



GALWAY BRANCH BIRDWATCH IRELAND

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

BIRDS IN POETRY

The poem below was originally presented in the Galway Branch *Newsletter* issue no. 33 of July 1999, one of a series of poems that Pat Finnegan introduced for many years.

Sadly, the Yellowhammer is now critically balanced between being very scarce to not being present at all in County Galway. **NS**

John Clare composed a number of poems about the yellowhammer. 'The Yellowhammer's Nest' in the *Midsummer Cushion* contains the magical line:

"Five eggs, pen-scribbled o'er with ink their shells
Resembling writing scrawls which fancy reads
As nature's poesy and pastoral spells —".

The poem featured here is a beautiful sonnet containing accurate naturalistic details of the construction of the nest and the favoured habitat of the bird. There is a fine sense of movement and colour in the poet's deeply felt anticipation of the coming of spring.

Pat Finnegan

The Yellowhammer

When shall I see the white thorn leaves agen
And yellowhammers gath'ring the dry bents
By the dyke side on stilly moor or fen
Feathered wi love and natures good intents
Rude is the nest this Architect invents
Rural the place wi cart ruts by dyke side
Dead grass, horse hair and downy headed bents
Tied to dead thistles she doth well provide
Close to a hill o' ants where cowslips bloom
And shed o'er meadows far their sweet perfume
In early Spring when winds blow chilly cold
The yellowhammer trailing grass will come
To fix a place and choose an early home
With yellow breast and head of solid gold.

John Clare

RARITY FINDERS:

PHILADELPHIA VIREO IN COUNTY GALWAY

Autumn is one of my favourite times to get out in the field. The changing of the seasons and weather patterns, and the large numbers of migrating birds all add to the experience. I moved to Ireland from Massachusetts, USA, last August. During my quarantine period I used the time to do more research on the area hot-spots and expected species. My wife and I stayed on a farm at Kilchreest, south-east of Galway, so I was at least able to see some of the countryside birds on the property.

Even before I arrived, I was looking forward to the 'fall' and visiting some of the many great islands that have a reputation for being migrant traps. There are so many factors that can influence where migrants

come from. Back in Massachusetts, we hoped for 'Noreasters' (low-pressure storms just north-east of New England) that might bring Eurasian species, or north-westerlies to deliver species from western North America. The landscape and position of Ireland looked very similar – if only in reverse. Looking for 'Yanks', as they are passionately known here, is one of the top priorities.

Once I was able to move to Galway City, I was welcomed into the Galway BirdWatch Group and have been lucky to meet a great group of birders – they have been very helpful in sharing knowledge of the area and the species. Luckily, I have been able to locate a few good birds to share with everyone as well.

Coronavirus is affecting everyone and it was the storm that brought me to Inishmore on 9 October. I had already been to the island a week earlier for a few days, but was supposed to be starting a week-



**PHILADELPHIA VIREO
DRAMATICALLY CAPTURED ON
CAMERA BY MIKE SYLVIA ON
INISHMORE**

long visit to Cape Clear, Co. Cork. The then 'Level' restrictions (meaning no out-of-county travel) ended that idea a day before I was to leave, hence I opted to go back to Inishmore.

The day started slowly, with winds reaching 60 km/h – tough for seeing anything in the trees and biking around the island. By afternoon I had been to Kilmurvey Woods and beyond and wasn't sure what to do. I remembered the crescent-shaped stand of willows I had visited previously at Gort na gCapaill, which is the southernmost townland on the island. The willow stand is set down in a low depression, created by a small cliff around 10m high, and their position meant that they were partially sheltered – the sun was out as well. I entered the low pasture over a stone wall opening. The landowner had given me permission the last time I was there so I knew it was alright – I really appreciate all of the generosity that all of the farmers I have talked to have given me.

I went down to an area that formed a small cove in the willows and was sunny and calm, I got the camera ready and took a few test shots – I've finally learned to do this before and not after a bird arrives! I didn't hear anything, so decided to play an audio scold call that works well in the US. It worked better than expected, for after a few seconds, a vireo started calling and moving towards the speaker.

