



### **GALWAY BRANCH BIRDWATCH IRELAND**

For information on or to get involved with the Galway BWI branch e-mail Chairman Cyril Manning ([cyril.manning@hotmail.com](mailto:cyril.manning@hotmail.com)) or Secretary Bláithín Kennedy ([blaithin.kennedy@gmail.com](mailto:blaithin.kennedy@gmail.com)).

### **CUCKOO**

While working on an entirely different project, which in the National Library entails trawling through the *Nationalist*, the local newspaper of my native Clonmel during the Second World War era, I came across the following poem in its edition of 6<sup>th</sup> May 1939. I have no idea who Mr Murphy, the author, is and, given the date, he is in all likelihood long deceased. However, I think it worthwhile to give it an eightieth-year reprint, hopefully with his blessing - heavenly or earthly.

#### **Cuckoo**

Just over by the brook – Oh!  
No that's no filthy rook Oh!  
It has truly come at last  
And my listening time is past.  
Cuckoo

It has really found a nook – Oh!  
I must write the date in my book Oh!  
Now he'll take a little rest  
Ere he searches for a nest.  
Cuckoo

Both the workman and the duke – Oh!  
Come to listen and to look Oh!  
This the whole year's sweetest song  
Though we shall not hear it long.  
Cuckoo

When the hay's made by hook or  
crook – Oh!  
And the corn is in the stook Oh!  
Then we turn the spuds to root  
But our little guest is mute.  
Cuckoo

**E.W.M. Murphy – Clonmel 1939**

### **THREE LARGE BIRDS AT REDMOUNT HILL**

In January, the silhouette of a bird near the top of a lofty, lonely, ageing, somewhat decrepit ash tree two hundred and fifty metres away resolved itself, through binoculars, into a male peregrine. Its yellow legs and white breast were clear in the sunshine and its black 'moustache' seemed evident, although the image was shaken by the wind. It was relaxed, preening and looking around. The backdrop to this tree was a fawn-coloured field of Glas wild bird cover seed crop for finches. Indeed, not so long ago I had watched two separate, restless flocks of greenfinches and chaffinches. They were all equally dark birds at that distance but their respective yellow and white wing bars named them for me. They would settle on the seed heads for less than a minute before wheeling away to the wood close by for safety. This wood is a favourite place for wood pigeons and as I watched there was always at least one bird dashing to or from the wood past the raptor on the tree.

And as I watched, the peregrine's relaxed pose changed, it looked back and slipped off its perch as two buzzards glided towards the tree. Only one buzzard stayed and while it remained on the branch, the displaced bird's image remained in my mind such that the peregrine had looked so much slimmer and smaller. The peregrine circled the tree a couple of times and disappeared into the canopy of an old oak tree on the edge of the wood.

This wood is not only a favourite place of wood pigeons and flocks of finches but also of resident ravens. Ravens are invariably seen here. In April, during a CBS transect, I had heard one 'showing its spring feelings' (as the *Collins Field Guide* puts it) from within the canopy of that same oak. It was a short, uneven, rapid fire sound, between a click and a knock, ventriloquially projected towards me so that it seemed near enough to be a few bars of contemporary music on stage.

**NS** In February, a female peregrine, bulkier and browner than the male, sat on the same ash tree and then flew over to a small clump of Scots pine, one of several shelterbelts in this rather old-fashioned scene of large, pastoral fields on the lower slopes of Redmount Hill, seven kilometres from the River Shannon. These clumps of trees are favoured by both the buzzard and the raven and indeed a bulky mass of twigs in two of them could have belonged to either or both.

**Stephen Heery 17/05/19**

### **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER**

The desk where I site my laptop, which produces this newsletter, affords a view through a small window on to a grassy space or glade surrounded by ash and other trees. In mid-June, through the window I began to notice a small grey bird with an upright stance constantly darting from its perch on a dead ash tree branch. To my excitement I quickly identified it as a Spotted Flycatcher and its sallies and darting around the tree-lined space delighted me for the weeks following.

Around the same time, I had been compiling a listing/archive of my all too numerous bird books and this drew my attention to one I had quite forgotten about. It is *Birds of the Wayside and Woodland* by T.A. Coward, published in 1936. This book is old-fashioned in its format, with wonderful colour plates, but its real feature is its description of each bird species. This is very detailed and much more 'poetic' than what modern bird guides offer.

