

SMR 2: Wild Birds



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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www.cymru.gov.uk

All wild birds, their eggs and nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; including damaging nests, possessing eggs and live or dead wild birds. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) issue General Licences and Specific Licences to carry out distinct activities concerning wild birds.

Farmers with land designated within a Special Protection Area that provides protection for wild birds are more directly affected in this SMR.

Main requirements

- Do not intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird (unless covered by an appropriate General or Specific licence, or it is listed on Schedule 2 and it is outside the closed season)
- Do not intentionally or recklessly destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, or disturb dependent young (noting the additional protection for rarer Schedule 1 and ZA1 birds) unless covered by an appropriate General or Specific licence
- Do not intentionally or recklessly destroy the nest of Golden eagles, White-tailed eagles and Ospreys (Schedule ZA1 birds) even if that nest is disused.
- Do not use large-scale or non-selective methods to catch or kill Schedule 2 birds, or birds on a general licence. This includes illegal springs, traps, snares, hooks, electrical stunning devices, poisons, and crossbows. Do not intentionally damage or destroy the eggs of any wild bird (unless covered by an appropriate General or Specific licence).
- Do not be in possession of any live or dead wild bird, or any part of a wild bird including eggs (except for Schedule 2 birds or those covered by an appropriate general licences as detailed above, which may be taken in certain circumstances)

- Do not kill or take Schedule 2 birds during the close season. Schedule 2 birds must not be taken on Sundays in some counties in Wales even outside of the close season.
- Pheasant, partridge, red and black grouse must not be killed or taken on any Sunday or Christmas Day.

Field checks

- Check to ensure no hedge restoration e.g. trimming, laying or coppicing of hedges has been carried out within the prohibited periods (see GAEC 7: Ban on cutting/trimming during bird breeding and rearing season – 1 March to 31 August).
- Check for any signs/incidents of poisoning or non-selective methods of catching/killing birds.
- Check for burning of land that may contain active bird nests.
- Check for any licences issued by NRW that may allow specific activities to take place e.g. preventing the spread of disease or preventing serious damage to livestock.

Good practice

- Claimants with land designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and/or if land is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), should be aware that SMR 3: Conservation of Fauna and Flora also applies

For further information please contact:

Natural Resources Wales

See 'Useful Contacts' factsheet within this pack

Specific Licences

<http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/apply-and-buy/uk-protected-species-licensing/bird-licensing/?lang=en>

General Licences

<http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/apply-and-buy/uk-protected-species-licensing/general-licences-birds/?lang=en>