



CAIRDE ÉANLAITH ÉIREANN GALWAY

www.birdwatchgalway.org
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – EDITOR: NEIL SHARKEY
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Issue No. 84 February 2014

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

BRANCH MATTERS

Not a lot to report – we are still in something of a twilight zone. Let's hope that 2014 will see some real progress. In the meantime, the Nimmo's Pier outings are being well attended although the Feb one had to be put off to Feb 8th because of the 'end of world' weather conditions. There is now a reminder list for these outings and if anyone reading this would like to be included on the list, just let me know. The other event was the publication of the Bird Atlas which, hopefully, we will describe and review in the next issue.

NS

2013 BIRD REVIEW

Amazingly, there wasn't a single addition to the county list this year. A joint total of 207 species was seen within the county limits in 2013, certainly not the best total in recent years. A few good second county records included White-billed Diver, Lesser Scaup, Spotted Sandpiper, Buff-bellied Pipit, Eastern Kingbird, Blackpoll Warbler and Woodchat Shrike. The last three were recorded for the first time only in 2012.

One of the highlights of the year was a great run of rare birds on Inishbofin from 24th to 26th Sept, including Eastern Kingbird (could this have been the Inishmore bird from last year?), Blackpoll Warbler, Woodchat Shrike, Barred Warbler, Common Rosefinch and probably two different Wrynecks. The only previous Wryneck records in Galway were on Inishmore way back in 1886 and 1912. Unfortunately, the two birds this Sept eluded local birders; hopefully it won't be another 101-year wait for the next record! Other Inishbofin highlights during the year were a summer plumaged White-billed Diver which gave great views, a male Golden Oriole which was sadly later picked up dead, a juvenile White-rumped Sandpiper, Turtle Dove, Pied Flycatcher, about half a dozen Yellow-browed Warblers, Reed Warbler and finally a Siberian Chiffchaff which stayed into Jan from Dec 2012.

Inishmore had a few American passerines in the more traditional 'Yank' passerine season of Oct which included a Buff-bellied Pipit and a Yellow-rumped Warbler which was the fourth county record with all four coming from Inishmore. Another bird to turn up on Inishmore was a very briefly Spotted Sandpiper. Also on the island was a Red-breasted Flycatcher, Pied Flycatcher, two Turtle Doves, Wood Warbler, Garden Warbler, about half a dozen Yellow-browed Warblers, two Reed Warblers and a Black Redstart.

While the Ballyconneely/Slyne Head area is never as good for passerines as Inishbofin or Inishmore, it had a few good birds during the year. Like many spots in the county it fared very poorly for American waders. For the first time in recent years the area didn't attract a single Pectoral Sandpiper or an American Golden Plover. The only American wader was a very tame juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs at Murlach. Also present at this site in Nov was a first-winter female Lesser Scaup. The American Coot present here since Nov 2012 finally departed on 13th April. Other interesting birds in this general area were a young male Surf Scoter, a Siberian Chiffchaff, two Lesser Whitethroats, at least three Yellow-browed Warblers and a Pied Flycatcher.

The other wader highlights were another juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs and two Pectoral Sandpipers at Muckrush on Lough Corrib, an adult American Golden Plover, a Wood Sandpiper and two Pectoral Sandpipers at Rahasane Turlough, a juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper on Mweenish Island, Tawin and a single Pectoral Sandpiper at Glennamaddy Turlough.

The best of other wildfowl included a female/immature Surf Scoter in Kinvarra Bay, a presumed returning male Ring-necked Duck and a female Smew at Loughrea, an adult male Blue-winged Teal at Rahasane Turlough, a redhead Smew at

Ballynakill Lough, Gort and a Green-winged Teal remaining at Murlach from the previous year.

