



**Irish
Rare
Birds
Committee**

**Irish Rare Bird Report
2005**

Irish Rare Bird Report 2005

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BirdWatch Ireland, 1, Springmount, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow.

Introduction

The 2005 *IRBR* marks a new departure for rare bird recording in Ireland in that data and information, collected through a radically altered recording system which was put into place on 1st January 2005, are presented for the first time. A number of factors (principally, the recent technical advances in digital photography and the upsurge in the number of rarity photographs being published on the Internet, in addition to improved observer competence) enabled us to employ more pragmatic, observer-friendlier methods, under which numerous species no longer require formal documentation and assessment. All known rarity sightings are now published and updated on a monthly basis in the *Provisional List of Rare Bird Sightings* on the *IRBC* website. Observers are invited to contribute by examining the *List* and supplying, wherever relevant, additional information so that the record, when published in the *IRBR*, will be as accurate as possible. Full details and background information relating to the new recording system were published in *Irish Birds* 7: 413-418 and can also be accessed on the *IRBC* website http://www.irbc.ie/irbc_form.html.

The simplicity of this new system, combined with the high level of acceptance and cooperation with which observers of rare birds in Ireland have embraced it, have resulted in a substantial increase in the number of rare and scarce bird sightings qualifying for publication in this *Report*. At the same time, this increase underlines the fact that no more than a handful of sightings from previous years remain undocumented; the *IRBC* warmly welcomes late submission of such records for inclusion in future *Reports*. The publication of the *Northern Ireland Bird Report* Vol. 16, which covers the years 2003 and 2004, enables us to update the record here with respect to Northern Ireland.

A significant change of format in this *Report* is the inclusion of all records and full details of long-staying rarities, first seen during the year prior to the one covered by the *Report*, e.g. overwintering ducks, geese and waders seen in the winter 2004/2005, many of which have already been published. Although the new format entails repetition of previously published information, we believe that the *Report* should present as full a picture as possible for the year in question.

Two species were recorded in Ireland for the first time in 2005: Green Heron *Butorides virescens* (seen in Cork in October) and Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica* (seen in Down in November and December). A Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* of the North American subspecies *sanctijohannis*, found injured in Clare in October, was the first confirmed Irish record of this form. In addition, the second Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus* (Dublin and Down), second Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* (Wicklow), fifth Elegant Tern *Sterna elegans* (Meath) and fifth and sixth Grey-cheeked Thrushes *Catharus minimus* (Cork) were recorded during the year. This *Report* also includes belated publication of the first Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus* (Louth 1993), third Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* (Antrim 2004), third Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* (Donegal 1990) and fifth Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* (Dublin 2002).

Autumn seawatching produced record totals of Fea's/Zino's Petrels *Pterodroma feae/madeira* and Wilson's Petrels *Oceanites oceanicus* as well as good numbers of Long-tailed Skuas *Stercorarius longicaudus*. The occurrence of Hurricane Wilma, off the east coast of the USA in late October, was responsible for exceptional influxes of Laughing Gulls *Larus atricilla* and Chimney Swifts *Chaetura pelagica*, and the year was also notable for influxes of Spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia* and Hawfinches *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. Five species of rare heron were recorded during the spring, including the first Cattle Egrets *Bubulcus ibis* and Purple Herons *Ardea purpurea* since 1999.

Records for 2005 (and previous years) should be sent to the following:

See list in *IRBC Report (Irish Birds 7:413 – 418)*. BirdWatch Ireland, Wicklow.

Republic of Ireland
Paul Milne
100 Dublin Road,
Sutton,
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Rarity Description forms may be downloaded from the IRBC website:
http://www.irbc.ie/irbc_form.html.

Northern Ireland

George Gordon
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2005 Systematic List

The sequence and scientific nomenclature follows Voous KH, 1973-1977, List of Recent Holarctic bird species (*Ibis* 115:612-638; 119:223-250, 376-406) but includes the recommendations by the Taxonomic Sub-committee of the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (*Ibis* 149:853-857).

The two numbers in parentheses after rarer species refer respectively to (a) the total number of birds up to, but not including, the current year; totals calculated for the period beginning 1st January 1950 are marked with an asterisk; (b) the total for the current year.

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis fabalis*

Armagh Two, Mountnorris, 28th November to 18th December (J.Devlin *et al.*).

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus* (8; 0)

2004 Londonderry Two, Myroe Levels, 5th to 25th January (*NIBR* 16:49).

1993 Louth The record of two adult Bean Geese *Anser fabalis ssp.* at Braganstown from 22nd November to 28th January 1994 (*Irish Birds* 5: 329) has been re-assessed and accepted as referring to this subspecies (K.W.S.Kane).

The Louth record now becomes the first Irish record of this race of Bean Goose, while the Londonderry record is the first record for Northern Ireland.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Wexford The adult present at the North Slob since November 2004 (*Irish Birds* 8:108), remained until 3rd March, photographed (A.Walsh *et al.*).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Kerry One, Lough Gill, 19th to 21st January, photographed (M.O'Clery), presumed to be of North American origin.

2003 Londonderry One, Myroe Levels, 12th to 21st December (*NIBR* 16:51), presumed to be of North American origin.

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

Kerry One, Blennerville, 17th December to 26th April 2006, photographed (M.O'Keeffe *et al.*).

Mayo Adult, Ross, Killala Bay 14th January; same individual 3rd to 10th April, photographed (J.Kilroy, M.O'Keeffe), presumed returning individual. Adult, The Mullet, 29th January to 14th March, photographed (D.Suddaby); one, 11th December (D.Suddaby), presumed returning individual.

Waterford Adult, Dungarvan, 8th January to 9th February, photographed (P.M.Walsh *et al.*); adult, 25th November to 25th January 2006, photographed (P.M.Walsh *et al.*), presumed returning individual. Adult, Tramore Backstrand, 1st November, photographed (P.Archer).

Wexford Adult, North Slob, 27th January to 20th March, photographed (S.Geraty *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

2004 Down Adult, Strangford Lough, 16th October (*NIBR* 16:53).

2003 Down One, Strangford Lough, 2nd to 16th November (*NIBR* 16:52-53), presumed returning individual.

2003 Londonderry One, Myroe Levels, 11th October (*NIBR* 16:52), presumed returning individual.



Adult **Black Brant** *Branta bernicla nigricans*, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, 25th November 2005. Photos: Declan Clarke (left) and Micheal Cowming (right).

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (110; 2)

Mayo Adult male, Termoncarragh, The Mullet, 29th September to 4th March 2006 (D.Suddaby).

Roscommon Adult male, Ballaghadareen Wetland, 22nd and 23rd June (T.O'Mahoney).

Wexford Adult male, Tacumshin, 23rd to 27th December, presumed returning individual, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*); same individual, North Slob, 22nd January 2006 (T. Kilbane).

2004 Londonderry Male, Lough Beg, 5th June to 12th August (*NIBR* 16:54).

The Londonderry and Roscommon records are only the fifth and sixth to be recorded in June; there is only one previous instance of a bird summering (at Ballycotton, Cork, in 1985).

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (12; 0)

Mayo The male present at Keel Lough and Schruillbeg Lough, Achill Island since December 2004 (*Irish Birds* 8:109) remained until 9th April (P.Lonergan), photographed (*Birding World* 18:50, *Dutch Birding* 27:142).

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (55; 3)

Dublin Adult female, North Bull Island, 6th October to 11th January 2006, photographed (B.A.E.Marr *et al.*).

Kerry Juvenile male, Baile an Reannaigh, Smerwick, 11th September to 1st October, photographed (C.Bradshaw *et al.*).

Wexford First-year female, North Slob, 17th September, shot on 1st October; presumed same individual, Tacumshin, 24th September (T. Kilbane *et al.*).



Adult female **Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*. Bull Island, Co.Dublin, 30th December 2005. Photo: Paul & Andrea Kelly



Adult female **Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors* with Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Bull Island, Co.Dublin, 18th December 2005. Photo: Rob Vaughan.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (117; 6)

Armagh One, Craigavon Lakes, 20th March (R.Bennett); one, 19th November to 17th December (D.Knight). One, Kinnegoe Bay, Oxford Island NNR, 25th March (F.Carroll).

Clare Of the four birds present at Ballyallia Lake since November 2004 (*Irish Birds* 8:109), two males and the female remained until 10th April (J.N.Murphy, S.Nugent *et al.*). Adult male, Knockalough, Kilmihil, 24th November (J.N.Murphy). Female, Ballyallia Lake, Ennis, 29th November to 31st March 2006, photographed (S.Nugent), presumed returning individual.

Cork The adult male present at Dooniskey since December 2004 remained until 6th February (*Irish Birds* 8:109) and was also seen at The Gearagh on 3rd January 2005 (M.Carmody, C.Cronin, A.Robinson). Adult male, The Lough, 28th January; same individual, 20th April (A.Robinson, *et al.*), presumed returning individual. Adult male, Dooniskey, 4th December to 28th February 2006 (H.Hussey *et al.*); same individual, The Gearagh, 5th February 2006 (N.Linehan), presumed returning individual.

Donegal Adult male, Blanket Nook, 28th March to 14th April (D.Brennan); same individual, Inch Levels, 10th December (D.Brennan), presumed returning individual. Juvenile, Tory Island, 25th to 28th September, photographed (J.F.Dowdall, A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*).

Down One, Quoile Pondage NNR, 22nd November to 14th December, photographed (NIBARC).

Fermanagh One, Knockninny, Lower Lough Erne, 9th March (G.Campbell).

