

Bluethroat. Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 15th November 2009
Mark Carmody



Irish Rare Bird Report 2009



Introduction

Although many of the best birds did not linger long, there were two species added to the Irish list in 2009, a Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* (Galway) in October and a long awaited Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* (Cork) in November.

A Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* at sea in September came tantalisingly close to being added to the main list but the recorded location was just beyond the 30 kilometre inshore zone. Recorded for the second time, a Royal Tern *Sterna maxima* (Cork) in June was the first live record of the species which consequently moves onto the full Irish list, having previously been placed in Category D. In October, both Mourning Dove *Zenaidura macroura* (Cork) and Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* (Kerry) were recorded for the second time. The third Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (Dublin) was found in July and the fourth Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (Mayo) in October. Rare subspecies recorded during the year included the second Balearic Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator badius* (Wexford) in May. This report also includes details of the fourth Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* (Mayo) recorded in October 2008.

For the second year in succession, the early months of the year were characterised by a large influx of Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, although the numbers involved were considerably less than the exceptional influx of 2008. The end of the winter was marked by the occurrence in mid-February of a Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* and an Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* in early March, both in Cork.

Spring migration was generally quiet, with low numbers of rare herons and Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*, and no Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* for the first time since 2002. Although there were two White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*, Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* were surprisingly absent despite record numbers in Britain (Hudson *et al.* 2010). Some species however, bucked the trend, with an early, near record influx of Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* while Hobby *Falco subbuteo* also occurred in near record numbers.

More evidence that the colonisation by Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* is continuing to take hold was apparent throughout the year with multiple pairs present in Wicklow. In addition to Terek Sandpiper and Royal Tern, the mid year period, although quiet, as usual provided a few other high class rarities. Single Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* and Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedinenus* put in appearances and the Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* re-appeared in Mayo for her fourth summer. Seawatching was variable, with record numbers of Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* and above average numbers of Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* but the lowest numbers of Fea's/Zino's Petrel *Pterodroma feae/madeira* since 2004.

In a generally good autumn, there were record numbers of Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* and Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* in early September with a Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* mid-month. Although there was a good variety of Nearctic waders, with ten species occurring, numbers were generally lower than in previous years with only American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* and Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* occurring in good numbers. In contrast, vagrants from the east were in better supply. *Phylloscopus* warblers were well represented with Greenish Warbler *P. trochiloides*, Arctic Warbler *P. borealis*, Dusky Warbler *P. fuscatus*, Radde's Warbler *P. schwarzi* and Pallas's Warbler *P. proregulus*, all occurring in the same year for the first time on record. On the other hand, Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* and Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* continued their recent poor form. Nearctic passerines had their quietest year since 2002, when there were none. In addition to Cedar Waxwing, only Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* and Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* crossed the Atlantic to our shores and there were no records of Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* for the first time since 2003.

The year ended with the occurrence of singletons of two species which, although not regular, are typically found as the year tails off, Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris* and Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*.

Since January 2005, the backbone of the IRBC's system for recording occurrences 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 in this report were taken directly from the 2009 Provisional List. The IRBC expresses its sincere gratitude to all those who provided information during 2009, either directly or indirectly, to the many photographers who have provided photographs both for assessment and for publication and to Keith Naylor for his assistance in correcting some of the statistics. With the exception of two very old records, there are no new records from Northern Ireland in this report due to publication deadlines. We thank the members of the Northern Ireland Birdwatchers Association Rarities Committee for the continued close working relationship between that body and the IRBC.

K. Fahy (on behalf of the Irish Rare Birds Committee)

BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow.

Records for 2010 (and previous years) should be sent to the following:

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

Submission of photographs:

A new email address, photoArchive@irbc.ie, has been setup to facilitate the submission of photographs of rare and scarce birds and we would ask that photographs, regardless of quality, be sent to that address.

Rarities:

The full, periodically reviewed, list of species and races requiring written descriptions can be found at:

www.irbc.ie/records/desclist.php

For a full explanation of the background and purpose of the list see *Irish Birds* 7: 413–418 or online at:

www.irbc.ie/announcements/announce1.php

For the first time in many years, this report contains records of Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*, Smew *Mergellus albellus* and Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* following changes to the list of species and sub-species considered by the committee. In the first changes to be made to the Appendix lists since they were introduced in January 2005 these three species have been added to Appendix II. The full text of the relevant announcement can be found online at:

www.irbc.ie/announcements/announce35.php

Northern Ireland

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2009 Systematic List

The sequence and scientific nomenclature largely follows The British List (7th Edition) (Dudley *et al.* 2006) including subsequent recommendations of the Taxonomic Advisory Committee of the AERC (Crochet *et al.* 2010) and the Taxonomic Sub-committee of the British Ornithologists Union (Sangster *et al.* 2007, Knox *et al.* 2008, Sangster *et al.* 2009).

The last named reference has significantly affected the sequence of the passerine species on the Irish List which is now 'determined on the principle that, for each branching point in the best-supported phylogeny, the less-speciose group should be listed first' (Sangster *et al.* 2009). Consequently, the passerine species are in an unfamiliar new sequence.

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.

As can be seen, some species lack such totals and it is the intention of the Committee to address this incrementally in forthcoming reports. It is also the intention to forensically examine the published records which make up these totals to ensure that the statistics accurately reflect the record.

In addition to the species totals the total number of individuals being added to the species total is included immediately following the county name.



Adult Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*
North Slob, Co. Wexford. 21st February 2009
(Mícheál Cowming).



Adult Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*
North Slob, Co. Wexford. 21st February 2009
(Mícheál Cowming).



Adult Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* with Greylag Goose
Anser anser
Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 15th March 2009
(Mícheál Casey).



Adult Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* with Greylag Goose
Anser anser
Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 15th March 2009
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Adult Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* with Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 15th March 2009 (Mícheál Casey).

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (103; 1)

Donegal One: Blue phase adult, Big Isle, 6th December to 15th February 2010, photographed (D.Brennan *et al.*).

Mayo Zero: White phase adult, Cross Lough, Drum and Annagh, Mullet Peninsula from 25th September 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 79) remained until 16th March, photographed.

Wexford Zero: White phase adult, North Slob from 2nd November 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 79) remained until 31st March, on which date it was seen on the South Slob.

Between them, Mayo and Wexford account for about three-quarters of the total. By contrast, the Donegal record is only the fourth for that county. Many of the counties which host flocks of grey geese have had at least one record although Cork, Louth and Wicklow are all without records.

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

Cork One: Adult, Whitegate, 6th December to 14th February 2010, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*), also seen at Lough Beg and Great Island.

Kerry One: Adult, Sandy Bay, Castlegregory, 6th to 30th December, photographed (M.O'Keeffe *et al.*).

Louth One: One, Cruisetown Strand, 10th October (L.Lenehan).

Mayo Zero: Adult, Mullet Peninsula, from 18th December 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 79) remained until 5th March; Adult Carricklahan, Mullet Peninsula, 28th November to 5th April 2010, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*), presumed returning.

Sligo Zero: One, Enniscrone, 5th January to 1st February (M.Enright *et al.*) is presumed to be the same bird that had been seen in the same county in November 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 79); One, Lower Rosses, 31st October to 22nd November, photographed (D.Cotton *et al.*), presumed returning.

Waterford Zero: Adult, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan from 4th October 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 79) remained until 28th February; Adult, Dungarvan Pitch and Putt Club and Ballyneety, 20th November to 6th March 2010, photographed (F.O'Connell *et al.*), presumed returning.

Wexford Zero: Adult, North Slob 12 November 2008, photographed (*Irish Birds* 9: 79) remained until 29 March; Adult, North Slob, 15th November to 27th December (N.Keogh *et al.*), presumed returning; Adult, North Slob, 5th December to 3rd April 2010, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*), also seen at Rosslare Back Strand, 15th

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December and throughout February, presumed returning.

The bird recorded in Cork is the first for the county.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (120; 3)

Cork One: Male, The Gearagh, 26th September to 10th February 2010 (J.Lynch *et al.*).

Kerry One: Male, Inch, 5th October (M.O'Clery).

Tipperary One: Male, Cabragh Wetlands, Thurles, 26th February to 2nd March, photographed (P.Brennan *et al.*).

The Tipperary record is only the second for the county. Adult males make up the vast majority of records. Only 14 females have been recorded, presumably related to the difficulty of identification rather than a genuine difference in vagrancy. There has been a reduction in numbers in the current decade with only 32, compared to 53 in the 1990s.



Adult Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*
The Cunnigar, Co. Waterford. 24th February 2009.
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).

Adult Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* with Redshank *Tringa totanus*
 Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. 22nd November 2009 (Rónán McLaughlin, www.flickr.com/ronanmclaughlin/).



Adult Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* with Pale-bellied
 Brent Goose *Branta bernicla brota*
 Lower Rosses, Co. Sligo. 1st November 2009
 (Mícheál Casey).



Adult Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* with Pale-bellied
 Brent Goose *Branta bernicla brota*
 Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. 21st November 2009
 (Mícheál Cowming).



Adult Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* with Pale-bellied
 Brent Goose *Branta bernicla brota*
 Great Island, Co. Cork. 31st December 2009
 (Mark Carmody, www.markcarmodyphotography.com).



Adult Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*
 Sandy Bay, Castlegregory, Co. Kerry. 6th December 2009
 (Michael O'Keeffe).

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* (127+; 19)

Clare Three: Male, Bell Harbour, 1st November 2008 to 17th February, photographed (J.N.Murphy *et al.*); Male, Lough Atedaun, 17th February to 1st April (D.McNamara *et al.*); Male, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 8th to 25th April (J.N.Murphy); Male, Bell Harbour, 10th November to 26th March 2010, photographed (T.Griffin *et al.*), presumed returning.

Cork Three: First-year male, Kilbrittain Creek, 30th December 2008 to 21st February, photographed (H.Hussey *et al.*); Male, Inishbeg, 1st February (K.Preston); Male, Clonakilty, 14th November (K.Cronin).

Donegal One: Male, Inch Lake, 3rd November to 21st February 2010, photographed (D.Allen *et al.*).

Galway One: Male, Loch Chara, Inishmore, 20th to 21st March, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Limerick One: Male, Lough Gur, 7th February (P.Troake).

Louth One: Male, Lurgangreen, 8th February to 15th March, photographed (P.Kelly).

Mayo One: Male, Carrowmore Lake, 27th October 2008 to 18th January (D.Suddaby *et al.*); Male, Carrowmore Lake, 24th October to 21st February 2010, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*), presumed returning.

Tipperary Three: Male, Cabragh Wetlands, Thurles, 1st to 13th March, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*); Two male, Ashton's Callow, 3rd March (P.Brennan).

Waterford One: Male, Lismore, 28th November, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*).

Wexford Two: First-year male, Tacumshin, from about 10th December 2008 to 25th January, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*); Adult male, Tacumshin, 3rd January to 29th March (N.Keogh *et al.*).

Wicklow Two: Male, Kilcoole, 31st October 2008 to 13th April (M.Souter *et al.*); Male, Threecastles, Blessington, 21st March (B.King).

This species makes a return to these reports after a gap of eight years following a reduction in numbers. Typically, the species returns with a record showing, exceeding the previous high, set in 1980 and equalled in both 1995 and 1997, by ten.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (16; 1)

Mayo One: Male, Sruhill Lough, Dooniver, Achill Island, 21st to 23rd February, photographed (M.O'Briain); Male, Sruhill Lough, Dooniver, Achill Island, 13th December to 10th April 2010, photographed (M.O'Briain *et al.*), presumed returning.

2008 Kerry Zero: Adult male, Ventry, 7th September to 30th December, photographed (R.Bonser, J.Jones *et al.*), presumed returning.

The individual in Mayo is presumed to be a new bird, the previous record at the same location not having been recorded since 9th April 2005, almost four years before the current sequence. The Kerry bird returns for its third winter in Ventry.



Male Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*
Loch Chara, Inishmore, Co. Galway. 20th March 2009
(Dermot Breen).



Male American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* with Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Sruhill Lough, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 23rd February 2009
(Micheal O'Briain).



Female Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* with Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*
and Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
North Bull Island, Co. Dublin. 25th October 2009 (Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (71; 4)

Clare One: Male, Lough Atedaun, 29th March to 2nd April, photographed (F.MacGabhann, D.McNamara, J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Dublin Zero: Female, North Bull Island, 11th September to 27th February 2010 (M.Nolan *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 22: 487, *Birdwatch* 212: 64, presumed returning.

Tipperary One: Male, Pat Reddan's Lake, 22nd April (P.Brennan), presumed returning; Male, Ashton's Callow, 9th May (P.Brennan).

Wexford Two: First calendar-year male, shot by wildfowlers, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, 24th October, photographed (C.J.Wilson *et al.*); First calendar or eclipse male, Tacumshin, 4th October (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh).

2008 Tipperary Zero: Male, Pat Reddan's Lake, 25th April, photographed (T.Chadwick *et al.*), previously published (*Irish Birds* 9: 79), note revised observers.

A respectable total, exceeded only in 2005 and 1995, with five and six respectively. The bird in Clare is the second for the county, 40 years after the first. The female in Dublin returns for a fourth winter after a gap during the winter of 2008/2009, begging the question of where she went. See appendix 5 for details of corrections to statistics.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (263; 23)

Clare Six: Male, Lough Gash from 24 November 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 79) remained until 10 January; Male, Lough Inchiquin, 8th to 16th January (D.McNamara, J.N.Murphy); Female, Lough Inchiquin, 9th to 10th January (D.McNamara, J.N.Murphy); Two additional males, Lough Inchiquin, 9th to 10th January (D.McNamara, J.N.Murphy); Male, Ballyallia Lake, 8th January to 23rd February, photographed (F.MacGabhann *et al.*), also seen at Lough Girroga, Ennis, 1st March (P.Slade); Male, Lough Atedaun, 1st March to 10th April (P.Slade *et al.*).

Cork Zero: Male, Dooniskey and The Gearagh from 1st November 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 81) remained until 14th March; Female, north-western corner of The Gearagh from 8th November 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 81) remained until 15th March; Female, south-eastern corner of The Gearagh from 8th December 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 81) remained until 27th January; Male, The Gearagh, 4th October to 7th February 2010 (J.Lynch), presumed returning.

Donegal One: Male, Lough Fern from 1st November 2008 (*Irish Birds*

9: 81) remained until 11th February; Male, Inch Lake, 7th to 15th April, photographed (D.Brennan *et al.*).

Galway Three: Female, Angliham, Lough Corrib from 25th November 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 81) remained until 3rd January; Male, Lavally Lake, Tuam, 14th April, photographed (K.Collins); Male, Lydacan Turlough, 22nd March to 11th April (M.Davis *et al.*), joined by a female, 5th to 11th April (M.Davis *et al.*), photograph of male and female together, *Birdwatch* 204: 80.

Kerry One: Male and female, Lough Gill, 30th to 31st January (M.O'Clery *et al.*), female presumed to be the same bird that was present in October 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 81); Male, Lough Gill, 30th December to 24th January 2010 (M.O'Keefe *et al.*), presumed returning.

Limerick One: Female, Lough Gur, 11th November (P.Troake) and, presumed same, Lough Gur, 17th December to 11th April 2010, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*).

Mayo Two: Adult male, Carrowmore Lake from 10th October 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 81) remained until 13th April; Female, Cross Lough, Killadoon, 12th to 19th April (D.Breen); Male, Cross Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 13th April (D.Suddaby); Male, Carrowmore Lake, 26th August to 14th May 2010, photographed (M.Reilly *et al.*), presumed returning.

Sligo Three: Male, Lough Arrow, 11th February (S.Feeney); Male, Lough Bo, 1st to 17th March (D.Cotton *et al.*); Female, Lough Arrow, 4th to 17th March, photographed (M.Hoit, K.Langdon *et al.*).

Tipperary One: Male, Ashton's Callow, 3rd March (P.Brennan).

Westmeath Two: Male, Lough Ennell, 24th January (A.G.Kelly), presumed returning; Male, Lough Owel, 24th January, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); Adult female, Lough Ennell, 7th to 21st February (P.Kelly *et al.*), presumed returning; Female, Lough Owel, 12th December (P.Kelly).

Wicklow Two: Two female, Vartry Reservoir, 18th February to 18th April (M.Souter *et al.*).

