



## HOW YOU CAN HELP THE R.A.P.T.O.R. PROTOCOL

The RAPTOR Protocol is a Government Initiative to address non-habitat related threats and pressures that face Ireland's birds of prey. If you find an injured or dead bird of prey, or encounter any suspicious activity, here are some tips to help:

### DO

Immediately contact NPWS (01-8883255 or [RAPTOR@ahg.gov.ie](mailto:RAPTOR@ahg.gov.ie)). If NPWS not available, contact nearest Garda Station.

Record the time and date. Record any correspondence with landowners/officials/others.

Record details of the scene. Record the species and any relevant details (e.g. condition/age of bird/tags). Take photographs showing context of scene and a close up of bird/ring/tags/bait, etc.

Record the exact location (e.g. Grid Reference, Google Maps screen shot or dropped pin) including specific directions to the scene (consider marking with a stick/plastic bag, etc. but not so obviously as to alert perpetrators)

Follow instruction from NPWS/Gardai.

In the case of injured/sick wildlife, check [www.irishwildlifematters.ie](http://www.irishwildlifematters.ie) for your nearest wildlife rehabilitator/vet.

Look beyond the obvious – there could be other birds, bait, etc. beyond that which you have initially encountered.

### DON'T

Don't remove or interfere with what may be evidence of a wildlife crime, unless otherwise instructed by officials or appropriate.

Don't handle birds or poisons (unless in specific circumstances with appropriate knowledge and protective gloves, etc.).

Don't approach the landowner unless appropriate.

Don't jump to conclusions. The authorities will investigate in the appropriate manner, with Post Mortem examinations and toxicology tests available if required.

Don't deliver dead birds to RVL: Only Authorised Officers from NPWS or An Garda Síochána can send carcasses or bait samples for testing.

Don't ignore anything suspicious (e.g. pigeons unable to fly, any type of meat, decoy birds, raptor feathers, pole traps, overheard conversations/anecdotal information).

Don't ignore any dead, sick or injured bird of prey or multiple bird casualties.