The following is an extract of its description of the Spotted Flycatcher which, as you can appreciate, is currently my most favourite bird.

*The Spotted Flycatcher is one of the last of the summer visitors to arrive. It is often absent until early May.*

*Many birds capture flying insects, but none so adroitly as the Spotted Flycatcher. Its grey-brown plumage is inconspicuous and it is not really spotted; it is, too, a silent bird, yet its neat upright figure, perched on a post, railing or dead branch is noticeable. One of its names is 'Post Bird', another 'Old Man', probably from this upright pose.*

*Its short aerial sallies attract the eye; sometimes it swoops obliquely with unerring aim upon some insect flying below, but usually, after many smart twists and turns, it cuts short the career of a dodger. Then, as a rule, it returns to its observation post, though often it will have two look-outs to which it flies in turns. Naturally the look-out is best where the*

*space in front is open; thus, the Flycatcher frequents the border of a lawn, the outskirts of a wood or edge of a clearing or the branches of a willow or alder overhanging a stream. The call 'sit' or 'sit-chic' is not loud, but is more frequently noticed than its slight low song in May and June, a few repeated soft notes. The upper parts of the adult bird are hair-brown with darker brown stripes on the crown; the under parts are greyish white but the flanks and breast are sandy brown, and on the latter there are noticeable striations. The bill is brown, the legs black and the irises dark brown.*

What a great description – modern guides should study! I hope to include some more of these wonderful descriptions in future issues.

**NS**

### **BIRDTRACK UPDATES**

When it was launched in 2004, the initial focus of BirdTrack was to track the arrival and departure of summer visitors such as Cuckoo and Swift, as well as wintering birds like Redwing. The system has undergone a number of updates to widen the scope of the project, and it is now possible to log sightings from around the world at any time of year.

The most recent updates also included some much-needed work in the background to make the system more flexible and easier to maintain, as well as a major change to the taxonomy. While most of the changes are in the background, there are some noticeable changes to the front page as well. This includes new widgets to view BirdTrack data, and updates to already existing features. This includes the online graphs where it is now possible to view data at county level and compare multiple years. There are still more features we are planning to add in the near future so do visit BirdTrack regularly.

**Stephen McAvoys**

Thanks to Stephen – the controller of BirdTrack - for this update. For those not fully familiar with BirdTrack I just add a little more information.

BirdTrack is the ideal site to record your bird sightings and to see other birdwatchers' records and sightings in your general area.

You register and then use the phone app or laptop to record your sightings and also to see what other birds may be about. This can apply both locally or when abroad.

The more of us who use it, the more useful and informative it becomes. In doing so you are also adding to the overall data bank of information on our birds which is so necessary for their future survival and well being. So, I would urge as many as possible to explore it and then use it to submit their records.

**NS**

### **LETTERMULLEN BIRDING**

The morning of April 29, I flung my patio doors open, just because I could, Storm Hannah having gone through. I checked the roof slates for damage, drank a cup of Joe (Daniels), and listened to the haunting wavering call of the Whimbrel: a sort of wind instrument accompaniment to the Great-Spotted Woodpecker's drums - play them together, it's like they're jamming. Honest.

I can remember my father taking me out onto the North Norfolk marshes as a youngster and him saying "Whimbrel". I couldn't see any. Where? He pointed up in the sky. I still couldn't see any.



"Calling", he said. I could identify all the birds in my field guide from the plates, but identifying birds just from the sounds they made?

That was long ago. I learned to listen, never to my father's level, but sufficient for today, alerted by loud calling, to note a flock of 20 Whimbrel fly in to my coastal fields here on Leitir Mealláin, my home of a year and two weeks now.

The Whimbrel moved down towards the edge of the bay, where they probed in the Sea Pink-adorned short turf growing between lichen-clad rocks in the camouflage of greys of a London Plane tree trunk; the land here an almost impossibly complex sequence of peninsulas that shrink as they twist left and right, eventually finishing at the olive-brown tideline of exposed wrack.

