



Páirc Náisiúnta Ghleann Beatha
Glenveagh National Park

BIRDS OF GLENVEAGH

Glenveagh National Park encompasses 16500 hectares and hosts a variety of bird types. Amongst them are the Peregrine Falcon, the Golden Eagle, Golden Plover and Red-Throated Diver. The pristine nature of this environment helps to support the wide number of birds living in the National Park



RED-THROATED DIVER

Scientific Name: *Gavia stellata*

Irish Name: Lóma rua

A small breeding population of this iconic bird is found only within the confines of Glenveagh National Park. The red plumage on the chest develops in the breeding season (spring) and fades over the autumn.

An unsteady species due to heavy bone structure and heavily webbed feet, this diver does not stray far from the banks of lakes to make their nest.

They are highly sensitive to human interference so any sightings should be reported and all interactions kept to an absolute minimum



PEREGRINE FALCON

Scientific Name: *Falco peregrinus*

Irish Name: Fabhcún gorm

An amazing bird of prey, Peregrine falcons have been nesting in hilltop cliffs of Glenveagh National Park for a number of years.

This year in 2019 there have been two successful fledglings

These birds of prey are renowned for their diving speeds while hunting. Reports suggest they have the ability to dive at 200mph while hunting their prey, which is a variety of other wild birds such as pigeons, waders, wildfowl and thrushes.

The ever impressive Golden Eagle was reintroduced to Ireland in 2002 at Glenveagh National park by the Golden Eagle Trust after they had been absent for almost 100 years.



Scientific name: *Aquila chrysaetos*

Irish Name: Iolar firean

With a wingspan of up to 6ft, this is Ireland's largest bird of prey. Usually seen above ridges and clifftops of mountainous areas, it hunts for small mammals such as hares and in some cases very young deer. While there are no pairs nesting within Glenveagh valley at the moment, there are reports of a pair nesting in the Poison Glen in Dunlewy.

WREN

Both these species are found in abundance around the castle, garden and visitor centre.



COMMON CHAFFINCH



GOLDEN PLOVER

Scientific name: *Pluvialis apricaria*

Irish Name: Feadóg bhuí

Can be found in Glenveagh between October and February. these birds feed on a variety of insects such as beetles and earthworms as well as berries and seeds. They breed on heather growing areas and blanket bog throughout Glenveagh.

