



## CAIRDE EANLAITH NA GAILLIMHE BIRDWATCH GALWAY

www.birdwatchgalway.org  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – EDITOR: NEIL SHARKEY  
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This is a local forum newsletter –  
contributions and comments are  
most welcome.  
Distributed by e mail only

### BRANCH MATTERS

For the last four years Chris Peppiatt has been Chairman of our branch and through this column I wish to thank him, on behalf of all members of the branch, for his input. Those of you who do not regularly get involved with branch activities may not know that Chris is a truly all-round naturalist who brings to the branch a wealth of knowledge, not only about birds but also about almost every other element of our natural environment. He has great skills in bird identification which he gladly shares with others on outings and during survey work. During his tenure as chairman Chris organised a breeding bird survey covering the whole of Galway City and got a small group of volunteers to record the birds breeding and sighted within the extended boundaries of the city.

When Chris first joined the branch he made available his considerable computing skills by setting up a web site for BirdWatch Galway. This site is an invaluable asset for publicising our activities and inviting records - as the almost five thousand visits during the year 2007 illustrate. The records of sightings received by both Tim Griffin and, through the web site, Chris are ably compiled quarterly by Chris to accompany our *Newsletter*. These regular and comprehensive accounts will greatly facilitate the compilation of the next issue of *Birds of Galway*, co-edited by Chris in 2004.

With Jo Gordon he represents the branch on the Galway City Community Forum and Chris also represents the branch on the Terryland Forest Park committee and we are grateful that he will continue to do so. He will also continue to administer the web-site, compile the records and, in general, be an active member of BirdWatch Galway. So, again, a *thank you* to Chris for all his work for BirdWatch Galway.

Marianne ten Cate

### BIRDWATCHING IN THE ALGARVE

Most readers will know that the Algarve is that part of Portugal's coast that is most southerly and faces towards Africa. Thus it is blessed with an ideal climate with more or less constant sun and an absence of extreme weather conditions. Its towns and coastline are synonymous with villas, golf and reasonably well-ordered development. However, its birdwatching potential gets little mention.

For the past two years I have had the opportunity of spending some holiday time there. The location was in a place called Quinta do Lago just to the west of Faro, the main town of the region. The coast west of Faro is notable for its dune systems, which have effectively sealed off a series of complex lagoons creating a bird rich habitat.

In addition to the lagoons there is a whole series of salt pans, some going back to Roman times. There is also a fresh water lagoon. The greater part of this area forms part of the Ria Formosa nature reserve and is fully protected. The whole area is covered by a maze of paths making for pleasant comfortable birdwatching.

The birds to be seen are very varied and on both occasions I had no difficulty recording 70 or so species. Waders and water birds abound – Little Egret, Little Ringed Plover, Black-winged Stilt; Purple Heron, Little Bittern, Flamingo, Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill and Red-crested Pochard. The real treasure

has to be the scarce and otherwise hard to find Purple Gallinule – this splendid larger relation of our moorhen is usually easy to see in the fresh water wetland, which comes with a hide giving great views of a huge variety of water birds.

In addition, as you walk among, the trees and bushes the terrain holds a variety of interesting small birds. The beautiful Azure-winged Magpie is everywhere - groups of them fly and glide from tree to tree with constant magpie chattering. This bird is found only in Spain and Portugal and China giving rise to all sorts of theories as to how the species reached this corner of Europe. Warblers include the Sardinian Warbler – which seems to be everywhere - and the little Zitting Cisticola. Seeing and hearing the Hoopoe and Crested Lark is one of the happy experiences of south European birdwatching.

Outside of Faro the other great Algarve site has to be Cape Saint Vincent, the headland that is the most South-westerly point of Europe. It is a hot spot for raptors although the time of my visit was not the best time for this. However, I did pick up Booted Eagle in the Ria sanctuary and Michael Davis, who was with me on this occasion, photographed it in full flight.