A few other birds were also quick to move in but when I saw the bird in question, I knew it was different to the Willow Warblers and Common Chiffchaffs I had been seeing. It also looked very familiar and similar to a Philadelphia Vireo! But that couldn't be right?! I started shooting (pictures) immediately to make sure I was 100% certain.

The more I looked, I knew it was a vireo. I have seen a number of these uncommon birds in the last year. I knew the face immediately. The bill was the deciding factor though, being straight, uniform in thickness with a rounded tip – no bird in Europe has that kind of bill. The bird stayed in view for a few minutes and was calling constantly. I had turned off the audio and luckily thought to record the call.

Once the bird left the area, I moved off, as I knew others would want to see it. I sent a couple of pictures to Dermot Breen and Cathal Forkan. I texted Cathal that if it wasn't a 'Philly' I would eat my hat – luckily, I was right and still have the hat! After the word was out, you can imagine the excited responses from the group.

I checked the rest of the willows. On the way back I wanted to see if the bird was still around, so I played the audio again briefly and again the bird responded as before.

Since that day, I have been out to that spot a couple more times – the last was on 17th, eight days after the initial sighting, and the bird was still in the willows, looking very healthy and plump.

Each time I saw it, it was feeding in typical vireo style, slowly and methodically moving and caring little that I was there. However, it couldn't be found on day 10 – conditions were suitable for migration that night, so it had presumably moved on.

The Philadelphia Vireo breeds widely across eastern North America, migrating south to winter in Mexico and throughout Central America. It is a rare vagrant to Europe, with two previous Irish records (Galley Head, Co. Cork, 12-17 October 1985 and Kilbaha, Co. Clare, 1-14 October 2008). Britain has hosted just one (Tresco, Isles of Scilly, 10-1 October 1987). It is, however, relatively regular in the Azores, with 20 records since the first sighting in October 2005, 19 of which have come since September 2011. All but one of these has been seen on Corvo, the exception being a bird on Flores on 5 October 2011.

Mike Sylvia



BIRDS IN COUNTIES GALWAY AND MAYO
 (Continued)

Tree-Sparrow *Passer montanus montanus* (L.)
 Formally locally resident in Co. Mayo. Now very doubtful that any exist. Originally there was a flourishing colony in Belmullet (*Clare Island Survey*, Aves, p. 16) but I have searched there repeatedly and can only conclude that the colony has ceased to exist though a pair, with newly fledged young, were seen in September 1937. These were the only Tree-Sparrows seen by my brother, W. Rutledge, during a ten-day visit. Since then there is no evidence. The colony discovered in 1907 by C.F. Scroope, in the ruins of St. Cummin's Church at Kilcummin near Kilalla, had ceased to exist in 1938 but it is not known for how long this has been the case. My brother and I failed to find any in other localities in that district in 1938 or 1939. There is a former record of birds in Rosserk Abbey off the Mayo Coast. Careful search has not revealed any elsewhere in Mayo, nor in Galway, nor on the inhabited marine islands off these two counties.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla brachydactyla* (Leisl.)

An adult was shot at Blackrock, Co. Mayo on October 11th 1890 (*Birds of Ireland*, Ussher & Warren, p. 102) and is now in the Barrington Collection in the National Museum.

Sky-Lark *Alauda arvensis trivialis* (L.)

Resident. Very common and widespread. There is a large immigration in October when, for days at a time, large numbers may be seen and heard passing northwards, many remain in both counties thus increasing the numbers already present.

Tree-Pipit *Anthus trivialis trivialis* (L.)

Rare vagrant. Has twice been recorded for Co. Galway. A male in song was identified near Portumna Bridge on May 21st 1914 (*List of Irish Birds 1937* p. 10). A male was seen and heard in song between May 1st and July 10th 192 (*Irish Nat. Jour. Vol iv*, p. 124).

To be continued.