It was generally a poor enough seawatching season with just one Cory's Shearwater, 13 Great Shearwaters, six Balearic Shearwaters, nine Leach's Petrels, four Grey Phalaropes and four Sabine's Gulls. A lot of these were seen on a single seawatch from Inishbofin which also included a great day-count of 926 Sooty Shearwaters. Strangely, there were no Long-tailed Skuas seen at all this year in the county.

The remaining highlights were a Hobby at Rahasane Turlough in Sept, a winter Marsh Harrier on Mweenish Island, Carna, the presumed returning/long-staying Bittern on Lough Corrib, a good influx of Waxwings, the Forster's Tern returning for its eleventh winter, three different "Kumliens" Gulls, a Great White Egret, a Black-necked Grebe in Ballinakill Harbour and a flock of six Glossy Ibis at Renvyle. Another highlight of the year was the pair of White-tailed Eagles which have set up a territory in West Connemara. Both of these Norwegian-born birds were released in 2009 in Killarney National Park so both should hopefully be mature enough to make a first attempt at breeding in 2014 - fingers crossed. There is currently also younger pair of White-tailed Eagles holding territory in Connemara.

Dermot Breen

TWEET OF THE DAY

BBC Radio 4 has a 'Tweet of the day' at 2 minutes to 6 am every morning. Introduced by a leading wildlife person – currently Chris Packham – it features a different bird each morning with graphic description and calls. Those not given to rising at that early hour can download on a smartphone or lap top. Just Google 'BBC tweet of the day' – it is a fascinating daily experience.

NS

FULL OF LIFE

Forest and fenland awaken to the final frosty dawn of February
A once proud fallen oak fakes a frown
At the family of foxes resident within its carcass
But cannot stifle an ironic smile
For she feels she fosters more life now
Than when she stood near forty foot
Aloof in regal splendour
In the clearing her downfall has created
Her offspring are already fighting for supremacy
In the forty year race to the canopy

Fern fronds stand in solemn groups on the river bank
As melting frazil flows in funereal formations
Slowly towards extinction
And watching wildfowl are forming flocks
In preparation for fugged flight from their winter refuge
Nearby a motionless, crestfallen, ghostly egret stands
And dreams of future feasts of summer's fish and frog fry
Above the meadow a fan-tailed falcon hovers
With watchful eye on the field below
For some forgetful rodent

This is where a link is forged
Between forgotten druid and modern physician
Ancient fact and scientific fiction
Interweave here in seamless friendly merger
Fairies dance and feud among the cities of fungi
Which Atlantis like still stand
Hidden in the leaf litter on the forest floor
Meanwhile icy winds from the frozen north whistle folk tales
Of the fate of the four swans of Lir
Fionnuala, Aodh, Fiachra and Conn
To disinterested bushes of bramble and fiery furze

Through every filtered sunlit glade
the resurrection is repeated
Four and forty and four hundred fold
A five-fingered chestnut leaf is fighting to expand
From its rich brown bud
And along its branches the reclusive phoenix of the forest
Performs daring feats of fantastic acrobatic agility
While busily foraging through the living and decaying
For fat and hairy moths with feathery antennae

All of life and its perfect contradictions
Are free to play and teach here
Its confusing game of life and death and life again
Friend is foe today, but that forgotten is friend again tomorrow
Though it seems far fetched to suggest
Such fragile beauty could be spring's frontiersmen
In this forbidding landscape
Biblical prophecies are fulfilled here
In every delicately tough early flowering snowdrop
While overhead a flock of mute swan fly
Defying yet another proud scientific proof

P.J. Moore

ÉIGRIT BHEAG

Bhí stoir ann aréir agus thit neart báisteach anseo orainn i gCaorán na gCearc. Mar is gnáth anseo bíonn tuille sa garraí ó dheas ón dteach againne aon uair atá báisteach traom ann.



Ar maidin bhí an t-uisce ann arís agus timpeall 11.00 ar tugadh faoi dearadh go raibh éan bán, an-bhán san uisce. Ní fios dúinn an raibh aon rud le n-ithé ann ach bhí sé ag tocailt agus ag cuardú san uisce. Cineál corr-réisc a bhí ann ach níos lú agus an-bhán ar fad.

