



## 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. 96– Feb 2017

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

### LOCAL MATTERS

The February issue of the *Newsletter* could be described as the edition for the middle of the bird-watching year which in a sense runs from September to August. In February, we still have winter birds all around, yet spring is beginning to show also. Unfailing signs for me are the arrivals of Common and Black-headed Gulls on Lough Corrib and the increasing activity of Ravens as they pair off and perform their aerial antics. These signs of spring are worth watching for.

In the meantime, Galway members have taken part in two of our three Inner Galway Bay I-WeBS counts and the two counts of lower Lough Corrib. The Saturday Nimmo's Pier outings continue to provide a vital focal point for all birdwatchers. Others keep up the task of informing and fostering interest in birds and their conservation. Bail o Dhia ort. **NS**

### THE PEREGRINE – BOOK REVIEW

If the birdwatcher in you is excited when a speck in the sky or a shape on a building becomes a Peregrine Falcon, or you have heard the sudden rush of air as a Peregrine levels off close to your head at the end of its stoop on Lapwings, you can relive and add to the experience over and over again by reading this unusual book. It will also help you to find your own Peregrine when out and about in the landscape, having read Baker's accounts of continually finding, losing sight of and re-finding the Peregrines as he follows them on foot and by bicycle in Essex for a winter's season across farmland, wood, saltmarsh and estuary.

It is a very personal book, as Baker himself makes clear, and it has a very personal ending. But what he writes and how he writes it allows birdwatchers to walk in his shoes across land that they already seem to know and to see things that perhaps they would not have noticed before. Baker puts it like this: "The hardest thing of all to see is what is really there."

Derek Radcliffe, in his treatise *The Peregrine Falcon*, also published in 1967, gave the book some appreciative attention and regarded it as a "remarkable work of primarily literary impact" and, although he felt that "uncertainties on facts are introduced" due to "a measure of artistic licence", he said it is a book that "Peregrine enthusiasts should read for its originality of approach". Both books were written when the Peregrine seemed to have a very precarious future owing to DDT in insecticides that were widely used at that time and commonly got into Perigrines' food items.

The theme seems repetitive, maybe too much so for some readers, but the writing compelled me to continue reliving the scene with all the minute variations that nature always

provides. The landscape waits and within it the Woodpigeons, Black-headed Gulls, Lapwings, Jays, Kingfishers, Moorhens, Sparrowhawks, Woodcocks, Skylarks, Green Sandpipers, Starlings and Red-legged Partridges continue their daily lives. A Peregrine Falcon appears again and all changes for a while. But amid all that, it is Baker's 300-word depiction of a Treecreeper, a bird that cannot be a Peregrine's prey, which brought me up with a start. "His bent bill is as cruel-looking as a hawk's, a thin talon, a dangerous thorn ... [He] moves upward in frog-like jerks, picking and carving out insects from crevices lit by his shining egg-white breast ... The markings on his folded wings look like faded moths."

J. A. Baker, *THE PEREGRINE*

New York Review Books Classics, 2005. First published by Harper & Row, New York, 1967.

**Stephen Heery**

### BIRDS IN POETRY

#### Two Pewits

Under the after-sunset sky  
Two Pewits sport and cry,  
More white than is the moon on high,  
Riding the dark surge silently, their cry  
Is the one sound under the sky.  
They alone move, now low, now high,  
And merrily they cry  
To the mischievous Spring sky,  
Plunging earthward, tossing high,  
Over the ghost who wonders why  
So merrily they cry and fly,  
Nor choose 'twixt earth and sky,  
While the moon's quarter silently  
Rides, and earth rests as silently.

**Edward Thomas (1878-1917)**

### WINTER WATERBIRDS OF LOUGH CORRIB A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Much has been written about Lough Corrib, the first notable publication being the 1867 *Wilde's Loch Corrib – its shores and islands*; and much has been written about birds in Ireland, Ussher and Warren's *Birds of Ireland* (1900) being the first comprehensive overview of our avifauna. However, despite several more recent publications, e.g. *Birds of Ireland* by P.G. Kennedy, R.F. Ruttledge and C.F. Scroope (1954) and *Ireland's birds* by Robert Ruttledge (1966), Lough Corrib was not put on the ornithological map until Tony Whilde's 1977 *Birds of Galway and Mayo* and Clive Hutchinson's 1979 *Ireland's wetlands and their birds*. Although monthly wildfowl counts had been started in Ireland in the late 1940s (under the auspices of the Slimbridge (UK)-based Wildfowl Trust), the International Waterfowl Research Bureau January counts did not start until 1967. To these, November counts were

