



## CAIRDE EANLAITH ÉIREANN - GALLIMH

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

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – EDITOR: NEIL SHARKEY

Telephone: 086 1680856 e-mail [neiljsharkey@gmail.com](mailto:neiljsharkey@gmail.com)

Issue No. 95– November 2016

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

### LOCAL MATTERS

Again, not a great deal to report. November heralds the beginning of the birdwatching year in many respects. We are already into the third of our monthly Nimmo's outings – all well attended - and Marianne ten Cate organised the first of our Lough Corrib counts. As the *Newsletter* is being finished the first Galway Bay count should have taken place. Both Marianne and Chris Peppiatt (for the Bay count) are always looking for extra volunteers to keep these important I-WeBS counts going. Please, contact us by using my e-mail or phone or Chris at 086-3125356 or Marianne at 087-2378051. Furthermore, the Garden Bird Survey is starting next month so, please, start feeding the birds now and start counting from the 5<sup>th</sup> of December (see *Wings* for details).

NS

### A BOY, A BEAR AND AN AIRBOAT

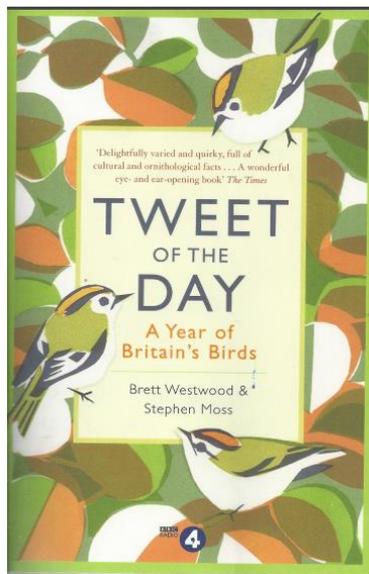
When I was a kid there was a show called 'Gentle Ben' about a boy who lived in the Everglades and had a pet bear. His father was the Game Warden and they sped around the wetlands in an airboat. To me it seemed like the best life in the world but it was a million miles away from my own existence in a small village in Sligo. On a recent trip to Florida I was lucky enough to visit Lake Cypress, south of Orlando, and rekindle those warm memories of childhood fantasy. Like so many things in life, the trip (which was part of a conference outing) was designed to cater for all tastes so I was resigned to the fact that any bird life encountered there would probably be fairly limited. However, I did pack my bins and picked up a copy of Sibley in the local book store in the hope that I might tick a few species. We boarded the 17-seat airboat and as it slalomed through the wetland it was clear that this was an amazing area for birds but I would have to settle for attempted identification at 30kph. The larger species were the most obvious to detect, with Great Blue Heron and Great Egret in very impressive numbers. Most of the birds were surprisingly accustomed to the noisy craft and only marginally moved out of its way as it cut through the vegetation. What the boat denied in terms of lethargy it made up for in terms of proximity and accessibility, allowing for very close views in areas that a regular boat could never reach. Darter-like Anhingas and Mottled Ducks appeared more frequently as we moved through dense patches of water lilies, and a herd of cattle wading in the shallows were accompanied by the ubiquitous flock of *Bubulcus ibis*. The population of almost 1,000 alligators seemingly avoid the cows as they are too much bother. At the northern end of the lake were larger areas of Cypress trees growing in the shallow water. Noticing my bird book (and my desperate scrambling to see things as we whizzed by), our captain stopped briefly to allow people to take some photos while I got a good look at the magnificent Turkey Vultures that roosted in the trees. I was informed by our trusty pilot that he had previously seen the Great Blue Herons eating baby alligators, prompting me to form the hypothesis that they must therefore be the apex predators within the ecosystem! We continued to speed along and I gave into the excitement of it all and just enjoyed the ride; YouTube the opening credits to 'Gentle Ben' and

you'll get the idea. Common Gallinules and Little Blue Herons resided in the channels that the airboat moved through and it was clear that these open passages, which are maintained by the flat bottomed speed machines, are an important resource for the birds. I laughed to myself when I recalled that the first Little Blue Heron I ever saw was white ... and recorded in Galway! This Florida area has some fantastic wetlands, in spite of expanding development and continuing drainage of wonderful habitats. If back there again, I would certainly examine the prospect of exploring these areas on an airboat dedicated more to feathers and less to speed. Still, it was lovely to see a Little Blue Heron that was blue, and for an hour to be eight years old again.

