



## CAIRDE EANLAITH NA GAILLIMHE BIRDWATCH GALWAY

[www.birdwatchgalway.org](http://www.birdwatchgalway.org)  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – EDITOR: NEIL SHARKEY  
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Issue No. 66 August 09

This is a local forum newsletter –  
contributions and comments are  
most welcome.  
Distributed by e mail only

### BRANCH MATTERS

Branch activities seem to come to halt during the summer month of July and August as there are no Wednesday night branch meetings, Saturday morning outings at Nimmo's Pier or Friday night talks in the Anno Santo Hotel. However, while we may seem dormant a lot happens in the field or at the desk. Members monitor areas for the Countryside Bird Survey, re-visit tetrads to contribute data to the new *Atlas of Birds in Britain and Ireland*, carry out maintenance activities at our hides at Rostaff and Rusheen Bay or put together yet another issue of our *Galway Newsletter*. The latter, particularly, is an activity which never allows for a break – the deadline always looms over our editor and his commitment to the publication is second to none. So, here is a big THANK YOU to Neil Sharkey.

Reports keep coming in of Little Egrets breeding in County Galway. It was bound to happen sooner rather than later, with so many of these elegant, strikingly white birds frequenting our wetlands during the last few years. Please, read Chris Benson's article for more information on what to look out for.

The autumn will soon manifest itself in many ways; branch-wise by the start of the Nimmo's Pier first-Saturday-of-the-month outings on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September and our branch meeting on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to seeing you all at one or more of the forthcoming events.

Marianne ten Cate

### CALLING ALL BIRDWATCHERS

We have now reached the end of the second breeding season of Bird Atlas survey work and the mid point of this four-year survey. This is a crucial period for the survey so, more than ever; we now need your help to ensure that we get Co. Galway covered for the Bird Atlas. The map below provides an indication of coverage achieved to date, thanks to the hard efforts of local birdwatchers, but it also highlights the many 10km squares across the county with few or no bird records at all. Now is your chance to do your piece to help conserve Galway's birdlife by submitting your bird sightings to the Atlas. Make your birdwatching count!

Each of the squares in the map below represents a 10km square. For the Bird Atlas we are trying to compile a full species list for each 10km square for both the Breeding Season (April – July) and the Winter (November – February). All your bird sightings from the Robin nesting in your garden to the Grey Heron on your local river will help to produce these detailed species lists and help turn the Galway map red. As a species list for a 10km square starts to build, the colour changes from blank to white, to yellow, to orange and eventually will turn red. So if you live, work or spend time in

any of the 10km squares below that have yet to turn red then please send in your bird sightings.

To find your 10km square or view the species richness maps and species lists for your 10km square please go to [www.birdatlas.net](http://www.birdatlas.net).

All records or 'Roving Records' as they are called can be submitted online. Alternatively, you can simply contact the Atlas Coordinator to have any of these details posted or e-mailed to you.

[bcaffrey@birdwatchireland.ie](mailto:bcaffrey@birdwatchireland.ie) or 05791 51676.

Brian Caffrey

Note: Map is on P4 of Newsletter NS

### LITTLE EGRETS IN GALWAY CONFIRMED BREEDING IN 2009

In mid - April 2009, John Lusby informed me that, while conducting Barn Owl survey work close to Galway city, he had noticed 'about 24' Little Egrets in and around a known Heronry and wondered if they could be breeding. A week later the Heronry was checked and four Egret nests, each containing eggs, were found.

Fast-forward to the third week of June and by then a grand total of 19 nests had been discovered, from which 41 Egret chicks had been ringed, 32 of these with colour rings. The birds are carrying a black ring with a white letter on the left leg, and a yellow ring with a black digit on the right. Please note that these rings are placed above the knee on this species for ease of sighting when the birds are wading in water etc. Although 41 chicks have been ringed, there are many which have not, mainly because they couldn't be caught – these birds have a natural habit of leaving the nest and climbing around the tree in which the nest is located at an early age. They are expert climbers with their near pre-historic looking feet expertly gripping the twigs and branches.