All in all, in my book the Algarve gets a high rating for excellent birdwatching and a big plus for people like myself of a certain age is being able to do so in a superb, benign climate and being able to traverse and view along a series of easy to walk paths and observation points. **NS**

### CATTLE EGRETS

While going to the shop one evening I met a friend who told me that there were four birds in his field that he did not know the name of. Neither he nor his father had seen this type of bird before. I told him I would have a look at them the following morning, having explained to him that most 'rare' birds are fairly common – it's just that people haven't taken notice of them before.

Upon further questioning I discovered that these birds were white and bigger than a duck. Muscovy Duck, I immediately thought, until I was told "not a duck"! Ok, possibly Snow Goose?

At home I got my bird books and started thumbing through. To get some more details I phoned my friend but he was not at home. On talking to his wife I instinctively knew what the birds were. In her own words the birds were "herding the cattle". They couldn't be, I thought.

Having looked through four books I was still none the wiser. There was very little written about them.

Their range, according to the *Collins Guide*, was expanding but this looked like a quantum leap. Could this species be found so far north? The weather wasn't that warm; no, it couldn't be! The following morning (on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of December, Christmas Eve) I was up bright and early. The anticipation was great. Whilst I still thought they would be relatively common birds, I had no idea what common species they could be. When I arrived at the appointed field, of course there were no birds there. Nor were there any cattle! After the initial disappointment I phoned the landowner who informed me the birds were now in the field beside his house – he had moved the cows the previous evening and was now there awaiting my arrival. I looked at the birds (without binoculars) and handed him two books which were already opened at the relevant pages. Yes, Cattle Egret. I couldn't believe my good fortune!

The four birds were foraging among the grazing cattle. Their diet appears to be insects which are disturbed by the cattle while grazing. I saw one bird eating a worm, rather like a Song Thrush would. The habitat at that stage was fairly dry, with the ground being churned up by the grazing cattle.

The Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) is slightly smaller than the Little Egret but appears much smaller due to its tendency to hold the neck in a hunched, retracted position. It is an all-white heron-like bird (in non-breeding plumage) with a short (in comparison to other egrets), yellow bill and yellowish legs. In flight, their legs trail behind them.

Habitat alone should set this bird apart from other similar species.

The only call I have heard was a call given in flight. It reminded me of a mix between a Grey Heron and a Hooded Crow – a double-note croak, gruff "aaargh-aaargh". In the early evenings the birds fly off – presumably to roost. Cregg Wood is nearby; I can only hazard a guess that this is where they roost. Despite several evening visits I still have not been able to determine where they fly to. I have been told that they regularly perch on the backs of the cattle while they are resting in the mornings.

It would appear that these birds arrived here approximately mid-December (14<sup>th</sup>??) and as they are still present (three on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February) it certainly is encouraging for their future status here. Despite the very wet and bitterly cold weather of the past few weeks, the birds appear to be in good condition.

Apart from the perspective of global warming and climate change, the other factor to be taken into account is the importance of studying your own 'patch' well. The fact is that these birds were here possibly ten days before anyone took note of them. In the beginning there were two birds foraging with them. Apparently, they were greyish and much larger than our Grey Heron. Could they possibly have been Cranes? They stayed only two hours.

It was pure coincidence I bumped into my friend that evening. Normally I take a different route to the shop. However, it certainly was a wonderful Christmas present!!

Ian Brophy

### OPTICS

From time to time people ask about what binoculars or telescope to buy. If your budget is generous it is relatively easy to give advice – Swarovski, Zeiss and Kowa are the leading and most popular choices. But



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what if you have a limited budget? The February issue of Bird Watching – the commercial publication – has an excellent review of binoculars under €200. This reviews about 12 of the best value models in very detailed fashion. Separately, there is a review of ACE Optics new telescope offering - the Multiview 80 – at less than €450 this seems to represent excellent value – optically it cannot be up with the leading brands but at less than a quarter of their price it could be an excellent choice!  
If anyone would like copies of these reviews you can contact me.

