



**CAIRDE EANLAITH NA GAILLIMHE
BIRDWATCH GALWAY**

www.birdwatchgalway.org
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – EDITOR: NEIL SHARKEY
Telephone: 00353861680856 e-mail: neilsharkey@eircom.net
Issue No. 78 August 2012

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

BIRDWATCH NEWS

August still leaves Galway members of BirdWatchIreland without a committee or a branch structure. I continue our appeal for members to come forward and fill this gap – surely there must be some willing to have a go!

In the meantime we carry on as best we can. An example is Brendan Dunne's splendid effort in his solo organising of the recent Galway Dawn Chorus (see below). Well done, Brendan. Lots of good work, in various fields, is also being done by Tom Cuffe, Aonghus O Donail, Dermot Breen, Pdraig Keirns, Marty Kerane and others. Chris Peppiatt continues as county bird recorder and compiles the quarterly bird report.

In October, we hope to resume the Nimmo's Pier 'First Saturday' outings with Tom Cuffe, Brendan Dunne and others. In November, we will be resuming Galway Bay and Lough Corrib counts organised by Chris and Marianne ten Cate and those doing other I-WeBS counts will, we hope, start another season of recording. So, all is not yet lost - remember the Stork Margarine ad. – a committee will be back again some day!

NS

THE SMALL WOOD

In 1997, the O'Malley family of Barna donated The Small Wood to BirdWatch Ireland and since then members of the Galway Branch of BirdWatch and FÁS workers under the auspices of the Galway Civic Trust have improved this three acre site for birds and birdwatchers. Shrubs and trees were planted, briars and sycamore were kept under control, nest boxes were put up and two observation posts were erected. Later, bat boxes were also put up to accommodate bats from the neighbourhood. And last May, a pond was dug in the swampy area that regularly floods when the incoming tide pushes the water of the freshwater stream along the boundary over its banks. This pond may favour brackish water vegetation, frogs, ducks and other species. It remains to be seen what will colonise this new bit of habitat.

Initially, the gate to The Small Wood was locked to minimise vandalism but in latter years the lock was removed to allow easier access to our members – a locked gate has

not proven to keep vandals out. Every season brings its own type of recreational users to the woods and, depending on the weather, all sorts of debris can be found among the vegetation and at the observation areas, ranging from tents to clothing, bottles, cans, crisp packs, barbeque remnants, cigarette packs, disposable nappies and other sanitary cast offs.

Over the years, good numbers of members have taken an interest in The Small Wood and they have maintained and enhanced the place and kept it clean. Only a couple of weeks ago, I received a text message asking me who had been doing a great job cleaning up the area. Without hesitation, I could name quite a few potential benefactors but the most rewarding thing was that nobody needs to be told to go and do this sort of 'thankless' job – it just gets done by one person or another whenever they find the time and inclination to do so.

BirdWatch owes it to the O'Malley family – and to The Small Wood and its wild inhabitants – to look after this gift with respect and gratitude. It is a credit to all that this is still happening 15 years on.

Marianne ten Cate

AN IMPROMPTU DAWN CHORUS EVENT

When I realised, reading the Spring issue of *Wings*, about three days before the National Dawn Chorus Day, that there was no Galway branch outing listed - I GOT M A D, even ANGRY!

I immediately sent an e-mail to Jamie Durrant, Marianne and Neil saying that I was going to be in Dangan at 04:30 on the 20th of May and that, if they wished, they could broadcast same to the membership. Over the next couple of days, I got a few texts, including one from a member who went to Dangan at 04:30 on the day Derek Mooney was broadcasting from Cuskinny Marsh Nature Reserve, a week earlier! She had a nice walk – on her own. She did mention that the gates were locked – PANIC, whom do I contact? When I found out, it was too late to get in touch. I thought there would be no difficulty getting by the gates on foot – but we couldn't leave cars jamming the road. (On the morning as we were at the gate, a couple arrived by taxi to one of the houses after a night out – good job we hadn't blocked the place!) After some thought, I rang the Westwood Hotel, told them who I was and

what my problem was, and asked if we could park possibly 10 to 15 cars in their car-park; 'Certainly, you're more than welcome', I was told. Are things working out, I asked myself? – PHEW! I made up a notice to put on the 'Dangan' gate asking people to park at the Westwood.