As I scanned through the flock, I noticed one Whimbrel bearing coloured plastic rings on both tibiae, red over lime green. Who to report 'a double red over lime' to? The Irish Cocktail Authority? The sensible answer, to the Icelandic Wader Study Group, bore a response within the hour. Yes, it was their bird, caught and ringed on the nest as an adult in 2009, with a series of sightings up until 2013 and then nothing until today, six years later.

One minute you're watching a wild bird, as anonymous as the rest of its companions. Next minute, you know the co-ordinates of its nest location in agricultural Fliotshlid, southern Iceland; moments in its life history as recorded by people in other countries who share your interest in birds. The six people copied in on the e-mail cared about this bird in some way; that it was still out there six years after the previous sighting; that I'd reported it. It even had its own codename: RL-RL. A bit dull. I preferred 'Double red over lime'.

It was a birding buzz in a location that could produce something extraordinary but, in all likelihood, won't. I came here not knowing really what to expect other than on my initial visit I had without doubt discovered the eight most likely fields in Ireland to host an October Grey-Cheeked Thrush, or even a Veery on a good day. So, last autumn's failure to produce anything more than half a dozen Redwings was met with a deal of head-scratching. How had the red-carpet Yanks failed to turn up? It was inexplicable.

Cover here is largely non-existent other than bushes encircling houses whose occupants, understandably, will not want me looking at their property through binoculars. On Shetland they're pretty used to birders; autumn bird migration brings in valuable tourism income, but here garden birding makes me feel uncomfortable; these are my neighbours. An opening gambit of "Hello, I'm Sean, can I look in your shrubs?" might cause consternation, fracas, apocalypse. The local people have welcomed me into the community - why rock the boat?

Birding here naturally focuses on the coast and sea then. Great Northern Divers take their time coming into their finery, my sort of bird: why do a job in a day when you can make it last months? Black Guillemot in summer plumage, like an avian Mark Rothko. A drake Red-breasted Merganser slides from a hitherto unknown inlet. Common Sandpipers wave taunt like their Purple cousins, unrecorded so far. Last summer I managed to swim up close to an exposed 'reef' before two adult Mediterranean Gulls flew off; many birders' favourite gull.

While ostensibly a favourable location for sea watching, last year was hard work, particularly in rough weather. The only viable shelter overlooks someone's house; relationships and trust need to be built and these things can't always be rushed. Manx

Shearwater groups continuously stream west out of Galway Bay on summer evenings, at the rate of 2,000 an hour off Ceann Gólaím on one occasion. Counter-intuitively, the best seabirds were seen in flat calm conditions. European Storm Petrel was seen just offshore on three occasions, tracing its aimless patterns like a bored teenager on a bicycle. Leach's Petrel was seen once, though my best view was of one that took five minutes picking its way through the windsurfers just off Silver Strand.

Back on dry land, birds that I once associated with childhood camping trips to the seaside had become 'garden' birds: Meadow Pipit ("Eep-eep-eep"); Stonechat ("Swi? Jack!"); the perhaps under-appreciated Linnet; a Wheatear on migration.

Willow Warbler seems to herald summer here, the cheerful melody a common sound on any decent walk; perhaps a candidate for the bird that most people "don't know" when in fact they do, at least its song anyway. I think people underestimate their bird knowledge. As I looked for geese this winter a local stopped to talk: the geese were on that island last winter, the other one the previous year. Eider bred on that one once, he said, and the Shags have moved to a more remote island. He knew what a Manx Shearwater was. Of the seemingly infinite reasons I like birds, even just talking to someone who wouldn't identify himself as a birdwatcher carries value; two strangers breaking the ice.

As I write, a sad postscript arrives from Iceland: the nest location area is under threat from development for summer houses. 'Progress' eh? It's hard to stomach the rate of decline of all curlew species globally. Ireland without curlews would, to me, be insufficiently Irish. They were here long before us.

Sean McCann

### **BIRDS IN COUNTIES GALWAY AND MAYO**

This newsletter sees the start of the actual species list of Major Rutledge's book after the introduction parts set out in previous issues. As I have said before, they start with corvid or crow species, using an old scientific listing now long out of use.

