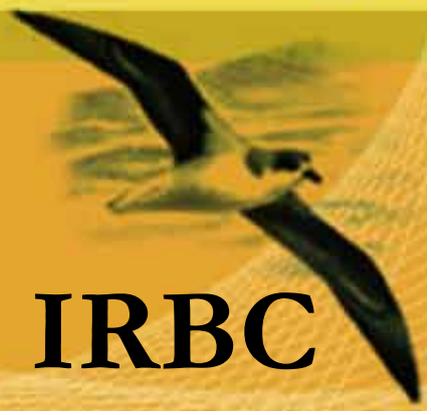


Woodchat Shrike, Churchtown, Co. Wexford. 24th April 2010
John Coveney



Irish Rare Bird Report 2010



IRBC

Introduction

The year will long be remembered for the quality and quantity of autumn migration and it is thus somewhat surprising that all three additions to the Irish list in 2010 were in the first half of the year. First to be added was Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica* (Galway) in late January.

This was quickly followed by Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* (Wexford) in February. The last addition during the year was Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus* (Waterford) in June. Ireland's second Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* (Cork), less than a year after the first, was enjoyed by a select group of observers in October. American Coot *Fulica americana* (Mayo) in November likewise arrived for the second time, although in this case, the gap of 29 years between first and second records was somewhat longer! A Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* (Wexford) in November was only the third occurrence in Ireland. Midsummer saw the arrival of the fourth and fifth Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (Dublin and Kerry). The fifth Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* (Wexford) was seen in May and the fifth Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* (Dublin) and Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* (Clare) were both found in October. Rare subspecies seen included the first Dresser's Eider *Somateria mollissima dresseri* (Donegal) in January and the first and second Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius* (Wexford and Wicklow) in October and November respectively.

Unusually, the first unexpected rarity of the year was White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* in Galway during mid January, a time and location more normally associated with gulls. Rare gulls were in short supply throughout the year, with only one new American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* in Kerry in addition to the regular returning individual in Galway. The only other rare gulls were a single Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni* in Donegal and two Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* in the south-west. Two Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* were excellent late winter finds in February (Limerick) and early March (Clare).

Spring arrived with a bang during three days in late March. A Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedipnemus* for two days in Cork was unexpected but an Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (Wicklow) on the third day was more in keeping with the norm. Later, a record spring influx of Hobby *Falco subbuteo* also contained smaller numbers of Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*. In addition to the Iberian Chiffchaff and Black-eared Wheatear already mentioned, other spring rarities included a Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (Wexford), two Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (Cork) and a record spring arrival of Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*, albeit involving only three birds.

Summer was remarkably quiet, with only Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* (Kerry) to add to the already mentioned Terek Sandpipers. Apart from good numbers of Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* and Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* during the late summer and early autumn, seawatching provided most of the rarities during that time. There were good numbers of Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* and Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* although Fea's / Zino's Petrel *Pterodroma feae / madeira* were at their lowest since 2003.

Nearctic vagrants arrived in good numbers. There were record arrivals of Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*, American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* and Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*. White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* arrived in near-record numbers and the autumn was further enlivened by a wandering Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* and the third Pied-billed Grebe of the year. Nearctic passerines were also well represented, with nine individuals of three species recorded.

Not to be outdone, vagrants from Europe and farther east also arrived in record numbers. Three different influxes during September and October brought record numbers of Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*, Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* and Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*. These arrivals also included record autumn numbers of Hobby, Wryneck and Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* and a welcome return to form for both Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* and Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*. Other notable arrivals included the second White Stork of the year, an Eastern Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus maurus / stejnegeri* and a small group of Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus* accompanying the aforementioned Cetti's Warbler. Two further Short-toed Lark brought the annual total of that species to a record equalling high.

The year ended with a late autumn arrival of Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* and the largest influx of Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* in many years, the latter a consequence of very low temperatures and snow across much of Europe.

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 2010 Provisional List. The IRBC expresses its sincere gratitude to all those who provided information during 2010, either directly or indirectly. Although there are no records from Northern Ireland in this report due to publication deadlines, we thank the members of the Northern Ireland Birdwatchers Association Rarities Committee (NIBARC) 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 2011 (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

Northern Ireland

George Gordon,
2 Brooklyn Avenue,
Bangor,
Co. Down, BT20 5RB.
Website: www.nibirds.blogspot.com/p/whos-who-on-niba.html

2010 Systematic List

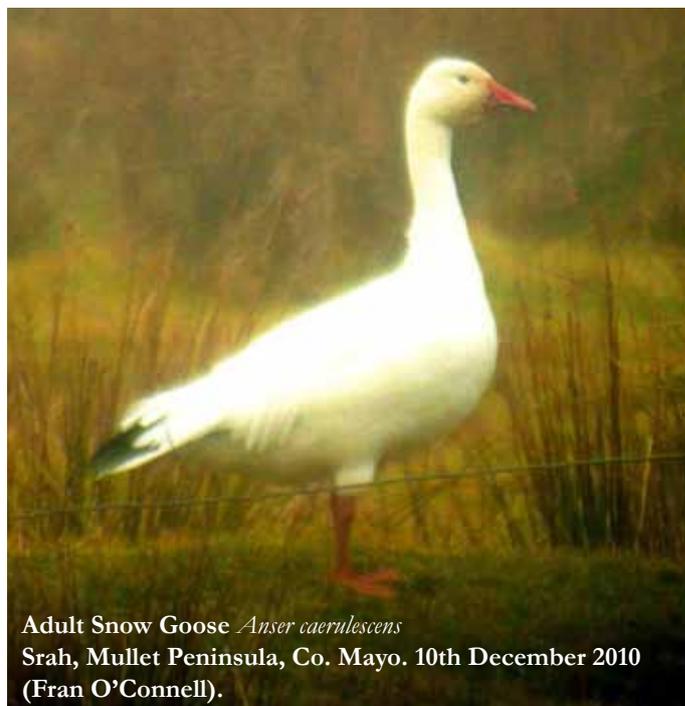
The sequence and scientific nomenclature largely follows The British List (7th Edition) (Dudley *et al.* 2006) including subsequent recommendations of the Taxonomic Advisory Committee of the AERC (Crochet *et al.* 2010) and the Taxonomic Sub-committee of the British Ornithologists Union (Sangster *et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

Srah, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 26th November 2010 (John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (104; 0)

Donegal Zero: Blue phase adult, Big Isle, from 6th December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 253) remained to 15th February, photographs *Birding World* 23: 48, *Birdwatch* 214: 65; Blue phase adult, Blanket Nook, 17th to 26th November (A.Speer), presumed returning.

Mayo Zero: White phase adult, Srah, Mullet Peninsula, 15th November to 26th February 2011, photographed (M.Reilly *et al.*), presumed returning.

The lack of new birds is not unusual. Occurrences tend to be characterised by small numbers of returning birds, many for multiple years. On only three occasions since 1955 have there been three new birds in a year and the average during that time has been of less than one new bird per annum.

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

Cork Zero: Adult, Whitegate, Lough Beg and Great Island, from 6th December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 253) remained to 14th February.

Kerry Zero: Adult, Castlegregory, 6th December (M.O'Clery), presumed returning.

Mayo Zero: Adult, Carricklahan, Mullet Peninsula, from 28th November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 253) remained to 5th April; Adult, Killala, 18th November to 6th December (M.Reilly), presumed returning; Adult, Carricklahan, Mullet Peninsula, 27th November to 10th February 2011, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*), presumed returning.

Sligo Zero: Adult, Drumcliff Bay, 21st October (D.Cotton), presumed returning.

Waterford Zero: Adult, Dungarvan Pitch and Putt Club, from 20th November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 253) remained to 6th March, photographed (F.O'Connell *et al.*); Adult, Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 24th October to 3rd May 2011, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*), presumed returning.

Wexford Zero: Adult, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve and Rosslare Back Strand, from 5th December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 253) remained to 3rd April, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*); Adult, Rosslare Back Strand, 22nd October to 19th March 2011, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*), presumed returning; Adult, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, 5th December to 9th April 2011, photographed (A.Walsh *et al.*), presumed returning.

The Killala bird is presumed to be a returning bird, notwithstanding the fact that there were no sightings there since 2008. Given that the bird is an adult, that the site is relatively under-watched and that the taxon shows high site fidelity, it is felt that a conservative approach is more appropriate.