added in 1969 and March counts in 1975. In the meantime, Northern Ireland ornithologists had been carrying out monthly counts and shown them to form an invaluable tool in assessing the importance of certain sites and the timing of migration, for instance. So, in the Republic of Ireland the *Wetlands enquiry* was commenced in the winter of 1971-72; this developed into a monthly survey of 289 coastal and inland wetlands, yielding 2,001 counts from 1971 to 1975. The Forest and Wildlife Service started to add to the counts with aerial surveys from 1972-73.

The Irish counts, in an international context, facilitated the establishment of criteria to identify the international and national importance of the Irish wetlands in general or for particular species, based on their north-west (wildfowl) or west (waders) European flyway population estimates. Any wetland holding at least 10,000 ducks, 20,000 waders or one per cent of the flyway population of an individual species was considered to be of international importance.

In 1977, Whilde wrote about Coot on Lough Corrib: "increasing numbers have been wintering on lower Lough Corrib in recent years. In 1973 the maximum count was nearly 7,000, in 1974 11,550, in 1975 10,600 and in 1976 16,045." And about Pochard on Lough Corrib that their first reliable estimate was 11,000 in 1968 and 11,687 were recorded in 1973. During 1974-76 up to 21,000 Pochard were observed. "The Corrib flock may constitute nearly 10% of the north-west European wintering population, mainly in one flock on the lower lake."

Hutchinson (1979), basing his overview of *Irish wetlands and their birds* on the *Wetlands enquiry*, wrote about Lough Corrib: "The most numerous species on the lake are Pochard and Coot. Pochard, mostly males, begin to build up ... from mid-July and reach a peak in October or November. Over 22,000 have been counted, almost 10% of the north-European population. There is a rapid decline from November and only 2,000 or so remain into January and a few hundred in March. The pattern of occurrence of Coots is more complex, with peak numbers occurring in December in 1973-74 (7,000) and October in 1974-75 (11,600) [10,000 being the qualifying level for international importance]. Quite large numbers of Mallard, Teal and, particularly, Wigeon also occur in winter. Small numbers of Gadwall frequent the Mount Ross inlet. Tufted Duck are less numerous than Pochard but up to 800 occur." So, at that time, the numbers of Pochard alone qualified the lake as being of international importance.

Wetland monitoring continued since and in 1982 Whilde published the *Irish wetlands survey*, commissioned by the Federation of Hunting Associations of the EEC and the



## 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. 96– Feb 2017

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

National Association of Regional Game Councils; Gordon Young and I computerised all Irish wetland data to hand, including the results of the *Wetlands enquiry*, and this was continued by Donal McMenamin and Ralph Sheppard who, in 1993, on the basis of the Winter Wetland Surveys of 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87, organised by the then Irish Wildbird Conservancy (now BirdWatch Ireland), summarised over 7,000 counts by 300 people covering 1,915 sites in *Ireland's wetland wealth*. Of Lough Corrib Sheppard wrote: "Species with Internationally Important numbers: Pochard – 8,660. Species with Nationally Important numbers – Cormorant 110, Mute Swan 176, White-fronted Goose 83, Tufted Duck 1,317, and Coot 6,756." Note that so far neither Golden Plover nor Lapwing received a mention.

The 1986 *Atlas of wintering birds in Britain and Ireland*, compiled by Peter Lack for the British Trust for Ornithology and the Irish Wildbird Conservancy, does not give Lough Corrib a mention in relation to Coot but "in September more than 20,000 [Pochard] have been found on Loughs Corrib, Derravaragh, and Cullin in Co. Galway/Co. Mayo."

In *Birds of Galway* (1990), While reported on waterbird counts on Lough Corrib in 1989-90, when 29 species were recorded from September to February – again, maximum numbers of Pochard (2,712) and Coot (2,700) stand out but in much lower numbers than before. There were maximum numbers of 672 Tufted Duck and 903 Lapwing.

In 1993, in the Irish Red Data Book, While reported about Pochard that "the European wintering population has been declining since the peak of the mid-1970s and now stands at about 350,000 birds of which about 50,000 winter in Ireland, including up to 41,000 on Lough Neagh." Allowing for Pochard wintering elsewhere in the Republic, this suggests that Pochard numbers on Lough Corrib may not have exceeded 3-4,000 birds.

