



Little Egret

Length: 60cm

Wingspan: 92cm

Weight: M/F 450g

Habitat: Lakes, marsh, flooded fields and estuaries.

Diet: Mostly small fish, amphibians, large insects, but a wide variety of animals.

Lifespan: 5 years

The elegant neck plumes of an egret in breeding plumage were once more valuable than gold. Smuggled into Europe they fetched £15 an ounce(28g) (about €1000 at today's prices), with each Little Egret producing about 1g of plumes.

 An Taisce





Chaffinch (male)

Length: 14cm

Wingspan: 26cm

Weight: M/F 24g

Habitat: Forest, woodland, farmland.

Diet: Summer invertebrates,  
otherwise mostly seeds.  
The chaffinch has widest  
diet of the finches.

The female has the same pattern as the male  
but the colour is drab pale grey-brown.

 An Taisce





Mistle Thrush

Length: 27cm

Wingspan: 45cm

Weight: M/F 130g

Habitat: Forest, woodland and towns.

Diet: Invertebrates, also berries in autumn and winter.

Lifespan: 3 years

One of our earliest breeders (eggs are often laid in February), the Mistle Thrush probably gets its name from a liking for mistletoe berries. It will noisily defend any fruiting bush it happens to find against all newcomers. Males & females look similar.

 An Taisce





Blackbird (Male)

Length: 24cm

Wingspan: 36cm

Weight: M/F 100g

Habitat: Woodland, scrub, towns.

Diet: Mainly insects and earthworms. Also fruit, mostly that has fallen to the ground.

Males are black and females are chocolate brown.

 An Taisce







Cormorant

Length: 90cm

Wingspan: 145cm

Weight: M: 2.5kg F: 2.1kg

Habitat: Larger lakes, rivers and the coast.

Diet: Fish, mostly by diving from surface.

Lifespan: 5 years

Their plumage is not waterproof, so they often stand on rocks, wings out-stretched to dry off after fishing. Males & females look similar.



Grey Wagtail

Length: 18cm

Wingspan: 26cm

Weight: M/F 18g

Habitat: Banks of swift streams, rivers and lakes.

Diet: Small invertebrates, taken from the ground or in flight.

Lifespan: 3 years

The Female has a white belly.

 An Taisce





Goldfinch

Length: 12cm

Wingspan: 24cm

Weight: M/F 17g

Habitat: Woodland, farmland, open country.

Diet: Small seeds especially teasel, thistles and knapweed. They eat some invertebrates in summer.

Lifespan: 2 years

In males the red colour extends behind the eye.

 An Taisce





Great Tit

Length: 14cm

Wingspan: 24cm

Weight: M/F 18g

Habitat: Forest, woodland and towns.

Diet: Invertebrates especially butterflies, beetles and spiders. In winter they also eat seeds and fruit.

Lifespan: 3 years

The black stripe on the belly of a male Great Tit is an indicator of its status; larger stripes are more attractive to females.

 An Taisce







Lapwing

Length: 30cm

Wingspan: 84cm

Weight: M/F 230g

Habitat: Pasture, wet meadow, on migration estuaries.

Diet: Invertebrates from ground, they will feed at night, especially during a bright moon.

Lifespan: 5 years

Irish Lapwings are made up of residents, summer visitors from the Continent (France & Iberia) and winter visitors (from western & central Europe). There is some overlap between all three groups. Greatest numbers occur in Ireland between September & April. Males & females look similar.

 An Taisce





Robin

Length: 14cm

Wingspan: 21cm

Weight: M/F 18g

Habitat: Forest, woodland and towns.

Diet: Insects, especially beetles & their larvae. Robins will also eat fruit & seeds in winter.

Lifespan: 2 years

The Robin can readily be trained, with a bit of patience, to take mealworms from an outstretched hand. Male and Female look similar.

 An Taisce





Rook

Length: 45cm

Wingspan: 90cm

Weight: M/F 310g

Habitat: Pasture, farmland and open woodland.

Diet: Invertebrates, especially beetles and earthworms. Also cereal grain, small vertebrates and carrion.

Lifespan: 5 years

Males & females look similar.

 An Taisce





starling

Length: 22cm

Wingspan: 40cm

Weight: M/F 78g

Habitat: Farmland, woodland and towns.

Diet: Mostly insects (especially crane-fly larvae), fruit and seeds, mostly on ground, often near cattle. Male & Female look the same.

Lifespan: 5 years

 An Taisce







Siskin (female)

Length: 12cm

Wingspan: 22cm

Weight: 15g

Habitat: Woodland

Diet: Seeds especially spruce, pine, alder and birch. They will eat some invertebrates in summer.

Lifespan: 2 years

The female is a more muted version of the male and is more streaked.

Readily comes to garden feeders in mid-winter.

 An Taisce





Siskin (male)

Length: 12cm

Wingspan: 22cm

Weight: 15g

Habitat: Woodland

Diet: Seeds especially spruce, pine, alder and birch. They will eat some invertebrates in summer.

Lifespan: 2 years

The female is a more muted version of the male and is more streaked.

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 An Taisce





Golden Plover

Length: 28cm

Wingspan: 72cm

Weight: M/F 220g

Habitat: Tundra, wet moor, on migration pasture & estuaries.

Diet: Invertebrates, especially beetles and earthworms. Feeds extensively at night.

Lifespan: 5 years

A question about the flight speed of Golden Plover (now known to be up to 60mph) during a shooting party in Wexford, Ireland prompted Sir Hugh Beaver (then chairman of the brewery) to found the *Guinness Book of Records* in 1955.

Males & females look similar.

 An Taisce