Adult Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*
with Pale-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla brota*
Great Island, Co. Cork. 26th January 2010
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



Adult Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*
with Pale-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla brota*
Great Island, Co. Cork. 14th February 2010
(Richard T. Mills).

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (123; 3)

Cork Two: Male, The Gearagh, from 26th September 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 254) remained to 10th February; Male, Kilcolman Nature Reserve, 13th November (M.Hirst); Male, Pilmore Strand, 18th December to 13th March 2011, photographed (C.Cullen *et al.*).
Kerry One: Male, Tarbert, 3rd October (G.Hunt).

For the fourth year in succession only three presumed new birds. Since 2000, there has been a distinct reduction in numbers with only two years, 2001 with six and 2002 with five, exceeding three new birds. Since 1982, only 1989 was without a new bird.

Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* (0; 1)

Wexford One: Male, Tacumshin, 19th to 23rd February (S.Farrell, P.Loneragan, K.Mullarney *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 214: 64.

An adult male in Fermanagh in 1967, accepted with reservations (*IBR* 15: 19), was not placed in 'square-brackets' which was the convention at the time for species not forming part of the main list. It was later reassigned to Category D because it was felt that, as an adult male, the likelihood of it being an escape was higher (Brazier *et al.* 1986). In common with many wildfowl species, deciding on the provenance of a particular record is bedevilled by the spectre of escape. For many years, occurrences of this species in Western Europe were assumed to have originated from one of many wildfowl collections across the Continent. However, stable isotope analysis of a bird shot in Denmark in November 2005 (Fox *et al.* 2007), and subsequently of a British specimen obtained in January 1906 (Votier *et al.* 2009) prove beyond reasonable doubt that this species has occurred naturally in Western Europe. The Wexford bird arrived in a hard-weather movement of wildfowl and showed no obvious signs of escape from captivity. All of this evidence is considered enough to give this individual the benefit of the doubt and Baikal Teal once again resides in Category A of the Irish List.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* (146+; 15)

Clare One: Male, Bell Harbour, from 10th November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 254) remained to 26th March; Male, Lough Atedaun, 7th January to 24th February (D.McNamara), presumed returning; Male, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 10th to 16th March, photographed (J.Hayes, J.N.Murphy *et al.*), presumed returning; Male, Tulla, The Burren, 13th to 30th March (D.McNamara); Male, Ballyvelaghan Lough, 17th March to 4th April (H.Hussey, J.Lynch *et al.*), presumed same as Bell Harbour individual, photograph *Birding World* 23: 92; Male, Bell Harbour, 24th October to 23rd February 2011, photographed (T.Lynch, N.Lynch *et al.*), presumed returning; Male, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 18th December, photographed (C.Glasgow, J.Hayes), presumed returning.

Cork Two: Male, Shanagarry, 15th November (G.Walsh); Male, Ballymacoda, 20th to 27th November, photographed (C.Cullen *et al.*).

Donegal Two: Male, Inch Lake, from 3rd November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 254) remained to 21st February; Male, New Lake, Dunfanaghy, 21st February (D.Charles, W.Farrelly, D.Weir); Male, Tory Island, 9th April (J.Devlin); Male, Inch Lake, 13th to 23rd November, photographed (D.Brennan *et al.*), presumed returning.

Dublin Two: Male, Beaverstown, 23rd January (C.Foley, D.Foley, O.Foley, K.Smith); Male, North Bull Island, 13th March (T.Doyle).

Galway One: Male, Rusheenacholla, Carna, 31st December, photographed (D.Breen).

Kerry One: One, Lough Gill, 3rd January (M.O'Clery).

Limerick One: Male, Lough Gur, 27th to 28th February, photographed (S.Cronin *et al.*).

Mayo Two: Male, Carrowmore Lake, from 24th October 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 254) remained to 21st February; Male, Cross Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 12th to 24th March, photographed (M.Reilly *et al.*); Male, Carrowmore Lake, 9th November to 8th April 2011 (M.Reilly *et al.*), presumed returning; Male, Killala, 18th November (M.Reilly).

Tipperary Zero: Male, Ashton's Callow, 25th April to 1st May (N.Warnock *et al.*), presumed returning; Male, Cabragh Wetlands, 24th February (P.Brennan), presumed returning.

Waterford One: Male, Villierstown Quay, 18th January to 13th February, photographed (M.Cowming Snr. *et al.*).

Wexford Two: Adult male, Tacumshin, 3rd January to 28th March, photographed (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*), presumed returning; Presumed same, Tacumshin Lake, 10th to 12th May (B.Walsh); Male, Cahore, 27th February (J.Adamson); Male, Tacumshin, 21st November, photographed (P.Kelly), presumed returning; Male, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, 28th November, photographed (P.Kelly).

The second best year on record, only four birds short of the record 2009

total. It would appear that the old management adage of 'what is measured is managed' also applies to the occurrences of rare and scarce birds. Following its removal from the rarities list numbers remained low for a few years, however the two years since its return have been the best on record!

Male Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* with Wigeon *Anas penelope*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 19th February 2010
(Killian Mullarney).



Male Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*
Rusheenacholla, Carna, Co. Galway. 31st December 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Male Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*
Lough Gur, Co. Limerick. 27th February 2010
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



Male Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* with Lapwing
Vanellus vanellus
Inch lake, Co. Donegal. 23rd November 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Male Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*
Carrowmore Lake, Co. Mayo. 3rd February 2010
(Neal Warnock).



Male Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* with Teal *Anas crecca*
Ballyvelaghan Lough, Co. Clare. 28th March 2010
(Pat Lonergan).

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (17; 0)

Kerry Zero: Male, Ventry, 7th to 16th September, photographed (J.Jones *et al.*), presumed returning.

Mayo Zero: Male, Sruhill Lough, Dooniver, Achill Island, from 13th December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 254) remained to 10th April, photographed; Male, Sruhill Lough, Dooniver, Achill Island, 16th August to 19th March 2011, photographed (M.O'Briain *et al.*), presumed returning.

The male in Kerry, which is only the third for the county, appears for its fourth successive winter. The remaining records for Kerry are of a female in Smerwick in 2002 and a male that frequented Barrow Harbour between 1996 and 2002. The bird in Mayo, the second for the county following a male on Achill and Mullet Peninsula between 2001 and 2006, returns for its third winter. Given the known longevity of vagrants of this species (a female on Tresco, Scilly, was at least seven years old (Rogers *et al.* 1985)), there must be a suspicion that all of the Mayo records refer to one bird and that the records of the male Kerry birds may also refer to a single individual, notwithstanding the gaps in their occurrences.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (75; 19)

Clare One: First calendar-year, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 12th September to 24th November, photographed (O.Foley *et al.*).

Cork Two: Female or first-winter, The Gearagh, 19th September (J.Lynch); One, Courtmacsherry, 26th September (R.Mundy).

Dublin Zero: Female, North Bull Island, from 11th September 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 254) remained to 27th February, photographed; Presumed same, 26th October to 20th February 2011 (T.Griffin *et al.*).

Galway Three: First-winter male, Truska Marsh, Slyne Head, 18th to 21st September, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*); First-winter male and one un-aged, Rahasane Turlough, 22nd September to 3rd October, photographed (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Kerry Two: Up to two, female or first-winter, Smerwick, 21st to 26th September (D.Farrar, N.Warnock).

Limerick One: One, Coonagh, 9th October (T.Tarpey).

Mayo Five: Four first calendar-year and an eclipse male, Keel, Achill Island, 18th to 26th September (D.Charles, W.Farrelly *et al.*).

Tipperary Zero: Male, Cabragh Wetlands, 24th to 25th November, photographed (P.Brennan *et al.*), presumed returning.

Waterford Two: Two female, Ballyshunnock Reservoir and Knockaderry Reservoir, 25th September to 25th October, photographed (M.Cowming, C.Flynn, D.O'Sullivan, G.Walsh *et al.*).

Wexford Three: Female or immature, Tacumshin, 27th March (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly); First calendar-year male, Tacumshin, 12th September to 22nd October, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*); Adult female, Tacumshin, 16th September to 21st October, photographed (P.Kelly, J.Sheehan *et al.*).

This is easily the best year on record, eclipsing by a considerable margin the occurrence of six in 1995. There was clearly a concentrated arrival, with 17 of the total found between 11th and 26th September. The bird in Limerick in early October was presumably also part of the influx. The spectre of escape is always present with vagrant wildfowl but arrival dates of this species seem to point strongly towards a natural arrival from its Nearctic origin. As would be expected, the peak months are September and October, with 55 of the total found during these months, with a further nine found during the first 16 days of November.