Louth Adult male, Mell Quarry, Drogheda, 20th December to 9th April 2006, photographed (many observers), presumed returning individual.

Mayo Both males present at Doogan Lough since November and December 2004 (*Irish Birds* 8:109) remained until 15th January 2005 (P.Lonergan *et al.*); adult male, Culmore Lake 13th to 19th February, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*), presumed one of Doogan Lough birds. Adult male, Doogan Lough, 2nd October, photographed (M.Davis, P.Lonergan), presumed returning individual.

Meath One, Ballyhoe Lake, 21st December to 8th January 2006 (P.Phillips).

Tipperary Male, Lough Eorna, 2nd June (P.Brennan).

Wexford Adult male, North Slob, 31st October to 6th November (H.Delaney, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

2004 Fermanagh Male, Derrymacrow Lough, 15th to 22nd April (*NIBR* 16:59).

2003 Armagh Male, Oxford Island, Lough Neagh, 8th April, presumed returning individual (*NIBR* 16:59).

2003 Tyrone Male, Ballysaggart Lough, 26th October, presumed returning individual (*NIBR* 16:59).

A very good showing, though the majority of records involved individuals which were presumed to be returning from previous winters.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* (29; 0)

Galway Adult male, Blackrock Turlough, Gort, 3rd December 2004 to 27th February (M.Davis, S.Nugent *et al.*); adult male, Coole Lough, Gort, 5th to 12th March (C.Flynn, M.Cowming *et al.*); adult male, 24th November to 6th March 2006, photographed (J.Geraty, S.Geraty), same presumed returning individual involved in all three sightings.

2004 Armagh Male, Craigavon North Lake, 13th December to 14th March 2005 (*NIBR* 16:58).

2003 Down First-winter female, Quoile Pondage NNR, 24th to 30th October (*NIBR* 16:58).

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (11; 1)

Antrim One, Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, 30th January to 17th March (A.McGeehan *et al.*).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (137; 2)

Kerry The four birds present at Brandon Bay since December 2004 (*Irish Birds* 8:109) remained until 25th February (M.O'Clery *et al.*). Adult male, Brandon Bay, 23rd December (M.O'Clery); adult male and female/immature, 28th December to 10th April 2006, photographed (N.Linehan, A.Duggan, J.Diggin *et al.*), presumed returning individuals.

Mayo First-year male, Blacksod Bay, 14th November (D.Suddaby).

Meath First-year male, Gormanston Beach, 31st October (P.Kelly).

Waterford Adult male, Ballyvooney Cove, 5th November (M.Cowming), presumed returning individual.

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica* (0; 1)

Down Male, Quoile Pondage NNR, 20th November to 11th December (I.Webb *et al.*), photographed (*Birding World* 18:443).

The first Irish record. Despite the existence of a healthy population in Iceland, the status of this largely Western Nearctic species as a true vagrant in Western Europe is clouded by the possibility of escape from captivity. However, this bird's credentials are considerably enhanced by the occurrence of the second British record earlier in the year in Scotland (Fraser & Rogers *et al.* 2005).



Male **Barrow's Goldeneye** *Bucephala islandica* with female Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Quoile Pondage, Co.Down, December 2005. Photo: Michael O'Keefe.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* (8; 1)

Dublin Adult, between Skerries and Balbriggan, 5th to 9th November (C.Foley, D.Foley *et al.*) photographed (*Birdwatch* 163:68).



Adult **White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii*, Balbriggan, Co.Dublin, 6th November 2005. Photo:Paul & Andrea Kelly (left), Paul Archer (right).

Fea's/Zino's Petrel *Pterodroma feae/madeira* (30; 7)

Clare Bridges of Ross, four: one, 13th August (N.Selosse *et al.*); one, 14th August (C.Gruwier *et al.*); one, 24th August (J.N.Murphy, N.Keogh *et al.*); one, 25th August (A.G.Kelly *et al.*), later seen off Brandon Point, Kerry, see below.

Cork One, Galley Head, 2nd July (C.Barton *et al.*); one, 30th August (K.Cronin).

Kerry One, Brandon Point, 25th August (P.Moore *et al.*), presumed same individual seen earlier off the Bridges of Ross, Clare, see above.

Wexford One, Carnsore Point, 28th August (K.Fahy).

Seven in a year is the highest total to date. The concentration of sightings in mid and late August is typical.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus baroli* (15; 2)

Clare One, Bridges of Ross, 31st August (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*).

Kerry One, Brandon Point, 26th August (B.Richards).

2004 Antrim One, Ramore Head, 25th August (*NIBR* 16:42).

This species has become almost annual since 2000, unlike in Britain, where there has been only one accepted record in the same period. The Antrim record is the first for Northern Ireland (McGeehan 2006).

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (66; 23)

Clare Bridges of Ross, 17: three, 23rd July (P.Milne, J.N.Murphy, S.Nugent, J.Rattigan *et al.*); one, 30th July (C. Flynn, O.Foley); two, 4th August (H.Delaney *et al.*); one, 12th August (J.N.Murphy); two, 13th August (P.Archer, A.Duggan, A.G.Kelly, R.LeBrun *et al.*); one, 18th August (J.N.Murphy); one, 20th August (H.Hussey, O.Foley *et al.*); one, 22nd August (J.F.Dowdall); two, 23rd August (M.Hoit, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); two, 29th August (A.Clewes, M. Goodman, A. Clifton, J. Archer, J. Warne *et al.*); one, 25th September (C.Inskipp, T.Inskipp). One, c.26 km NW of Loop Head, 23rd August (C.Cronin).

Cork One, 5km off Galley Head, 16th August (P.Kelly, A.A.Kelly).

Kerry One, Brandon Point, 18th July, photographed (M.O'Keeffe); two, 25th August (H.Hussey *et al.*). One, 10 km WSW of Inishtearaght, 10th August, photographed (S.Enright, M.O'Clery, F.King, P.McDermott, E.Carty, M.O'Keeffe).

2003 Clare One, Bridges of Ross, 11th August (P.Crouzier).

A record year for this species, but a contributing factor is the suspension of the requirement for submission of a description

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (27*; 0)

2003 Londonderry One, Lough Beg, 21st October (*NIBR* 16:45).

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (62; 2)

Cork Immature, Ballycotton, 22nd March (P.Smiddy). Adult, Lissagriffin, 2nd April (D.Ballard).

Green Heron *Butorides virescens* (0; 1)

Cork First-winter, Schull, 11th to 13th October (P.McDermot *et al.*), photographed (*Birdwatch*162:56, *Birding World* 18:403, 18:458).

The first Irish record. This same individual, recognisable as such on the basis of plumage details, was later seen at Anglesey, Wales from 30th October to 20th November 2005 (Davies 2005).



First-winter **Green Heron** *Butorides virescens*, Schull, Co.Cork, 12th October 2005. Photo: Tom Shevlin.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (8; 2)

Cork Adult, Clonakilty, 30th April to 4th May (H.Hussey, O.Foley *et al.*), photographed (*Birdwatch* 156:76).
Kerry One, near Listowel, 14th to 22nd October, photographed (M.Hillard *et al.*).

The first records since 1999.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba* (14; 2)

Cork One, Blackrock, 30th April (per D.Fitzpatrick).
Dublin One, flew in off the sea, Skerries, 16th August (E.Dempsey *et al.*).
Wexford Adult, Tacumshin, 4th June (P.Kelly *et al.*)

Wicklow Adult, Wicklow Town, 9th May (G.Long); presumed same individual, Killoughter and Broadlough, 15th to 24th May, photographed (P.King *et al.*).

The Cork, Wicklow and Wexford sightings are presumed to have involved the same individual.



Adult summer **Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*, Killoughter, Co.Wicklow, 21st May 2005. Photo: Michael O'Keeffe.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* (18;2)

Cork Adult, near Lissagriffin, 9th May (D.Ballard).

Wexford Adult or sub adult, Tacumshin, 25th March to 9th April (Sh.Farrell *et al.*).

As with Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, the first records since 1999.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (176; 16)

Cork The bird present at Clonakilty since 17th September 2003 remained until 17th June (*Irish Birds* 7:556; 8:111), visiting Baltimore on 6th January and Skibbereen on 26th May (F.Moore *et al.*).

Kerry Juvenile, Castlemaine Harbour, 10th November into 2006, photographed (S.Enright *et al.*).

Mayo Adult, Annagh Marsh, 31st May (D.Suddaby). Ten juveniles, Westport Quay, 1st to 6th October, photographed (M.Casey, M.Leak, R-A.Leak, J.Milroy, D.McLoughlin, W.Stringer *et al.*).

Waterford Adult, Kilbride South, near Tramore, 5th December (E.Power).

Wexford One, Wellingtonbridge, 6th May (C.McNamee). Adult, Cahore, 6th June, photographed (A.G.Kelly).

Wicklow One, Newcastle, 8th August (O.O'Sullivan, J.Wray).

2004 Down First-winter male, Quoile Pondage NNR, 25th to 27th May (*NIBR* 16:47).

The Mayo flock of ten is the largest ever recorded in Ireland. The flock included two colour-ringed birds, ringed at separate sites in The Netherlands and subsequently sighted in The Netherlands in July/August and at Newport, Wales on two occasions in mid-September.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Cork One, Rostellan, 3rd January to 7th February, photographed (C.Cronin *et al.*). One, Dooniskey, 6th February (M.Carmody, C.Cronin, A.Robinson). One, Kilkerran Lake, 29th December to 17th January 2006 (K.Cronin *et al.*).