Bhí fhios againn gur Éigrit bheag a bhí ann ón dáth. Seans gurbe a é an éan is báine sa tír é. Ní raibhadar le feiscint so tír roimh na nocaídi nuair a chéad tosaigh siad mar éan goir in oir deisceart na tíre agus uaidh san méadaigh sé ar fud na chontaeithe mara. Tá níos mó eolas faoi le fáil ar shuíomh [Chairde Éanlaith Éireann](http://www.birdwatchgalway.org) (Béarla).

Conacthas ceann le roinnt bliain anuas i Bhí stoir ann aréir agus thit neart báisteach anseo orainn i gCaorán na gCearc. Mar is gnáth anseo bíonn tuille sa garraí ó dheas ón dteach againne aon uair atá báisteach traom ann.

D'fhán sé ann ar feadh ceathrú uair a chloig ach d'éirigh liom pictiúir nó dhó a fháil. Bhí sé go deas ceann a fheiscint chomh gearr don teach! Chuir sé i gciumhne dúinn ar an gcuairt a thug scata cuiriúin ar ár ngarraí ag tús 2010.

Scríofa ag Eoin Ó Riain ag 1:30 pm
[Lipéid Conamara, Dúlra, Éin](http://www.birdwatchgalway.org)

1 comment: Ros a' Mhíl ach de gnáth is ar an gcladach a fhanann siad. Is cosúil go raibh an cladach garbh go leor i rith na stoirme agus cinn ár n-éan teacht begáinín níos faide isteach sa tír.



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COLDWOOD NATIONAL SCHOOL

The RDS Primary Science Fair is an opportunity for primary schools to exhibit a class project at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. While not part of the main competition, The Primary Science Fair provides an exciting opportunity for pupils to investigate a question or problem and receive feedback from experts in the field. The emphasis is on the development of children's core scientific skills by working as a class to question, observe, record and then make sense of what they find.

On Thursday, 9th January, the 5th and 6th class pupils of Coldwood National School, together with their teacher Karen Jackson and Principal Harry Monson, exhibited their project entitled *What factors affect whether birds are attracted to a garden feeder?* Over a nine week period the children carried out morning and afternoon observations of birds in their school garden. They recorded the number of visits by each species, their feeding habits, the weather conditions and the time of day. The children also weighed three different food types twice daily to try and find which food was most popular. A mild October meant that very few birds visited but by changing the feeder type and putting out additional food over a wider area, the number of visits began increasing daily.

Results showed a total of 16 different species visiting the garden, with Coal Tit, Blue Tit and Great Tit being the most common visitors. Peanuts and fat balls proved to be the most popular food types. From the timings of the observations and the weighing of the food, the children noticed that more food was eaten outside of school hours, despite the fact that more visits were recorded in the mornings.

At the RDS the children got to present their findings and discuss their project with primary and secondary school pupils, teachers and a large number of visitors from among general public. The exhibition judge was very impressed with the quality of work and effort put in by the children and deemed it one of the best projects she had visited this year! The day was a huge success and a wonderful experience for the children. Coldwood National School is very proud of its young scientists!

Karen Jackson

KENYA – GOD'S PLACE

I read somewhere recently that Africa is the greatest temptress of the naturalist, and Kenya is her most seductive siren. Since I first read accounts of the wildlife of East Africa and the romanticism attached to the safari era of old, I have longed to visit. While a simple tourist safari would have sufficed for any initial trip, I was somehow gifted the opportunity to partake in a month-long ecological fieldwork training programme with Cambridge University. Certainly not a bad way to get your first East African experience.

