

Appendix 6-10 SPECIES IMPORTANCE

Table 6.10.1: Information for Bird Species to Support Evaluation of Species Importance

Common Name	Peak Count Recorded During Surveys ¹	Details of Observations	National Population Estimate (Individuals)	National Population Source	% of Peak Count of National Population	Regional / County Population Estimate Available	Regional / County Population Estimate (Individuals)	Regional / County Population Estimate Source	% of Peak Count of Regional / County Population Estimate
Black-headed gull	134 (b)	Flight activity surveys (no breeding observed)	15,620 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	0.86 (b)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Common kestrel	1 (nb) 2 (b)	Flight activity surveys Breeding and winter walkover surveys Breeding raptor surveys (no breeding observed within site; confirmed within wider area)	13,500 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	0.01 (b) 0.01 (nb)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Common snipe	21 (nb) 2 (b)	Flight activity surveys Breeding and winter walkover surveys (no confirmed breeding observed; likely two territories)	8,550 (b) 835 (nb; likely to be large underestimate)	European Environment Agency (n.d.) (Burke et al., 2025)	0.02 (b)	County estimate for non-breeding season only	7 (nb; likely to be large underestimate)	(Burke et al., 2025)	300.00
Common swift	3 (b)	Breeding walkover surveys (no breeding observed)	51,728 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	0.01 (b)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eurasian woodcock	2 (nb) 2 (b)	Flight activity surveys Winter walkover surveys	27,434 (b)	O'Neill (2024)	0.007 (b and nb)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A

¹ Key to survey season type: b = breeding season, nb = non-breeding season



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		Breeding woodcock surveys (probably breeding within site; two to three territories)							
European golden plover	100 (nb) 75 (b)	Flight activity surveys (no breeding observed; birds likely on passage)	80,707 (nb)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	0.09 (b)	County estimate for non-breeding season only	0 (underestimate)	(Burke et al., 2025)	N/A - cannot calculate based on 0 value
Golden eagle	1 (nb)	Winter walkover survey	10 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	10.00 (nb)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Great cormorant	3 (b)	Flight activity surveys (no breeding observed)	9,376 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	0.03 (b)	County estimate for non-breeding season only	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grey wagtail	3 (b)	Breeding walkover surveys (possible breeding within site and 500 m surrounds)	101,536 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	0.003 (b)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hen harrier	4 (nb) 4 (b)	Flight activity surveys Breeding and winter walkover surveys Hen harrier winter roost surveys (no roosting observed) Breeding raptor surveys (confirmed breeding within site; maximum	212 (b) 406 (nb)	O'Donoghue (2020); Ruddock et al., (2024)	4.25 (b) 0.99 (nb)	Regional estimate for breeding season only	4 (b)	Ruddock et al. (2024) ²	40.91 (b)

² Region defined as Leitrim Uplands non-designated important breeding area



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		two pairs in site and one pair off-site) Foraging hen harrier surveys							
Herring gull	18 (b)	Flight activity surveys (no breeding observed)	20,666 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	0.09 (b)	County estimate for non-breeding season only	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lesser black-backed gull	37 (b)	Flight activity surveys Breeding walkover survey (no breeding observed)	14,224 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	0.26 (b)	County estimate for non-breeding season only	N/A	N/A	N/A
Little egret	3 (b)	Flight activity surveys (no breeding observed)	1,290 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	0.23 (b)	County estimate for non-breeding season only	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mallard	13 (b)	Flight activity survey Summer walkover survey (one pair confirmed breeding within site)	30,800 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	0.04 (b)	County estimate for non-breeding season only	N/A	N/A	N/A
Meadow pipit	38 (nb) 12 (b)	Breeding and winter walkover surveys (confirmed breeding within site)	1,351,995 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	0.02 (nb) 0.0009 (b)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Merlin	1 (nb) 1 (b)	Flight activity surveys Breeding and winter walkover surveys	400 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	0.25 (b and nb)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A



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		Breeding raptor surveys (no breeding / roosting observed)							
Osprey	1 (b)	Breeding raptor surveys (no breeding / roosting observed)	None available	TBC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Red grouse	2 (nb) 2 (b)	Flight activity surveys Breeding and winter walkover surveys Red grouse surveys (confirmed breeding within site)	3,796 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	0.05 (b and nb)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Redwing	75 (nb)	Winter walkover surveys	None available	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
White-tailed eagle	1 (b)	Flight activity surveys Breeding walkover surveys Breeding raptor surveys (no breeding observed)	24 (b)	European Environment Agency (n.d.)	4.17 (b)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Whooper swan	30 (nb)	Flight activity surveys Winter walkover surveys (no foraging / roosting observed; just commuting)	14,467 (nb)	Burke et al. (2021)	0.21 (nb)	County estimate for non-breeding season only	386	Burke et al. (2021)	7.78





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