



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

It might be more correct to write 'Absence of Branch matters' However, we carry on in a limited way. Since the last newsletter, the final Corrib count was done, as was the final March Galway Bay count. Full teams were available on each occasion for which Marianne and Chris are very grateful. The March, April and May Nimmo's Pier outings were well attended – well done to Tom Cuffe and others involved. We still need to get the branch re-established and that could hopefully mean involvement by you, dear reader. We normally take a break from May onwards but it is to be hoped that renewed effort and goodwill will bring good tidings in the autumn. **NS**

BIRD TRACK – NEW OPTIONS

In readiness for the forthcoming flood of spring arrivals, we have an exciting new arrival of our own to announce: We have just launched a fantastic new BirdTrack Home Page: www.birdtrack.net ! It is packed with interactive features to make it more relevant to birdwatchers on a day-to-day basis and encourage even more people to get in-volved. There has never been a better time to add your records.

The records submitted by BirdTrackers now form the core elements of the page. Explore the map to find out what has been seen locally or to visualise the relative frequency of records of any species across Britain and Ireland. Discover the latest reporting rates (the percentage of complete lists that contain each species) using the interactive graphing tool. See which members of the BirdTrack community have been most active via the 'Top BirdTrackers' tables... and log in to see how your own stats compare! Jeff Copner from Co. Clare is one of Ireland's top BirdTrackers. Here is what he has to say about BirdTrack:

"I first discovered and started using BirdTrack back in 2008 while doing Bird Atlas. I found BirdTrack was a better option for me as my birding takes me on short drives within my county and gave me an online database in which to record all the birds I see and locations I visit. The web site is easy to use and it only takes a few minutes to enter my records at the end of a day's birdwatching, while my photos are uploading.

It is a great way of knowing what I've seen in my garden over past years, and holds a great record of the species seen at my home patch. When twitching, or even if I'm away from home and I see a bird that I don't normally see in my daily birdwatching or a rarity, BirdTrack gives me an opportunity to list, tick, map and record that bird with the BirdTrack app. My bird list is built and saved for me safe online. Life lists, yearly lists, species lists, so much more information than I could ever hold in a note book or journal and gives me a great resource to every piece of my bird recording. It lets me compete with myself every year on my yearly

list..." I will get that 200 in one year", keeping a consistency within my own birding.

I can also use BirdTrack as a birdwatching diary. I can look back at certain migrant species and see which dates I recorded them (e.g. the arrival of Grasshopper Warblers at Licken Lake).

All my records are used by BirdTrack, which is run by BirdWatch Ireland, so I know my records are in the right place and are available for use within conservation.

· Above all ...it is the best Birding List website on the net and it is 100% free."

Brian Caffrey

THE RISE AND RISE OF THE BUZZARD

Though easily Europe's most common bird of prey, the Common Buzzard is still a rare sight in Galway. In 1991 there was an estimated 26 pairs breeding in the Republic of Ireland. By 2001, this had risen to an estimated 130 pairs. By 2010, the estimate had reached 525 pairs, with over 150 pairs in Co. Donegal alone. The east coast counties of Louth, Dublin and Wicklow all hold healthy populations. Buzzards were first proved breeding in Co. Cork in 2004. A minimum of 50 pairs is now estimated to breed there. Most counties in Ireland now list the Common Buzzard among their breeding birds. Galway, however, along with most counties in Connacht, is still in the minority but probably not for much longer. Between 1950 and 2000 there were a mere six records of single birds in Co. Galway. Single birds were recorded in 1950, 1955, 1990, 1997, 1999 and 2000. The only record prior to 1950 is of an adult and a juvenile from the Maam Valley on 3rd August 1931. This record was regarded as doubtful by Ruttledge and is omitted from the totals. Since 2002 the number of birds recorded has been as follows:

2002 – 1	2004 – 3	2005 – 3
2006 – 3	2007 – 6	2008 – 11

2009 – 8 records of single birds. Two pairs were seen displaying in suitable habitat, with another pair present only for a day in February. One pair was present throughout spring and summer but there was no proof of breeding.

