



### **GALWAY BRANCH BIRDWATCH IRELAND**

For information on or to get involved with the BWI Galway 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)).

### **BINOCULARS – REFLECTIONS AND A GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED.**

When I was about 8 years old my father had a pair of 7x35, moderately priced, German binoculars which he used at race meetings. A newly found interest in birds, a trip to Salthill from Dublin for a Whit weekend and they were mine! They were light(ish), had good light gathering and very little colour aberration. They would accompany me everywhere on bike rides for years, tucked away under jackets and pullovers.

However, horse racing and birdwatching conflicts meant my dad now needed newer 'field glasses' for himself. Enter the Enuro Optik 10x50 in about 1971. These were light, had hugely competent light-gathering capacity and were to be my companions until a burglary in the UK in 1991. They had no waterproofing, but were easy to take apart and dry. They survived 'Blanan' on Cape Clear, boat trips in America and holidays with children and just fitted me.

I really wanted to replace them with the Swift 8x42 but supply-chain issues meant I settled for the Swift Trylite 10x40. These are light (580gm), have a field of view of 341 feet (104m) at 1,000 yards (914m) and are just so-so; the roof prism was slightly darker than the porro prism I had been used to; not waterproof but cheap as chips in 1991 and small enough to be tucked inside jackets. They are still used as spares.

In about 1993, I bought my first waterproof, armoured pair, Nikon 8x42; initially, optically faultless but the prisms went out of alignment, needing a return to manufacturer/agent; ergonomically poor, heavy (810gm) and stiff (even after 20 years).

The Nikon Prostaff 7s 8x30 weigh 447gm, are fantastic, small, light, weather-proof binoculars. Mostly used by the in-house golf rules official, they are worn in all weathers. Good field of view (6.5 degrees), optically excellent. Can easily be tucked under a jacket if cycling.

Bushnell Elite 8x42 (728gm) are American, like the Swift; their primary users in the USA are hunters. The dioptre adjustment is central. These came with me several times on long foreign trips and needed repair or replacement under (lifetime) warranty each time when the adjustment went beyond recovery. Optically good - when they work - and ergonomically the best I've used. Covered in good rubberised material with thumb grooves. Many design modifications to the strap fittings etc. over the years. The Irish distributor closed a few years ago so all business is now transacted through the UK - quite slow. This design served to put me off centre-dioptre adjustment as is found in very expensive models such as Swarovski. See:

[https://www.allbinos.com/237-binoculars\\_review-](https://www.allbinos.com/237-binoculars_review-)

Nikon Monarch 10x42, weighing in at 710gm, are my current binoculars and just perfect. They are more than €1,000 cheaper than Swarovski - my eyes couldn't tell the difference. Dioptre adjustment is on the left barrel. They are ergonomically good and their close focusing is good, light excellent for 10x42, even

comparable to 8X42. See:

[https://www.allbinos.com/index.html?test=lometki&test\\_l=314](https://www.allbinos.com/index.html?test=lometki&test_l=314)

**David O Keeffe**

**Note:** David's article contained illustrations of the various binoculars but, unfortunately, his PDF would not fit in the Newsletter format. Please, contact me if you would like to see the illustrated text. **NS**

### **BIRDS IN POETRY**

#### **'I watched a blackbird'**

I watched a blackbird on a budding sycamore  
One Easter Day, when sap was stirring twigs to  
the core;

I saw his tongue, and crocus-coloured bill  
Parting and closing as he turned his trill;  
Then he flew down, seized on a stem of hay,  
And upped to where his building scheme was  
under way,

As if so sure a nest were never shaped on spray.

**Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)**

### **WHIMBRELS' PARALLEL RUNNING**

On a cold clear mid-morning on 29th April, I found myself standing on the high quayside which juts out from the corner of Oranmore castle. A Swift was circling the castle, but most noticeable was the almost surround-sound of Whimbrels. The tide had turned and the rocky shore of the inner bay was covered with seaweed on which Whimbrels were spread thinly and singly. When flying, their white backs were clear against this dark background. One bird flew in and was immediately approached by another, already feeding, and, for about fifteen minutes, I watched an entirely unexpected interplay between these two itinerant birds, far from West Africa whence they had come and far from Iceland to where they were going.

