



**irish rare bird
report 2007**

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* Liscannor, Co. Clare. 11 October 2007
Photo Richard H. Coombes

Irish Rare Bird Report 2007

P.Milne & D.G.McAdams

(on behalf of the Irish Rare Birds Committee)

BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford Business Park, Kilcoole, County Wicklow.

Introduction

2007 saw two additions to the Irish List, Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii* (one seen in Down in October) and Mourning Dove *Zenaidura macroura* (one found in Galway in November). Three species were recorded for the second time. A Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* was discovered in Clare in January and two Collared Pratincoles *Glareola pratincola* seen in the northwest (in Mayo and Galway) in June and October were the second and third respectively. Two Blyth's Reed Warblers *Acrocephalus dumetorum* found almost simultaneously in Cork and Mayo in October were likewise the second and third, following the late emergence of the first in 2006 (also published in this report). A total of six Buff-bellied Pipits *Anthus rubescens* in Cork, Clare and Wexford during the autumn constituted the third to eighth records. Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* and Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* were likewise recorded for the third time, the former in Wexford in late July and the latter in Cork in October. The fourth Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* was located in Wexford in June, while the fourth Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* was seen in Cork in October.

Rare subspecies recorded during the year included the first Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg* (Londonderry) and the fourth American Black Tern *Chlidonias niger surinamensis* (Galway), while the first Irish (and only second European) record of the North American race of Merlin *Falco columbarius columbarius* (Cork, in 2000) is also published in this report.

The spring of 2007 was overall an unexceptional one. Rare southern herons were in short supply, the most notable record concerning a Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* in May, followed by another in July. The largest Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* flock recorded since 1934 put in a brief appearance in Kerry in April. Passerine highlights included three Red-rumped Swallows *Cecropis daurica*, two very late Shore Larks *Eremophila alpestris* in the extreme southwest and only the second spring Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*. For the first time since 1998, no spring Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* was recorded.

Most of the regularly occurring American waders were recorded in moderately good numbers during 2007, while the totals of American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* and Spotted Sandpipers *Actitis macularia* were above average. In addition to the Buff-bellied Pipits and the Mourning Dove previously mentioned, only two other Nearctic landbirds were discovered during the autumn, a Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* and an indeterminate Swainson's or Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus ustulatus/minimus*.

Autumn seawatching yielded no less than eleven Fea's/Zino's Petrels *Pterodroma feae/madeira* between July and October, making it the best year on record.

Three further Red-rumped Swallows in October brought the total for the year to a record six. A record five Greenish Warblers *Phylloscopus trochiloides* were found in Cork in October, in addition to a Radde's *Phylloscopus schwarzi*, two Dusky *Phylloscopus fuscatus* and three Pallas's Warblers *Phylloscopus proregulus* on the south coast. Barred Warblers *Sylvia nisoria* and Red-breasted Flycatchers *Ficedula parva* appeared in good numbers, but other regularly occurring autumn rarities such as Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*, Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* and Red-backed Shrikes *Lanius collurio* were scarcer than usual. Two Citrine Wagtails in September and two Snowy Owls *Bubo scandiacus* in Mayo (August) and Galway (October) extended the recent runs of these species.

One of the most remarkable ornithological events of the year was the unprecedented influx of Cattle Egrets *Bubulcus ibis* in the late autumn and winter, mainly along the south coast. Other notable records during the winter months included the return of a Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica* to Down for its third successive winter, a long-staying Buff-bellied Pipit,

three American Black Ducks *Anas rubripes*, a good spread of Surf Scoters *Melanitta perspicillata* and, once again, large numbers of Ring-necked Ducks *Aythya collaris*. Wintering Water Pipits *Anthus spinoletta* continue to be discovered with increasing regularity, with no less than 23 birds found in seven counties by late December.

Since January 2005, the backbone of the IRBC's system for the recording of rare birds in the Republic of Ireland has been the Provisional List, published online at www.irbc.ie/provisional/provisional.php and updated on a monthly basis. Most of the data pertaining to this region published in the following pages were drawn directly from the 2007 Provisional List. The IRBC expresses its sincere gratitude to all those who provided information during 2007, either directly or indirectly. Our thanks also go to Derek Charles of the Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association for supplying all the Northern Ireland records contained within this Report.

Records for 2008 (and previous years) should be sent to the following:

Rarities:

See list in IRBC Report, (Irish Birds 7: 413 – 418). BirdWatch Ireland, Dublin or online at www.irbc.ie/records/desclist.php for latest updates.

Republic of Ireland Kieran Fahy
Silveracre,
Yoletown,
Broadway
Co. Wexford

Email: secretary@irbc.ie

Rarity Description forms may be downloaded from the IRBC website:
www.irbc.ie/records/records.php

Northern Ireland George Gordon
2 Brooklyn Avenue, Bangor,
Co. Down BT20 5RB

2007 Systematic List

The sequence and scientific nomenclature largely follows The British List (7th Edition) Dudley *et al.* 2006) including subsequent recommendations of the Taxonomic Subcommittee of the British Ornithologists Union (Sangster *et al.* 2007, Knox *et al.* 2008).

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*

2006 Armagh One of the birds present at Mountnorris in December 2005 (*Irish Birds* 8: 374) remained until 19 February (*NIBR* 17: 43).

2006 Down Three, Copeland Islands, 22 and 23 October (*NIBR* 17: 43).

Russian White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons* (134; 6)

Down One, Clea Lakes, 28 January, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Louth Adult and juvenile, near Cruisetown Strand, 5 November; one, 18 November, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*). Two adults, Lurgangreen, 4 December, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Wexford Adult, North Slob, 9 December (N.Keogh).

A good showing by recent standards. There have been only two other records since winter 1998/1999.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (101; 0)

Wexford The adult white phase and adult blue phase birds present at the North Slob since October and November 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 396) remained until 24 March (*Wings* 45: 28).

The blue phase individual was trapped and ringed, with a metal ring on its left tarsus (A. Walsh *pers.com.*)

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii* (0; 1)

Down One, Kinnegar, 13 September, photographed (D.Charles).

The first Irish record of this form, now recognised as a full species. Two records of small Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*, involving three birds seen in Cork and Dublin in 1985 (*Irish Birds* 3: 297), were published as the subspecies *minima* (now a subspecies of Cackling Goose), under the caveat of "showed characters of...". In view of the complexities and difficulties of Canada and Cackling Goose identification, in particular at a subspecies level, the IRBC now regards the assignment of the 1985 birds to the form *minima* as tentative, at best, requiring confirmation through a review.



Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*) North Slob, Co. Wexford, 8 March 2007. Photo Jim Wilson



Adult Black Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*) Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, 11 February 2007. Photo: Michael Cowming

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

Down One, Killyleagh Harbour, 26 March; presumed same individual, Myra Castle, 10 April (G.McElwaine, D.Nixon). One, Strangford Floodgates, 21 October to 4 November (D.Charles).

Mayo Adult, various localities, The Mullet, 15 January to 21 February (D.Suddaby), presumed returning individual.

Sligo Adult, Scurmores, near Enniscrone, 25 to 27 February; also seen at Enniscrone Golf Course (M.Enright *et al.*).

Waterford The adult present at Dungarvan from 1 November 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 396), remained until 2 February. Adult, Dungarvan, mid-October to 19 April 2008 (F.O'Connell *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

Wexford The adult present at the North Slob from 19 December 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 396), remained until 25 February. Adult, North Slob, 8 December to 3 March 2008, photographed (T.Kilbane *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

2006 Down At least one, various localities in Strangford Lough, 16 October to 28 December, (*NIBR* 17: 45), presumed returning individual.

2006 Londonderry One, Carrickhugh, Lough Foyle, 27 November (*NIBR* 17: 45), presumed returning individual.

2005 Down Two adults, Strangford Lough, 30 September; one, 24 October (*NIBR* 17: 45), one presumed returning individual.

2005 Londonderry One, Faughanvale, Lough Foyle, 4 November (*NIBR* 17: 45).

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (114; 3)

Cork Male, Lissagriffin Lake, 25 February; male, 27 November to 23 December, presumed returning individual (D.Ballard).

Kerry Male, Smerwick Harbour, 30 December (J.Diggin, A.Duggan, N.Linehan).

Wexford Female, Tacumshin Lake, 15 to 26 September, photographed (T.Kilbane *et al.*); male, 20 to 27 October (T.Kilbane), presumed returning individual.

There has been a noticeable drop in numbers in recent years - the number of new individuals per year has averaged three during the current decade, compared to five in the 1990s.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (14; 2)

Donegal Male, near Milford, 22 December to 5 January 2008, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*). Male, Blanket Nook, 29 December to 31 May 2008, photographed (D.Brennan *et al.*).

Kerry Adult male, Ventry, 21 February (DPBR 2005-2007: 9), presumed same as individual seen in October 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 397); adult male, 21 September and 25 November to 17 February 2008, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

2006 Cork The male found at Kilcolman NNR on 4 March (*Irish Birds* 8: 397) remained until 7 May.

Up to 1989, this species had occurred in just three eastern counties (Kilkenny, Wexford and Dublin) but since then the trend has reversed, with all but one having been found in western counties (Kerry, Mayo, Cork and now Donegal).

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (62; 3)

Dublin The female present at the North Bull Island from 7 December 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 397) remained until 21 January, photograph *Birdwatch* 176: 68. Female, North Bull Island, 21 October to 20 January 2008, photographed (D.O'Mahony *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

Mayo Male, Kilkeerlin, Lough Carra, 20 October (C.Huxley, L.Huxley).

Tipperary Female, Firville Lake, near Borrisokane, 25 April (P.Brennan). Male, Lough Ourna, Nenagh, 24 to 26 May (F.O'Duffy).

The North Bull female, which is the first returning female on record, spent its third successive winter there. The Lough Carra male was a long overdue first for Mayo.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* (62; 0)

2006 Armagh One, Craigavon Lakes and Oxford Island NNR, 1 January (*NIBR* 17: 50).

2006 Fermanagh Male, Lough Digh, 15 February to 9 March (*NIBR* 17: 50).

2005 Antrim Male, Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, 2 September (*NIBR* 17: 50), also seen in Armagh, see below.

2005 Armagh Male, Oxford Island NNR, 24 September (*NIBR* 17: 50), also seen in Antrim, see above.

2005 Londonderry Adult female, Lough Beg, 3 September (*NIBR* 17: 50).



Female **Ring-necked Duck** (*Aythya collaris*) with Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) Lough Inchiquin, Corofin, Co. Clare, 29 January 2007. Photo: Ed Carty

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (184; 30)

Armagh Male, Craigavon Lakes, 1 to 7 April (D.Knight, F.Carroll, D.Charles).

Cavan Male and female, Bracklagh Lough, 10 April (J.Donaldson).

Clare The male and female present at Ballyallia Lough, Ennis, from November 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 397) remained until 15 February and 22 March, respectively. First-winter Male, Ballyallia Lough, Ennis, 4 January to 22 March, photographed (F.MacGabhann, J.N.Murphy *et al.*); adult male, 1 December (T.Lynch *et al.*), presumed returning individual. The male and female present at Lough Inchiquin, Corofin, from 26 December 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 397) remained until 22 February. Male, floodwater between Roslevan and Ballymacahill, 7 to 13 March, photographed (J.N.Murphy, S.Nugent). Male and female, Tullabrack Lough, 24 April (T.Gittings). Male (eclipse plumage), Lough Inchiquin, Corofin, 9 November (F.MacGabhann), presumed returning individual. Male, Lough Atedaun, 30 December (F.MacGabhann).

Cork Male, The Gearagh, 4 March (N.Linehan *et al.*); male, 20 October to 25 November (J.Lynch *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

Donegal Male, Blanket Nook, 13 May to 12 June (D.Breen). Lough Fern, six: female, 21 October to 15 December, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*); first-winter male, 23 October to 18 November (D.Breen); immature female, Lough Fern, 10 November to 15 December, photographed (D.Charles); two adult males and one female, 18 November to 15 December (D.Breen). Adult female, Inch Island Lake, 27 October (D.Charles); male, 27 October to 4 November (D.Breen *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

Fermanagh Male, Cornabass Lough, 7 November into 2008 (B.Robson), presumed returning individual. Female, Racecourse Lough, 24 December into 2008 (W.Farrelly, C.Mellon, B.Robson, C.Sharpe, K.Bennett, D.Charles).