2010 – a minimum of 14 birds recorded with at least three pairs recorded in suitable breeding habitat. A pair present in east Galway throughout 2009 was again present in the same area in 2010 and was observed displaying throughout the spring and was joined by a third bird on 21st April. A pair present at a different location throughout the year was seen soaring with a third bird on 11th April.

2011 – a minimum of 30 birds recorded. Three were recorded together in January in an area where they had been suspected of breeding the previous summer. Four pairs were observed displaying in suitable habitat in March and April

I have not collated records from 2012 but birds were recorded in many locations but primarily in the eastern half of the county. Over the last three years I have received numerous reports of pairs of Buzzards displaying in suitable breeding habitat but there has been no proof of breeding. This, I suspect,

is due to nothing more than a lack of fieldwork and observation. For such a relatively large bird they can be very secretive while breeding and much patience and persistence is required to pin down active nests. Buzzards, like most birds of prey, engage in territorial displays to show their possession of a territory to other birds of the same species. In areas of low density these territorial displays may be less intense and shorter in duration, thus making it considerably more difficult to locate displaying pairs and hence active territories. Buzzards mark their territory by soaring and calling over the area and can be very vocal while doing so. Display flights take place anytime from February to June with a small peak again after the breeding season when family parties can often be seen together on the wing. The most commonly heard call is a cat-like mew. Display flights can be spectacular with birds soaring to a great height before plummeting headlong towards the ground only to pull up vertically when within 30 to 40 metres of the ground and engage in a series of undulations before repeating the sequence again. Diet consists largely of rabbits and corvids where available – could there be a more desirable bird for the farming community? Any small mammal below rabbit size will be readily taken as will large insects and earthworms, which, surprisingly for a raptor of its size, can comprise a large part of the diet at certain times of year. While spectacular in soaring flight the Common Buzzard is far from a speed merchant. It is a sit and wait hunter, preferring to sit on a perch and wait for unsuspecting prey to present itself. Carrion is readily taken which can leave the bird susceptible to illegal poisoning, a major factor in preventing the spread of the Buzzard in the past and still, in some parts of the country, a practice which is preventing the current spread of the bird. It cannot be stressed enough that it is currently illegal to use any poison to kill any birds or animals (apart from rats or mice) in the Republic of Ireland. Common Buzzards prefer woodland edges for nesting. This gives them both a high structure with cover in which to nest, but also open land for hunting rabbits and smaller mammals for feeding their young. The forthcoming BTO Atlas will no doubt show the spread of the Common Buzzard to be the most dramatic change in the fortune of any raptor species in Ireland and the UK over the last twenty years. If the spread continues at its current rate I can see no reason why the Buzzard will not be a common species in Co. Galway by the time of the next Atlas in 20 years time.

Aonghus O Donail

BIRD ATLAS 2013 PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER

BirdWatch Ireland is delighted to announce the launch of the Bird Atlas 2007-11 pre-publication book offer. The book will be the most complete and comprehensive overview of bird distribution and change in Britain and Ireland. Over 1,300 maps describe patterns of distribution, abundance and change for nearly 300 species. Discover the



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changing fortunes of the birds of Britain and Ireland, with the help of authors Dawn Balmer, Simon Gillings, Brian Caffrey, Bob Swann, Iain Downie and Rob Fuller. Have the latest scientific findings about distribution and change at your fingertips, including chapters telling the atlas story and highlighting the factors influencing our changing bird fauna: all to be revealed when the book is published this autumn.

How to order:

1) Online at

http://shop.birdwatchireland.ie/birdwatchireland/product_info.php?cPath=35_37&products_id=929

2) By Phone - Call us on 01 2819878.