They ran side by side, not a foot apart, nimbly over the seaweed, fifteen metres up the shore as far as the damp, green, algae-covered stony ground at the base of the castle, turned and ran back down again. After a bit of walking around, trilling quietly, one (the same one each time?) began to drift up-shore again and the other slowly but surely did the same. When both were side by side (like jockeys lining their horses up to start the Grand National) they again ran up together, turned at the top and ran down again. In about fifteen minutes, they repeated this behaviour five or six times. As far as I remember, there was never a 'winner'. In between runs, they clearly showed an interest in each other.

Once, they 'fought' with wings aloft, white backs exposed, turning in a tight circle, with their beaks at the centre. When two men appeared, one Whimbrel flew off far over the water, trilling as it went, apparently not intending to return. The other stayed.

As I watched and told myself that I must give an account of this, I was reminded of Edmund Selous. He was a well-respected but unscientific pioneer of the field study of bird behaviour at the beginning of the nineteen-hundreds. While watching birds in the field, he wrote copious notes, much of which made it into his books virtually verbatim. For instance, his

account of Wheatears in *Bird Watching* (1901, available to read for free on archive.org) quotes extensively from notes taken while following the birds around on his hands and knees. He wasn't trusting to memory, and quite right he was. My account of the Whimbrels' parallel running loses much in the telling. I had no notebook; I made notes half an hour later.

Two Whimbrels, not stepping slowly, picking up titbits of food from the seaweed, but running in unison side by side up 13 meters of seaweedy shore, and back again in the same manner, several times.

I was at a loss to speculate why these birds were behaving like this but, after I had written the above, discovered that it was probably to maintain a feeding territory; some species of waders sometimes exhibit similar behaviour on their winter feeding grounds. I intend to write a note for *Irish Birds* about this.

**Stephen Heery**

### **WHOSE BIRD?**

Steller's Albatross *Diomedea albatrus* (Pallas 1769)  
Steller's Eider *Polystripta stelleri* (Pallas 1769)  
Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri* (Gmelin 1788)  
Steller's Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus pelagicus* (Pallas 1811)

Georg Wilhelm Steller (1709-1746) was a German naturalist and explorer in Russian service. He studied medicine in Halle between 1731 and 1734, and was a physician in the Russian army in 1734. He became an assistant at the Academy of Sciences in St Petersburg in 1737 and accompanied Vitus Bering on his second expedition (1738-1742) to Alaska and Kamchatka. Between 1742 and 1744, he worked in Petropavlovsk and died on the return journey to St Petersburg. John Latham, the English naturalist, first described the Steller's Jay in 1781 based on Steller's detailed journals and on a skin from Vancouver Island collected by Cook's exhibition. Steller published *Journal with the Voyage of Bering 1741-1742* in 1743. Johann Gmelin (1748-1804) named the jay in his honour in his description. Steller himself discovered the eagle and the eider.

**From: Whose Bird? – Beolens and Wakins**

### **BIRDS FROM A HOLIDAY IN PORTUGAL**

Cyril and I have holidayed in Portugal quite regularly for the last several years. It is our favourite European destination for many reasons: fantastic food, glorious weather, lovely people and all at very reasonable prices. We always try to take in some birdwatching whenever we leave home for a day trip or longer. On our last trip to Portugal in March of 2019, we had done some research into guided tours and arranged to hire a guide for a half-day trip before leaving. We had done this in the past and been to the Ria Formosa and to the Parque Natural do Sudoeste Alentejano e Costa Vicentina on previous trips with fantastic memories of bird sightings.

On this occasion, I was on a mission; I wanted to see Flamingos in the wild. We spoke with the guide, Nuno, whom we would highly recommend to anyone going to Portugal in the future; his company is called Birdland-Wildlife Tours and you can find them on Trip Advisor, along with a glowing review from Cyril and



myself. Nuno arranged to pick us up at our hotel at 8:30 in the morning. He also said he would supply us with a second pair of binoculars as we usually share one pair between us. Upon collection, after a quick discussion on whether to head east or west from Lagos, the decision was made, with the guarantee of seeing Flamingos: west to Lagoa dos Salgados.