There is no doubt that a combination of superb weather and good feeding by the adults in and around the bay resulted in a bumper-breeding season. Just like Heron pulli, as a defence mechanism, young Little Egrets have a habit of regurgitating any recently eaten food over any perceived predator (in this case bird ringers!), and most of the ringed young had full crops of small fish, prawns and beetles. By the time of our last visit on 15<sup>th</sup> June, many of the older young, both ringed or otherwise, were flying strongly between the trees, some even flying down into the nearby field and ditches.

The age of this colony is probably only two years old, as the farmer, on whose land the birds are nesting, only noticed two of the 'white herons' for the first time in the spring of 2008. This would mean

that the colony has grown from 0-2 pairs to 19 pairs in just one year, even after the hardest winter for a decade. At that continued rate of increase the species will soon be as common, if not more so, than the Grey Heron in a very short period of time. We would be grateful for any re-sightings of these birds in the coming months and years, as it will be very interesting indeed to see where they winter, where they breed and how long they survive. Even just sightings of birds without the digits being read, but noted carrying coloured rings will be useful. You can email any sightings to me, Chris Benson, at: [illaune@eircom.net](mailto:illaune@eircom.net)

Chris Benson.

**UPDATE:** Three of the ringed Little Egret chicks have been recorded at Rahasane Turlough in late

July by Dermot Breen. So, on your travels, please look closely at any Egrets you might encounter for ringed birds.



Little Egret at about 28 days old. Chris Benson

### THE ROUNDSTONE STONE CURLEW

I received a call from Eric Dempsey at 9.15 a.m. on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June. He informed me that he had been in touch with a Dublin couple, Mike and Miriam Harris, who regularly visit Connemara. Mike had photographed an unusual bird on the previous Friday evening while birdwatching at Murvey near Roundstone. Eric told me matter of factly that the bird in the pictures was a Stone Curlew; I was a bit shocked to say the least!

Aonghus O'Donnail and I searched for the bird for about 2 hours during the day but failed to relocate it. I left the site at midday thinking that the bird was long gone. I arranged with Mike and Miriam to meet up at the site that evening. After a quick walk around the southern end of the machair we unsurprisingly came across nothing. On the off chance I decided to play the call of Stone Curlew since I had the MP3 and megaphone with me. A minute later the bird came flying straight toward us, making its way down to the shore (it did exactly the same thing the next evening nearly to the minute without us playing the call). I couldn't believe what I was looking at - a Stone Curlew in Connemara?! It gave a very close fly-by, showing the white wing-bar



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and flashes on the wing, quite long yellow legs, yellow base to the bill and even the yellow eye. I must admit that, at this stage, my language was a little on the colourful side and a mild state of panic nearly overtook me. We thankfully managed to see the bird on the ground a few minutes later. It was now around 9.30p.m. and the light was fading quickly. I managed to get some video footage for the record but due to light and distance the quality isn't great. It can be viewed on [http://www.birdforum.tv/action/viewvideo/1557/Roundstone\\_Stone\\_Curlew/](http://www.birdforum.tv/action/viewvideo/1557/Roundstone_Stone_Curlew/)

The following day approximately 18 birders travelled from as far away as Cork and Dublin. During the whole day the bird was only ever seen in flight as it was extremely wary. It appeared to spend its time further inland resting up in fields and dry heath during the day and then come out onto the machair at 9.15 p.m. for the "night shift" since it is a primarily nocturnal species.

Amazingly, this is the second county record; a Stone Curlew was previously recorded at Recess on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1937. Nationally there are fewer than 23 previous accepted Irish records and were it not for a "twitchable" bird at Varty Reservoir, Co. Wicklow ten years ago, larger numbers of birders would have travelled for the Roundstone bird. This is a great example of how useful photography is when one is confronted with an unfamiliar bird. I think I speak for all the birders who saw this great bird when I say how grateful we are that Mike made contact with Eric Dempsey over his mystery bird.