In 1994, the Irish Wetland Bird Survey was established and in 2005 a comprehensive report on the results of 1994-2001, *Ireland's wetlands and their waterbirds: status and distribution*, was compiled by Olivia Crowe, based on the intervening annual reports, first by Simon Delaney and Kendrew Colhoun and, subsequently, by Olivia. Of Lough Corrib she wrote: "Counts during I-WeBS have largely been focussed on the lower basin of Lough Corrib. Vantage points alongside the southern basin are few, and birds occasionally congregate well offshore. Because of this, counts of this site are restricted to calm and bright conditions. The southern basin has been regularly covered during all I-WeBS seasons." A small summary-table gives:

Number of regularly occurring species: 24

Mean wildfowl 1996-2000: 30,888

Mean waders 1996-2000: 4,320

Mean gulls 1996-2000: 190.

Pochard is listed as internationally important (11,637 being 3.3% of flyway population, cf. almost 10% in mid-1970s) and species of national importance at that time were Gadwall (50), Shoveler (74), Tufted Duck (5,453, ranking Lough Corrib as their second most important site in Ireland), Coot (12,521, ranking Lough Corrib as their most important site in Ireland), Golden Plover (2,241) and Lapwing (2,385).

Following Olivia's 2005 report, Helen Boland and Olivia compiled *Irish Wetland Bird Survey: waterbird status and distribution 2001/2-2008/9* to report on the next eight seasons of I-WeBS counts. This time, there was no overview of the 694 individual sites monitored by the 443 I-WeBS participants; rather, for each of the 75 species covered by this report the importance of sites was indicated on a species-specific abundance map. Mute Swan numbers on Lough Corrib now exceeded the international threshold of 110 birds with a mean number of 315 during the survey period and qualified Lough Corrib as an internationally important site. Pochard still did so too as they exceeded the threshold of 3,500 during all but the last season of the survey, their numbers having decreased consistently to a mean of 6,456. Birds which occurred in nationally important numbers were Gadwall (threshold 20/mean counted 61), Shoveler (25/83), Tufted Duck (370/3,254), Coot (330/7,815 - no longer meeting the international threshold of 17,500; no other site did either!) and Golden Plover (1,700/2,270). Unfortunately, numbers of Lapwing at Lough Corrib were no longer of significant importance (2,100/1,345).

Since the last report, the birds on Lower Lough Corrib were, in most years, counted in October/November and in January but in some years this was hampered by poor weather and flooding of access to vantage points. In the next *Newsletter* I will discuss the results of the counts from November 2009 till January 2017.

**Marianne ten Cate**

### THE MULLET REVISITED

My first visit to the Mullet Peninsula in Co. Mayo was thirty years ago, when a Galway BirdWatch group went there with the main purpose of seeing the Red-necked Phalarope at Annagh Marsh, the the sole Irish site for this wader; it has bred there off and on over the years. The site was purchased by the forerunner of BirdWatch in the 1930s, making it, I think, the first dedicated site for birds in Ireland. On that day, we not only saw the Red-necked Phalarope but a Wilson's Phalarope as well; in fact, the Wilson's kept getting in the way of our viewing of the Red-necked! We also saw a

Corn Bunting, possibly one of the last sightings of that bird before it became extinct in Ireland. All in all, it was one of those outings that remain long as a birdwatching highlight.

My revisit last September was on a different footing altogether: a week-long family break with birdwatching not necessarily at the top of the agenda. Nevertheless, I did manage quite a bit. My first impression overall was how 'bird rich' the entire area is; it seemed to teem with birds – Skylarks, Stonechats, Linnets, Starlings, Wheatears and Meadow Pipits seemed to be everywhere. Waterbirds, including Redshank, Curlews, Sanderlings, terns, Snipe and Ringed Plover were all easy to spot. Choughs turned up most days. A Ruff was a highlight, as was a possible but not certain Skua. In all, I ticked off 42 species in the course of a week's not very intensive birdwatching. The area also accounts for the great majority of the 60 or so recorded calling Corncrakes in Cos Mayo and Galway.

Would I recommend the Mullet for birdwatching and a break generally? Certainly – it is a nice well-defined location with a great variety of habitats and really rich in birdlife. It is mainly flat, making it ideal for cycling, especially for those whose pedalling performance is perhaps no longer what it used to be! The town of Belmullet has come a long way in the 30 years since my last visit and offers all that is needed in facilities. All in all, a happy return, albeit too late in the season for Phalarope and Corncrake ticking!