Dublin Two, Malahide, 2nd April; one, 18th to 20th April, photographed (A.G.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*).

Wexford One, North Slob, 27th January, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*). Two, Wexford Harbour, 20th November to 6th April 2006 (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* (80; 3)

Dublin One, Balcunnin, between Lusk and Skerries, 26th August (O.Taaffe).

Waterford One, wing-tagged, Pickardstown, 25th December to 5th March 2006 (E.Murphy).

Wexford Juvenile, wing-tagged, South Slob, 30th November to 5th January 2006 (T.Murray *et al.*).

2004 Antrim One, Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, 1st August (NIBR 16:64).

2003 Antrim One present near site where breeding was attempted in 2002, 8th June to 6th July (NIBR 16:64). One, Dunmurry, 29th October, presumed same individual previously seen in Down (see below) (NIBR 16:64).

2003 Down One, Hillsborough, 2nd October, presumed same individual later seen in Antrim (see above) (NIBR 16:64).

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Antrim Female, Ballycarry, Larne Lough, 1st June (C.Moore).

Wexford Female, Cahore, 2nd May to 8th May (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*). First-summer male, Tacumshin, 6th to 11th May, photographed (R.H.Coombes *et al.*); presumed same individual, North Slob, 10th June (A.Walsh); same individual, Tacumshin, 11th June (T. Kilbane); first-summer female, 16th to 23rd July photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*). Adult male, North Slob, 4th July, photographed (A.Walsh *et al.*).

The South Wexford wetlands hold a strong attraction for this species and the incidence of a higher ratio of males to females than is the case for the more numerous Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* may presage a stronger likelihood of breeding in the future. The Antrim record is the long overdue first for Northern Ireland.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Antrim One, Altarichard, 30th April (R.Murray).

2004 Antrim Two pairs bred successfully (NIBR 16:67).

2004 Londonderry Female, Coleraine, 27th March (*Irish Birds* 8:101).

2004 Tyrone Male, Sperrin Mountains, 20th January and 18th March had been present since December 2003 (see below) (NIBR 16:67).

2003 Antrim Two pairs displaying at sites in the county in March and April (NIBR 16:67).

2003 Down Immature, Craigantlet Hills, 11th January (NIBR 16:67). One displaying at a site in the county, 23rd January (NIBR 16:67).

2003 Londonderry One, Carrickhugh, Lough Foyle, 16th October (NIBR 16:67).

2003 Tyrone Male, Sperrin Mountains, 7th December (NIBR 16:67), remained into 2004 (see above).

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus sanctijohannis* (0; 1)

Clare Juvenile, Tulla, near Ennis, found injured and taken into care, 11th October (A.Donovan *et al.*), photographed (*Birdwatch* 163:59; *Birding World* 18:503-504); released, North Slob, Co. Wexford, 2nd November.

The first Irish and third European record of this Nearctic race of Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*. The subspecific identity was in no doubt due to its having been a dark morph bird, a plumage phase which is unknown in the Palearctic form (Mullarney and Murphy 2005). This bird was discovered in apparently exhausted state and was so weak that the finder was simply able to pick it up. Its weight was a mere 400g when discovered, but thanks to the expert care provided by its rescuer, it recuperated well. Three weeks later, when its weight had risen to 770g, it was deemed well enough to be released back into the wild. The North Slob in Wexford was considered to be the most suitable site for this, due to the much greater abundance of suitable prey there than in the area where it was discovered. There also appeared to be a stronger likelihood of being able to monitor its physical well-being in this area. Regrettably, however, the bird disappeared as soon as it was released.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

2004 Antrim Adult male and sub-adult female, Antrim Plateau, 15th March to 5th June (NIBR 16:68-69).



Juvenile **Rough-legged Hawk** *Buteo lagopus sanctijohannis*, Tulla, Co Clare, 28th October 2005. Photos: John Murphy.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (126; 6)

Clare One, Loop Head, 15th October (P.Brennan).

Cork First-summer, Ballyvergan Marsh, Youghal, 9th April (M.Carmody, A.Robinson). Adult, Ballycotton, 14th May (C.Barton, C.Cronin); juvenile, 17th October (G.Gordon).

Wicklow Adult, Kilcoole, 28th May and 9th June (J.Durrant *et al.*). Adult, Five-Mile-Point, 28th October (J.Wray).

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* (44*; 1)

Kerry One, Akeragh Lough, 8th September, photographed (G.Walker *et al.*).

2004 Down One, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 6th to 9th September (*NIBR* 16:73).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (40; 1)

Cork Adult male, White's Marsh, Inchydoney, 1st May (M.Cobley *et al.*); same individual, Kilkerran Lake, 2nd to 7th May (C.Cronin, A.Robinson *et al.*), photographed (*Birdwatch* 156:76).

The first since 1994.



Adult male **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*, Whites Marsh, Clonakilty, Co.Cork, 1st May 2005.
Photo: Eric Dempsey.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (133; 0)

Wexford Two of the three birds first seen at Tacumshin on 13th December 2004 (*Irish Birds* 8:111) remained until 6th January, with one present until 12th February, photographed (T.Murray *et al.*).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (54; 4)

Cork The bird present at Ballycotton since December 2004 (*Irish Birds* 8:111) remained until 23rd April, photographed (M.Carmody, H.Hussey *et al.*). One, Ballymacoda, 16th December to 6th January 2006, photographed (C.Cullen).

Mayo Juvenile, Leam Lough, The Mullet, 24th September (D.Suddaby).

Wexford One, North Slob, 17th March (C.J.Wilson). Juvenile, Tacumshin, 24th and 25th September, photographed (T.Kilbane *et al.*).

2004 Antrim One, Belfast International Airport, 27th April (*NIBR* 16:74).

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* (17; 2)

Fermanagh One, Upper Lough Erne, 25th February to 8th March (J.Sey), photographed (*Birding World* 18: 49; 18:94; *Brit. Birds* 98: 227).

Galway One, Aughrusbeg, Connemara, 16th April, photographed (B.O'Connor, G.O'Donnell).

2003 Cork One, Saleen, 3rd February (P.Smiddy), presumed same individual, Ballycotton, 9th February (*Irish Birds* 7:556).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* (248; 4)

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 22nd October (C.Cronin, K.Preston, S.Wing).

Londonderry Juvenile, Myroe Levels, 9th to 12th September (M.Tickner).

Monaghan One, Slieve Beagh, 12th May (D.Brannagh).

Wicklow One, Lugnaquilla, 11th to 14th May, photographed (A.Rooney).

2004 Antrim Female, Trostan Summit, 17th May (*NIBR* 16:75).

2004 Londonderry Juvenile, Myroe Levels, 5th and 6th October (*NIBR* 16:75).

The Monaghan record is the first for the county.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (59; 7)

Clare Juvenile, Loop Head, 30th October to 4th November (C.Meehan *et al.*).

Cork Juvenile, Lissagriffin, 30th October (A.Robinson).

Dublin Adult, Rogerstown, 20th to 31st August (C.Foley, D.Foley *et al.*), photographed (*Birdwatch* 160:68).

Mayo The Mullet, three: juvenile, Annagh Beach and Termoncarragh, 31st October to 22nd November; second juvenile, Annagh Beach, 4th and 5th November; adult, Annagh Beach, 5th November.

Sligo One, Mullaghmore, 18th November (D.Cotton).

2004 Londonderry Juvenile, Lough Beg, 25th to 29th October (*NIBR* 16:75).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (9; 1)

Wexford First-summer, Tacumshin, 1st to 3rd August (K.Mullarney *et al.*), photographed (*Birdwatch* 160:68).

This same individual, recognisable as such on the basis of plumage details, was later seen near Lisbon, Portugal from 13th to 17th August 2005 (C.C. Moore *in litt*).



First-summer **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*, Tacumshin, Co.Wexford, 2nd August 2005. Photo: Paul & Andrea Kelly.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (77; 4)

Clare Juvenile, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 14th to 18th September (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Cork Juvenile, Ballycotton, 7th to 10th September (G.Walsh *et al.*), photographed (*Birdwatch* 161:68).

Down One, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 31st August to 7th September (A.McGeehan).

Kerry Juvenile, Blennerville, 5th September (F.King *et al.*).



Juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla*, Ballycotton, Co.Cork, 7th September 2005. Photo: Sean Cronin.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* (34; 0)

2004 Londonderry Juvenile, Lough Beg, 23rd and 24th May (*NIBR* 16:79).

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (184; 5)

Clare Adult, Poulnasherry Bay, 17th August (M.Eriksson, M.Gerdin, M.Grunsten). Juvenile, Seafield, Quilty, 12th to 20th October, photographed (G.Bilbao, J.N.Murphy).

Dublin Juvenile, Swords Estuary, 11th October, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Kerry Juvenile, Blackrock, 4th September (M.Hanafin).

Louth Adult, Seabank, Annagassan, 20th and 21st August, photographed (E.Larissey *et al.*).

2004 Cork Juvenile, Ballycotton, 22nd August, photographed (P.Moore).



Juvenile **White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*, Swords, Co.Dublin, 11th October 2005. Photos: Paul & Andrea Kelly.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (79; 5)

Clare Juvenile, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 12th September (M.Hoit, T.Lowe).

Donegal Juvenile, Inishfad, Murvagh Beach, 20th and 21st September (B.Robson).

Kerry Juvenile, Blackrock, 5th September, photographed (E.Carty). Juvenile, Smerwick Harbour, 16th September, photographed (J.Gilroy *et al.*).