Wexford One: First-winter male, Tacumshin, 8th to 14th November, photographed (P.Lonergan, K.Mullarney *et al.*).

A quiet year by recent standards, although only exceeded by the previous three years, and containing the first records for Sligo. While the 1980s and 1990s both had respectable totals, 36 and 41 respectively, there was no hint of the explosion of records to come. Since the turn of the century there have been 200, over two-thirds of the total.

First-winter male Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* with Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 13th November 2009 (Killian Mullarney).



Male and female Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*
Lydacan Turlough, Co. Galway. 5th April 2009 (Michael Davis).





Male Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*
Lydacan Turlough, Co. Galway. 11th April 2009 (Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.com>).



First-winter male and first-winter female King Eider
Somateria spectabilis
Drumcliff Bay, Lissadell, Co. Sligo. 15th February 2009
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



First-winter male and first-winter female King Eider
Somateria spectabilis
Drumcliff Bay, Lissadell, Co. Sligo. 10th March 2009
(Mícheál Casey).



Immature male Smew *Mergellus albellus*
Tramore Boating Lake, Co. Waterford. 22nd November 2009
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



Immature male Smew *Mergellus albellus*
Tramore Boating Lake, Co. Waterford. 15th November 2009
(Mícheál Cowming).

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (22; 0)

2008 Sligo One: First-winter male, Renbaun Bay, Lough Arrow, 18th January to 15th March, photographed (S.Feeney *et al.*); Male, Lough Arrow, 24th to 31st December, photographed (S.Feeney *et al.*), presumed returning.

The first record for Sligo.

Northern Eider

Somateria mollissima borealis (11; 0)

2004 Donegal Eight: Seven male and one female, Tory Island, 23rd to 25th October (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*).

With only three previous documented records, this flock is noteworthy although whether this taxon is genuinely as scarce as the statistics suggest or merely that it is overlooked remains to be seen.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (16; 2)

Sligo Two: First-winter male and first-winter female, Drumcliff Bay, Lissadell, 3rd January to 14th April, photographed (P.Keogh *et al.*).

These are the first records for Sligo and the third addition to the Sligo wildfowl list in this report! Of the total, 14 have now occurred along coasts from Mayo northwards to Down.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (161; 0)

Galway Zero: Adult female, Silver Strand and Nimmo's Pier, from 22nd December 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 82) remained until 8th February.

Kerry Zero: Adult female and immature, Brandon Bay, from 3rd November 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 82) remained until 30th January, with one remaining on 31st January.

Following two good years, this represents a disappointing drop in numbers. The last year in which no new individuals were found was 1979.

Smew *Mergellus albellus* (Unknown; 7)

Cavan Two: Female or immature, Derrybrick Lake, 13th January to 24th February (J.Donaldson); Female or immature, Lough Sheelin, 15th March (J.Donaldson); Female or immature, Derrybrick Lake, 10th November to 24th March 2010 (J.Donaldson), presumed returning.

Donegal One: Male, Inch Lake, 9th February (D.Brennan); Male, Inch Lake, 15th to 19th December, photographed (P.Phillips *et al.*), presumed returning.

Galway One: Male, Glenamaddy Lake, 30th March (M.Ryan).

Waterford One: Immature male, Tramore Boating Lake, 14th November to 2nd March 2010, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*).

Wexford Two: Female or immature, Tacumshin, 8th December 2008 to 13th January, photographed (D.Daly *et al.*); Second calendar-year male, North Slob, 1st January to 5th April, photographed (K.Grace *et al.*).

The second of a trio of species making a return to these reports after a gap of eight years following a reduction in numbers.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* (11; 0)

2002 Donegal One: Adult, Arranmore Island, 10th October (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly).

This becomes the eighth record. It is difficult to see any clear pattern emerging. Geographically three have been recorded in the north-west, four in the south-west and four on the east coast while seasonally, four have been found in winter, three in May and four between October and November.

Black-browed Albatross

Thalassarche melanophris (11; 0)

2008 At sea Zero: Sub-adult, approximately 210 kilometres north-west of Sybil Point, Kerry at 52°40' N 13°30' W, 4th to 5th June (R.G.Juncal), photograph *Wings* 50: 28, and, presumed same, approximately 101 kilometres west of Sleah Head, Kerry at 52°00' N 11°55' W, 7th September, photographed (C.Ryan).

As this record was at sea it is excluded from the total. It is tempting to speculate on the movements of this bird between these two sightings. Given that it has happened on multiple occasions in Britain (Dymond *et al.* 1989), surely it is only a matter of time before one is found

summering in an Irish Gannet colony?

Fea's / Zino's Petrel

Pterodroma feae / madeira (63; 3)

Cork Three: One, Galley Head, 2nd August (C.Barton, D.Fitzpatrick, R.Mundy); One, Galley Head, 3rd October (R.Mundy); One, Mizen Head, 3rd October (O.Foley, P.Wolstenholme).

A quiet year by recent standards, although prior to 2005 there had never been more than three in a year. Following one in 1974 and one in 1989, this species has become more regular with 22 in the 1990s and 43 since 2000. The two October records are among the latest, only one on 15th October 2007 being later. For the first time since 2003 there were none at Bridges of Ross in Clare, a site which has hosted more than any other, with 18 recorded. Most regularly watched seawatching sites away from the east coast now boast at least one record although Ramore Head in Londonderry is curiously lacking this species.

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (110; 72)

At sea Zero: Three, about 200 kilometres west of Achill Head, 25th August (D.Breen, A.McGeehan *et al.*); One, about 150 kilometres west of Belmullet, 26th August (D.Breen, A.McGeehan *et al.*).

Clare Forty-seven: Twenty-seven, Bridges of Ross, 1st August (D.Breen, C.Foley, O.Foley, G.Hunt, J.N.Murphy *et al.*); One, Bridges of Ross, 8th August (A.Duggan, F.MacGabhann, J.N.Murphy, D.Turley); One, Bridges of Ross, 16th August (M.Carmody); Two, Bridges of Ross, 17th August (M.Hoit, K.Langdon, T.Lowe); Two, Bridges of Ross, 18th August (M.Hoit, K.Langdon, T.Lowe); Six, Bridges of Ross, 19th August (M.Hoit, K.Langdon, T.Lowe); Four, Bridges of Ross, 20th August (C.D.R.Heard, M.Hoit, K.Langdon, T.Lowe, J.N.Murphy); One, Bridges of Ross, 25th August (M.Hughes, K.Mullarney *et al.*); One, Bridges of Ross, 26th August (M.Hughes); One, Bridges of Ross, 28th August (N.T.Keogh *et al.*); One, Bridges of Ross, 3rd September (C.ten Bohmer).

Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 29th August (E.O'Donnell).

Galway One: One, Slyne Head, 25th June, photographed (J.Brittain *et al.*).

Kerry Twenty-two: Fourteen, Brandon Point, 1st August (E.Carty, S.Enright, M.Hanafin); Six, off Sleah Head, in the area between 52°04'N 10°46'W and 52°05'N 10°46'W, 7th August, photographed (E.Carty *et al.*); Two, Brandon Point, 28th August (M.O'Clery *et al.*).

Mayo One: One, Annagh Head, Mullet Peninsula, 16th August (O.Foley *et al.*).

A new annual record, more than tripling the previous high of 23 in 2005. Indeed, the previous annual record was exceeded by the daily total at Bridges of Ross on 1st August! There must be a suspicion that some of the birds seen at Brandon Point in Kerry that day may have been previously seen at Bridges of Ross but equally, with such numbers, it is probably as likely that many more were missed at both locations. The total for Clare reaches 100, all but two of which have occurred at Bridges of Ross. Additional to the 'at sea' sightings listed above, a further three were seen on 29th August at sea 463 kilometres offshore, outside the 370 kilometre recording area.



Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*
Off Sleah Head, Co. Kerry, 7th August 2009
(Seamus Enright).



Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*

At sea 30.2km SSE of the Seven Heads, Co. Cork (51°19'N, 8°33'W). 8th September 2009 (Vincent Bretille).



Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

White's Marsh, Inchydoney, Co. Cork. 7th March 2009 (Mark Carmody, www.markcarmodyphotography.com).



Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Great Island, Co. Cork. 9th January 2009
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Great Island, Co. Cork. 20th December 2009
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me/>).

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* (0; 0)

At sea Zero: One, 51°19'N, 8°33'W, 8th September (V.Bretille), photograph *Birdwatch* 209: 53 (Bretille 2009).

Records of species outside the inshore 30km limit but still within the Exclusive Economic Zone are assessed and published by the IRBC but are excluded from the main list. In this particular case, the distance from the location given to the nearest point of Irish land, the southern-most point of the Seven Heads, Cork, is 30.2 kilometres. The distance of 30.2 kilometres is the average of the distance calculated under two different methods of calculation, the mercator method and the great sailing method, neither of which, unfortunately, placed the record within the inshore zone.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (171; 51)

Cork Thirty-three: Six, Inchydoney and Clogheen from 19th October 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 84) were joined by up to three more, with peak counts of nine during March, one bird remaining until 27th April, all presumed returning birds; One, Cuskinny Marsh, Great Island, from 6th December 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 84) is presumed to have joined a group of up to nine on Great Island, one of which remained until 28th April, photographed (C.Cronin, E.Dempsey, B.Lynch, R.McLaughlin, S.Ronayne *et al.*), all presumed returning; Up to nine, near Timoleague, 3rd January to 4th April (S.Cronin, F.MacGabhann, D.G.McAdams, R.Mundy, J.N.Murphy, P.Wolstenholme *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 53: 27, presumed to include a bird seen at Curaheen and Lisle, near Courtmacsherry, 4th to 6th January, photographed (D.G.McAdams); Up to two, Bohonagh and Newmills, 5th January to 6th February, photographed (D.G.McAdams *et al.*); Up to two, Rossmore, 5th January to 6th February, photographed (D.G.McAdams); One, Gort, near Eyeries, for three days in January, probably 20th to 23rd January (M.English) also seen at Garinish, 26th January to 1st February (B.Finch) and at Cahermore, 5th to 27th April (D.Cooke); One, Lissagriffin, 1st February (D.Ballard); One, Gortroe, near Youghal, 3rd February (C.Cullen) presumed later seen in Waterford with Ballycrompane flock; Up to four, Lough Beg, 15th February to 24th March (J.Diggin, R.O'Driscoll); Up to nine, Rostellan Lake, 5th to 24th April (P.Moore *et al.*); Up to eight, Tourig Estuary, 28th April to 28th June, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*), presumed to include five birds previously seen at Ballycrompane, Waterford; One, Mizen Head, 24th October, photographed (P.Connaughton *et al.*); Up to three, Clonakilty, 9th to 27th December, photographed (D.G.McAdams *et al.*), presumed returning; One, Timoleague, 16th to 20th December, photographed (D.G.McAdams *et al.*), presumed returning; Up to three, Great Island, 19th December to 20th March 2010, photographed (B.Lynch *et al.*), presumed returning.

Kerry Two: One, Keel, Castlemaine, 2nd January, photographed (per F.King); One, Blennerville, 19th to 20th October, photographed (K.Collins *et al.*).

Limerick One: One, two miles west of Newcastle West, 23rd November (S.O'Sullivan).

Waterford Ten: Of the group of four, Drumlohan, near Stradbally from 29 December 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 84) three remained into 2009, with two remaining until 14th February; One, Annestown from 31st December 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 84) remained until 3rd January; One, Kilcannon, Dunhill, 5th January (J.J.Cahill); Up to four, Scartnacoocha, near Ballyduff Upper, 10th January to 28th March (M.Cowming, C.Flynn *et al.*); Up to five, Ballycrompane, near Clashmore, 27th January to 31st March, photographed (J.J.Cahill, J.Power, B.Sheridan *et al.*), the maximum count of five on 7th February presumed to include the bird seen earlier in February in Gortroe, Cork; One, Quilla, between Tramore and Brownstown Head, 14th March, photographed (M.Cowming, C.Flynn).

Wexford Four: Two, Grange, near Lady's Island Lake, 10th to 18th January (J.J.Cahill, J.Power, P.Seweryn, B.Sheridan *et al.*); One, Fethard-on-Sea, 25th February to 4th March, photographed (L.Ryan); One, near Wexford Town, 5th March (C.McNamee).

Wicklow One: One, Kilruddery Demesne, 6th February (C.Mahon).

Were it not for the record numbers in the winter of 2007/2008 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588 & 9: 84), this would have qualified as a remarkable influx. With such numbers in consecutive winters, the normally precise science of numbers is closer to an exercise in sorcery and the totals are inevitably best approximations due to the impossibility of accounting for returning and wandering birds.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba* (30; 8)

Cork Two: One, flew south over Skibbereen, 1st April (J.Wyllie); One, Brown Island, Glounthaune and Fota Island, 8th to 13th April

(P.Wilson *et al.*) and adult, Lough Beg, 24th May (R.O'Driscoll), both presumed to relate to the bird seen near Fota in 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 87); One, Mizen Head, 7th October (P.Connaughton); One, Middleton, 8th November (P.Hourihan), presumed same individual as recorded during April and May.

Galway One: One, Rahasane Turlough, 28th September to 10th October, photographed (T.Chadwick *et al.*).

Kerry Two: One, Ballyseedy, near Tralee, 30th January (J.N.Murphy); One, Black Rock Strand, 13th October (D.O'Connor).

Mayo One: One, Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, 11th November (D.Suddaby).

Offaly / Tipperary One: One, Little Brosna Callows, 16th February (A.Lauder).

Tipperary One: Adult, Ashton's Callow, 3rd June and 9th August (R.Vaughan *et al.*).

For the third year in succession this species has occurred in record numbers, with this series containing the first records for Mayo, Kerry and Tipperary and, with the exception of a blank year in 2004, continuing an almost unbroken annual sequence since the arrival of the second for Ireland in 1997. Following a single record in the 1980s, the 1990s saw an increase to eight and the current decade finished with twenty-nine.



Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Rahasane Turlough, Co. Galway. 28th September 2009
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.com>).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 5th September 2009 (Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 5th September 2009 (Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (132; 31)

Kerry Ten: Up to ten juvenile, including one ringed, Ballyferriter, 13th to 15th October, photographed (L.Long, A.Ní Mhuirheartaigh *et al.*).

Wexford Twenty-one: One, Tacumshin, 13th March (V.Freeman); Twelve juvenile, including at least one ringed, Killag, 1st September, with up to five present until 13th September, photographed (J.Lambert, R.Whelan *et al.*); Eight juvenile, including at least one ringed, Tacumshin, 5th September, with four on 15th September and one remaining until 23rd November 2010 (J.F.Dowdall, A.G.Kelly, P.Kelly, T.Kilbane *et al.*), photographs *Wings* 55: 27, *British Birds* 102: 649, *Birdwatch* 208: 65; Juvenile, Ring Marsh, 19th September (P.Kelly), assumed to be one of the Tacumshin birds.

This is the highest annual total for this species, exceeding the total of 20 during 1934. The autumn influx comprising three separate flocks was part of a wider movement which included a concurrent influx of 38 into Britain (Hudson *et al.* 2010). At least two individuals in Wexford are known to have originated in Coto Doñana, Spain, having been ringed there during summer 2009.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (206; 6)

Cork Five: Five first calendar-year, including one ringed bird, Kinsale Marsh and other locations below, 10th October to 27th June 2010, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*) - this group split and individuals were seen widely between Timoleague, Courtmacsherry, Clonakilty, Rosscarbery and Kilbrittain subsequently, photograph *Birdwatch* 211: 65; First calendar-year, Baltimore, 28th November to 10th August 2010, photographed (J.Wyllie *et al.*), presumed to be one of this group.

Kerry Zero: Adult, Cromane, Castlemaine Harbour, 24th January to 8th March, photographed (E.Carty), presumed returning; Adult, Cromane, Castlemaine Harbour, 21st November to 26th February 2010, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*), presumed returning.

Wexford One: First-summer, Tacumshin, 12th to 13th May, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*).

One of the small group in Cork had been ringed at Vlieland, Netherlands on the 8th of June 2009. The flock of five in Cork is not unprecedented as a group of ten was recorded in Mayo in 2005.



First-summer Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* with Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
Clonakilty, Co. Cork. 16th October 2009 (Richard T. Mills).