**Dermot Breen**

**LESSER. BLACK BACKED GULLS FIRST BREED IN GALWAY CITY -**

My city centre 4th floor office overlooks a sizeable flat roofed office block and for four years now I have been able to watch the expanding number of Herring Gull pairs using the space as a breeding site. This year's four pairs of HGs- ten chicks between them- have been joined by a pair Lesser Black Backed Gulls. The Lesser Black Backed gulls have selected a section of the roof that is separate from that used by the HGs and they actively discourage any encroachment by it from the Herring Gull or other visitors e.g. Pigeon, Magpie, Starling. I haven't seen the nest- it's hidden from my line of sight by some of the ventilation structures servicing the building. One of the adults has been on constant watch, in full view, but I have never seen the 2 adults together, or any feeding activity. This is very different to what I have seen of the HGs As of Friday 31st July the single chick had progressed to the point where it could rise a foot or so from the ground in its flight practice. If the pace of development is similar to that of the HGs then it should be well capable of full flight by mid August. Much thanks to Michael Davis for adding to the pleasure of keeping an eye on the birds when he pointed out that this was the first confirmed incidence of LBBG breeding in the city

**Marty Kerrane**

**SURVIVING THE BLITZ**

I wasn't at the branch meeting when someone suggested we organise an 'Atlas Blitz', but whoever it was - I thank you.

The Atlas project is incredibly important. Its findings will influence the policies and legislation that will ensure that birds and their habitats remain secure, for the near future at least. The idea of the blitz in Galway was to gather species lists from 10km squares that have not been officially surveyed since the last atlas, all those years ago. Our results would give the Galway atlas a much-needed boost (and probably save Brian Caffrey from going grey). I was excited at the whole idea of the thing - roving around the county to wild places I have never been before (Clonberne), and rubber-stamping every avid I could find. I was not alone. We had divided into teams, each designated with 1-2 squares which were completely void of any records.

Heading north away from civilisation (Galway City), I felt like Dr. Livingstone, armed with the good book (Collins), my trusted steed (Brian Caffrey's Corsa) and ample provisions (Ham Sandwiches). We approached each square with a plan to maximise habitat coverage and minimise time spent travelling. Wooded areas, bog land, rivers, towns and parks were interrogated to reveal the usual suspects and fill the list. It was a lot like a bird race but you started again every time you entered a new square. Of course, recording breeding evidence was essential, whether it was a simple H for seen in suitable nesting habitat or an FL for a fledged bird.

Outlandish things appeared; a Sand Martin colony in an old quarry east of Tuam, a Lapwing in a field full of Hares, Blackcaps having a deliverance style banjo duel - but without the banjos. We were certainly heading into the Heart of Darkness. The lists filled up. Little Grebes on their awesome floating nests in Lavalley Lough. Teagasc nature reserves gloriously unkempt and teeming with passerines. Swifts, far from any modern dwellings but attracted like diurnal bats to an old castle. All this while turf cutters eyed us cautiously as we scanned the ravaged bog for Pipits and Larks. The joys of nature conservation.

Several times we abandoned our heavily shod Opel to jump over ditches in the hope of a Stonechat. Roads were jaywalked, riverbanks voyeured and garden feeders violated - all in the name of science. We returned to town, feeling no one could ever understand what we had been through. It was great! Later that week, Brian e-mailed me the results of the Galway branch effort. Incredible. We managed lists ranging from 28-49 plus, in areas that had no records before. Our combined efforts showed what difference a few people can make. Kudos to all. We intend to have several more blitzes next spring to fill the rest of the blanks in the atlas and give our beautiful county the coverage it deserves. Like

Marlow in Joseph Conrad's classic, I feel drawn to vast areas of emptiness on maps that long to be filled with the rigours of effort and the trepidation of adventure - all to the chorus of glorious birdsong.