Wexford One, Tacumshin, 26th and 27th August (D.Poyser, A.Robinson); presumed same individual, Lady's Island Lake, 29th August (A.Hogg).

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (20; 2)

Cork One, Ballycotton, 2nd and 3rd May (G.Gordon *et al.*), photographed (*Birdwatch* 156:76).

Wexford One, Tacumshin, 6th and 7th May, photographed (R.H.Coombes, K.Mullarney *et al.*).



Adult summer **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*, Ballycotton, Co.Cork, 2nd May 2005. Photo: Colum Flynn.



Adult summer **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*, Tacumshin, Co.Wexford, 7th May 2005. Photo: Tom Shevlin.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* (240; 12)

Cork Juvenile, Ballycotton, 31st August to 1st September, photographed (P.Moore et al.); one, 1st September (G.Walsh.).

Donegal Juvenile, Tory Island, 10th September, photographed (D.Charles).

Kerry Juvenile, Carrahane Sands, 7th September, photographed (E.Carty).

Wexford Tacumshin, minimum of six: two juveniles, 24th to 27th August; juvenile, 27th August; juvenile, 1st to 6th September; two juveniles, 6th September; four juveniles, 8th September; six juveniles, 11th September; four juveniles, 17th to 20th September; two juveniles, 22nd to 25th September; juvenile, 2nd October, photographed (C.Cronin, E.Dempsey, P.Kelly, K.Mullarney, A.Robinson, P.Kelly, A.A.Kelly, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, A.Smith).

Wicklow Juvenile, Kilcoole, 31st August to 4th September (B.Haslam); juvenile, 24th to 29th September (R.Vaughan et al.).

2004 Londonderry Two juveniles, Myroe Levels, 19th September to 10th October (*NIBR* 16:82).

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* (3; 0)

Dublin The adult present at North Bull Island since October 2004 remained to 13th March. It was also later seen at Booterstown, 25th March to April 9th, photographed (*Irish Birds* 8:113) (*Birdwatch* 155:65, *Birding World* 17:489, 18:139; *Dutch Birding* 27:142, 27:212)

Correction: 2004 Wexford Both photographs on Plate 27 (*Irish Birds* 8:112) were taken at Lady's Island Lake (Wexford) on 6th July and 2nd August 2004 by K. Mullarney.



Adult **Short-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus griseus*, Booterstown Marsh, Co.Dublin, 1st April 2005. Photo: Pat Lonergan.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (71;10)

Clare Adult, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 30th July to 8th August, photographed (H.Hussey, O.Foley et al.); second adult, 5th August to 22nd September, photographed (L.Benson, J.N.Murphy, J.Rattigan et al.). Two juveniles, Doonbeg, 22nd September, one remaining to 23rd September, photographed (J.Wright).

Cork Juvenile, Inchydoney, 1st and 2nd October, photographed (R.O'Driscoll et al.). One, Ballycotton, 20th November (A.Robinson et al.).

Kerry Juvenile, Blennerville, 15th to 17th October (M.O'Clery et al.).

Mayo Juvenile, Termoncarragh Lake, The Mullet, 25th September to 13th October (D.Suddaby); juvenile, Annagh Beach, 4th to 15th November (D.Suddaby).

Wexford First-winter, Cahore Marsh, 17th February (B.Haslam), presumed to be the individual seen and photographed at this locality on 11th October 2004 (Irish Birds 8:113). Adult, North Slob, 29th April to 3rd May (A.Walsh), photographed. (*Birding World* 18:142).

2003 Cork One, Saleen, 27th March (P.Smiddy).

2004 Londonderry One, Lough Beg, 26th January, had been present since 2003 (*NIBR* 16:85).

Ten in a year equals the previous record, set in 1987.



Adult summer **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, North Slob, Co.Wexford. 20th May 2005.
Photo:Alyn Walsh.



Juvenile **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* with Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, Clonakilty, Co.Cork, 2nd October 2005. Photo: Michael O'Keeffe.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia* (15; 2)

Clare Juvenile, Doonbeg, 27th to 31st August, photographed (M.Hallam *et al.*).

Cork Juvenile, Lissagriffin, 12th and 13th October, photographed (A.G.Kelly, S.Farrell *et al.*).

2004 Antrim Juvenile, Portballintrae, 13th to 16th October (*NIBR* 16:91-92).

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* (13; 0)

2004 Down Adult, Quoile Pondage NNR, 24th May to 15th June (*NIBR* 16:90).

Unlike its smaller relative, the Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, this species remains a major rarity: this is the first since 1995 and only the third since 1983.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (93; 12)

Antrim One, Carnlough Bay, 22nd September (D.Mooney).

Clare Adult, Doonbeg, 15th August, photographed (J-A.Leclercq, N.Selosse).

Cork Juvenile, Inchydoney, 10th September to 30th October; same individual, 10th December to 19th February 2006, photographed (A.Robinson *et al.*).

Dublin Adult, Rogerstown, 16th August, photographed (D.Foley *et al.*). Juvenile, Swords Estuary, 25th September to 20th October, photographed (T.Kavanagh, Sh.Farrell *et al.*).

Kerry Juvenile, Trabeg, 13th to 16th September, photographed (M.Hoit, T.Lowe *et al.*).

Waterford Juvenile, Ballyneety, Dungarvan, 28th September to 2nd October, photographed (D.Clarke).

Wexford Adult, Tacumshin, 5th June, photographed (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*). Juvenile, Lady's Island Lake, 24th September to 2nd October (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly, T.Kilbane *et al.*); same individual, near Carne Beach, 7th to 16th October, photographed (K.Mullarney, J.Adamson *et al.*). Juvenile, North Slob, 25th September to 13th October, trapped, photographed (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*).

Wicklow One, Broadlough, 16th April (S.Kerr); one, 30th August to 3rd September (R.H.Coombes).

Following a blank in 2004, a record total, far exceeding the previous best of seven in 1991.



Juvenile **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*, Swords, Co.Dublin, 1st October 2005. Photo: Dave Dillon.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (78; 3)

Cork First-winter, Union Hall, 9th and 10th September, photographed (R.Falkner *et al.*).

Londonderry One, Bann Estuary, 21st to 28th August (J.Larkin *et al.*).

Wexford First-winter, Tacumshin, 24th and 25th September (R.H.Coombes, D.F.Murphy *et al.*), photographed (*Birdwatch* 161:68).

Correction: 2004 Wexford First-winter, Tacumshin, 24th and 25th September, photographed (*Irish Birds* 8:113).



First-winter **Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor*, Tacumshin, Co.Wexford, 25th September 2005. Photo: Tom Shevlin

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Clare Juvenile, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 15th to 17th September (T.Lowe). Juvenile, found dead, Tullig, 24th September (M.Keane, B.Ryan).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* (584; 36)

Clare Bridges of Ross, five: second calendar-year, 14th August (N.Linehan, H.Hussey, C.Gruwier); adult and juvenile, 25th August (C.Heard, J.Warne *et al.*); two juveniles, 1st October (A.G.Kelly).

Donegal Juvenile, Tory Island, 11th September (J.Doolan, J.F.Dowdall, A.G.Kelly).

Dublin Juvenile, Sandymount Strand, 7th September (N.Keogh).

Kerry Brandon Point, five: two, 24th August (B.Richards); two, 25th August (P.Moore, O.Foley *et al.*); juvenile, 3rd November (M.O'Clery).

Mayo Adult, Annagh Head, The Mullet, 5th August (D.Suddaby); juvenile, 27th August (D.Suddaby). Kilcummin Head, 17: adult, 6th August (E.Flynn, D.Hodgers); two adults, 7th August (D.Charles); seven adults, 13th August (D.Charles); three adults, 19th August (D.Suddaby, W.Woodrow); adult, 25th August (D.Suddaby); adult and two juveniles, 1st October (D.Charles, T.Kilbane, B.Robson, D.Suddaby). Two adults, Erris Head, The Mullet, 27th September (D.Suddaby).

Waterford Three juveniles, Helvick Head, 29th October (C.Flynn, P.M.Walsh).

2004 Antrim Ramore Head, ten: juvenile, 25th August; seven juveniles, 29th August; one, 30th August; juvenile, 14th September (*NIBR* 16:94). One, Maidens Rock, 26th September (*NIBR* 16:94).

2004 Londonderry One, Magilligan Point, 30th August (*NIBR* 16:94). One, Myroe Levels, 15th October (*NIBR* 16:94).

2003 Clare Adult, Bridges of Ross, 10th August (P.Crouzier).

2003 Down Juvenile, St. John's Point, 17th August; one, 13th September (*NIBR* 16:94). One, Grey Point, 26th August (*NIBR* 16:94). Two, Copeland Bird Observatory, 11th September (*NIBR* 16:68).

A very good year by recent standards, although the inclusion of the 2004 Northern Ireland records makes that the better year.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* (34; 1)

Dublin Adult, Skerries, 9th to 19th July (A.G.Kelly *et al.*), photographed (*Birdwatch* 159:75).



Adult summer **Bonaparte's Gull** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*, between Balbriggan & Skerries, Co.Dublin, 9th July 2005. Photo: Aidan G. Kelly.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* (17; 1)

Galway Adult, Nimmo's Pier, 6th January (T.Griffin).