First-summer Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Timoleague, Co. Cork. 12th October 2009
(Rónán McLaughlin, www.flickr.com/ronanmclaughlin/).



First-summer Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Timoleague, Co. Cork. 24th October 2009
(Polina Kasapova, www.thingsarelikethis.com).



First-summer Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* with Curlew
Numenius arquata, Redshank *Tringa totanus* and Black-headed
Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Kinsale, Co. Cork. 10th October 2009 (Aidan G. Kelly).



First-summer Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 12th May 2009
(Killian Mullarney).

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* (162+; 12)

Clare One: One, Doorus, 7th February (F.MacGabhann).

Cork Three: One, Ahakista and Durrus, 25th January to 15th February, photographed (K.Preston *et al.*); One, Squinne Harbour, near Union Hall, 22nd March (K.Preston); Adult, Gascanane Sound, 18th September, photographed (S.Ronayne).

Dublin Two: One, Sandymount and Poolbeg, 31st January to 19th February (P.Kelly); One, Dun Laoghaire, 23rd November to 24th March 2010 (N.Keogh *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 56: 22.

Galway One: First-winter, Salthill, Traught and Black Rock, 15th November 2008 to 25th March, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*).

Kerry One: One, Sandy Bay, Castlegregory, 15th January (M.O'Clery); One, Castlegregory, 15th November to 20th February 2010 (M.O'Clery), presumed returning.

Louth One: Adult, Carlingford Lough, 7th February, photographed (B.Martin *et al.*).

Wexford One: One, Rosslare Back Strand, 5th to 15th December, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Wicklow Two: One, Kilcoole, 4th January (P.King, A.McMillan, J.Sheehan); One, Broad Lough, 1st to 6th November, photographed (R.H.Coombes *et al.*).

The third of a trio of species making a return to these reports after a gap of eight years following a reduction in numbers.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Cork Three: One, Kilkerran Lake, 13th January to 4th February, photographed (C.Barton *et al.*); Two, Aghada, 27th January to 1st February (R.Mundy *et al.*).

Waterford Five: Up to three, Dungarvan Bay, 12th January to 30th March, photographed (M.Cowming Snr., C.Flynn *et al.*); Up to two, Ballynagaul Pier, 31st October to 24th January 2010, photographed (N.Keogh *et al.*).

Wexford Three: One, Lady's Island Lake, 21st February (K.Grace); Two, Lady's Island Lake, 15th November (C.ten Bohmer), one presumed returning; One, Wexford Harbour, 29th November (N.Keogh *et al.*).

2008 Tipperary Zero: Adult Summer, Lough Eorna, 26th to 27th May (F.O'Duffy *et al.*), previously published (*Irish Birds* 9: 87), note revised spelling of location in order to bring it into line with recent Ordnance Survey maps.



Adult Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Castlemaine Harbour, Co. Kerry. 24th October 2009
(Ed Carty).



Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. 5th December 2009
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. 20th December 2009
(Richard H. Coombes).



Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. 27th December 2009
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me/>).



First-winter Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*
Salthill, Co. Galway. 13th February 2009
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*
Kilkerran Lake, Co. Cork. 13th January 2009
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (11; 1)

Cork One: One, Lissagriffin, 13th to 15th August, photographed (P.Dillon-Hooper *et al.*).

2008 Dublin One: One, Strawberry Beds, 19th August (S.Geraty).

These are the third and fourth autumn records following one in Wicklow in September 1982 and one in Wexford in September 2007. The peak time for occurrence in Ireland is between 10th April and 11th May, during which time seven have been found.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (180; 15)

Carlow One: One, Leighlinbridge, 22nd May (C.ten Bohmer).

Cork Four: First-summer, Pilmore, 25th April (H.Hussey, P.Moore, D.O'Sullivan, G.Walsh); One, Dursey Island, 30th May (D.A.Scott *et al.*); Adult, Sherkin Island, 23rd June (J.Wyllie); One, Three Castles Head, 23rd October (D.Ballard).

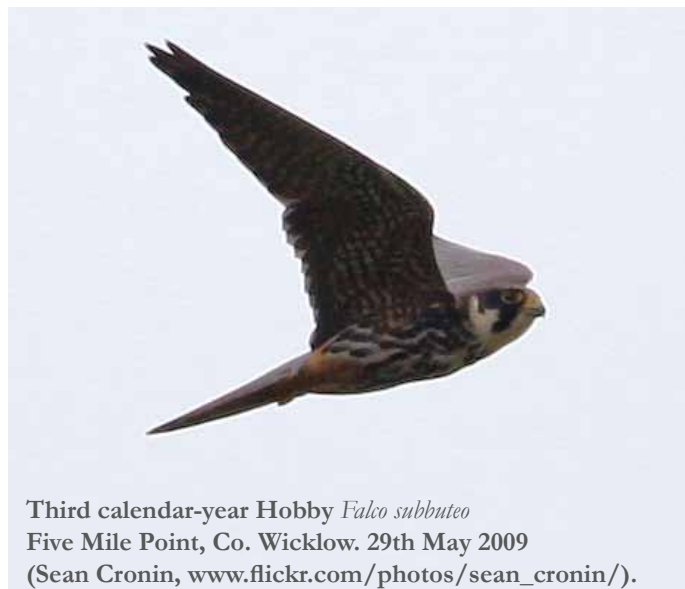
Galway Two: One, Creganna Marsh, Oranmore, 18th April (A.Ó'Dónaill); One, Omey Island, 5th May (T.Nelson, J.Veldman).

Sligo One: Female, Lough Arrow, intermittently from 19th May to 1st June (J.Davis, D.Gault, D.Gunne).

Tipperary One: Adult, Knockmealdown Mountains, 7th June (K.Preston).

Wexford Four: Adult, Tacumshin, 9th to 10th June (N.Hatch *et al.*); First-summer, Tacumshin, 10th to 12th June, photographed (S.Farrell *et al.*); One, Raven Point, 2nd September (W.Carr); Juvenile, Hook Head, 26th October (P.Brennan).

Wicklow Two: Third calendar-year, Killoughter and Five Mile Point, 25th May to 1st June (P.King *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 54: 24, also seen at Broad Lough, 2nd June (P.King); Adult, Kilcoole, 12th July (N.Keogh).



Third calendar-year Hobby *Falco subbuteo*
Five Mile Point, Co. Wicklow. 29th May 2009
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).

The second best year on record, although eleven short of the total for 2008. The record for Carlow is the first for the county and, combined with other recent inland records in Tipperary (2008 & 2009), Offaly (2008) and Kildare (2008), gives a tantalising hint to the possibility that this species may be on the verge of becoming a breeding species.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (121; 3)

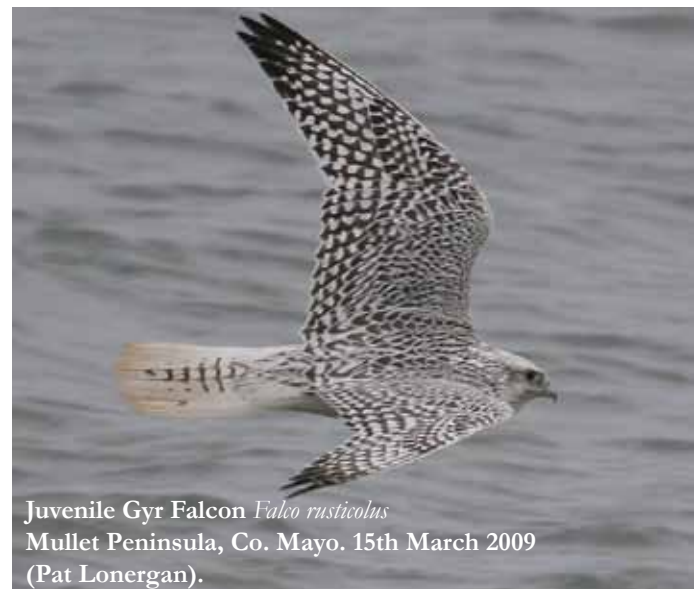
Cork One: White morph, Lisgoold, 13th April, photographed (P.Moore).

Mayo One: White morph juvenile, Annagh Beach, Mullet Peninsula, 15th March to 1st April (P.Loneragan *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 22: 94, 498, *Birdwatch* 203: 72.

Sligo One: Adult, Raghly, Yellow Strand and Lissadell, intermittently from 5th to 26th December, photographed (P.Keogh *et al.*).

2008 At Sea Zero: Juvenile female, boarded a Spanish trawler 120km west of the Blasket Islands, 25th November, and was then brought to Dingle, Co. Kerry where it was taken into care (T.Creedon, M.O'Keefe, S.Ronayne *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 21: 490, *Birdwatch* 200: 73.

Although matched on three occasions, one has to go back to 1910, when four were recorded, to get a better year. The bird in Cork was the first for the county since one in nearby Middleton in 1970 and the bird in Sligo is the first there since one shot in December 1906. The 2008 record is not included in the totals as it was first recorded at sea. That unfortunate individual was the subject of a release attempt on 7th December 2008 but it made no effort to depart and was taken back into care and successfully released at a later date. Note that the record of one 50 kilometres south-west of Shannon Estuary, published in the 1999 *Irish Bird Report* (*Irish Birds* 6: 552) is also regarded as a record 'at sea' and is therefore excluded from the totals, notwithstanding that it was published as a record for Kerry.



Juvenile Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*
Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 15th March 2009
(Pat Loneragan).

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*

Lisgoold, Co. Cork. 13th April 2009 (Paul Moore).



Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* (46*; 1)

Tipperary One: Male, Ashton's Callow, 31st May to 1st June (A.Copland *et al.*).

Since 1950 this species has occurred twice as often during the autumn as during the spring. However, there is a long history of birds calling from suitable habitat in inland counties, which fuels constant speculation that, similar to Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, Spotted Crake may in fact be a scarce breeder rather than a vagrant. See appendix 5 for details of correction to statistics.

Crane *Grus grus* (89; 4)

Cork One: One, Kilcolman, 21st December to 10th March 2010, photographed (M.Hirst *et al.*).

Dublin One: One, Lucan, 25th June (D.Kazmierczak).

Wicklow Two: One, Newcastle, 30th May, photographed (D.O'Mahony *et al.*); One, Newcastle, 13th October (S.Fagan *et al.*).

The Dublin bird is only the second for that county since the first in May 1998. The stay of the Kilcolman bird is the longest on record, but by only four days! See appendix 5 for details of corrections to the statistics.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (53; 1)

Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 22nd March to 4th April (S.Wing *et al.*).

2008 Tipperary Zero: Male, Lough Eorna, 27th May, photographed (F.O'Duffy *et al.*), previously published (*Irish Birds* 9: 88), note revised spelling of location in order to bring it into line with recent Ordnance Survey maps.

An unexpected addition to the Cape Clear Island list, this must have made a fine and elegant sight feeding at Lough Errull!

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oediconemus* (23; 1)

Galway One: One, Roundstone, 26th to 30th June, photographed (M.Harris *et al.*).

Most frequently found in May, this is the first June record for the species leaving only August and September without records (although one found in late July 1999 remained for the first week of August). Of the total, ten were found in the nineteenth century and a further five in the first half of the twentieth century. Eight of the remaining nine have been found since 1988, and the species is currently more regular here than at any time since the nineteenth century, perhaps linked to an increase in breeding numbers in Britain (Holling *et al.* 2010b). The remaining record, in 1962, was the only record between 1940 and 1988 at a time when breeding numbers in the UK were at their lowest (RSPB 2011).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (82; 4)

Wexford Three: Adult female, Tacumshin Lake, 26th to 27th June (K.Mullarney); Juvenile, North Slob, 13th to 19th August (J.N.Murphy *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 208: 64, joined by a second juvenile, 19th August (T.Murray, A.Walsh *et al.*).

Wicklow One: Juvenile, Kilcoole, 13th August, photographed (B.Haslam, J.Sheehan).

2008 Tipperary Five: Pair, successfully bred with three young, 29th April to 3rd June, location withheld (K.Collins), photograph *Irish Birds* 8: 435 (Collins 2008).

Prior to 1989 only 14 had been recorded in seven different years since the first in 1953. Since then, however, the species has occurred annually with an average of just over four per year since the turn of the century. The breeding record in 2008 is the first published confirmed breeding record for Ireland. Note that the suggestion of confirmed breeding published in *British Birds* (Brown 2007) without references and repeated in Hillis 2007 is considered unsubstantiated and is included as an anonymous record in Appendix 4. This may refer to the occurrence of an adult female and two juvenile at Mallow Lagoons in August 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 591) which was speculated to have indicated that breeding may have occurred locally. See appendix 5 for details of correction to statistics.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* (19; 1)

Wicklow One: One, Greystones, 25th to 26th December (M.Boyle *et al.*).

The first for Wicklow and the first since 2005. Eleven of the total have 2009 Irish Rare Bird Report

been found between Christmas Day and 19th March, with a further two found in late November, so the mid-winter date is typical.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* (268; 5)

Cork One: Juvenile, Old Head of Kinsale, 16th September (K.Preston).

Kerry Two: Two, Brandon Mountain, 8th October (P.McDermot).

Mayo One: Juvenile, Leam Lough and Annagh Beach, Mullet Peninsula, 12th October, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Wexford One: One, Tacumshin, 13th to 18th September (C.Cronin, E.Dempsey).

Including the records above, only 87 (about 32%) have occurred in the second half of the year. However, the spring bias is heavily distorted by the occurrence of flocks of between 18 and 50 on five occasions, mostly prior to 1950, accounting for 133 birds. Dotterel have therefore been found more often in autumn (70 times) than in spring (38 times) but the average flock size in autumn is 1.18 whereas in spring it is just over 5.



Stone Curlew *Burhinus oediconemus*

Roundstone, Co. Galway. 30th June 2009 (Michael Davis).



Juvenile Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

North Slob, Co. Wexford. 15th August 2009

(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Juvenile Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

North Slob, Co. Wexford. 15th August 2009

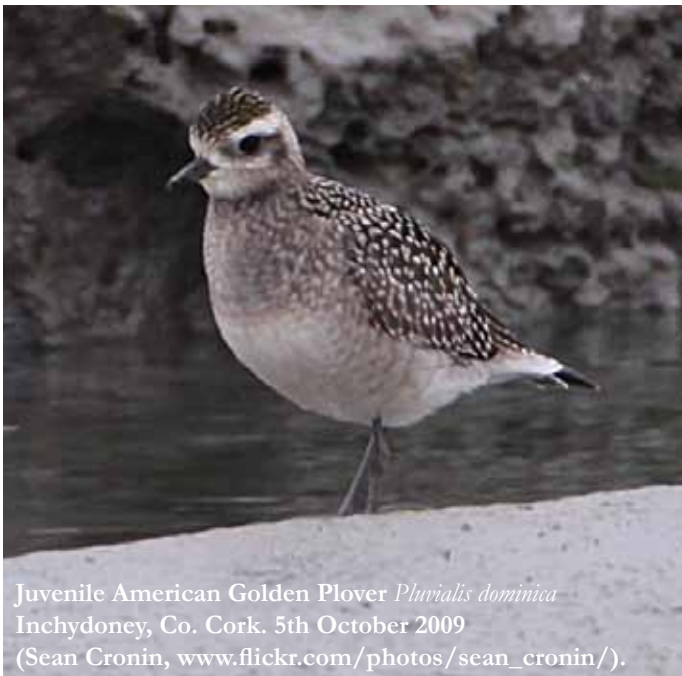
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Adult American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
Clonea Strand, Co. Waterford. 26th September 2009
(Mícheál Cowming).



Adult American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* with
Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* and Bar-tailed Godwit
Limosa lapponica
Clonea Strand, Co. Waterford. 26th September 2009
(Rónán McLaughlin, www.flickr.com/ronanmclaughlin/).



Juvenile American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
Inchydoney, Co. Cork. 5th October 2009
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



Juvenile American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
Inchydoney, Co. Cork. 26th October 2009 (Dermot Breen).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 22nd August 2009
(Aidan G. Kelly).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Smerwick, Co. Kerry. 1st September 2009
(Seamus Enright).

American Golden Plover

Pluvialis dominica (119; 19)

Clare One: Juvenile, Kilcredaun, 29th October (J.N.Murphy).

