

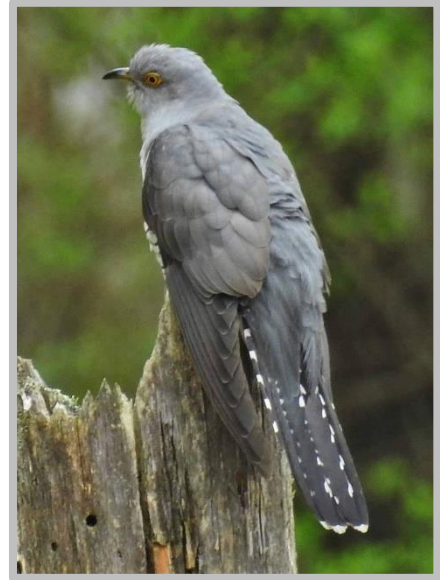
Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)

Each month, the **iWatchWildlife** Project choose a wildlife species that we'd like to know more about. We ask people to tell us when they spot that species, so we can then make it into a Species Record. Species records are important because the more we know - the better we can protect our local wildlife.

During **April**, we will be collecting records of **Cuckoos**.



Cuckoo feeding on caterpillar by Andy Butler



Cuckoo by Derek Hale

How to spot a Cuckoo:

- more likely to hear one than see one - listen for the familiar 'Cuck-oo' call during the Springtime (this is the male calling)
- blue-grey dove-sized bird with dark stripy barred white under parts
- sleek body, long tail and pointed wings
- much like small birds of prey such as kestrels or sparrowhawks, both when perched and in-flight
- they enjoy eating hairy or brightly coloured poisonous caterpillars

About Cuckoos:

- we've lost over half the number of Cuckoos in the UK over the last 20 years
- they are summer visitors to the UK
- they lay their eggs in other birds' nests and fool them into raising their young instead
- on the Island: found in a wide range of habitats
- good places to hear them calling locally are in the Eastern Yar Valley, Bouldnor and Newtown Nature Reserves

Tell us about your observations and share your pictures [@iWatchWildlife](#) on Facebook or email iwatchwildlife@gmail.com