Kerry Male, Lough Yganavan, Killorglin, 30 January to 25 February, photographed (S.Enright *et al.*).
Limerick Male, Lough Gur, 27 January to 19 March (B.Finnegan, J.N.Murphy, J.Rattigan, T.Tarpey); two females, 10 March (G.Hunt).
Londonderry Male, Lough Beg, 8 October (R.D.Steele). Female, Donnybrewer, Lough Foyle, 17 October (M.Tickner).
Louth Male, Mell Quarry, Drogheda, 8 March to 30 April, photographed (M.Reilly *et al.*), presumed returning individual. First-winter Male, Keenan's Cross Pond, 21 November to 12 January 2008, photographed (P.Phillips *et al.*).
Mayo Adult male, Carrowmore Lake, 10 January to 24 March (D.Suddaby), presumed returning individual. Female, Doogan Lough, Newport, 13 December to 24 December (W.Stringer).
Monaghan Male, Descart Lough, 7 January (P.Phillips); presumed same individual, Lough Fea, 1 to 16 February (P.Phillips *et al.*).
Sligo Female, Lough Arrow, 21 to 23 March (S.Feeney *et al.*); male, 22 March, photographed (S.Feeney *et al.*). First-winter male, Bunduff Lake, 26 October, photographed (B.Chapman).
Tipperary Male, Pat Reddan's Lake, 3 April to 17 May (P.Brennan), presumed returning individual.
Wexford Female, North Slob, 14 to 18 January (H.Delaney, N.Keogh *et al.*). Female, Tacumshin Lake, 10 to 26 November (K.Grace *et al.*).
2006 Armagh Male, Oxford Island NNR, 18 April to 18 May (*NIBR* 17: 51).
2006 Down The female present at Quoile Pondage NNR in December 2005 (*Irish Birds* 8: 375) remained until 1 January (*NIBR* 17: 51).
2006 Fermanagh Female, Drumgay Lough, 17 December to 27 January 2007. Male, Cornabass Lough, 27 December. Male, Kilturk Lough, 27 December (*NIBR* 17: 51).
2005 Armagh Male, Closet Bay, Oxford Island NNR, 18 June (*NIBR* 17: 51). Female, Craigavon Lakes, 19 November to 4 March 2006; male 30 December (*NIBR* 17: 51).
2005 Fermanagh One, Cornabass Lough, 15 December (*NIBR* 17: 51).

The total number of presumed new individuals falls only one short of 2006's record total and both years together account for a remarkable one-third of the overall total. This series includes the first for Monaghan.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* (30; 0)

Down Male, Corbet Lough, 24 November into 2008 (D.Knight, J.Devlin, K.Bennett), photograph *Birdwatch* 188: 77, presumed returning individual seen previously in Armagh, see below.
2006 Armagh Male, Oxford Island, Lough Neagh, 4 February (*NIBR* 17: 50), presumed same individual seen at Craigavon Lakes, see below. Male, Craigavon Lakes, 16 December to 1 January 2007 (D.Charles, G.Armstrong, P.Kelly), presumed returning individual.
2005 Armagh Male, Craigavon Lakes, 30 December to 12 March 2006 (D.Knight), presumed returning individual.

All records involve just one individual that has been returning to Armagh and Down since December 2004.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (16; 1)

Cavan First-winter female, Bun Lough, 16 to 23 March, also seen at Parisee Lough Belturbet, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).
Donegal Male, Lough Fern, 21 October to 2 December; same individual, Inch Island, 27 October, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*), presumed returning individual.
Down Female, Mill Pond, Shrigley, 25 November (D.Charles, G.Gordon); same individual, Clea Lakes, 25 December into 2008 (K.Bennett, L.Morgan, C.Mellon, K.Hamilton), presumed returning individual.
2006 Down First-winter female, Clea Lakes, 8 December to 11 April 2007 (*NIBR* 17: 52).
2006 Tyrone Male, Ballysaggart Lough, 1 to 11 March; same individual, Eskragh Lough, 5th March (*NIBR* 17: 52).
2005 Fermanagh First-winter male, Lough Barry, 30 January to 19 March (*NIBR* 17: 52).

Three typically northern records, including the first for Cavan. The Donegal bird is only the second to be discovered in October. These additional 2006 sightings bring the total of new individuals found that year to a record four.

Eider *Somateria mollissima* (2; 1)

Bird showing characters of the subspecies *borealis*:

Sligo Male, Raghly Point, 21 November to 6 December, photographed (J.Geraty, S.Geraty *et al.*).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (142; 9)

Cork First-winter female, Carrigrenan Point, Little Island, 27 January to 13 February, photographed (B.Lynch *et al.*).

Donegal Female/immature, Blanket Nook, Lough Swilly, 19 October to 1 November, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Dublin Adult male, Balbriggan, 19 March (P.Kelly).

Galway First-winter female, Silver Strand, Galway Bay, 31 December to 22 February 2008, and presumed same, Nimmo's Pier, 27 February to 3 May 2008, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*).

Kerry Two first seen at Fermoy, Brandon Bay on 25 November (male) and 11 December (female) 2006 were last seen on 14 January and 17 February, respectively (*Irish Birds* 8: 397). Adult male and female, Ballinskelligs Bay, 8 and 9 April; second female, 9 April (N.Linehan *et al.*). Adult male, Rossbeigh, 28 April (N.Linehan). Adult male, Ballinskelligs Bay, 30 September, presumed returning individual (R.Bonser). Juvenile, Sandy Bay, 6 to 14 November (M.O'Clery *et al.*).

Sligo Female/immature, Raghy Point, 30 October, presumed returning individual (S.Feeney).

Wexford First-winter male, Rosslare Bay, 8 February to 7 March (K.Mullarney *et al.*).

With nine new individuals (including at least four first-years), the best year since 1984. These widely spread birds include two at rather atypically sheltered locations in Cork and Donegal.



First-year male **Bufflehead** (*Bucephala albeola*) Lough Atedaun, Co. Clare, 9 February 2007. Photo: Paul and Andrea Kelly

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* (1; 1)

Clare First-year male, Lough Atedaun, 6 January to 4 March, photographed (J.N.Murphy *et al.*), photographs *Birdwatch* 178: 68.

The timing of this record is very similar to that of the first, seen in Cork from 18 January to 8 March 1998. This species is not rare in captivity but three reports from the Azores (the last of which was in November 2006) and at least two from Iceland appear to indicate its vagrancy potential.

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

Down Male, Quoile Pondage NNR, 24 November into 2008 (A. Marshall, S.Marshall), presumed returning individual.

The bird arrived in eclipse plumage and its plumage remained in this state for the whole of the winter.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Londonderry Juvenile, Lough Beg, 3 and 4 September (R.D.Steele).

Tipperary Juvenile, near Cahir, 11 September, photographed (K.P. Collins).

Wexford One, Wexford Harbour, 18 November to 13 January 2008 (T. Kilbane *et al.*); one, South Slob Channel, 18 December (T.Murray).

2006 Armagh Adult, Derryadd, Lough Neagh, 5 May; juvenile, Oxford Island NNR, 22 August to 29 September (*NIBR* 17: 39).

Fea's/Zino's Petrel *Pterodroma feae/madeira* (44; 11)

Clare Bridges of Ross, four: one, 21 August (R.Taylor *et al.*); two, 25 August (A.Clifton, I.Lewington *et al.*); one, 26 August (A.Conlin *et al.*).

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 22 September (C.Cronin). One, Mizen Head, 15 October (P.Wolstenholme).

Mayo One, Kilcummin Head, 31 August (M.Darlaston, A.Rennells); one, 14 September (D.Charles, W.Farrelly *et al.*), later seen later off Annagh Head, see below. One, Downpatrick Head, 2 September (M.Darlaston, A.Rennells). One, Annagh Head, 8 September (R.Bonser); one, 14 September (D.Suddaby), previously seen off Kilcummin Head, see above.

A record total. With such a strong showing in Mayo, it is rather surprising that these should be the first recorded in both of these counties. The October record is only the second for that month. Should the Desertas population of Fea's Petrel *P. f. deserta* be elevated to a full species, as has been recently suggested, and furthermore, a 2009 report of a Soft-plumaged Petrel *P.m.mollis* in Norway be confirmed (Catley 2009), the likelihood of observers in Ireland being able to identify one of these birds at species

level will clearly diminish even further.

Macaronesian Shearwater *Puffinus baroli* (19; 0)

2006 Mayo Two, Kilcummin Head, 29 August (M.Darlaston, A.Rennells).

None in 2007, only the second blank year for this species since 1999. This 2006 record is the third at this locality since 1999. There is only one previous record of two together, off Cape Clear in September 1978.



Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) 6 miles SW of Inishtearaght, Blasket Islands, Co. Kerry 27 August 2007. Photo: Michael O'Keeffe

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (97; 8)

Clare Bridges of Ross, four: two, 4 July (K.Mullarney); one 9 July (D.Breen); one, 5 August (D.Breen).

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 17 August (S.Wing).

Donegal One, 8 miles NW of Tory Island, 10 September, photographed (A.McGeehan *et al.*).

Kerry One, 6 miles SW of Inishtearaght, Blasket Islands, 27 August, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*).

Mayo One, Downpatrick Head, 3 September (M.Darlaston, A.Rennells).

Another good year for this species, bringing the total since 2002 to 71 individuals - almost three-quarters of the overall total. The July sightings are the second and third earliest on record

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (69; 2)

Cork Juvenile, Cape Clear Island, 25 October, photographed (V.Caschera *et al.*). Juvenile, Ballymacoda, 10 November (P.Smiddy *et al.*).

The Cape Clear record is the third record for the island, but the first there in autumn.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (17; 2)

Londonderry Adult, Lough Beg, 21 July to 14 August (R.D.Steele *et al.*).

Wexford Adult, South Slob, 29 May, photographed (F.Tennant *et al.*).

The first since 1999.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (10; 31)

Clare One, Clahane, Liscannor, 15 to 17 December, photographed (D.McNamara, J.N.Murphy, G.Pearson *et al.*).

Cork Two, near Redbarn Strand, Youghal, 3 December to 13 January 2008, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*). One, near Mizen Head, 23 December to 5 January 2008 (D.Ballard *et al.*). Nine, Clogheen, Clonakilty, 27 December to 5 May 2008, photographed (A.McAdams, D.G.McAdams, M.O'Sullivan *et al.*). One, Cape Clear Island, from about 25 December to 22 January 2008, photographed (L.Donnelly *et al.*). One, Cuskinny Marsh, Great Island, 30 December to 2 January 2008, photographed (S.Cronin *et al.*). Five, Bohonagh, 30 December, four remaining until 5 January 2008, photographed (H.Hussey, B.Lynch *et al.*).

Galway Four, Cartron, near Corrandulla, 24 December; three, 8 February 2008, photographed (I.Brophy *et al.*).

Kerry One, Claghane, 14 December, photographed (J.N.Murphy) (*Wings* 48: 27). One, Ballydavid, 24 December to 15 February 2008, photographed (J.Crosher, M.O'Clery, S.Redican *et al.*). One, Ballintaggert, near Trabeg, late December to 20 February 2008, photographed (T.Creedon *et al.*) (*DPBR* 2005-2007: 23).

Waterford One, Garrarus, 25 December to 2 January 2008 (R.Breen). Two, near Killongford, Dungarvan, 29 December to 17 January 2008, photographed (M.Cowming, C.Flynn *et al.*).

Wicklow Immature, Kilcoole/Newcastle, 9 to 13 November, photographed (R.Vaughan *et al.*).

