

What is PAW NI?

The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime NI (PAW NI) brings together statutory agencies, non-statutory agencies and interested parties with the common goal of combating wildlife crime through publicity, education and campaigning. PAW NI partners include key government Departments, PSNI and other enforcement agencies, environmental organisations, animal welfare groups and country sports associations.



Reporting a wildlife crime



Any information about wildlife crime should be passed immediately to the PSNI*. Call 101.

Describe your call as a potential Wildlife Crime and try and relay the following if known:

- Give details of the (potential) crime.
- Location and time.
- Description of the person(s) involved.
- Vehicle registrations, makes & colours.
- Detail any use of firearms, tools & dogs etc.
- Ask for & retain an incident reference number.

Criminal activity can be intentional, reckless or opportunistic. Reporting suspicious activities may not immediately lead to an arrest, but can help build a picture that later leads to successful enforcement action. Reporting even the smallest pieces of information can be useful in protecting NI's wildlife.

Further information is available in the NIEA's booklet "Wildlife Law and You (2016)" or visit www.wildlifecrimeni.org

*Information can also be given anonymously via Crimestoppers.

WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE CRIME



Mark Hamblin, NIEA

BIRDS OF PREY



Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Department of Justice
www.justice-ni.gov.uk

This leaflet's production was kindly funded by DoJ's Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS).

 **CRIMESTOPPERS**
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime

www.wildlifecrimeni.org

 **PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION AGAINST wildlife crime**
NORTHERN IRELAND

Birds of prey ('raptors') are predators at the top of the food chain and are an important component of our ecosystem. They act as important indicators of the general state of our biodiversity and health of our environment.

Wildlife crime against birds of prey remains a significant threat to the conservation of a number of species in the UK and Ireland. Populations of raptors are particularly vulnerable to deaths due to their low reproductive rates. Persistent killing of birds of prey can therefore result in local population extinctions, and if carried out more widely, in regional and national extinctions.



The most common crimes against raptors are poisoning, trapping and shooting.

The use of pesticides and poisons must be carefully controlled. Putting poison baits in the open is illegal, as indiscriminate application has the potential to kill birds of prey, other wildlife, pets, livestock and/or people. Only qualified pesticide users can use rodenticides outdoors. Direct targeting of specific birds through shooting and trapping remains an issue too. Illegal collection of eggs and chicks still occurs across the British Isles.

Vigilance - It is likely that the victims of wildlife crime that are found each year are only a very small proportion of the actual deaths and it may go largely under-reported. That is why we need the public to remain vigilant and to report any suspected wildlife crimes.

I've found a dead or dying bird - If you believe the bird may be a victim of a wildlife crime call the PSNI Tel: 101. Look about, are there other dead animals or birds? If there is a bait source, don't touch it, advise the police that you believe there is a poison on site. If the bird is still alive advise the PSNI when you call.



I've found a sick bird - If you find a sick or injured bird of prey that is not obviously a victim of crime, it should be assessed by a vet promptly. Pick up the bird by wrapping it in a jacket or towel, taking care of the sharp talons and bill. Most vets will give first aid to wildlife but better to call ahead and check with the practice. If the vet suspects a crime then the PSNI should be called.

Will nesting raptors disrupt my development or tree felling? Birds of prey need to be considered where they are on or near your site.

You must seek advice from the NIEA Wildlife Team Tel: 028 9056 9551 or enlist the services of an ecological consultant to assist you.



Birds and the Law

The Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (as amended) protects all wild birds from unlawful killing or injury. Making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- **kill, injure or take any wild bird;**
- **take, damage, destroy or disturb a nest whilst it is being built or is in use;**
- **at any other time take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird on Schedule A1*;**
- **obstruct or prevent any wild bird from using its nest;**
- **take or destroy the egg of any wild bird;**
- **disturb any wild bird whilst it is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young;**
- **disturb dependent young.**

If convicted of an offence, fines of up to £5000 and/or 6 month imprisonment per offence can be applied.

*Schedule A1 provides year round nest site protection for some birds of prey including golden eagle, white-tailed sea eagle, osprey, barn owl, red kite and peregrine falcon - which means their nests must not be disturbed at any time. In some circumstances you may seek a derogation licence from the NIEA to permit disturbance of a protected A1 nest outside the breeding season. If NIEA is satisfied that there is overriding public interest and appropriate compensation is applied they may grant the licence.