John Carey

### RECENTLY PUBLISHED WORTHWHILE BOOKS

Gordon D'Arcy, long-time supporter of Galway birdwatching, has recently finished and published his latest book - *The Breathing Burren*. First captivated by the Burren in the early 1970s, Gordon has spent over thirty years living on its edge and exploring its natural and human heritage. Now he celebrates the flora, the fauna, the people and the places of the region with stories from his diaries and original watercolours that convey a deep affection and intimacy with the area. It is a splendid description of the length and breadth of this renowned place, through its moods and seasons, befriending its diverse inhabitants and breathing the Atlantic air that whispers its welcome to all comers. A great addition to the bookshelves of Burren and nature lovers.



The second book is one I came across while in England recently. It is the splendid *Tweet of the Day* by Brett Westwood and Stephen Moss. 'Tweet of the Day', for those who have not heard of it, is on BBC Radio 4 each day at the early hour of two minutes before 6am, and lasts just over one minute. It is a daily invitation to listen to the story of a bird told through its calls and songs. Presenters are usually well-known people of the bird and environmental world. Listen to Radio 4 through an *i-Tunes* app on your phone or laptop or search 'Tweet of the Day' to hear them to avoid a 6am rise for the live broadcast!

The book is based on the BBC programs. It is a series of short essays on each of two hundred-plus birds to be seen in these islands. Needless to say, given the reputation of the authors, each species account is a gem of description and interesting details of the bird - its lifestyle and folklore. The birds are arranged by the month with which they may generally be associated, *i.e.* spring arrivals in April and May, and winter visitors from October onwards. The book is a joy to have about as you can dip into it at will. If not in stock, any book seller should order – published by John Murray; ISBN 978-1-47363-930-0.

NS

### NATIONAL SEABIRD SURVEY

I, along with National Parks and Wildlife Service colleagues, have been undertaking a seabird survey in Galway as part of an ongoing national seabird census. Three national seabird surveys have been carried out previously: in 1969-70 (Operation Seafarer), 1985-88 (Seabird Colony Register) and 1998-2002 (Seabird 2000). Coverage in Galway has been somewhat patchy in these previous surveys (especially the two earlier surveys) with some sites only being surveyed for the first time now. This work is certainly one of the perks of being a conservation ranger as one gets the chance to visit these seldom visited places. There is always the chance to see something different every day when out on the water, such as Bottlenose Dolphins, Basking Sharks, breeding Peregrines, Chough, etc.

Survey work started last summer and was primarily targeted at cliff-nesting seabirds, *i.e.* Kittiwake, Guillemot and Razorbill. Inishmore has big colonies of these species. Elsewhere, only small numbers of the first two species are found on Inishark. This summer we concentrated on Shag, Cormorant, coastal breeding gulls and terns. BirdWatch Ireland was contracted to survey nesting gulls and terns between Rossaveel and Slyne Head. It is hoped to cover burrow-nesting species next summer, such as Storm Petrel, Manx Shearwater, Puffin (none breeding in Galway so that shouldn't take too long!), Black Guillemots, inland breeding gulls and terns. Depending on the weather, this may have to be done over the next two years. Surveying for petrels and shearwaters is quite labour intensive and involves playing the calls into burrows, piles of rocks, stone walls and buildings and then waiting for a response. During the Seabird 2000 survey it was estimated that there were 3,286 Manx Shearwater pairs breeding on Cruagh Island!

Most breeding seabirds are found on remote off-shore islands. We visited these in our own Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat (RHIB). Settled conditions are essential as a low swell height and infrequent wave period are required for landing/jumping onto these remote islands. This summer we were unlucky to encounter a long spell of unsettled weather from mid-June onwards which curtailed our time for surveying. We have a bit of catch-up to do next summer on some of the island between Inishturbot and Inishbofin. It is a fine balance to get the timing right: if one visits too early some adults may not have laid and if one visits too late some chicks may have already fledged. Small numbers of Shags, Fulmars, terns and gulls are the only seabirds encountered on the mainland coastline.