Nuno explained to us that this location was a favoured spot for migrating birds. The Salgados Lagoon, also known as Pera Marsh, is one of the most important freshwater wetlands in the Algarve. It is located at the meeting of two small streams that feed the wetlands. He also explained that there are no laws in Portugal to protect birds (or nature in general); that it's the Portuguese people and community groups who fight to preserve such beautiful nature-rich locations.

We arrived at our destination after about 35 minutes of driving west. As we turned onto the road leading to the lagoon, we had our 'first' of the day when a Hoopoe flew from left to right across our path. This was just the first of many firsts for us both that day. We exited the car at the car park and started to take in our surroundings. The lagoon is surrounded on two sides by meadows, scattered trees, small orchards, bulrushes and reeds, on its third side by a sandy bank of dunes with boardwalks protecting them from walkers, and on its fourth side by a golf course, another common sight in Portugal.

While walking from the car park toward the lagoon, we passed beside grassland which had several small birds feeding on the ground, including approximately 20 Western Yellow Wagtails, another first for both of us. We followed the track to the main viewing point of the lagoon. This area had seating and an elbow rest for bird watching. My objective for the day was immediately met as several Greater Flamingos were wading and feeding in the water on the southern side of the lagoon. In every direction, there were lots of birds. Gulls are a favourite of ours as Cyril looks after many wounded and orphaned gulls at the bird sanctuary in Galway, and they have pretty unique personalities. On this trip, we had also been feeding a pair of Yellow-Legged Gulls from our hotel balcony that we christened Henry and Henrietta. The next several minutes were spent identifying the various gulls that were in situ in this direction sitting on sandbanks and soaring in the air. They included Black-headed, Mediterranean, Audouins, Yellow-Legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. All were familiar to us, bar the Audouin's Gull. At this point, thanks to Tom Cuffe's tuition, I was adamant that one bird among these many gulls was a tern. Having seen the bird in flight, it had angular wings like a tern, and its beak and head shape were unlike the other birds. Although it was bigger than any tern I had seen in Galway, I was sure it was different. Nuno only took out his spotting scope to placate me as he said he didn't believe that I could see this level of detail with binoculars. However, once he took a closer look, he agreed that it was, in fact, a Caspian Tern and another first sighting for us.

We then started to look at the birds in and around the northern and western sides of the lagoon. We saw a wide variety of waterfowl and waders: Mallard, Teal, Pochard, Shoveler, two Little Grebes and Moorhens, a number of Coots, some Black-tailed Godwits, a Grey Heron and a Little Egret, all of which

we have experienced on outings to various locations in Galway. We also saw some birds that we had seen on previous visits to Portugal, a White Stork and Spoonbills, and one more new to us was the Glossy Ibis. On the far western bank, we spotted a turtle climbing up the bank of the river out of the water. The area was alive with insects and is a favoured spot for Bee Eaters later in the spring and summer months.

We then decided to take a walk along the south side of the lagoon on the boardwalk that crosses it at the entrance to the beach. While walking on the boardwalk close to the dunes, Nuno identified some birds from sight and others from sound. We would have been at a complete loss without him, as most were small and fast-moving. Zitting Cisticola, Subalpine Warbler, Sardinian Warbler and Cetti's Warbler. I was very thankful for the Merlin Bird ID app, which I had installed on my phone, as it gave us images of the birds that we could hear but not see. We also spotted Swallows, whose image is used very popularly on tourist mementoes in Portugal. Some other more common birds in this area were Linnets, Greenfinches, Goldfinches and some House Martins. As we were nearing the four-hour mark and had also done quite a bit of walking, we decided to make our way back to the car park. On our way back, we passed a field with some sheep in it, and several of the sheep had Cattle Egrets sitting on their backs. This was yet another first for us both. We had one of our best first-sightings days and one final 'first' on the return journey when it rained for about 20 minutes as we had never before encountered rain in Portugal. We would highly recommend the location as a destination to anyone who finds themselves in the Algarve and has an interest in birds.

**Blaithin Kennedy**

### **BIRD INTELLIGENCE**

I have always believed that birds are not stupid. Therefore, I put out food all year round, although much less in spring and summer. In spring, I believe, adult birds with young will partake of 'fast food' for themselves, giving them more time to forage for natural food for nestlings. I have two examples of this for the year 2020.