NS

### BIRDS IN POETRY

*Wheatear* by Michael Longley, first published in *Snow Water* in 2004, was recently reproduced in *The Lake Without A Name*, a beautiful collection commemorating Longley's association with County Mayo. Again, he celebrates in lyrical language the natural beauty of Carrigskeewaun, while relating to the panic of the trapped 'wheatear from Africa' before rejoicing in its restoration to freedom.

Pat Finnegan

#### WHEATEAR

*Poem beginning with a line of J.M. Synge*

Brown lark beside the sun  
Supervising Carrigskeewaun  
In late May, marsh marigolds  
And yellow flags, trout at the low  
Bridge hesitating, even  
The raven's ramshackle nest -  
Applaud yourself, applaud me  
As I find inside the cottage  
A wheatear from Africa  
Banging against the windowpane  
And hold in my hands her creamy-  
Buff underparts and white rump  
And carry her to the door  
And she joins you beside the sun  
Before skimming across the dunes  
To mimic in a rabbit hole  
Among silverweed and speedwell  
My panic, my breathlessness.

Michael Longley

Acknowledgements to Jonathan Cape and The Blackstaff Press.

### BLACKWITS

On the 24th of February 2007, during a very enjoyable branch weekend in Northern Ireland, we visited the RSPB Belfast Lough reserve. This site has a super-deluxe glazed hide. The group was delighted to see a flock of up to 50 Black-tailed Godwit feeding (to my surprise) on grain that had been put out by warden Anthony McGeehan. We were able to see the birds to within a few feet as they fed completely oblivious to our presence. It was soon noticed by group members that some of the birds had been marked with colour rings. The birds were marked with two coloured rings on the tibia (i.e. above the knee) of each leg. In all, we managed to record five different combinations: 1. Left leg:

orange above red. Right leg: red above red; 2. Left leg: yellow above yellow. Right leg: red above a white band with black X's on it; 3. Left leg: green above black. Right leg: Orange above white; 4. Left leg: orange above green. Right leg: red above a white band with black X's on it; 5. Left leg: red above green. Right leg: yellow above red.  
The Black-tailed Godwits that winter in Ireland are from the Icelandic breeding population, so we expected that they would have come from there. A bit of research on the internet showed that this colour marking scheme for godwits is run jointly by the Farlington Ringing Group (Hampshire, UK) and the University of East Anglia (Norfolk, UK). Many thanks to Pete Potts of the Farlington Group who sent back details of the birds that we saw. OR RR (1 above) was ringed as a chick in Iceland in 2002 and had been recorded at Belfast every winter since then, but was also seen at Leidschendam in the west of the Netherlands in 2004. YY RX (2 above) was a male ringed



as an adult in Iceland in 2003; it was recorded at Belfast in 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007, but also wandered to Norway, the Faroe Islands and Cheshire (UK) in 2004 and was seen in Sussex in southern England in 2005. GN OW (3 above) was ringed in the Wash in eastern England, but unfortunately I didn't receive any more information than this. OG RX (4 above) was a male that was ringed as an adult in Iceland in 2003 (same flock as YY RX!). It has been recorded in winter at Belfast in 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007 and has not been recorded anywhere else; nobody knows where it was in 2005. The last bird RG YR (5 above) was ringed on 3rd July 2006 at Reykholar, in north-west Iceland, as a chick. It was next recorded in Stornoway, Scotland, in 2006 and was at Belfast in 2006 and 2007.

It is fascinating to look at the sightings records and realise how widely the birds that we might casually look at in Ireland travel. Thanks are due to Marianne ten Cate who organised the weekend.

Chris Peppiatt

[www.euring.org](http://www.euring.org)

### CATTLE EGRETS – THE BIGGER PICTURE

Ian Brophy's excellent piece on the first Cattle Egrets ever recorded in Co Galway is in fact part of a much more dramatic story. This winter Cattle Egrets have been sighted in several parts of Ireland mostly in the Cork and Kerry area. What Ian recorded were most likely the first birds that will eventually colonise Ireland in the manner of the Little Egret. When it comes to colonizing new areas the Cattle Egret is arguably the world's most successful bird. Originally confined to Africa, Asia and southern Europe, during the past hundred years or so it has extended its range to reach Australasian and North and South America. It also holds the honour of being one of only two species to have been recorded in all seven of the world's continents – including Antarctica. (The other, by the way, is that great global voyager the Arctic Tern.)