Male Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* with Teal *Anas crecca*
Ballyvelaghan Lough, Co. Clare. 27th March 2010
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.com>).



Male American Black Duck *Anas rubripes*
Sruhill Lough, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 10th April 2010
(Michael O'Briain).



Male American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* with
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*
Sruhill Lough, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 8th October 2010
(Michael O'Briain).



Male Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*
Cabragh Wetlands, Co. Tipperary. 25th November 2010
(Kevin Collins).



First-winter male Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*
Truska Marsh, Co. Galway. 20th September 2010
(Dermot Breen).



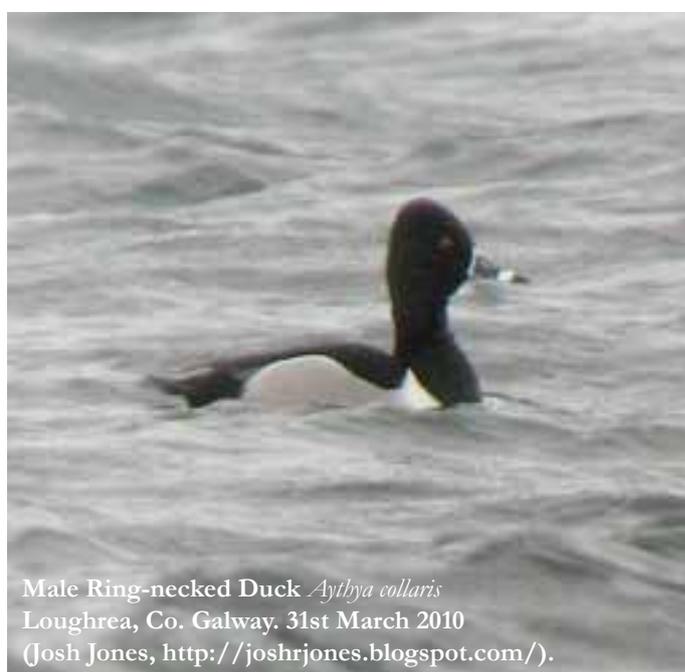
Female Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*
River Lee, Cork City. 25th November 2010
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



Female Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*
River Lee, Cork City. 27th November 2010
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me/>).



Male Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*
Inch Lake, Co. Donegal. 9th May 2010
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).



Male Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*
Loughrea, Co. Galway. 31st March 2010
(Josh Jones, <http://joshjrjones.blogspot.com/>).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (286; 15)

Cavan One: Male, Derrybrick Lake, 19th to 27th March, photographed (J.Donaldson *et al.*).

Clare Three: Male, Roo Lough, Tubber, 11th to 15th February (D.McNamara); Male, Lough Inchiquin, 2nd March, photographed (D.McNamara), presumed returning; Male, Kilkee, 14th to 26th March, photographed (F.MacGabhann, J.N.Murphy *et al.*); Immature, Ardclonny, 23rd October (P.Troake); Male, Ballyallia Lake, Ennis, 5th to 27th December, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*), presumed returning.

Cork Two: Male, The Gearagh, from 4th October 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 255) remained to 7th February; Female, River Lee, Cork City, 24th November to 3rd April 2011, photographed (H.Hussey *et al.*); Male, The Gearagh, 5th to 12th December (A.Duggan), presumed returning; Male, Lough Ine, 24th December (T.Kelly).

Donegal One: Female or immature, New Lake, Dunfanaghy, 2nd January to 21st February (D.Charles, W.Farrelly *et al.*); Male, Inch Lake, 17th January to 15th May, photographed (D.Brennan *et al.*), presumed returning; Male, Inch Lake, 31st December (R.Hunter), presumed returning.

Galway Three: Male, Loughrea, 31st March, photographed (J.Jones); Male, Angliham Marble Quarry, 1st April (J.Jones); Male, Emlaghara Lough, Ballyconneely, 19th September, photographed (M.Harris, M.Harris *et al.*); Male, Loughrea, 14th to 23rd November (D.Breen *et al.*), presumed returning.

Kerry One: Male, Lough Gill, from 30th December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 255) remained to 24th January; Female, Ross Castle, Killarney, 8th December (D.Farrar).

Limerick Zero: Female, Lough Gur, from 17th December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 255) remained to 11th April; Female, Lough Gur, 24th November to 15th December, photographed (G.Walsh *et al.*), presumed returning.

Mayo One: Male, Carrowmore Lake, from 26th August 2009 (*Irish*

Birds 9: 255) remained to 14th May; Male, Achill Island, 25th August to 8th October, photographed (R.Bonser, J.Jones, M.Read *et al.*); Male, Carrowmore Lake, 27th August to 17th May 2011, photographed (M.Reilly *et al.*), presumed returning.

Sligo One: Male, Lough Arrow, 14th January to 28th March (S.Feeney), presumed returning; Male, Lough Bo, 9th March (S.Feeney), presumed returning; Male, Lough Gara, 11th March (D.Cotton, S.Feeney).

Waterford One: Male, Ballyshunnock Reservoir, 14th to 18th March, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*) and, presumed same, Knockaderry Lake, 4th April (P.M.Walsh).

Westmeath One: Male, Lough Ennell, 28th December (O.Foley).

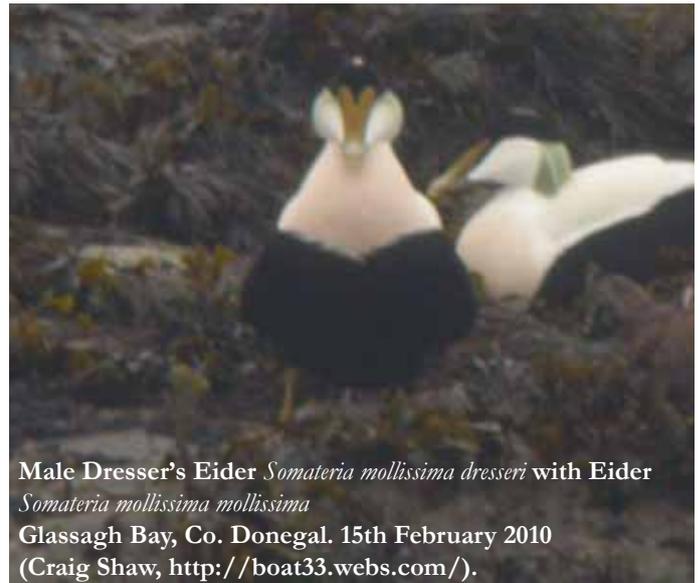
Given the large numbers in recent years, this is an unremarkable showing and is the quietest year since 2004, when there were only seven. The individual in Waterford is only the third for the county and the first male, following females in 1985 and 1989.

Dresser's Eider *Somateria mollissima dresseri* (0; 1)

Donegal One: Male, Glassagh Bay, 2nd January to 21st February (D.Charles, W.Farrelly *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 6, 46, 62-64, *Birdwatch* 214: 65, *British Birds* 103: 257, *Dutch Birding* 32: 13 (Farrelly & Charles 2010).

This is the first occurrence of this taxon in the Western Palearctic and follows a number of records of Northern Eider *S.m.borealis* in Ireland in recent years – clearly, checking flocks of Eider pays dividends! This taxon has variously been called American Eider, Canada Eider, Atlantic Common Eider and Dresser's Eider. The choice of the latter is based on the scientific name. Additionally, given that there are multiple forms present in the Atlantic, it is felt that the use of 'Atlantic' is potentially confusing in a Western Palearctic context. Use of this vernacular name is not suggested to be definitive and may change in line with usage.

Male Dresser's Eider *Somateria mollissima dresseri*
Glassagh Bay, Co. Donegal. 15th February 2010
(Craig Shaw, <http://boat33.webs.com/>).



Male Dresser's Eider *Somateria mollissima dresseri* with Eider
Somateria mollissima mollissima
Glassagh Bay, Co. Donegal. 15th February 2010
(Craig Shaw, <http://boat33.webs.com/>).



Male Dresser's Eider *Somateria mollissima dresseri*
Glassagh Bay, Co. Donegal. 15th February 2010
(Craig Shaw, <http://boat33.webs.com/>).



