

# EURASIAN CURLLEW

SUURKOOVITAJA

# NUMENIUS ARQUATA - Eurasian Curlew

In Estonia it is a 3rd category protegée of species (2012).

The Eurasian curlew or common curlew is a wader in large family Scolopacidae.

It is one of the most widespread of the curlews.

Arrives to Estonia in March - April

Is the largest wader in its range, at 50-60 cm in length, with an 89-106 cm wingspan and body weight of 410- 1,360 g.

It is mainly greyish brown, with a white back, greyish-blue legs and a very long curved bill.

It is generally wary, lays 3-6 eggs April-May, incubates them about month





Males and females look identical, but the bill is longest in the adult female.  
Familiar call is a loud curloo-oo



**Clutch of eggs**



**In flight**

# Skull



The curlew exists as a migratory (rände-) species over most of its range.

The nests is a bare scrape (maapinnale) on taiga, meadow (niit, luht, heinamaa) and similar habitats. Curlews tend to nest close to kestrel`s (tuuletallaja) nests, as they can offer protection from predators, such as corvids (corvus-vares), even though kestrel`s also predate curlews nests.

Highly gregarious (karjas elav, seltskondlik) outside the breeding season.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ws7jH6wNKN4>

The Eurasian curlew feeds by probing (sondeerides) soft mud for small invertebrates ( selgrootud), small crabs and earthworms (vihmauss).

Though it is a common bird, its numbers are noticeably declining.