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As coverage has not been great in previous surveys, it may be difficult to identify genuine increases or decreases in populations. We do not have the complete picture yet as not all sites have been counted to date. However, I think it is probably fair to say that there have been significant increases in the populations of the large gulls - Herring, Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-backed. Up until relatively recently, these were rather scarce breeders in Connemara. Their populations crashed in earlier decades and seem to have taken quite a while to recover. It is looking like the numbers of Arctic and Common Terns have dramatically dropped, particularly those of the former species. And, while present at several traditional sites this summer, Little Terns had a disastrous breeding season, which has been mirrored nationwide. These decreases are probably due to problems with food sources, namely Sand Eels, which are now being commercially fished for the production of fish-farm food and fertilizer.

Another species which seems to have increased is Shag. Excluding Inishmore, during the Seabird 2000 survey a total of just 43 pairs of Shags were recorded in the county. During this summer (2016) we recorded a grand total of 452 pairs! While there may have been a real increase in the population, I suspect the increase can be partly explained by the better coverage of unrecorded colonies. While Cormorants have not been fully surveyed yet, it does not look like there has been a similar increase in numbers, despite what most fishermen will tell you! There have been several new colonies found, similar to the situation with Shag, but the numbers in these remain low for now.

2017 should be another busy summer here in Connemara; fingers crossed for a better summer so we can get to survey our remaining targets.

Dermot Breen

### BIRDWATCHING NOT FAR FROM LISBON

In preparation of our stay in Lisbon, Michael Davis, once a very active member of the Galway branch of BirdWatch Ireland, put me in touch with the Portuguese fraternity and we found a native ecologist-birdwatcher willing to take us out in his car on 15 October last. Bruno's enthusiasm, generosity and expertise made that day a very memorable one. He took us across the river Tejo to a rural area called Barroca d'Alva where we first visited the marshes which supply, through an intricate system of ditches and water level management, irrigation to rice fields. Other cereals used to be grown here in the past and a ruin of an old windmill testifies to those times. Many of the ditches were severely overgrown by an invasive waterweed, Jacinto de agua, but this suited the passerines fine. The whole area was alive with bird song and avian surprises among the vegetation.

The first bird we saw is not familiar in Ireland – the *alba alba* (white) variety of our Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*); it took us a while to 'spot the difference': its plumage is more contrasting between jet-black crown, nape and bib and a grey mantle. Another unfamiliar species was the extremely elusive Zitting cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*), as the scientific name suggests, at home among the rushes. This tiny warbler was noisy enough to make itself heard almost continuously but flitty enough to be very hard

to spot. The Yellow-crowned Bishops (*Euplectes afer*) were easier to see and identify, mainly thanks to their distinctive yellow crown (male) and strong yellow eye-stripe (female). This brightly-coloured weaver was introduced from south of the Sahara and likes to forage with House Sparrows in weedy vegetation along wetlands, the exact type of habitat where we saw it with the ubiquitous *Passer domesticus*. Other introductions we saw were the now feral South African Common Waxbills (*Estrilda astrild*), sturdy finches with a vermilion face mask, bill and belly, and Central American Green Parakeets (*Psittacara holochlorus*), now widespread in Europe. We saw the latter in Lisbon as well where they are known to destroy the trees. The impact of the Common Waxbill is as yet unknown. Other, more familiar passerines were Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus scoenobaenus*), Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*), Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) and Blackbird (*Turdus merula*), and I will lump Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone corone*) with these as well.

Waders on the rice marshes included six 'herons': Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Great White Egret (*Egretta alba*) and Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), while there was a White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) sitting on a nest platform on a pylon, ready to start breeding before the end of the year, and a Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) on the edge of a small lagoon. In and around the lagoon Avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) and Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) were feeding while on adjoining damp fields we saw Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) and Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*). Other waterbirds were Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) and Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), both of which we had already often encountered in parks in the city, and Mediterranean (*Larus melanocephalus*), Black-headed (*L. ridibundus*) and Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*L. fuscus*). True to their typical habitat, four Marsh Harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*), both males and females, flew by and a Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) was hunting for frogs and lizards, very much like our Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) does.