**John Carey**

**SAND MARTINS**

On July 30<sup>th</sup> around midday in locations near Inchiquin Headford I came upon huge numbers of Sand Martins gathering on ESB wires. The estimated total was a minimum of 1,100 birds possibly as high as 1,400. Also BWI members Des and Tina McCarthy across the lake at Ardnasillagh report huge numbers on the reed beds where the Drimeen River reaches the Corrib and there is a third report of a large gathering in the south of the county. This is the third year I have encountered such numbers but always much later in August - are they giving up early on the Irish summer this year?

**NS**

**DUCKLING PUZZLE?**



Copy of a mixed clutch of mallard (2) and Tufted Duck ducklings taken by Michael Davis on Long Walk on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Are they adopted or crossbred? Any comments or suggestions. Full size copy of this splendid and unique photo on request from Michael or me.

**NS**



## BIRDS IN POETRY

This poem by Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill has two titles, *An Snag Breac* and *Ten Ways of Looking at a Magpie*, the latter referring to Wallace Stevens' poem *Thirteen ways of looking at a blackbird*. The first line has two names for the magpie, meag and snag breac. Snag is also applied to a number of other species, including the treecreeper (snag) and the woodpecker (snag darach). The identification with the woodpecker probably reflects their similar habits of clearing trees of insects. **Pat Finnegan**

### *An Snag Breac*

A mheag, a shnaig bhric  
is mór é do chreach  
ar na héanlaithe beaga.

Chonac tú sa sreach  
i mbun na gcaislin cloch  
ag cur scaipeadh na mionéan orthu.

Chuais triothu is tharstu  
is fúthu is sa deireadh  
nior fhág tú oiread is gearrach acu.

I gclai an mhóinéir  
bhi nhead ag an gcoinnleoir óir  
is do chuiris an ruaig air,

mar a chuiris an teitheadh  
ar an dá lasair choille  
a neadaigh sa bhfiúise,

is nil an Diairmin Dreoloin  
ina chodladh sa chlai  
saor ód' bhraidaiocht bhorb

ná an Siobháinín Bhui  
ar a saoire i gCiarrai,  
ar a n-imrionn tú cos ar bolg.

Ach rud is measa liom ná san  
an chéirseach is an lon  
curtha ó mhaith im' ghairdin cúil.

Is sé do ghágarlach fiain  
ag bodhradh mo chinn  
buile mhaise do mhasla,

a bhullai mór éin;  
báiléarai, fear tréan,  
an mheag, an snag breac.

### *Ten Ways of Looking at a Magpie*

Magpie, your black and white  
ihas put to flight  
every bird smaller than yourself.

The hawthorn has caught you at  
your work among the stonechats,  
breaking up their meeting.

Beneath them you flew,  
iover and under and through,  
till you left them not even a nestling.

In the meadow's edge  
the linnnet kept its eggs,  
ibut you drove her from the bushes

as you have driven since  
the pair of goldfinch  
that had settled in the fuchsias.

iNor is the tiny goldcrest  
isafe in its nest  
from you rudely pilfering the hedge;

and you come the heavy  
with the yellowhammer  
on its day out in Kerry.

But worse than all of them  
the blackbird and his hen  
you put out of action in my back garden.

And it's your infernal din  
that really does my head in,  
you bullyboy without pardon,

your crowning glory of abuse,  
whether bailiff or terrorist,  
foulmouthed, two-faced magpie.

**Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill**

Acknowledgements to Gallery Books.

## FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

**Saturday 29 August**, trip to the Shannon Lagoons and environs to see waders and wildfowl. To minimise the number of cars travelling to County Clare, please contact Marianne before the 16<sup>th</sup> of August so that we can organise car pooling or mini-bus transport.

**Saturday 5 September**, short outing at Nimmo's Pier, 10.30am. Come along and share the expertise of our branch's regular bird watchers. Families welcome to attend.