Cork Three: Juvenile, Inchydoney, 24th September to 31st October, photographed (D.G.McAdams *et al.*); Two adult, Cape Clear Island, 9th October (P.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 210: 64.

Dublin Three: Adult, Broadmeadows Estuary, Swords, 29th August (E.Dempsey); Juvenile, Rogerstown, 19th to 20th September (J.K.Lovatt); Adult, North Bull Island, 24th September (E.Dempsey, P.Kelly).

Galway Three: Adult and juvenile, Rahasane Turlough, 18th October (A.Ó'Dónaill); Juvenile, Belclare Turlough, 4th November (A.Ó'Dónaill).

Kerry Three: Adult, Ferriter's Cove, Smerwick, 2nd to 9th October, photographed (D.Farrar); Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, 16th to 23rd October (D.Farrar); Adult, Cashen Estuary, 28th October, photographed (D.Farrar).

Limerick One: Adult, Robertstown Creek, Foynes, 25th September (G.Hunt).

Mayo Three: Adult, Roonagh Lough, Louisburg, 10th July (P.Lonergan); Juvenile, Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, 22nd September (D.Suddaby); Adult, Annagh Beach, Mullet Peninsula, 23rd September, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Waterford One: Adult, Ballinclamper, Clonea Strand, 19th to 23rd September, photographed (M.Cowming, C.Flynn *et al.*).

Wexford One: Adult, Rosslare Back Strand, 26th September, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*).

2001 Dublin One: Juvenile, Swords Estuary, 3rd to 4th November (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*).

A new record, exceeding the mark of 18 set in 2006 (although the 2006 Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 8: 399) incorrectly stated that the total for the year was 19). This series includes the first record for Limerick and brings the total since 2000 to 102.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (105; 3)

Cork One: Juvenile, Inchydoney, 31st August to 2nd September, photographed (D.G.McAdams *et al.*).

Kerry One: Juvenile, Smerwick, 31st August to 9th September, photographed (O.Foley *et al.*).

Wexford One: Juvenile, Tacumshin, 21st to 22nd August, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*).

Since the third for Ireland in 1980 this species has only missed four years, all in the first half of the 1990s and there have been 45 since the turn of the century. Between them, the three counties above account for 70% of all records.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* (40; 1)

Dublin One: Adult, Rogerstown, 2nd July, photographed (P.Kelly).

This is only the second for Dublin and the third record in July, with both previous July records from Down. Despite its Old World origins and the fact that it breeds as close as Scotland, albeit sporadically and in very small numbers (Holling *et al.* 2010a, Gibbons *et al.* 1993), and presumably migrates close to these shores, this species remains considerably rarer than many of its North American congeners. The current decade, with 10, is the best on record, with previous decades remarkably consistent in numbers. There were five in the 1950s, six in the 1960s, seven in the 1970s, and six in the 1980s and 1990s. The species shows a small peak in May, with approximately one quarter of the records and a larger peak in autumn with September the peak month. The first Irish record of one obtained in Kerry in January 1848 might, at first, appear anomalous but is not the sole winter record as one subsequently wintered in Wexford from October 1998 to late April 1999.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis (236; 4)

Dublin One: Adult, Sandymount, 14th to 15th September (H.Delaney *et al.*), photographs *Wings* 55: 28, *Birding World* 22: 359, *Birdwatch* 209: 64.

Kerry One: Adult, Black Rock Strand, 22nd to 30th September, photographed (F.King *et al.*).

Wexford Two: Adult, Tacumshin, 19th to 23rd September, photographed (A.G.Kelly, M.Moors *et al.*); One, Tacumshin, 26th October (P.Kelly).

1980 Antrim One: Adult, Duncrue Street Marsh, Belfast, 10th to 14th October (*NIBR* 1980: 23).

This was a quiet year, the total of four being less than half of the annual average for the decade. The three records neatly fit the pattern of September and October records, which account for almost two-thirds (155) of the total. There has been an increase each decade since the 1950s, with the current decade accounting for 81 of the total, 56 in the 1990s, 41 in the 1980s while the most recent blank year was in 1972. The record for 1980 was published in the Northern Ireland Bird Reports 1980 & 1981 but was not published in an Irish Bird Report until now. See appendix 5 for details of corrections to the statistics.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (110; 2)

Kerry One: Juvenile, Black Rock Strand and Carrahane Strand, 31st August to 22nd September, photographed (O.Foley *et al.*).

Wexford One: Adult, Tacumshin, 7th to 9th August (T.Kilbane *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 22: 316, *Birdwatch* 208: 65.

There is a distinct timing difference between records of this species and the previous one. Almost all records of Baird's Sandpiper occur between August and October, with September the peak month and accounting for over 60% of the total. In contrast, records of White-rumped Sandpiper *C. fuscicollis* are more spread out, with proportionately far more July and November records. Additionally, the peak month for *C. fuscicollis* is October and this accounts for only 38% of the total.



Adult White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* with Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 23rd September 2009 (Killian Mullarney).



Adult White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* with Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Sandymount, Co. Dublin. 15th September 2009 (Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).

Adult Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 7th August 2009 (Killian Mullarney).



Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 15th September 2009
(David O'Connor).



Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 21st September 2009
(Kris De Rouck).



Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 20th September 2009
(Tom Tarpey).



Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 7th September 2009
(Ed Carty).
Please note: This picture was included and incorrectly
dated on page 15 of the 2008 IRBR pdf in error.





Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 20th September 2009 (Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 19th September 2009 (Aidan G. Kelly).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow. 15th September 2009 (Richard H. Coombes).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Tryngites subruficollis (324; 23)

Clare Six: Six juvenile, Bridges of Ross, 29th August (C.Boyd, J.N. Murphy, S.Webb).

Cork Two: Juvenile, Cape Clear Island, 31st August (R.F.Porter); Juvenile, Lissagriffin, 5th September (D.Ballard).

Galway Three: Up to two juvenile, Rahasane Turlough, 18th to 23rd September, photographed (D.Breen, T.Chadwick *et al.*); Juvenile, Inishmore, 28th September, photographed (D.Breen).

Kerry Two: One, Cloghane Estuary, 29th August (M.O'Clery); Juvenile, Smerwick, 3rd September, photographed (E.Carty *et al.*).

Mayo One: Juvenile, Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, 22nd September (M.Reilly *et al.*).

Wexford Seven: Adult, Tacumshin, 17th to 29th August, photographed (B.Porter *et al.*); Up to six juvenile, Tacumshin, 10th September to 4th October (P.Archer, C.Cronin, E.Dempsey, A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, E.O'Flynn, P.Philips *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 22: 360, *British Birds* 102: 651.

Wicklow Two: Up to two juvenile, Kilcoole, 14th to 22nd September, photographed (R.H.Coombes, P.King, S.King, P.McCullough *et al.*).

The second highest annual total on record although nine short of the record in 2006. Since 1960 this species has only missed one year, 1964, and the average over those 50 years is almost seven per year. The flock in Clare is the largest ever away from Tacumshin. The total for Tacumshin, where the species has been almost annual since the first occurrence there in 1977, moves to 121.

Long-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus scolopaceus (99; 6)

Clare Two: One, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 13th April (F.MacGabhann), presumed returning; Juvenile, Doonbeg, 7th September, photographed (J.N.Murphy); One, Rineville Beach, Kilcredaun, 30th September (L.Clinton).

Cork One: Juvenile, The Gearagh, 29th September to 3rd October, photographed (C.Cronin *et al.*).

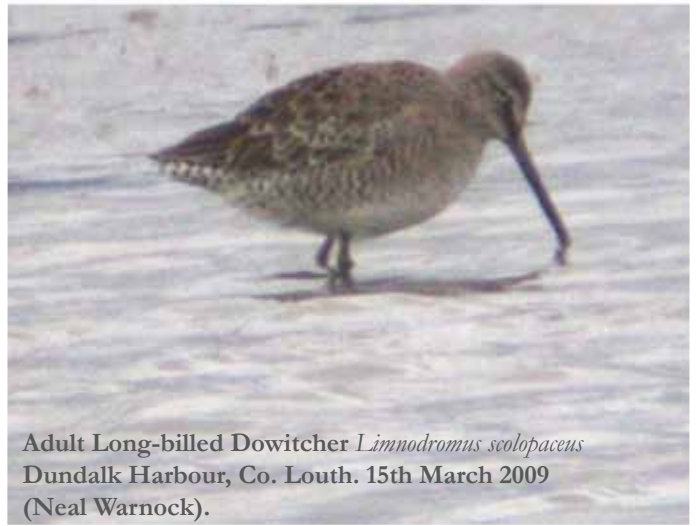
Galway One: Juvenile, Rahasane Turlough, 28th September to 3rd October, photographed (A.Ó'Dónaill *et al.*).

Louth Zero: Adult, Soldier's Point and Dundalk Harbour from 28th October 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 92) remained until 15th March.

Mayo One: One, Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 29th November (M.Reilly).

Wicklow One: Juvenile, Kilcoole, 7th October, photographed (A.McMillan *et al.*).

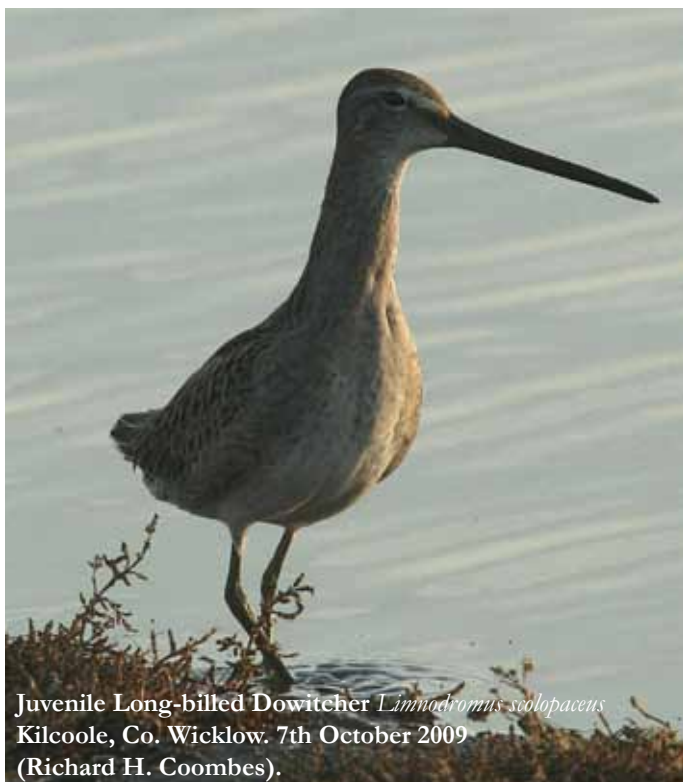
Although recorded in every month, the vast majority have been found in autumn, with October the peak month, although September is not far behind.



Adult Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Dundalk Harbour, Co. Louth. 15th March 2009
(Neal Warnock).



Juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Rahasane Turlough, Co. Galway. 28th September 2009
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.com>).



Juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow. 7th October 2009
(Richard H. Coombes).

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (2; 1)

Dublin One: Adult, Swords, 9th July (C.Foley *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 22: 268, *Birdwatch* 207: 65.

Following one in Wexford in late August 1996 and another in early September 2004 in Kerry, this is the first record for July. All three Irish records have occurred later than the peak for occurrences in Britain where the majority have appeared between the last week of May and the third week of June (Hudson *et al.* 2009).

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* (27; 2)

Kerry One: Juvenile, Black Rock Strand, 17th to 22nd September, photographed (J.Adamson *et al.*).

Wexford One: Juvenile, Nethertown, 5th to 7th September, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*).

2008 Louth One: Juvenile or first-winter, Giles Quay, 24th to 26th November (F.Carroll, P.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 199: 73.

The inclusion of the 2008 record here means that the species has occurred each year from 2004 to 2009 and in that time 17 (58%) of the total have occurred.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (126; 2)

Mayo One: First-winter, Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 15th to 21st October, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Waterford One: First-winter, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 17th to 23rd November (P.Smiddy *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 56: 21.

1981 Down One: One, Castle Espie, Strangford Lough, 13th September to 8th December (*NIBR* 1981: 34)

Two in a year is below the average number per year for the decade of just over four birds although the two birds are the third for their respective counties. The record for 1981 was published in the Northern Ireland Bird Reports 1980 & 1981 and was overlooked for publication in an Irish Bird Report until now.



Adult Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* with Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Swords, Co. Dublin. 9th July 2009
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Juvenile or first-winter Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*
Giles Quay, Co. Louth. 26th November 2008
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Juvenile Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*
Nethertown, Co. Wexford. 6th September 2009
(Aidan G. Kelly).



Juvenile Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 21st September 2009
(Kris De Rouck).



Juvenile Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 22nd September 2009
(David O'Connor).



First-winter Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. 22nd November 2009
(Rónán McLaughlin, www.flickr.com/ronanmclaughlin/).



First-winter Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
The Cunnigar, Co. Waterford. 22nd November 2009
(Polina Kasapova, www.thingsarelikethis.com).



First-winter Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
The Cunnigar, Co. Waterford. 22nd November 2009
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me/>).



Adult female Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Lough Boora Parklands, Co. Offaly. 9th June 2009
(Neal Warnock).

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (84; 1)

Donegal One: First-winter, Inch Lake, 1st to 2nd December (D.Allen *et al.*).

This is the first record for Donegal and also the latest record for Ireland by over six weeks compared to one found in Down on the 18th October 1987. It is also later than the latest in Britain on 13th November 1984. In common with its status in Britain (Hudson *et al.* 2010), this species has become considerably scarcer since its peak in the 1980s, when 35 were found and the total of ten for the 2000s is the lowest in any decade since the 1960s, when there were only seven.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Offaly Zero: Adult female, Lough Boora Parklands, 9th June, photographed (P.Brennan, H.Delaney, P.J.Doyle, N.Warnock *et al.*), presumed returning.

This is the third year in succession that a lone female has been present at this location during the breeding season. Given their prevalence for high breeding site fidelity it is presumed to be a returning bird. Although there have been only two spring males in Ireland since 2000, these continued occurrences in breeding habitat hold out some hope that this species might return as a breeder.

Long-tailed Skua

Stercorarius longicaudus (744; 43)

At sea Zero: Adult, about 200 kilometres west of Achill Head, 25th August (D.Breen, A.McGeehan *et al.*); Two adult, about 250 kilometres west of Slyne Head, 30th August (D.Breen, A.McGeehan *et al.*).

Clare Nineteen: Two adult, Bridges of Ross, 17th August (M.Hoit, K.Langdon, T.Lowe); Ten (six adult, three second-summer, one first-summer), Bridges of Ross, 20th August (C.D.R.Heard, M.Hoit, K.Langdon, T.Lowe, J.N.Murphy); Adult, Bridges of Ross, 25th August (M.Mulvey *et al.*); One, Bridges of Ross, 28th August (K.Mullarney *et al.*); First calendar-year, Bridges of Ross, 29th August (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh); First calendar-year, Bridges of Ross, 1st September (P.Flint); First calendar-year, Kilbaha, Loop Head, 26th September, photographed (J.N.Murphy); First calendar-year, Bridges of Ross, 2nd October (A.McMillan); First calendar-year, Bridges of Ross, 3rd October (A.McMillan).

Cork One: One, Galley Head, 23rd August (D.G.McAdams).

Donegal Four: One, Melmore Head, 29th August (E.Randall); First calendar-year, Tory Island, 25th September (C.Ingram); Two, Fanad Head, 2nd October (C.Ingram).

Galway Four: Adult, Lettermullen, 16th May (D.Breen); Three, Lettermullen, 18th May (A.Ó'Dónaill).

Kerry Five: First-summer and sub-adult, at sea off Slea Head, 7th August, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*); First calendar-year, Brandon Point, 26th August (M.O'Clery); Adult, Brandon Point, 28th August (M.O'Clery *et al.*); One, Brandon Point, 29th August (R.McLaughlin).

Mayo Six: Adult, Cross Lough, Belmullet, 16th May (D.Suddaby); Adult, Annagh Head, Mullet Peninsula, 17th August (M.Carmody); Adult, Erris Head, 19th September (D.Suddaby); Immature, Downpatrick Head, 23rd September (J.Donaldson); First calendar-year, Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, 23rd September, photographed (D.Suddaby); Adult, Annagh Head, Mullet Peninsula, 25th September (D.Suddaby).