**Raven. *Corvus corax corax* L.** Resident. Breeds plentifully on the cliffs of the north Mayo coast, Achill, Clare Island. Inland it breeds in the higher grounds such as those north to Clew Bay, in the Maumtrasna Mountains and is particularly numerous in the Erriff valley. I have seen nests in cliffs near Oldhead. In Galway it nests on the larger islands such as those of Aran, Inishbofin and Inishark but I did not find it on High Island in 1943. Common in the 'Twelve Bens' where they have been increasing since 1938, as is the case in other ranges in Connemara. Nowadays not found breeding away from coastal or mountainous regions, but wanders from these over lowland districts. In January, I have seen a bird 20 miles from the nearest breeding resort.

**Hooded Crow. *Corvus corone cornix* L.** Resident common, breeding in trees, bushes and on cliffs. Increasing. In 1938 has decreased in Connemara where there was an active campaign against them, but has again increased. Parties may be met with on marine islands, but usually only a pair or two on such. In autumn and winter, I have counted twenty and twenty-five together, and once in October fifty.

**Carrion Crow. *Corvus corone corone* L.** There is only one record for County Mayo. A pair bred in that county in 1890 and young birds from this nest were

sent to Blaire-Knox. In Co. Galway one was seen by Col. A. E. Lascelles at a range of less than fifteen yards at Renvyle on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1917.

**Rook. *Corvus frugilegus frugeiegus* L.** Resident and very common. Numerous as far west as the shores of Clew Bay where at Oldhead there is an enormous rookery. In other districts breeds as far west as trees extend. Not recorded as breeding on Achill by Ussher, but is said to have bred there during the present century. One pair nested Dugort 1906 (J. Walpole-Bard *in litt.*). Not found by Fitter in 1939 in Achill and in March 1944 I found none there. I have failed to find it in the Mullet in summer though a pair nested there in 1933 (Mrs Bingham *in litt.*). A flock of 36 was seen by Mrs Bingham during the great drought of July 1921 and were considered unusual. I noticed three on Clare Island on April 25<sup>th</sup> 1945 but they did not breed there. In severe winters there is a great increase in coastal districts.

### **Jackdaw. *Corvus monedula spermologus*. V.**

Resident and very common, even on the seaboard where they nest in ruined buildings such as coast-guard stations. Plentiful even on the Mullet. Breeds Achill Island and a very few nest on Gorumna Island, Co. Galway, being noticeable there in winter.

**Magpie. *Pica pica pica* L.** Resident and ever increasing. Plentiful throughout Connemara; not uncommon around Belmullet; a few breed on the Mullet and on Achill Island. Even in the desolate expanse of the bog of Erris it inhabits and nests in any valley where there are a few stunted bushes. In such places my brother has found the nest, in dwarf willow bushes, five feet above the boggy ground. The magpie has recently returned to the Aran Islands from which it had been absent for thirty or forty years (Dr J. O'Brien *in litt.* 1943). In 1945 I found a pair breeding at Kilmurvey, Inishmore. Visits Inishere occasionally but does not breed. Formerly bred Inishmaan now absent.

To be continued in a following issue. NS

## BirdWatch Galway (Branch of BirdWatch Ireland) 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018

QUARTERLY BIRD REPORT COMPILED BY CHRIS PEPPIATT

DATE OF ISSUE: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

1st October: Lesser Whitethroat, Inishbofin (Gerard Murray & Peter Phillips). (1)

1st October: Fem./Imm. Garganey, again present, Rahasane turlough. (2)

1st October: Juv. Pectoral Sandpiper, 2 Ruff, 240 Lapwing, 750 Golden Plover, 150 Teal, 375 Wigeon, 92 Shoveler, 26 Pintail, 4 Gadwall & 2 Common Buzzard, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake). (3)

1st October: 2 male Hen Harrier, Cahertrim, Killnadeema, Loughrea (Ben Kelly).

2nd October: Male Hooded Merganser, again present, Streamstown Bay, Clifden. (4)

3rd October: Ad. Win. Little Gull, Lough Rusheen, Galway city (Sean McCann). (5)

5th October: Juv. Pectoral Sandpiper, Glennamaddy turlough (Paidi Cullinan). (6)

6th October: Great Spotted Woodpecker, Derrycrag Wood, Nr. Woodford (Tom Murtagh).

6th October: Whooper Swan & 1,800 Golden Plover, Rahasane turlough (Sean Walsh).

