

What is PAW NI?

The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime NI (PAW NI) brings together statutory agencies, non-statutory agencies and interested parties with the common goal of combating wildlife crime through publicity, education and campaigning. PAW NI partners include key government Departments, PSNI and other enforcement agencies, environmental organisations, animal welfare groups and country sports associations.



Northern Ireland
CrimeStoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.



Reporting a wildlife crime



Any information about wildlife crime should be passed immediately to the PSNI*. Call 101.

Describe your call as a potential Wildlife Crime and try and relay the following if known:

- Give details of the (potential) crime.
- Location and time.
- Description of the person(s) involved.
- Vehicle registrations, makes & colours.
- Detail any use of firearms, tools & dogs etc.
- Ask for & retain an incident reference number.

*Information can also be given anonymously via Crimestoppers.

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www.wildlifecrimeni.org

Further information on Pine Marten is available on the DAERA website:

- The Pine Marten in Northern Ireland - a guide for householders.
- How to exclude pine martens from game & poultry pens.
- The NIEA's booklet "Wildlife Law and You (2016)" www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/wildlife-law-and-you

This leaflet has been developed from NPWS & Vincent Wildlife Trust's publications with their kind permission.



WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE CRIME

Mark Hamblin, NIEA



Pine Marten



**PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION AGAINST
wildlife crime**

NORTHERN IRELAND

Pine marten - are a modern conservation success story with a rapid expansion of their abundance and range across Northern Ireland. Pine martens are still one of our rarest mammals. They are mustelids, from the same family as stoats and badgers, about the size of a domestic cat, with chocolate brown fur and creamy-yellow bib. They are found in primarily in woodland but have adapted to scrubland and urban fringes.



Legal Protection - Pine marten have been historically persecuted as pests by farmers, gamekeepers and backyard poultry keepers or hunted for their fur. Additionally habitat loss had contributed to their decline. These actions reduced the population of pine marten to near extinction across the British Isles by the start of the 20th century. Pine marten gained full protected status in Northern Ireland in 1985 under the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 As amended.

What does this mean? That it is an offence to **intentionally or recklessly**:

- Kill;
- Injure;
- Take a pine marten (capture);
- Possess or control any part of a pine marten, live or dead.

Are Pine Marten Dens Protected?

Yes, it is an offence under the Wildlife Order to:

- Damage, destroy, obstruct access to a pine marten den;
- Damage or destroy anything which conceals or protects a den;
- Disturb a pine marten whilst occupying a den.

Ideally the pine marten den in trees, squirrel dreys or natural caverns - i.e. somewhere safe, warm and dry. Ireland's relatively low tree coverage can lead to scarcity of natural den sites. However many human structures can provide similar requirements leading to conflict. Prevention is better than cure, so ensure there are no gaps or weakness in your building especially the roof, that the marten can exploit.

Help! - There's a pine marten in my house

It will probably be a noise in the attic that alerts you. Confirm it's a marten, not a squirrel or rat. Martens are usually solitary, if there are more than one then it's certainly a mother and her kits. Breeding season is normally March-July, check the attic with a good torch in daylight hours for a nest and babies. Mum will probably stand her ground and watch you!

Outside the breeding season or were there are no kits then the marten access can be blocked when it leaves for the evening. If there are kits contact the NIEA Wildlife Team for advice.

Detailed advice can be found in the NIEA publication. **'The Pine Marten in Northern Ireland - a guide for householders'**.

A pine marten has killed all my chickens

- like foxes, martens will exploit weakness or decay in your hen coup or pheasant pen. NIEA in conjunction with the VWT has produced a detailed guidance booklet to help protect your livestock: **'How to exclude pine martens from game & poultry pens'**. Appropriate housing can reduce losses significantly. Remember routine inspection & maintenance is key.



Will a pine marten stop development?

Pine marten and their dens will need to be considered within a proposed development in and around woodland. A developer should enlist the services of an ecological consultant to advise on potential impact and can speak with the NIEA Wildlife Team.

Early identification of where a den might come into conflict with your planned operations can save you time and ultimately money - **NIEA Wildlife Team 028 9056 9558**.