NS

BIRD BOOKS – RECENT ADDITIONS TO A LIFELONG COLLECTION

Some time ago, I compiled a list of all my books by category and the **Birds** section runs to just short of 150 such books, acquired over a long lifetime of interest. One of the earliest was *How to Recognise British Wild Birds* by Eric Pochin (Brockhampton Press, 1943), given to me by an aunt on my confirmation in May 1948.

Recently, I have got three more bird books by gift or purchase.

Birds by Jeffrey Fisher (Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 2009)

Beautifully illustrated and charming in every way. The cover flyleaf says it all:

From the nocturnal flightless Great Spotted Kiwi to the Common Wren, Jeffrey Fisher captures the

beauty and whimsy of birds in his distinctive illustration style. Accompanied by charming descriptions of the habits and habitats of our winged companions, this elegant volume is a cherished addition to any bird lover's library.

Gillespie's Glorious Birds (privately published by Alwyn Gillespie, (RIP)

A unique magical work – really wonderful illustrations and poetical text. Again, to quote:

This collection of bird portraits by Alwyn Gillespie shows some of the gorgeous creatures that share our planet. They are portraits, as defined by Mad Sweeney, in that they try to capture each bird in its individuality, not just in its distinction from those of another species. A bird changes its plumage, just like a coat, from season to season, from gender to gender, from youth to age, so we should think of the bird beyond its appearance, as an individual being. And this thinking brings us to the sheer wonder of the universe.

This book is a truly unique way in making us think anew of our birds.

Bird Migration by Ian Newton (first published as part of the Collins New Naturalist Library, book 113, 2010; published in paperback by HarperCollins in 2020)

In contrast to the other two books, this volume, with 200 colour photos and running to 608 pages, is an academic masterpiece on all aspects of bird migration. Some of the review comments:

Newton strikes gold with his insight into ultimate avian journeys – A work of authority – The product of a lifelong inquiry into the annual travels of birds – This book is a landmark edition in an already outstanding natural history series, and will make an extremely valuable and treasured addition to the library of anyone serious about birds and their biology.

I could not agree more.

THE UNEXPECTED GARDEN WARBLER

The most unexpected bird in my Lawrencetown garden this year was a garden warbler on July 18th 2021. The bird was picking insects off the leaves of peas. I knew the bird from the succession of bird books that most of us have had since childhood. I had seen this one from the window so I was prepared with my binoculars as it flew into the damson trees and waited in full view until I had examined it. A stocky bird with a thickish bill, its back and head an unbroken wash of grey-brown, its flanks creamy, and undersides and breast an imperfect white. I looked for markings on the bird, which I knew was well known for its virtual lack of such, and could clearly see dark ends to its wing feathers, with well-defined, sharply-delineated white edging. A book on my shelf puts it nicely: 'A fresh-plumaged bird, with fine pale edges to its wing feathers and a large, bright eye is, nevertheless, very attractive.' (Rob Hume, *Observers: Birds*, 1996, Claremont Books). Next day, as if to confirm my sighting, and to momentarily make me doubt the first bird, a movement in the very same place under the peas revealed itself to be a willow warbler, definitely

smaller and much yellower, with a clear eye-stripe and uttering its characteristic *huitt huitt*. Its yellow appearance suggested that this was an immature bird on its way to Africa.

The visit of the garden warbler to my garden in July 2021, sixteen kilometres or so from its nearest known nesting place on Lough Ree, and possibly starting its first migration, was made more notable when I remembered (and my notebook confirmed) that another garden warbler had passed through my garden, also pausing at the peas, on July 27th 2017.

The on-line BTO MapStore (Google: BTO MapStore) gives easy access to the distribution and change maps contained in the three Bird Atlases. Google 'BTO garden warbler' and you will find a detailed analysis and explanation of the maps for this species. The ubiquity of red dots in England, Wales and Scotland masks a thinning out from the south-east, and gains in Scotland. The few red dots in Ireland, though still sporadic, are showing signs of an increase. The 2008-2011 Bird Atlas shows a breeding square by Lough Corrib. The story of how that square came about is well told by Aonghus O'Donail in Issue 77 of the Galway BirdWatch Newsletter, May 2012 (found on the Galway BirdWatch website). It illustrates the elusive nature of this bird that sounds (some say) like a blackcap and, away from its few known breeding areas, will be unexpected. The answer is to familiarise oneself with the song, know the difference and be on the alert. Google 'Irish Rare Breeding Birds Panel garden warbler' to find a recording of the bird's song. Having familiarised myself with the song, a visit to Portumna Forest Park is on the cards for me next year.