6th October: Spotted Redshank, again present, Lough Rusheen, Galway city. (7)

6th October: Juv. Ruff, Juv. Merlin & Common Buzzard, Glennamaddy turlough (Paidi Cullinan).

6th October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Trident Garden, Slyne Head (Dermot Breen).

6th October: Wing-marked Fem. Marsh Harrier, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Niall Keogh).

6th October: Cattle Egret, again present, Ballyconneely. (8)

6th October: Ad. White-tailed Eagle, Lough Corrib, Nr. Oughterard (Caitriona Carlin).

6<sup>th</sup> October: Ad. American Golden Plover, Truska, Slyne Head (Dermot Breen).

7th October: Blackpoll Warbler, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).

8th October: Grey Phalarope, Blackrock, Salthill, Galway city (Aonghus O'Donail).

9<sup>th</sup> October: Lesser Whitethroat, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney).

10th October: Spotted Redshank, Kinvara (Paul Troake).

10th October: Wheatear, Lough Atalia, Galway city (Hugh Sweeney).

10<sup>th</sup> October: Lesser Whitethroat, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).

11th October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Kilronan Wood, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney).

11th October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).

13th October: Melodious Warbler, Trident Garden, Slyne Head (Dermot Breen). (9)

13th October: 2 Scaup, Kilbeg Pier, Lough Corrib (Eamonn Delaney).

13th October: Ad. Little Gull, 1st Win. Mediterranean Gull & Storm Petrel, Mutton Island, Galway city (Niall Keogh).

13th October: Pomarine Skua, Great Skua, 3 Ad. Little Gull & 9 Storm Petrel, Galway Bay, between Mutton Island, Galway city and Black head, Co. Clare (Niall Keogh).

14th October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Conneely's Garden, Slyne Head (Cathal Forkan & Aonghus O'Donail).

14th October: 3 Mediterranean Gull & Storm Petrel, Galway Bay (Niall Keogh).

14th October: Arctic Skua, Aran Ferry between Rossaveal and Inishmore (Dermot Breen).

14th October: 2 Juv. White-rumped Sandpiper, Loch Port Chorrúch, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney). (10)

14<sup>th</sup> October: Lesser Whitethroat, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney).

15th October: Short-eared Owl, Trident Garden, Slyne Head (Eamonn Larrissey).

15th October: Yellow-browed Warbler & Common Buzzard, Trident Garden, Slyne Head (Dermot Breen). (11)

15th October: 3 Kestrel, 3 ringtail Hen Harrier & Fem. Marsh Harrier, Barranny, Lough Corrib (Aonghus O'Donail).

16th October: Arctic Skua, Mutton Island, Galway city (Niall Keogh).

16th October: Richard's Pipit, Aughrusbeg, Nr. Cleggan (Dermot Breen & Cameron Clotworthy). (12)

17<sup>th</sup> October: Barn Owl, Tiernievan, Gort (Patrick Veale).

18th October: Red-eyed Vireo & Yellow-browed Warbler, Kilmurvey Wood, Inishmore (Niall Keogh). (13)

18th October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Teampall Chiaráin, Inishmore (Niall Keogh).

18th October: 12 Light-bellied Brent Goose, Galway Bay, Galway city (Martin Byrnes).

18th October: Wheatear, Ballynacourty (Martin Byrnes).

18<sup>th</sup> October: 48 Fieldfare, Milltown (Chris Benson).

