

Areas of Special Protection (ASP): birds

The Manx BirdLife Point of Ayre National Reserve is designated an ASP. The ASP Order enables access restrictions to be placed on the site and is subject to landowners permission. For opening times and information about the MBL Reserve please see the Manx BirdLife website <https://manxbirdlife.im/point-of-ayre/>

Bird Sanctuaries were designated under the Wild Birds Protection Act 1932. All wild birds in these areas are protected under their Orders and this includes protection from wilful disturbance of the nest or eggs. Five sites are designated including Derbyhaven/Langness/Fort Island and Tynwald Park/ Arboretum. The remaining three sites are in private ownership.

Biological Records

Your bird records are useful for the long term conservation of species and habitats. Please [submit your sightings to Manx BirdLife](#)

Licences

Licences can be obtained for a derogation from the law if the risk of disturbance is necessary and justified. Applicants must demonstrate a level of competency prior to a licence being issued. For more information see Isle of Man Government Wildlife Licensing or email ecopolicy@gov.im

- *If birds are disturbed they may keep away from their nests, leaving chicks hungry, or enabling predators to take eggs or young.*
- *During cold weather, or when migrants arrive, disturbing birds can mean they use up vital energy and miss out on feeding opportunities.*
- *Be an advocate for bird watching and photography; the thoughtlessness of one individual may damage the reputation of others.*



**Isle of Man
Government**
Reilrys Ellan Vannin

For more information or to report an incident please contact:

Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture
Rheynn Chymmyltaght, Bee as Eirinys

Thie Slieau Whallian, Foxdale Road, St John's, Isle of Man
IM4 3AS

Tel: 01624 695737 Email: ecopolicy@gov.im

Manx Birds and the Law

A Code for Birdwatchers and Photographers

The Isle of Man has many iconic bird species including hen harrier, peregrine, chough and Manx shearwater that are thrilling to watch and photograph. This leaflet provides information on the legal status of birds and a code of conduct to enable birdwatchers and photographers to behave responsibly.

Birdwatchers and photographers should:

- always put the welfare of birds first;
- ensure that they are aware of the law;
- use good field craft skills, stay on roads and paths;
- consider using a vehicle as a hide to minimise the risk of disturbance where legal to do so;
- never chase rare or vagrant birds, they may be exhausted;
- avoid disturbing any birds. Birds respond to people in different ways depending on species. When nesting, some birds give alarm calls if you are too close, while others will slope off and wait for you to leave. Prolonged absence of parents can lead to eggs and chicks perishing.



Golden Plover

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BIRDS AND THE LAW

The Wildlife Act 1990

All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by the Isle of Man Wildlife Act 1990. It is an offence, with certain exceptions, to:

1. intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take any wild bird;
2. intentionally or recklessly take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built;
3. intentionally or recklessly take or destroy the egg of any wild bird;
4. have in one's possession or control any wild bird (dead or alive), part of a wild bird or egg, or a wild bird which has been taken in contravention of the Act;
5. intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building or is in, on or near a nest with eggs or young; or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

A penalty of up to £10,000 can be imposed per offence.

The Ayres National Nature Reserve

Wildlife at the Ayres National Nature Reserve has additional protection under the Byelaws and any living creature is protected from disturbance.

No person shall wilfully, recklessly or negligently:

1. take, molest, disturb, injure or kill any living creature on the land;
2. take, destroy or disturb the eggs, larvae, pupae or other immature stages of any living creature on the land;
3. remove, displace, damage or destroy any tree, shrub, plant, fungus or part thereof on the land;
4. permit any plant or other form of living vegetation, or any living creature to be brought on to and left upon the land.

A penalty of up to £5,000 can be imposed per offence.

Manx National Heritage (MNH) Land

Birds on MNH land have additional protection under their byelaws:

1. No unauthorised person shall on any Trust lands take or disturb birds' nests or eggs.
2. No unauthorised person shall erect a hide for the purpose of bird or animal observation or for photography on Trust land.

Schedule 1 Birds

Specially protected from intentional and reckless disturbance when they are nesting and when they have dependant young.

Part 1

Avocet	Goshawk	Shag
Bittern	Grebe, Little	Shearwater, Manx
Bullfinch	Harriers (all species)	Shelduck
Bunting, Corn	Heron, Purple	Shoveler
Bunting, Reed	Kingfisher	Skylark
Buzzard	Kite, Black	Snipe, Jack
Buzzard, Honey	Kite, Red	Sparrow, House
Buzzard, Rough-legged	Lapwing	Sparrow, Tree
Chough	Martin, Sand	Sparrowhawk
Corncrake	Nightjar	Spoonbill
Crake, Spotted	Osprey	Starling
Crane, Common	Ouzel, Ring	Swan, Bewick's
Crossbills (all species)	Owl (all species)	Swan, Whooper
Curlew	Petrol, Storm	Swift
Dipper	Pintail	Tern (all species)
Dove, Turtle	Pipit, Tree	Thrush, Song
Eagle, Golden	Plover, Golden	Tit, Bearded
Eagle, White-tailed	Plover, Little Ringed	Twite
Egret, Little	Plover, Ringed	Warbler, Grasshopper
Falcons (all species)	Quail, Common	Water Rail
Flycatcher, Spotted	Redstart, Black	Whinchat
Gadwall	Redstart, Common	Yellowhammer
Garganey	Sandpiper, Common	
Geese (all species)	Scaup	

Part 2 Protected during the closed season

Teal (1st Feb to 31st Aug)	Snipe (1st Feb to 31st Aug)	Woodcock (1st Feb to 30th Sept)
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