We moved on to a slightly different habitat through agricultural land, bordered by unmanaged wetlands, where we saw Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cyana*), Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*), Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*) and Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) among the trees on one side and water-birds such as Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*), Coot (*Fulica atra*), Black-winged Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) and Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) on the other side, while overhead flew a Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), a Kestrel and an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).

Accompanied by flocks of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and Spotless or Black Starlings (*S. unicolor*) we arrived at a desalination plant where waders were very abundant on the flatbeds. Tightly-packed hundreds of Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa lapponica*) had in their midst and on the fringes of their flock a Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) and a Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), Sanderling (*Calidris alba* - one of them ringed on the right leg), Curlew

Sandpiper (*C. ferruginea*), Little Stint (*C. minuta*), a Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), Redshank (*Tringa totanus*), a Spotted Redshank (*T. erythropus*), Greenshank (*T. nebularia*) and a Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*). Another Black-winged Stilt was also ringed, yellow on the left leg with easily read black letters – EFO. It was a bewildering bunch!

The last habitats we visited were cork groves where cork was still being harvested from the trees, opposite more marshes, fringed by *Eucalyptus* trees. The latter pose a serious environmental threat to the ecology of the area as they root deep and drastically dry out the surrounding soils with their great thirst for water. They have been introduced as fast-growing trees for timber but, similar to the Norway Spruce introduced to Irish bogs, they grow too fast and produce hardly more than pulp for paper mills. In this area of mixed habitats and along the way we saw some more 'regulars' such as Feral Pigeon, Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*), Coal Tit (*P. ater*), Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*), Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) and Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*) plus a Corn Bunting (*Miliaria calandra*, now extinct in Ireland) and an Iberian Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*), with a salmon-coloured rather than the white breast of the Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*), and now recognised as a species in its own right. Finally, on the adjacent marshes there were more Spoonbills plus Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) and Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*).

We could not have visited such a diversity of habitats and seen such a variety of birds, especially birds new to us, without a guide; through this article we acknowledge Bruno Herlander's expert input and thank him again for going out of his way to make our almost 11-hour (!) day. Visit his facebook page: lots of stunning photographs of birds and other wildlife.

Marianne ten Cate

### BIRDWATCH BRANCH WORKSHOP

Brian Caffrey of BirdWatch Ireland HQ has sent us the following advance notice on a proposed Branch Workshop. It may be of interest to some of our Galway members who might finally think the time is ripe to put the Galway branch on a better and more formal basis and this could be a helpful opportunity to make a start. Anyone interested could contact Brian at [bcaffrey@birdwatchireland.ie](mailto:bcaffrey@birdwatchireland.ie).

NS

#### Branch Day

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the Branch Survey Questionnaire. Following on from these surveys we will be holding a **Branch Workshop** in the **Bloomfield House Hotel near Mullingar, Co. Westmeath**, on **Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016**. In the next couple of weeks we will be sending on full details on the outline for the day and a request to register your attendance, but in advance of this I just wanted to get the date out to you as early as possible. The schedule for the day will include a number of interactive workshops on areas such as membership, branch events and communications, interspersed with short talks from a range of staff to provide updates on our work. We will end the day with a short walk, led by the Westmeath Branch, to watch the impressive Starling murmuration on Lough Ennell.

Brian Caffrey

## BirdWatch Galway (Branch of BirdWatch Ireland) 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2016

QUARTERLY BIRD REPORT COMPILED BY CHRIS PEPIATT

DATE OF ISSUE: 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017

7th July: Ad. Forster's Tern, Parkmore, Kinvara. (1)

10th July: Great White Egret, Kilcolgan (Martin O'Malley). (2)

11th July: Summer plumaged Spotted Redshank, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Cathal Forkan). (3)

11th July: Ad. Sum. Mediterranean Gull & 2nd Yr. Little Gull, Mutton Island, Galway city (Cathal Forkan).

13th July: 2 Wilson's Petrel, 40 km SW of Slyne Head (Niall Keogh).

13th July: Whimbrel, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Tom Tarpey).

