

# Wildlife and Plants

Peatlands in their natural undrained state are inhospitable places for many wildlife species. This is due to a number of factors which include:

- the restricted nature of food-bearing vegetation on the low nutrient peatland soils;
- the mainly waterlogged surface of this terrain
- the scarcity of significant areas of trees which would provide shelter for many species of wildlife.

Some birds use peatland as safe roosting and nesting sites. Below are some of the most common wildlife found on different peatlands.

## Animals

Fox; Hare; Otter; Deer; Common Frog

## Birds

Snipe; Skylark; Kestrel; Red Grouse;  
Curlew; Meadow Pipit; Golden Plover, Partridge

## Insects

Cranefly; Dragonfly; Damselfly; Emperor Moth;  
Large Heath Butterfly; Water Scorpion;  
Great Diving Beetle; Black Slug



*A pair of grey partridges brave the cold in Lough Boora Parklands*

The vegetation that grows on peatlands, in their natural state, is specially adapted to a habitat which has a low nutrient soil and is waterlogged for most of the year. There is an interesting variety of plant species to be found on the different peatland types. These include:

## Fen:

Common Reed, Saw Sedge, Black Bog Rush, Purple Moor Grass, Fen Rush, Pondweed, Fen Orchid

## Raised Bog:

Sphagnum Mosses, Bog Cotton, Ling Heather, Bog Rosemary, Bog Asphodel, Sundew

## Blanket Bog:

Black Bog Rush, Bog Cotton, Purple Moor Grass, Deer Sedge, Tormentil, Butterwort

Interesting plants include: the Sundew and Butterwort which supplement their soil food intake by capturing and digesting insects, these are known as insectivorous plants.