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (19; 12)

Cork First-summer, Cobh, 26th June (D.O'Sullivan); same individual, Cork City, 29th June to 19th July (G.Gordon *et al.*), photographed (*Birding World* 18:271; *Birdwatch* 159:75), later seen in Galway, see below. First-summer, Clonakilty and Inchydoney, 2nd July to 19th July, photographed (O.Foley, J.N.Murphy *et al.*). One, Red Strand, Galley Head, 26th September (M.Hartnett, T.O'Keeffe). First-winter, Ballycotton, 20th to 27th November, photographed (D.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

Dublin Adult, North Bull Island, 16th December to 3rd January 2006, photographed (Sh.Farrell *et al.*); same individual, Coolock, 25th December (C.Foley, D.Foley).

Galway Nimmo's Pier, four: first-summer, 29th July to 31st August, photographed (D.Breen), previously seen in Cork, see above; adult, 12th November to 18th December, photographed (D.Charles, D.Breen, O.Foley, H.Hussey, A.Ó Dónaill *et al.*); adult, different individual, 18th November, photographed (D.Breen); second-winter, 3rd December and 23rd December to 17th March 2006, photographed (D.Breen, O.Foley). First-winter, Oranmore, Galway Bay, 19th November (D.Breen); same individual, Galway City, 27th November (M.Davis).

Kerry First-winter, Dingle Harbour, 15th December, photographed (M.O'Clery).

Louth Adult, Boyne Estuary, 26th February (L.J.Lenehan).

2004 Cork First-summer, Lough Beg, 10th and 11th July (H.Hussey *et al.*).

The highest total ever, with most occurring in the second half of the year. Several individuals were highly mobile and frequented several sites during their stay, the most nomadic being the Cork first-summer which, on the basis of photographic evidence, was later shown to have occurred in Galway. This arrival formed the vanguard of a major influx of this species and Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* into Western Europe during the winter of 2005/2006 and was associated with Hurricane Wilma off the eastern seaboard of the USA (Ahmad 2005, Fraser & Rogers *et al.* 2005). The influx produced up to 60 birds in Britain, at least 28 in the Azores and single records from several sites on the Continent, including the first for Switzerland (Piot *et al.* 2006).



First-summer **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla*, Nimmo's Pier, Co.Galway, 31st July 2005. Photo: Pat Lonergan.



Adult-winter **Laughing Gull** *Larus atricilla*, Waterside, Galway City, 12th November 2005. Photo: Derek Charles.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (7; 3)

Cork First-winter, Blackrock Castle, Cork City, 22nd December (H.Hussey); first-winter, presumed same individual, Carrigaline, 29th and 30th January 2006 (R.O'Driscoll).

Galway First-winter, Rossaveal, 10th to 22nd November (A.Ó Dónaill *et al.*), photographed (*Birding World* 18: 447).

Wexford First-winter, near Rosslare, 2nd November, photographed (T.Kilbane *et al.*).

Three records in November and December associated with the exceptional influx of Laughing Gulls *Larus atricilla*.



First-winter **Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan*, Rossaveal, Co.Galway, November 2005. Photo: Pat Lonergan.



First-winter **Franklin's Gull** *Larus pipixcan*, Rossaveal, Co.Galway, 10th November 2005. Photos: Micheal Davis (left) Derek Charles (right).

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Birds showing characters of the Azorean form of *L. m. atlantis*

Dublin Adult, Sandymount Strand, 5th October (N.Keogh).

Kerry Adult, Smerwick Harbour, 24th July, photographed (P.Moore).

1994 Kerry Adult, Blackrock, 17th September (P.Morris), photographed (*Brit. Birds* 90:9 381).

1998 Mayo Adult, Newport Refuse Tip, 30th and 31st January, photographed (P.Lonergan).

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* (6; 0)

2002 Dublin Adult, Rogerstown, 13th to 17th February (E.Dempsey, K.Grace).

The fifth Irish record, predating one at Culmore Refuse Tip (Londonderry) in December 2002 (*Irish Birds* 7:401).

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* (68; 5)

Cork Juvenile and first-winter, Red Strand, Galley Head, 4th December (A.Duggan). First-winter, Cobh, 17th December (J.Wilson), photographed (*Birding World* 17:489; 18:95, *Birdwatch* 155:74).

Dublin Second-winter, Sandymount, 5th December (N.T.Keogh)

Galway Second-winter, Nimmo's Pier, first seen 13th January 2004 (*Irish Birds* 8: 119) remained to 9th May, photographed (*Birding World* 18: 496); same individual in third-winter plumage, 29th December to 16th April 2006 (P.Lonergan, J.N.Murphy) photographed (*Birding World* 17:489; 18:95, *Birdwatch* 155:74).

Kerry First-winter, Dingle Harbour, 17th February to 12th June (C.Dietzen, V.Schmidt *et al.*), photographed (*Birding World* 18:53).

2004 Down Three first-winters, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 8th to 24th April (*NIBR* 16:103).

2004 Londonderry First-winter, Culmore Refuse Tip, 13th February to 4th March, (*NIBR* 16:103).

2003 Londonderry Two first-winters, Culmore Refuse Tip, 21st January, (*NIBR* 16:102), in addition to three other individuals recorded at this site from January to March 2003 (*Irish Birds* 7:561).



Second-winter **American Herring Gull** *Larus smithsonianus*, Nimmo's Pier, Co.Galway, 31st March 2005.
Photo: Paul & Andrea Kelly.



Second-winter **American Herring Gull** *Larus smithsonianus*, Nimmo's Pier, Co.Galway, 24th April 2005.
Photo: Pat Lonergan.

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoides kumlieni* (65; 13)

Antrim One, North Foreshore Refuse Tip, 2nd April (C.Moore).

Cork Second-winter, Great Island, 6th January (M.Carmody, A.Robinson).

Donegal First-winter, Greencastle, 26th January, photographed (R.D.Steele). Adult, Killybegs, 22nd February (M.Hallam, N.Hallam, I.Lewington, R.Wyatt), photographed (*Birding World* 18:62).

Dublin First-winter, Bullock Harbour, 27th January to 12th February (K.Grace, S.King, P.Kelly) photographed (*Birding World* 18:61; *Dutch Birding* 27:140).

Galway Nimmo's Pier, three: first-winter, 4th January to 2nd February (D.Breen), photographed (*Birding World* 18:62); first-winter, 15th January, photographed (D.Breen); third-winter, 31st December to 20th February 2006, photographed (M.Davis, P.Lonergan, J.N.Murphy, T.Griffin).

Kerry First-winter, Dingle Harbour, 10th January, photographed (M.O'Clery).

Londonderry One, Culmore Refuse Tip, 26th January (D.Charles); one, 7th to 11th March (D.Charles).

Mayo First-winter, Barnatra, near Belmullet, 22nd February to 6th March (D.Suddaby); first-winter, 5th to 6th March, photographed (M.O'Keefe).

2003 Antrim Adult, Glynn, Larne Lough, 12th February (*NIBR* 16:105).

2003 Fermanagh Adult, Tamlaght, Upper Lough Erne, 15th January (*NIBR* 16:105).

A total of 13 sets a new record for a year, quite typically, all but one occurred in the first part of the year. The inland occurrence (Fermanagh) is unusual.



Second-winter **Kumlien's Gull** *Larus glauciodes kumlieni*, Nimmo's Pier, Co.Galway, 31st December 2005.
Photo: Pat Lonergan.

Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri* (5; 1)

Mayo First-winter, Barnatra, 5th to 19th March (M.O'Keeffe *et al.*) photographed (*Birding World* 18:105-106; *Birdwatch* 155:65; *British Birds* 98:227; *Dutch Birding* 27:140) (Mullarney and Millington 2005).

This intriguing bird generated considerable discussion at the time, and attracted a steady trickle of visitors from all corners of Ireland and from Britain. While it undoubtedly resembled Thayer's Gull more than any other species, the fact that it had already acquired a full set of first-winter mantle and scapular feathers was considered anomalous (Mullarney and Millington 2005). The tendency in Thayer's Gull for full juvenile plumage to be retained up to mid-winter and beyond has come to be regarded almost as a prerequisite for safe identification of putative vagrants and all previous first-year Thayer's recorded in Europe (most of which have been in Ireland) have met with this requirement. However, the most recent authoritative work on the identification of American gulls (Howell and Dunn 2007) makes clear that post-juvenile moult of Thayer's Gull can commence any time from November to May, and features photographs of birds in December and January in which moult is well underway. There is still a lot to be learned about the finer points of telling 'pure' Thayer's from a bewildering array of lookalike hybrids, with presumed Thayer's x Kumlien's/Iceland Gull intergrades being the source of particular concern. Given the uncertainty that still exists in ever evolving Thayer's Gull identification criteria, we must acknowledge the possibility that some of the currently accepted records may not stand the test of time. In the meantime, with the moult question effectively no longer being an obstacle to identifying the individual at Barnatra as a Thayer's this bird would appear to have as good credentials for acceptance as previously accepted records.



Juvenile/first-winter presumed **Thayer's Gull** *Larus thayeri*, Barnatra, Co.Mayo, 17th March 2005. Photo: Paul & Andrea Kelly.



Juvenile/first-winter presumed **Thayer's Gull** *Larus thayeri*, Barnatra, Co.Mayo, 7th March 2005. Photo: Michael O'Keefe.



Juvenile/first-winter presumed **Thayer's Gull** *Larus thayeri*, Barnatra, Co.Mayo, 17th March 2005. Photo: Paul & Andrea Kelly.

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica* (12; 3)

Dublin One, Portrane, 26th July (J.McNally).