Up to early November 2007, there had been just ten records of single birds in Cork (3), Kerry (2), Wexford (4) and Wicklow (1), fairly evenly spread over a 31-year period. For many birders, the above influx is likely to remain the most memorable event of winter 2007/2008. It began slowly, with one in Wicklow in November, followed by three sightings in the first half of December in Cork, Kerry and Clare. This series would in itself have rated as exceptional, yet the numbers that arrived in late December surpassed all expectations. By the end of the month at least 29 stationary individuals had been located, almost all in the southwest: 19 along the Cork coast (all but two in the western half of the county, including one flock of nine), three in Kerry, four in Galway but just three further east, in Waterford. Exceptionally large numbers also arrived in Britain about the same time, particularly in the southwest, eventually leading to the first breeding record there (Hudson *et al.* 2008).



Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) near Redbarn Strand, Co. Cork, 3 December 2007 Photo: Harry Hussey

Great White Egret *Ardea alba* (19; 5)

Londonderry One, Lough Beg, 20 September into 2008 (R.D.Steele *et al.*).

Louth One, Lurgangreen, 9 October; presumed same individual, 24 November (D.Hodgers, G.Noonan).

Waterford One, Blackwater Estuary, 4 May, photographed (H.Carty).

Wexford One, Tacumshin Lake, 27 August (A.Collins, A.O'Regan).

Wicklow One, Broad Lough, 22 February (F.Drew).

With the exception of 2004, this species has appeared every year since 1997, up to which there had been just a single record (Sligo, 1984).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (115; 6)

Kerry Six, Farranfore Airport, 19 April (E.Carty).

The largest flock since October 1934, when 20 birds were seen near Cahore Point in Wexford. The Kerry occurrence coincided with an influx into Britain around the same time when over 20 birds, including a flock of 17, were recorded mainly in the south west of England (Hudson *et al.* 2008).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (193; 9)

Cork One, Midleton, 1 June (P.Moore). Second-summer, Lough Beg, 22 June, photographed (H.Hussey *et al.*), later seen in Wexford, see below. One, The Gearagh, 21 October (D.Ballard).

Down Adult, Dundrum Inner Bay, 6 to 10 June; presumed same individual, Quoile Pondage NNR, 5 to 18 July (per NIBARC).

Dublin Second-summer, Balbriggan, 14 June (A.G.Kelly); same individual, Malahide Estuary, Corballis, 16 and 17 June, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*), seen later in Wicklow, see below.

Kerry The bird present at Cromane, Castlemaine Harbour since 2005 (*Irish Birds* 8: 37) remained until 8 April. One, Cromane, Castlemaine Harbour, 2 November to 22 March 2008, photographed (S.Enright *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

Mayo One, Westport Quay, 16 to 21 October (S.Geraty, W.Stringer). Three juveniles, Killala Bay, 29 October (W.Stringer).

Wexford Second-summer, Tacumshin Lake and Lady's Island Lake, 27 June to 12 August, photographed (T.Shevlin *et al.*) (*Wings* 47: 33), previously seen in Cork, see above.

Wicklow Second-summer, 18 to 21 June (B.Haslam *et al.*) and 19 July (R.H.Coombes *et al.*), previously seen in Dublin, see above.

A good year for this species.



Third calendar year **Spoonbill** (*Platalea leucorodia*) Lough Beg, Co. Cork, 22 June 2007. Photo: Sean Cronin



Adult **Spoonbill** (*Platalea leucorodia*) Tacumshin & Lady's Island, Co. Wexford, 1 July 2007. Photo: Paul and Andrea Kelly.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (8; 2)

Limerick One, near Castleconnell, 27 April (P.Troake).

Wexford Juvenile, South Slob (F.Tennant), 5 September: same individual, Carnsore Point (T.Shevlin) and Tacumshin (J.Adamson, T.Kilbane *et al.*), 8 to 9 September, photographed; same individual, South Slob, 12 to 14 September, photographed (*Wings* 47: 33) (A.Walsh *et al.*).

These are the first since 1995, including only the second autumn occurrence ever. The only other autumn record also involved a long-staying individual, which remained in Wicklow for nine days in September 1982. Five of the total have been found in April.



Juvenile **Black Kite** (*Milvus migrans*) South Slob, Co. Wexford, 13 September 2007. Photo: Tom Shevlin.



Juvenile **Black Kite** (*Milvus migrans*) South Slob, Co. Wexford, 12 September 2007. Photo: Killian Mullarney

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* (89; 2)

Wexford One, near Tacumshin, 24 March (K.Fahy *et al.*).

Wicklow One, near Wicklow Town, 14 January (O.O'Sullivan).

2006 Antrim One, Glenarm, 8 February (*NIBR* 17: 56).

2006 Down One, Copeland Islands, 16 October (*NIBR* 17: 56).

2005 Down One, Aghnaleck, 30 January. One, Dundonald, 17 December (*NIBR* 17: 56).

With the commencement of a reintroduction programme in Wicklow in June 2007, whereby 120 birds are due to be released over a five-year period and a similar scheme which commenced in Northern Ireland in 2008, this species becomes a candidate for Category C1 status. Clearly, a large and sudden increase in the number of sightings is to be expected and it must be assumed that all sightings relate to birds from this stock, as long as proof to the contrary is lacking. As it is not the responsibility of the IRBC to monitor the distribution and movements of reintroduced birds, we shall in future only be publishing records which fall unequivocally into Category A and C2, i.e. records of birds which are known not to originate from Irish reintroduction schemes.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (4*; 0)

2005 Antrim First-calendar year, Altnahinch Dam, 24 to 27 December (*NIBR* 17: 58).

This bird had been tagged as a nestling on the Isle of Mull (Inner Hebrides), Scotland, on 22 June 2005. See also comments under Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* below.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Wicklow Male, East Coast Nature Reserve, Blackditch, Newcastle, 14 May (O.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

Correction: 2006 Cork The bird present on Dursey Island on 13 May (*Irish Birds* 8: 398) was a second calendar-year male.

The timing and eastern locality are typical.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Antrim Male, Capanagh Wood, 21 April (per NIBARC).

Armagh One, Derrymacash, Lough Neagh, 13 October (E.O'Hara, G.Wilkinson).

Down Male, Larchfield, Aghnaleck, 25 January to 23 March (per NIBARC).

2006 Antrim Female, Slieveanorra, 9 May (NIBR 17: 57).

2006 Down One, Belvoir Forest Park, 26 January. One, Aghnaleck, 29 March. (NIBR 17: 57).

2006 Fermanagh One, Silver Hill, 22 December (NIBR 17: 57).

2006 Mayo Female, Sheffrey Hills, 24 April (A.ÓDónaill).

2005 Antrim One, Antrim Plateau, 6 February. One, Drum Bridge, Lisburn, 17 March. Male, Beaghs Forest, Slieveanorra, 8 May. Pair, Altnahinch Dam, 31 December (NIBR 17: 57).

2005 Cork Male and female, Carrigaline, 9 May (P.Smiddy).

2005 Down Female, Hillsborough, 2 October (NIBR 17: 57).

2005 Fermanagh Female, Portora, 9 September (NIBR 17: 57).

A good spread of records from the north and the south indicating the increasing frequency with which this species is met. The Cork record is only the second of two together in the Republic of Ireland, while the Fermanagh and Mayo records are the first for these counties.



Female **Taiga Merlin** (*Falco columbarius columbarius*) Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, 29 September 2000.

Photos: Michael O'Keeffe

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (19*; 0)

2006 Tyrone Sub-adult, Bessy Bell Mountain, 17 March (NIBR 17: 58).

2005 Antrim Second-year, Altnahinch Dam, 27 December (NIBR 17: 58).

The Antrim bird provided a wonderful accompaniment for the White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* present in the area the same day. With reintroductions of both of these species in progress for a number of years, there have, in addition, been widespread sightings of wing-tagged individuals originating from these schemes throughout Ireland. As in the case of Red Kite *Milvus milvus* (see above), however, only records which unequivocally fall into Category A or C2 will be published in this report.

Taiga Merlin *Falco columbarius columbarius* (0; 1)

2000 Cork Female, Cape Clear Island, 29 September, photographed (the late W.M.McDowell, D.Weir *et al*) (Garner 2002).

This extremely approachable, apparently exhausted bird arrived after a period of strong southwesterly winds that also brought the first Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora pinus* for the Western Palearctic to the island the following week. This is the second Western Palearctic record of this Nearctic subspecies, following a record of one found dead in southwest Iceland on 23 October 1989 (Petersen 1992). More recently, single birds were reported from the Azores in October 2007 (Crochet 2008) and in October-November 2008 (<http://azores.seawatching.net>).



First summer **Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*) Ballynagaul, Co. Waterford, 30 June 2007. Photo: Michael Cowming

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (145; 9)

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 30 April (S.Wing). One, Ballycotton, 7 May (G.Walsh). One, Castletownbere, 23 May (D.A.Scott *et al.*). One, Three Castles, Mizen Head, 20 October (D.Ballard).

Kerry One, Trabeg, 9 September (T.Lynch).

Mayo Adult, Glenlara, Belmullet, 29 September (C.Benson).

Waterford First-summer, Ballynagaul, 30 June, photographed (M.Cowming). One, Cheekpoint, 1 August (M.O'Meara *et al.*).

Wexford One, near White Hole, Tacumshin Lake, 4 May (K.Grace).

2005 Antrim Juvenile, Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, 14 November (*NIBR* 17: 59 - 60).

2005 Cork Adult, Sherkin Island, 8 July. Adult, Minane Bridge, 24 July (*CBR* 2005 & 2006: 43).

Correction: 2005 Cork The adult at Ballycotton (*Irish Birds* 8 : 379) was found on 15 May.

A good showing, including the first for Mayo. The 2005 Antrim record is the latest on record.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (121; 0)

2005 Kerry Immature, grey morph, Brandon Bay, 5 to 13 April (M.O'Clery)

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana* (47*; 0)

2006 Down One, singing, Lough Money, 9 to 15 May. One, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, May (*NIBR* 17:61)

Crane *Grus grus* (83; 0)

2005 Antrim One, Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, 23 and 24 April; same individual, Oxford Island NNR, 25 April (*NIBR* 17: 62).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (135; 4)

Dublin Four, Swords Estuary, 10 and 11 June, photographed (V.Toal *et al.*).

June arrivals are unusual but not unprecedented.



Adult **Collared Pratincole** (*Glareola pratincola*) Annagh Beach, The Mullet, Co. Mayo, 7 June 2007. Photo: Michael O'Keeffe

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (1; 2)

Galway Adult, near Ballyconneely, 24 October, photographed (A.ÓDónaill).

Mayo Adult, Annagh Beach, Termoncarragh, The Mullet, 5 to 9 June, (D.Suddaby *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 20: 228; *Birdwatch* 182: 76; *British Birds* 100: 515; *Wings* 46: 32.

The only previous record concerned one seen at the Bann Estuary, Londonderry, on 13th-14th October 1970. It is possible that both of the 2007 records involved the same individual, though a stay of well over four months seems unlikely for this species. The extreme rarity of this long distance migrant in Ireland, which has been recorded on almost 90 occasions in Britain (Fraser 2007), is baffling.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (66; 5)

Cork One, Ballycotton, 4 to 7 May (G.Walsh).

Wexford Female, Lady's Island Lake, 4 April, photographed (K.Fahy *et al.*); one, 11 June, photographed (B.Haslam *et al.*). Two juveniles, Tacumshin Lake, 27 June; one, 29 June, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*)

2006 Cork Adult female and two juveniles, Mallow Lagoons, 5 to 7 August (*CBR* 2005 & 2006: 47-48).

2005 Cork Adult, Ballycotton, 8 May (*CBR* 2005 & 2006: 47).

Correction: 2006 Cork The bird recorded at Ballycotton in January (*Irish Birds* 8: 399) was first seen on 29 January. The fifth year in succession that the species has been found in the Ballycotton / Ballymacoda area. The occurrence of a female with two juveniles at Mallow Lagoons (Cork 2006) and the exceptionally early appearance of two juveniles at Tacumshin (Wexford) is strongly suggestive of breeding having taken place locally. The first definite proof of breeding finally came in 2008 (Collins 2008).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* (263; 2)

Londonderry Adult, Bann Estuary, 10 September (D.Weir).