Stephen Heery

WHOSE BIRD?

Fea's Petrel *Pterodroma feae* (Salvadori 1899)
 Fea's Thrush *Turdus feae* (Salvadori 1887)

NS

Leonardo Fea (1852-1903) was an Italian explorer, zoologist, painter and naturalist who was an Assistant at the Natural History Museum at Genoa, and liked exploring far off and little-known countries. He visited the Cape Verde Islands in 1898. The islands, at about 600km from Senegal, were not as challenging to visit as some of his other destinations. He had already made an expedition to Burma (now Myanmar). He was a friend of Salvadori who first described the petrel from a specimen collected by Fea on the Cape Verdes.

Taken from: Bo Beolens and Michael Watkins, *Whose Bird? Common bird names and the people they commemorate* (Yale University Press, 2015).

The book was first published in 2003 by Helm with the title *Whose Bird? Men and women commemorated in the common names of birds* by Michel Watkins and Bo Beolens.

NS

BirdWatch Galway (Branch of BirdWatch Ireland) 3rd Quadrimester 2020

QUADRIMESTRAL BIRD REPORT COMPILED BY CHRIS PEPIATT

DATE OF ISSUE: 10th December 2022

1st September: 8 Curlew Sandpiper & Spotted Redshank, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Paidí Cullinan). (1)
1st September: Juv. Marsh Harrier, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Aonghus O'Donail).
1st September: 7 Arctic Skua & Great Skua, Spiddal (Henrik Braender).
3rd September: Juv. Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Crompaun Bay, Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).
3rd September: 2 Juv. Curlew Sandpiper, Murlach, Nr. Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).
4th September: 7 Leach's Petrel, 5 Sooty Shearwater, Great Shearwater & Lapland Bunting, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
5th September: Juv. Semipalmated Sandpiper & Juv. Curlew Sandpiper, Loughaunbeg, between Spiddal and Inverin (Cathal Forkan). (2)
5th September: Juv. Curlew Sandpiper, Omev Island (Dermot Breen).
5th September: Leach's Petrel, off Rossadillask (Dermot Breen).
6th September: Garganey, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake). (3)
6th September: 4 Light-bellied Brent Goose, Mweenish Island, Nr. Island Eddy, inner Galway Bay (Paul Troake).
7th September: Lesser Whitethroat, 2 Great Skua & Sooty Shearwater, Inishbofin (Rosena McShane, Anthony McGeehan & Angela Gilligan). (4)
7th September: 3 Juv. Curlew Sandpiper, Loughaunbeg (Sean McCann).
10th September: Lapland Bunting, Loch Bharr an Phointe, Inishmore (Paidí Cullinan).
10th September: 2 Curlew Sandpiper, Inishmore (Paidí Cullinan).
11th September: Marsh Harrier, Lough Corrib (Ian O'Connor).
12th September: 4 Juv. Curlew Sandpiper, Kilcaimin (Tom Murtagh).
12th September: 4 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Tom Murtagh).
12th September: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
13th September: Long-tailed Skua & 6 Arctic Skua, Blackrock, Salthill, Galway city (Mike Sylvia).
13th September: Ad. White-tailed Eagle & male Marsh Harrier, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Aonghus O'Donail). (5)
14th September: White-tailed Eagle, Rahasane turlough (Tom Murtagh).
14th September: Lapland Bunting, Rossadillask (Dermot Breen). (6)
14th September: Little Gull & Ad. Black Tern, Annaghdown, Lough Corrib (Mike Sylvia).
15th September: Curlew Sandpiper, Mannin Bay, Nr. Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).
16th September: 1,100 Black-tailed Godwit & Kingfisher, Rahasane turlough.
16th September: Lesser Whitethroat & Lapland Bunting, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
16th September: Short-eared Owl, Straw Island, off Inishmore (Ronan Fitzpatrick).
18th September: White Wagtail, Omev Island (Dermot Breen).
18th September: Grasshopper Warbler & Chiffchaff, Milltown (Chris Benson).
19th September: Yellow-browed Warbler, Inishmore (Mike Sylvia).
19th September: Osprey, Streamstown Bay, Clifden (Hilary White).
21st September: 5 Juv. Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Truska, Nr. Slyne Head (Aonghus O'Donail). (7)
21st September: Pied Flycatcher & Spotted Flycatcher, Inishmore (Dermot Breen & Mike Sylvia).
22nd September: Ad. Win. Mediterranean Gull, Bearna Pier (Cathal Forkan).
22nd September: Juv. American Golden Plover, Truska, Nr. Slyne Head (Dermot Breen).
22nd September: Garganey, Omev Island (Dermot Breen).
23rd September: Great White Egret, Muckrush, Lough Corrib. (8)
23rd September: American Golden Plover, 5 Ruff & Peregrine, Rahasane turlough (Tom Murtagh). (9), (10), (11)
23rd September: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Rahasane turlough (Mike Sylvia). (12)
24th September: 2 Juv. Curlew Sandpiper, Rahasane turlough. (13)
25th September: Spotted Redshank & Buzzard, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Gerard Walshe).
26th September: Little Stint & 2 Wheatear, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Paidí Cullinan).