Sligo Three: Adult, Lough Arrow, 15th May (D.Gaunt); Adult and First calendar-year, Lenadon Point, 29th September (S.Feeney).

Wicklow One: Adult, Kilcoole, 19th May (N.Keogh).

Another respectable showing, somewhat more than the average of 34 per annum between 1990 and 2008, but well short of the record 84 in 1993. The three birds in Sligo is a good total with only six recorded there previously. Additional to the 'at sea' sightings listed above, a further two were seen at sea 463 kilometres offshore, 29th August, outside the 370 kilometre recording area.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (16; 1)

Cork One: First-winter, Baltimore, 3rd to 8th March (J.Wyllie *et al.*), photographs *Wings* 53: 26, *Birding World* 22: 95, 497, *British Birds* 102: 228, *Birdwatch* 202: 72, 73.

A prize find and one of the ornithological events of the year, this individual had been present at Gujan-Mestras, Gironde, France, from 21st January to 26th February before being relocated in Baltimore five days after departing France. Only marginally rarer overall than its Arctic cousin Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*, Ivory Gull has been far scarcer in recent times. While all 18 records of Ross's Gull have been since 1981, this is only the sixth Ivory Gull in the same period and only one of these, in Cork in 1999, had been seen by more than one person. March is the peak month of occurrence with six records. Four have occurred in January, three in February and singles in October, November, December and, surprisingly, August. Of those aged, there is now an equal split between adult and immature, with six of each. Ten have been found in the south or south-west, with six in Cork, two in Kerry and one each in Waterford and Wexford. The remaining seven have been found in the northern half of the country, with three in Down, one in Donegal, two in Mayo and a single in Galway. This geographical distribution is not what one might expect for an Arctic species and contrasts with the more intuitive northerly distribution of records for Ross's Gull, of which 14 have occurred north of the Galway to Dublin axis.

Bonaparte's Gull

Chroicocephalus philadelphia (57; 4)

Cork Zero: Adult, Cobh and Ballybrannigan Strand, 1st to 20th February (G.Clarke *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 53: 27, presumed returning; Adult, Cobh, 22nd November to 5th February 2010, photographed (B.Lynch), presumed same.

Dublin One: Adult, flew north, Broadmeadows Estuary, Swords, 10th April (R.Vaughan).

Kerry Two: First-winter, Blennerville, 18th May (E.Carty); Adult, Tralee, 11th November (E.Carty).

Wexford One: Adult, Tacumshin, 18th April (K.Grace).

2007 Cork Zero: Adult, Cobh, 28th to 29th December (C.Cronin *et al.*), presumed returning.

The short stay of the adult at Cobh in December 2007 is nevertheless significant as this sighting continues the winter run of this individual there since the winter of 2005/06, albeit for only a small portion of most of the winters in question.



Sub-adult Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*
Off Slea Head, Co. Kerry. 7th August 2009
(Seamus Enright).



Adult Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 1st February 2009
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me/>).

First-winter Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*

Baltimore, Co. Cork. 8th March 2009 (John Coveney, www.flickr.com/photos/johncoveneyphotos/).



First-winter Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*

Baltimore, Co. Cork. 7th March 2009

(Mark Carmody, www.markcarmodyphotography.com).



First-winter Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*

Baltimore, Co. Cork. 4th March 2009

(Polina Kasapova, www.thingsarelikethis.com).

First-winter Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*
Baltimore, Co. Cork. 4th March 2009 (Polina Kasapova, www.thingsarelikethis.com).



First-winter Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*
Baltimore, Co. Cork. 3rd March 2009
(David Dillon, www.flickr.com/photos/crotach/).



First-winter Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*
Baltimore, Co. Cork. 4th March 2009
(Richard H. Coombes).

American Herring Gull

Larus smithsonianus (84; 2)

Cork Two: Second-winter, Bantry, 1st to 6th January, photographed (J.Diggin, N.Linehan *et al.*); First-winter, Castletownbere, 8th March (A.Duggan, N.Linehan).

Galway Zero: Adult, Nimmo's Pier from 6th December 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 95) remained until 15th March, photograph *Birdwatch* 201: 73, returning to the same location from 19th November to 18th January 2010, photographed (M.Davis *et al.*).

When initially found, 68 have been first-winter birds, 17 have been second-winter while only one, in Ballycotton, has been a third-winter bird and only the returning bird of known age in Galway has been seen in adult plumage.

Kumlien's Gull

Larus glaucooides kumlieni (131; 11)

Cork Three: First-winter, Castletownbere, 23rd January to 7th March, photographed (D.G.McAdams *et al.*), presumed to be the same bird that had been in Bantry in December 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 95); First-winter, Sherkin Island, 16th January, photographed (J.Wyllie); Adult, Ballycotton, 20th January (D.G.McAdams), presumed later seen Cuskinny Marsh, Great Island, 31st January, photographed (R.McLaughlin); Second-winter, Youghal, 13th to 14th December (O.Foley *et al.*).

Donegal Two: Up to two adult, Killybegs, 7th to 21st February, photographed (D.Breen, D.Charles, W.Farrelly), one presumed to be returning; A different adult, Killybegs, 14th March (K.Bennett, D.Charles).

Galway Five: Third-winter, Clifden from 18th December 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 95) remained until 7th March; Third-winter, Waterside and Nimmo's Pier from 26th December 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 95) remained until 28th March, and was also seen at Rossaveal 21st February; Second-winter, Nimmo's Pier, 1st January to 28th March, photographed (P. Kelly *et al.*); First-winter, Clifden, 22nd January to 11th February (D. Breen *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 22: 86, also seen at Rossaveal, 24th February to 11th March, photographed (S.Arlow *et al.*) and again in Clifden, 16th March (D.Breen *et al.*); Third-winter, Rossaveal, 24th January, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*), later seen at Reenard Point, Kerry (see below); Adult, Nimmo's Pier, 31st January to 3rd March (K.Shaw *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 22: 50, *British Birds* 102: 227; First-winter, Kilronan, Inishmore, 20th to 22nd March, photographed (D.Breen, H.Delaney *et al.*), also seen at Rossaveal, 22nd March to 14th April, photographed (T.Cuffe).

Kerry Zero: Third-winter, Reenard Point, 7th to 8th March, photographed (J.Jones *et al.*), same individual previously seen at Rossaveal, Galway (see above).

Sligo One: First-winter, Drumcliff Bay, Lissadell, 14th November to 5th December (D.Charles *et al.*).

Adult American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*
Galway Docks. 29th November 2009
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.com>).



Adult American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*
Galway. 21st November 2009
(Michael Davis).

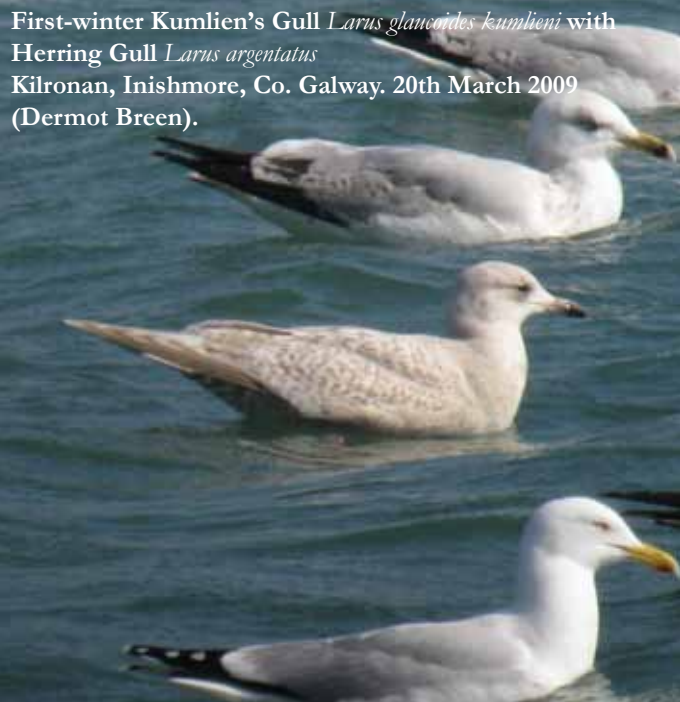


Second-winter American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*
Bantry, Co. Cork. 6th January 2009 (Harry Hussey).



First-winter Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*
Rossaveal, Co. Galway. 22nd March 2009
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.com>).





First-winter Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni* with Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*
Kilronan, Inishmore, Co. Galway. 20th March 2009
(Dermot Breen).



Third-winter Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*
Clifden, Co. Galway. 14th February 2009 (Dermot Breen).



Adult Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*
Nimmo's Pier, Galway. 31st January 2009 (Dermot Breen).



Adult Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*
Nimmo's Pier, Galway. 1st March 2009
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.com>).



Adult Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*
Killybegs, Co. Donegal. 7th February 2009
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).



Adult Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*
Killybegs, Co. Donegal. 7th February 2009
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* (8; 1)

Kerry One: Adult, Blennerville, 1st July, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*).

The first since 2001, which was also in Kerry. The first for Ireland in 1959 was in October but, since then, all occurrences have been between 19th June and 18th August. Only the duo in Cork in 1988 and one in Cork in 1998 have remained more than a day, so many must feel that a long-staying bird is overdue.

White-winged Black Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus (86; 2)

Donegal One: Adult, Blanket Nook, 1st June (D.Brennan).

Wexford One: Adult, Tacumshin, 7th to 9th June (N.Keogh *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 54: 26.

The record for Donegal is only the second for the county and the previous record was also a summer record, in July 1964. June is normally a quiet month for this species and there are only eight previous records. See appendix 5 for details of correction to statistics.

Royal Tern *Sterna maxima* (1; 1)

Cork One: Adult, Clonakilty, 7th June (M.Reimann *et al.*), photographs *Wings* 54: 26, *Birding World* 22: 222, 237, 502, *British Birds* 102: 421, *Dutch Birding* 31: 256, *Birdwatch* 205: 73 (Reimann 2009).

The only previous record of this species in Ireland was a tide-line corpse found on North Bull Island in March 1954, assigned to Category D3 (see www.irbc.ie/topbar/categories.php for a description of the various Categories in use). Although only present for two hours, this record promotes the species to Category A and consequently moves it onto the full Irish List. In common with its status in Ireland, this is also one of the rarest terns occurring in Britain where there are only five records, including this bird, which relocated to Wales where it was seen on 15th and 20th June (Hudson *et al.* 2010). The identification of orange billed terns is a particularly complex subject, based on some extremely subtle characteristics, such as bill shape and colour, which are extremely difficult to critically evaluate in the field. Moreover, in the case of Royal Tern this is further complicated by the existence of two sub-species, *albidorsalis*, which occurs in West Africa and *maxima*, from North America. Hudson *et al.* (2010) tentatively suggested that this bird may have been more likely to be *albidorsalis*, however it is felt that it is safest to leave the record unassigned at sub-specific level.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (35; 0)

Dublin Zero: Adult, Balbriggan, 1st November, photographed (A.G.Kelly), presumed to be the bird seen in Louth (see below).

Galway Zero: Adult, Nimmo's Pier, Doorus Pier and Claddagh Beach, from 5th November 2008 (see 2008 Galway below) remained until 17th April, photographs *Birding World* 22: 8, 137; Adult, Nimmo's Pier, 11th November to 23rd April 2010 (T.Griffin *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 212: 65, presumed returning.

Louth Zero: Adult, Cruisetown Strand, 11th October to 8th November (G.O'Neill *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 22: 447, *Dutch Birding* 31: 373, also seen in Dublin, presumed returning.

Wexford Zero: Adult, Tacumshin, 22nd April to 30th June (K.Mullarney *et al.*), photographs *Wings* 54: 26, *Birding World* 22: 270, *British Birds* 102: 479, *Birdwatch* 206: 73, presumed returning.

2008 Galway Zero: Adult, Nimmo's Pier from 22nd December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 600) remained until 8th March and returned 5th November to 17th April 2009 (T.Griffin, P.Troake *et al.*). This corrects the statement in *Irish Birds* 9: 96, which suggested that this bird had remained without interruption since 2007.

Since the first Forster's Tern in 1982, this species has occurred in two distinct batches. Firstly, between 1982 and 1996, the published record indicates that 16 were recorded, many of them returning for multiple years. The second batch of records started in 2002 and there has been an unbroken sequence of occurrences since then, likewise involving apparent returning birds. It is difficult to reconcile the published records with the totals that have been published from the 2004 Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 8: 117) onwards. A thorough analysis shows that the records published without the 'presumed returning' qualifier number 35 and the statistics above have been adjusted to reflect the published record.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Clare/Galway One: One, Aughinish Island, 25th January,



Adult Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*
Blennerville, Co. Kerry. 1st July 2009 (Seamus Enright).

photographed (D.McNamara).

Cork Two: One, Ballycotton, 21st January (D.G.McAdams); One, Old Head of Kinsale, 11th November (M.Shorten).

Dublin Two: One, Dun Laoghaire, 1st February (K.Harding); One, North Bull Island, 5th February (T.Lehane).

Galway Six: One, Lettershea, Clifden, 19th January (D.Breen); Two, probably at least two months dead, Dogs Bay, 3rd February (D.Breen); Two, Inishbofin, 3rd November (A.McGeehan); One, Lettermullen, 6th November (A.Ó'Dónaill).

Kerry Nine: Nine, Brandon Point, 30th December (E.Dempsey).

Mayo Two: One, Kilcummin, 4th November (J.Donaldson, S.Feeney); One, Kilcummin, 14th November (J.Donaldson).

Sligo Two: Two, Lenadoon Point, 3rd November (S.Feeney).

Wicklow One: One, Newcastle, 28th November (B.Haslam).

2004 Donegal One: One, Tory Island, 23rd October (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly).

2001 Louth Three: One, Clogherhead, 10th November (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly); Two, Dunany Point, 10th November (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly).

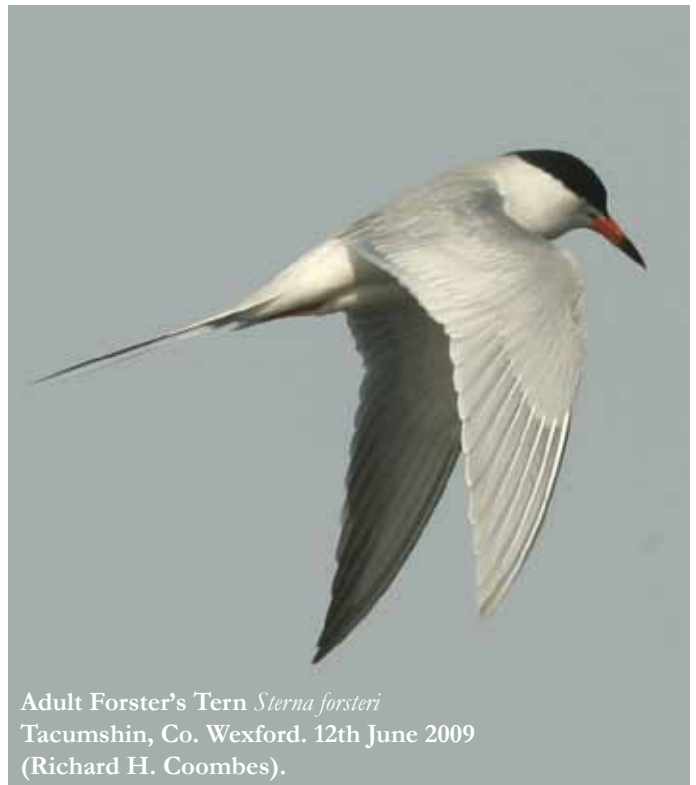
This species must be one of the most widely distributed of the species featuring in these reports having occurred in 27 of the 32 counties on the island. Only the inland counties of Roscommon, Longford, Armagh, Cavan, and Monaghan are without records.



Adult Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*
Clonakilty, Co. Cork. 7th June 2009 (Michael O'Keefe).



Adult White-winged Black Tern *Cblidonias leucopterus*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 9th June 2009
(Richard H. Coombes).



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 12th June 2009
(Richard H. Coombes).