Cattle Egret is also the only Old World species to have colonized the New World from the east. It did so in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when a violent storm blew a flock off course and across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa. Having landed in Guyana, they soon proceeded to colonise most of the Americas – thanks to their ability to take advantage of domestic livestock such as cattle.

In the past few decades Cattle Egrets have moved northwards at an astonishing rate and they now breed in good numbers in places as close as Brittany and Normandy.

So we would hope, within the next few years, to hear from Ian and other observers that the Cattle Egret has become Ireland's latest breeding resident. (I acknowledge Stephen Moss's 'Bird Watch' article in a recent Guardian newspaper for the these facts)

NS

### FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

For further details and queries, please contact Marianne at 091-552519 or 091 862566  
[mariannetencate@gmail.com](mailto:mariannetencate@gmail.com)

Saturday 1 March, short outing at Nimmo's Pier with Tim Griffin *et al.*, 10.30am.

Saturday 8 March, Galway Bay count. Those interested in taking part, please, contact Chris Peppiatt at 091-862566 or 086-63125356.

Wednesday 12 March, monthly branch meeting, Anno Santo, 8pm. All members are welcome to attend the monthly branch meetings!

Friday 14 March, *South Africa – a beat about the bush*, an illustrated talk by John Carey, member of BirdWatch Galway. Anno Santo, 8pm. All welcome.

Weekend 4-6 April, branch outing to the BirdWatch/RSPB Conference in Co. Wicklow.

Places in the hotel are very limited. Marianne has pre-booked some so if interested in accommodation and sharing transport (possibly mini-bus), contact Marianne before 23 February!

Saturday 5 April, short outing at Nimmo's Pier with Tim Griffin *et al.*, 10.30am.

Wednesday 16 April, monthly Branch meeting, Anno Santo, 8pm.

Saturday 12 April, annual Bird Race. Teams of two or more can take part from dawn till dusk anywhere in County Galway. All birds recorded have to be seen by at least two participants

# BirdWatch Galway (Branch of BirdWatch Ireland)

A QUARTERLY BIRD REPORT BY CHRIS PEPIATT & TIM GRIFFIN

4th Quarter 2007

TEL. (091) 590154 or at [www.birdwatchgalway.org](http://www.birdwatchgalway.org)