Male Dresser's Eider *Somateria mollissima dresseri*
Glassagh Bay, Co. Donegal. 15th February 2010
(Craig Shaw, <http://boat33.webs.com/>).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (161; 7)

Cork One: First calendar-year male, Great Island, 5th December to 30th January 2011 (P. Moore *et al.*).

Donegal One: First calendar-year female, Murvagh, 21st November to 6th January 2011 (D.Breen *et al.*).

Galway One: First calendar-year female, Ballyconneely and Roundstone, 24th to 29th November, photographed (D.Breen).

Kerry Four: Female and two immature, Reenroe Beach, Waterville, 8th January (M.O'Clery); Female and first calendar-year male, Waterville, 24th December to 13th March 2011 (M.O'Clery *et al.*), female presumed returning.

A welcome return to form, contrasting with zero new birds found in 2009, although there must be a possibility that the January birds in Kerry may have been present in 2009?

Smew *Mergellus albellus* (Unknown; 7)

Cavan Zero: Female, Derrybrick Lake, from 10th November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 255) remained to 27th March, photographed.

Clare One: Female or immature, Lough Inchiquin, 27th December to 8th January 2011, photographed (D.McNamara, H.Williams *et al.*).

Donegal One: Two male, Inch Lake, 23rd January to 27th March, photographed (D.Charles *et al.*), one presumed same as bird present in late 2009; Male, Inch Lake, 23rd November to 30th March 2011, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*), presumed returning.

Kerry One: Female or immature, Blennerville, 20th December to 7th January 2011, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*).

Mayo One: Female or immature, Roonagh, 14th March to 3rd April, photographed (P.Lonergan).

Tipperary One: Female, Ashton's Callow, 23rd to 25th April (P.Brennan *et al.*).

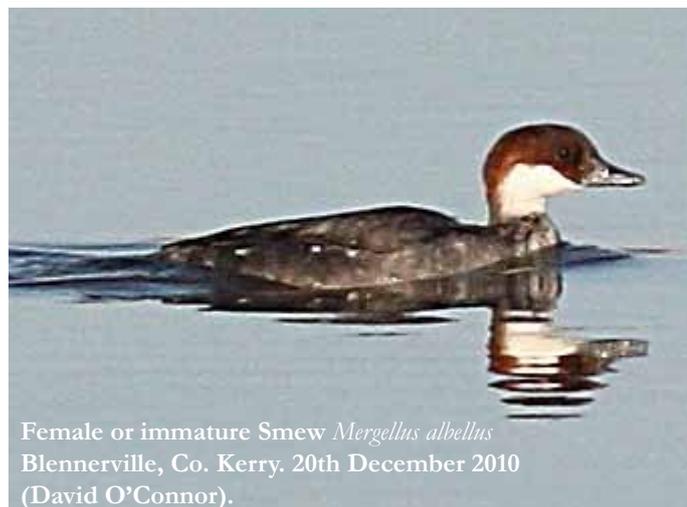
Waterford Zero: Immature male, Tramore Boating Lake, from 14th November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 256) remained to 2nd March.

Westmeath One: Female or immature, Lough Derravaragh, 28th December (O.Foley).

Wexford One: Female or immature, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, 30th December to 7th January 2011 (O.Foley *et al.*).



First calendar-year female Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*
Murvey, Co. Galway. 24th November 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Female or immature Smew *Mergellus albellus*
Blennerville, Co. Kerry. 20th December 2010
(David O'Connor).

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Cork Two: Male, Rossleague, Great Island, 30th December, photographed (M.Carmody *et al.*); Male, The Gearagh, 31st December (J.Lynch).

Dublin One: Adult male, Broadmeadows Estuary, 19th to 29th December (L.Feeney *et al.*).

It would appear that this species has become rarer recently, perhaps coinciding with the ongoing attempted eradication in Britain. It was decided to return this species to the rarity list to encourage observers to record its occurrences.

Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica* (0; 1)

Clare Zero: One, Finvarra Point, 6th to 28th March and 2nd to 23rd May (J.N.Murphy *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 57: 24, *Birdwatch* 215: 52 (Murphy 2010), presumed same as Galway individual (below).

Galway One: One, Oranmore, 30th January, photographed (M.Davis *et al.*), presumed same as Clare individual (above).

Similar to, and indeed long thought to be a subspecies of, Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* this taxon is distinguished from the latter in winter plumage by, amongst other features, the lack of white on the anterior thigh, and the presence of a chinstrap and a vent strap. Structurally there are also some differences with the body proportionally shorter and the bill not as large, although these subtle differences are perhaps best assessed with both species in direct comparison. The first for the Western Palearctic was as recently as 2007 in Britain (Hudson *et al.* 2009), yet it has now been recorded in several European countries. Many of these claims have yet to be formally accepted by the relevant Rarities Committees and are therefore not listed here. That this individual was relocated was warmly welcomed by Irish observers many of whom had travelled to see it in Galway. Despite some suggestions that there were two individuals involved, photographs do not conclusively demonstrate this and the two occurrences, separated as they were by only a short distance, are treated as referring to the same individual.



Adult Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica*
Finvarra Point, Co. Clare. 6th March 2010
(Dermot Breen).

Fea's / Zino's Petrel

Pterodroma feae / madeira (66; 1)

Clare One: One, Bridges of Ross, 24th August (I.Boustead *et al.*).

With only four recorded in the last two years, this represents a marked return to lower numbers. Apart from 2005 to 2008, when there were 33, there have never been more than three in a year. However, the date and location are typical with almost half of the total (33) having occurred within a week either side of 24th August.

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (182; 25)

Clare Four: One, Bridges of Ross, 24th August (T.Tarpey); Two, Bridges of Ross, 11th September (O.Foley); One, Bridges of Ross, 14th September (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Cork Fifteen: Ten, Galley Head, 18th July (C.Barton, C.Cronin, O.Foley, R.McLaughlin); Three, Cape Clear Island, 19th July (S.Wing); Two, Galley Head, 21st August (M.Carmody).

Donegal Three: One, Melmore Head, 28th August (D.Charles, E.Randall); One, Fanad Head, 28th August (W.Farrelly); One, Melmore Head, 29th August (D.Charles, E.Randall).

Galway One: One, Slyne Head, 12th August (J.Brittain).

Kerry Two: Two, off Blasket Islands, 10th August (E.Carty *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 59: 30.

For many years the status of this species in Irish waters was almost mythical. Following a storm in October 1891, two specimen records from Fermanagh and Down gave a hint that the species occurred in the North Atlantic. Further evidence was provided in 1962 when six were recorded 130 kilometres south-west of Cape Clear Island. However, it was not until the advent of regular pelagic trips in the mid 1980s that it became apparent that the species was actually regular offshore in small numbers during August. By 1990, three birds had been observed from land-based sea-watches at Bridges of Ross (Clare) and Ramore Head (Antrim). The focus turned to recording the species from land and by now this former Holy Grail of sea-watchers has proven to be regular in the correct conditions, mostly off the west coast. The total for 2010 was only just over one-third of the 2009 figure, but the second best year on record. The five counties in which there were records in 2010 have hosted all bar eight of the total, with the remainder comprising five in Mayo and singles in Antrim, Fermanagh and Down. The total in Cork is notable, with only 24 previously recorded there.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Donegal One: One, Malin Head, 27th May (O.McLaughlin *et al.*).

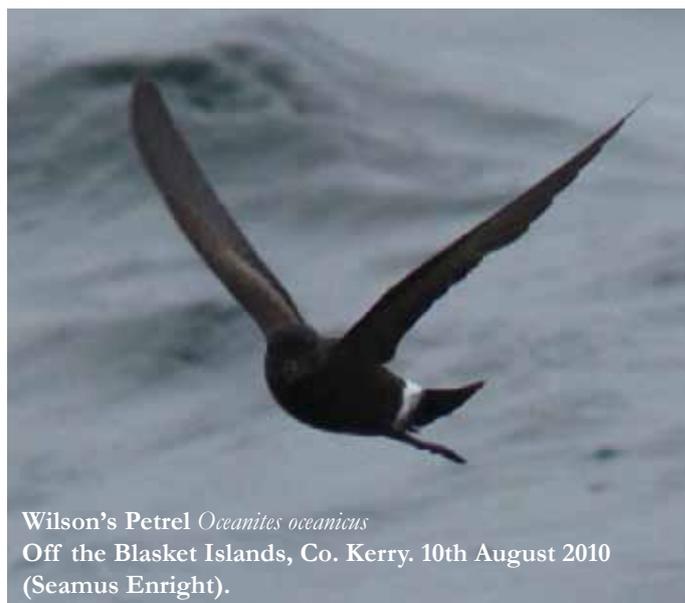
Galway One: One, Muckrush, Lough Corrib, 27th November to 7th January 2011 (A.Ó'Dónaill).