Galway Adult, Carranoroe, near Traught, 6th to 8th June, photographed (M.Davis *et al.*).

Wexford Adult, Tacumshin, 16th July (P.Archer, T. Kilbane, K.Mullarney, T.Culley).

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* (8; 0)

1998 Cork The adult at Ballycotton on 19th to 20th June (*Irish Birds* 6:396) was also seen at Ballymacoda on 20th June (P.Smiddy).

Elegant Tern *Sterna elegans* (4; 1)

Meath Second-summer or adult, Gormanston, 19th July (E.Dempsey, M.O'Clery), photographed (*Birding World* 18:271, *Birdwatch* 159:62-63, 74).

Correction: 2001 Mayo The bird recorded at Mulranny on 19th October (*Irish Birds* 7:231) was a third calendar-year.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (19; 0)

Galway Adult, Doorus Pier, 16th January to 25th March; same individual, Nimmo's Pier, 30th January to 20th March (T.Griffin, D.Breen *et al.*), presumed returning individual, photographed (*Birding World* 18:52, *Dutch Birding* 27:140); adult, Nimmo's Pier, 26th November to 11th May 2006, photographed (P.Lonergan *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

2004 Down Adult, Strangford Lough, 7th February to 17th March; adult, 5th December into 2006. Adult, Belfast Lough, 27th and 28th March; adult, 7th November. All sightings possibly refer to the same individual (*NIBR* 16:110).

2003 Down First-summer, Dundrum Inner Bay, 7th May (*NIBR* 16:110), presumed same as bird recorded in Londonderry in previous weeks (*Irish Birds* 7:561).

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus* (1; 1)

Down Adult, Groomsport, 3rd to 6th August (per NIBARC), also seen in Dublin, see below.

Dublin Adult, Rockabill, 11th to 12th July, photographed (J.Roe, G.O'Sullivan); same individual, between Skerries and Balbriggan, 7th to 15th August (A.G.Kelly *et al.*), photographed (*Birding World* 18:266, 282-288, *Birdwatch* 159:75), also seen in Down, see above.

For the best part of two months in late summer and early autumn this bird tantalised birders on both sides of the Irish Sea, also visiting tern colonies in Anglesey, Wales. It was last seen passing Strumble Head, Pembrokeshire, Wales on 23rd August (Davies 2005, Fraser & Rogers *et al.* 2005).



Adult **Sooty Tern** *Sterna fuscata* with Common Terns *Sterna hirundo*, Rockabill, Co Dublin, 12th July 2005. Photo: Gearoid O'Sullivan.



Adult **Sooty Tern** *Sterna fuscata*, Rockabill, Co Dublin, 12th July 2005. Photo: Gearoid O'Sullivan.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* (16; 1)

Wexford Adult, Lady's Island and Tacumshin Lake, 6th to 8th May (D.Coombes, T.Murray *et al.*), photographed (*Birding World* 18:187, *Birdwatch* 157:68).

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (75; 3)

Cork Adult, Cape Clear Island, 20th July (J.Wyllie).

Dublin Juvenile, Swords Estuary, 3rd September, photographed (E.Dempsey *et al.*).

Wexford Juvenile, Tacumshin, 3rd to 10th September, photographed (R.H.Coombes *et al.*); same individual, Lady's Island Lake, 11th to 15th September (K.Mullarney *et al.*), photographed (*Birdwatch* 161:68).

2003 Antrim Adult and second-summer, Ballymena Ecos Park, 23rd May, later seen in Down (see below) (*NIBR* 16:111).

2003 Down Adult and second-summer, Quoile Pondage NNR, 24th and 25th May, previously seen in Antrim (see above) (*NIBR* 16:111).



Juvenile **White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*, Tacumshin, Co.Wexford, 10th September 2005.
Photo:Paul & Andrea Kelly.

Scops Owl *Otus scops* (13; 1)

Cork One, Crookhaven, 4th November, found injured but subsequently died, photographed (D.Ballard *et al.*).

This bird was picked up and taken into care, after having been hit by a car, but died overnight. The mounted specimen is retained by the finder. A surprisingly late date for a species which is a summer migrant over much of Southern Europe, however another bird was found a week later in Sweden (*Fågelåret* 2005:116), and there is a record dating back to November 1883 from Belfast (Antrim).

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* (65; 1)

Londonderry Immature, Longfield Point, 13th to 21st February (M.Wood).

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* (7; 10)

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 29th October (P.Kelly); one, presumed same individual, 30th October (C.Ryan *et al.*), photographed. Two, Sherkin Island, 29th October, photographed (D.Fitzpatrick, J.Wyllie). One, Baltimore, 30th October (H.Hussey, O.Foley, A.Robinson *et al.*), photographed (*Birdwatch* 162:58; 163:68, *Dutch Birding* 27:409). One, Clonakilty, 30th October (P.Moore). Up to four, between Courtmacsherry and Broadstrand: three, 31st October to 3rd November; four, 1st November, photographed (J.Crowley, P.Wolstenholme *et al.*).

Kerry One, Farranfore Airport, 9th November (E.Carty).

Waterford One, Dungarvan, 1st and 2nd November, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*).

Several more reports remain undocumented. For the purposes of the totals, the Cape Clear, Sherkin and Baltimore records are assumed to have involved three individuals. This remarkable series of sightings, associated with Hurricane Wilma, recalled a similar event in late October 1999, when the first seven for Ireland were recorded. The species made landfall in several other European countries around the same time, including the first recorded in France and an astonishing total of 112 on the Azores (Gantlett 2005). The IRBC is aware of several more undocumented sightings during this period.



Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica*, Baltimore, Co.Cork, 30th October 2005. Photo: Paul & Andrea Kelly.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (59; 1)

Waterford One, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, 3rd April, photographed (F.O'Connell *et al.*).

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (48; 1)

Wexford One, Carnsore Point, 4th June, photographed (D.Daly *et al.*).



Adult **Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*, Carnsore Point, Co.Wexford, 4th June 2005. Photo: Tom Shevlin.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (169; 13)

Cork One, Ballyvergan, 4th to 11th April (I.Hill *et al.*). One, Galley Head, 3rd September (C.Barton); three, 4th and 5th September, photographed (C.Barton, H.Hussey, B.Lynch). Dursey Island, three: one, 5th September (D.A.Scott); one, 8th to 12th October (K.Grace *et al.*); one, 19th October (K.Grace). One, Mizen Head, 5th September (D.Ballard); different individual, 6th September (A.O'Brien). One, Cape Clear Island, 19th and 20th September (S.Enright *et al.*). One, Toe Head, 10th and 11th September (S.J.Dodgson).

Waterford One, Brownstown Head, 4th to 11th September (M.A.Duggan *et al.*).

Wexford One, Hook Head, 11th September (the late W.M.McDowell).

2004 Antrim One, Portrush, 17th August, found dead (*NIBR* 16:118).

Thirteen in a year sets a new record; the hapless Antrim bird, only the third for Northern Ireland, was killed when it struck a window.



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*, Brownstown Head, Co. Waterford, 4th September 2005. Photo: Colum Flynn.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* (113; 3)

Cavan One, Virginia, 17th September (J.Hopkins).

Dublin One, Sutton, 28th November, present since early November, photographed (per D.F.Murphy).

Wicklow First-year, near Killoughter, 4th to 18th September, photographed (A.Tyner *et al.*).

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (79; 2)

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 5th October (C.Cronin). One, Mizen Head, 19th October (K.Mullarney).

2000 Londonderry One, Lough Beg, 30th October (*NIBR* 16:120).

Scandinavian Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis* (20; 0)

2004 Antrim One, Red Bay, 2nd March (*NIBR* 16:121).

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* (35; 14)

Dublin One, Rogerstown, 9th April (P.Kelly).

Waterford The bird present at Kilmeaden Pools in December 2004 (*Irish Birds* 8:118) remained until 18th March. It was joined by a second individual on 27th December 2004, which remained until 27th March (C.Flynn *et al.*). Two, Kilmeaden Pools, 4th December to 15th March 2006 (C.Flynn, M.Cowming *et al.*), photographed.

Wexford Tacumshin, at least nine: one, 26th March (K.Mullarney); eight, 19th November, photographed (T.Kilbane, K.Mullarney); five, 20th November (J.Adamson, K.Mullarney); two, 29th November (K.Mullarney, M.Robb); two, 23rd to 28th December (T. Kilbane, N.Keogh, K.Mullarney). One, North Slob, 27th December to 1st January 2006, photographed (H.Hussey, A.Robinson *et al.*).

Wicklow One, Kilcoole, 26th and 27th March (B.Haslam *et al.*).

2004 Wexford The bird present at Carnsore Point on 31st March (*Irish Birds* 8:118) remained until 4th April (K.Fahy).

2003 Down One, Briggs Rocks, 6th December to 20th March 2004 (*NIBR* 16:121).

Heightened observer awareness and improved knowledge of the habits of wintering birds at favoured sites contributed to the best year yet for this species.



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*, Kilmeadan Pools, Co. Waterford, 23rd January 2005. Photo: Colum Flynn.



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*, Kilmeadan Pools, Co. Waterford, 6th February 2005.
Photo: Paul Archer.



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*, Kilmeadan Pools, Co. Waterford, 4th December 2005.
Photo: Colum Flynn.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava* (50; 1)

Clare Male, Kilbaha, Loop Head, 19th July to 30th August, photographed (J.N.Murphy, M.O'Keeffe *et al.*).
2004 Londonderry Male, Lough Beg, 24th May (*NIBR* 16:120).