**NS**

### WHOSE BIRD? – BONAPARTE'S GULL

Prince Charles Lucien Bonaparte, originally Jules Laurent Lucien (1803-1857), was a nephew of the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. A renowned ornithologist, both in Europe and the United States. Bonaparte was much travelled, but he spent many years in the United States cataloguing birds, and he has been described as the 'father of systematic ornithology'. He eventually settled in Paris and commenced his *Conspectus Generum Avium*, a catalogue of every bird species in the world. He died before it was finished, but its publication was heralded as a major step forward in accomplishing one of the most important goals of ornithology: a complete list of the world's birds. He also wrote *American Ornithology* in 1825, and *Iconografia della Fauna Italica-ucelli* in 1832. Swainson described Bonaparte as "destined by nature to confer unperishable benefits on this noble science".

Lucien Bonaparte has at least 10 birds named after him, the most familiar to us being Bonaparte's Gull.

From: Bo Beolens & Michael Watkins, *Whose Bird?* (Helm, 2002).

**NS**

## BirdWatch Galway (Branch of BirdWatch Ireland) 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2016

QUARTERLY BIRD REPORT COMPILED BY CHRIS PEPPIATT

DATE OF ISSUE: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017

1st October: Icterine Warbler, Inishmore (Mick Boyle).

1st October: 2 White Wagtail, Inishmore (Dermot Breen).

3rd October: Spotted Redshank & Juv. Little Gull, Kilcaimin (Neil Ellis).

4th October: Common Rosefinch & Greenland (*rostrata*) Redpoll, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).

4th October: Red-eyed Vireo, again present, Inishbofin. (1)

5th October: 3 Lapland Bunting, Truska, near Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).

6th October: Semipalmated Plover, Ardmore Strand, Nr. Carna (Dermot Breen). (2)

7th October: 12 (4-1st yr. & 8 Ad.) Mediterranean Gull, including birds ringed in Germany and Ireland, Kilkieran Harbour (Dermot Breen).

7th October: Red-breasted Flycatcher, 5 Yellow-browed Warbler & Whinchat, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney).

8th October: 5 Yellow-browed Warbler & Whinchat, Ballyconneely/Slyne Head area (Dermot Breen).

8th October: 4 Yellow-browed Warbler, Inishbofin (John Power, Fran O'Connell & Tadhg O'Keefe).

8th October: Baird's Sandpiper, Trá Mor, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney). (3)

8th October: 6 Yellow-browed Warbler & 5 Lapland Bunting, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney).

8th October: flyover migrant Redwing, Westside, Galway city (Chris Peppiatt).

9th October: 10 Yellow-browed Warbler, Tree Pipit & Lesser Whitethroat, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney & Cathal Forkan).

9th October: Yellow-browed Warbler & Spotted Flycatcher, Inishbofin (John Power, Fran O'Connell & Tadhg O'Keefe).

10th October: 2-3 Yellow-browed Warbler, Inishbofin (John Power, Fran O'Connell, Tadhg O'Keefe & PV).

11th October: Yellow-browed Warbler & Lesser Whitethroat, Inishbofin (John Power, Fran O'Connell, Tadhg O'Keefe & PV).

12th October: Barred Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Hen Harrier & 11 Pink-footed Goose, Inishbofin (John Power, Fran O'Connell, Tadhg O'Keefe & PV). (4)

12th October: Yellow-browed Warbler & 3 Common Crossbill, Slyne Head (Dermot Breen).

13th October: 2 Yellow-browed Warbler (one new), Inishbofin (John Power, Fran O'Connell, Tadhg O'Keefe & PV).

13th October: 2 Yellow-browed Warbler (both ringed) & 17 Common Crossbill, Slyne Head (Dermot Breen & Declan Marley).

14th October: 2 Yellow-browed Warbler, Waterside, Galway city (Marcin Pisula).

15th October: Ring Ouzel, 7 Yellow-browed Warbler, Siberian Chiffchaff, 2 Lesser Whitethroat & 12 Pink-footed Goose, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan, John Power, Fran O'Connell, Tadhg O'Keefe & PV).

15th October: 9 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Neil Ellis).

16th October: Yellow-browed Warbler, 3 Lesser Whitethroat & Eider, Inishbofin (John Power, Fran O'Connell, Tadhg O'Keefe & PV).