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
Claddagh Beach, Galway. 12th April 2009
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.com>).



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
Nimmo's Pier, Galway. 14th March 2009 (Aidan G. Kelly).

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* (1; 1)

Cork One: One, Garinish, 25th October, photographed (A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*).

The second Irish record, following one in Galway in 2007. In the Western Palearctic there are eight accepted autumn records, with, in addition to two in Ireland, three in Britain, two in the Azores and one in Iceland. All of these were found between 19th October and 13th November, with the record above fitting neatly with the pattern.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* (6; 1)

Cork One: First-summer, Ringaskiddy, 15th February (J.Diggin *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 202: 62.

An addition to the Cork list and the earliest on record in either Ireland or Britain, with the earliest British record dated 21st February (Hudson *et al.* 2009). This is the sixth spring record in Ireland, with the sole autumn record in September 1975 in Down. Albeit on a much smaller sample size, this spring bias is more pronounced than in Britain where about 40% of the records are in autumn.

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* (72; 5)

Clare One: One, Doolin, 17th May (K.Neary, G.Wheeler).

Donegal One: One, feathers found, Inishbofin Island off Tory Island, 4th June (E.Dempsey); Second calendar-year female, Tory Island, late June to early December, photographed (D.Baird, A.O'Mionain *et al.*), presumed that the feathers found on Inishbofin Island relate to the same bird.

Galway One: One, Inishturbot, 8th June (T.Gordon).

Mayo One: Second calendar-year female, Inishkea North and Annagh Head, Mullet Peninsula, 19th May to 18th June, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*); Adult female, Tarmon Hill, Mullet Peninsula, 8th August to 10th October (D.Suddaby *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 22: 318, returning individual.

Sligo One: One, Enniscrone, 24th November (M.Hannon).

The Sligo record is the first for the county and the bird in Clare is the first Munster record since November 1909, also in Clare. Five presumed new birds in a year equals the record, set in 1835 and equalled in 1946. This is the sixth year in succession that the species was reported in Ireland, making this the longest run on record, eclipsing the previous record of five years between 1909 and 1913.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*

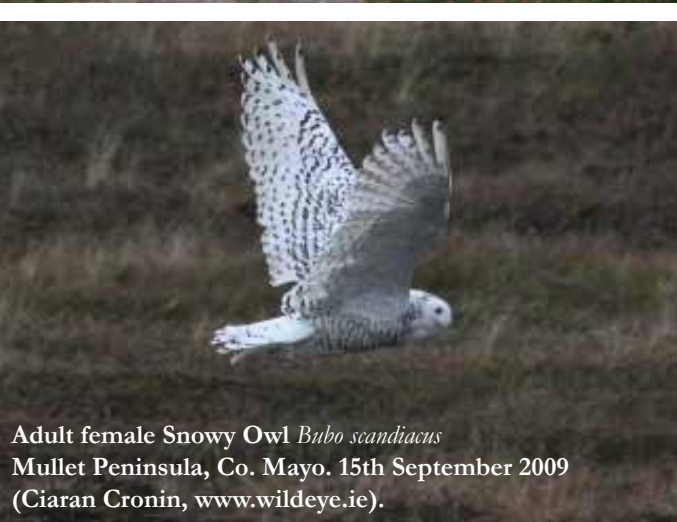
Garinish, Co. Cork. 25th October 2009 (Tony Lancaster).



Adult female Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*
Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 13th August 2009
(Pat Lonergan).



Adult female Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*
Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 9th August 2009
(Dermot Breen).



Adult female Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*
Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 15th September 2009
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



Second calendar-year female Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacticus*
Tory Island, Co. Donegal. 19th September 2009
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* (1; 1)

Kerry One: First-winter, Caherciveen, 24th to 25th October (F.O'Leary *et al.*), photographs *Wings* 56: 21, *Birding World* 22: 401, *British Birds* 102: 710 (Carty 2011).

The second record for Ireland following the first in Cork in October 1999. Originally thought to be a Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, it was found in an exhausted state and handed to a local vet. The bird was rested overnight before being released on the edge of Caherciveen where it remained for a short time before moving on. Although somewhat early to be definitive, the distribution pattern so far is consistent with the typical south-westerly bias shown by most Nearctic passerine and near-passerine vagrants. The vagrancy pattern is very similar in Britain where there is also a bias towards the south-west (Slack 2009).

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (72; 1)

Wicklow One: One, Kilcoole, 8th May (J.Ivory).

May is the quietest month of spring for this species, with this only the ninth record. See appendix 5 for details of corrections to the statistics.



First-winter Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*
Caherciveen, Co. Kerry. 25th October 2009
(Michael O'Keefe).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (218; 2)

Cork Two: One, Brow Head, 17th to 18th September (D.Ballard); One, Cape Clear Island, 18th to 19th September (M.Gade, G.Lyons, S.Wing).

Two typical records – over 80% of the total have occurred on the south coast in autumn. The current decade has seen particularly high numbers, thanks to a record influx of 25 in 2006.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major (141; 29)

Dublin One: One, drumming, Dublin, 16th March (G.Flannery).

Louth Zero: Female, near Dromin from 28th August 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 96) remained until 4th April.

Wicklow Twenty-four: One, north of Rathdrum from 28th December 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 96) remained until 1st January; Male, Kilruddery Demesne, 1st to 2nd January (E.O'Flynn), presumed to be the same bird as seen at this locality from August 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 96); Two, at least one male, Wicklow, 16th February to 19th April (J.Cassidy, J.Geraty *et al.*); Male and female, Wicklow, 18th February to 18th May (M.Souter *et al.*); Male, Bray, 18th February to 12th April (E.O'Flynn *et al.*); Male and female, Wicklow, 15th to 17th March (J.Cassidy, R.H.Coombes), photograph *Wings* 53: 27; Male and female, observed copulating, Wicklow, 1st April (R.H.Coombes, D.Murphy); Male and female, Wicklow, 26th to 29th April (D.Murphy *et al.*); At least three others, location withheld, between March and June (R.H.Coombes); One, heard calling, Greystones, 3rd June (M.Boyle); Male and female, attending nest, Wicklow, 5th to 8th June (J.Ivory, V.Ivory, J.Sheehan *et al.*); Male, female and juvenile, Derrybawn Wood, 11th June (K.Grace); One, Annamoe, 24th July (D.Murphy); Adult, Carrigmore Farm, Glenealy, 7th to 28th November (C.Osthoff); Adult, Glen of the Downs, 23rd December, photographed (B.Carruthers); Adult, Tomnafinnoge Wood, Shillelagh, 3rd December to 17th January 2010 (J.Cassidy *et al.*).
Wicklow/Carlow Two: Pair, Wicklow/Carlow, 30th June (J.Wilson).
Wexford Two: Two adult, Courtown Wood, Gorey, 3rd November (P.Finn) and presumed one of this duo, same location 20th December, photographed (P.Finn).

The highest numbers on record, exceeding the previous record of 18 in 1968. The number of records in Wicklow has more than tripled from the previous report (*Irish Birds* 9: 96) and the records from the rest of the east coast would have been hailed as a very good showing not that many years ago. As colonisation proceeds, it becomes more difficult to be sure that this report paints a comprehensive picture of the reality and strengthens the belief that the more appropriate place for recording the spread is the annual Rare Irish Breeding Birds report. To that end, it has been decided to remove the species from consideration by the IRBC from 31st December 2010.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* (202; 2)

Cork Two: One, Dursey Island, 14th May (D.A.Scott); One, Marsh Lane, Galley Head, 14th September, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*).

Normally a regular but scarce spring migrant, there have only been six previous records between August and October, with the Galley Head record the second for September. To put this into context, Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* is a more common autumn vagrant!



Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
Co. Wicklow. 17th March 2009 (Richard H. Coombes).



Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*
Marsh Lane, Galley Head, Co. Cork. 14th September 2009
(Mícheál Cowming).



First-winter Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*
Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 4th October 2009
(Micheal O'Briain).



First-summer male Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Ballyvooney, Co. Waterford. 26th April 2009
(Mícheál Cowming).

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (3; 1)

Mayo One: First-winter, Achill Island, 4th October, photographed (M.O'Briain).

All four records for Ireland have been found since the turn of the century, and following one in Wexford and two in Cork, this is the first for Mayo and the earliest record by two weeks. Although notoriously difficult to allocate definitively to subspecies, all three previous records have been considered to be of the subspecies *isabellinus*. This individual is illustrative of the complexity, showing characteristics of Turkestan Shrike *L.i.phoenicuroides* although perhaps not definitively assignable to either taxon.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* (148; 2)

Cork Two: Female, Mizen Head, 15th May (D.Ballard, P.Connaughton); One, Dursey Island, 31st May to 1st June (D.A.Scott *et al.*).

There have never been more than two in spring in one year so this is a good showing by this species which is normally an autumn migrant – previously, there had been only 19 spring records. See appendix 5 for details of corrections to the statistics.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (75; 2)

Waterford Two: First-summer male, between Ballydowane and Ballyvooney, 21st to 28th April, photographed (D.McGrath *et al.*); One, Great Newtown Head, Tramore, 22nd July (N.Phealan).

These are only the fourth and fifth records for Waterford. The July record, while unusual, is not unprecedented, as it is the third for that month. The statistics for this species have been adjusted to reflect all records of *L. s. senator* and they will henceforth exclude occurrences of *L. s. badius*.

Balearic Woodchat Shrike

Lanius senator badius (1; 1)

Wexford One: First-summer male, Rathangan, 12th to 23rd May (M.Maddock, K.Mullarney *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 54: 25.

Only the second record for this taxon in Ireland following one in Cork in 2002 (*Irish Birds* 7: 570). With two records in spring, the pattern of occurrences in Ireland is similar to that in Britain where there have been eight records between mid April and late July (Hudson *et al.* 2009, Hudson *et al.* 2010).



First-summer male Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Ballyvooney, Co. Waterford. 26th April 2009
(Seamus Enright).



First-summer male Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Ballyvooney, Co. Waterford. 26th April 2009
(Mícheál Cowming).



Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (62; 1)

Donegal One: One, Tory Island, 26th October, photographed (D.G.McAdams).

Forty of the total have been found in autumn and the bird in Donegal is the latest arrival on record. See appendix 5 for details of corrections to the statistics.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris* (20; 1)

Donegal One: One, Arranmore Island, 15th December (G.Griffin).

The first for Donegal and the second for the north-west, following one in Londonderry in 1976. Although a more regular winter visitor in small numbers to Britain (Lack 1986), this species shows a similar winter peak in Ireland, where 15 of the total have been found between the beginning of November and the end of February, with another found in late October and the remainder in March and April.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* (32; 2)

Cork One: Adult, Cape Clear Island, 31st May (E.O'Donnell).

Waterford One: Juvenile, Helvick Head, 31st October (M.Cowming, C.Flynn).

Perhaps surprisingly, the Waterford record is the first for that county. The species occurs most commonly on the south coast, which accounts for almost three-quarters of the records while the remaining nine are scattered in seven different counties. Late spring records are unusual as spring occurrences peak in April and the bird on Cape Clear Island is the first for the second half of May. The late autumn record in Waterford is more typical with 11 of the 15 autumn records occurring between 24th October and 9th November.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (32; 1)

Cork One: One, Barry's Head, 17th September (D.Fitzpatrick).

This record neatly fits the established pattern - exactly two-thirds of the total have occurred in Cork and September is the peak month with 19 occurrences. This is the fifth year in succession the species has occurred, during which time 14 (42%) of the total have been recorded. Over time, the number of occurrences has increased with two in both the 1950s and 1960s followed, after a blank decade in the 1970s, with five in the 1980s, nine in the 1990s and fifteen in the 2000s. In Britain, records of this species also increased over the same period to such an extent that the species was removed at the end of 2005 from the list of species considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (7; 1)

Cork One: First-winter, trapped, Cape Clear Island, 9th to 18th October (S.Wing *et al.*), photographs *Wings* 56: 21, *Dutch Birding* 31: 380.

This is the first since one in Donegal in 2003, only the second in over 20 years and its stay of 10 days is the longest on record. Cape Clear Island now accounts for half of the records, with an additional record on mainland Cork, two in Donegal and a single in Clare making up the remainder. In comparison to the situation in Britain, Arctic Warbler is proportionately much rarer in Ireland than the previous species. By end of 2005, when Greenish Warbler was removed from the British Birds Rarities Committee rarity list, the total number of Arctic Warbler was about 61% that of Greenish Warbler - in Ireland this figure is less than 25%. At first glance, this comparative rarity seems unusual, however the key is perhaps their different geographical distribution. The breeding distribution of this species in Northern Fennoscandia and Arctic Russia is shared by many other species that are exceedingly rare or absent in Ireland, perhaps best exemplified by the so-called Fair Isle specialities - Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi*, Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* and Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*. In comparison, Greenish Warbler breeds farther to the south and this distinction, along with the recent westward range expansion (Mitchell & Young 1999) may contribute to the differential.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* (33; 1)

Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 29th October (C.Cronin).

A typical record - this is the 21st for Cork and the 9th for Cape Clear Island and all bar one have occurred in the period from 12th October to 13th November, with one in Tyrone on 25th December 2002 the sole exception. Indeed, 16 (almost half) have occurred within one week of 29th October. Geographically, the records are spread along the south



First-summer male Balearic Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator badius*
Rathangan, Co. Wexford. 14th May 2009
(Killian Mullarney).

coast except for one inland, in Tyrone, one on the Irish Sea coast at Howth Head, Dublin in 1988 and one on the Atlantic coast at Loop Head, Clare in 1995. See appendix 5 for details of corrections to the statistics.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (15; 1)
Waterford One: One, Helvick Head, 10th October (C.Flynn).

The second for Waterford, following one, the second for Ireland, in October 1985. This is the second earliest on record, with one on Tory Island, Donegal on the 2nd October 2003 (*Irish Birds* 7: 567) being earlier. Following six in the 1980s, there was only one recorded in the 1990s. This is the ninth record since the turn of the century, making the current decade the most productive so far, although whether this is the start of a genuine long term change in frequency remains to be seen.



First-winter Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*
 Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 15th October 2009
 (Eamonn O'Donnell).



First-winter Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*
 Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 18th October 2009
 (David Dillon, www.flickr.com/photos/crotach/).



First-winter Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*
 Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 10th October 2009
 (Richard H. Coombes).



First-winter Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*
 Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 9th October 2009
 (Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



First-winter Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*
 Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 17th October 2009
 (Ronán McLaughlin, www.flickr.com/ronanmclaughlin/).

First-winter Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*
 Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 10th October 2009 (Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
 Power Head, Co. Cork. 25th October 2009
 (Polina Kasanova, www.thingsarelikethis.com).



Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
 Power Head, Co. Cork. 22nd October 2009
 (Michael O'Keefe).



First-year Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*
 Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork. 22nd October 2009
 (Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



First-year Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*
 Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork. 22nd October 2009
 (Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (8; 1)

Cork One: One, Power Head, 22nd to 25th October, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*).

This is the seventh for Cork, and the fifth record of this species in October. Unlike the previous species, for which there are no records outside of October, Dusky Warbler has also occurred in May, September, November and December although only singles in each of these months.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

Cork Two: One, Mizen Head, 28th October (P.Connaughton); One, Sherkin Island, 4th to 5th November (J.Wyllie).

Kerry One: One, Ross Castle, Killarney, 28th December to 1st January 2010, photographed (E.Dempsey *et al.*).

Wexford One: One, Churchtown, 8th November (N.Keogh, N.T. Keogh).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (131; 5)

Cork Four: First-year, Old Head of Kinsale, 22nd October, photographed (S.Cronin); First-year, Power Head, 22nd to 26th October, photographed (J.Doolan, H.Hussey, P.Moore); One, Three Castles Head, 23rd October (D.Ballard); First-year, Knockadoon, 24th October (M.O'Keeffe).

Kerry One: First-year, Valentia Island, 13th to 14th October (J.Adamson, J.J.Cahill, J.Power).

Quickly following its first in 2008, the Kerry record is only the second for the county. In contrast, the Cork records bring the total for that county to 77! In Ireland this species has occurred exclusively in autumn, with records from 23rd August to 29th November. In contrast to both *Hippolais* species below, the current decade is the best on record, with 44 records, with no previous decade exceeding 23 which was recorded in the 1970s.



Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (42; 5)

Cork Three: First-summer male, Mizen Head, 10th to 11th April (D.Ballard *et al.*); One, Toe Head, 11th April (A.Duggan); Female, Cape Clear Island, 15th April (S.Wing).

Wexford Two: First-summer male, Carnsore Point, 12th April, photographed (O.Foley *et al.*); First-summer male, Great Saltee, 18th April, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*).

Five in a year has only been exceeded once, in 2008, when there were seven. The influx this year occurred remarkably early and the bird on Mizen Head is the earliest on record. Indeed all five occurred earlier than the previous earliest date, 20th April. Five in April is also unprecedented for a species of which over half the records have occurred in May. Forty-one of the total have now occurred in either Cork or Wexford.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* (210; 2)

Cork Two: One, Cape Clear Island, 31st May to 1st June (S.Wing); One, Galley Head, 11th to 16th September photographed (C.Barton, C.Cronin, D.G.McAdams *et al.*).

The spring record is noteworthy as there are only eight previous spring records, amounting to less than 5% of the total. This is the third quiet year in succession, following singles in each of the previous two years. The current decade has recorded only 18 birds, contrasting to totals between 41 and 50 and an average of over 45 per decade for the previous four decades.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* (182; 1)

Cork One: One, Sherkin Island, 8th September (J.Wyllie).

Since 1960, only the 1970s, with 14, had fewer recorded during the decade than 29 for the current one. In contrast, there were 49 in the 1960s, 43 in the 1980s and 45 in the 1990s. While the reduction in numbers is not as stark as that shown by Icterine Warbler it is apparent that there is a real reduction in numbers.



Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* (0; 1)

Galway One: First-winter, Inishbofin, 14th October (A.McGeehan, C.Nash), photographs *Wings* 56: 22, *Birding World* 22: 420, 421, 422, *British Birds* 102: 712, *Birdwatch* 210: 53 (McGeehan & Nash 2009, McGeehan 2009).

The first record for Ireland and the 30th species of Nearctic passerine in Category A of the Irish list. An occurrence such as this of a first-winter on the west coast in October ticks all the boxes for genuine vagrancy, with further evidence provided by an almost simultaneous arrival of a Blackpoll Warbler in Scotland (Hudson *et al.* 2010). This is only the fifth record for the Western Palearctic, following two in Britain, in June 1985 and in February and March 1996, and two in Iceland, from April to July 1989 and in October 2003. Cedar Waxwing was, at 22nd, not that highly placed in Chandler S. Robbins statistical analysis on potential transatlantic landbird vagrants (Robbins 1980), but nonetheless was calculated to be more likely than Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora pinus*, Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus* and White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*, all of which have already been recorded in Ireland. Thanks to coverage by the first named observer, Inishbofin has made a recent and very spectacular addition to the consciousness of Irish birders with this, the third 'mega' to be found there within just two years following Ireland's first Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* in November 2007 and the fifth White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma* in October 2008.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* (123; 0)

2008 Wicklow One: Adult, Arklow, 13th to 16th July (B.Dillon).

July, now with 34 records, is the peak month for this irruptive species for which the nearest mapped regular breeding area is in the Balkans (Beaman & Madge 1998). This record was published as anonymous in Appendix 4 of the Irish Rare Bird Report 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 105) but further details were received and the record now takes its rightful place on the main list. See appendix 5 for details of corrections to previous reports.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* (36; 2)

Cork Two: One, Three Castles Head, 1st November (D.Ballard); First-winter, Ballycotton, 8th to 23rd November (D.O'Sullivan *et al.*), photographs *Wings* 56: 20, *Birding World* 22: 449, *Birdwatch* 211: 65.

Slightly later than the peak month of October, these are only the second and third records in November, following one in Wexford in 2001 (*Irish Birds* 7: 234). Two in a year is a respectable showing which has only been exceeded twice, with a trio on the same day in spring 1985 and four in autumn 1976.



First-winter Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*
Inishbofin, Co. Galway. 14th October 2009
(Craig Nash, www.peregrinesbirdblog.blogspot.com).



First-winter Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*
Inishbofin, Co. Galway. 14th October 2009
(Craig Nash, www.peregrinesbirdblog.blogspot.com).

First-winter Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 15th November 2009
(Rónán McLaughlin, www.flickr.com/ronanmclaughlin/).



First-winter Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 14th November 2009
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* (0; 1)

Cork One: First-winter, Dursey Island, 10th November (B.Finch, K.Finch *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 211: 53 (Finch 2010).

A long awaited addition to the Irish list and a prize find. Found late in the afternoon, many travelled overnight more in hope than expectation and it would appear that the bird had departed ahead of particularly inclement weather. The bird had previously been ringed but unfortunately it was not trapped and it proved impossible to read, or even partially read, the ring in the field. This species had been on the radar of many rarity hunters following the upsurge in records in Britain from 1993 onwards, where only the years 1996 and 2000 were without any records and a staggering 57 had been found (Slack 2009 and Hudson *et al.* 2010). This total includes an influx of seven between the 12th and 23rd October 2009, preceding the record above by between two and four weeks.

All pictures this page:

First-winter Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*.

Taken by Kieran Finch and Brendan Finch on Dursey Island, Co. Cork, 10th November 2009.



Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* (244; 6)

Cork Four: Adult, Cape Clear Island, 7th to 9th September (G.Lyons *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 55: 28; Two first-winter, Cape Clear Island, 7th October, photographed (P.Phillips, T.Shevlin *et al.*); First-winter, Cape Clear Island, 23rd October, photographed (C.Flynn *et al.*).

Galway One: First-winter, Slyne Head, 4th October, photographed (A.Lees *et al.*).

Wexford One: First-winter, Carne Beach, 25th to 26th October, photographed (T.Shevlin *et al.*).

This series of records is typical for this species with a distinct autumn peak in September and October accounting for 92% of the total. In the 50 years since 1960, this species has only missed three years in these reports – 1982, 1992 and 1998.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (19; 4)

Mayo One: First-winter, Corragun Lough, Killadoon, 13th September, photographed (D.Breen).

Waterford One: First-winter, Dungarvan, 26th to 29th September, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*).

Wexford Two: Female, Nethertown, 8th September, photographed (D.Daly); First-winter, Churchtown, Carne, 9th September, photographed (K.Mullarney).

The best year on record, including the first for Waterford and exceeding the total of three that occurred each year from 2005 to 2007. Nineteen of the total have occurred in September with two in the first half of October and the remaining two in late spring. This is a very similar pattern to Britain where 88% have occurred in autumn, with a September peak but with small numbers in both August and November. The species has now occurred in Ireland every year since 2002 which has coincided with an increase in Britain, almost certainly related to the westward expansion of the breeding range (Slack 2009).

First-winter Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
Carne Beach, Co. Wexford. 25th October 2009
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Female Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Nethertown, Co. Wexford. 8th September 2009
(Dave Daly).

Adult Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 8th September 2009
(Richard H. Coombes).



First-winter Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Churchtown, Carne, Co. Wexford. 9th September 2009
(Killian Mullarney).

First-winter Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 7th October 2009
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



First-winter Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. 26th September 2009
(Mícheál Cowming).



First-winter Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. 28th September 2009
(Tom Tarpey).



First-winter Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Corragaun Lough, Co. Mayo. 13th September 2009
(Dermot Breen).



First-winter Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 14th November 2009
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



First-winter Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 10th November 2009
(Rónán McLaughlin, www.flickr.com/ronanmclaughlin/).



First-winter Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 14th November 2009
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me/>).



First-winter Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 8th November 2009
(Polina Kasapova, www.thingsarelikethis.com).

First-winter Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 8th November 2009
(Mícheál Cowming).



Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (93; 2)

Cork Two: One, Galley Head, 18th October (K.Cronin); One, Cape Clear Island, 26th October (A.G.Kelly).

A typical series of records – Cork, with 61, has more records than any other county and 69 of the national total have occurred in October. Since the 1950s the numbers occurring each decade has shown a steady increase with 29 in the current decade being preceded by 27 in the 1990s and 18 in the 1980s.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (35; 1)

Cork One: First-winter, Ballycotton, 8th to 23rd November (M.Cowming, P.Moore *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 22: 448, *Birdwatch* 211: 65.

In common with many other species, Cork and Wexford account for the bulk of the records, with 33 between the two counties, singles in Kerry, Down and Dublin accounting for the balance.

Scandinavian Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus littoralis (28; 10)

Clare One: One, Clahane, Liscannor, 1st March to 5th May, photographed (J.Copner).

Cork One: One, Ballycotton, 2nd April (P.Moore).

Dublin One: One, Howth Head, 31st March, photographed (B.Quinn).

Kerry Five: One, Black Rock Strand, 23rd to 26th March, photographed (S.Enright); Adult, The Kerries, Tralee, 14th April, photographed (D.O'Connor); Three, Great Skellig, 19th April (D.Cooke).

Waterford Two: Two, Ballinclammer, Clonea Strand, 13th April, photographed (P.M.Walsh).

Despite the fact that, except for a Norwegian ringed adult trapped in October, this species occurs exclusively in spring, this taxon may perhaps be regular in winter in Ireland. However, it is only readily identifiable from late winter or early spring when it starts to acquire the distinctive summer plumage. This influx is the largest on record, doubling the previous high in 1996.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* (101; 5)

Clare One: One, Clahane, Liscannor, 20th February to 1st April, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*), presumed to be the same bird that was recorded in late 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 101); One, Flaggy Shore, New Quay, 11th to 26th November, photographed (D.McNamara); One, Clahane, Liscannor, 11th to 23rd November (D.McNamara), presumed returning.

Cork Two: One, Redbarn Strand, 2nd February (C.Cullen); One, Ballycotton, 10th to 16th November (P.Moore *et al.*).

Dublin Two: One, Knock Lake, 28th December to 9th January 2010, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); One, Corballis, 31st December (P.Kelly).

Wexford Zero: Two, Tacumshin from 16th November 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 101) remained until 18th February.

This was a very quiet year by recent standards. Away from the east coast



First-winter Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*
Clahane, Liscannor, Co. Clare. 2nd October 2009
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com/).

the species remains rare and the occurrences in Clare and Cork are noteworthy. See appendix 5 for details of corrections to the statistics.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* (9; 1)

Clare One: First-winter, Clahane, Liscannor, 1st October to 14th November (D.McNamara *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 22: 403, *British Birds* 102: 711.

Following a gap of 40 years between the second record in 1967 and the third in 2007, this species has now occurred in three consecutive years, with eight birds recorded during that time. This situation is similar to that in Britain where 12 of the 17 records have occurred during the same three years (Hudson *et al.* 2008, Hudson *et al.* 2009, Hudson *et al.* 2010). This is the second for Clare, following one at the same location in October 2007. All but one of the birds from 2007 onwards have stayed for more than a week and, while the 45 day stay is noteworthy, it is significantly less than the stay of almost four months by the bird which over-wintered in Cork in 2007/2008 (*Irish Birds* 8: 602 & 9: 101).

Mealy Redpoll

Carduelis flammea flammea (112; 0)

2008 Mayo Nine: Five, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 3rd to 4th October (D.Suddaby); Two, Erris Head, 3rd to 5th October (D.Suddaby); One, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 12th to 13th October (D.Suddaby); One, Blacksod, 12th October (D.Suddaby).

2006 Mayo Three: Two, Belmullet, 31st January (D.Suddaby); One, Belmullet, 29th to 30th April (D.Suddaby).

2005 Mayo Three: One, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 10th October (D.Suddaby); Two, Belmullet, 21st October (D.Suddaby).

2004 Mayo Two: One, Carn Hill, Mullet Peninsula, 6th October (D.Suddaby); One, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 31st October (D.Suddaby).

2003 Mayo Two: Two, Carn Hill, Mullet Peninsula, 7th October (D.Suddaby).

2002 Mayo Three: Three, Erris Head, 4th October (D.Suddaby).

Greenland Redpoll

Carduelis flammea rostrata (42; 0)

2008 Galway Two: One, Inishbofin, 28th September, photographed (A.McGeehan); One, Inishmore, 6th October, photographed (J.Gilroy *et al.*).

2008 Mayo Four: Two, Erris Head, Mullet Peninsula, 3rd to 7th October, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*); Two, Tarmon, Blacksod, Mullet Peninsula, 4th October (D.Suddaby).

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* (4; 0)

2008 Mayo One: One, of the race *hornemanni*, Tarmon, Blacksod, Mullet Peninsula, 3rd October (D.Suddaby).

All four to date have been found on or near the west coast, one on Dursley Island and two on Tory Island in three consecutive years from 1999. All have been found between 18th September and 4th October. This is the first record to be identified to sub-specific level.

First-year Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 18th October 2009
(David Dillon, www.flickr.com/photos/crotach/).



First-year Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 17th October 2009
(Rónán McLaughlin, www.flickr.com/ronanmclaughlin/).



First-year Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 17th October 2009
(Richard H. Coombes).



First-year Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 16th October 2009
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



First-winter Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*
Marsh Lane, Galley Head, Co. Cork. 14th September 2009
(Mícheál Cowming).



First-winter Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*
Marsh Lane, Galley Head, Co. Cork. 14th September 2009
(Mícheál Cowming).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* (153; 5)

Cork Five: Female or first-year, Garinish, 5th October (A.A.K.Lancaster); First-year, Three Castles Head, 6th October (D.Ballard); First-year, Mizen Head, 14th October (P.Wolstenholme); Two first-year, Cape Clear Island, 22nd October (F.O'Connell).

The long-term increase continues. The first three occurred between 1954 and 1965, with two in Donegal and one in Wexford. There was an increase in records during the 1970s with 10 recorded, including the first for both Down and Cork, the latter county now accounting for almost two-thirds of all records. Clare recorded its first in the 1980s, among a total of 25. The total for the 1990s increased substantially, with 49 recorded including the first records for Dublin, Mayo and Waterford. The five above bring the total for the 2000s to 71, which included the first for Antrim, Galway and Kerry. See appendix 5 for details of corrections to the statistics.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (36; 2)

Clare One: First-year, Kilbaha, Loop Head, 17th October, photographed (N.Lynch, T.Lynch, D.McNamara, J.N.Murphy).

Cork One: First-year, Cape Clear Island, 15th to 19th October (K.Mullarney *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 210: 65.

Since the 1980s this species has occurred at an average of nine per decade with never more than three in a year and this duo continues an unbroken run back to the last blank year of 2002.

Black-headed Bunting

Emberiza melanocephala (9; 1)

Cork One: First-winter, Marsh Lane, Galley Head, 11th to 15th September, photographed (C.Barton *et al.*).

The first September record for this species, for which there is a distinct late spring and summer peak comprising seven males. This is only the third autumn record, following one in November 1958 in Wexford and one in early October 2003 in Donegal, the latter being the only previous record of a first-winter bird. Wilson (2011) outlines the ageing and identification criteria for separating Black-headed Bunting from the very similar Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*. Although worn, the broad pale fringes to the tertials and coverts indicate the Galley Head bird is in first-winter plumage. In that plumage, Red-headed Bunting typically shows a darker mid-brown mantle with heavier streaking both on the mantle and rump. Photographs show that the mantle of the Galley Head bird was sandy-brown and that the very fine streaking was confined to the mantle, typical of Black-headed Bunting. Other features supporting the identification as Black-headed Bunting include the relatively long, elliptical-shaped bill and indistinct eye-ring. While both species can show a relatively long primary projection the spacing of the primary tips is thought to separate the two species consistently (Lidster 2006, Wilson 2011). The excellent series of photographs obtained capture minute details, including a chestnut colour to the lower row of scapulars, a ghost impression of a black mask and chestnut sides to a yellow breast, indicating this is most likely to be a first-winter male. It must be stressed, however, that, as in this case, the separation of this species pair is best achieved using a suite of features to arrive at the correct identification.

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* (7; 1)

Cork One: First-winter, Garinish, 11th to 20th October (A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 56: 22.