I arrived in Dangan at 04:15 on the 20th of May; one person was there before me – it was her first Dawn Chorus outing. I tied my notice to the locked gate, looking around I thought 'OH! OH! THIS WILL NOT BE EASY!' A few more people arrived, having parked at the Westwood. I was thinking of suggesting we try somewhere else when another car pulled up – an NUIG security manna *from heaven!* coming to open the gates at 05:00 (as normal, he said,) - he was 10 minutes early so we got away at about 05:00. One couple – I made a mess of getting names – managed to park their car in the NUIG car park. The rest of us had left our four wagons in the car park of the Westwood Hotel – to whom I am very grateful.

The weather was calm and lightly overcast, a perfect morning. I didn't hear 'our' Goldcrest in the car park this time – most likely my fault as my hearing has deteriorated a lot in the last year! We did the usual walk – down to the River Corrib, swung left, over the gate, along the old Clifden railway line with the reed-beds on either side, crossed the awkward drain and on to the bushes. We were lucky – there was no rave party at Menlo Castle and no party at all, at all, in the house to our left, though we did disturb a cat (feline). We had a pleasant time and were back at the car park at 06:00, having recorded 18 species.

The couple who had parked in the car park opened the doors and two beautiful Irish wolfhounds bounded out to be brought for a walk and WOW, were they happy to get out! Alas, no sign of Blue Tits nesting in the wall at the car park. But we did hear and/or see, in no particular order: Song Thrush, Wren, Mallard, Black-headed Gull, Coot, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Hooded Crow, Pheasant, Blackbird, Grey Heron, Cormorant, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Mute Swan, Rook, Magpie and Jackdaw.

The general feeling was that it was an enjoyable outing, though I got a bit frustrated about my hearing or rather, the lack thereof.

**Brendan
Dunne**



**CAIRDE EANLAITH NA GAILLIMHE
BIRDWATCH GALWAY**

www.birdwatchgalway.org
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – EDITOR: NEIL SHARKEY
Telephone: 00353861680856 e-mail: neilsharkey@eircom.net
Issue No. 78 August 2012

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

LOOKING FOR LONG-EARED OWLS

The Long-eared Owl is among the least well known of all our bird species. Being strictly nocturnal it is a very difficult species to census. Most pairs of Long-eared Owls are discovered only when they have large young in the nest which utter a far-carrying plaintive call, often likened to a squeaky hinge on a gate. Estimating the distribution, population or density of the species based on calling young alone would be misleading as it would not take into account pairs which may have attempted to breed but failed at some stage in the breeding process before young chicks began calling.

The male Long-eared Owl is the only Irish Owl that hoots. The call is uttered from near the chosen nest site on calm, dry nights anytime from late December to May with a peak occurring in late February to early March. In previous years, I would visit suitable habitat on such nights and listen for calling males. On some occasions, I would arrive at a site and be lucky enough to hear a bird calling straight away. Other nights saw three to four hours invested before a call would be heard. More often than not, hours would be spent staring at the edge of a small copse or a forest edge with nothing at all heard. These were the most frustrating nights of all as I could never be sure if the site was occupied or not. Just because no call was heard did not mean that there were no birds present. Birds may have been present and left before my arrival or just may not have been calling on that particular night. Male Long-eared Owls can call at any time during the night but activity tends to peak in the first and last three hours of darkness. As we all know, calm, dry nights between January and March are few and far between. This in turn drastically reduces the number of sites, which can be checked in a particular spring. I needed a method which would allow me to check a large number of sites in a short time frame so I started to tape-lure males. This was done under licence from the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Done properly this does not place any undue stress on the birds and merely elicits a normal territorial reaction that would occur naturally in the wild. Rather than waiting for the male to call the hope was that a male owl would, if present, react to another male invading his territory and call in turn. If it worked it would greatly increase the

efficiency of time spent in the field and allow more sites to be checked during the all-important first three hours of darkness. The methodology was simple. Calls were broadcast through a megaphone using an MP3 player. On arriving at a site I would listen for two minutes to see if any males were calling. If calling was heard I noted the time and location and left. If calling was not heard the megaphone was used to broadcast the males' call for two minutes. The megaphone would then be turned off and I would listen for a response for two minutes. If a response was heard the type of response would be noted and I would leave the site. If no response was heard the two-minute cycle of play and listen would be repeated. If no response was heard after this then the site would be re-visited by the end of March and the survey repeated. Other data collected included time of sunset, moon phase, cloud cover, precipitation and wind speed to see if they played any role in the birds' behaviour. All sites, regardless of whether they returned positive or negative results, were then visited on a number of occasions during the fledging period to see if young could be heard calling.