A pair of Robins nested in Pampas Grass in my back garden and I was putting out the last of my sunflower hearts about six metres away in a feeder that they could land on. When the eggs hatched, they were flitting into the nest with beaks full of bugs and worms. However, when leaving the nest, they would first help themselves to sunflower hearts and then head off again to forage for their young, continuing this until the seeds were exhausted. I know they reared at least two chicks.

Halfway through the above, I noticed two Blue Tits busily building a nest in a hole in a neighbour's tree. This quietened after a few days so I suspected that eggs had been laid. The nest was about three meters from one of my peanut feeders which the pair were using regularly. When the eggs hatched, activity resumed: the adults flying into the nest with caterpillars and the like but on the way out feeding themselves some peanuts before disappearing into the trees and shrubs to forage for the nestlings. After

a couple of weeks, they occasionally brought a bit of a peanut into the nest. At least three chicks fledged.

As I often say: "the only so-called bird brains on this planet are us humans!"

**Brendan Dunne**

### **BIRDS IN COUNTIES GALWAY & MAYO**

This continuation of R.F. Ruttledge's 1940s *A list of the Birds of the Counties Galway and Mayo* is taking up after Corn Bunting.

**Yellow Bunting** – *Emberiza citronella citronella* L.  
Resident, common, generally distributed even on the most exposed inhabited islands off the coast with the exception of the Aran Islands where I have failed to find it. No decrease noted. Warren found it absent from Balloina in September but this is not the case elsewhere. [More generally known as Yellowhammer and now sadly absent or very very scarce from the west of Ireland. **NS**]

**Reed Bunting** – *Emberiza schoeniclus schoeniclus* L.  
Resident, common, widespread by rivers, on bogs and lake-islands. Inhabits Clare Island and Achill abundantly; not found on other islands, although Ussher gave Inishbofin and Cott observed it there in 1920 (*Irish Nat.* Vol 31, p. 34). During the two summer visits I failed to trace it on this island. Many birds desert their normal habitats in winter when they occur in hedgerows along side roads.

**Snow Bunting** – *Plectrophenix nivalis nivalis*  
Winter-visitor and passage-migrant when it is often abundant. Rarely inland. Good saw one on a road just west of Lough Carra, Co. Mayo. It has occurred in May at Slyne Head and as early in the autumn as September 10<sup>th</sup> at Clare Island and at North Aran on September; I have observed it at Slyne Head on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and it has been recorded at Blackrock off Mayo, on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. A summer record is that of one at North Aran on July 6<sup>th</sup> 1867.

**House-Sparrow.** *Passer domesticus domesticus* L.  
Resident, breeds. Widely distributed though local in many parts of both counties. Becomes even more local to the west of the great Connacht lakes, though even on the seaboard it is locally numerous in towns such as Belmullet. Westport. Louisburgh and about Leenane; along the thickly populated shores of Galway Bay it is abundant in places. Though I have never been able to trace it in Clifden, other places as far west as Bunowen are inhabited. Said to be very local indeed in the Athenry district of Co. Galway. In some districts where I have noticed a decrease, this may be due to the replacement of thatch by slated roofs. This is certainly the case on Clare Island where in 1945 only a very few birds were to be found though formerly the bird was abundant (*Irish Nat. Journal*, Vol viii, p. 311). In Achill, Inishbofin and on the Aran Islands especially on Inishmaan, with its many thatched houses, it is common. Inishturk, Co. Mayo has a little colony in ivy near the harbour. Inishkea North and South are now deserted since the inhabitants left these islands. From the villages on Achill Sound it seems to have disappeared (*Irish Nat. Jour.*, Vol viii, p. 31).

**TO BE CONTINUED**

## BirdWatch Galway (Branch of BirdWatch Ireland) 2<sup>nd</sup> Quadrimester 2020

QUADRIMESTRAL BIRD REPORT COMPILED BY CHRIS PEPPIATT

DATE OF ISSUE: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022

2nd May: 5 Common Buzzard, Peregrine & 56 Whimbrel, over Tooreen West, Nr. Ballinderreen (Paul Troake).

3rd May: Corncrake, calling on Inishbofin (per NPWS Corncrake).