Wexford Four: One, Tacumshin, 4th January (S.Farrell, T.Murray); Two, Tacumshin, 12th to 19th December, with at least one remaining to 7th March 2011, photographed and sound recorded (K.Mullarney *et al.*); One, Ring Marsh, 18th to 19th December, photographed (P.Kelly).

Six in one year is the highest annual total since the late nineteenth century, helped in no small way by the arrival of four during particularly hard winter conditions in Western Europe in late November and December.



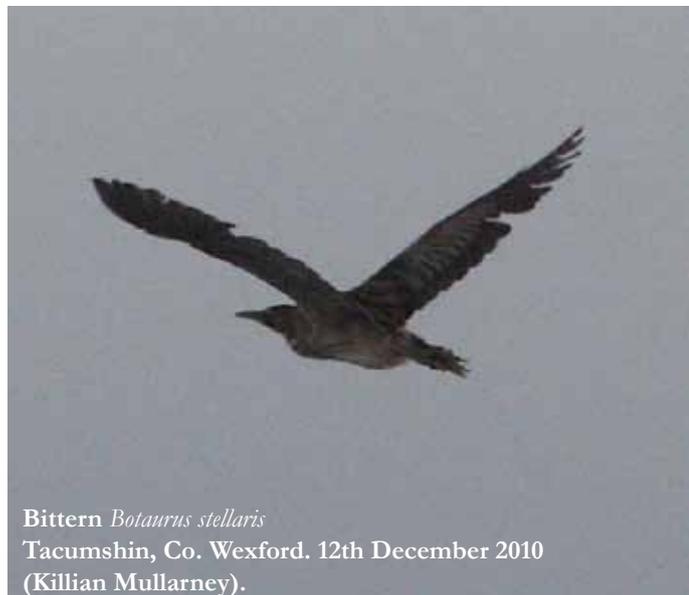
Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*
Off the Blasket Islands, Co. Kerry. 10th August 2010
(Seamus Enright).



Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*
Off the Blasket Islands, Co. Kerry. 10th August 2010
(Seamus Enright).



Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*
Off the Blasket Islands, Co. Kerry. 10th August 2010
(Neal Warnock).



Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 12th December 2010
(Killian Mullarney).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (222; 0)

Cork Zero: Up to three, Great Island, from 20th December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 258) remained to 20th March.

This is the first blank year since 2006 and this trio appear to represent the last stragglers of the remarkable influxes between 2007 and 2009. Will the species now return to being an occasional vagrant?

Great White Egret *Ardea alba* (38; 5)

Cork One: One, Great Island, 7th March to 10th August (S.Ronayne, T.Ronayne), presumed to refer to the bird first seen at Fota in July 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 87); One, Castlefreke, 9th November (C.Cronin).

Wexford Two: One, Tacumshin, 3rd January (J.E.Fitzharris); One, Tacumshin Lake, 30th May (R.McLaughlin *et al.*); One, Lady's Island Lake, 13th June (M.Cobley); Adult, Ring Marsh, 11th August (V.Caschera, P.Kelly *et al.*); One, Lady's Island Lake, intermittently from 12th to 31st August (V.Caschera, P.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 23: 326, all sightings from 30th May presumed to relate to the same individual.

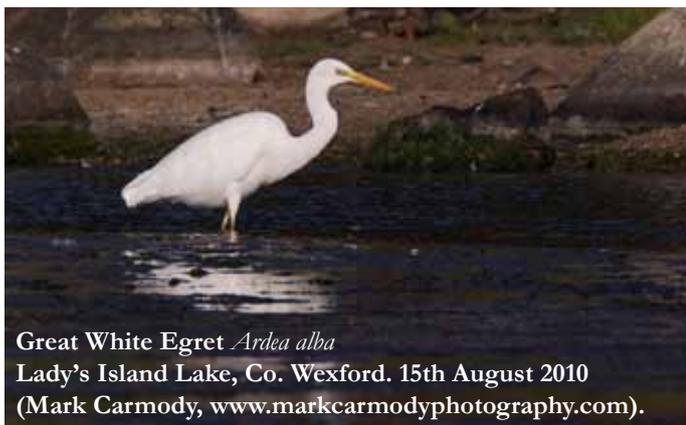
Wicklow Two: Adult, Broad Lough, 17th to 18th August, photographed (F.Drew *et al.*); One, Bray Head, 31st October (A.McMillan).



Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Great Island, Co. Cork. 20th March 2010
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Great Island, Co. Cork. 20th March 2010
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



Great White Egret *Ardea alba*
Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford. 15th August 2010
(Mark Carmody, www.markcarmodyphotography.com).

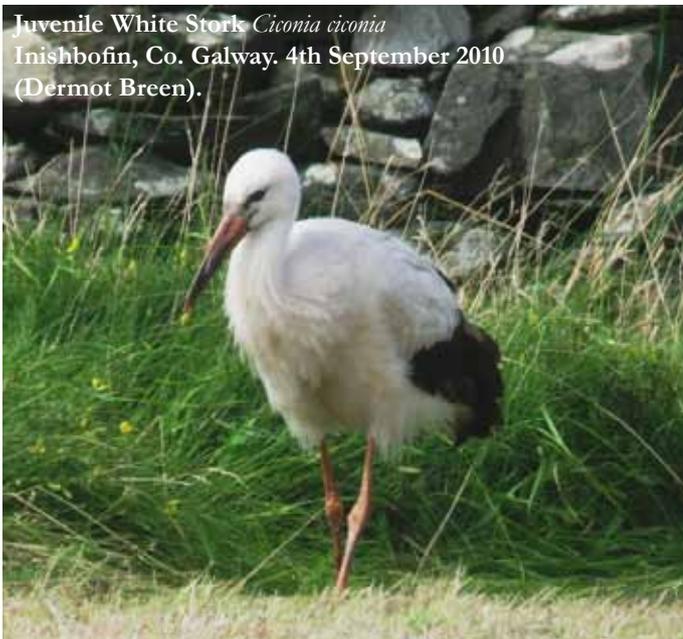


Great White Egret *Ardea alba*
Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford. 29th August 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).

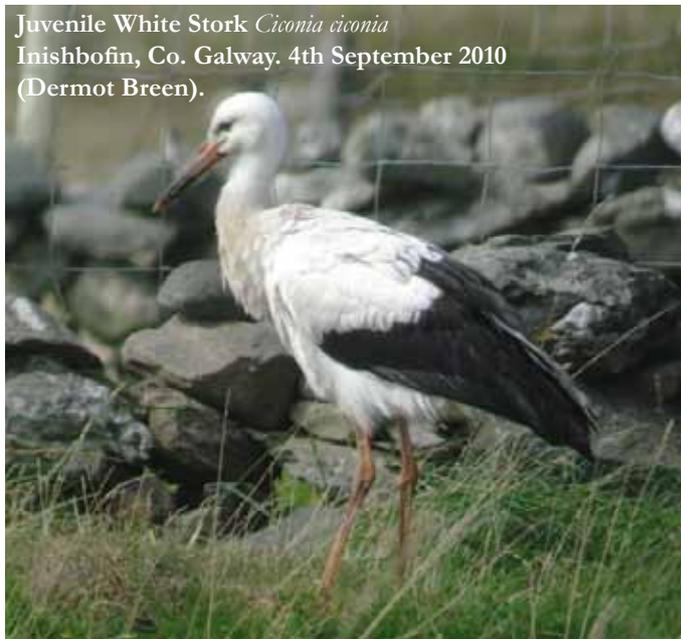


Great White Egret *Ardea alba*
Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford. 29th August 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).

Juvenile White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*
Inishbofin, Co. Galway. 4th September 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Juvenile White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*
Inishbofin, Co. Galway. 4th September 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Second calendar-year Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 3rd March 2010 (Neal Warnock).



Second calendar-year Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 3rd March 2010 (Neal Warnock).



Second calendar-year Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 14th February 2010 (Dáve Daly).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* (32; 2)

Galway Two: One, Oranmore, 19th January (M.O'Malley); Juvenile, Inishbofin, 3rd to 6th September, photographed (A.McGeehan *et al.*).

