

## Redshank

### Description

The Redshank is a medium sized wading bird (usually 27-29cm in size). It has long red legs and a long bill which is red at the base. In flight, it shows a distinctive white bar on each wing and a pointed white patch above the tail. They search for food in mudflats or soft ground. They are wary birds and would frequently give out loud alarm calls in response to being approached. A race of slightly larger birds occurs in Iceland and the Faeroes, and the majority of Ireland's wintering population of redshank is composed of these Icelandic birds.



Eggs are laid from April and are concealed amongst tussocks of vegetation. There are usually four eggs in a clutch and development takes around three weeks. The young are able to start feeding themselves from birth.

### Distribution

In Northern Ireland most redshanks breed around inland wetlands, including lake shores, marshes, wet grassland and some raised bogs. A few also breed in coastal saltmarshes. The redshank can be found in counties Antrim and Fermanagh.

### Action

DARD's Countryside Management Scheme and Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme include measures designed to protect and enhance redshank habitat.

Some habitats of the redshank are designated ASSIs

Lough Beg National Nature Reserve is managed for breeding waders, including redshank

Lower Lough Erne Islands are managed by RSPB for breeding waders

### Further Information

<http://www.habitas.org.uk/priority/species.asp?item=34>

### MLA Species Champion