4th May: Corncrake, Omev Island (per Ciaran Reaney).

5th May: 12 calling Corncrake, Inishbofin (per Ciaran Reaney).

6th May: Hen Harrier, over Knocknacarra, Galway city (Aonghus O'Donaill).

7th May: Osprey, Lough Kinlea, Nr. Craughwell (Ross Callanan). (1)

8th May: Common Scoter & 3/4 Arctic Tern, Curramore, Lough Corrib (Neil Sharkey).

10th May: Arctic Skua, Eeragh, Lettermullan (Sean McCann).

13th May: Pink-footed Goose, Omev Island (Dermot Breen).

13th May: Whooper Swan, Rahasane turlough (Paidi Cullinan).

14th May: Yellow Wagtail, Bunowen Pier, Ballyconneely (John Roberts).

17th May: 5 Fulmar & 3 Common Scoter, off Bearna Pier (Cathal Forkan).

22nd May: Iceland Gull, Renvyle (Dermot Breen).

22nd May: Hobby, R349 Nr. Loughrea (Pete Capsey).

22nd May: 2 Arctic Skua, off Bearna Pier (Andrew Power).

22nd May: Little Tern & 2 Storm Petrel, off Baile na hAbhainn (Aongus O'Donaill).

23rd May: 3 Storm Petrel, off Bearna Pier (Cathal Forkan).

26th May: 12 Common Tern, 6 Red-breasted Merganser & 4 Common Scoter, Lough Corrib, Nr. Oughterard (Anthony Walsh).

26th May: Spotted Flycatcher, Ower Bridge, Headford (Neil Sharkey).

30th May: Turtle Dove, Mainistir, Inishmore (Áine Ní Fhlaithearta).

6th June: Little Gull & 2nd yr. Mediterranean Gull, Bearna (Cathal Forkan).

7th June: Ad. Gull-billed Tern & Fem. Marsh Harrier, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Paidi Cullinan).

10th June: Ad. Roseate Tern, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Paidi Cullinan).

11th June: Ad. Rose-coloured Starling, Mainistir, Inishmore (Áine Ní Fhlaithearta).

14th June: Ad. Forster's Tern & Ad. Mediterranean Gull, Gull Island, Corranroo Bay (Paidi Cullinan).

15th June: Kingfisher, Derrycrag Wood (Tom Murtagh).

15th June: Ad. Rose-coloured Starling, Creig an Cheirin (5 km west of sighting of the 11th of June; same or different from Mainistir bird?), Inishmore (Ronan Mac Giollapharaic).

22nd June: Wilson's Petrel, from the MV Celtic Explorer, 4 nautical miles (7.5 km) SW of the Skerd Rocks, or 19 km ENE of Inishmore (Paul Connaughton).

25th June: 2 Storm Petrel, Lettermullen (Sean McCann).

26th June: Kingfisher, Spiddal (Fearghas Mac Lochlainn).

27th June: 2 Little Tern, Lettermullen (Sean McCann).

28th June: 4 Storm Petrel, Bearna Pier (Cathal Forkan).

1st July: Ad. Long-tailed Skua, Bovroughaun, 7 km north of Inverin (Cathal Forkan). (2)

1st July: Long-eared Owl, Athenry (Mark Davis).

2nd July: 2 Corncrake, 8 Chough & 7 Rock Dove, Inishbofin (Fearghas Mac Lochlainn).

4th July: Marsh Harrier, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Dermot Breen).

4th July: Great Skua & 300+ Manx Shearwater, Spiddal (Brad Robson).

7th July: Leucistic Black-headed Gull, Ballyloughane, Galway city (Padraig Cregg).

7th July: Ad. Little Gull, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Cathal Forkan).

9th July: Ruff, Common Sandpiper, 2 Black-tailed Godwit, Greenshank, 2 Redshank, 10 Lapwing, 46 Curlew, Wigeon, 245 Mallard & 50 Lesser Black-backed Gull, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake).

9th July: 3 Merlin, Garrafrauns, Nr. Dunmore (Brian Watson).

11th July: 3 Storm Petrel, Lettermullen (Sean McCann).

