

# Farmland Birds

Part of the enjoyment of the countryside and part of what gives Ireland its green reputation is derived from our varied and diverse range of farmland birds.



Yellow hammer photo (John Fox  
Birdwatch Ireland)

The yellowhammer is a seed eating farmland bird. It has a distinctive yellow colour and a characteristic song. They are found throughout the Midlands, South and East of the Country in cereal growing regions.



Lapwing photo (Colum Clarke  
Birdwatch Ireland)

Breeding Lapwing are distributed widely but thinly throughout Ireland. They nest on semi-natural, wet grassland habitats. They have a distinctive "Pee-Wit" Call and have a black and white colour.



Barn Owl photo (Mick Boldger  
Birdwatch Ireland)

Barn Owl have a distinctive white colour. They are mainly found in the south and east of the country. The hunt for food at night. Their traditional nest sites are old style barns and farm buildings.



Corncrake photo (Colum Clarke  
Birdwatch Ireland)

**Corncrake**  
When was the last time you heard the distinctive call of the corncrake? The call is usually heard between May-July. Corncrakes are present in small quantities in the Shannon Callows, Donegal and Mayo.

## What can I do to protect farmland birds?

- Maintain species-rich or semi-natural grasslands.
- Leave stubbles in the field over winter to encourage insects.
- Maintain old buildings that may provide a nesting site.
- Don't cut hedges during the bird nesting season from 1st March -31st August.