



NEW IN B-FORMAT PB

# IRELAND'S BIRDS: Myths, Legends and Folklore

Niall Mac Coitir

Original illustrations by Gordon D'Arcy

### PRAISE FOR THIS BOOK

'Will entertain and enlighten.' *Irish Independent*

'Fascinating ... a treasure trove.' *Irish Examiner*

'Wonderful.' *Sunday Independent*

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Category: Natural History/Irish Folklore

Original watercolours

### THE BOOK

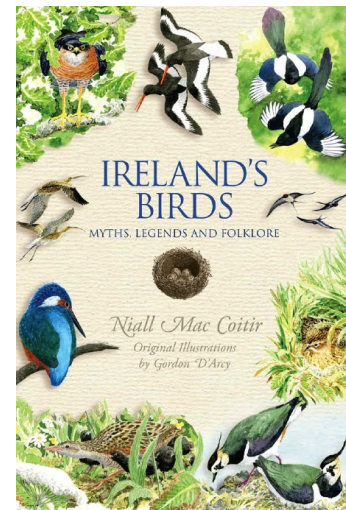
Birds have been important symbols in our art and culture for thousands of years. They have inspired poets and painters, and feature in many place names and legends.

In this book, Niall Mac Coitir draws together the mythology, legends and folklore of Ireland's birds, both wild and domestic. The birds are presented in seasonal order based on their migratory habits (the cuckoo and summer) or on their cultural associations (the robin with Christmas). He also explores how birds are often powerful symbols of various virtues and qualities, such as the goose, which is a symbol of watchfulness and bravery. This challenges us to look at birds in a different way, as dynamic creatures that have influenced our society over the millennia.

Written with imagination and enthusiasm, this mix of natural history, mythology and folklore will delight and enlighten all interested in the birds of Ireland.

### THE AUTHOR

**Niall Mac Coitir** grew up in a bilingual environment in Dublin with a love of Irish history, culture and nature instilled into him. An active member of the Irish Wildlife



Trust, he works for Fingal County Council. His previous books are *Ireland's Trees – Myths, Legends and Folklore* (2003, 2015), *Ireland's Wild Plants – Myths, Legends & Folklore* (2006, 2015), and *Ireland's Animals – Myths, Legends & Folklore* (2010, 2015).

### SALES POINTS

- Only comprehensive compilation of these facets of Ireland's birds
- Full-colour illustrations of all birds featured
- Complements the usual guides to birds
- Hardback (2015) sales of 2,000 copies
- Readership: natural history, ornithology, history/folklore, outdoors, conservation
- PR: campaign in national and specialist media

### ALSO BY THIS AUTHOR

- *Ireland's Wild Plants* 9781848892491
- *Ireland's Trees* 9781848892484
- *Ireland's Animals* 9781848892507