These are the first since 2006 and the fourth and fifth for Galway. There have now been 28 in 37 years since 1974 but they have only occurred during 14 of those years. This species has a tendency to arrive in mini-influxes, with a maximum of five in a year, in 2002. The vast majority, 26, have been found between spring and mid-summer, with a further three found in August. The September record is the first of a juvenile and, surprisingly, the first for that month. While three have been found in November, there are no records for October, although one was recorded in Wexford in 'autumn of 1876' (Ussher & Warren 1900).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (164; 17)

Clare Three: Up to two juvenile, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 27th August to 6th September, photographed (B.Finnegan, J.N.Murphy *et al.*); One, Lough Atedaun, 3rd to 5th September, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*).

Dublin Ten: Up to ten, adult and juvenile, some ringed (including U6U), Portmarnock, 23rd to 29th August (C.McConnell *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 59: 28; One, Rogerstown Estuary, 3rd to 5th September (A.Brown), presumed one of Portmarnock birds.

Kerry One: One, Castleisland, 26th May (J.Adamson).

Kildare One: Adult, Pollardstown Fen, 30th August to 9th September (M.Nolan).

Wexford Two: Juvenile, Tacumshin and Ring Marsh, from 5th September 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 258), now as a second calendar-year, remained to 23rd November; Two juvenile, Tacumshin, Lady's Island and Ring Marsh, 12th September to 1st November, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*), joined by the long-staying bird above at Ring Marsh, 23rd September to 3rd October (D.Daly), with one of this duo remaining until 1st November (N.T.Keogh).

The third good year in succession, following totals of 11 and 31 in 2008 and 2009 respectively. Prior to this year, there had only been four in Dublin, the most recent being in 1944 and there had never been one in Kildare. For the second year in succession the influx contained ringed birds and one of the Dublin birds is known to have originated in Coto Doñana, Spain.



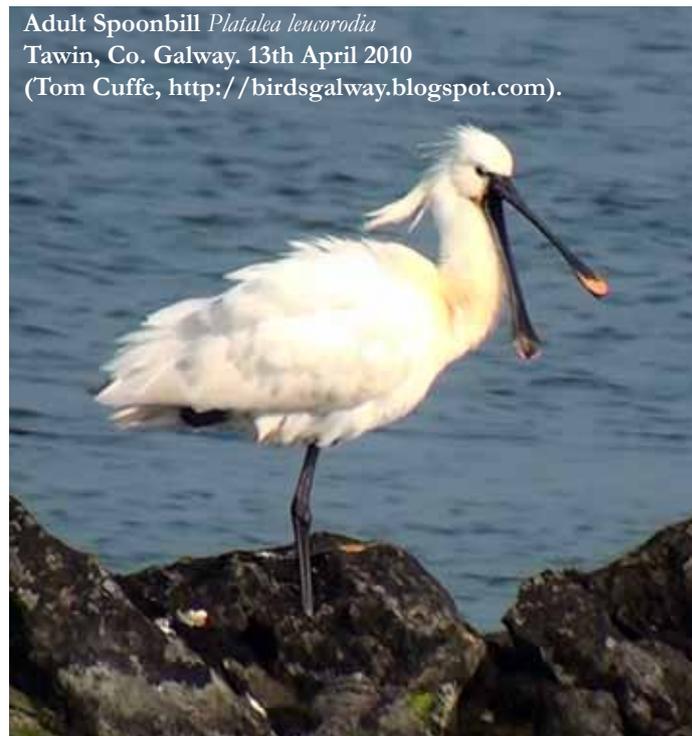
Juvenile Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Portmarnock, Co. Dublin. 26th August 2010 (David Dillon, www.flickr.com/photos/crotach/).



Second calendar-year Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork. 2nd January 2010
(Richard T. Mills).



Second calendar-year Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Clonakilty, Co. Cork. 28th February 2010
(Richard T. Mills).



Adult Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Tawin, Co. Galway. 13th April 2010
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.com>).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (212; 15)

Clare Zero: Adult, Rineanna Point and Shannon Airport Lagoon, intermittently, 3rd July to 6th September, photographed (J.Copner *et al.*), presumed to relate to the long staying Kerry bird.

Cork Zero: Five first calendar-year, between Kinsale Marsh and Courtmacsherry, from 10th October 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 258) remained, as second calendar-year, to 27th June; First calendar-year, Baltimore, from 28th November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 258) remained, as second calendar-year, to 10th August and was joined by another second calendar-year, 10th April to 10th August (J.Wyllie *et al.*), presumed to be one of the same group of five; One, Courtmacsherry, 3rd December to 31st March 2011 (R.Mundy *et al.*), presumed returning.

Galway One: Adult, Tawin, 12th to 20th April, photographed (M.Kerrane *et al.*).

Kerry Zero: Adult, Cromane, from 21st November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 258) remained to 26th February, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*); Adult, Bunaclugga Bay, 2nd August (G.Hunt, R.Lathwell); One, Blennerville, 2nd September (J.Hanlon); Adult, Cromane, 10th October to 30th December (M.O'Clery). All sightings in Kerry and Clare presumed to relate to the same bird.

Waterford Six: Two second calendar-year, Killongford, Dungarvan and Western Bay, 18th July to 8th September, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*); Up to four second calendar-year, Killongford, Dungarvan, 16th October to 24th November, photographed (M.Cowming, P.Kelly *et al.*), all presumed different.

Westmeath One: Adult, Lough Derravaragh, 26th June (S.Ledwith *et al.*).

Wexford Seven: Third calendar-year, Tacumshin, 11th to 13th July, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly); Four, Tacumshin, 27th September (C.Cronin, P.Kelly *et al.*); Four, presumed same, Bannow Bay, 3rd to 5th October, photographed (L.Ryan); Two, Rosslare Back Strand, 4th to 5th September (M.Berney *et al.*); Two, presumed same, The Cull, 6th September (M.Maddock).

Given the assumptions outlined above, this is the second best year on record and only one fewer than the record, set in 2005. The bird in Westmeath is the first for the county.



First calendar-year Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*
Little Island, Co. Cork. 27th December 2010 (Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (7; 3)

Clare One: Adult, Corofin, 5th March to 3rd April (D.McNamara *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 91, *Birdwatch* 215: 52 (Murphy 2010).

Cork One: First calendar-year, Little Island, 11th December to 3rd February 2011 (O.Foley *et al.*), also seen from Rossleague, Great Island, photograph *Birding World* 23: 499.

Limerick One: Adult, Lough Gur, 19th February to 31st March (D.Farrar *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 91, *Birdwatch* 214: 52, *Wings* 57: 25 (Farrar 2010).

Three in one year is a record for this Nearctic wanderer. The records above represent the first for Limerick, the second for Clare and the third for Cork. The remainder have been in Wexford (3) and Donegal. Although they are more likely to be found in winter, they have been found in every month from October to May inclusive. Taking into account long-staying and returning birds, they have been seen in every month of the year. With excellent close-up photographs available, it is possible to age the Cork individual based on the dark lower part of the eye-ring.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* (174+; 7)

Clare Zero: One, Aughinish Island, 11th February to 2nd March (D.McNamara), presumed returning and same as Galway individual.

Cork One: One, Ballintubbrid, 4th December (O.Foley).

Dublin Zero: One, Dun Laoghaire, from 23rd November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 260) remained to 24th March; One, Dun Laoghaire, 28th December to 21st February 2011 (N.Keogh, A.O'Rourke *et al.*), presumed returning.

Galway Zero: One, Doorus Pier, 22nd January to 20th April, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*), presumed returning and same as Clare individual.

Kerry One: One, Castlegregory, from 15th November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 260) remained to 20th February (M.O'Clery) and was joined by a second, 23rd to 24th January (M.Hanafin *et al.*); One, Castlegregory, 6th December to 30th January 2011 (M.O'Clery *et al.*), presumed returning.