Wexford First-winter, North Slob, 25 November to 2 December, photographed (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*).

2005 Armagh Four, Peatlands Park, 2 May (*NIBR* 17: 63).

The Wexford individual was extremely late, only the fifth to be recorded in November and the first to linger into December.



Juvenile **Little Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius dubius*) Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, 27 June 2007. Photo: Killian Mullarney



Juvenile **American Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis dominica*) Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, 22 September 2007. Photo: Tom Shevlin

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (85; 15)

Cork Juvenile, Ballycotton, 3 to 11 November, photographed (H.Hussey, R.McLaughlin *et al.*)

Donegal Adult, Keadew Strand, Kincaslough, 9 September to 14 October, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*). Juvenile, Dunfanaghy, 29 September (G.Campbell *et al.*). Adult, Derrybeg, 6 and 7 October, photographed (D.Charles, A.Crory, W.Farrelly *et al.*).

Down Juvenile, Cloghy Beach, 20 to 24 October (R.Weyl).

Galway One, Rahasane Turlough, 4 November (M.Davis).

Kerry One, Cromane, Castlemaine Harbour, 24 to 28 August, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*).

Londonderry Juvenile, Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 14 October (K.Bennett, D.Charles, J.Larkin).

Louth First-summer, Boyne Estuary, 24 to 28 June, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Mayo One, Tramore Bay, Srah, 6 to 7 October (G.Murphy). Adult, Annagh Beach and Leam Lough, The Mullet, 10 to 23 October (D.Suddaby *et al.*). Adult, Annagh Beach, 30 October to 4 November (D.Suddaby).

Wexford First-summer, Tacumshin, 15 to 21 April, photographed (N.Keogh *et al.*); presumed same individual, 1 May (T.Murray); juvenile, 20 to 23 September, photographed (J.Metcalf *et al.*) (*British Birds*

100: 688; *Birding World* 20: 359; *Wings* 47: 33). Adult, The Cull, 12 to 21 September, photographed (M.Maddock *et al.*). Juvenile, Killag, 22 November, photographed (K.Mullarney).
2005 Londonderry One, Bann Estuary, 11 to 15 September (*NIBR* 17: 63).

The increase in late autumn records continues, with four more individuals seen in November.



Juvenile **American Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis dominica*) Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, 21 September 2007. Photo: Eric Dempsey

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (10; 1)

Wexford Adult, Tacumshin, 11 July (E.Dempsey *et al.*), photographs *British Birds* 100: 571; *Birdwatch* 183: 77.

A very typical record; six of the total have been seen close to the south Wexford coast in July or August.



Adult **Pacific Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis fulva*) Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, 11 July 2007. Photo: Eric Dempsey

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (92; 5)

Cork Juvenile, Ballycotton, 4 and 5 October (G.Walsh). Juvenile, Rosscarbery, 8 October (J.Wilson). Juvenile, Ballycotton, 29 to 31 October (Gr.Gordon, G.Walsh).
Down Juvenile, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 9 to 15 May (A.McGeethan *et al.*).

Kerry Juvenile, Ventry Harbour, 6 and 7 September, photographed (D.Brown, M.Hoit, K.Langdon *et al.*) (*Birding World* 20: 359).

An average total, following eleven in 2006, but the series of October sightings in Cork is unusually late, while the Down record is the first spring record for Northern Ireland.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* (2; 1)

Wexford Adult, Carne Beach, 27 to 30 August (K.Mullarney *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 20: 312, 514; *Birdwatch* 184: 58-59; *Wings* 47: 33; (K.Mullarney 2007a).

This bird was discovered at dusk on the penultimate day of its stay by an entirely unsuspecting observer. It subsequently transpired that it had been photographed (but misidentified) by two visiting British birders three days previously. The first two birds, likewise adults in breeding plumage, were both at Ballycotton, Cork in July 1998 and July-August 2002.



Adult **Red-necked Stint** (*Calidris ruficollis*) Carne, Co. Wexford, 30 August 2007. Photo: Killian Mullarney

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* (34; 3)

Donegal Juvenile, Blanket Nook, 5 October, photographed (D.Charles, A.Crory, W.Farrelly *et al.*).

Louth One, Dundalk Port, 7 and 8 April, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*). Juvenile, Baltray, Boyne Estuary, 16 and 17 September (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Although a total of ten have been found in the past ten years, this species is still far from annual in occurrence. These are the first for both Donegal and Louth. The extremely early date of the spring record (the next earliest spring date is 23rd May) suggests that this bird had wintered further north than usual, perhaps even in Ireland.



Adult or 1st summer **White-rumped Sandpiper** (*Calidris fuscicollis*) with Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, 15 August 2007. Photo: Killian Mullarney

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (220; 5)

Cork One of the two juveniles found at Ballycotton, 2 November 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 400), remained until 7 January, photographed (J.A.Coveney, N.Linehan *et al.*).

Galway Juvenile, Inishbofin, 1 November, photographed (A.McGeehan).

Louth One, Lurgangreen, 7 October (E.Larrissety).

Mayo Adult, Inishkea North, 12 July (D.Suddaby *et al.*). Wexford Adult, Tacumshin, 15 August (K.Mullarney), photograph *Birdwatch* 184: 68.

Wicklow Juvenile, Kilcoole, 10 November (A.G.Kelly *et al.*).

2006 Down Juvenile, Ballyferris, 16 October. Juvenile, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 19 October to 19 November (*NIBR* 17: 65).

2006 Armagh Juvenile, Derrytrasna, Lough Neagh, 24 October (*NIBR* 17: 65).

The Inishkea Islands are perhaps not the most obvious place to search for American waders but the above bird was just one of three to be found there in mid-July. The only Galway record prior to the Inishbofin individual was in 1984, while the long-staying Cork bird that remained well into the winter is particularly noteworthy. The additional 2006 birds extend that year's record tally to a very impressive 31.



Juvenile **Baird's Sandpiper** (*Calidris bairdii*) Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, 22 September 2007. Photo: Paul and Andrea Kelly

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (95; 3)

Cork One, Ballycotton, 4 and 5 October (G.Walsh).

Mayo Adult, Inishkea North, 17 July (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Wexford Juvenile, Tacumshin, 22 September to 6 October, photographed (J.F.Dowdall, A.G.Kelly *et al.*).

2004 Galway Juvenile, Rahasane Turlough, 25 September to 2 October (D.Breen *et al.*).

There are only two previous July records. The Inishkea bird coincided with a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The Galway record is the first for the county.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* (3; 1)

Cork Juvenile, Ballycotton, 4 and 5 October, photographed (P.Moore, D.O'Sullivan, G.Walsh *et al.*) (*Birding World* 20: 401).

The first juvenile and considerably later than the first three, which were all found between 27 July and 14 September.



Juvenile **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** (*Calidris acuminata*) Ballycotton, Co. Cork, 5 October 2007. Photo: Sean Cronin.



Juvenile **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** (*Calidris acuminata*) Ballycotton, Co. Cork, 5 October 2007. Photo: Paul and Andrea Kelly



Adult **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** (*Tryngites subruficollis*) Ballycotton, Co. Cork, 22 June 2007. Photo: Sean Cronin

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* (287; 18)

Clare Juvenile, Doonbeg, 1 to 3 September (L.Benson *et al.*).

Cork Adult, Ballycotton, 22 to 25 June (P.Davis *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 182: 77.

Donegal Juvenile, Tory Island, 8 September (A.G.Kelly). Juvenile, Bloody Foreland, 14 and 15 September, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Dublin One, Swords Estuary, 11 October (G.Power).

Galway Juvenile, Mweenish Island, 9 September (P.Troake).

Kerry Juvenile, Smerwick Harbour, 12 September (J.Crosher).

Londonderry Three, Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 15 to 21 October (R.D.Steele, K.Bennett, D.Charles, J.Larkin).

Mayo Adult, Leam Lough, The Mullet, 15 July, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*); one, 9 September (D.Suddaby). Adult, Inishkea North, 17 July (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Wexford Tacumshin, at least five: juvenile, 31 August to 2 September, photographed (K.Grace *et al.*); two, 15 September; three, 16 to 20 September; four, 21 and 22 September; two, 3 and 6 October, photographed (E.Dempsey, T.Kilbane *et al.*).

2006 Cork The two juveniles on Dursey (*Irish Birds* 8: 400) remained until 22 September. Juvenile, Ballycotton, 6 October (*CBR* 2005 & 2006: 57).

2006 Londonderry One, Lough Beg, 27 May; juvenile, 23 and 24 September (*NIBR* 17: 67).

2006 Wicklow Juvenile, Kilcoole, 3 September (M.Nolan *et al.*).

2005 Down One, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 18 September (*NIBR* 17: 67).

2005 Londonderry At least three, Lough Foyle, 9 September to 2 October (*NIBR* 17: 67).

The appearance of three adults in June and July is noteworthy, while the late Londonderry record is only the second for May. The Galway bird was first to be discovered there since 1974, an indication of how low observer coverage in this county has been.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (87; 7)

Clare Adult, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 28 July to 12 October, photographed (F.MacGabhann *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

Cork One, Ballycotton, 6 to 10 November, photographed (G.Walsh *et al.*). Adult, Timoleague, 18 December, photographed (I.Brown).

Down First-winter, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 30 November (J.Bradley, J.Lamont, A.McGeehan).

Galway Juvenile, Rusheen Bay, 30 September, photographed (T.Cuffe *et al.*).

Londonderry One, Lough Beg, 10 to 20 April (M.Tickner, S.Foster), possibly same bird present until January, see below; first-winter, 8 October (R.D.Steele).

Louth Adult, Dundalk Port, 9 January to 26 April (P.Kelly, G.O'Neill *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 180: 68. One, Dundalk Port, 17 October to 15 December (E.Larrissey), presumed returning individual.

2006 Londonderry One of the birds at Lough Beg (*Irish Birds* 8: 400) remained until 1 January 2007 (R.D.Steele, D.Charles).

2005 Londonderry One, Lough Beg, 13 to 15 November (*NIBR* 17: 68-69).

The Shannon individual returned to moult at this locality for the third autumn in succession.



Juvenile **Spotted Sandpiper** (*Actitis macularius*) Ballycotton, Co. Cork, 3 September 2007. Photo: Sean Cronin



Adult summer **Spotted Sandpiper** (*Actitis macularius*) Blackditch Reserve, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow, 11 May 2007. Photo: Sean Cronin

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* (21; 5)

Clare Adult, Doonbeg, 4 to 8 August, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*).

Cork Juvenile, Ballycotton, 2 to 5 September, photographed (G.Walshe *et al.*); juvenile, 3 October, photographed (S.Cronin).

Cork and Waterford One, Tourig River, Youghal, 14 to 22 November, photographed (C.Cullen *et al.*).

Wicklow Adult, East Coast Nature Reserve, Blackditch, Newcastle, 8 to 12 May, photographed (R.H.Coombes *et al.*) (*Wings* 46: 32).

Another very good year, following four in 2006. The Wicklow record is the first for the county.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (113; 8)

Cork The bird present at Rosscarbery from 13 October 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 403) remained until 14 April; presumed same individual, Clonakilty, 26 April to 8 May (H.Hussey *et al.*). First-winter, Rosscarbery, 17 October to 26 April 2008, photographed (C.Foley, D.Foley *et al.*). Adult, Clonakilty, 12 September to 29 October (H.Hussey *et al.*).

Donegal First-winter, Tory Island, 8 and 9 September, photographed (J.F.Dowdall, A.G.Kelly *et al.*).

Dublin One, Rogerstown, 14 July to 12 August, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); one, 14 October (P.Kelly).