Upon arrival in Nairobi, I was greeted by the prospect of the recently burned down arrivals terminal which seemed serene compared to the traffic in the city. 1,500 vehicles per week are currently being registered in Nairobi whose streets were originally designed for ox-wagons (like in many old colonial cities). However, the city and its people were very welcoming, with the only sinister air being the masses of Black Kites wheeling in the skyline, and indifferent Marabout Storks whose nests occupied everything from street lights to football stadiums. It's not like they were inconspicuous!

The bird life in Kenya is incredible. With over 1,000 species it really is a place of exceptional diversity and the quality of ornithology among some of the Kenyans I worked with was staggering. For 30 days, I was based at Segera Ranch in Laikipia; a typical savannah dominated by black clay soils and acacias. The grasslands immediately surrounding our tented camp there were peppered with Fischer's Sparrow-

Larks, Chestnut and Grey Sparrows, colourful Red-Cheeked Cordon Bleus and Baglafaecht Weavers. Close to the only building in the vicinity (which multi-tasked as office, laboratory, lecture hall, library and beer storage facility) a lone male Pin-tailed Whydah and Malachite Sunbird did the rounds protecting their patches and showing off their wares daily.

Further into the savannah, Yellowed-necked Spur Fowl and Plain-backed Pipits made a living amongst the Sharpe's and Thompson's Gazelle; all under the watchful eye of Tawny Eagles, Black-Shouldered Kites and Auger Buzzards. The immense Kori Bustard was ridiculously frequent on the plains and Secretary Birds made an appearance on several occasions. A pair of Grey Crowned Cranes was certainly a highlight for me, and my Zambian tent-mate and colleague (who works on their conservation and sees them almost daily at home) was still awestruck by their sheer awesomeness.

A quick trip to Mount Kenya revealed another completely different set of species due to the forest eco-system. With only three days in the area and the necessity to do some actual work, there was limited time to get the tour list up to where it should be, but every short walk yielded another species. Mount Kenya National Park did bring some brilliant views of Hartlaub's Turaco, an archaic colourful species which easily reminds us all of the ancient lineage of all birds as it moves about the canopy in a bouncy and *saltatory* fashion. Having climbed to 4,000m to try and see the Scarlet-tufted Malachite Sunbird which inhabits the alpine zone of the mountain, we had to withdraw and return to base camp at 3,000m - only to find the bird mooching around the camp's garden! Another life tick for many of the Kenyans, never mind an Irishman.

Kenya is a glorious country. Proud and traditional, it still holds dear its many cultures and is deeply spiritual, especially in the rural areas. It reminds me of what Ireland might have been like when my Grandfather was growing up. Conservation is important in Kenya, and the place is well endowed with NGOs keeping tabs on the wildlife situation. However, all is not well, and concerns over new infrastructure projects which take no account of ecological impacts are worrying. The endangered Sharpe's Longclaw (a pipit-like bird endemic to the higher grasslands) was a bird I particularly wanted to see. One of our lecturers took us to a site he worked on 5 years previously. The place was unrecognisable. Several hundred people now inhabited the area, immigrants as a result of the violence in the elections of 2009. We trawled the area looking for a Sharpe's. Just as the light was fading and we had resigned our hopes, one was flushed, then another. Surely a pair. I watched the one closest to me as it flew with its distinct undulating flight into the sunset. Quite a melancholy feeling. But hope nonetheless: the bird was carrying food.

Footnote:

I visited Kenya as a student with the Tropical Biology Association in September 2013.

John Carey

HAWK BAIT

'Hawk-Bait' is the name I gave to a feral pigeon in my back garden in late October, 2013. It was very sluggish on the ground and very reluctant to fly. I had arrived home from shopping a few days earlier to find two 'dust' impressions of feral pigeons on a kitchen window and another four on other windows. The culprit was most likely one of the local sparrowhawk pair, swooping through the garden, causing panic among the ferals and others. In their panic the birds head for the nearest trees – often mistaking reflections in the windows. I suspected 'Hawk-Bait' was one of the window strikers who came off worst.