16th July: Little Egret, ringed in 2013 from a Co. Galway breeding site, Kilcaimin (Neil Ellis).

16th July: Black-headed Gull, ringed in 2006 from a colony on Lough Mask, Co. Mayo, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Neil Ellis).

18th July: Leach's Petrel, caught and ringed, Aughrus Point (D. Manley).

19th July: Long-eared Owl, Tully Cross (Dermot Breen).

23rd July: Turtle Dove, Inishmaan (John Maher & Des Finnermore).

31st July: 3 Ruff, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Dermot Breen).

2nd August: Pomarine Skua, Truska, Nr. Ballyconneely (Sean Pierce).

2nd August: 12 Eider, Inishlahard, Nr. Slyne Head (Sean Pierce).

3rd August: 1st Sum. Little Gull, Lough Corrib (Neil Ellis).

4th August: 2 Sooty Shearwater, 3 Storm Petrel, 3 Common Sandpiper & Little Egret, Golam Head, Nr. Lettermullan (Sean Pierce).

6th August: Ad. Ring-billed Gull & Ad. Mediterranean Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Tom Cuffe).

7th August: Great Skua, Inishbofin (Neil Ellis).

12th August: Common Buzzard, Cregg, Corrandulla (Peter Tyndall).

14th August: 2 Whimbrel, Silver Strand, Galway city (Ann Fleming).

15th August: Juv. Little Stint, Omev Strand (Dermot Breen).

15th August: 2nd yr. Glaucous Gull, Cleggan (Dermot Breen).

16th August: Wilson's Petrel, 5 miles W of Slyne Head (John Brittain).

16th August: Ringtail Hen Harrier, Lough Corrib (per Irishbirding).

19th August: 17 Whimbrel, Lough Corrib (Tommy Carey).

21st August: Common Buzzard, Nr. Milltown (Chris Benson).

22nd August: Juv. Hobby, Nr. Milltown (Chris Benson).

23rd August: Juv. Curlew Sandpiper, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Cathal Forkan).

25th August: Hobby, Spotted Redshank & Curlew Sandpiper, Mweenish Island, Carna (Dermot Breen).

26th August: Cory's Shearwater, off Inishbofin (John Brittain).

27th August: 2 Curlew Sandpiper & Spotted Redshank, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Cathal Forkan).

27th August: Curlew Sandpiper, Crompaun Bay, Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).

27th August: 2 Curlew Sandpiper, Kilcaimin (Neil Ellis).

28th August: 2 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Pdraig Cullinan).

28th August: 8 Juv. Curlew Sandpiper, Kilcaimin (Dermot Breen).

30th August: Juv. Buff-breasted Sandpiper, between Ballyconneely and Crompaun Bay (Dermot Breen). (4)

1st September: Juv. Little Stint, Tawnagh causeway, Doorus, near Kinvarra (Paul Troake).

2nd September: Juv. Little Stint & 35 Light-bellied Brent Goose, Mweenish Island (Paul Troake).

4th September: Peregrine, Glenrevagh, Corrandulla (Peter Tyndall).

5th September: Sanderling, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Neil Ellis).

6th September: 2nd yr. Glaucous Gull, Loughaunwillan, Carraroe (Dermot Breen).

6th September: 2nd yr. Glaucous Gull (ringed), Cleggan (Dermot Breen).

6th September: Sooty Shearwater, Curlew Sandpiper & Arctic Skua, Loughaunbeg (Dermot Breen).

7th September: Garganey & Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake).