26th September: Yellow-browed Warbler, Seven Churches, Inishmore (Aonghus O'Donail).
27th September: Juv. Little Stint & 6 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Paidi Cullinan). (14)
27th September: Juv. Pectoral Sandpiper, Drake American Wigeon & 10 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Rahasane turlough (Dermot Breen). (15), (16), (17)
29th September: 10 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake & Tom Murtagh).
30th September: Upland Sandpiper & 2 Pink-footed Goose, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan). (18), (19)
30th September: 3 Knot, Rahasane turlough (Derek O'Driscoll).
2nd October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Kilronan Wood, Inishmore (Gerard Walshe).
2nd October: Hoopoe, Oughterard (Sandra Hayden).
2nd October: 2 Ruff, Rahasane turlough.
3rd October: Lapland Bunting, Inishbofin (Mike Sylvia).
3rd October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Kilmurvey Wood, Inishmore (Dylan Storey-Branagh).
3rd October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Gort na gCapall, Inishmore (Gerard Walshe).
3rd October: Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Inishbofin (Paidi Cullinan). (20)
3rd October: Treecreeper & 2 Great Skua, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
6th October: Juv. Lesser Yellowlegs, Rahasane turlough (Dermot Breen). (21)
6th October: Tennessee Warbler, Inishbofin (Steve Millar). (22)
7th October: 4 Yellow-browed Warbler, Inishbofin (Steve Millar). (23)
7th October: 11 Whooper Swan, Carnooodaun turlough (Tom Murtagh).
7th October: 4 Knot, 3 Ruff, 6 Pink-footed Goose & Hen Harrier, Rahasane turlough (Mike Sylvia).
8th October: 2 Lesser Whitethroat & 2 Yellow-browed Warbler, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
8th October: Fem. Pallid Harrier, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Aonghus O'Donail).
9th October: Lapland Bunting, Inishbofin (Mike Sylvia).
9th October: Philadelphia Vireo, Inishmore (Mike Sylvia). (24)
9th October: Barred Warbler, Inishbofin (Steve Millar & Anthony McGeehan). (25)
10th October: 3 Redwing & Sooty Shearwater, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
10th October: 6 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Glennamaddy turlough (Neil Ellis).
10th October: Hen Harrier, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Neil Ellis).
10th October: 110 Barnacle Goose, Davillaun Island (Anthony McGeehan).
11th October: 9 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Paidi Cullinan).
13th October: Yellow-browed Warbler & 14 Common Crossbill, Ballyconneely (Paidi Cullinan).
13th October: 2 Brambling, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan & Steve Millar). (26)
14th October: Bluethroat, Inishbofin (Steve Millar).
14th October: Snow Bunting, Dún Aonghusa, Inishmore.
14th October: Red-breasted Flycatcher, Oghil, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney).
14th October: 3 Fieldfare, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
15th October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Tarrea, Nr. Ballinderreen (Paul Troake).
15th October: 2 Short-eared Owl, Inishturbot (David Wilkinson).
15th October: Radde's Warbler, Kilmurvey, Inishmore (Cathal Forkan).
15th October: Little Bunting, Kilronan, Inishmore (Mike Sylvia). (27)
15th October: Long-eared Owl, Inishbofin (Steve Millar). (28)
16th October: White's Thrush, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
17th October: Little Bunting, different bird, Kilmurvey Woods, Inishmore (Mike Sylvia).
17th October: Male Marsh Harrier, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Neil Ellis).
18th October: Great White Egret, Glennamaddy turlough (Jamie Bliss).
20th October: Siberian Chiffchaff, <i>P. c tristis</i> , Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
22nd October: Little Bunting & Reed Warbler, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
23rd October: Siberian Lesser Whitethroat, <i>S. c. blythi</i> , Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).