Overall the results were mixed, with a large degree of individual variation in how birds responded to the lure. Some males reacted immediately with one bird in particular flying only a metre or two above my head while other males were less aggressive in their response. Some males did not call until the second round of broadcasting on the first visit. Some sites did not have any calling males and went on to produce young. As the number of sites checked was quite small the information gained was quite limited but nonetheless encouraging and it is hoped to repeat and expand the survey again early next year.

In contrast with many other raptors Long-eared Owls appear to have had a relatively successful breeding season this year. Successful breeding was recorded at fourteen sites with most pairs fledging three young. Highlights included a pair laying eggs in an artificial nest basket - the sight of the ear tufts of the female owl showing above the rim of the basket will live in the memory for a long time -, finding five sets of calling chicks along a 6km stretch of road near Roscahill and the ringing of the first brood of Long-eared Owls in Galway. This brood was ringed under licence by John Lusby, Raptor Conservation Officer with Birdwatch Ireland,

at a site near Gort and was a fitting reward for the immense amount of time, effort and enthusiasm John puts into looking after Irish raptors.

If anyone has any records of Long-eared Owls in County Galway or elsewhere I would be most appreciative if they could forward any details to me at Aonghus.O'Donail@ahg.gov.ie.

Aonghus O Donail

**UPLAND HOLIDAYS AND SOME
INCIDENTAL BIRDWATCHING**

More by chance than the outcome of deliberate choice three holiday destinations in the past four years could correctly be described as 'upland'. To define this, all three were in high mountainous areas based in remote villages, with steep hills and gushing water everywhere. All were self-catering and had family and extended family content.

2008 – Cantabria North Spain. Seriously high up, we were based at 1200m with even higher mountains looming over.

2010 – Ardennes, Belgium. Mountains in Belgium might seem a contradiction but the Ardennes in the east, near the German border, is the real thing, as any WW2 history student will know. Indeed, our location was just at one of the furthest west points that Hitler's last gasp Ardennes offensive reached.

2012 – Snowdonia North Wales. Its splendid high mountains and scenery, all carefully protected by the Snowdon National Park, came as a happy surprise.

Self-catering has its highs and lows. You arrive after a long journey – the premises invariably falls short of the colourful internet illustration – there are often 'do and don't' notices all over the place, the cooker/oven is either from a past era or so modern that you need an electrical engineering degree to avail of the bewildering options. However, like an army on campaign you quickly adjust and in a day or so it is as near to home comforts as can be managed. From then on the holiday pattern emerges usually consisting of daily hill walks in the surrounding area and car trips to nearby destinations - and, too often, not so near!

All three holidays enjoyed indifferent weather – high upland areas by their nature are cooler and attract mist and rain and this



**CAIRDE EANLAITH NA GAILLIMHE
BIRDWATCH GALWAY**

www.birdwatchgalway.org
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – EDITOR: NEIL SHARKEY
Telephone: 00353861680856 e-mail: neilsharkey@eircom.net
Issue No. 78 August 2012

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

was the case despite it being high summer in every case. However, such conditions were 'manageable' and you just got on with it.

Comparing all three:
Cantabria rated highly – local services friendly; we were located truly in the middle of nowhere, yet each morning a bakery van arrived selling fresh baked bread; milk was collected in a can from the next door farmer. In the nearest town the restaurant served memorable lunches costing under €10 with half bottles of local red and white wine seemingly included as a matter of course.

Ardennes: Generally Belgium did not reach any dizzy heights – local village services were sparse and unhappy recollections of long long waits for ordered food to arrive in restaurants still linger. A plus was an excellent small museum dealing with the Ardennes 1944 'Battle of the Bulge' offensive with a Tiger tank parked outside!

North Wales: Well above expectations. Wonderful scenery, great road surfaces, an array of attractions well signposted and superb narrow gauge railways bringing you to real destinations. The excellent food at Rhug Estate Farm Shop & Restaurant near Corwen on the A5 was up to Cantabria standards.

The Birds:

As the title says, birdwatching was incidental as these were family holidays and it was a matter of seeing birds as you could – no specific bird trips or visits to 'hot spots'. Nevertheless, as the pattern was the same for all three holidays the results do give a certain statistical snapshot of the numbers and kinds of birds you can expect to see at these upland destinations.