20th October: 25 Whooper Swan, Ruff, 48 Pintail, 5 Dunlin & 30 Snipe, Rahasane turlough (Neil Ellis).
21st October: Cattle Egret, Roscam (David McNicholas).
21st October: 2 Great Skua & Little Gull, Aran Ferry between Rossaveal and Inishmore (Sean Walsh).
21st October: Juv. Curlew Sandpiper, Inishmore (Sean Walsh).
22nd October: Ruff, Spotted Redshank & Peregrine, Kilcaimin (Paul Troake).
22nd October: Merlin & Kingfisher, Tawin (Paul Troake).
22nd October: Male American Wigeon, Loch Port Chorrúch, Inishmore (Joe Proudfoot & Sean McCann).
22nd October: 15 Greenland White-fronted Goose & Barnacle Goose, Rahasane turlough (Tom Murtagh). (14)
24th October: Male Ring-necked Duck, 6 Pink-footed Goose, 2 Imm. Marsh Harrier, 2 (Male & ringtail) Hen Harrier & 3 Great White Egret, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Dermot Breen). (15), (16), (17)
24th October: Red-backed Shrike, Na Seacht dTeampaill (Seven Churches), Inishmore (Joe Proudfoot).
24th October: 22 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Cregganna Marsh (John Curley).
25th October: 2 Greenland White-fronted Goose, 2 Yellow-browed Warbler, Siberian (' <i>tristis</i> ' race) Chiffchaff & 80 Redwing, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
25th October: Curlew Sandpiper, Tawin (Paul Troake).
26th October: Red-breasted Flycatcher, Kilmurvey, Inishmore (Dermot Breen).
26th October: Greenland (' <i>rostrata</i> ' race) Redpoll, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
27th October: 75 Greenland White-fronted Goose & Pink-footed Goose, Rahasane turlough (Tom Murtagh).
27th October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
28th October: Iceland Gull, Lough Atalia, Galway city (Sean Walsh).
28 <sup>th</sup> October: Male Merlin & 2 Redwing, Inis Oirr (Mary Mahony & James Sheehan).
28 <sup>th</sup> October: Male Merlin, Cleggan (Gustavo Zoladz).
29th October: Long-eared Owl, Kiltormer (Eamon Kearns).
29th October: 13 Purple Sandpiper, Inish Oirr Harbour (Mary Mahony).
29th October: Black Redstart, Gort an Duin estate, Oranhill, Oranmore (Stephen Bierley). (18)
29th October: Common Buzzard, Ballymana (Tom Finnegan).
31st October: Common Buzzard, Corrandulla (Peter Tyndall). (19)
31 <sup>st</sup> October: Ringtail Hen Harrier, Cleggan (Gustavo Zoladz).
1st November: Male Long-tailed Duck & 10 Red-throated Diver, Traught (Paul Troake).
4 <sup>th</sup> November: 85 Whooper Swan, Coole Lough (Michael O'Donovan).
5 <sup>th</sup> November: Siberian (' <i>tristis</i> ' race) Chiffchaff & Male Brambling, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan). (20)
9th November: 46 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Rahasane turlough (Tom Finnegan).
10th November: Forster's Tern, Kinvara (Paul Troake). (21)
10th November: 52 Whooper Swan, Ballycurrin Bay, Co. Galway/Co. Mayo border (Tommy Carey).
11th November: Juv. Whooper Swan, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Chris Peppiatt, Sean Gavin & Niall Keogh).
12th November: Mourning Dove, Doonloughaun, Slyne Head (Bernadette O'Malley). (22)
18th November: 55 Greenland White-fronted Goose, 6 Whooper Swan & 2 Peregrine, Belclare turlough (Paidí Cullinan).
18th November: American Golden Plover, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Neil Ellis).
1st December: Kingfisher & 38 Greylag Goose, Baranny, Lough Corrib (Niall Keogh).
1st December: 3 Ruff, 58 Whooper Swan, 3,000 Golden Plover, 1,800 Wigeon, 102 Shoveler, 37 Pintail, 9 Gadwall, Peregrine & Merlin, Rahasane turlough (Niall Keogh).
1st December: Short-eared Owl, Renville, Nr. Oranmore (Shane Farrell).
2nd December: Drake Ring-necked Duck, Lough Rea (Paidí Cullinan). (23)
3rd December: 6 Scaup & 69 Gadwall, Lough Atalia, Galway city (Niall Keogh).
4th December: Ad. Iceland Gull, 3 Purple Sandpiper, 30 Great Northern Diver, 16 Red-throated Diver & 2 Long-tailed Duck, Tawin (Paul Troake).
7th December: Common Buzzard, Renville Park, Oranmore (Mark Smyth).
10th December: 2 Cattle Egret, flying south along M18 just north of Gort (John Murphy).