Louth One: Adult, Dunany Point, 20th to 21st March (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Mayo One: Adult, Trawmore Bay, Mullet Peninsula, 6th September to 16th February 2011 (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

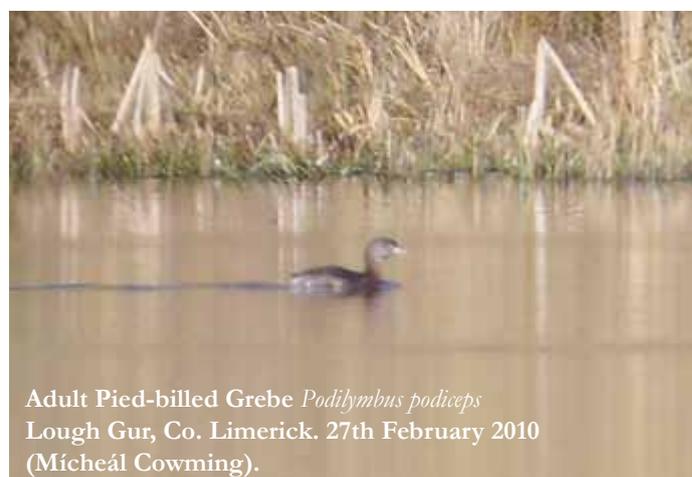
Wexford Two: One, Lady's Island Lake, 19th February (P.Lonergan, K.Mullarney); One, Wexford Harbour, 28th February to 21st March (N.Keogh *et al.*), considered different to the bird that frequented Rosslare Back Strand in December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 260).

Wicklow One: One, Bray, 1st March (S.McAvoy).

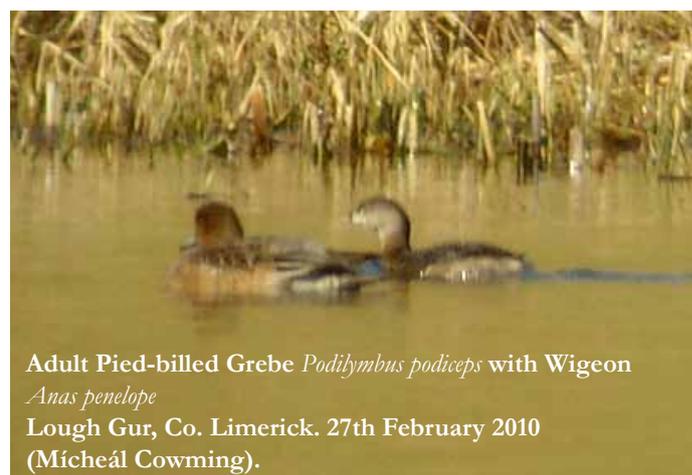
Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Cork Five: Two, Bantry, 17th January (K.Preston); Up to two, Aghada, 27th January to 6th February (R.Mundy *et al.*); One, Aghada, 5th December to 30th January 2011, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*).

Donegal One: One, New Lake, Dunfanaghy, 22nd November (D.Breen).



Adult Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*
Lough Gur, Co. Limerick. 27th February 2010
(Mícheál Cowming).



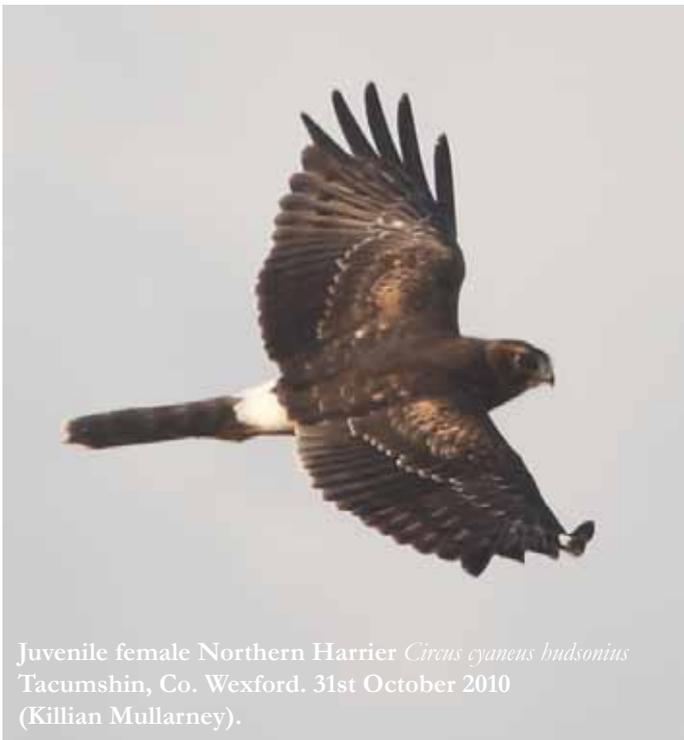
Adult Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* with Wigeon
Anas penelope
Lough Gur, Co. Limerick. 27th February 2010
(Mícheál Cowming).

Dublin One: One, Portmarnock, 19th October, photographed (J.Fox); Presumed same, Portmarnock, 7th November (A.G.Kelly).

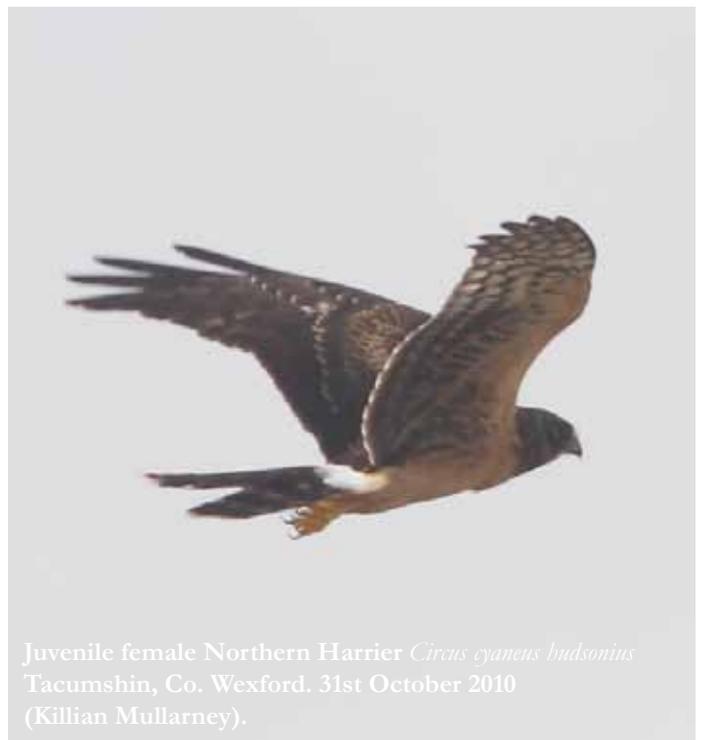
Waterford Three: One of the two, Dungarvan, from 31st October 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 260) remained to 24th January; Up to three, Ballinacourty Pier, Dungarvan, 11th December to 19th February 2011, photographed (M.Cowming, M.Cowming Snr. *et al.*).

Wexford Eleven: Two, Wexford Harbour, 7th February (M.Flanagan, G.Hunt, M.Hunt *et al.*); Five, Wexford Harbour, 21st to 25th November (J.F.Dowdall, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); One, Rosslare Harbour, 27th November, photographed (P.Kelly); Three, Curracloe, 11th December (P.Kelly).

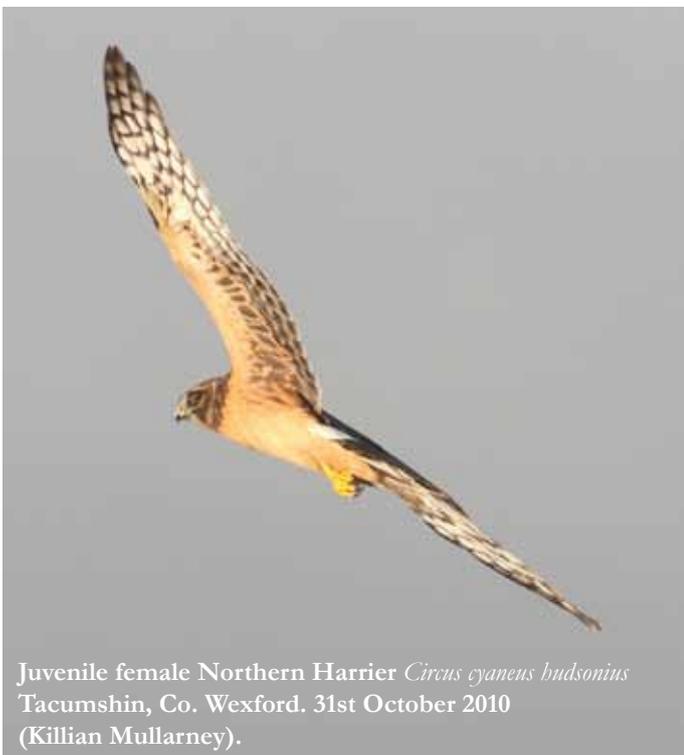
Almost all of the locations above have a long history of hosting this species and Wexford Harbour, in particular, is a regular haunt.