Cantabria – In all I recorded 38 species. Griffon Vultures soaring high over the highest mountains were a feature as was the high occurrence of Common Buzzards – up to 20 at a time. Other firsts for me were a Firecrest, Tree Pipit and Melodious Warbler. At night Tawny Owl calls reverberated all around.

Belgium: Just a very average 28 species – nothing of real note – lots of Black Redstarts and Buzzards, some Red Kite but that was it.

Wales: By far the best – although only a one week stay compared to two weeks in the other destinations I recorded a splendid 55 species although occasional sea access did yield 6 or 7 birds not possible in Belgium. A Redstart was a first or at least not previously recalled; a family party of Peregrines and many Buzzards were great sights. However, the highlight was a ghostly glimpse of a

Nightjar flitting between some cover in the gathering dusk having first heard its song – not the well known 'churring' but the strange call song more 'like the sound of a broken engine' as the Collins Guide so aptly puts it.

So, to sum up – Cantabria is well worth the effort and interesting for birding, you could give the Ardennes a miss unless you want to learn more about the Battle of the Bulge but Wales scores best: it has great mountain scenery with many well organised places of interest, is handy for the ferry and without doubt, for my kind of birdwatching at least, provides the probability of seeing most species and among them some really good birds.

All that said, I am looking forward to some future lowland holiday destinations where the walking paths are not forever upward and the sun might shine warmer and just a bit more often.



NS

The Swallow family on 'Steinbach' – 14/07/2012; photograph taken by Willi Kiefel

A SWALLOW FAMILY

About 7 weeks ago, my wife and I noticed just one swallow perching on the "Steinach" sign in front of our house in Tuam, Steinach being my birthplace in Bavaria, Germany. As we saw the swallow at night we presumed it was looking for heat and perhaps also shelter. After another week or so we saw two swallows perching on the sign – one on the left edge of the sign, the other on the right. That continued till the whole family showed up on Saturday, the 14th of July – only for a day and night. The following night there were again only two with us.

We never positively established where the nest site was but we imagined that the "parents" brought their young ones to show them "Steinach" before they sent them off on their own. The three young ones were full of

live and joy flying very close to us, chattering all the time.

Willi Kiefel

NO RETURN FOR THE CORNCRAKE

After the joy of locating a Corncrake at Coursefield last year and writing about it for this newsletter, which I finished by saying, I would be checking out the site again in 2012. Well, no joy this year. After 6 visits to Coursefield over the past couple of months and straining the ear drums no Corncrake calling. So it's a case of hoping for next year. All in all reports from around the country this has been one of the worst years on record for the Corncrake numbers due to the very wet conditions this summer

Tom Cuffe

BIRDWATCH HERITAGE EVENT

18-26 August is Heritage Week. As part of Heritage Week BirdWatch Galway have organised an event at Nimmo's Pier on Saturday 18th August @ 10.30-12.30. Some events you have to pay but this one is FREE. Check out other events around the county and country during Heritage Week click 'What's on link' at the web site <http://www.heritageweek.ie>

Tom Cuffe

BirdWatch Galway (Branch of BirdWatch Ireland) 2nd Quarter 2012

QUARTERLY BIRD REPORT COMPILED BY CHRIS PEPPIATT

DATE OF ISSUE: 13th November 2012

1st April: 30 Whooper Swan, Mullaghmore Lake, Nr. Moylough (Chris Peppiatt).

1st April: 2 Whooper Swan, & 34 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Rahasane turlough (Pete Capsey).

2nd April: Juv. Pallid Harrier, Lough Corrib. (1)

2nd April: Yellowhammer, Glenrevagh, Corrandulla (Peter Tyndall). (2)

6th April: 650 Light-bellied Brent Goose, 12 Common Scoter, 2 Long-tailed Duck, Iceland Gull & Wheatear, Tawin (Paul Troake).

7th April: Male Eider, off Earl's Rock (Paul Troake).

7th April: 2 Arctic Skua, Tawin (Paul Troake).

8th April: 12 (8-1st Win., 3-2nd Win. & Ad.) Iceland Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Dermot Breen).

8th April: 2 Whooper Swan, Greylag Goose, 7 Sand Martin & House Martin, Rahasane turlough (Pete Capsey).