**Wednesday 16 September**, branch meeting, Anno Santo Hotel, Threadneedle Road, Salthill, 8pm. All branch members are welcome to come along.

**Saturday 3 October**, short outing at Nimmo's Pier, 10.30am.

**Friday 9 October**, 'Birds of the Bushveld - A witch doctor's account of tall tales and taxonomy', an illustrated talk by John Carey, Anno Santo Hotel, 8pm. This promises to be an entertaining talk about the African experiences of one of our branch members.

**Wednesday 21 October**, branch meeting, Anno Santo Hotel, 8pm.

**MTC**



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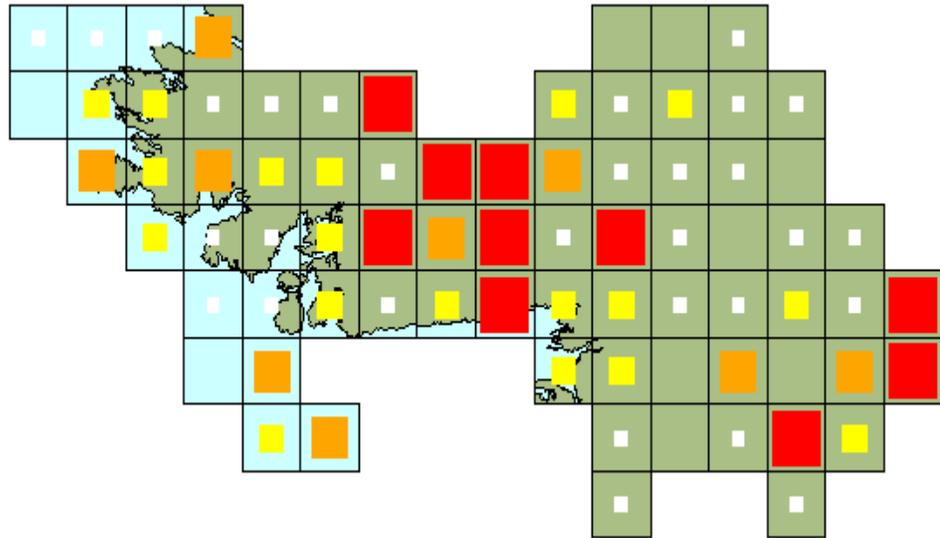
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MAP OF ATLAS COVERAGE TO DATE OF CO. GALWAY SQUARES (See R Caffrey article)

**Galway 10km Square Species  
Richness Map**

*Key*  
 White:  
 1-49%  
 Yellow:  
 50 -  
 74%  
 Orange:  
 75 -  
 90%  
 Red:  
 > 90%



Map generated 29/07/2009

These maps are produced by estimating how many species one might expect in a 10km square using data from the previous atlases and express the current species list as a percentage of that as an indicator of coverage.

## BirdWatch Galway (Branch of BirdWatch Ireland) 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2009

QUARTERLY BIRD REPORT COMPILED BY CHRIS PEPIATT

DATE OF ISSUE: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009

1st April: Swallow, Gorteen, Nr. Ballinasloe (Pat Roberts).

2nd April: 4 Black-throated Diver, Traught (Tom Chadwick).

2nd April: 25 Little Egret, Rahasane Turlough (Tom Chadwick).

2nd April: White Wagtail, Mutton Island, Galway City (Tom Cuffe).

3rd April: Kingfisher & 2 Dipper, Oughterard (Tom Chadwick).

3rd April: Jack Snipe, Mutton Island, Galway City (Michael Davis).

4th April: 1st Win. Kumlien's Gull & 6-1st Win. Iceland Gull, Rossaveal (Dermot Breen).

4th April: 8 Long-tailed Duck & 123 Black Guillemots, Greatmans Bay (Dermot Breen).

4th April: 16 Purple Sandpiper, Salthill, Galway City (Geoff Hunt).