A few days later, a neighbour mentioned how his very young grandson was fascinated with this pigeon walking among them in the garden. He had noticed, when the pigeon opened its wings, that underneath it was very raw. I told him about the window strikes and that this must be the feral I had named 'Hawk-Bait'.

On November 8th, 2013, arriving home from another shopping expedition or maybe it was from prowling My Patch, the resident pair of magpies were screaming blue murder at the back of the house. From the kitchen window I could see feathers, by the bucket-load, between the back door and my garden shed – about four metres. Under a forsythia shrub (still in leaf!) a female sparrowhawk was tucking into, I assume, 'Hawk-Bait.' Where's me camera?

I took a few shots through a double-glazed window, at an oblique angle, knowing they wouldn't be great but I wanted a record. I then went to the kitchen window furthest from the bird and eased it open – a fraction each time the hawk stuck her head into the carcass, until I could get the lens through the gap. I took a load of photos.

I decided to get closer. The nearest window to the feast was a high one. I stood on a chair, camouflaged by a curtain, eased the window open as before and took another bundle of photos.

I had a quick look at them on my PC and wasn't too impressed. I am not quite up to speed with this camera! As dinner was still underway beneath the forsythia, I decided to be very brave! The back door was the closest spot to the hawk. The security chain was easy enough to open quietly, however the lock always made noise. Watching the bird through a curtain and stretching to the lock I turned the key, gently, while she had her head down – she didn't seem to hear the click. After what seemed a long time, I took a breath and eased the door open a couple of millimetres.

I decided to use flash; I had read it doesn't bother birds and other animals. Lying on my stomach inside the back door I could see the hawk and, as before, every time she put her head down I opened the door another millimetre until the lens fitted through. A bundle more photos and I called it a day. I looked at them on the PC and was content.



The whole episode lasted about an hour-and-a-quarter and the hawk was still dining twenty minutes later. When she left I measured the distance from the back door to the remains of 'Hawk-Bait'. It was three metres.

Brendan Dunne

ORIGIN OF NAME - RAHASANE

The name of the turlough, so well known to birdwatchers, seems rather puzzling, especially as the usual spelling (above) poorly represents the local pronunciation: [ra-shun]. The solution lies in the fact that down to the 19th century, in summertime, the dried-up turlough was regularly used as a venue for horse-racing. Irish being the vernacular in the area, this gave the name Ráiseann(a). **Breandán Ó Madagáin**

BirdWatch Galway (Branch of BirdWatch Ireland) 4th Quarter 2013

QUARTERLY BIRD REPORT COMPILED BY CHRIS PEPIATT

DATE OF ISSUE: 14th May 2014

1st October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Trident Homes garden, Slyne Head (Aonghus O'Donail).

1st October: 2 Wheatear, Ballyloughaun, Galway city (Neil Ellis).

1st October: Common Buzzard, Toureen, Nr. Kinvara (Paul Troake).

2nd October: Yellow Wagtail, Ardnagreevagh Strand, Rinvyle Point (Dermot Breen).

3rd October: Juv. American Golden Plover & 5 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Aonghus O'Donail). (1)

3rd October: 500 Wigeon, 700 Golden Plover, 25 Black-tailed Godwit & Peregrine, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake).

4th October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Conneely's garden, Slyne Head (Aonghus O'Donail).

4th October: Juv. Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Spotted Redshank, 3 Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper & Marsh Harrier, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Aonghus O'Donail). (2)

4th October: Curlew Sandpiper & 14 Little Egret, Kilcaimin (Chris Cook).

4th October: Wheatear, Tawin (Chris Cook).

4th October: Juv. Turtle Dove, Oughill, Inishmore (Jim Street). (3)

4th October: 3 Ruff & 2 Peregrine, Rahasane turlough (Tom Murtagh & Tim Griffin).

5th October: Buff-bellied Pipit, on shoreline, Seven Churches, Inishmore (Dermot Breen). (4)

5th October: 3 Ruff, Muckrush, Lough Corrib.

