



Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

Other names:

- Black-bellied Plover (America)
- Silver Plover

Conservation status:

- World: Least Concern
- European: Least Concern
- UK: **Amber**

Population: decreasing

- World: 692,000 birds
- UK passage: 70,000 birds
- UK winter: 43,000 birds

Status:

Passage and winter visitor to UK estuaries and mudflats from their high arctic tundra breeding grounds.

Identification features:

- Robust body
- Large head
- Heavy bill
- Only *Pluvialis* plover with rear toes
- Black axillaries in all plumages
- Found singly or in loose groups
- May flock at high tide roosts
- Call a three syllable 'peee-uu-ee'

Something to appreciate

The birds that remain in the UK are mostly males while those that migrate to west Africa are mainly females.