14th July: Juv. Peregrine & Common Sandpiper, Rahasane turlough (Tom Murtagh).
16th July: Ad. Little Gull & Spotted Redshank, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Aonghus O'Donaill).
18th July: 5 Chough & 2 Little Tern, Renvyle (Mike McLaughlin).
21st July: Long-eared Owl, Nr. Craughwell (Martin O'Malley).
23rd July: Corncrake, Inishbofin (Fearghas Mac Lochlainn).
31st July: 2 Garganey, 75 Black-tailed Godwit, 2 Juv. Great-crested Grebe, 5 Teal & Shoveler, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake). (3)
2nd August: Ad. Ring-billed Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Tom Cuffe).
2nd August: 2 Marsh Harrier, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Aonghus O'Donaill).
6th August: 42 Little Egret, Glennamaddy turlough (Paidí Cullinan).
7th August: Common Sandpiper, 87 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 292 Mallard, 4 Teal, 13 Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, 78 Curlew & 42 Lapwing, Rahasane turlough (Paidí Cullinan).
10th August: Juv. Peregrine, 140 Ringed plover, 6 Golden Plover & Knot, Tawin (Paul Troake).
10th August: Kingfisher, Oranmore (Paul Troake).
11th August: 4 (Male, Female & 2 Juv.) Marsh Harrier, 2 Peregrine, 14 Pochard, 6 Curlew & 5 Lapwing, Angliham & Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Paidí Cullinan & Aonghus O'Donaill).
13th August: 23 Eider, 2 kilometres west of Errislannan Point (Dermot Breen).
14th August: Ad. Win. Little Gull, Spotted Redshank, 2 Sanderling & 2 Knot, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Cathal Forkan).
14th August: Dark Phase Arctic Skua, Inishbofin (Gerard Walshe).
14th August: Ruff & 30 Shoveler, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake).
16th August: Ad. Win. Little Gull, Clifden Harbour (Dermot Breen).
16th August: Glossy Ibis, Rahasane turlough (Derek O'Driscoll). (4)
19th August: Juv. Mediterranean Gull & Spotted Redshank, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Cathal Forkan).
19th August: Chough, Lettermullen (Sean McCann).
20th August: 3,600+ Manx Shearwater & 5 Storm Petrel, Lettermullen (Sean McCann).
21st August: 7 Great Skua, 5 Arctic Skua & Ad. Sabine's Gull, off Aughrusbeg (Dermot Breen).
21st August: Kingfisher, Lough Atalia, Galway city (Fearghas Mac Lochlainn).
22nd August: 4 Wheatear, Mutton Island, Galway city (Tom Cuffe).
23rd August: 2 Garganey, Rahasane turlough (Paidí Cullinan).
24th August: 3 Garganey, 7 Ruff, 10 Knot, Green Sandpiper & Kingfisher, Rahasane turlough (Paidí Cullinan & Paul Troake).
30th August: 3 Juv. Curlew Sandpiper, 12 Sanderling & 5 Knot, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Dermot Breen). (5)
30th August: 2 Juv. Mediterranean Gull, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Cathal Forkan).
31st August: Juv. Little Stint & 7 Ruff, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Mike Sylvia).

#### NOTES:

- (1) The single Osprey seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May was joined by a second bird on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with a single being seen again on the 9<sup>th</sup> and two birds again on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2020.
- (2) The adult Long-tailed Skua was seen again at the same place on the next day, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2020.
- (3) The two Garganey first seen at Rahasane turlough on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July were still present on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of August and a single bird was still present on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2020.
- (4) The Glossy ibis was present at Rahasane turlough until the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 (seen on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>).
- (5) The three juvenile Curlew sandpiper were also present at Rusheen Bay on the next day, the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2020.

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

Wilson's Petrel, Glossy Ibis, 5 Garganey, 2 Osprey, Hobby, Long-tailed Skua, Gull-billed Tern, Roseate Tern, Turtle Dove, Yellow Wagtail & 1-2 Rose-coloured Starling. Long-staying Forster's Tern.

#### ARRIVING SPRING MIGRANTS:

Osprey (7<sup>th</sup> of May), Arctic Tern (8<sup>th</sup> of May), Arctic Skua (10<sup>th</sup> of May) & Hobby (22<sup>nd</sup> of May).