Kerry Adult, Callanaferry Pier, Castlemaine, 19 and 20 September (S.Enright).

Wicklow One, Broad Lough, 6 to 9 July, photographed (F.Drew *et al.*).

2006 Cork The bird present at Lough Beg in late September (*Irish Birds* 8: 403) remained until 1 October (*CBR* 2005 & 2006: p.67).

Another excellent showing, including the first for Donegal. The three years 2005 to 2007 account for almost one-quarter of the overall total. Each of these years has furthermore seen new individuals (first-years) wintering in the Rosscarbery / Inchydoney area in Cork.



First winter **Lesser Yellowlegs** (*Tringa flavipes*) Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, 22 January 2007 Photo: Sean Cronin

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (82; 2)

Down First-winter, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 8 to 24 September (G.McGeehan, A.Gordon, I Enlander, W.Hawthorne, I.Jackson).

Wexford First-winter, Lady's Island Lake, 28 August to 2 September; same individual, Nethertown, 29 August (B.Haslam *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 184: 68.

There was a distinct slump in the 1990s but, having now been recorded in five consecutive years, this species seems to be returning to its older form.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Donegal Adult female, Blanket Nook, 11 June (D.Brennan).

Offaly Adult female, Lough Boora Parklands, 9 to 12 June (J.A.Doolan *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 181: 68.

The fourth year in the current decade that birds have been observed in late May or early June.



First winter **Wilson's Phalarope** (*Phalaropus tricolor*) Nethertown, Co. Wexford, 29 August 2007. Photo: Sean Cronin



Adult female **Red-necked Phalarope** (*Phalaropus lobatus*) Lough Boora, Co. Offaly, 12 June 2007. Photo: Sean Cronin

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* (654; 38)

Antrim Adult, Kinbane Head, 12 September (G.Campbell). Juvenile, Ramore Head, 14 September (C.Guy).

Clare Four, Bridges of Ross, 24 September (H.Delaney). Immature, Rineville Bay, Kilcredaun, 4 October (J.N.Murphy). Immature, Fodry Point, Loop Head, 26 October (J.N.Murphy).

Donegal Five, 12.9 km NW of Tory Island, 10 September (A.McGeehan *et al.*). Six, Melmore Head, 25 September (E.Randall).

Dublin Two juveniles, Bremore, Balbriggan, 10 September (A.G.Kelly).

Kerry Juvenile, Brandon Bay, 2 September (M.Latham, Mg.Latham, P.Latham).

Louth Adult, Baltray, 20 May (P.Kelly).

Mayo Kilcummin Head, eleven: adult, 14 September (D.Charles, W.Farrelly); adult and seven juveniles (P.Archer, D.Charles, T.Kilbane, B.Robson), 24 September; two juveniles, 25 September (P.Archer, J.Donaldson). Three adults and three juveniles, Annagh Head, 14 September (D.Suddaby).

Wexford Two adults, Tacumshin, 20 May, photographed (N.Keogh *et al.*). Adult, Carnsore Point, 10 July (E.Dempsey *et al.*).

2006 Antrim Juvenile, Ramore Head, 9 August; juvenile, 3 September (*NIBR* 17: 74).

2006 Cork Adult, Galley Head, 1 July (*CBR* 2005 & 2006: p.71).

A fairly average total by recent standards, but note that further sightings still remain anonymous and have had to be omitted (see list at end of this report). Spring passage is very rarely observed along the east coast so the Louth and Wexford records in May are quite noteworthy.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* (37; 10)

Antrim First-winter, Whitehead, 9 to 21 January (C.Moore), photograph *Birdwatch* 177: 67.

Clare Adult, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 10 to 22 August, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*). First-winter, Liscannor, 7 December (D.McNamara).

Cork The adult at Cobh in December 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 403) remained until 18 February. First-winter, Midleton, 20 March, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*).

Down Adult, Strangford Lough, 29 September (K.Bennett).

Kerry First-winter, Tralee, 15 January (E.Carty); adult, 6 March (E.Carty). Adult, Kilshannig, near Castlegregory, 7 to 23 September (G.Walker *et al.*).

Waterford Adult, Ardmore Beach, 28 and 29 October, photographed (P.M.Walsh *et al.*).

Wexford First-winter, Tacumshin, 28 April to 27 May (P.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 180: 68.

2005 Armagh Adult, Oxford Island NNR, 2 May; same individual, Reedy Flat, 8 May (*NIBR* 17: 76).

2003 Galway Adult, Nimmo's Pier, 5 April (D.Breen *et al.*).

An outstanding year for this species. Notable amongst these records is the first for Waterford.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (38; 2)

Cork Adult, Inchydoney, 11 July (J.Brooks).

Kerry Adult, Blennerville, 10 April (E.Carty).

2006 Cork The bird seen at The Lough and other locations in Cork City (*Irish Birds* 8: 403) remained until 16 April. First-winter, Cuskinny Marsh, 10 February (*CBR* 2005 & 2006: p.75).

2006 Donegal The records of a first-summer at Bunbeg Harbour, 28 May and a first-summer at Dungloe, 7 and 8 June (*Irish Birds* 8: 403) are presumed to have involved the same individual.

Possibly returning birds from the exceptionally large influx of winter 2005-2006.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (11; 0)

2006 Down First-summer, St. John's Point, 18 May (*NIBR* 17: 75).

This extends the record total in 2006 to seven, though it is perhaps not unlikely that this individual was one of the three first-year birds previously seen at various east coast localities between January and April.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis atlantis* (7; 0)

Birds showing characters of the Atlantic island form *L. m. atlantis*, in particular the somewhat more distinctive Azorean population.

Antrim Adult, Whitehouse Lagoon, 13 September, photographed (D.Charles), presumed returning individual.

Dublin Adult, Sandymount Strand, 25 March (N.Keogh), presumed same as individual present 6 December 2006 to 10 January 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 404); adult, 20 September to 5 October, photographed (H.Delaney, N.Keogh *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

2006 Dublin The bird at Sandymount Strand from 6 December to 10 January (*Irish Birds* 8: 404) was an adult.

2006 Kerry The bird at Carrahane Sands in September and October (*Irish Birds* 8: 404) was an adult.

2006 Down Adult, Kinnegar, 26 September; same individual, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 17 October (*NIBR* 17: 78).

2005 Antrim Adult, Dargan Bay, 23 October (*NIBR* 17: 78), also seen later in Down, see below.

2005 Down Adult, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 25 October (*NIBR* 17: 78), also seen earlier in Antrim, see above.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* (10; 1)

Cork First-winter, Youghal Refuse Tip, 24 February to 6 March, photographed (H.Hussey, N.Linehan *et al.*); also seen in Waterford (see below).

Waterford The first-winter present at Youghal, Cork (see above) was also seen at Kinsalebeg on 24 February and Rincrow on 28 February.

2006 Antrim Adult, Dargan Bay, 17 March (*NIBR* 17: 77).

2006 Down First-winter, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 16 March (*NIBR* 17: 77).

2005 Antrim First-winter, Whitehouse Lagoon, 23 December; same individual, Dargan Bay, 26 to 28 December (*NIBR* 17: 77), also seen later in Down, see below.

2005 Down First-winter, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 30 December (*NIBR* 17: 77), also seen earlier in Antrim, see above.

Eight of the overall total have been found in the first three months of the year, and all but one (the Cork / Waterford bird above) have been found at northern or eastern localities between Donegal and Wexford.



First –winter **Caspian Gull** (*Larus cachinnans*) Youghal Refuse Tip, Co. Cork. 24 February 2007 Photos: Harry Hussey (left) and Paul Moore (right)



Fourth-winter **American Herring Gull** (*Larus smithsonianus*) Galway, 28 January 2007. Photo: Pat Lonergan

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* (76; 5)

Cork First-winter, Youghal Refuse Tip, 29 April to 3 May, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*). First-winter, Cobh, 31 October to 24 November (Gr.Gordon *et al.*).

Donegal Second-winter, Killybegs, 14 March to 2 April (R.Vaughan *et al.*); first-winter, 2 and 3 April (P.French *et al.*).

Galway Fourth-winter, Nimmo's Pier, 14 January to 23 March (D.Breen *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 20: 6; *Birdwatch* 178: 68; presumed returning individual; adult, 25 November to 2 April 2008, photographed (T.Cuffe *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

Mayo First-winter, Annagh Beach, 22 to 24 March (D.Suddaby).

2006 Londonderry Second-winter, Culmore Refuse Tip, 24 January to 15 February (*NIBR* 17: 78).

2004 Donegal Killybegs, three: first-winter 14 and 15 February, photographed; first-winter, 15 February, photographed; second-winter, 15 and 16 February (A.deBroyer *et al.*); the first-winter at this locality from 26 February to 2 March (*Irish Birds* 8: 115) is presumed to have been one of these birds.

The 2006 Londonderry bird was the only new individual during that year. This species has been recorded in twelve coastal counties but almost half of eighty birds found to date have been in the southwest (28 in Cork, 11 in Kerry). Northern counties between Donegal and Down account for a further 30 individuals.



Adult **Kumlien's Gull** (*Larus glaucooides kumlieni*) Killybegs, Co. Donegal, 11 March 2007. Photo: Derek Charles

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni* (86; 27)

Antrim First-winter, Dargan Bay, 3 to 30 March, photographed (P.Kelly); second-winter, 30 December (D.Charles).

Cork Second-winter, Sherkin Island, 10 September (J.Wyllie).

Donegal Killybegs, four: adult, 19 January to 3 April, photographed (D.Charles, W.Farrelly *et al.*); third-winter, 3 April, photographed (P.French); third-winter, 7 April, photographed (D.Charles), also seen at Culmore Refuse Tip, Londonderry, see below; first-winter, 10 November, photographed (D.Charles).

Down Third-winter, Kinnegar, 11 to 14 April (D.Charles).

Dublin Adult, Shanganagh, 14 March (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); same individual, Sandymount Strand, 22 March, and Blackrock, 28 March (E.Archer, N.Keogh, H.Delaney).

Fermanagh First-winter, Enniskillen Refuse Tip, 13 to 20 March (G.Thomas, B.Robson, D.Charles).

Galway Galway City, three: second-winter, Mutton Island, 9 January (M.Davis); same individual, Nimmo's Pier, 14 January, photographed (G.Bellingham) (*Birding World* 20: 49); second-winter, Nimmo's Pier, 1 December to 2 April 2008, photographed (T.Cuffe *et al.*); second-winter, 20 December to 17 January 2008, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*). Rossaveal, five: first-winter, 21 January (T.Griffin); second-winter, 31 March (M.Davis) (*Wings* 45: 29); first-winter, 1 April (M.Davis); second-winter, 8 to 10 October, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*); second-winter, 2 December to 23 February 2008, photographed (M.Davis).

Kerry Adult, Ferriter's Cove, Ballyferriter, 28 and 29 January, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*). Sub-adult, Reenard Point, Caherciveen, 22 September to 2 February 2008, photographed (R.Bonser *et al.*)

Londonderry Culmore Refuse Tip, seven: second-winter and third-winter, 18 January, photographed (D.Charles); different third-winter, 1 February (D.Charles); first-winter, 18 February to 29 March, photographed (D.Charles, D.A.Hunter, I.Lewington, N.J.Hallam); different first-winter, 22 March, photographed (D.Charles); second-winter and third-winter (which was also seen at Killybegs, Donegal, see above) 29 March, photographed (D.Charles, R.D.Steele) (*Birdwatch* 179: 67).

Mayo First-winter, Annagh Head, 17 March (D.Suddaby).

2006 Antrim Adult, Dargan Bay, 30 January (*NIBR* 17: 79).

2006 Down Second-winter, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 8 April (*NIBR* 17: 79).

2006 Londonderry First-winter, Culmore Refuse Tip, 25 March; third-winter, 24 November to 29 March 2007 (*NIBR* 17: 79).

2005 Antrim First-winter, Ballymena Refuse Tip, 3 January (*NIBR* 17: 79).

2005 Londonderry Culmore Refuse Tip, five: three first-winters, 7 January to 7 March; adult, 1 February; adult, 24 November; second-winter, 15 December to 7 March 2006 (*NIBR* 17: 79). This series includes two birds published a previous report (*Irish Birds* 8: 385).

