

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE
DECLARATION
UNDER REGULATION 3(1)(A) OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (BIRDS
DECLARATIONS) REGULATIONS 2023
(S.I. No. 576 of 2023)

In the interests of air safety the Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity being of the opinion that the species referred to in the First Schedule to this Declaration represent a threat to air safety and being satisfied that no other satisfactory solution exists, hereby derogates by Declaration from the provisions of Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the EU Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament) on the conservation of wild birds. He declares pursuant to regulation 3(1)(a) of the European Communities (Birds Declarations) Regulations 2023 that the said species may be captured or killed, or captured and killed, or otherwise interfered with by any of the means, arrangements or methods set out in the Second Schedule during the period beginning on 1 January 2026 and ending on 31 December 2026 throughout the State (except where otherwise specified) by the owner or occupier of any such property or the servant or agent of the owner or occupier of any such property on which a threat to air safety is represented by such species.

Any airport authority that carries out any activity under this Declaration must provide details of that activity by way of an annual return to National Parks & Wildlife Service using the approved Returns Form. Details can be found here: <https://www.npws.ie/legislation/eu-directives/birds-directive/eu-birds-directive-article-9-derogations>

FIRST SCHEDULE

Species Type
Black-Headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>)
Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)
Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)
Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)
Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>)
Magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>)
Rook (<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>)
Hooded (Grey) Crow (<i>Corvus corone</i>)

Jackdaw (<i>Corvus monedula</i>)
Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)
Wood Pigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)
Feral Pigeon (<i>Columba livia</i>)
Collared Dove (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>)
Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)
Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)
Common Buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>) – Declaration applies to Cork Airport, Dublin Airport and Casement Aerodrome only.
Eurasian Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) – Declaration applies to Dublin Airport only
Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>) – Declaration applies to Shannon Airport only
Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) – Declaration applies to Shannon Airport only
Mute Swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>) – Declaration applies to Shannon Airport only
Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) – Declaration applies to Shannon Airport only

SECOND SCHEDULE

Shooting with rifle or shotgun.

Cage traps with or without live decoys subject to conditions in Note below¹

Traps, snares or nets approved under the Wildlife Act 1976 (Approved Traps, Snares and Nets) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 620 of 2003).

GIVEN under my hand

11th December 2025



Minister of State for Nature,
Heritage and Biodiversity

Note 1: Where a live wild bird is used as a decoy in a cage trap it is necessary to ensure that the live decoy bird may only be used to hunt birds of the same species and that the live decoy bird must be regularly provided with ample food and water and that when caged must only be kept in a cage which is of sufficient dimensions to enable the bird to move and exercise freely.