6th October: Common Buzzard, Claregalway. (Jim Glennon). (5)

6th October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Inishmore (Dermot Breen).

7th October: Spotted Sandpiper, Loch Phort Churrach, Inishmore (Paul Kelly).

7th October: 2 Swallow, Ballinderreen (Paul Troake).

8th October: Juv. Sabine's Gull, Inis Oirr harbour (Graham Mitchell).

8th October: 3 Yellow-browed Warbler, Garden Warbler & Whitethroat, Inishmore (Dermot Breen *et al.*).

8th October: Juv. White-rumped Sandpiper, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan). (6)

8th October: Turtle Dove, Kilmurvey, Inishmore. (7)

8th October: 3 Wheatear & Sanderling, Kileenaran (Paul Troake).

9th October: 3 (2 new) Yellow-browed Warbler, Reed Warbler, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, 15 Barnacle Goose & 7 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Inishmore (Dermot Breen *et al.*).

9th October: Common Buzzard, Loughrea (Peter Capsey).

10th October: 6 Light-bellied Brent Goose, Tawin (Martin Byrnes).

10th October: Redwing, over Ragoon, Galway city (Chris Peppiatt).

10th October: Little Stint, Loughaunbeg, Inveran (Aonghus O'Donail).

10th October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Reed Warbler, Whooper Swan & Sooty Shearwater, Inishmore.

10th October: 2 Barn Owl, Headford (Neil Sharkey).

10th October: Swallow, Toureen West, Nr. Kinvara (Paul Troake).

11th October: Curlew Sandpiper, Rahasane turlough (Aonghus O'Donail).

11th October: Yellow-browed Warbler (new), Black Redstart, 100 Redwing & Pomarine Skua, Inishmore (John Murphy, Dermot Breen *et al.*).

12th October: Wood Warbler, 2 Yellow-browed Warbler, Blackcap, 100 Redwing & Fieldfare, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney, Neil Warnock, Paul Kelly *et al.*). (8)

12th October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Blackcap, 60 Redwing, 7 Fieldfare & 1st Win. Mediterranean Gull, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).

13th October: 3 Yellow-browed Warbler, Inishmore (Neil Warnock). (9)

13th October: 2 Yellow-browed Warbler (new), Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan). (10)

14th October: 4 (2 new) Yellow-browed Warbler, Whinchat & 2 Wheatear, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).

15th October: 2 Curlew Sandpiper & 5 Ruff, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Aonghus O'Donail).

16th October: 25 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Ruff & Peregrine, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake).

