



Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

CHAPTER 69

This is an extract from a scanned copy of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, **as at the time when it received Royal Assent**. The Act remains one of the most important pieces of wildlife legislation in Great Britain, but it is important to be aware that **this document does not represent the Act as it currently stands**.

Please Note:

- Since the passing of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 there have been various amendments to the text of the Act, most significantly through the [Countryside and Rights of Way \(CROW\) Act 2000](#) (in England and Wales) and the [Nature Conservation \(Scotland\) Act 2004](#) (in Scotland), but also through other legislation including the Local Government Act 1985, the Water Act 1989, and the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (**PLEASE NOTE:** This is not a complete list of amending legislation).
- There have also been changes to the species listed in the schedules, through Variations to the Schedules Orders. There is a statutory five-yearly review of Schedules 5 and 8 (protected wild animals and plant respectively), undertaken by the statutory conservation agencies and coordinated through JNCC, but changes to the Schedules can be made by the Secretary of State at any time, if it is considered necessary because of a threat of extinction or in response to international obligations. JNCC maintain a central spreadsheet of [conservation designations for all taxa](#) which includes any changes to the Schedules of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act.
- When citing any legislation, it is important to check whether any parts of it have been amended (or repealed) by later Acts or Statutory Instruments. Most UK legislation introduced since 1988 is available online from the website of the Office of Public Sector Information <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation>. If necessary, a qualified legal adviser should be consulted for definitive guidance over what legislation may be applicable, and its interpretation.

The remaining parts of this original text of the act can be found at www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3614

Sections 1, 2, 4,
6, 19 and 22.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

BIRDS WHICH ARE PROTECTED BY SPECIAL PENALTIES

PART I

AT ALL TIMES

<i>Common name</i>	<i>Scientific name</i>
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
Bittern, Little	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
Bunting, Cirl	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
Bunting, Lapland	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>
Bunting, Snow	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>
Buzzard, Honey	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
Comcrake	<i>Crex crex</i>
Crake, Spotted	<i>Porzana porzana</i>
Crossbills (all species)	<i>Loxia</i>
Curlew, Stone	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>
Divers (all species)	<i>Gavia</i>
Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>
Duck, Long-tailed	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>
Eagle, Golden	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Eagle, White-tailed	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>
Falcon, Gyr	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Godwit, Black-tailed	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
Grebe, Black-necked	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Grebe, Slavonian	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Gull, Little	<i>Larus minutus</i>
Gull, Mediterranean	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>
Harriers (all species)	<i>Circus</i>
Heron, Purple	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Kite, Red	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Oriole, Golden	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Owl, Barn	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Owl, Snowy	<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>

<i>Common name</i>	<i>Scientific name</i>	SCH. 1
Peregrine	Falco peregrinus	
Petrel, Leach's	Oceanodroma leucorhoa	
Phalarope, Red-necked	Phalaropus lobatus	
Plover, Kentish	Charadrius alexandrinus	
Plover, Little Ringed	Charadrius dubius	
Quail, Common	Coturnix coturnix	
Redstart, Black	Phoenicurus ochruros	
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	
Rosefinch, Scarlet	Carpodacus erythrinus	
Ruff	Philomachus pugnax	
Sandpiper, Green	Tringa ochropus	
Sandpiper, Purple	Calidris maritima	
Sandpiper, Wood	Tringa glareola	
Scaup	Aythya marila	
Scoter, Common	Melanitta nigra	
Scoter, Velvet	Melanitta fusca	
Serin	Serinus serinus	
Shorelark	Eremophila alpestris	
Shrike, Red-backed	Lanius collurio	
Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia	
Stilt, Black-winged	Himantopus himantopus	
Stint, Temminck's	Calidris temminckii	
Swan, Bewick's	Cygnus bewickii	
Swan, Whooper	Cygnus cygnus	
Tern, Black	Chlidonias niger	
Tern, Little	Sterna albifrons	
Tern, Roseate	Sterna dougallii	
Tit, Bearded	Panurus biarmicus	
Tit, Crested	Parus cristatus	
Treecreeper, Short-toed	Certhia brachydactyla	
Warbler, Cetti's	Cettia cetti	
Warbler, Dartford	Sylvia undata	
Warbler, Marsh	Acrocephalus palustris	
Warbler, Savi's	Locustella luscinioides	
Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus	
Woodlark	Lullula arborea	
Wryneck	Jynx torquilla	

PART II

DURING THE CLOSE SEASON

<i>Common name</i>	<i>Scientific name</i>
Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula
Goose, Greylag (in Outer Hebrides, Caithness, Sutherland and Wester Ross only)	Anser anser
Pintail	Anas acuta

NOTE. The common name or names given in the first column of this Schedule are included by way of guidance only; in the event of any dispute or proceedings, the common name or names shall not be taken into account.