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POSTER ABSTRACT

**Variation in Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* productivity across habitats and management systems in Western Europe**

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The number of breeding Lapwings in England and Wales has halved since the late 1980s, with similar declines throughout Western Europe. In general, declines in productivity are thought to be a major driver of these losses but the specifics of why are not known. Efforts to improve Lapwing breeding success have included targeted management on nature reserves and agri-environment initiatives in upland and lowland, pastoral and arable habitats. However, the effectiveness of these different approaches and their capacity to impact lapwing populations is unclear. To address this issue, an extensive review of published and grey literature is being undertaken from which estimates of population size, nesting success, chick survival and productivity have been compiled for sites across Europe since 1970. Previous studies have suggested that lapwing productivity of ~0.6-0.8 fledglings/pair is required to maintain a stable population, and our preliminary analyses suggest that such values can be achieved on mixed farmland and lowland wet grassland, but rarely on arable and dry pasture. However, productivity can vary greatly even within lowland wet grassland and mixed farmland, and high values are typically only achieved on nature reserves, suggesting that targeted management is likely to be necessary to maintain stable populations.