered as a result of grassland habitat loss and destruction.

A number of Provincial Grassland Parks support resident populations of this vulnerable shorebird, and play an important role in their conservation.

You can help us conserve this unique bird so that we continue to enjoy its presence for generations to come.

- Observe them from a distance. A breeding pair may abandon their nest or young if they are harassed.
- Keep dogs under control at all times
- If you should discover a nest leave the area quickly and report its location to BC Parks.



Long-billed Curlews are the largest sandpiper in the world measuring about the size of a mallard. Curlews got their name from their unmistakable call, “curlew, curlew, curlew”. As its name also suggests, curlews have a characteristic long bill that curves downward. Their plumage is sandy brown with cinnamon-coloured underwings that can be seen when the bird is in flight.

By protecting grasslands Curlews and other species will continue to thrive these areas.

To learn more about the species at risk in British Columbia's grasslands, and how you can help conserve grasslands please contact:



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