The late 2005 records published here extend the record total for that year to 17 birds, seven more than in the previous best year (1998), but even this figure pales compared to the 27 recorded in 2007. A notable aspect of the 2007 series is the relatively high proportion of older (3rd winter or adult) birds, these making up almost one-third of the total.



2nd winter **Kumlien's Gull** (*Larus glaucooides kumlieni*) Rossaveel, Co. Galway, 31 March 2007. Photo: Michael Davis



Adult summer **Whiskered Tern** (*Chlidonias hybrida*) Lough Beg, Co. Cork, 30 April 2007. Photo: Michael O'Keeffe

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* (19; 1)

Cork Adult, Lough Beg, 29 and 30 April, photographed (J.Diggin *et al.*).

A typical record.

American Black Tern *Chlidonias niger surinamensis* (3; 1)

Galway Juvenile, Rahasane Turlough, 2 to 5 September, photographed (M.Davis *et al.*) (*Birding World* 20: 365).

Presumably overlooked in the past, this subspecies has now been found in three of the past five years.



Juvenile **American Black Tern** (*Chlidonias niger surinamensis*) Rahasane Turlough, Co. Galway, 2 September 2007. Photo: Michael Davis



Juvenile **American Black Tern** (*Chlidonias niger surinamensis*) Rahasane Turlough, Co. Galway, 3 September 2007. Photo: Tom Cuffe

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (82; 0)

2006 Cork Adult, Sherkin Island, 19 July (*CBR* 2005 & 2006: p.83) was presumably the same individual recorded off Cape Clear Island the next day (*Irish Birds* 8: 387).

2006 Down Adult, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 6 June (*NIBR* 17: 83).



Adult winter **Forster's Tern** (*Sterna forsteri*) Pilmore Strand, Co. Cork, 28 January 2007. Photo: Sean Cronin



Adult winter **Forster's Tern** (*Sterna forsteri*) Galway Bay, Co. Galway, 3 March 2007. Photo: Tom Cuffe

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (21; 0)

Cork Adult, Pilmore Strand, 28 January to 9 February, photographed (S.Cronin *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

Galway Adult, Nimmo's Pier, 6 January to 1 June, photographed (C.Cullen, T.Nelson *et al.*); adult, 22 December to 31 March 2008, photographed (T.Cuffe *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

Louth Adult, Cruisetown Strand, 29 October to 7 December, photographed (T.Hodgers, G.O'Neill *et al.*) (*Birding World* 20: 446), presumed returning individual.

Wexford Adult, Wexford Harbour, 30 December to 13 January 2008 (K.Grace, A.J.Walsh *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

2006 Cork The bird seen at Ballycotton and at Ballyvergan (*Irish Birds* 8: 404) in January and February was last seen on Pilmore Strand on 12 March before moving to Waterford (*CBR* 2005 & 2006: p.83).
2006 Down Adult, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 2 July (*NIBR* 17: 81 - 82).
2005 Down The bird present at Strangford Lough in December 2004 (*Irish Birds* 8: 387) was again seen 2 to 13 January (*NIBR* 17: 81 - 82).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Antrim Five, The Maidens, off Larne, 25 to 29 January; two, 19 December (D.Galbraith).
Cork One, found dead, Dursey Island, 10 January (D.A.Scott).
Dublin One, found exhausted and taken into care, Trinity College, 12 November; released, Dun Laoghaire, 13 November, photographed (A.G.Kelly, N.Marples *et al.*).
Galway One, found dead, Spiddal, 9 November (F.MacLochlainn).
Louth One, Port Oriel, Clogher Head, 18 November (J.Mullen).
Mayo One, found dead, Barnynagappul Strand, Achill Island, 3 November (L.McDowd).
Waterford One, Helvick Head, 29 April (C.Flynn).
Wicklow One, Ballygannon, 31 October (O.O'Sullivan).



First winter **Mourning Dove** (*Zenaida macroura*) Inishbofin, Co. Galway, 3 November 2007. Photo: Anthony McGeehan

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* (0; 1)

Galway One, Inishbofin, 2 to 15 November, (A.McGeehan *et al.*), photographs *Birdwatch* 186: 76; *Birding World* 20: 458; *Wings* 48: 28 (McGeehan 2007).

One of the biggest prizes of the autumn, this record closely coincided with another in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland (Hudson *et al.* 2008). There is now a broad consensus that records of Mourning Doves in northeastern Germany and at Skagen, Denmark in May 2008 both involved the Inishbofin individual; photographs from all three localities depict a bird with perfectly identical markings on the wing-coverts and tertials. Indeed, this bird's history, in particular its arrival on the Atlantic seaboard in late autumn, was a pivotal factor in the decision to admit the species into Category A (rather than D) of the Danish List (Frich *et al.* 2009).

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* (70; 0)

Galway Female, Moycullen, 16 October (N.O'Toole, E.McCarthy); presumed same individual, Barna, 5 November (R.Hennessy).
Mayo Adult female, Blacksod, The Mullet, 11 to 21 February, photographed (R.Millington, D.Suddaby); same individual, 27 August to 26 October, photographs *British Birds* 100: 689 (C.Bradshaw, D.Suddaby *et al.*), returning individual.

The Galway sightings are presumed to relate to the individual seen in that county in 2006.



Adult female **Snowy Owl** (*Bubo scandiacus*) Blacksod, The Mullet, Co. Mayo, 6 October 2007. Photo: Sean Geraty

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* (7; 10)

2005 Cork Of the four birds seen at Courtmacsherry on 1 November (*Irish Birds* 8: 387), three remained on 2 November, when they were seen at Galley Head (*CBR* 2005 - 2006 p.92).

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (70; 0)

2006 Antrim One, Whitehouse Lagoon, 2 April (*NIBR* 17: 87).

2006 Down One, Crossgar, 18 July (*NIBR* 17: 87).

2005 Down One, Cranfield Point, 20 May (*NIBR* 17: 87).

The 2006 Antrim bird coincided closely with others in Waterford, Wexford and Cork (*Irish Birds* 8: 407).

The 2005 bird was observed flying south over Carlingford Lough and would have constituted the first record of the species for Louth, had an observer been present to record its arrival!

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (50; 1)

Wexford One, Churchtown, 4 June (C.Foley, R.Vaughan).

A typical record; eight of the twelve birds since 1989 have been found between 23 May and 4 June.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (210; 2)

Cork One, Mizen Head, 5 October (D.Ballard).

Waterford One, near Ballinclammer, 24 April (D.Clark).

2006 Cork The bird seen on Dursey Island on 12 October (*Irish Birds* 8:407) was also seen on 13 October (K.Grace). One, Mizen Head, 26 October (M. Cowming).

The spring bird is notable in what was otherwise a very poor year.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* (121; 5)

Down Adult and juvenile, Downpatrick, 4 May (C.Murphy). One, Tollymore Forest Park, 7 August (D.Bailey).

Dublin One, near Deerpark, Howth, 26 November (P.Watson), presumed same as individual seen at this locality in February 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 407, see also below).

Wicklow One, calling, Stump of the Castle, near Rathdrum, 1 June (R.H.Coombes). Male, near Annamoe, 28 December (D.F.Murphy).

2006 Dublin The female present at Howth in February (*Irish Birds* 8: 407) was seen on 12 February (K.Grace) but had been present a few days earlier.

2006 Down One, Quoile Centre, 26 to 29 October (*NIBR* 17: 88).

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (58; 1)

Cork One, Lissagriffin, 20 and 21 October, photographed (A.Duggan, N.Linehan *et al.*).

Woodlark *Lullula arborea* (17*; 1)

Cork One, Dursey Island, 20 and 21 October (D.A.Scott *et al.*).

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris* (18; 2)

Cork Adult male, Cape Clear Island, 13 to 22 April, photographed (C.Cronin *et al.*); adult male, 20 to 22 April (S.Wing *et al.*).

There is only one previous record away from the eastern seaboard (Kerry, 1976), so this was a most unexpected addition to the island list and, indeed, the county list.



Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) Lissagriffin, Co. Cork, 21 October 2007. Photo: Michael O'Keeffe

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* (23; 6)

Cork One, Lissagriffin, 21 April (P.Connoughton *et al.*). One, Cape Clear Island, 8 June (C.Cronin *et al.*). One, Three Castles, Mizen Head, 14 and 15 October, photographed (M.Cowming, K.Dooney, C.Flynn, P.O'Keeffe, J.McNally *et al.*).

Donegal First-winter, Tory Island, 27 October to 4 November, photographed (J.Adamson *et al.*).

Dublin One, near Dublin Airport, 18 April (J.Byrne).

Galway One, Rusheen Bay, 24 October (P.Troake).

The best ever year, with Donegal, Dublin and Galway receiving their first.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (85; 4)

Cork One, Dursley Island, 6 and 7 October (D.A.Scott). One, Sherkin Island, 11 November (J.Wyllie). One, near Toe Head, 12 November (K.Cronin).

Londonderry One, Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, 15 November (B.Robson, M.Tickner).

Wexford One, Tacumshin Lake, 12 November to 31 December, photograph *Birdwatch* 188: 77 (T.Kilbane *et al.*).

2006 Cork One, Pilmore Strand, 4 and 5 October. One, Ballywilliam, 11 November (*CBR* 2005 - 2006: p.97).

Correction: 2006 Wexford The bird recorded at Hook Head (*Irish Birds* 8: 407) was seen on 28 October (K.Grace).

The Tacumshin bird is the longest-staying on record.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (32; 2)

Cork One, Mizen Head, 30 September (D.Ballard). One, Three Castles, Mizen Head, 14 October (D.Ballard).

Dublin The bird present at Rogerstown from 24 December 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 407) remained until 20 January, photographs *Birding World* 19: 491, *Birdwatch* 176: 68, 177: 68.

2006 Cork The bird seen on Cape Clear Island (*Irish Birds* 8: 407) remained until 18 October. One, Ballylanders, 16 October (*CBR* 2005 - 2006: p.98).



Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*) Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. Photo's: Michael O'Keeffe (top, 30 December 2007), Harry Hussey (middle, 14 December 2007) and Killian Mullarney (bottom, 29 November 2007)

Scandinavian Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis* (23; 3)

Antrim One, Sandy Bay, Larne, 18 March (D.A.Hunter).

Cork One, Ballycotton, 10 May, photographed (P.Moore).

Waterford One, Annestown, 31 March, photographed (M.Cowming, C.Flynn).

2006 Antrim One, Glenarm Bay, 17 March (NIBR 17: 89).

2005 Down One, Greencastle Bay, 30 March (NIBR 17: 89).

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* (62; 24)

Clare One, Clahane Beach, Liscannor, 31 October to 27 December, photographed (O.Foley,

D.McNamara, R.Vaughan *et al.*). One, Lake Murree, 29 November, photographed (P.Troake).

Cork One, Ballycotton, 11 to 13 November, photographed (P.Davis, P.Moore). Three, Pilmore Strand, 15 November; two, 27 December to 20 March 2008 (P.Moore *et al.*).

Down One, Rough Island, Strangford Lough, 25 October (S.Marshall).

Dublin One, Rogerstown, 11 November (P.Kelly).

Galway One, Mountscribe, near Kinvara, 15 November (P.Troake).

Wexford Tacumshin, 13: two, 24 March to 1 April (T.Kilbane *et al.*); one, 20 October; three, 29 October; four, 29 November; nine, 17 December; eleven, 26 to 30 December, photographed (K.Fahy, A.G.Kelly, P.Kelly, T.Kilbane *et al.*). One, Carnsore Point, 25 March to 1 April, photographed (D.Daly *et al.*). Two, North Slob, 29 and 30 December, photographed (A.J.Walsh *et al.*).

