

Sent: Tuesday 22 February 2022 18:53
To: Housing WildBirdDeclarations
Subject: Wood pigeon

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To whom it may concern

We would strongly ask the minister to follow through on the protection of our wood pigeon national flock. The numbers of our national flock have been decimated over the years from a lack of enforced protection. Wood pigeon are a gamebird and have been neglected by legislative protection in Ireland. The result has seen the numbers absolutely crash in Ireland.

Foreign shooters come here year round and shoot these birds through out the nesting season. It has led to a collapse in the national flock number.

Farmers are complaining of crop damage, but the damage is minuscule and they are encouraging shooters to come during nesting season and shoot unsustainable numbers of wood pigeon.

There are various methods of moving pigeon without killing breeding pairs and leaving the young chicks to starve in the nest.

If the damage was big they farmers would pay shooters to protect the crops, as it is they don't even offer cartridges for them. In essence the price of the cartridges would be more than the loss.

I hope the minister does the right thing and finally protects our national wood pigeon flock. They are a major help with biodiversity in woodlands and for farms.

Thanks