23rd October: 56 Whooper Swan, 88 Greylag Goose, 14 Gadwall & Juv. Peregrine, Rahasane turlough (John Curley).
24th October: 185 Whooper Swan, Bullaunagh turlough (Ray Glynn).
25th October: 4 Leach's Petrel & 12 Storm Petrel, off Mutton Island, Galway city (Mike Sylvia).
25th October: Merlin, off Bearna Pier (Cathal Forkan).
26th October: Spotted Redshank & Imm. Little Gull, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Mike Sylvia).
1st November: 230 Whooper Swan, Bullaunagh turlough (Ray Glynn).
1st November: Leach's Petrel & 74 Storm Petrel, off Mutton Island, Galway city (Mike Sylvia).
3rd November: 1st Yr. Iceland Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Niall Keogh). (29)
3rd November: Imm. Iceland Gull, Moycullen (Gerard Walshe).
3rd November: Male Marsh Harrier, Lough Corrib (Mike Sylvia).
3rd November: 30 Whooper Swan, Creganna Marsh (John Curley).
5th November: 48 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Creganna Marsh (John Curley).
7th November: Woodcock, Moneenageisha, Galway city (Ciaran Bruton).
8th November: 2 Common Buzzard, Ellagh, Headford (Neil Sharkey).
8th November: 52 Whooper Swan, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Neil Ellis).
10th November: Black Redstart, Oranmore (Mary O'Malley). (30)
10th November: Ad. Win. Forster's Tern, Pollagh, Kinvara Bay (Paul Troake). (31)
10th November: Belted Kingfisher, Ballyquirke Lake (Paul Casburn).
17th November: White-tailed Eagle, Lough Rea (Ray Glynn). (32)
17th November: Ad. Mediterranean Gull, Kinvara (Paul Troake).
19th November: White-tailed Eagle, Rinville, Oranmore (Paula Hynes).
21st November: Snowy Owl, Tully Mountain (Tim Redfern).
23rd November: 2 Spotted Redshank, Kilcaimin (Neil Ellis).
26th November: 2 (1st & 2nd Yr.) Iceland Gull, off Ross Beach, Nr. Moyard (Dermot Breen).
26th November: Twite, Rossadillask, Nr. Claddaghduff (Dermot Breen).
27th November: Ad. Ring-billed Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Gerard Walshe). (33)
27th November: 2 Snow Bunting, Maree (Sean Holland).
27th November: Water Rail, Terryland Forest Park, Galway city (Marcin Pisula).
27th November: Swallow, Gort (Jack Kennedy).
28th November: (Eurasian/Great) Bittern, Cregg River, Nr. Lough Corrib (Peter Tyndall & Mike McGrath).
28th November: 2 Long-tailed Duck, Mulroog (Paul Troake).
30th November: Snow Bunting, Uggool, Moycullen (Paidi Cullinan).
5th December: Brambling, Glenard Crescent, Salthill, Galway city (Brendan Dunne).
6th December: 100 Barnacle Goose, Lettermullan (Sean McCann).
12th December: 57 Gadwall, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Dermot Breen).
13th December: 3 Ad. Mediterranean Gull, Ardmore (Mike Sylvia).
14th December: Great-spotted Woodpecker, Nr. Portumna (Lorraine Benson).
15th December: Female/Imm. Scaup, Cahermore turlough (Paul Troake).
16th December: Ad. Kumlien's Gull, Omey Island (Dermot Breen). (34)
17th December: 2 Imm. Iceland Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Gerard Walshe).
18th December: Kingfisher, Long Walk, Galway city (Gerard Walshe).
18th December: 39 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Creganna Marsh (John Curley).
20th December: Male Hen Harrier, Pollacurra, Nr. Ardrahan (Ray Glynn).
23rd December: Drake American Wigeon, Kilcolgan River (Paul Troake).
27th December: 1st Win. Glaucous Gull, Lettermullan (Sean McCann).
28th December: 1st Win. Glaucous Gull, Omey Island (Dermot Breen).
28th December: 2 Spotted Redshank, Tawin (Neil Ellis).