15th December: Green Sandpiper, Dunkellin River at Kilcolgan Bridge (Gordon D'Arcy).
19th December: Long-eared Owl, Monivea (Paidí Cullinan).
20th December: 7 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Cregganna Marsh (Steve Bierley).
21st December: Common Buzzard, Caherlistrane (Peter Tyndall).
23rd December: Iceland Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Tom Cuffe).
23rd December: Chiffchaff, Rahasane turlough (Cathal Forkan).
23rd December: 66 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Cregganna Marsh (Steve Bierley).
24th December: 63 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Belclare turlough (Ian O'Connor).
26th December: 70 Whooper Swan, 60 Greylag Goose & 20 Greenland White-fronted Goose, An Sliabh Rua, Nr. Inchiquin, Headford (Neil Sharkey).
27th December: 53 Greylag Goose, Summerville Lough, Nr. Moylough (Paidí Cullinan).
27th December: 68 Greenland White-fronted Goose & 52 Whooper Swan, Glennamaddy turlough (Paidí Cullinan).
27th December: 80 Whooper Swan & Common Buzzard, Lough Nalaraegh, Nr. Moylough (Paidí Cullinan).
29th December: 14 Scaup, Lough Atalia, Galway city (Sean Walsh).
30th December: 220 Whooper Swan, Belclare turlough (Neil Sharkey).
31st December: 2 Common Scoter, Lettergesh (Dermot Breen).

#### NOTES:

- (1) The Lesser Whitethroat was also present on Inishbofin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October.
- (2) The long-staying Garganey (at Rahasane) from the third quarter (originally seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September) was also seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of October.
- (3) The Pectoral Sandpiper (at Rahasane) was also seen on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of October.
- (4) The Hooded Merganser from the third quarter (originally seen on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September) was also reported on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October.
- (5) The Little Gull was again present at Rusheen Bay on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October.
- (6) The Pectoral Sandpiper was also seen at Glennamaddy turlough on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October.
- (7) The Spotted Redshank (present since the 30<sup>th</sup> of September) was also seen on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October.
- (8) The Cattle Egret, first reported on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September) was also recorded at Ballyconneely on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of October.
- (9) The Melodious Warbler was also recorded on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of October.
- (10) The two White-rumped Sandpiper were also recorded on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of October and one was still present on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- (11) This Yellow-browed Warbler was also recorded at the Trident Garden on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October.
- (12) The Richard's Pipit was also seen on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October.
- (13) The Red-eyed Vireo was also recorded in the same place on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of October.
- (14) The single Barnacle Goose was also recorded at Rahasane turlough on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, the 1<sup>st</sup> of December and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December.
- (15) A single immature Marsh Harrier was present on Lough Corrib on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, while an untagged 1<sup>st</sup> year female Marsh Harrier was at Lough Corrib on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December.
- (16) On Lough Corrib, a female Hen Harrier was also present at Angliham on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October and single ringtails were recorded at Muckrush on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of November.
- (17) Great White Egret (1-3 birds) are now resident year-round at Lough Corrib. In addition to the three recorded at Angliham on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, a single bird was recorded at Muckrush on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November and two birds were recorded at Muckrush on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of November.
- (18) The Black Redstart was still present on the next day, the 30<sup>th</sup> of October.
- (19) Common Buzzard was also recorded at Corrandulla on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December.
- (20) The Siberian Chiffchaff was also recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November.
- (21) The returning long-staying adult Forster's Tern was also recorded at Kinvara on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, Mutton Island on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November and at Nimmo's Pier on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December.
- (22) The Mourning Dove was also recorded at Slyne Head on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of November.
- (23) The drake Ring-necked Duck was also recorded at Lough Rea on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

Mourning Dove, Richard's Pipit, Blackpoll Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Red-backed Shrike, Greenland Redpoll, 2 Pectoral Sandpiper, 2 White-rumped Sandpiper, 2 American Golden Plover, 8 Yellow-browed Warbler, 4 Cattle Egret, Hooded Merganser, Ring-necked Duck, American Wigeon, Garganey & Black Redstart. Returning long-staying Forster's Tern and 3 resident Great White Egret.

**ARRIVING WINTER MIGRANTS:**

Whooper Swan (6<sup>th</sup> of October), Light-bellied Brent Goose (18<sup>th</sup> of October), Fieldfare (18<sup>th</sup> of October), Barnacle Goose (22<sup>nd</sup> of October), Greenland White-fronted Goose (22<sup>nd</sup> of October), Pink-footed Goose (24<sup>th</sup> of October) & Redwing (25<sup>th</sup> of October).