Wicklow One, Vartry Reservoir, 14 to 17 December, photographed (R.H.Coombes *et al.*). One, Blackditch BWI Reserve, Newcastle, 17 December (O.O'Sullivan).

2006 Down One, Killyleagh Harbour, 14 to 19 October (NIBR 17: 89).

The Water Pipit boom continues - almost three-quarters of the overall total have been found in the current decade. However, it should be noted that the totals do not take the possibility of returning individuals, which some birds are quite likely to be (e.g. at Tacumshin), into account. This year's crop includes the first for Galway and, long-awaited there, Cork. The Pilmore / Redbarn area in the latter county furthermore hosted a Buff-bellied Pipit in December.



Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) Ballycotton, Co. Cork, 14 Nov 2007. Photo: Sean Cronin



Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) Carnsore Point, Co. Wexford, 25 March 2007. Photo: Tom Shevlin

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* (2; 6)

Clare One, Clahane Beach, Liscannor, 7 to 13 October, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*).

Cork One, Lissagriffin, 5 to 21 October; one, 7 to 21 October (N.Linehan *et al.*), photograph Wings 47: 32. One, Ballycotton, 31 October to 10 November, photographed (P.Archer *et al.*). One, Redbarn Beach, Youghal, 25 November to 21 March 2008, photographed (M.O'Keeffe *et al.*).

Wexford One, Carnsore Point, 2 November, photographed (B.Haslam *et al.*).

The multiple occurrences in 2007 were perhaps the most remarkable feature of the autumn, while the lengthy stay of one of the Cork birds went on to become the first recorded instance of an American passerine successfully over-wintering in Ireland. The above records were also in part a product of the modern internet grapevine: most, if not all, of the birds were found by observers deliberately searching for the species, having been forewarned by an unprecedented series of September occurrences, initially in Iceland, followed by progressively more southerly records in Scotland, England and France.



Buff-bellied Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) – first bird - Lissagriffin, Co. Cork, 7 October 2007. Photo: Michael O'Keeffe



Buff-bellied Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) – second bird - Lissagriffin, Co. Cork, 7 October 2007. Photo: Michael O'Keeffe



Buff-bellied Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) Clahane, Liscannor, Co. Clare, 13 October 2007. Photo: Michael Davis



Buff-bellied Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) Ballycotton, Co. Cork, 2 November 2007. Photo: Harry Hussey



Buff-bellied Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) Carnsore Point, Co. Wexford, 2 November 2007. Photo: Alyn Walsh



Buff-bellied Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) Red Barn Beach, Youghal, Co. Cork, 25 November 2007. Photo: Michael O'Keeffe

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava* (52; 2)

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 27 May, photographed (S.Wing *et al.*).

Kerry One, Ventry, 7 to 9 September (M.Latham *et al.*).

Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg* (0; 1)

Londonderry Male, Longfield Point, Lough Foyle, 24 April (M.Tickner)

This first Irish record of this subspecies.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (15; 3)

Cork First-winter, Lissagriffin, 22 September, photographed (N.Linehan *et al.*).

Kerry First-winter, Lough Gill, 4 and 5 September, photographed (M.Latham *et al.*) (*Birding World* 20: 365).

Wexford First-year female, Tacumshin, 23 and 24 May, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*).

Citrine Wagtails have been recorded annually since 2002 but this series includes only the second in spring, which, like the first, was found at Tacumshin.



First-winter **Citrine Wagtail** (*Motacilla citreola*) Lissagriffin, Co. Cork, 22 September 2007. Photo: Michael O'Keeffe



First-summer female **Citrine Wagtail** (*Motacilla citreola*) Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, 23 May 2007. Photo: Killian Mullarney

Swainson's/Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus ustulatus/minimus*

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 15 October (P.Phillips, M.A.Stewart).

Unfavourable viewing circumstances, compounded by skulking behaviour, can easily render this a difficult species pair to separate.



Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*) Three Castles, Mizen Head, Co. Cork, 11 October 2007.
Photo: Killian Mullarney



Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*) Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, 20 October 2006 Photo: Paul and Andrea Kelly

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (1; 2)

Cork One, Three Castles, Mizen Head, 10 to 15 October (K.Mullarney *et al.*), sound-recorded, photographs *Birdwatch* 186: 76; *Wings* 47: 32 (Mullarney 2007b).

Mayo One, Tarmon, The Mullet, 10 to 14 October (D.Suddaby).

2006 Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 20 October, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*).

Following a dramatic increase in records of this species in Britain in recent years and a further succession of reports in September and October 2007 (Hudson *et al.* 2008), the 2007 records were by no means unexpected, but the discovery of two at widely separated localities on the same day was nonetheless remarkable. Thirteen months subsequently, the 2006 Cape Clear bird, which had been originally identified as a Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, was reidentified from the excellent photographs taken at the time.

In spite of improved knowledge in the of *Acrocephalus* warblers, telling them apart in the field still requires close and careful observation, coupled with a high degree of caution, all the more so in the case of silent individuals. Detailed photographs significantly assist in the assessment of this species.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* (3; 1)

Wexford Male, in song, Carnsore Point, 3 June, photographed (N.Keogh *et al.*).

The only previous spring record involved a singing male at nearby Tacumshin, Wexford on 22 to 23 June 1996.



Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) Carnsore Point, Co. Wexford, 3 June 2007. Photos: Tom Shevlin (left) and Killian Mullarney (right)

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* (208; 1)

Cork First-winter, Cape Clear Island, 9 to 20 October, photographed (P.Phillips *et al.*) (*Wings* 48: 27).

A very poor year, which furthermore failed to produce any records of Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*.



First-winter **Icterine Warbler** (*Hippolais icterina*) Cape Clear Island, Co.Cork, 9 to 20 October 2007. Photo: Dave Dillon

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* (172; 0)

2004 Wexford One, Carnsore Point, 14 and 15 August, photographed (T.Shevlin *et al.*).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (116; 6)

Cork First-winter, Dursey Island, 6 October (D.A.Scott *et al.*); first-winter, 11 and 12 October (K.Grace *et al.*). First-winter, Cape Clear Island, 15 October (K.Preston); first-winter, 20 October (G.Walsh).

Donegal First-winter, Tory Island, 28 to 30 September, photographed (D.Weir *et al.*).

Mayo First-winter, Blacksod Point, The Mullet, 4 November (D.Suddaby).

A fairly typical series, but including the first found in Mayo since 1970.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (26; 5)

Cork First-winter, trapped and ringed, Cape Clear Island, 11 and 12 October, photographed (J.F.Dowdall *et al.*); one, possibly same individual, 15 October (P.Phillips, K.Preston, S.Wing). One, Toor Pier, Mizen Head, 13 October, photographed (A.Duggan *et al.*). One, Three Castles, Mizen Head, 15 to 20 October (D.Ballard). One, Dunnycove, Clonakilty Bay, 17 to 23 October (K.Cronin *et al.*).

Correction: 2006 Cork The bird at The Old Head of Kinsale (*Irish Birds* 8:413) occurred on 23 September only.

A record year, continuing the run: there were four in 2006 and three in 2005. This series is also notable for its lateness; only four had previously been found in October, while a late August invasion of this species in Britain (Golley 2007) went unnoticed here.



Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* Hook Head, Co. Wexford 23 October 2007 Photo: Killian Mullarney.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* (31; 3)

Cork One, Ballycotton, 23 October, photographed (P.Davis *et al.*).

Wexford Two, Hook Head, 23 October, photographed (K.Mullarney).

The seventh and eighth to be found at Hook Head. Cape Clear (Cork) is the only other site to have hosted as many.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (13; 1)

Cork One, Old Head of Kinsale, 14 October, photographed (P.Moore, D.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

Only one individual has been discovered outside the period 14 to 30 October, at Tory Island (Donegal) on 2 October 2003.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (6; 2)

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 14 October (R.H.Coombes *et al.*). One, Ballycotton, 22 and 23 October, photographed (Gr.Gordon *et al.*).

The first since 1998, including the first on the mainland since 1987. Compared to the previous species, the greater rarity of Dusky Warbler in Ireland is rather odd, given that in Britain the reverse is the case, with respective totals of 274 and 310 having been recorded there up to the end of 2005 (Fraser *et al.* 2007).



Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*)
Cape Clear, Co. Cork, 11 October 2007. Photo:
Paul and Andrea Kelly



Dusky Warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatus*)
Ballycotton, Co. Cork, 22 October 2007. Photo:
Paul and Andrea Kelly

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (10; 0)

2005 Cork One, trapped and ringed, Cape Clear Island, 4 to 17 September, photographed (S.Wing *et al.*).

The first four were all found at Cape Clear but this is the first there since 1981.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* (225; 10)

Clare Two first-winters, Kilbaha, Loop Head, 1 October (T.Tarpey).

Cork First-winter, Ballinacarraige, 5 October (K.Grace). Two first-winters, Cape Clear Island, 7 to 9 October, photographed (C.Barton, P.Kelly *et al.*); first-winter, 13 October (P.O'Keeffe *et al.*). First-winter, Toe Head, 10 October (D.Otter, S.Otter). First-winter, Mizen Head, 12 to 17 October, photographed (M.O'Keeffe *et al.*). First-winter, Knockadoon Head, 17 October (H.Hussey). First-winter, Dunowen, Galley Head, 20 and 21 October (K.Cronin).

Another good year for this species, following the record fifteen in 2006.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* (198; 1)

Mayo One, Tarmon, The Mullet, 6 October (D.Suddaby).

Only the fifth autumn record ever and the first in Mayo since 1954.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus isabellinus* (2; 1)

Cork Adult female, Three Castles, Mizen Head, 19 to 21 October, photographed (D.Ballard *et al.*).

The previous two records (Wexford 2000 and Cork 2006) involved first-autumn birds that, consequently, could only be tentatively assigned to this form. Of the 167+ birds recorded in central and western Europe up to and including 2006, just over one third were assigned to subspecies: 23 to *isabellinus* and 28 to *phoenicuroides* (van der Laan & CDNA 2008).

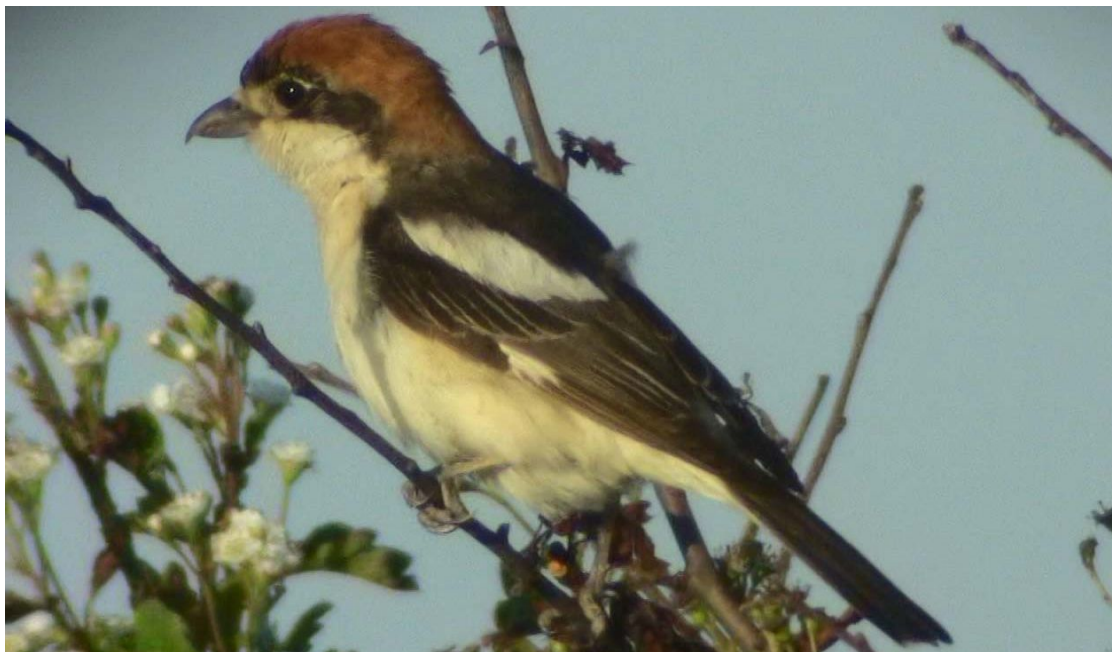
Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* (146; 3)

Donegal Tory Island, three: first-year, 1 September, photographed (D.Charles, W.Farrelly); first-year, 16 September, photographed (D.Charles, W.Farrelly); first-year, 2 October, photographed (J.F.Dowdall *et al.*).

