

Contact numbers for responsible anti-poaching authorities

The **Game and Fauna Service** is the body responsible in all Cyprus (except in the British Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs)).

Game and Fauna Service contact numbers are (also found on the following website – only in Greek http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/wildlife/wildlife_new.nsf/web11_gr/web11_gr?OpenDocument):

Nicosia: 22662428, 22664606 (office hours), 99445697
Lemesos: 25343800 (office hours), 99445728
Larnaca/Famagusta: 24805128 (office hours), 99634325
Paphos: 26306211 (office hours), 99445679

The **Cyprus Police anti-poaching unit** is also involved, telephone number 1414 and it is definitely worth calling your **local Police Station** if you get no response from the Game Fund or Police anti-poaching unit

In the SBAs, the responsible authority is the **SBA Police**: for the Dhekelia SBA the number is 1443 and for the Akrotiri SBA the number is 25967262.

BirdLife Cyprus office number: 22 455 072

What the law says about poaching

It is important to be aware of what constitutes (or doesn't) a violation of the hunting law, which is Cyprus law 152(I) of 2003, transposing the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC, formerly 79/409/EEC). Near identical provisions apply in the Sovereign Base (SBA) areas.

Trapping:

- All forms of trapping are totally illegal: mist nets, limesticks, wire traps, etc.
- It is also illegal to possess, sell or eat trapped birds (known as *ambelopoulia*).
- In fact, no establishment in Cyprus has to date been licensed to serve game – so even legally shot game such as chukar partridges or hares cannot currently be served in a restaurant.

Shooting:

- Licensed hunting is permitted in certain seasons and for certain species (see table below).
- It is illegal to shoot out-of-season or within 'Game reserve' areas (recently rechristened 'Wildlife Conservation Areas' in some areas and marked with orange signs). The Game Fund issues maps every year showing where shooting is permitted or prohibited (these can be downloaded from www.cypruswildlife.gov.cy).
- Shooting is permitted only during daylight hours and usually only on Sundays and Wednesdays during the hunting seasons – but note that daily shooting is permitted in some, mostly coastal, areas and towards the end of the hunting season, i.e. February.
- Use of calling devices of any sort is illegal, as is shooting from a moving vehicle of any sort.

- Shooting is not permitted within 500 metres of any built up area or within 200 metres of isolated homes. Hunters are not allowed to enter fenced-off areas.

On the table below you can find information on hunting season and game species for each hunting season.

We appreciate your time and your help in tackling poaching in Cyprus.

Hunting Seasons and game species	
Open Season	Permitted game species (Permitted quotas in brackets where applicable)
<p><u>November – December</u> Every Wednesday and Sunday. The season opens between 30th October and 7th November (16-19 hunting days).</p>	<p>For whole period: <i>Hare (1), Chukar (3), Black Francolin (1), Quail, Snipe, Jack snipe, Woodcock, Ducks (Wigeon, Teal, Garganey, Mallard, Pintail, Gadwall, Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted), White-fronted and Greylag Geese, Coot, Thrushes (all species), Rock dove and feral pigeons, Woodpigeon, Collared dove, Starling, Magpie, Hooded crow and Jackdaw.</i></p> <p>November only: <i>Turtle dove</i></p>
<p><u>January – February</u> Open season starts at the beginning of January. Every Wednesday and Sunday (16-19 hunting days). Some areas are open daily.</p>	<p>For whole period: <i>Thrushes (all species), Starling, Rock dove and feral pigeons, Woodpigeon, Woodcock, Quail, Coot, Magpie, Hooded crow and Jackdaw.</i></p> <p>Till 1st or 2nd Sunday in February only: <i>Ducks (Wigeon, Teal, Garganey, Mallard, Pintail, Gadwall, Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted)</i></p> <p>Till 2nd Sunday in February only: <i>Skylark, Snipe, Jack snipe White-fronted and Greylag Geese</i></p>
<p><u>Mid-August – mid-October</u> Different Sundays depending on area (4-6 in total per area) and daily in some areas.</p>	<p>Turtle dove, Woodpigeon, Rock dove and feral pigeons, Collared dove, Stock dove, Skylark, Quail, Magpie, Hooded crow and Jackdaw</p>