10th September: 3 Curlew Sandpiper & 21 Knot, Tawnagh causeway, Doorus, near Kinvarra (Paul Troake).
10th September: Pomarine Skua (dark phase) & Great Skua, Mutton Island (Niall Keogh).
10th September: 2 Curlew Sandpiper & 11 Light-bellied Brent Goose, Kilcaimin (Neil Ellis).
10th September: 3 Sanderling & Little Gull, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Neil Ellis).
10th September: Sabine's Gull, 2 Grey Phalarope & Glaucous Gull, Cleggan-Inishbofin ferry (Anthony McGeehan).
10th September: Whimbrel, South Park, Galway city (Niall Keogh).
11th September: Ad. Long-tailed Skua & Imm. Black Tern, Mutton Island, Galway city (Marcin Pisula).
13th September: Ad. American Golden Plover, Omev Island, later relocated at Aughrus Point (Dermot Breen).
13th September: 12 Sooty Shearwater, 2 Grey Phalarope, Reed Warbler, Swift & Lesser Whitethroat, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan). (5)
16th September: Juv. Pectoral Sandpiper & Lapland Bunting, Inishark (Dermot Breen).
17th September: Ringtail Hen Harrier, Ballindiff Bay, Lough Corrib (Deirdre Comerford).
17th September: 2 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Dermot Breen).
17th September: Wryneck, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
17th September: 3 Curlew Sandpiper, Tawnagh causeway, Doorus, near Kinvarra (Paul Troake).
18th September: 3 Common Buzzard, Claregalway (Jim Glennon).
19th September: Juv. Long-billed Dowitcher & Juv. Baird's Sandpiper, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Dermot Breen). (6), (7)
20th September: 3 Curlew Sandpiper, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Aonghus O'Donail).
20th September: Kingfisher, River Corrib, Glenlo, Galway city (Ben Kelly).
20th September: 443 Wigeon, 510 Black-tailed Godwit & 71 Snipe, Rahasane turlough (Pete Capsey).
20th September: Common Buzzard, between Craughwell and Athenry (Pete Capsey).
20th September: 20 Chough, Renvyle (Ciaran Salmon).
21st September: 2 Curlew Sandpiper & Spotted Redshank, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Paidi Cullinan).
23rd September: Common Buzzard, Ballindiff Bay, Lough Corrib (Deirdre Comerford).
25th September: Wheatear, Spiddal (Éamonn Ó hÉanaigh & Padraig Farrelly).
25th September: Ad. Mediterranean Gull, Nimmo's Pier. Galway city (Éamonn Ó hÉanaigh & Padraig Farrelly).
26th September: Pink-footed Goose, 4 Ruff & 2 Grey Plover, Rahasane turlough (Tom Murtagh).
27th September: 6 Greylag Goose, 830 Wigeon, 21 Shoveler, 460 Black-tailed Godwit, 105 Golden Plover, 3 Grey Plover, Peregrine & Swallow, Rahasane turlough (Pete Capsey).
29th September: 2 Leach's Petrel, 1st Win. Mediterranean Gull & Arctic Tern, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Niall Keogh & Harry Hussey).
29th September: Red-eyed Vireo, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan). (8)
30th September: Ad. Ring-billed Gull, 1st Win. Mediterranean Gull & 2 (Ad. & 1st yr.) Little Gull, Nimmo's Pier/Mutton Island, Galway city (Niall Keogh).
30th September: flyover Lapland Bunting, Kerrhaun South, Slyne Head (Dermot Breen).

**NOTES:**

- (1) This bird is the long-staying Forster's Tern that was present in the first half of 2016.
- (2) A Great White Egret was again present at Kilcolgan on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2016, while a bird was present at Rahasane turlough on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August, the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, the 7<sup>th</sup> of September and the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2016. It is not known if these records refer to one or two birds.
- (3) The Spotted Redshank was present again at this site on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2016.
- (4) This bird was relocated at Aillebrack, Slyne Head on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2016 and was again present there on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2016.
- (5) Single Lesser Whitethroat were also present on Inishbofin on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of September.
- (6) The juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher was also present at Rusheen Bay on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2016.
- (7) The juvenile Baird's Sandpiper was also present at Rusheen Bay on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2016.
- (8) The Red-eyed Vireo was also present on Inishbofin on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2016.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

Three Wilson's Petrel, Long-tailed Skua, Cory's Shearwater, Sabine's Gull, Garganey, 2 Hobby, American Golden Plover, Long-billed Dowitcher, Pectoral Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Turtle Dove, Wryneck, two Lapland Bunting & Red-eyed Vireo.

**WINTER ARRIVALS:**

Light-bellied Brent Goose (2<sup>nd</sup> September); Pink-footed Goose (26<sup>th</sup> September).