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (9; 3)

Clare First-winter, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 15th to 19th September, photographed (T.Lowe *et al.*).

Cork First-winter, Lissagriffin, 3rd September, photographed (D.Ballard).

Kerry First-winter, Smerwick, 10th and 11th September (C.Bradshaw *et al.*).



First-winter **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*, Shannon Airport Lagoon, Co. Clare, 15th September 2005.
Photo: Rob Vaughan.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* (24; 1)

Kerry One, Coumeenoole Gully, near Dunquin, 12th October (M.O'Clery).

Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (4; 2)

Cork First-winter, Old Head of Kinsale, 8th to 12th October (C.Styles, M.Styles *et al.*), photographed (*Birding World* 18:421, *Birdwatch* 162:68). First-winter, Cape Clear Island, 29th October to 6th November (S.Wing *et al.*), photographed (*Dutch Birding* 27:416.).

The fifth and sixth Irish records of this species and the first since 1991 (Clare).



First-winter **Grey-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus*, Old Head of Kinsale, Co.Cork, 9th October 2005.
Photo: Tom Shevlin.



First-winter **Grey-cheeked Thrush** *Catharus minimus*, Cape Clear Island, Co.Cork, 31st October 2005.
Photos: Micheal O'Keeffe (upper), Aidan G. Kelly (lower two).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* (1; 1)

Wicklow Male in song, Castlegrange, near Five-Mile-Point, 20th to 22nd May (N.T.Keogh *et al.*).

The second Irish record, only four years after the first (*Irish Birds* 7:407; Smiddy 2005). Typically, the bird remained buried in vegetation for most of its stay but gave its presence away by its loud and distinctive song.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* (198; 4)

Cork One, Dursey Island, 30th August (D.A.Scott); one, 4th September (D.A.Scott). One, Galley Head, 12th to 19th October (C.Barton *et al.*). One, Cape Clear Island, 22nd October (the late W.M.McDowell).

Thanks to the new recording system, this is something of a return to the normal pattern. The total published in the *Irish Bird Reports* for the years 2000 to 2004 runs to a meagre four individuals.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* (167; 4)

Cork One, Mizen Head, 8th October (N.Linehan *et al.*). One, Cape Clear Island, 15th October (C.Cronin); one, 22nd October (A. Cooke).

Wexford First-year, Carne, 6th to 9th October, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*).



Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*, Carne, Co.Wexford, 8th October 2005. Photo:Tom Shevlin.

Icterine/Melodious Warbler *Hippolais icterina/polyglotta* (25; 1)

Cork One, Knockadoon Head, 28th October (I.Hill).

2004 Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 1st September; one, 4th September (S.Wing *et al.*).

Despite the advances in optical power and observer capability in recent years, this species pair can still represent a difficult identification challenge, and where poor views combine with a less-obviously marked individual, it is safest to leave the identification as undetermined.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (104; 7)

Cork Cape Clear Island, three: first-winter, 3rd to 8th October, photographed (A.A.Kelly); one, 22nd October (K.Preston); one, 29th to 31st October (S.Wing). First-winter, Mizen Head, 4th October (D.Ballard). Firkeel,

7th October (K.Grace); one, 22nd October (K.Grace). First-winter, Galley Head, 15th October (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly).

A record tally, improving on the previous best of six in 1989.



First-winter **Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*, Cape Clear Island, Co.Cork, 3rd October 2005. Photo: Paul & Andrea Kelly.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (19; 3)

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 7th September to at least 26th September (S.Wing *et al.*); one, 25th and 26th September (S.Wing *et al.*). First-winter, Dursey Island, 7th and 8th September (D.A.Scott *et al.*).

Ten of the previous 19 birds were found in the years 1993-2000, but these are the first since the latter year.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* (30; 0)

2002 Tyrone One, Brookend, Lough Neagh, 25th December (*NIBR* 16:129).

This, the first for Northern Ireland, was an extraordinary Christmas present for one observer, both on account of the date of occurrence and inland location.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (10; 3)

Cork One, Ballymacrown, near Baltimore, 16th October, photographed (S.J.Dodgson *et al.*). One, Galley Head, 19th October (K.Preston). One, Cape Clear Island, 28th October (C.Cronin *et al.*).

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (9; 1)

Waterford One, Brownstown Head, 31st October, photographed (P.M.Walsh *et al.*).



Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*,
Ballymacrown, Co.Cork, 16th October 2005.
Photo: Michael O'Keeffe.



Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*,
Brownstown Head, Co.Waterford, 31st October 2005.
Photo: Paul Archer.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* (202; 8)

Clare First-winter, Kilbaha, 2nd to 4th October (A.G.Kelly *et al.*).

Cork First-winter, Cape Clear Island, 4th October (S.Enright *et al.*); first-winter, 5th October, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*). One, Dursey Island, 5th October (K.Grace). First-winter, Firkeel, 6th to 8th October (K.Grace). First-winter, Galley Head, 21st October (K.Cronin *et al.*).

Dublin One, Howth Head, 30th October (E.O'Donnell).

Waterford First-winter, Brownstown Head, 8th October, photographed (P.M.Walsh, M.A.Duggan).

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* (184; 7)

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 17th April (per S.Wing). Female/immature male, Ballycotton, 2nd May (G.Gordon *et al.*). One, Dursey Island, 12th May (D.A.Scott). First-year, Mizen Head, 13th May (D.Ballard); one, 24th October (D.Ballard).

Waterford Female/immature male Brownstown Head, 30th April (M.A.Duggan). Male, near Whiting Bay, 5th May (F.O'Connell).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* (133; 5)

Cork First-year, Baltimore, 10th and 11th September, photographed (S.J.Dodgson). First-year, Mizen Head, 5th October (S.Cronin).

Galway First-year, Inishbofin, 17th September (S.J.Dodgson); first-year, 26th September to 1st October (S.J.Dodgson).

Wexford Adult male, Great Saltee Island, 29th May (J.F.Dowdall *et al.*).

2004 Cork First-winter, Knockadoon Head, 24th to 29th September (H.Hussey *et al.*).

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* (5; 1)

Cork First-year, Cape Clear Island, 18th September (T.Campbell, C.Cronin).

1990 Donegal Adult, Rosbeg, 28th May (J.Baird, P.Harrison per E.Masterson).

The Donegal record came to light through a fortuitous encounter by a US-based Irish birder with one of the finders who possessed a framed annotated sketch of the bird on his living-room wall! For a species that has occurred on average about once in a decade in recent times, the run of single records in 1990, 1991 and 1992 is remarkable.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (62; 3)

Cork Adult male, Galley Head, 2nd April, photographed (C.Barton).

Wexford First-summer female, Great Saltee Island, 1st to 3rd May, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*); adult male, 10th May (É.Ó Floinn).

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* (110; 4)

Cork Juvenile, Garinish, 2nd to 11th October (K.Grace).

Galway One, Tirellan, Galway City, 18th to 21st July (T.Cuffe).

Mayo First-summer, Annagh, The Mullet, 29th and 30th June (D.Suddaby).

Wexford Adult, Tacumshin and Lady's Island Lake, 8th to 13th August, photographed (D.Daly *et al.*).

2004 Antrim Immature, Lisburn, present since November 2003, remained until 15th January (*NIBR* 16:134).

2004 Down One, Carnalea, 11th August (*NIBR* 16:134). Adult, Coney Island, 9th to 11th September (*NIBR* 16:134).

2003 Antrim Immature, Templepatrick, 16th and 17th October (*NIBR* 16:134). Immature, Lisburn, 14th November to 15th January 2004 (*NIBR* 16:134).

2003 Down Adult, Tubber, 6th June (*NIBR* 16:134).

2003 Londonderry One, Portstewart, 12th and 13th June (*NIBR* 16:134).

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (41; 2)

Galway One, Inishbofin, 26th and 27th September (S.J.Dodgson), photographed (*Birding World* 18:366).

Mayo One, Blacksod Point, The Mullet, 2nd to 8th October (D.Suddaby).

2004 Cork One, Toe Head, 30th October (H.Hussey *et al.*).

Serin *Serinus serinus* (9; 1)

Cork One, Sherkin Island, 5th November (J.Wyllie).

In view of its status as a scarce migrant in Britain, and its abundance on the near Continent, this species is still surprisingly rare in Ireland. Late autumn is a typical time for one to show up, around half of records having occurred in October or November. The short stay is also typical, few having lingered long enough to be seen by more than one observer.

Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis flammea flammea* (82; 0)

2004 Down One, Newry, 5th January (*NIBR* 16:138).

2003 Armagh One, Oxford Island NNR, 1st March (*NIBR* 16:138).

2003 Down One, Belvoir Close, Belfast, 24th and 25th January (*NIBR* 16:138). Five, Newry Canal, 4th February; one, 23rd February (*NIBR* 16:138).

Greenland/Iceland Redpoll *Carduelis flammea rostrata/islandica* (35; 1)

Galway One, Inishbofin, 30th September and 1st October, photographed (S.J.Dodgson).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* (123; 8)

Cork One, Three Castles Head, 16th to 18th September (D.Ballard). First-year, Mizen Head, 17th September (M.O'Keefe). One, Dursey Island, 5th October (D.A.Scott). One, Cape Clear Island, 8th and 9th October (P.Phillips *et al.*). First-year, Old Head of Kinsale, 13th October (G.Gordon). One, Ballinacarraige, West Beara, 14th to 22nd October (K.Grace).

Kerry Female, Smerwick, 16th July (A.Robinson).