19th October: Eclipse male Blue-winged Teal, 2 Juv. Pectoral Sandpiper, 2 Ruff & Curlew Sandpiper, Rahasane turlough (Dermot Breen).
19th October: Little Egret, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Anne Faulkner).
20th October: Yellow-browed Warbler, Headford Road, Galway city (Marcin Pisula).
22nd October: Snow Bunting, Mannin Beg, Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).
22nd October: Turtle Dove & Whinchat, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
22nd October: Black-throated Diver (Summer plumage), 7 Common Scoter, Sandwich Tern & Merlin, Newtownlynch Pier (Paul Troake).
22nd October: Ad. Mediterranean Gull & Ad. Ring-billed Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Hugh Delaney).
23rd October: 3 Jack Snipe & Pintail, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney).
25th October: Yellowhammer, Ballymore, Nr. Kinvara (Paul Troake).
26th October: 4 Jack Snipe & 2 Gadwall, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney).
27th October: 2 Curlew Sandpiper, Rahasane turlough (Dermot Breen).
27th October: Ruff & 4 Spotted Redshank, Kilcaimin (Dermot Breen).
27th October: Blue-phase Fulmar, 12 Sooty Shearwater, 9 Great Skua & Arctic Skua, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
28th October: Red-breasted Flycatcher & Yellow-browed Warbler, Kilmurvey Wood, Inishmore (Mick Boyle & Hugh Delaney). (11)
29th October: Yellow-rumped Warbler, Kilronan Wood, Inishmore (Mick Boyle).
29th October: Siberian (' <i>tristis</i> ') Chiffchaff, Pied Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher, Crossbill & Long-eared Owl, Slyne Head (Dermot Breen).
29th October: Woodcock, Inishmore (Mick Boyle & Hugh Delaney).
31st October: Reed Warbler, Inishmore (Mick Boyle & Hugh Delaney).
1st November: Yellow-browed Warbler, Siberian (' <i>tristis</i> ') Chiffchaff, Lesser Whitethroat, Pied Flycatcher & Spotted Flycatcher, Slyne Head (Dermot Breen).
1st November: Merlin, Traught (Paul Troake).
3rd November: Whimbrel, Kilcaimin (Helen Carty, Jean Hamilton & Chris Peppiatt).
3rd November: 1st. Win. Glaucous Gull, Corraduff (Helen Carty, Jean Hamilton & Chris Peppiatt).
3rd November: 1st Win. Little Gull & 3 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Dermot Breen).
3rd November: Long-tailed Duck, Mulroog, Ballinderreen (Paul Troake).
4th November: Ad. Win. Forster's Tern, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Tom Cuffe). (12)
8th November: 3 White-billed Diver, off Pollrevagh/Doonloughan (Anon., Unconfirmed).
9th November: 1st Win. Fem. Lesser Scaup, Murlach, Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen). (13)
9th November: 233 Whooper Swan & Pintail, Bullaunagh, Ardrahan (Paul Troake).
10th November: Male Ring-necked Duck, fem. Scaup & male Pochard X Tufted Duck hybrid, Lough Rea (Dermot Breen). (14)
10th November: 2nd Win. Kumlien's Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Dermot Breen). (15)
13th November: Ad. Kumlien's Gull, Ross Beach, Nr. Cleggan (Dermot Breen).
13th November: Juv. Pink-footed Goose, Rusheenduff Lough, Rinvyle (Dermot Breen). (16)
14th November: 1st Win. Little Gull & 2 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake).
15th November: Green Sandpiper, Clare River at Tuam (Jim Dowdall).
15th November: Ad. Ring-billed Gull, Iceland Gull, Kingfisher & Dipper, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Geoff Hunt).
15th November: Red-necked Grebe, Nr. Mutton Island causeway, Galway city (Geoff Hunt).
16th November: Ad. Ring-billed Gull & 5 Sandwich Tern, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Dermot Breen).
19th November: Fem./Imm. Surf Scoter, Tarrea, Nr. Kinvara (Paul Troake).
21st November: Long-tailed Duck & 2 Red-throated Diver, Traught (Paul Troake).
23rd November: Common Buzzard, Eyrecourt (Gerry Lyons).
24th November: 2 (Ad. & 2nd Win.) Ring-billed Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Brad Robson & Neil Ellis).
24th November: 1st Win. Ring-billed Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Niall Keogh).

24th November: 3 Long-tailed Duck, Ballyconneely beach (Miryam and Michael Harris).
25th November: 2 Slavonian Grebe, Ard Kyle, Ballynakill Harbour (Dermot Breen). (17)
26th November: Black-necked Grebe, Ardagh Rock, Ballynakill Harbour (Dermot Breen). (18)
30th November: 250 Greylag Goose, Rostaff Lake (Neil Ellis).
1st December: Slavonian Grebe, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Marcin Pisula).
1st December: Black-throated Diver & Slavonian Grebe, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Seamus Feeney & Graham Mitchell).
1st December: 4 Scaup, Lough Atalia, Galway city (Stephen McAvoy).
4th December: 7 Sandwich Tern & 2 (Ad. & 1st Win.) Ring-billed Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city.
9th December: Ad. Ring-billed Gull, Ross Beach, Ballynakill Harbour (Dermot Breen).
14th December: 2 Glossy Ibis, Nr. Rusheenduff Lough, Rinvyle (P. Flaherty). (19)
15th December: 1st Win. Iceland Gull, Rossaveal (Hannu Palojarvi).
15th December: 1st Win. Ring-billed Gull, Waterside, Galway city (Dermot Breen).
16th December: 1st Win. Iceland Gull, Rinvyle Point (Dermot Breen).
21st December: Carrion Crow, Oughterard (Steve Bierley). (20)
27th December: Great Skua, Newtownlynch (Paul Troake).
30th December: 1st Win. Iceland Gull, Ross Beach, Ballynakill Harbour (Dermot Breen).
31st December: Common Buzzard, Cregmore (Sean Doheny).