30th December: Twite, Loughaunbeg (Gerard Walshe).
30th December: Kingfisher, 71 Great Northern Diver, 17 Common Scoter & 9 Twite, Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).
30th December: Common Sandpiper, Sky Road, Clifden (Dermot Breen).
31st December: Great-spotted Woodpecker, Woodford (Eoin Murphy).

NOTES:

- (1) Five juvenile Curlew Sandpiper were still present at Rusheen Bay on the 4th of September, the Spotted Redshank and 8 Curlew Sandpiper were present on the 8th September 2020, with the 8 Curlew Sandpiper also recorded on the 9th September 2020, while Spotted Redshank and one Juv. Curlew Sandpiper were recorded on the 10th September, 2 Curlew Sandpiper were recorded on the 13th September and Spotted Redshank and 4 Curlew Sandpiper were recorded there on the 28th of September 2020.
- (2) The juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper was also present at Loughaunbeg on the 6th of September and the 22nd of September 2020.
- (3) In the period from 6th September to 7th October 2020, Garganey were recorded at Rahasane turlough as follows: 6th September (one); 16th September (two); 28th September (one); 29th September (one); 30th September (two); 2nd October (one) and 7th October (two).
- (4) The Lesser Whitethroat was again recorded on Inishbofin on the 8th September 2020.
- (5) White-tailed eagles were also recorded at Muckrush, Lough Corrib, on 21st ('Star'), 22nd ('Star') and 23rd ('Star') October, and 1st ('Star') and 4th (one) November 2020.
- (6) The Lapland Bunting was again recorded at Rossadillask on the 15th September 2020.
- (7) Of the five birds recorded at Truska, two Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper were still present the next day, i.e. 22nd September 2020.
- (8) Apparently resident Great White Egret were also recorded at Lough Corrib on the 19th October (one), 6th December (one, Angliham), 11th December (one, Muckrush), 12th December (three) and 28th December 2020 (one, Coolanillaun).
- (9) The American Golden Plover was also recorded at Rahasane turlough on the 24th, 25th, 28th and 29th September 2020 and the 2nd and 3rd of October 2020.
- (10) The five Ruff were also present at Rahasane turlough on the 24th September 2020.
- (11) A Peregrine was also present at Rahasane turlough on the 24th September 2020.
- (12) The Buff-breasted Sandpiper was also recorded at Rahasane turlough on the 24th September and the 7th October 2020.
- (13) Curlew Sandpipers were also recorded at Rahasane turlough on the 27th (three) and 29th (two) September, and the 2nd (one), 7th (one) and 11th (one) October 2020.
- (14) Single Juvenile Little Stint were also recorded at Rahasane turlough on the 28th and 29th September, and the 7th October 2020.
- (15) Single Juvenile Pectoral sandpipers were also recorded at Rahasane turlough on the 28th and 29th September, and the 9th, 10th and 11th October 2020.
- (16) The drake American Wigeon was also recorded at Rahasane turlough on the 29th and 30th September, and the 3rd October 2020.
- (17) A flock of Greenland White-fronted Goose was also recorded at Rahasane turlough on the 29th September (ten), 7th October (six) and 23rd October (twenty-one) 2020.
- (18) The Upland Sandpiper was also recorded on Inishbofin on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 10th of October 2020.
