

NPWS Report

Mr. Richard Douglas a cattle farmer from Rathmoylan, Co Meath was before Judge Gráinne Malone at Navan District Court on a summons relating to the destruction of 800 linear metres of hedgerows during the bird nesting season.

Mr. Douglas pleaded guilty to the offence and admitted that on the 22nd of April 2015 he destroyed hedgerows and part of a woodland during the bird nesting season.

When passing sentence the Judge told the defense solicitor that based on his guilty plea, she would reluctantly not impose a criminal conviction on Mr. Douglas; however, in view of the significance of the destruction and given the evidence presented to the court by the NPWS ranger of the impact this had on nesting birds, she ordered that Mr. Douglas pay a total of €3,500 to two wildlife conservation charities - €2,000 to Butterfly Conservation Ireland and €1,500 to the Irish Wildlife Trust.

Mr. Douglas was given 28 days to pay.