NOTES:

- (1) This individual American Golden Plover may have been the same bird that was present in the previous quarter (20th and 22nd of September); what was presumably the same bird was also present on the 11th, 16th, 19th and 27th of October.
- (2) The juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs was also seen on the 5th of October.
- (3) This Turtle Dove was present until the 16th of October at least; it was recorded on the 5th, 6th, 10th and 16th of October.
- (4) The Buff-bellied Pipit was also seen on the 6th and 8th of October.
- (5) A Common Buzzard was again present here on the 19th of October.
- (6) The White-rumped Sandpiper was also seen on the 9th of October.
- (7) This Turtle Dove was possibly the same bird as at Oughill from the 4th – 16th of October.
- (8) The Wood Warbler was also seen 13th-16th of October.
- (9) Yellow-browed Warblers (possibly some of the same birds) were seen on Inishmore on the 14th and 16th of October.
- (10) Yellow-browed Warblers (possibly some of the same birds) were seen on Inishbofin on the 19th, 25th and 26th of October.
- (11) The Red-breasted Flycatcher was also recorded on the 29th and 31st of October.
- (12) The Forster's Tern (returning for its eleventh winter) was present into the first quarter of 2014 and was specifically reported on the 24th November, 30th November, 1st December and 4th of December 2013 in the Nimmo's Pier area.
- (13) The Lesser Scaup was present until the 5th of December, being also seen on the 10th, 13th, 15th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd and 28th of November.
- (14) The drake Ring-necked Duck was again present on the 28th of December.
- (15) The second winter Kumlien's Gull was present into the first quarter of 2014; it was recorded on the 11th November (Nimmo's Pier), 29th November (Rossaveal), 15th of December (Rossaveal) and 30th of December (Nimmo's).
- (16) The Pink-footed Goose was again present on the 26th of November.
- (17) These Slavonian Grebes were also present on the 26th and 27th of November.
- (18) This Black-necked Grebe was present into the first quarter of 2014 and was recorded on the 27th of November, the 10th of December and the 24th of December.
- (19) Six Glossy Ibis were seen by the same observer at the same site on the 15th of December.
- (20) The Carrion Crow was also seen on the 22nd and 23rd of December.

OTHER BEASTIES:

3rd November: Otter, Ballynahanagh East, Clarinbridge (Helen Carty, Jean Hamilton & Chris Peppiatt).
 24th November: 3 (adult & 2 cubs) Otter, Ballinaboy River, Clifden (Miryam and Michael Harris).

HIGHLIGHTS:

A good Autumn (following on from September 2013): 6 Glossy Ibis, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Surf Scoter, Lesser Scaup, American Golden Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, 2 Pectoral Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Sabine's Gull, Red-breasted Flycatcher, 10-22 Yellow-browed Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Wood Warbler, Buff-bellied Pipit, and 2 or 3 Turtle Dove. There was an influx of Slavonian Grebes. Three White-billed Divers claimed.

First Winter migrants: Barnacle Goose (9th October); Greenland White-fronted Goose (9th October); Whooper Swan (10th October); Brent Goose (10th October); Redwing (10th October); Fieldfare (12th October); Pink-footed Goose (13th November).