- (19) Pink-footed Goose were also recorded on Inishbofin on the 2nd October (five), 7th October (thirteen) and 10th October (three) 2020.
- (20) Eastern Yellow Wagtail was also recorded on Inishbofin on the 5th October (one), the 6th October (two), the 9th October (one), the 11th October (one), the 12th October (one) and the 13th October (one) 2020.
- (21) The juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs was also recorded at Rahasane turlough on the 9th, 11th and 12th October 2020.
- (22) The Tennessee Warbler was also recorded on Inishbofin on the 7th and 8th of October 2020.
- (23) Yellow-browed warblers were also recorded on Inishbofin on the 9th (one), 12th (two), 13th (two), 16th (one), 18th (one), 20th (one) and 21st (two) of October 2020.
- (24) The Philadelphia Vireo was also recorded on Inishmore on the 10th, 11th, 12th, 15th and 17th of October 2020.
- (25) The Barred Warbler was also recorded on Inishbofin on the 11th, 12th, and 14th of October 2020.
- (26) Brambling were also recorded on Inishbofin on the 14th (three), 15th (two), 18th (two) and 21st (one) October 2020.
- (27) The Little Bunting was again recorded at Kilonan on Inishmore on 17th October 2020, when a second bird was found on the same island (q.v.).
- (28) The Long-eared Owl was also recorded on Inishbofin on 16th October 2020.
- (29) The 1st year Iceland Gull was also recorded at Nimmo's Pier on 25th and 26th November, and 1st, 12th, 15th, 20th and 24th December 2020.
- (30) The Black Redstart was also recorded at Oranmore on 11th December 2020.
- (31) The returning long-staying Forster's Tern was also recorded on 17th (Kinvara) and 28th (Mulroog) November, and 6th (Nimmo's Pier, Galway city) and 15th (Kinvara) December 2020.
- (32) A White-tailed Eagle was also recorded at Lough Rea on 27th November 2020.
- (33) The adult Ring-billed Gull was also recorded at Nimmo's Pier on 12th, 17th and 20th December 2020.

(34) The adult Kumlien's Gull was also recorded at Omev Island on 28th December 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Great Shearwater, 13 Leach's Petrel, Bittern, 1-2 American Wigeon, 3-10 Garganey, Osprey, Pallid Harrier, Snowy Owl, Upland Sandpiper, Semiplumated Sandpiper, 2 American Golden Plover, 8 Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-tailed Skua, Kumlien's Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Hoopoe, White's Thrush, Tennessee Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo, Radde's Warbler, Barred Warbler, 9-21 Yellow-browed Warbler, 3-6 Lapland Bunting, 3 Little Bunting, 4 Snow Bunting, 2 Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Bluethroat, Red-breasted Flycatcher & Black Redstart. Long-staying birds: Forster's Tern and 3-4 Great White Egret.

ARRIVING WINTERING MIGRANTS:

Light-bellied Brent Goose (6th September), Greenland White-fronted Goose (27th September), Pink-footed Goose (30th September), Whooper Swan (7th October), Barnacle Goose (10th October), Redwing (10th October) & Fieldfare (14th October).

OTHER BEASTIES:

10th October: Otter, Rahasane turlough (Ray Glynn).

28th November: Otter, Cregg River, Nr. Lough Corrib (Peter Tyndall & Mike McGrath).

6th December: 2 Otter, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Aonghus O'Donail).