9th April: Male Ring-necked Duck & 4 Tufted Duck, Ballinafad (Miryam & Michael Harris).

10th April: Pink-footed Goose, Cleggan (Dermot Breen).

11th April: 2 Greylag Goose & 12 Whooper Swan, Lough Oorid (Chris Peppiatt).

11th April: 14 Whooper Swan, 20 Mute Swan, 71 Mallard, 17 Little Egret, 18 Fieldfare & Jay, Rahasane turlough (Pete Capsey).

12th April: 2-2nd Win. Iceland Gull, 3 km South of Baile na hAbhainn (Peter Tyndall).

13th April: Arctic Redpoll, Dog's Bay, Roundstone (Pete Gilbert).

15th April: 2 Grasshopper Warbler & Red Grouse, Funshin, Nr. Glenamaddy (Chris Peppiatt).

15th April: 35 White Wagtail, 4 Wheatear & Iceland Gull, Tawin (Paul Troake).

15th April: Cuckoo, Ballinderreen (Paul Troake).

15th April: 2 Whooper Swan, 13 Fieldfare, 12 Little Egret & 2 House Martin, Rahasane turlough (Pete Capsey).

17th April: 4 Great Skua & Little Tern, Inveran (Aonghus O'Donail).

17th April: Arctic Skua, Mweenish Island, Nr. Carna (Dermot Breen).

17th April: Common Sandpiper, Recess (Dermot Breen).

19th April: 3-1st Win. Iceland Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Tom Cuffe).

22nd April: 1st Sum. Little Gull & 30 Whimbrel, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Dermot Breen).

23rd April: Glossy Ibis, Mullaghmore Lake, Nr. Moylough. (3)

26th April: Male White-tailed Eagle, 'Star', Roundstone Bog. (4)

26th April: 3 Dotterel, Aillebrack, Slyne Head (Aonghus O'Donail). (5)

28th April: Green Sandpiper, Owenglin River, Clifden (M. Hannafin).

28th April: 2nd Win. Iceland Gull & 2nd Win. Glaucous Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Tom Cuffe).

1st May: Corncrake, Toombeola, Nr. Roundstone (Peter Ward).

2nd May: 16 Eider, Slyne Head (M. O'Malley).

2nd May: 4 Corncrake, Inishturbot (Paddy Pryce).

2nd May: Corncrake, Inishbofin (John Mercer).

2nd May: Merlin, Maam Cross (James Hayes & Clodagh Glasgow).

4th May: Osprey, Coolanillaun, Lough Corrib (Aonghus O'Donail). (6)

4th May: 3 Whitethroat, Nr. Milltown, Tuam (Chris Benson).

4th May: Whinchat, Barna (Ciaran Bruton).

5th May: Sedge Warbler & 2 Wheatear, Nr. Milltown, Tuam (Chris Benson).

5th May: 2 Swift, Loughrea (Stephen McCleary).

6th May: 3 (Ad. & 2-1st yr.) Mediterranean Gull, Corranroo Bay (Chris Peppiatt).

6th May: 2 Whooper Swan, still present, Rahasane turlough (Pete Capsey).

6th May: Ruff, Kilcaimin (Paul Troake).

