

## REPORTING A WILDLIFE CRIME

If you SUSPECT a wildlife crime is taking, or has taken, place – REPORT IT!

First report it to the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) – tel: (01) 888 2000, [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie) and email [WildlifeEnforcement@npws.gov.ie](mailto:WildlifeEnforcement@npws.gov.ie)

If an incident is happening in real time, or if there's a risk of a breach of the peace, call An Garda Síochána on 999 and email [envi.wildlife.crime@garda.ie](mailto:envi.wildlife.crime@garda.ie)

If there is a LIVE animal that has been injured at the scene, use [www.irishwildlifematters.ie](http://www.irishwildlifematters.ie) to find a vet or rehabilitator.

Detailed Reporting & Crime information: [www.wildlifecrime.ie](http://www.wildlifecrime.ie)



You can also use the PAW Ireland Wildlife Crime Reporting App – scan the relevant QR code below for a free download.



ANDROID



iOS

Visit [www.wildlifecrime.ie/paw](http://www.wildlifecrime.ie/paw) to learn more

## WHY FIGHT WILDLIFE CRIME?

Ireland is legally obliged to protect internationally important habitats and the species that depend on them.

We have a moral obligation to advocate on behalf of birds or mammals protected by the law.

No animal should be subjected to unnecessary pain and suffering.

Wildlife are an essential component of healthy ecosystems and contribute to ecosystem services crucial for a healthy planet and the wellbeing of all species.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP

Be prepared: download the 'PAW Ireland' App to easily report a wildlife crime



Report ANY suspicious activity



Distribute this flyer



Contact NPWS for talks on wildlife crime [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)



Promote the Wildlife Crime website [www.wildlifecrime.ie](http://www.wildlifecrime.ie)



# BIRDS AND THE LAW IN IRELAND



What is wildlife crime and why does it matter?

## LEGISLATION — BIRDS

**Wildlife crime is any act that contravenes current legislation governing the protection of wild birds, mammals, plants and their habitats.**

**WITHOUT A LICENCE it is illegal to:**

1. Capture, injure or kill any wild bird
2. Remove or destroy the eggs or nest of any wild bird
3. Disturb any wild bird on or near a nest containing eggs or young
4. Take photographs or videos of any wild bird on or near a nest containing eggs or young
5. Hunt any wild bird by means of any trap or net, birdlime, or any poisonous bait
6. Use a tethered, caged or injured wild bird for the purpose of hunting any other wild bird
7. Engage in taxidermy of any wild bird, or their eggs
8. Cut or burn any vegetation growing in any hedge, ditch or uncultivated land during the bird nesting season (1st of March to 31st August)

The Animal Health and Welfare Act makes it **illegal** to cause or permit unnecessary suffering.

The Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, An Garda Síochána, and the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals should be notified of cruelty to any animal.

## RECORDING A CRIME

1

Do NOT put yourself in harm's way – do not approach a suspect or touch anything you suspect may be poisoned.

Before you do anything else, it is very important that:

- You do NOT disturb the scene
- You do NOT move any items at the scene
- You do NOT mark the site
- You do NOT do anything illegal yourself

2

**Once sure that it is safe to do so:**



Record the transport and registration – this is very important!



Record the date and time



Record the person



Record the scene



Record the location



## PROTECTION & DEROGATIONS

Under the Wildlife Acts, **ALL wild birds, their nests and eggs** are protected (including visiting migrant birds and so called “pest species”).

The Minister is responsible for granting licences under the Wildlife Acts. Applications are made to the NPWS.

**WITH A LICENCE certain birds may legally be:**

1. Hunted in accordance with the conditions of the licence during the ‘Open Season’ (1st September to 31st January)
2. Hunted for air safety, public health, and the protection of crops and fisheries
3. In one’s possession if injured, for the purpose of rehabilitation

## PERSECUTION

**Poisoning:** If you find a dead bird near an open carcass or meat, this may be a poisoned bait – **DO NOT TOUCH** it or the bird, report immediately.

**Illegal shooting:** report suspicious activities.

**Finch trapping:** If you see a net placed in a ‘suspicious’ site being used to trap wild birds, a stick smeared with a sticky substance, or a small bird being used as a caged decoy, report it.

If you find a bird in a trap, net or attached to a lime stick – **DO NOT** attempt to release it, contact a vet immediately.

Let's put an end to Wildlife Crime – download PAW Ireland Wildlife Crime Reporting App and report suspicious activity!



ANDROID



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