DATE OF ISSUE: 20th February 2008

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Species	Location	Number	Date	Observer
Marsh Harrier	Angliham, Lough Corrib		F/Imm. 01.10.07	TG
Hen Harrier	Angliham, Lough Corrib		F 01.10.07	TG
Glaucous Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		AW 01.10.07	TG
Little Egret	Kilcaimin/Traught	16	01.10.07	TG
Merlin	Stradbally	1	02.10.07	PT
Ring-billed Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		AW 02.10.07	TG
Crossbill	Cloosh	6	02.10.07	TG
Arctic Skua	Silver Strand, Galway City	1	02.10.07	TG
Mediterranean Gull	Rossaveal	1	03.10.07	TG
Kumlien's Gull	Rossaveal		1stW 03.10.07	TG
Marsh Harrier	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		F/Imm. 06.10.07	PT
Lapland Bunting	Trawmore, Inishmore	1	06.10.07	DB
Merlin	Trawmore, Inishmore	1	06.10.07	DB
Yellow-browed Warbler	Kilronan, Inishmore	1	06.10.07	DB
Dipper	Loughrea town	1	06.10.07	PC
Curlew Sandpiper	Rusheen Bay, Galway City	1	06.10.07	TG
Wigeon	Rahasane Turlough	600	07.10.07	PC
Shoveler	Rahasane Turlough	12	07.10.07	PC
Pochard	Rahasane Turlough	2	07.10.07	PC
Golden Plover	Rahasane Turlough	500	07.10.07	PC
Peregrine	Rahasane Turlough	1	07.10.07	PC
Yellow-browed Warbler	Inishmore	9	07.10.07	DB
Reed Warbler	Inishmore	1	07.10.07	DB
Whinchat	Inishmore	1	07.10.07	DB
Spotted Flycatcher	Inishmore	1	07.10.07	DB
Chiffchaff	Inishmore	6	07.10.07	DB
Little Egret	Tawin	6	08.10.07	CC
Kumlien's Gull	Rossaveal		2ndW 08.10.07	DB
Mediterranean Gull	Rossaveal		AW 08.10.07	DB
Iceland Gull	Rossaveal		1stW 08.10.07	TG
Little Stint	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City	1	09.10.07	TC & TG (1)
Black Redstart	Inishmore	1	09.10.07	PT
Turtle Dove	Inishmore	1	09.10.07	PT
Pied Flycatcher	Inishmore	1	09.10.07	PT
Barnacle Goose	Silver Strand, Galway City	2	10.10.07	TG
Bar-tailed Godwit	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City	1	14.10.07	TC (2)
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Rahasane Turlough	9	14.10.07	MD
Ruff	Rahasane Turlough	3 (A&2-Juv.)	14.10.07	MD
Little Gull	Mutton Island, Galway City	Juv.	15.10.07	MD
Curlew Sandpiper	Rusheen Bay, Galway City	Juv.	15.10.07	PT (3)
Snowy Owl	Near Moycullen.		F 16.10.07	
Sabine's Gull	Galway docks		Juv. 16.10.07	MD
Whooper Swan	Luimnagh, Lough Corrib	7	17.10.07	DC
Whooper Swan	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City	21	17.10.07	TC & TG (4)
Whooper Swan	Rahasane Turlough	30	17.10.07	MD & AOD
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Rahasane Turlough	29	17.10.07	MD & AOD
Ruff	Rahasane Turlough	3	17.10.07	MD & AOD
Little Stint	Rahasane Turlough	1	17.10.07	MD & AOD
Snowy Owl	Bealadangan, Connemara.	1	18.10.07	
Redwing	Salthill, Galway City	Many	19.10.07	AOD & CP (5)
Marsh Harrier	Angliham, Lough Corrib		F/Imm. 19.10.07	TG
Hen Harrier	Angliham, Lough Corrib		F 19.10.07	TG
Glaucous Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		Sub-A 20.10.07	PT
Ring-billed Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		A 20.10.07	PT
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Rahasane Turlough	56	21.10.07	TG
Merlin	Curraghline, Lough Corrib		21.10.07	TC
Grey Plover	Rahasane Turlough	2	21.10.07	MD (6)
Ruff	Rahasane Turlough	1	21.10.07	TG
Greenland Wheatear	Mutton Island, Galway City	1	22.10.07	MD
House Martin	Salthill, Galway City	1	22.10.07	SG
Arctic Skua	Silver Strand, Galway City	2	22.10.07	TG
Carrion Crow	Inveran	1	23.10.07	AOD
Collared Pratincole	Ballyconneely	1	24.10.07	AOD
Red-rumped Swallow	Rusheen Bay, Galway City	1	24.10.07	PT (7)
Chaffinch	Rusheen Bay, Galway City	4,065	24.10.07	PT (7)
Siskin	Rusheen Bay, Galway City	240	24.10.07	PT (7)
Wheatear	Rusheen Bay, Galway City	1	24.10.07	PT (7)
Swallow	Rusheen Bay, Galway City	1	24.10.07	PT (7)
Arctic Tern	Rusheen Bay, Galway City	1	24.10.07	PT
Slavonian Grebe	Doohulla, Ballyconneely Bay	2	25.10.07	TT
Little Gull	Silver Strand, Galway City	2	26.10.07	TG
Great Skua	Silver Strand, Galway City	2	27.10.07	PT
Arctic Skua	Silver Strand, Galway City	4	27.10.07	PT
Spotted Redshank	Kilcaimin	1	27.10.07	TG
Mediterranean Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		2ndW 28.10.07	MD
Spotted Redshank	Mutton Island Causeway, Galway City	1	29.10.07	PT
Mediterranean Gull	Rahasane Turlough		1stW 29.10.07	MD & PL