5th April: Red Grouse, 150 Golden Plover & Willow Warbler, Slieve Aughty mountains, Nr. Derrybrien (Pete Capsey, John Carey & Neil Sharkey).

5th April: Male Ring-necked Duck from March 2009 now joined by a female, Lydacan Turlough (Michael Davis). (1)

6th April: Whooper Swan, Lydacan Turlough (Tom Chadwick & Tom Cuffe). (2)

7th April: Ad. Ring-billed Gull & 3 (Ad. & 2-1st Win.) Iceland Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Tim Griffin).

8th April: Yellowhammer singing, Ballagh, Galway City (Pádraig Keirns).

11th April: 7 Puffin, Arctic Skua & Pomarine Skua, Lettermullan (Dermot Breen).

12th April: 18 Wigeon, Pintail, 23 Little Egret, Sparrowhawk, 24 Black-tailed Godwit, 2 Greenshank, Golden Plover, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Wheatear & 2 Swallow, Rahasane Turlough (Pete Capsey & John Carey).

12th April: 2-1st Win Iceland Gull, Rossaveal (Martin Reimann).

13th April: Grasshopper Warbler, Gorteen, Nr. Ballinasloe (Pat Roberts).

14th April: 2-1st Win Iceland Gull & 1st Win. Kumlien's Gull, Rossaveal (Dermot Breen).

14th April: 5 Wigeon, Lydacan Turlough (Chris Peppiatt).

14th April: Lesser Redpoll & Rook, Inis Oirr (Dermot Breen). (3)

14th April: Male Ring-necked Duck, Levally Lough, Tuam (Kevin Collins).

15th April: Little Tern, Silver Strand, Galway City (Tim Griffin).

15th April: Sedge Warbler, Monacow, Tuam (Chris Peppiatt).

16th April: 15 Crossbill, Ballinahinch Castle (Dermot Breen).

16th April: Common Sandpiper, Tullyconnor, near Killary Harbour (Dermot Breen).

16th April: Female Marsh Harrier, Lough Corrib, Nr. Clonbur (Jen Fisher & Dervla O'Dowd).

17th April: 4 Sanderling, Blackrock, Salthill, Galway (Brendan Dunne).

17th April: Ad. Sum. Forster's Tern, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Tom Cuffe). (4)

18th April: Hobby, Creganna Marsh, Nr. Oranmore (Aonghus O'Donail).

18th April: Cuckoo, Moycullen (Martin Byrnes).

19th April: Hen Harrier, tagged at a nest in Slieve Aughties in 2008, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Tom Cuffe).

20th April: Garganey, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Tim Griffin).

21st April: 7 Great Northern Diver & 2 Long-tailed Duck, Coral Beach, Carraroe (Tom Chadwick & Aonghus O'Donail).

22nd April: 1st Win Iceland Gull & 1st Win. Kumlien's Gull, Rossaveal (Dermot Breen).

24th April: 74 Scaup, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Tom Chadwick).

24th April: Black-throated Diver, Traught (Tom Chadwick).

25th April: Corncrake, Aughrus, Nr. Omey Island (Feicin O'Toole).

26th April: 5 Whinchat, Clonfert (Neal Warnock).

28th April: Wood Warbler, reported singing near Cloonbeg Bridge, Ballinahinch Castle (Dan Ballard).

28th April: Corncrake, East End, Inishbofin (Pete Tierney).

29th April: 43 Brent Goose, Ballyloughane, Galway City (Tom Cuffe).

30th April: 2 Corncrake, Inishturbot (Tim Gordon).

1st May: Corncrake, Inishbofin.

1st May: 2 Arctic Skua, 8 Brent Goose & Golden Plover, Gorteen, Nr. Roundstone (Dermot Breen).

1st May: Greylag Goose, Croaghnaekeela Island, South of Roundstone (Dermot Breen).

1st May: 4 Great Skua, Baile Na hAbhainn (Tom Chadwick).

3rd May: 3 Swift, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Tom Cuffe).