Only four had been found in Donegal previously, while the last at Tory Island was in 1959.



Juvenile **Red-backed Shrike** (*Lanius collurio*) Tory Island, Co. Donegal, 2 October 2007. Photo: Aidan G.Kelly



Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*) Killag, Co. Wexford, 5 June 2007. Photo: Killian Mullarney

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (72; 1)

Wexford First-summer female, Killag, 4 and 5 June, photographed (K.Mullarney, F.Tennant).

2006 Cork The bird seen on the Old Head of Kinsale in October (*Irish Birds* 8:414) remained until 22 October (K.Grace).

A very typical record.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* (119; 2)

Clare Adult, Ennis, 19 to 26 August (S.Cronin, M.Hughes, S.Nugent *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 168: 68.

Cork Juvenile, Old Head of Kinsale, 7 October (P.Rowe).

2006 Cork Juvenile, Ballycotton, 24 September (P. Moore *et al.*). Juvenile, Garinish, West Beara, 13 October (A.A.K.Lancaster, K.Grace).

This species has been recorded annually in the current decade, averaging at over four birds per year. Only thirteen were seen in the 1990s, with three years failing to produce any at all.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (46; 1)

Kerry One, Dunquin, 14 October (J.Crosher).

2004 Kerry One, Smerwick, 14 September (C.Bradshaw).

The second and third records for Kerry; the first was in 1990.

Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis flammea flammea* (86; 2)

Down One, Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 24 December, videoed; different individual, 26 and 27 December (D.Charles).

2006 Armagh Two, Portadown, 2 January (*NIBR* 17: 101). **2005 Armagh** One, Kinnegoe Bay, Lough Neagh, 8 January (*NIBR* 17: 101).

2005 Down One, Belvoir Close, Belfast, 3 and 4 March (*NIBR* 17: 101).

The IRBC is currently assessing reports from Cork and Mayo, in addition to reports of Greenland / Iceland Redpoll *Carduelis flammea rostrata* / *islandica* from Donegal and Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* from Clare and Mayo, all in 2007.



Juvenile **Common Rosefinch** (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) Tory Island, Co. Donegal, 4 October 2007. Photo: Aidan G.Kelly

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* (137; 8)

Clare One, near Kilcredaun Lighthouse, 29 to 31 October (F.MacGabhann, J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Cork Three, Mizen Head, 5 October (D.Ballard). Juvenile, Dursey Island, 11 October (K.Grace, D.A.Scott).

Donegal Juvenile, Tory Island, 2 to 4 October, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*); juvenile, 2 to 5 October, photographed (J.F.Dowdall, A.G.Kelly, A.A.K.Lancaster, D.Weir *et al.*).

Galway Adult male, Ballyconneely, 9 and 10 June (J.Roberts, M.Roberts).

2005 Antrim One, Islandmagee, 8 October (A.McGeehan *et al.*).

This series includes the first for Galway and Antrim.

Northern Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula* (1; 2)

Birds showing characters of the subspecies *pyrrhula*:

2005 Down Two females, Quoile Centre, 13 January (*NIBR* 17: 102).

The one previous record involved a bird trapped at Ballinasloe, Galway, on 14th February 1965 (*Irish Bird Report* 13: 41). An exceptional influx into Britain and other parts of northwestern Europe was noted

in the autumn of 2004 (Pennington & Meek 2006). Further reports in Ireland during the autumn of 2004 have been published elsewhere (http://www.birdsireland.com/pages/site_pages/features/bullfinch.html) but documentation has, unfortunately, not yet been submitted to the IRBC.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (167; 1)

Mayo One, Blacksod, The Mullet, 6 October (D.Suddaby).

2006 Down Two, Tollymore Forest Park, 1 to 4 January (*NIBR* 17: 102).

2005 Down Four, Inch Abbey, Downpatrick, 4 December to 26 February 2006. One, Tollymore Forest Park, 4 December (*NIBR* 17: 102).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (34; 1)

Cork One, Toor Pier, Mizen Head, 16 October (A.Duggan).

Correction: 2006 Cork The bird recorded on Dursey Island (*Irish Birds* 8:414) was seen on 16 October (K.Grace).

The location and timing are typical. The fifth consecutive year in which this species has been recorded.

Appendix 1: Category E records

Individuals considered to be probable or certain escapes from captivity.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Cork First-winter, Redbarn Strand, Youghal, 2 December to 23 January 2008, photographed (D.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

The exceptionally late date, together with the presence of a vagrant Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* nearby, initially gave rise to speculation that the bird may have been of the Nearctic subspecies *C. a. nivosus* (Snowy Plover). The presence of a metal ring stimulated intensive efforts to ascertain its origin. Through close observation and almost forensic analysis of fragments of the ring's inscription, the bird was eventually traced to Germany, where it had been hatched and reared in captivity, having originally been taken illegally from the wild. Following a raid on the dealer's premises by the authorities, this bird and numerous other waders were confiscated. It was subsequently released into the wild at Greetsiel on the northwest German coast. Given this bird's bizarre life history and the exceptional effort that went into discovering its provenance, it is not without a measure of regret that the record is placed in Category E.

Appendix 2: Contributors

J.Adamson, E.Archer, P.Archer, G.Armstrong, B.Aspin, D.Bailey, D.Ballard, C.Barton, G.Bellingham, K.Bennett, C.Benson, L.Benson, R.Bonser, M.Boyle, J.Bradley, C.Bradshaw, D.Breen, D.Brennan, P.Brennan, J.Brooks, I.Brophy, D.Brown, J.Byrne, G.Campbell, F.Carroll, E.Carty, H.Carty, V.Caschera, M.Casey, B.Chapman, D.Charles, D.Clark, A.Clifton, A.Collins, K.P.Collins, A.Conlin, P.Connoughton, A.Cooke, R.H.Coombes, D.Cotton, J.Coveney, M.Cowming, C.Cronin, K.Cronin, S.Cronin, A.Crory, J.Crosher, T.Cuffe, C.Cullen, D.Dillon, D.Daly, M.Darlaston, M.Davis, P.Davis, H.Delaney, E.Dempsey, J.Devlin, J.Diggin, J.Donaldson, L.Donnelly, J.A.Doolan, K.Dooney, J.F.Dowdall, F.Drew, A.Duggan, M.A.Duggan, I.Enlander, M.Enright, S.Enright, K.Fahy, W.Farrelly, S.Feeney, B.Finnegan, C.Flynn, E.Flynn, C.Foley, O.Foley, S.Foster, D.Fox, P.French, D.Galbraith, J.Geraty, S.Geraty, T.Gittings, A.Gordon, G.Gordon, Gr.Gordon, K.Grace, C.Guy, N.J.Hallam, K.Hamilton, B.Haslam, D.Hatton, W.Hawthorne, R.Hennessy, D.Hodgers, M.Hoit, A.Horan, M.Hughes, D.A.Hunter, G.Hunt, J.Hunter, H.Hussey, I.Jackson, J.Jones, S.D.Keightley, A.A.Kelly, A.G.Kelly, P.Kelly, T.Kennedy, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, T.Kilbane, S.King, D.Knight, J.Lamont, A.A.K.Lancaster, K.Langdon, J.Larkin, E.Larrisey, M.Latham, Mg.Latham, P.Latham, I.Lewington, N.Linehan, B.Lynch, J.Lynch, T.Lynch, F.MacGabhann, M.Maddock, A.Malcolm, N.Marples, A. Marshall, S.Marshall, B.Martin, A.McAdams, D.G.McAdams, E.McCarthy, G.McElwaine, the late W.M.McDowell, A.McGeehan, G.McGeehan, J.McNally, D.McNamara, C.Meehan, M.Meehan, C.Mellon, J.Metcalf, R.Millington, T.Mills, C.Moore, P.Moore, L.Morgan, N.Mugan, K.Mullarney, J.Mullen, C.Murphy, J.N.Murphy, T.Murray, D.Nixon, M.Nolan, G.Noonan, S.Nugent, M.O'Clery, F.O'Connell, A.ÓDónaill, B.O'Donoghue, F.O'Duffy, E.O'Hara, M.O'Keeffe, P.O'Keeffe, D.O'Mahony, M.O'Meara, G.O'Neill, A.O'Regan, D.O'Sullivan, M.O'Sullivan, O.O'Sullivan, P.O'Sullivan, N.O'Toole, D.Otter, S.Otter, G.Pearson, G.Phillips, P.Phillips, S.Piner, G.Power, Jm.Power, K.Preston, E.Randall, J.Rattigan, P.Reaney, M.Reilly, A.Rennells, J.Roberts, M.Roberts, B.Robson, P.Rowe, D.A.Scott, D.Scott, M.Scott-Ham, C.Sharpe, T.Shevlin, R.D.Steele, M.Stewart, W.Stringer, D.Suddaby, P.Tadeusz, T.Tarpey, R.Taylor, F.Tennant, G.Thomas, M.Tickner, V.Toal, P.Troake, R.Vaughan, G.Walker, A.J.Walsh, G.Walsh, P.M.Walsh, G.Walshe, P.Watson, D.Weir, R.Weyl, G.Wilkinson, C.Wilson, J.Wilson, S.Wing, P.Wolstenholme, M.Wrights, A.Wüppen, J.Wyllie,

Birds of Ireland News Service (BINS)

BirdWatch Ireland (BWI)

Cape Clear Bird Observatory (CCBO)

Cork Bird Report (CBR)

Dingle Peninsula Bird Report (DPBR)
IrishBirding.com
Irish Rare Breeding Birds Panel (IRBBP)
Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association (NIBA)
Northern Ireland Bird Report (NIBR)

Appendix 3: List of records not accepted

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

2007 records not accepted

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Two, Baltray, Louth, 24 August.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Drimoleague, Cork, 29 April.

South Polar Skua *Catharacta maccormicki*

Loop Head, Clare, 18 August.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*

Tralee, Kerry, 20 November.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Gorteen Wood, Offaly, 6 December.

Supplemental 2005 record not accepted

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Anglingham, Galway 16 April

Supplemental 2000 record not accepted

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*

Ballycotton, Cork, 14-15 November

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 2007 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.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

Cahore Marshes, Wexford, 24 November.

Female, shot, North Slob, Wexford, 15 December.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Male, The Gearagh, 26 April.

Inch Island Lake, Donegal, 18 July to 10 August.

Two, Lough Gur, Limerick, 9 April.

Male, Lough Gur, Limerick, 11 December.

Rahan's Lough, Monaghan, 9 March.

Rahan's Lough, Monaghan, 16 December.

Lough Derravaragh, Westmeath 13 February to 19 April.

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

Bridges of Ross, Clare, 27 July.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Two, near Ardgroom, Cork, 1 December.

Ballincollig, Cork, 24 December.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Ballycotton, 10 December.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Carrahane Strand, Kerry 28 September.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Annagh Beach, Mayo 10 September.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*
Wicklow Town, Wicklow, 22 April.

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*
Killybegs, Donegal, 19 January.

Little Auk *Alle alle*
Clifden, Galway, 4 December.
Newcastle, Wicklow, 9 November.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
Tagoat, Wexford, 20 October to late January 2008.

Scandinavian Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis*
Two, Pilmore Strand, Cork, 27 December.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*
Mizen Head, Cork, 22 and 23 September.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
Adult, Dursey Island, Cork, 7 August.
First-winter, Mizen Head, Cork, 5 October.

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