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Species	Location	Number	Date	Observer
Spotted Redshank	Rahasane Turlough		1 29.10.07	MD & PL
Ruff	Rahasane Turlough		3 29.10.07	MD & PL
Ring-billed Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		2ndW 29.10.07	MD & PL
Hen Harrier	Curraghline, Lough Corrib		7 ringtail 29.10.07	AOD
Short-eared Owl	Curraghline, Lough Corrib		1 29.10.07	AOD
Glaucous Gull	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		1stW 30.10.07	PT
Common Buzzard	Rosscahill		1 31.10.07	PR
Snow Bunting	Doorus		1 31.10.07	PT
White-rumped Sandpiper	Inishbofin.		2 01.11.07	Many observers
Mourning Dove	Inishbofin		1 02.11.07	AMcG (8)
Hen Harrier	Ballindiff Bay, Lough Corrib		F 02.11.07	DC
Merlin	Claregalway		1 03.11.07	JG
Common Buzzard	Claregalway		1 03.11.07	JG
Curlew Sandpiper	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		A 03.11.07	RV & OF
Glaucous Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		AW 03.11.07	Many observers
Mediterranean Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		AW 03.11.07	Many observers
Ring-billed Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		2AW 03.11.07	Many observers
Black-headed Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		Leuc. 03.11.07	Many observers
Yellow-browed Warbler	Inishbofin		3-4 03.11.07	Many observers
Black Redstart	Inishbofin		1 03.11.07	Many observers
Brambling	Inishbofin		3 03.11.07	Many observers
Grey Phalarope	Inishbofin		4 03.11.07	Many observers
Chough	Inishbofin		4 03.11.07	Many observers
Brent Goose	Angliham, Lough Corrib		3 03.11.07	TG (9)
American Golden Plover	Rahasane Turlough		1 04.11.07	MD
Ruff	Rahasane Turlough		4 (A&3-Juv.) 04.11.07	MD
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Rahasane Turlough		38 04.11.07	PC
Wigeon	Rahasane Turlough		2,000 04.11.07	PC
Golden Plover	Rahasane Turlough		5,000 04.11.07	PC
Black-tailed Godwit	Rahasane Turlough		700 04.11.07	PC
Lapwing	Rahasane Turlough		4,000 04.11.07	PC
Peregrine	Rahasane Turlough		1 04.11.07	PC
Fieldfare	Rahasane Turlough		300 04.11.07	PC
Peregrine	Kilcaimin		Juv. F 05.11.07	BOM
Snowy Owl	near SuperValu, Barna		1 05.11.07	RH
Black Redstart	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		1 06.11.07	PT
Snow Bunting	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		1 06.11.07	PT
Wheatear	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		1 06.11.07	PT
Curlew Sandpiper	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		1 06.11.07	PT & TG
Little Auk	found dead near Spiddal		1 09.11.07	FMacL
Slavonian Grebe	Oranmore Bay		1 10.11.07	JC, BB & CP
Scaup	Lough Atalia, Galway City		F 10.11.07	JC, BB & CP
Long-tailed Duck	Lough Atalia, Galway City		1 10.11.07	JC, BB & CP
Spotted Redshank	Kilcaimin		3 11.11.07	PT
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Rahasane Turlough		82 11.11.07	PC
Whooper Swan	Rahasane Turlough		127 11.11.07	PC
Pintail	Rahasane Turlough		52 11.11.07	PC
Golden Plover	Rahasane Turlough		6,500 11.11.07	PC
Dipper	Loughrea town		1 14.11.07	JC
Water Pipit	Inishroo/Mountscribe, Nr. Kinvara		1 15.11.07	PT
Mediterranean Gull	Inishroo/Mountscribe, Nr. Kinvara		3 15.11.07	PT
Common Sandpiper	Inishroo/Mountscribe, Nr. Kinvara		1 15.11.07	PT
Little Egret	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		2 16.11.07	PT
Jackdaw	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		745 16.11.07	PT
<i>argentatus</i> race Herring Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		A 17.11.07	TG
Marsh Harrier	Curraghline, Lough Corrib		Juv. 18.11.07	AOD
Hen Harrier	Curraghline, Lough Corrib		5 ringtail 18.11.07	AOD
Little Egret	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		2 18.11.07	JC & TG
Spotted Redshank	Kilcaimin		1 19.11.07	BOM
Hen Harrier	Ballindiff Bay, Lough Corrib		Juv. 19.11.07	DC
Hen Harrier	Ballindiff Bay, Lough Corrib		F 20.11.07	DC
Marsh Harrier	Ballindiff Bay, Lough Corrib		F 20.11.07	DC
Common Buzzard	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		1 21.11.07	PT
Peregrine	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		1 21.11.07	PT
Slavonian Grebe	Silver Strand, Galway City		1 21.11.07	PT
Snow Bunting	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		16 21.11.07	PT
Little Gull	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		2 21.11.07	PT
Iceland Gull	Rossaveal		1 22.11.07	TG
Long-tailed Duck	Coral Strand, Carraroe		5 23.11.07	AOD
Mediterranean Gull	Rossaveal		2AW 23.11.07	AOD
Marsh Harrier	Curraghline, Lough Corrib		Juv. 23.11.07	AOD
Hen Harrier	Curraghline, Lough Corrib		2 ringtail 23.11.07	AOD
Kingfisher	Curraghline, Lough Corrib		1 23.11.07	AOD
Hen Harrier	Luimnagh, Lough Corrib		2 (M&F) 23.11.07	DC
Glaucous Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		1stW 27.11.07	MD
Iceland Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		1 01.12.07	TC
Hen Harrier	Curraghline, Lough Corrib		6 (2F&4Juv.) 01.12.07	AOD & CP