16th October: Great White Egret, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper & 4 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Dermot Breen). (5)

17th October: 2 Yellow-browed Warbler (at least one unringed), Slyne Head (Dermot Breen).

19th October: 4 Light-bellied Brent Goose, Lough Rea (Tom Murtagh).

19th October: 6 Yellow-browed Warbler, Inishmore (Dermot Breen).

19th October: 2 Brambling, 86 Barnacle Goose, Fieldfare, 20 Redwing, Lesser Whitethroat & 4 Yellow-browed Warbler, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).

20th October: Western Bonelli's Warbler, Creig an Chéirín, Inishmore (Dermot Breen). (6)

20th October: 3 Lesser Whitethroat, Inishmore (Dermot Breen).

20th October: 5 Common Buzzard, Claregalway (Jim Glennon).

20th October: Brambling & 100 Barnacle Goose, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).

20th October: Whooper Swan, Glennamaddy turlough (Michael Egan).

21st October: 2 Yellow-browed Warbler, Garden Warbler & 2 Lesser Whitethroat, Inishmore (Dermot Breen).
21st October: 2 Yellow-browed Warbler, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
22nd October: 24 Greenland White-fronted Goose & 28 Whooper Swan, Rahasane turlough (Eamonn Delaney).
28th October: Siberian Chiffchaff, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney).
29th October: 2 Little Stint, Rahasane turlough (Eamonn Delaney).
29th October: Siberian Chiffchaff, Inishbofin (Anthony McGeehan).
30th October: Peregrine & 2 Yellowhammer, Glenrevagh, Corrandulla (Pete Tyndall).
30th October: 2 Siberian Chiffchaff, Yellow-browed Warbler & Garden Warbler, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney).
31st October: Curlew Sandpiper & Greenland Wheatear, Omey Island (Dermot Breen).
31st October: Siberian Chiffchaff, Onaght, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney).
1st November: Siberian Chiffchaff, Conneely's Garden, Slyne Head (Dermot Breen).
3rd November: Yellow-browed Warbler, near Galway Cathedral, Galway city (Calvin Jones).
4th November: Black Redstart, Loughrea town (Tom Murtagh). (7)
4th November: Forster's Tern, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Cathal Forkan). (8)
4th November: 2 Kingfisher, Eglington Canal, Nr. cathedral, Galway city (Niall Keogh).
5th November: 2 Peregrine, Merlin & Hen Harrier, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Neil Ellis).
6th November: Greenland Wheatear, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Harry Hussey).
7th November: 1st yr. Red-breasted Flycatcher, near Trident holiday homes, Slyne Head (Dermot Breen). (9)
7th November: Siberian Chiffchaff, Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).
7th November: Peregrine, Oranbeg, Oranmore (Ralph Wheatley).
7th November: 4 Twite, Frenchfort, Oranmore (Ralph Wheatley).
12th November: Ringtail Hen Harrier & 7 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Neil Ellis).
12th November: Juv. Iceland Gull, Furbo (Alex Ash).
12th November: Ad. Mediterranean Gull & Ad. Ring-billed Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Niall Keogh).
12th November: 2 Siberian Chiffchaff, Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen). (10)
13th November: Juv. Iceland Gull & Ad. Mediterranean Gull, Spiddal (Alex Ash).
13th November: Drake Lesser Scaup, Lough Rea (Dermot Breen, Harry Hussey & Cathal Forkan). (11)
17th November: Velvet Scoter & 3 Sandwich Tern, Newtownlynch Pier (Paul Troake). (12)
18th November: Ad. Mediterranean Gull, GMIT Galway Campus, Galway city (Niall Keogh).
19th November: Pacific Diver (probable returned bird), Tawin (Niall Keogh, Pádraig Keirns & Neil Sharkey). (13)
19th November: Slavonian Grebe & 3 Stock Dove, Ardfry (Niall Keogh, Pádraig Keirns & Neil Sharkey).
19th November: 2 Spotted Redshank, Kilcaimin (Niall Keogh, Pádraig Keirns & Neil Sharkey).
19th November: Drake Ring-necked Duck, Lough Rea (Dermot Breen). (14)
23rd November: 2 Twite, Tawin (Paidi Cullinan).
23rd November: Twite, Inishark (Dermot Breen).
29th November: 2 Siberian Chiffchaff, again present, Ballyconneely.
29th November: Black Redstart & 5 Twite, Murlach/Ballyconneely Bay, Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).
30th November: 17 Twite, Aughinish, both sides of Co. Galway/Clare border (Padi Cullinan & Tom Murtagh).
3rd December: Drake Green-winged Teal & 5 Long-tailed Duck, Kinvara (Paul Troake). (15)
3rd December: 35 Twite, Aughinish causeway (west), Co. Clare, adjacent Co. Galway border (Paul Troake).
4th December: 2 Slavonian Grebe, Ardfry (Neil Ellis).
6th December: 67 Twite, Coral Strand, Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).
10th December: Fem. Snowy Owl, between Spiddal and Inveran (Paul Troake). (16)
10th December: Spotted Redshank, Rahasane turlough (Eamonn MacLochlainn).
17th December: Black Redstart, Barna Pier (Cathal Forkan). (17)
18th December: Male Merlin, Rahasane turlough (Niall Keogh).

