



Information on the schedules outlining laws relating to the treatment and protection of birds in the UK and internationally.

Schedule 1

Schedule 1 - Part I

Birds and their young, for which it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb at, on or near an 'active' nest:

- Avocet
- Bee-eater
- Bittern
- Bittern, little
- Bluethroat
- Brambling
- Bunting, ciril
- Bunting, Lapland
- Bunting, snow
- Buzzard, honey
- Capercaillie (Scotland only)
- Chough
- Corncrake
- Crake, spotted
- Crossbills (all species)
- Divers (all species)
- Dotterel
- Duck, long-tailed
- Eagle, golden
- Eagle, white-tailed
- Falcon, gyr
- Fieldfare
- Firecrest
- Garganey
- Godwit, black-tailed
- Goshawk
- Grebe, black-necked
- Grebe, Slavonian
- Greenshank
- Gull, little
- Gull, Mediterranean
- Harriers (all species)
- Heron, purple
- Hobby
- Hoopoe

Kingfisher
Kite, red
Merlin
Oriole, golden
Osprey
Owl, barn
Owl, snowy
Peregrine
Petrel, Leach's
Phalarope, red-necked
Plover, Kentish
Plover, little ringed
Quail, common
Redstart, black
Redwing
Rosefinch, scarlet
Ruff
Sandpiper, green
Sandpiper, purple
Sandpiper, wood
Scaup
Scoter, common
Scoter, velvet
Serin
Shorelark
Shrike, red-backed
Spoonbill
Stilt, black-winged
Stint, Temminck's
Stone-curlew
Swan, Bewick's
Swan, whooper
Tern, black
Tern, little
Tern, roseate
Tit, bearded
Tit, crested
Treecreeper, short-toed
Warbler, Cetti's
Warbler, Dartford
Warbler, marsh
Warbler, Savi's
Whimbrel
Woodlark
Wryneck

Schedule 1 - Part II

Birds afforded special protection during the close season which is 1 February to 31 August (21 February to 31 August below high water mark) but which may be killed or taken outside this period.

Goldeneye

Pintail

Greylag goose (in Outer Hebrides, Caithness, Sutherland and Wester Ross only).



DEFRA

Find out more about the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Schedule 2

Schedule 2 - Part I

Birds protected during the close season (1 February to 31 August) but which may be killed or taken outside this period. Close season for ducks and geese when below high water mark is 21 February to 31 August.

Capercaillie - close season 1 February to 30 September (not Scotland)

Coot

Duck, tufted

Gadwall

Goldeneye

Goose, Canada

Goose, greylag

Goose, pink-footed

Goose, white-fronted (England and Wales only)

Mallard

Moorhen

Pintail

Plover, golden

Pochard

Shoveler

Snipe, common (close season 1 February to 11 August)

Teal

Wigeon

Woodcock (close season 1 February to 30 September except Scotland where 1 February to 31 August)



Schedule 3

Schedule 3 - Part I

Birds which may be sold alive at all times if fitted with an approved ring and bred in captivity.

- Blackbird
- Brambling
- Bullfinch
- Bunting, reed
- Chaffinch
- Dunnock
- Goldfinch
- Greenfinch
- Jackdaw
- Jay
- Linnet
- Magpie
- Owl, barn
- Redpoll
- Siskin
- Starling
- Thrush, song
- Twite
- Yellowhammer

Schedule 3 - Part II


Birds which may be sold dead (at all times).

- Woodpigeon

Schedule 3 - Part III

Birds which may be sold dead from 1 September to 28 February.

- Capercaillie (not Scotland)
- Coot
- Duck, tufted
- Mallard
- Pintail
- Plover, golden

- Pochard
- Shoveler
- Snipe, common
- Teal
- Wigeon
- Woodcock
-  Blackbird *Turdus merula*, female, on garden fork handle

Schedule 4

Birds which must be ringed and registered with the government if they are kept in captivity.

- Buzzard, honey
- Eagle, golden
- Eagle, white-tailed
- Goshawk
- Harrier, marsh
- Harrier, Montagu's
- Merlin
- Osprey
- Peregrine



Schedule 4 Birds

Find out more from DEFRA about how to register to keep captive schedule 4 birds, when to ring them and when to microchip them.

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