**Don't miss this great offer –
order by the 31st July 2013**

BC

HOMAGE TO THE SAND EEL

The sandeels or sand lances, a family grouping of six species of the genus *Ammodytes* are small burrowing fishes which occur in coastal waters around the Irish coast. Often hibernating in sand or gravel seabeds during winter, the fishes emerge to form dense schools as the water warms. They breed during spring and summer, providing abundant, energy-rich prey for our breeding birds. They are little known, but certainly merit greater fanfare as a key component of the coastal food web. The six species are very similar, making their identification laborious at times; although there are specific diagnostic features, they are all slender, silvery, eel-like fishes with an average adult length of 10cm. Although small, they are highly abundant in coastal waters, so much so that when you notice divers, cormorants or terns in Galway Bay retrieving such a fish around this time of year it is most likely a sandeel. Recent dramatic declines in Scottish seabird numbers have been linked to declines in the abundance of sandeels in the North Sea. Initially, the industrial sandeel fishery in the North Sea was posited as a reason for declining sandeel stocks. Up to 250,000 tonnes are taken from the North Sea annually, down from about 600,000 tonnes in the eighties. Sandeels are used in the production of fishmeal and fish oils for the aquaculture and healthcare industries; their high lipid and protein content is ideal for inclusion in both manufactured fish feed and the diets of growing chicks. More recently, climate change has been widely accepted as a reason for both declining sandeel populations in the North Sea and for their declining condition. Sandeels feed on zooplankton and communities of zooplankton have been reorganising across the North Atlantic in recent years as a response to warming waters. Any decline in sandeel condition could in turn lead to a decline in bird condition, leading to decreased fledging success. Whatever the reasons, Scottish seabird numbers have declined by over 50% since the eighties, and there have been startling declines in the breeding success of those birds which forage close to nesting sites, such as terns and kittiwakes. In a bid to tackle the decline, this year the Scottish Government plan to introduce measures to protect

the sandeel. Sandeel stocks are not monitored around Ireland. Their biology and ecology do not lend to traditional stock surveying methods and they are not fished commercially around Ireland, negating the need to survey. A 2008 survey of inner Galway Bay, carried out by the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards, listed sandeel as the most abundant fish caught in beach seine surveys, and I recall, as a trainee fisheries scientist, that sandeel larvae were always the most abundant larvae present in springtime zooplankton samples taken from the Bay. Any change in sandeel stocks around Ireland has yet to be confirmed.

Oonagh Dwane

SICILY

I have over the years posted many reports on birds seen in various holiday locations. What the majority of these had in common was that, in the main, they were family holidays with limited time for birdwatching. However, usually there was at least some time and it was always possible to get on average a list of 40 to 50 species.

Our recent trip to Sicily was a guided holiday – one of those options that catch your attention in a glossy brochure newspaper insert, in which, amidst glorious colour background shots, each day is described and a clear daily schedule set out. Nothing at all wrong with this and in fact our holiday was impeccably planned, cheerfully overseen and hugely enjoyable. However, it was different and the bus and timetable formed a big ingredient which reduced birdwatching opportunities yet further as we were reduced to chance sightings as we went from place to place.

Sicily is about the same land area as Munster, with a population of about 5 million. However, there any similarity ends. Its climate is Mediterranean - warm and benign for most of the year, in April the temperature was never lower than 20C. Prickly cactus and orange and lemon trees dominate the landscape. Its history must be one of the most varied in Europe – Greeks, Romans, Saracens, Byzantines, Normans and Spaniards have all left their imprint before it became part of the modern Italy in 1860. For this reason, if your interest is in antiquities, particularly Greek and Roman, then Sicily is the ideal place to see and learn of them all in the one location. The trip included visiting the dramatic Greek temples at Agrigento and the hugely impressive Roman Villa at Pia Armerina with its unique frescos and mosaics and much else. Of the cities and towns Syracuse was by far the most beautiful – classical Mediterranean and its many associations with Archimedes to remind you of long past schooldays!

As I said at the beginning, birdwatching was limited. In the week, I recorded just 30 species. In general I would say that birdlife is scarcer than in Ireland; for example, large tracts of seashore are completely devoid of any water birds – few gulls, no waders. Of the passerines Blackbirds abound and the yellow bright Serin was everywhere. There were good numbers of raptors but identifying from - say -

a speeding bus was a challenge – still, I did get a first with a Hobby chasing a Swift. At night, from the open window of our hotel bedroom, I could hear frequently the strange call of the Scops Owl – it repeats a loud single note - something like the sound of a slightly musical gong beat – you can get it on YouTube. These three birds were all firsts for me. The only other birds of note were a Sardinian Warbler and a flock of Tree Sparrows 7000 feet up amid the black lava landscape of Mount Etna. On the way home at Catania Airport, I chanced meeting a birdwatcher from Northern Ireland who had just spent the week recording raptors crossing into Europe at the Straights of Messina at the rate of 400 per day! So the birds are there but, as always, it's just a matter of place, time and patience.