1976 Cork Zero: One, Cape Clear Island, 6th to 10th October (*Irish Birds* 1: 95) was still present until 12th October.

This is the fifth for Cork following three on Cape Clear Island and one on Dursey Island. All of the Irish records have been found between the 3rd and 24th October, six in the first ten days of the month, with this being the second latest ever. This is very similar to the situation in Britain where 79% have been found between the 2nd and 27th October (Slack 2009). In autumn plumage this species is very similar to two other Nearctic passerines, Bay-breasted Warbler *Dendroica castanea* and Pine Warbler *Dendroica pinus*, of which only the former has occurred in the Western Palearctic, in Britain in 1995 (Rogers *et al.* 1997). Observers lucky enough to find one of these gems are reminded that the best known field characters of these species, leg and undertail coverts colour and presence or absence of mantle streaking can be difficult to critically evaluate in the field. The identification of these three species is dealt with in depth by Kaufman (1990) and Votier & Bradshaw (1996). The entry for the 1976 individual corrects the

discrepancy between the duration of stay as reported in the 1976 Irish Bird Report (Preston 1977) and the detailed account of the record (Fitzharris 1977).



First-winter Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*
Marsh Lane, Galley Head, Co. Cork. 13th September 2009
(Seamus Enright).



First-winter Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*
Garinish, Co. Cork. 12th October 2009
(Polina Kasapova, www.thingsarelikethis.com).



First-winter Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*
Garinish, Co. Cork. 12th October 2009 (Tom Tarpey).



First-winter Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*
Garinish, Co. Cork. 12th October 2009 (Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me/>).



First-winter Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*
Garinish, Co. Cork. 11th October 2009
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



First-winter Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*
Garinish, Co. Cork. 11th October 2009
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



First-winter Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*
Garinish, Co. Cork. 11th October 2009
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



First-winter Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*
Garinish, Co. Cork. 11th October 2009
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).

Appendix 1: Category D1 records

Species that would otherwise appear in Categories A or B except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

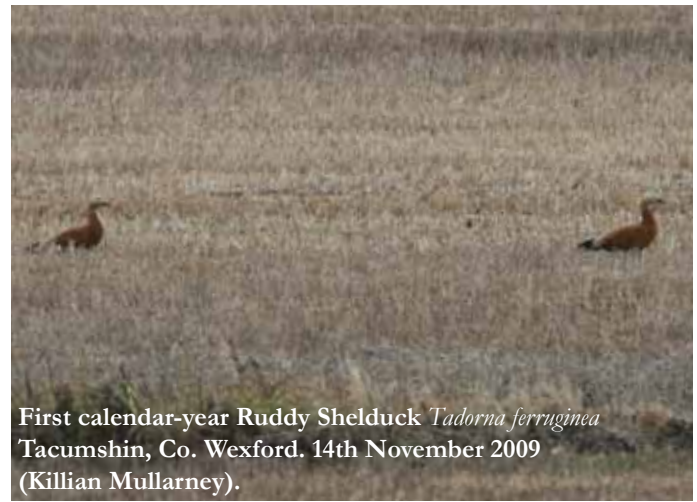
2003 Kerry Twenty-two, adults and juveniles, Blennerville, 23rd August (M.O'Keeffe *et al.*).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Dublin Adult female, Rogerstown, 19th August to 17th October, photographed (B.Keogh).

Sligo Female, Gibraltar Point, Sligo Harbour, 10th December to 15th March 2010, photographed (S.Feeney *et al.*).

Wexford Two first calendar-year, Tacumshin, South Slob and Rosslare Back Strand, 9th November to 5th March 2010, photographed (T.Murray *et al.*).



First calendar-year Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 14th November 2009 (Killian Mullarney).

Appendix 2: Contributors

J.Adamson, D.Allen, P.Archer, S.Arlow, D.Baird, D.Ballard, C.Barton, K.Bennett, G.Bond, R.Bonser, C.Boyd, M.Boyle, D.Breen, D.Brennan, P.Brennan, V.Bretille, J.Brittain, D.Burns, K.Burns, J.J.Cahill, G.Cambell, M.Carmody, W.Carr, B.Carruthers, E.Carty, M.Casey, J.Cassidy, T.Chadwick, D.Charles, D.Clark, G.Clark, L.Clinton, K.Collins, L.Collins, A.Comas, P.Connaughton, S.Connolly, A.Cooke, D.Cooke, P.Cooke, R.H.Coombes, A.Copland, J.Copner, D.Cotton, J.A.Coveney, M.Cowming, M.Cowming Snr., C.Cronin, K.Cronin, S.Cronin, A.Crory, J.Crosher, T.Cuffe, C.Cullen, D.Daly, J.Davis, M.Davis, H.Delaney, E.Dempsey, J.Diggin, D.Dillon, E.Dillon-Hooper, P.Dillon-Hooper, J.Donaldson, J.Doolan, J.F.Dowdall, P.J.Doyle, A.Duggan, J.Dunne, M.English, M.Enright, S.Enright, S.Fagan, K.Fahy, D.Farrar, S.Farrell, W.Farrelly, S.Feeney, P.Feliu, I.Ferris, B.Finch, K.Finch, P.Finn, D.Fitzpatrick, G.Flannery, P.Flint, C.Flynn, E.Flynn, C.Foley, D.Foley, O.Foley, J.Foss, I.Fox, J.Fox, V.Freeman, M.Gade, D.Gault, D.Gaunt, J.Geraty, S.Geraty, T.Gordon, K.Grace, G.Greenham, G.Griffin, T.Griffin, M.Hanafin, M.Hannon, K.Harding, M.Harris, B.Haslam, N.Hatch, J.Hayes, C.D.R.Heard, M.Hirst, M.Hoit, C.Holden, P.Hourihan, B.Howell, M.Hughes, G.Hunt, J.Hunter, H.Hussey, C.Ingram, J.Ivory, V.Ivory, I.Jones, J.Jones, P.Kasapova, D.Kazmierczak, A.A.Kelly, A.G.Kelly, P.Kelly, B.Keogh, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, P.Keogh, T.Kilbane, B.King, F.King, P.King, S.King, J.Lambert, A.A.K.Lancaster, K.Langdon, A.Lauder, A.Lees, T.Lehane, L.Lenehan, N.Linehan, P.Lonergan, L.Long, J.K.Lovatt, T.Lowe, B.Lynch, J.Lynch, N.Lynch, T.Lynch, G.Lyons, F.MacGabhann, M.Maddock, C.Mahon, B.Martin, D.G.McAdams, S.McAvoy, P.McCullough, P.McDermot, A.McGeehan, D.McGrath, R.McLaughlin, A.McMillan, D.McNamara, C.McNamee, O.J.Merne, R.T.Mills, M.Moloney, P.Moore, T.Moore, R.Moores, M.Moors, K.Mullarney, M.Mulvey, R.Mundy, B.Murphy, D.Murphy, J.Murphy, J.N.Murphy, T.Murray, C.Nash, K.Neary, T.Nelson, A.Ni Mhuirheartaigh, M.Nolan, D.Norris, M.O'Briain, C.O'Brien, M.O'Clery, F.O'Connell, D.O'Connor, A.O'Dónaill, E.O'Donnell, M.O'Donnell, R.O'Driscoll, R.O'Driscoll, E.O'Flynn, M.O'Keeffe, S.A.O'Laoire, D.O'Mahony, M.J.O'Mahony, A.O'Mionain, G.O'Neill, C.Osthoff, D.O'Sullivan, M.O'Sullivan, S.O'Sullivan, M.Payne, N.Phealan, P.Philips, P.Philips, B.Porter, R.F.Porter, J.Power, K.Preston, B.Quinn, E.Randall, T.Reid, M.Reilly, M.Reimann, S.Ronayne, L.Ryan, M.Ryan, D.A.Scott, P.Seweryn, N.Sharkey, K.Shaw, J.Sheehan, B.Sheridan, T.Shevlin, M.Shorten, P.Shade, P.Smiddy, P.Smyth, M.Souter, M.Stewart, D.Suddaby, P.Tadeusz, T.Tarpey, C.ten Bohmer, G.Thomas, F.Thompson, P.Troake, D.Turley, R.Vaughan, W.Veale, J.Veldman, G.Walker, A.Walsh, G.Walsh, P.M.Walsh, N.Warnock, S.Webb, R.Whealan, G.Wheeler, H.Williams, C.J.Wilson, J.Wilson, P.Wilson, S.Wing, P.Wolstenholme, J.Wyllie.

BirdWatch Ireland (BWI)

Cape Clear Bird Observatory (CCBO)

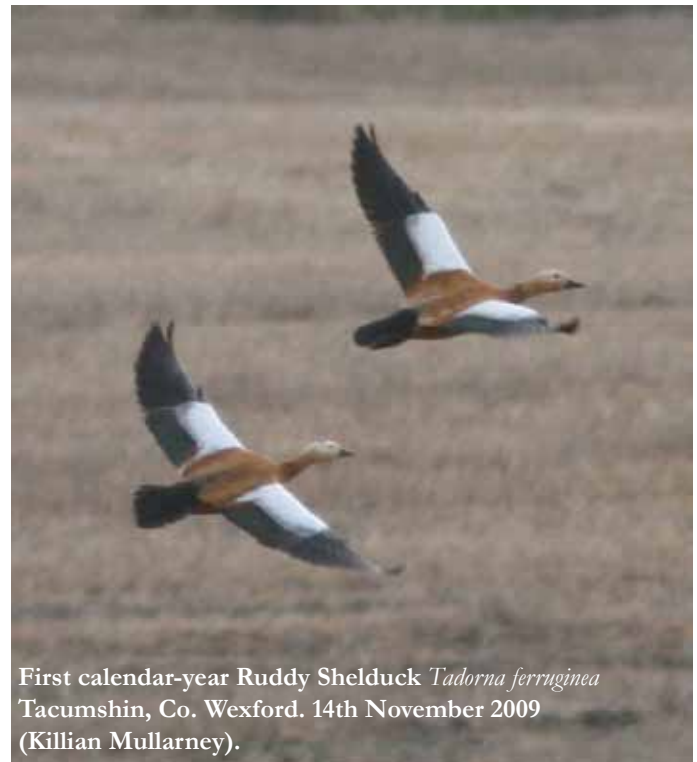
Copeland Bird Observatory (CBO)

irishbirding.com

Irish Rare Breeding Birds Panel (IRBBP)

Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association (NIBA)

Northern Ireland Bird Report (NIBR)



First calendar-year Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 14th November 2009 (Killian Mullarney).

Appendix 3: List of records not proven

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

2009 records not proven

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

One, Naas, Kildare, 18th April.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*

One, Lyrecrompane, Kerry, 19th January.

Supplemental 2008 records not proven

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

One, West Wicklow, Wicklow, 12th January.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

One, Ardmore, Waterford, 16th September.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

One, Mizen Head, Cork, 31st October to 1st 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 2009 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.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

One, Kenmare, Kerry, 28th November.
One, Ballybay Wetland Centre, Monaghan, 19th December.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps griseogenus*

One, Inch Lake, Donegal, 10th December.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

One, Newcastle, Wicklow, 11th May.
One, Sandymount, Dublin, 14th to 19th May.
One, Nurney Bog, Kildare, 7th June.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Two adult, Galley Head, Cork, 6th September.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*

Adult, Gormanstown Beach, Meath, November, date unknown but possibly 1st.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 28th October.

Supplemental anonymous records for 2006

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

'Nest found', Cork, date unknown, 2006 (Brown 2007, Hillis 2007).

Appendix 5: Corrigenda to previous reports

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

The totals in the Forty-fifth Irish Bird Report, 1997 (*Irish Birds* 6: 292), were overstated by one and should have read (47; 1). The following report (*Irish Birds* 6: 385) understated the totals by two and the published figures should be replaced by (48; 4). The understatement by two was perpetuated until the Irish Rare Bird Report 2005 (*Irish Birds* 8: 375), where the statistics were further understated by one and should have read (58; 3). The Irish Rare Bird Report 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 585) reduced the understatement to two and the statistics should have read (64; 3) and this understatement was perpetuated in *Irish Birds* 9: 79. The statistics reported in the current report have been adjusted to correct these errors.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

In the comments in the 2008 Irish Bird Report account for this species (*Irish Birds* 9: 82) replace the phrase 'twenty-one presumed new individuals between 2006 and 2007' with the phrase 'twenty presumed new individuals between 2007 and 2008'.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Since statistical information was first published for this species in the Forty-fifth Irish Bird Report, 1997 (*Irish Birds* 6: 295), the total has been overstated by one. This may be related to the fact that the individual found dead in Magherafelt, Londonderry in mid-September 1979 was erroneously published twice – in the 1980 Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 2: 98) and in the 1982 Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 2: 386). The total since 1950 reported in the current report has been adjusted downwards by one to correct this error.

Crane *Grus grus*

When statistical information was first published for this species in the 2009 Irish Rare Bird Report

Forty-fifth Irish Bird Report, 1997 (*Irish Birds* 6: 295), the total was understated by one and should have read (67; 2). This error was perpetuated until the Irish Rare Bird Report 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 399), where the statistics were further understated by one and should have read (81; 3). The statistics reported in the current report have been adjusted to correct these errors.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

The opening figure in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2005 (*Irish Birds* 8: 379) failed to take into account the 2004 Antrim record listed in that report and the statistics should therefore have read (55; 4). This understatement by one has been perpetuated since then and the statistics are now adjusted to correct this error.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

In the comments in the 2008 Irish Bird Report account for this species (*Irish Birds* 9: 90) replace the phrase 'A very good year, only two short of the record set in 2006' with the phrase 'A very good year, only one short of the record set in 2006'.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

The 2008 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 9: 90) reported a total of 233 individuals recorded until the end of 2008. However, prior to the current report, there had, in fact, been 235 records published (various Irish Bird Reports). The statistics have now been adjusted to correct this understatement.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

The statistics reported in the Forty-fifth Irish Bird Report, 1997 (*Irish Birds* 6: 304) understated by three the starting total for the year and should have read (58; 3). This understatement has been perpetuated since then and the statistics are now adjusted to correct this error.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

The statistics reported in the Forty-fifth Irish Bird Report, 1997 (*Irish Birds* 6: 305) overstated by one the starting total for the year and should have read (41; 2). This overstatement has been perpetuated since then (statistical errors in the 2006 and 2007 Irish Rare Bird Reports (*Irish Birds* 8: 407 & *Irish Birds* 8: 600) cancelling each other out) and the statistics are now adjusted to correct these errors.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Prior to this report, there have only been 148 records published (in Ussher & Warren (1900), Humphreys (1937), Kennedy, Rutledge & Scroope (1954) and the various Irish Bird Reports, annual since 1953). The species totals published in previous reports have consistently overstated the totals by between two and five. Note that the record of a bird on Cape Clear Island in August 1976 (*Irish Birds* 1: 94), originally accepted as *isabellinus* (when this was still considered a subspecies of *L. collurio*) is now regarded as not definitively attributable to either taxon (*Irish Birds* 3: 651) and is thus excluded from the statistics. The statistics are now adjusted to reflect the published record.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

The statistics reported in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 407) understated by one the starting total for the year and should have read (58; 1). This overstatement has been perpetuated since then and the statistics are now adjusted to correct this error.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

The totals reported for this species in *Irish Birds* 7: 104 should have read (21; 0) and in *Irish Birds* 7: 567 should therefore have read (21; 7). Additionally, contrary to the statistics reported in *Irish Birds* 8: 390 the individual in Tyrone in 2002 was the 29th recorded and not the 30th. This overstatement was then perpetuated in subsequent reports. The statistics reported in the current report have been adjusted to correct these errors.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*

In the 1997 Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 6: 309), the totals were adjusted without comment to bring them into line with more accurate figures published in the Checklist of the Birds of Ireland (IRBC 1998). Unfortunately, the statistics in the 1997 report failed to take into account the 1996 record published in that report and the statistics should therefore have read (72; 1) not (71; 1) as published. This error was corrected without comment in the 2003 Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 7: 570) and the published totals have remained correct since then.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

The total for 2007 reported in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 602) should have been 27, not 24 as published, and the statistics in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 101) should therefore have read (89; 12). The totals reported in the current report have been adjusted to reflect this correction.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

The starting total of 137 reported in the 2007 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 8: 608) failed to take into account the 2005 Antrim occurrence reported in the same report. The statistics should therefore have read (138; 8) and consequently the statistics in the 2008 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 9: 101) should have read (146; 7). The totals reported in the current report have been adjusted to reflect this correction.

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