6th May: 115 Whimbrel, 11 Wheatear, 16 Great Northern Diver, 4 Common Tern & 4 Stock Dove, Ardfry (Paul Troake).
6th May: 60 Whimbrel, Ballyconneely (Miryam & Michael Harris).
6th May: Lapwing, adults & 5 chicks, Aillebrack, Slyne Head (Miryam & Michael Harris).
7th May: 112 Whimbrel, 3 White Wagtails & 52 Wheatear, Tawin (Paul Troake).
9th May: Yellowhammer, Inis Oírr (Con Breen).
10th May: Corncrake, Inishnee, Nr. Roundstone (Jim McEleney).
11th May: 2 Corncrake & Ruff, Inishbofin (Penny Insole).
12th May: 200 Whimbrel, Inishbofin (Penny Insole).
13th May: 4 Corncrake, Inishbofin (per Tim Gordon).
13th May: Corncrake, Omev Island (Paddy Coohill).
13th May: Stock Dove, Doorus graveyard (Paul Troake).
13th May: Great Skua, 11 Bar-tailed Godwit & 5 Great Northern Diver, Traught (Paul Troake).
15 th May: 4 Reed Warbler, Fem. Whinchat, 30 Common Tern & Little Tern, Inishmaan (Hugh Kenny & Tom Buckley).
16th May: Corncrake, again present, Inishnee, Nr. Roundstone.
21st May: Spotted Flycatcher & Garden Warbler, Nr. Milltown, Tuam (Chris Benson).
22nd May: 17 Great Northern Diver, Newtownlynch Pier (Paul Troake).
25th May: 6 Corncrake, Inishturbot (Tim Gordon).
25th May: Turtle Dove, Inishbofin (Dermot Breen).
27th May: Dipper, Loughrea (Pete Capsey).
27th May: 12 Crossbill, Derrybrien wind farm, Slieve Aughty mtns (Pete Capsey, John Carey & Neil Sharkey).
28th May: 2-3 Chough, Clifden Castle (Aoife Boyd).
28th May: 6 Little Gull, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Aonghus O'Donaill).
30th May: Pectoral Sandpiper, Truska, Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).
31st May: Turtle Dove, Mannin Beg, Ballyconneely (Mike Kettlewell). (7)
1st June: Pair Long-eared Owl with 2 young, Gortnahultra (Pat Roberts).
1st June: 4 Crossbill, Tooreen, Nr. Ballinderreen (Paul Troake).
2nd June: Male Eider, Nr. Earl's Island (Frank Flanagan).
4th June: Male Red-footed Falcon, Killeenaran (Gordon D'Arcy). (8)
4th June: Marsh Harrier, Curraghline, Lough Corrib (John Keogh).
18th June: Pair Long-eared Owl & 3 chicks, Oakfield, Oughterard (Maria & Piet Buitenhuis).
18th June: 4 Long-eared Owl chicks, Carrowmoreknock (Aonghus O'Donaill).
18th June: Yellowhammer, Lackagh, Nr. Turloughmore (John Carey).
19th June: 4 Long-eared Owl chicks, Kilacloggaun, Moycullen (Aonghus O'Donaill).
22nd June: 20 Storm Petrel, off Kilcolgan Point (Frank Flanagan).
22nd June: Arctic Skua, Nr. Tawin Pier (Frank Flanagan).
23rd June: 4 (3 Ad. & 1st yr.) Mediterranean Gull & 4 Common Tern, Corranroo Bay (Paul Troake).
23rd June: Merlin, Tullyvoheen, Clifden (Miryam & Michael Harris).
24th June: 6 Long-eared Owl chicks in two successful nests, Roscahill area (Aonghus O'Donaill).
25th June: Roseate Tern, Loughaunbeg, Inveran (Aonghus O'Donaill).

NOTES:

- (1) The juvenile Pallid Harrier had been present since November 2011.
- (2) This bird was again present on the 11th of April.
- (3) The Glossy Ibis, which had been intermittently present since March 2012, was also seen on the 2nd of May 2012.
- (4) 'Star' the male White-tailed Eagle had been present in the area since March 2012, was undoubtedly present in the area through the whole quarter and was recorded on the 11th of June 2012, the 12th of June 2012 and on the 28th of June 2012, when a female bird was also present with him.

(5) These three Dotterel had moved to Truska by the 27th of April and were also recorded there on the 28th and 30th of April and on the 1st, 2nd and 5th of May 2012.

(6) This bird was also present on the 5th, 6th, 7th and 11th of May, while what was presumed to be the same bird was seen at Inisboinne on the 19th of May 2012.

(7) This Turtle Dove was also recorded on the 1st-3rd June and 5th of June 2012.

(8) This bird was also seen on the 5th of June 2012.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Ring-necked Duck, Red-footed Falcon, 3 Dotterel, Pectoral Sandpiper, Roseate Tern, 2 Turtle Dove, 6 successful Long-eared Owl nests, 4 Reed Warbler, 2 Whinchat, Arctic Redpoll. Long stayers: male White-tailed Eagle ('Sky'), Pallid Harrier, Glossy Ibis.

First Summer migrants: Arctic Skua (7th April), Sand Martin (8th April), Grasshopper Warbler (15th April), Cuckoo (15th April), White Wagtail (15th April), Great Skua (17th April), Little Tern (17th April), Common Sandpiper (17th April), Corncrake (1st May), Whinchat (4th May), Whitethroat (4th May), Osprey (4th May), Sedge Warbler (5th May), Swift (5th May), Spotted Flycatcher (21st May), Garden Warbler (21st May), Turtle Dove (25th May).