NS

WINTER FINCHES.

As spring is unfolding late this year, “winter” finches are still in my garden. Chaffinches, goldfinches, siskins and redpolls increase in number and frequency during the winter months, as they come to visit the feeders in my small suburban garden in Knocknacarra. The goldfinches and redpolls particularly like the niger seeds, the siskins prefer the peanuts and the chaffinches mostly eat the mixed seeds. The niger seed feeder hangs directly outside the sitting room window, providing lovely close-up views of the birds. Most of the finches are female. I've been told one explanation for this is that the males stay on their breeding territory to retain it for the following year, while the females are more inclined to travel in search of food. Some years there have been 20-30 chaffinches together creating a carpet of colour on the ground. That's when I first appreciated the individual variability in the colours and patterns of plumage and how very few birds are an exact copy of the image in a field guide. Usually, the birds depart for their breeding grounds in March, with just a couple of chaffinches remaining. However, this year I still have visits from all the finch species at the end of April, though less frequently. I guess natural food sources are not yet abundant due to the delay in the arrival of warm weather. Most of these birds have paired up and the males' breeding plumage is bright and colourful. They will re-appear for a couple of short weeks in mid/late summer as family groups. I like to think the parents are giving their offspring a tour of the best places to eat and that, when next winter comes, it is these birds I will see feeding in my garden.

Aoife Boyd

ON OFFER

Any BirdWatch member interested in either / both of the following, contact mariannetencate@gmail.com

- A. 6 of the earliest *IWC Newsletters* from no. 4, April 1970, *IWC NEWS* Number 1 July 1979 – Number 86 Spring 1996 plus *WINGS* 1, Summer 1996 – 60, Spring 2011.
- B. 221 issues of *British Birds*: Volume 70 Number 8 August 1977 - Volume 88 Number 12 December 1995, plus indices 1977 - 1995.

MTC

BirdWatch Galway (Branch of BirdWatch Ireland) 1st Quarter 2013

QUARTERLY BIRD REPORT COMPILED BY CHRIS PEPPIATT

DATE OF ISSUE: 20th August 2013

1st January: (European) Bittern, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Aonghus O'Donail). (1)

1st January: Ad. Win. Forster's Tern, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City. (2)

2nd January: American Coot & Male Green-winged Teal, Murlach, Nr. Ballyconneely. (3,4)

2nd January: 12 Waxwing, Grattan Road, Salthill, Galway City (Martin O'Malley).

2nd January: 8 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Creganna (Martin O'Malley).

2nd January: 2 Chough, Little Killary (Andrew Kelly).

5th January: 14 Waxwing, Seacrest, Knocknacarra, Galway City (Tim Griffin). (5)

5th January: 2-1st Win. Little Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Tom Cuffe & Michael Davis).

5th January: 2nd Win. Iceland Gull, Mutton Island, Galway City (Tom Cuffe).

5th January: 21 Stock Dove & 180 Skylark, Mweeloon, Nr. Ballynacloghy (Paul Troake).

5th January: 2 Long-tailed Duck & Goldeneye, Loughnahulla Bay (Paul Troake).

5th January: 2 Sandwich Tern, Newtownlynch Quay (Paul Troake).

6th January: 2 female Eider, Kilcaimin (Dermot Breen).

8th January: 2 Black-throated Diver, Lettermullan (Aonghus O'Donail).

8th January: Ad. Win. Mediterranean Gull, Mutton Island, Galway City (Tom Cuffe).

9th January: Sanderling, Blackrock, Salthill, Galway City (Brendan Dunne).

12th January: Ad. Win. Mediterranean Gull, Murlach, Nr. Ballyconneely (John Murphy).

12th January: 900 Golden Plover, 169 Black-tailed Godwit & Spotted Redshank, Nr. Oranmore Castle (Paul Troake).

14th January: 3 Stock Dove, Cloghboley, NW of Ardrahan (Paul Troake).