18th December: 10 Long-tailed Duck, Aughinish, Co. Galway/Clare border (Niall Keogh).
18th December: 3 Long-tailed Duck, Kinvara (Niall Keogh).
18th December: 18 Common Scoter, Newtownlynch Pier (Niall Keogh).
20th December: 2nd Win. Glaucous Gull, Cleggan Harbour (Dermot Breen).
22nd December: 36 Gadwall & 2 Shoveler, Lough Atalia, Galway city (Niall Keogh).
26th December: 2 Barnacle Goose & 80 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Glenamaddy turlough (Jason Glynn).
26th December: Black-necked Grebe, Blackrock, Salthill, Galway city (Brendan Dunne).
27th December: Canada Goose (thought to be Todd's) & 50 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Belclare turlough (Eamonn Delaney).
29th December: 2 Ad. Ring-billed Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Gavin Thomas).
29th December: 4 Long-tailed Duck, Kinvara (Paul Troake).
29th December: 2 Spotted Redshank & Mediterranean Gull, Coranroo Bay (Paul Troake).
31st December: Chough, Renvyle Point (Niall Keogh).

#### NOTES:

- (1) This Red-eyed Vireo is the same bird that was present on Inishbofin since the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2016.
- (2) This was the first record of Semipalmated Plover for Co. Galway.
- (3) The Baird's Sandpiper was also present on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of October, when it was at Loch an Chorruch.
- (4) The Lesser Whitethroat and 11 Pink-footed Goose were again present on Inishbofin on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October.
- (5) A Great White Egret was again present at Rahasane on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2016, while a bird was present at Muckrush, Lough Corrib on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2016. It is not known if these records refer to one or two birds.
- (6) The Western Bonelli's warbler was again present on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2016.
- (7) The Black Redstart was remained at Loughrea until the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2016.
- (8) The returning long-staying wintering adult Forster's Tern was also recorded at Nimmo's Pier on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of November and at Barna Pier on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2016.
- (9) The Red-breasted Flycatcher was still present at Slyne Head on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2016.
- (10) The two Siberian Chiffchaff were later recorded at Ballyconneely on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November.
- (11) The drake Lesser Scaup was also recorded on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, and the 14<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of December 2016.
- (12) The Velvet Scoter was at Auginish causeway on the Co. Galway/Co. Clare border on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November and back at Newtownlynch Pier on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- (13) The Pacific Diver was also seen at Tawin on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2016.
- (14) The drake Ring-necked Duck was also recorded on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, the 14<sup>th</sup> of December and the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2016.
- (15) The drake Green-winged Teal was also recorded at Kinvara on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2016.
- (16) The Snowy Owl was also recorded on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27 of December 2016.
- (17) The Black Redstart was also at Barna Pier on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2016.

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

Black-necked Grebe, 2 Slavonian Grebe, possible Todd's Canada Goose (*B. c. interior*), Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Velvet Scoter, Snowy Owl, Semiplamated Plover, Baird's Sandpiper, eight Lapland Bunting, over 100 Twite, Ring Ouzel, Icterine Warbler; Western Bonelli's Warbler, Barred Warbler, at least 25 Yellow-browed Warbler; 2 Red-breasted Flycatcher, 2 Black Redstart, Common Rosefinch & Red-eyed Vireo. Long-staying Forster's Tern and Great White Egret.

#### WINTER ARRIVALS:

Redwing (8<sup>th</sup> October); Fieldfare (19<sup>th</sup> October); Whooper Swan (20<sup>th</sup> October); Greenland White-fronted Goose (22<sup>nd</sup> October), Forster's Tern (4<sup>th</sup> November)