# BirdWatch Galway (Branch of BirdWatch Ireland)

A QUARTERLY BIRD REPORT BY CHRIS PEPPIATT & TIM GRIFFIN

4th Quarter 2007

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Species	Location	Number	Date	Observer	
Brambling	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		1	02.12.07	PT
Kumlien's Gull	Rossaveal		2ndW	02.12.07	MD
Iceland Gull	Rossaveal		2ndW	02.12.07	MD
Mediterranean Gull	Rossaveal		2AW	03.12.07	AOD
Long-tailed Duck	Coral Strand, Carraroe		5	03.12.07	AOD
Ring-billed Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		4 (3A&2W)	03.12.07	MD
Glaucous Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		AW	03.12.07	MD
Hen Harrier	Oughterard		2 ringtail	04.12.07	AOD
argentatus race Herring Gull,	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		A	04.12.07	MD
Hen Harrier	Oughterard		F	05.12.07	AOD
Snow Bunting	Letterfore, Oughterard		M	06.12.07	AOD
American Herring Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		A	07.12.07	TC (10)
Green Sandpiper	Shiven River, west of Ballinamore Bridge		1	12.12.07	PT
Kingfisher	Shiven River, west of Ballinamore Bridge		1	12.12.07	PT
Merlin	Shiven River, west of Ballinamore Bridge		1	12.12.07	PT
Twite	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		2	14.12.07	PT (11)
Glaucous X Herring Gull Hyb.	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		AW	15.12.07	TG
Marsh Harrier	Muckrush, Nr. Lough Corrib		Imm.	16.12.07	MK & NS
Common Buzzard	Ballyhale, Nr. Lough Corrib		1	17.12.07	SGr (12)
Hen Harrier	Oughterard		M	17.12.07	AOD
Purple Sandpiper	Inveran		26	19.12.07	TG
Hen Harrier	Cloonnacat		M	20.12.07	PT
Crossbill	Cloonnacat		2	20.12.07	PT
Kumlien's Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		2ndW	20.12.07	TG
Long-tailed Duck	Traught		1	21.12.07	TG
Black-throated Diver	Traught		1	21.12.07	TG
Common Buzzard	south of Dunmore		1	22.12.07	PT
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Rahasane Turlough		91	22.12.07	TG
Greylag Goose	Rahasane Turlough		1	22.12.07	TG
Forster's Tern	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		1	22.12.07	TC & TG (13)
Cattle Egret	Cartron, Nr. Corrandulla		4	24.12.07	IB (14)
Sandwich Tern	Mutton Island Causeway, Galway City		5	25.12.07	TG
Glaucous Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		3	25.12.07	TG
Marsh Harrier	Angliham, Lough Corrib		F/Imm.	25.12.07	TG
Glaucous X Herring Gull Hyb.	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		AW	26.12.07	TG
Kumlien's Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		2ndW	26.12.07	TG