15th January: 5 Long-tailed Duck & 65 Common Scoter, Newtownlynch Quay (Paul Troake).

19th January: 2 Ad. Win. Ring-billed Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Tom Cuffe).

19th January: Blackcap, Kinvara (Paul Troake).

19th January: Peregrine, Ballylee (Paul Troake).

20th January: Ruff, Kiltiernan turlough (Paul Troake). (6)

20th January: 13 Stock Dove, Ballinderreen turlough (Paul Troake).

21st January: 5 Purple Sandpiper, Grattan Road, Salthill, Galway city (Lukasz Czajka).

23rd January: 5 Pintail, 106 Shoveler & 4 Gadwall, Ahapouleen turlough (Paul Troake).

26th January: 1st Win. Iceland Gull, off Silver Strand, Galway City (Niall Keogh).

27th January: 1st Win. Little Gull & Ad. Ring-billed Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Dermot Breen).

29th January: Ad. Ring-billed Gull, 1st Win. Iceland Gull, Sandwich Tern & Grey Phalarope, between Nimmo's Pier and Mutton Island, Galway City (Niall Keogh).

29th January: Little Gull, Blackrock, Salthill, Galway City (Brendan Dunne).

30th January: 1st Win. Kumlien's Gull, 1st Win. Iceland Gull & Ad. Mediterranean Gull, Rossaveal (Dermot Breen). (7)

30th January: Kittiwake, Kinvara (Paul Troake).

30th January: 5 Greenshank, Ballymore (Paul Troake).

31st January: 3 Ad. Ring-billed Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Niall Keogh).

31st January: Chough, Gurteen, Roundstone (Emer O'Regan).

1st February: Glaucous Gull, 4 Little Auk, 2 Puffin & 9 Blue-phase Fulmar, between Slyne Head and Inishark, from the Celtic Explorer (Niall Keogh).

2nd February: Ad. Win. Ring-billed Gull & 3 Sandwich Tern, again present, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City.

2nd February: Mediterranean Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Lukasz Czajka).

2nd February: 80+ Common Scoter & 35 Long-tailed Duck, Aughinish, Co. Galway/Clare border (Paul Troake).

3rd February: 1st Win. Glaucous Gull & 7 Blue-phase Fulmar, 4 nautical miles off Slyne Head and Inishark, from the Celtic Explorer (Niall Keogh).

4th February: 1st Win. Glaucous Gull, Bunowen, Slyne Head (Aonghus O'Donail).