5th May: Hobby, Omey Island (BWI fieldworkers, per Dermot Breen).

5th May: Iceland Gull, over Moycullen (Michael Davis & Dermot Breen).

5th May: 2nd Sum. 'argentatus' Herring Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Michael Davis).

5th May: 3 (2-1st Win. & 2nd win.) Iceland Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Tom Cuffe).

7th May: 20 Little Tern & 70 'commic' Tern, Rabbit Island, Galway City (Tom Cuffe).

7th May: 2 Great Skua, Ballyconneely (Aonghus O'Donail).

10th May: 4 Great Northern Diver & Red-throated Diver, Baile na hAbhainn (Tom Chadwick).

11th May: Corncrake, Cleggan (Johnny King).
11th May: 5-1st Win. Iceland Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Tom Cuffe, Tim Griffin & Tom Chadwick).
13th May: White-billed Diver, from Inishbofin Ferry (Aonghus O'Donaill & Dermot Breen).
14th May: 33 Pomarine Skua & 2 Arctic Skua, Silver Strand, Galway City (Tim Griffin).
14th May: 3-1st Win. Iceland Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Tim Griffin).
15th May: 2 Pomarine Skua, 2 Great Northern Diver & Red-throated Diver, Silver Strand, Galway City (Tom Chadwick).
15th May: 25 Pomarine Skua, Mutton Island, Galway City (Michael Davis).
15th May: 21 Pomarine Skua, 2 Arctic Skua & 2 Great Northern Diver, Baile na hAbhainn (Tom Chadwick).
16th May: 1st Sum. Glaucous Gull & 3-1st Sum. Iceland Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Dermot Breen).
16th May: Great Skua, Aughrus Point, Cleggan (Dermot Breen).
16th May: Chough, Friar's Island, Cleggan (Dermot Breen).
16th May: Long-tailed Skua, 3 Pomarine Skua, Arctic Skua, Great Skua, 2nd Sum. Little Gull & 4 Puffin, Lettermullan (Dermot Breen).
18th May: 3 Long-tailed Skua, Lettermullan (Aonghus O'Donaill).
18th May: Corncrake, Tully (Tim Gordon).
19th May: 3 (2 male & female) Common Scoter, Birchall, Lough Corrib (Tom Cuffe).
20th May: Corncrake (2nd on island), Westquarter, Inishbofin (Pat Coyne).
21st May: Corncrake, Aughrus (Eileen Delap).
21st May: 4 Corncrake, Inishturbot.
22nd May: Male Ring-necked Duck X Tufted Duck hybrid, with pair of Tufted Duck, An Loch Ard, Nr. Recess (Dermot Breen).
24th May: Turtle Dove, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
24th May: 2nd Win. Glaucous Gull & 1st Win. Iceland Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Tom Cuffe).
24th May: 2nd Sum. Iceland Gull, Lough Rusheen, Galway City (Tom Chadwick).
27th May: 6 Storm Petrel, 07:00-08:20, Lettermullan (Dermot Breen).
27th May: 100+ Storm Petrel, 2 Arctic Skua, Great Skua, Pomarine Skua, Great Northern Diver & 4 Common Scoter, Lettermullan (Aonghus O'Donaill).
29th May: 3 Little Egret, Rossaveal (Aonghus O'Donaill).
29th May: Cuckoo & Raven, Woodford (Neil Ellis).
30th May: Barn Owl, Clonfert (Joe Doolan & Anne Wilson).
1st June: 2nd Sum. Glaucous Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Tom Cuffe).
3rd June: 8 feral Greylag Goose & 7 prs Common Tern, Annaghdown, Lough Corrib (John Keogh).
3rd June: Corncrake, Omey Island (Feicin Mulkerrin).
8th June: Barn Owl, Clonfert (Chris Peppiatt, Helen Carty & Rebecca Teesdale).
8th June: Snowy Owl, Inishturbot (Tim Gordon).
9th June: 5 calling Corncrake, Inishturbot.
9th June: 2nd Sum. Glaucous Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Tom Cuffe).
11th June: male Yellowhammer, near Lettermullan (Aonghus O'Donaill).
13th June: Goldeneye, Inishbofin (Pádraig Keirns).
14th June: Great White Egret, Curraghline, Lough Corrib (Tim Griffin).
14th June: female Marsh Harrier, Menlo, Lough Corrib (Tim Griffin).
17th June: Arctic Tern, near Moycullen (Anon.).
18th June: 28 Storm Petrel, Mutton Island, Galway City (Michael Davis).
20th June: 2 Spotted Flycatcher & 4 (2 pairs) Whinchat, Clonfert (Neil Warnock).
25th June: 30 Little Tern, near Roundstone (Dermot Breen).
25th June: Wilson's Petrel, off Slyne Head (John Brittain).
26th June: Stone Curlew, Murvey, Roundstone. (5)
28th June: Roseate Tern, Inish Meain (Dermot Breen).
28th June: female Marsh Harrier, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Tim Griffin).
29th June: 2 Common Sandpiper, Birchall Rock, Lough Corrib (Tom Cuffe).
29th June: 21 Little Egret, Rahasane Turlough (Pete Capsey).
29th June: 14 Sandwich Tern & Common Tern, Traught (Pete Capsey).
29th June: Quail (in song) & 6 (inc. 2 Juv.) Whinchat, Clonfert (Neil Warnock).
30th June: 2 (Ad. & 1st Sum.) Mediterranean Gull, Inishroo, Kinvara (Michael Davis).