Wexford One, Hook Head, 11th September, photographed (the late W.M.McDowell *et al.*).

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (135*; 32)

Cork Female, Old Head of Kinsale, 8th to 12th October, photographed (C.Styles, M.Styles *et al.*); one, 15th October (A.G.Kelly *et al.*). Cape Clear Island, at least ten: four, 15th October, photographed (C.Cronin); three, 17th October (M.O'Keefe); ten, 18th October (C.Cronin); one, 28th October, found dead (P.Kelly); one, 31st October (M.O'Keefe). Mizen Head, at least four: three, 15th October (D.Ballard, M.O'Keefe); two, 16th October (A.O'Brien, J.Adamson); two, 17th October (D.Ballard, K.Mullarney); two, 18th October (D.Ballard, K.Mullarney), different to individuals seen on 17th October. One, Garinish, 16th October (K.Grace, A.A.K.Lancaster); probably same individual, Ballinacarraige, West Beara, 16th October (P.Durrell). Dursey Island, seven: one, 16th and 17th October (D.A.Scott); five, 18th to 22nd October (K.Grace, A.A.K.Lancaster); six, 22nd October (D.A.Scott); one, 23rd October (D.A.Scott); one, 28th October to 5th November (D.A.Scott). One, Goleen, 19th October (D.Ballard).

Kerry One, near Killorglin, 12th December (C.Williams).

Mayo Female, Blacksod Point, The Mullet, 8th to 14th October (D.Suddaby); male, Tarmon, The Mullet, 16th October (D.Suddaby).

Meath One, Ardcaith, Garristown, 3rd and 4th November (P.Kelly).

Waterford One, Brownstown Head, 15th October (P.M.Walsh).

Wexford One, Hook Head, 16th October (N.T.Keogh).

Autumn influxes of this species are not unprecedented; the last influx of a similar scale was in autumn 1988.



Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, Cape Clear Island, Co.Cork, 18th October 2005. Photo:Ciaran Cronin.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* (10; 1)

Cork First-winter, Cape Clear Island, 30th and 31st October (J.F.Dowdall *et al.*), photographed. (*Birding World* 18: 450, *Birdwatch* 162:68)



First-winter **Yellow -rumped Warbler** *Dendroica coronata*, Cape Clear Island, Co.Cork, 31st October 2005.
Photo: Aidan G. Kelly.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* (3; 0)

2004 Antrim Female or first-year male, Whitehead, 30th May (*NIBR* 16:139).

The third Irish record, and exactly 99 years to the day after the first!

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* (101; 1)

Cork One, Dursey Island, 5th September (D.A.Scott).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* (18; 1)

Cork One, Sherkin Island, 18th October (J.Ware).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (30; 2)

Cork One, Dursey Island, 7th October (D.A.Scott); presumed same individual, Garinish, 8th October (A.Robinson).

Donegal One, Tory Island, 2nd and 3rd October, photographed (J.F.Dowdall, A.A.K.Lancaster, the late W.M.McDowell).

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* (7; 2)

Cork Male, Skibbereen, 30th May (P.Petley), photographed (*Birdwatch* 159:75).

Down Male, Aghnaleck, 3rd June (G.Wilkinson).

Both records occurred within days of each other and correspond closely to the established pattern of spring migration overshooting by adult males.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 1st April, photographed (D.Fitzpatrick).

This is the fourth record in six years in southwest Ireland of this largely sedentary species.

Appendix 1: Category D records

Records of individuals considered to be probable or certain escapes from captivity.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Kerry Adult, Dingle Marina, 16th and 17th April, photographed (T.Creedon).

Both the bird's confiding behaviour and the atypical habitat were indicative of a captive origin.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Cork One, Galley Head, later seen at Rosscarbery, 24th July (C.Barton).

Although there is a possibility of genuine vagrants occurring, all records of this species are assigned by default to Category D, as long as strong evidence for a wild origin is lacking: a case of "guilty until proven innocent".

Appendix 2: Contributors

J.Adamson, J.Archer, P.Archer, J.Baird, D.Ballard, C.Barton, R.Bennett, L.Benson, G.Bilbao, C.Bradshaw, D.Breen, D.Brennan, P.Brennan, G.Campbell, M.Carmody, F.Carroll, E.Carty, M.Casey, D.Charles, D.Clarke, A.Clewes, A.Clifton, A.Cooke, R.H.Coombes, D.F.Cotton, M.Cowming, T.Creedon, C.Cronin, K.Cronin, S.Cronin, J.Crowley, T.Cuffe, C.Cullen, T.Culley, D.Daly, M.Davis, H.Delaney, E.Dempsey, J.Devlin, C.Dietzen, J.Diggin, S.J.Dodgson, A.Donovan, J.Doolan, J.F.Dowdall, A.Duggan, M.A.Duggan, J.Durrant, P.Durrell, M.Eriksson, S.Enright, N.Fagan, K.Fahy, R.Falkner, S.Farrell, Sh.Farrell, D.Fitzpatrick, C.Flynn, E.Flynn, C.Foley, D.Foley, M.Foley, O.Foley, S.Geraty, M.Gerdin, J.Gilroy, M. Goodman, G.Gordon, K.Grace, T.Griffin, M.Grunsten, C.Gruwier, M.Hallam, N.Hallam, M.Hanafin, P.Harrison, M.Hartnett, B.Haslam, C.Heard, I.Hill, M.Hillard, D.Hodgers, M.Hoit, J.Hopkins, H.Hussey, T.Hyde, C.Inskipp, T.Inskipp, K.W.S.Kane, A.A.Kelly, A.G.Kelly, P.Kelly, T.Kavanagh, M.Keane, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, S.Kerr, T.Kilbane, J.Kilroy, F.King, P.King, D.Knight, A.A.K.Lancaster, J.Larkin, E.Larissey, R.LeBrun, J-A.Leclercq, L.J.Lenehan, I.Lewington, G.Long, N.Linehan, P.Lonergan, T.Lowe, B.Lynch, P.McDermott, the late W.M.McDowell, A.McGeehan, D.McLoughlin, J.McNally, C.McNamee, C.Meehan, M.Meehan, P.Milne, J.Milroy, D.Mooney, C.Moore, F.Moore, P.Moore, P.Morris, K.Mullarney, D.F.Murphy, E.Murphy, J.N.Murphy, R.Murray, T.O'Keeffe, T.Murray, S.Nugent, A.O'Brien, M.O'Clery, F.O'Connell, A.Ó Dónaill, E.O'Donnell, G.O'Donnell, R.O'Driscoll, É.Ó Floinn, M.O'Keeffe, T.O'Mahoney, D.O'Sullivan, G.O'Sullivan, O.O'Sullivan, P.Petley, P.Phillips, D.Poyser, K.Preston, J.Rattigan, B.Richards, A.Robinson, B.Robson, J.Roe, S.Ronayne, B.Ryan, C.Ryan, V.Schmidt, D.A.Scott, N.Selosse, P.Smiddy, A.Smith, R.D.Steele, W.Stringer, C.Styles, M.Styles, D.Suddaby, O.Taaffe, A.Tyner, R.Vaughan, A.Walsh, P.M.Walsh, G.Walsh, J.Ware, J.Warne, I.Webb, G.Wilkinson, C.Williams, C.J.Wilson, J.Wilson, S.Wing, P.Wolstenholme, M.Wood, W.Woodrow, J.Wray, J.Wright, R.Wyatt, J.Wyllie.

IrishBirding.com

Irish Rare Breeding Birds Panel (IRBBP)

Birds of Ireland News Service (BINS)

BirdWatch Ireland

Cape Clear Bird Observatory (CCBO)

Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association (NIBA)

Appendix 3: List of records not accepted

For definition of records included here, see the 28th Irish Bird Report (Irish Birds 2:119).

2005 records not accepted

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Cooley Peninsula, Louth, 23rd April

Supplemental 2004 record not accepted

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*

Cape Clear Island, Cork, 5th May

Appendix 4: List of anonymous records not accepted

The following reports concern Appendix 2 rarities which were entered in the Provisional List of Rare Bird Sightings during 2005 but where the observers have to date remained unknown. Some or all of these reports may yet qualify for publication in a future IRBR, should the observers become known to the IRBC and be prepared to validate the claim.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Kiltooris Lough, Donegal, 20th March

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

Blasket Sound, Kerry, 9th August

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*

Doagh Island, Donegal, 23rd July

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Two, Tacumshin, Wexford, 30th September

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

Broadlough, Wicklow, 6th November

Dowitcher sp. *Limnodromus sp.*

Carrahane Strand, Kerry, 11th September

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

One, Bridges of Ross, Clare, 13th August

Two, Bridges of Ross, Clare, 18th August

Four, Bridges of Ross, Clare, 18th August

One, Rocky Point, Donegal, 24th August

One, Bridges of Ross, Clare, 29th August

One, Bridges of Ross, Clare, 1st September

One, Glenbeigh, Kerry, 4th September

One, Bridges of Ross, Clare, 10th September

Four, Knockmore Head, Donegal, 1st October

Killybegs, Donegal, 28th January to 2nd February

Rossaveal, Galway, 2nd March

Hermitage, Louth, 30th October

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*

Cape Clear Island, Cork, 6th and 7th September

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Garinish, Cork, 8th October

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Allihies, Cork, 30th June

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

Mizen Head, Cork, 13th October

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Firkeel, Cork, 22nd October

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Mizen Head, Cork, 24th October

Mizen Head, Cork, 28th October

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