4th February: Common Buzzard, Cloghboley (Paul Troake).
8th February: Common Buzzard, Clonfert (Tom Cuffe).
8th February: Yellowhammer, Ballymore (Paul Troake).
8th February: Spotted Redshank & Mediterranean Gull, Corranroo Bay (Paul Troake).
10th February: 21 Purple Sandpiper, Salthill, Galway City (Neil Ellis).
14th February: Long-tailed Duck, Levally Lough, Nr. Tuam (May Cashman & Willi Kiefel).
16th February: 2nd Win. Mediterranean Gull & 3-Ad. Ring-billed Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway City (Dermot Breen).
17th February: Jack Snipe, Maam Cross, Connemara (Chris Peppiatt).
17th February: Fem./Imm. Marsh Harrier, Muighinis Island (Corey Ó Nachtain).
17th February: 2 Long-tailed Duck & 6 Sandwich Tern, Newtownlynch Quay (Paul Troake).
17th February: Ruff, Tawnagh causeway, Nr. Kinvara (Paul Troake).
23rd February: Fem. Smew, 60 Pochard & 23 Goldeneye, Lough Rea (Paul Troake).
23rd February: 2 Ruff, Spotted Redshank, 150 Black-tailed Godwit, 150 Dunlin, 65 Redshank, 47 Little Egret & 57 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake).
25th February: Common Buzzard, Killeenhugh, Nr. Ardrahan (Paul Troake).
27th February: 5 Woodcock & Merlin, Caltra (Andrew McKeever).
28th February: Bittern, Curraghmore, Nr. Lough Corrib (Connor Beehan & Dermot Breen). (1)
28th February: 25 Greenland White-fronted Goose, ringtail Hen Harrier & 3 Little Egret, Barranny, Lough Corrib (Paul Troake).
2nd March: 5 Long-tailed Duck, Newtownlynch Pier (Geoff Hunt).
3rd March: 2 Ruff, Fem. Wigeon x Gadwall/Mallard hybrid & 53 Little Egret, Rahasane turlough (Dermot Breen).
3rd March: 5 Sandwich Tern & 2 Ad. Ring-billed Gull, again present, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Dermot Breen).
5th March: 25 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Jack Snipe & pair Red-breasted Merganser, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Paul Troake).
5th March: 50 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Belclare turlough (Paul Troake).
6th March: Bittern, Ballynalty Bay, Lough Corrib, Nr. Headford, but in Co. Mayo (Tommy Carey). (1)
6th March: Long-eared Owl, Ballycurrin, Nr. Headford, but in Co. Mayo (Tommy Carey).
8th March: 1st Win. Glaucous Gull, Rossaveal (Patrick Veale).
8th March: Peregrine, Salthill, Galway city (Lukasz Czajka).
9th March: 2 Fem./Imm. Eider, 2,600 Golden Plover, 97 Grey Plover & 15 Knot, Loughnahulla Bay (Paul Troake).
9th March: 221 Shoveler, 31 Pintail & 2 Gadwall, Ahapouleen turlough, Maree (Paul Troake).
9th March: Common Buzzard, Moycullen (Aonghus O'Donail).
10th March: White-tailed Eagle, Nr. Ballinaboy, Clifden (Brendan Power).
12th March: 2 Fem./Imm. Eider, again present, Loughnahulla Bay.
12th March: 17 Long-tailed Duck, Kilcolgan Point (Paul Troake).
13th March: 13 Purple Sandpiper, Salthill, Galway city (Lukasz Czajka).
16th March: 2 Yellowhammer, Glenrevagh, Corrandulla (Peter Tyndall).
16th March: 2 Ad. Ring-billed Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Tom Cuffe).
19th March: Wheatear, Inveran (Aonghus O'Donail).
20th March: 10 Sandwich Tern & 19 Purple Sandpiper, Salthill, Galway city (Lukasz Czajka).
22nd March: Ad. Iceland Gull, Mutton Island, Galway city (Hugh Delaney).
23rd March: 1st Win. Iceland Gull, again present, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city.
23rd March: 2 Sand Martin, Lough Coy (Paul Troake).
26th March: Ad. Ring-billed Gull, again present, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city.
28th March: 5 Common Tern, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Lucian Fasola).
29th March: 2 Ad. Mediterranean Gull, Kinvara (Paul Troake).
29th March: 2 (Ad. & 1st Win.) Iceland Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Lukasz Czajka).

30th March: Common Buzzard, Corrandulla (Peter Tyndall).
30th March: 1st Win. Iceland Gull, again present, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city.
31st March: Common Buzzard, Cloughagalla, Aughrim (Aileen Daly).
31st March: 3 Long-tailed Duck, Dog's Bay, Nr. Roundstone (Miryam & Michael Harris).

NOTES:

(1) What was possibly the same Bittern as seen on the 1st of January was also seen in February and March (just into Co. Mayo) on Lough Corrib.

(2) The Forster's Tern from October 2012 was present in the Kinvara/Newtownlynch area and around Nimmo's Pier until the 28th of March. This bird has returned to winter in Galway Bay for a number of years now.

(3) The American Coot from November 2012 remained at the Murlach into the 2nd quarter of 2013.

(4) The Green-winged Teal from December 2012 was again present on the 11th-13th of January.

(5) Presumably the same flock (this time numbering 15 birds) was also recorded on the 17th of January.

(6) This wintering Ruff was also recorded on the 15th of February.

(7) The Rossaveal Kumlien's-type gull was also recorded on the 9th, 22nd and 24th of March.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Bittern, Kumlien's-type Gull, Smew, Grey Phalarope, White-tailed Eagle, 4 Little Auk and 2 Puffin. Long stayers: American Coot, Green-winged Teal, Forster's Tern and 15-27 Waxwing.

First Summer migrants: Wheatear (19th March); Sand Martin (23rd March); Common Tern (28th March).