

Dotterel,

a beautiful small wading bird that breeds in the harsh and unforgiving conditions of the Cairngorm mountains. There's nowhere else in the UK like the Cairngorm plateau, up on Britain's most massive mountain range the high tundra is where these small migratory birds come to breed from mid-April to August.

Adult birds have largely grey-brown underparts and bright chestnut belly, with a distinct white chest band, throat and eye stripe. Female birds are more brightly coloured than males, due to a role reversal in raising chicks with the male incubating eggs and brooding chicks.

Conservation Status

Only 510 – 750 breeding males occur on the UK with a majority of these breeding in the Cairngorms. The UK conservation status of the Dotterel is Red, this is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action.



Conservation Action Helping Dotterel

Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland – repairs and maintains mountain paths to control and reverse erosion and restore upland habitats. This ensures walkers and climbers can access and enjoy our fantastic upland habitats without risk of damaging the fragile habitat or disturbing breeding birds.

Cairngorms Peatland Restoration – are working with estates across the National Park to restore damaged peatland.

What you can do to help

In June Dotterel are present in the Cairngorms, hatching chicks and feeding their young. If you are walking in the incredible Cairngorm mountains please keep to the paths where possible and if you see birds please keep a distance so not to disturb them. If you have a dog with you keep it under proper control and on a lead when near areas with birds present.

If you do spot Dotterel record it on i-record so we can keep an accurate record of where they are, visit www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/ for more information.

STAY AT HOME 

PROTECT
NHS
SCOTLAND

 **save lives**

The current government advice is that there should be no unnecessary travel at this time. Whilst it is important to get outside and exercise you must do so locally and observe social distancing measures. To enjoy the outdoors you can undertake one form of exercise a day such as a run, walk, or cycle. This should be done alone or only with people you live with.

During this period there should be no wild camping, fires or barbecues anywhere in the Park.