Kumlien's Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		2ndW	28.12.07	DB
Glaucous Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		2 (1stW&AW)	28.12.07	DB
Glaucous X Herring Gull Hyb.	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		AW	28.12.07	DB
argentatus race Herring Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		1	28.12.07	DB
Ring-billed Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		A	28.12.07	DB
Ring-billed Gull	Waterside, Galway City		1stW	28.12.07	DB
Glaucous Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		3	29.12.07	DB
Ring-billed Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		3	29.12.07	DB
Sandwich Tern	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		3	29.12.07	DB
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Belclare Turlough		38	30.12.07	PT
Glaucous Gull	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		3rdW	30.12.07	CP
Twite	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		1	30.12.07	TG
Little Gull	Nimmo's Pier, Galway City		AW	30.12.07	TG
Surf Scoter	Silver Strand, Galway City		1stW F	31.12.07	PT
Peregrine	Rusheen Bay, Galway City		1	31.12.07	PT
Little Egret	Traught		2	31.12.07	TG

## LATE NEWS

Ruddy Shelduck Nimmo's Pier, Galway City 1 25.08.07 DMcN

Sabine's Gull Durras 1 31.09.07 FF

## ABBREVIATIONS

Imm. = Immature; Juv. = Juvenile; A = Adult; S = Summer; W = Winter; M = male; F = female;

Hyb. = Hybrid; Leuc = leucistic.

## NOTES

1 = Still present 13.10.07.

2 = Netherlands colour ringed.

3 = Still present on 24.10.07.

4 = Flying south towards Co. Clare.

5 = Overhead migrants at night..

6 = Unusual inland.

7 = Visible migration from 08:30 to 14:00.

8 = Still present until at least 09.11.07.

9 = In flight over Lough Corrib.

10 = Seen again on the 08, 26, 28 & 29.12.07.

11 = Again present on 30.12.07.

12 = Still present at the end of the quarter.

13 = Still present at the end of the quarter.

14 = At least 3 still present at the end of the quarter.

## CONTRIBUTORS

TG = Tim Griffin; PT = Paul Troake; DB = Dermot Breen; PC = Pete Capsey;

CC = Chris Cook; TC = Tom Cuffe; MD = Michael Davis; DC = Deirdre Comerford;

AOD = Aonghus O'Donail; CP = Chris Peppiatt; SG = Sean Gavin; TT = Tom Tarpey;

PL = Pat Lonergan; PR = Pat Roberts; AMcG = Anthony McGeehan;

JG = Jim Glennon; RV = Robert Vaughan; OF = Owen Foley;

BOM = Breandán Ó Madagáin; RH = Ronan Hennessy;

FMacL = Fearghas MacLochlainn; JC = John Carey; BB = Brid Browne;

MK = Marty Kerrane; NS = Neil Sharkey; SGr = Sean Greaney; IB = Ian Brophy;

DMcN = Darren McNeill; FF = Frank Flanagan.