## NOTES:

- (1) These Ring-necked Ducks were present until the 11<sup>th</sup> of April.
- (2) The Whooper Swan was a late injured bird that was still present until the 12<sup>th</sup> of April at least.
- (3) These birds are uncommon on the island.
- (4) Latest record of the long-staying bird that was present in winter 2008/2009.
- (5) The Stone Curlew was present until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June.

**OTHER BEASTS:**

2 Otter, Traught, 29<sup>th</sup> June (Pete Capsey).

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

White-billed Diver (first for Co. Galway, 11<sup>th</sup> Irish record), Wilson's Petrel (second record for Co. Galway), Stone Curlew (second record for Co. Galway), Snowy Owl, Roseate Tern, 2 Hobby, Quail, Garganey, Turtle Dove, Wood Warbler, 3 Ring-necked Duck, passage of 86 Pomarine Skua, 4 Long-tailed Skua, Great White Egret, 1<sup>st</sup> Win. Kumlien's Gull and Ad. Forster's Tern.

First migrants: Swallow (1<sup>st</sup> April), White Wagtail (2<sup>nd</sup> April), Willow Warbler (5<sup>th</sup> April), Arctic Skua (11<sup>th</sup> April), Pomarine Skua (11<sup>th</sup> April), Grasshopper Warbler (13<sup>th</sup> April), Sedge Warbler (15<sup>th</sup> April), Little Tern (15<sup>th</sup> April), Common Sandpiper (16<sup>th</sup> April), Whimbrel (17<sup>th</sup> April), Hobby (18<sup>th</sup> April), Cuckoo (18<sup>th</sup> April), Garganey (20<sup>th</sup> April), Whinchat (26<sup>th</sup> April), Wood Warbler (28<sup>th</sup> April), Great Skua (1<sup>st</sup> May), Swift (3<sup>rd</sup> May), Whitethroat (14<sup>th</sup> May), Long-tailed Skua (16<sup>th</sup> May), Turtle Dove (24<sup>th</sup> May), Spotted Flycatcher (6<sup>th</sup> June), Roseate Tern (28<sup>th</sup> June) & Quail (29<sup>th</sup> June).

**CORRECTION:**

The Snowy Owl reported from Kilonan, Inishmore, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2008, was (as suspected) a Barn Owl and this has continued to be seen in the area.