

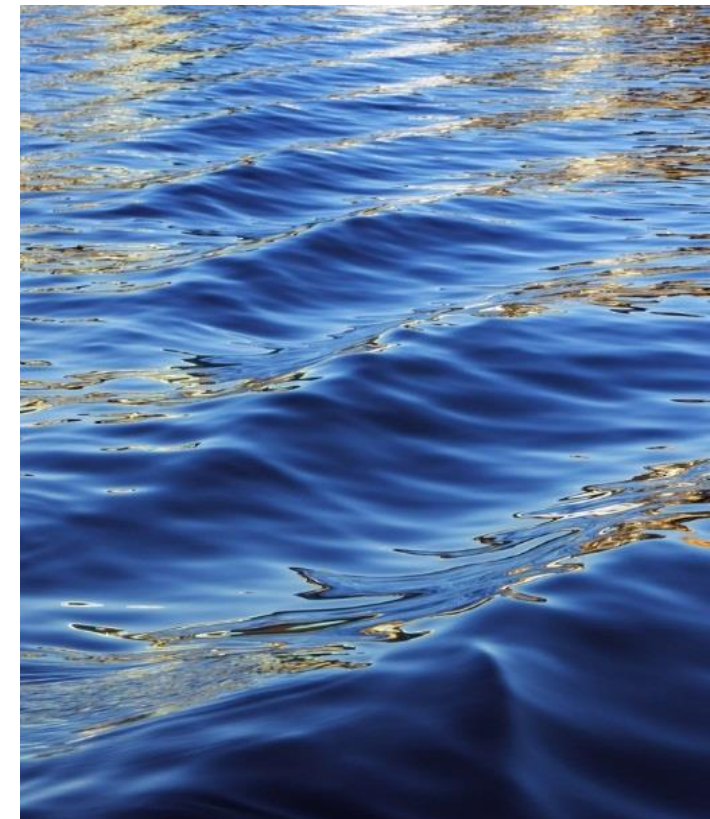


National Rural Network



Farmland Birds

Four to watch



Much 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. Here are four to look out for:

1



Yellowhammer

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.

2



Lapwing

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.

3



Barn Owl

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

4



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?

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