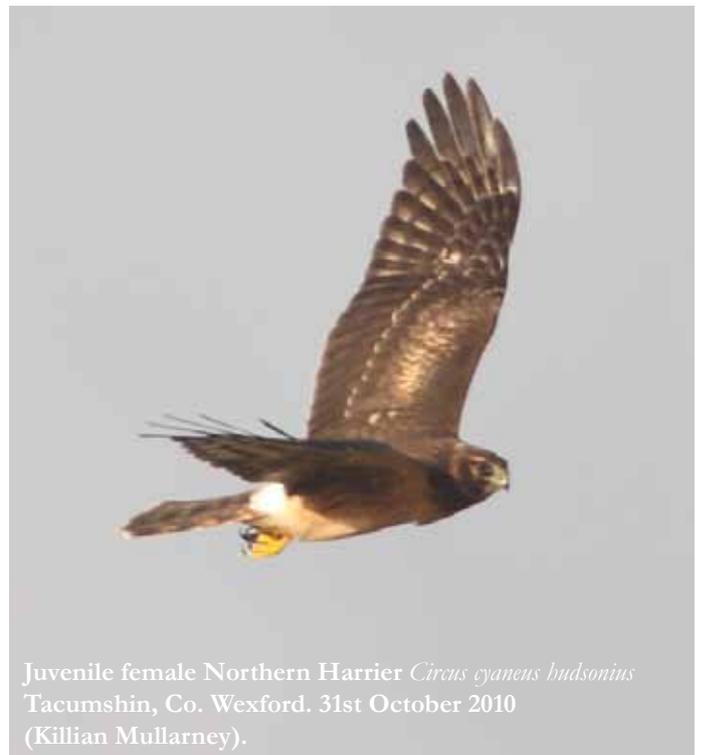
Juvenile female Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 31st October 2010
(Killian Mullarney).



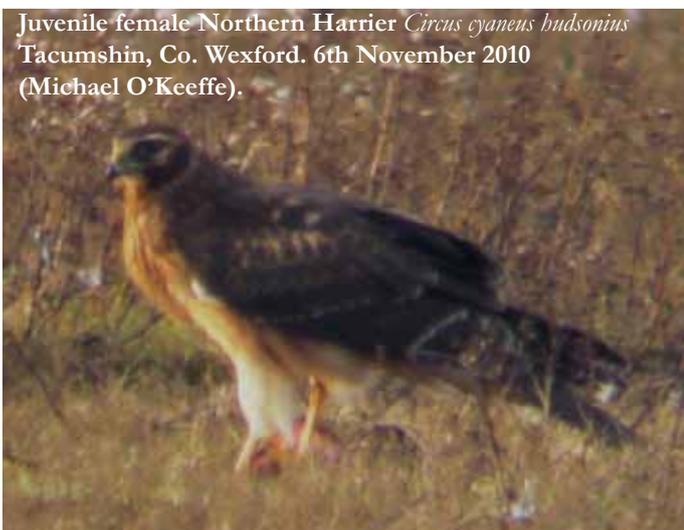
Juvenile female Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 31st October 2010
(Killian Mullarney).



Juvenile female Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 31st October 2010
(Killian Mullarney).



Juvenile female Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 31st October 2010
(Killian Mullarney).



Juvenile female Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 6th November 2010
(Michael O'Keeffe).



Juvenile female Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 6th November 2010
(Michael O'Keeffe).

Third calendar-year female Montagu's Harrier
Circus pygargus
Dublin Airport. 2nd June 2010 (Michael Ward).



Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius* (0; 2)

Wexford One: Juvenile female, Tacumshin, 28th October to 24th May 2011 (T.Kilbane, K.Mullarney *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 413, 510, 517, *Birdwatch* 222: 59, *British Birds* 103: 748 & 104: 112, *Dutch Birding* 32: 405, *Wings* 60: 26.

Wicklow One: Juvenile male, Kilcoole, 13th November to 27th March 2011 (S.Lawlor *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 23: 517.

Prior to the occurrences above, the Nearctic race of Hen Harrier, colloquially known as 'Marsh Hawk', had only once been recorded in the Western Palearctic, on Saint Mary's, Scilly from October 1982 to June 1983 (Martin 2008). The identification of juveniles of this taxon compared with those of the nominate subspecies is relatively straightforward given good views although some individuals of *C.c.cyaneus* can show bright rufous-buff underparts and may well appear unstreaked. The full complexity of the identification of this taxon, as well as an account of the circumstances surrounding both of these individuals, is to be found in Mullarney & Forsman (2010). Eye colour distinguishes between the sexes and the dark eye of the Wexford bird indicated that it was a female. Although more difficult to distinguish from photographs, the eye of the Wicklow bird was pale and therefore this bird was a male.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Dublin One: Third calendar-year female, Dublin Airport, 2nd June, photographed (M.Ward *et al.*), also seen in Offaly and Wexford.

Offaly One: Third calendar-year female, Lough Boora Parklands 30th June to 12th July (E.Dempsey), also seen in Dublin and Wexford; Juvenile, Lough Boora Parklands, 1st to 6th October (J.Hayes, J.N.Murphy).

Wexford Zero: Third calendar-year female, Tacumshin, 26th July to 15th August (N.Keogh), also seen in Dublin and Offaly.

Tracking the wandering female around the country was made easier as the bird had been wing-tagged. Her visit to Lough Boora added the species to the Offaly list and, although the fifth record for Dublin, she was the first recorded there since 1947. She had been ringed in Maine-et-Loire, France on 4th July 2008 and before arriving in Ireland had been seen in Senegal on 26th January 2009.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (24; 4)

Kildare One: First-summer female, Timahoe West, 26th to 31st May (J.Fox *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 181, *Wings* 58: 24.

Wexford Three: Two first-summer male and one first-summer female, Tacumshin Lake, 27th May to 1st June (K.Mullarney, T.Murray *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 58: 24.

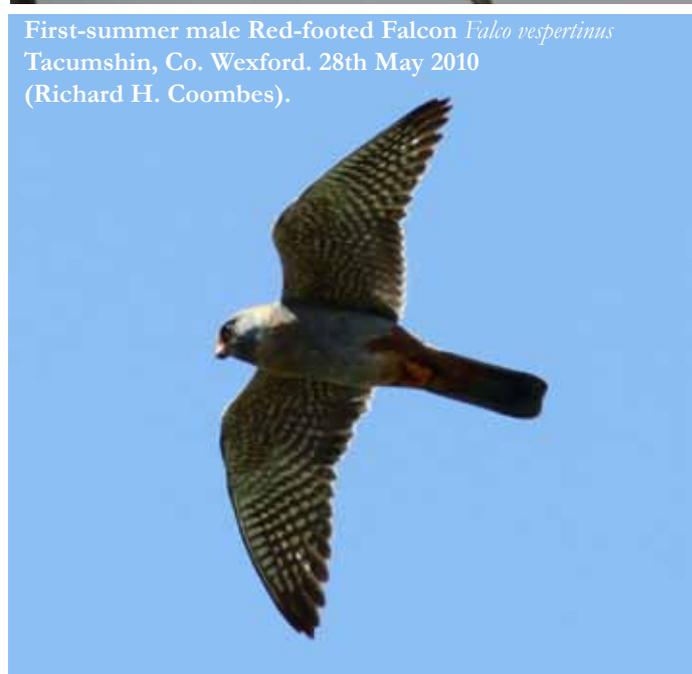
Four in a year is a good total although the record is seven, in 1994. Clearly this species is prone to travelling in small flocks, as the group in Wexford is not the first occasion on which this has occurred - a group of five was found in Galway in 1992. Presumably, the 2010 influx was associated with the simultaneous record spring numbers of Hobby *Falco subbuteo*. In what must be a unique occurrence in Ireland, both species occurred together at Tacumshin, causing some initial confusion as to the exact numbers of both species!



First-summer female Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*
Timahoe West, Co. Kildare. 27th May 2010
(Pat Lonergan).



First-summer female Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*
Timahoe West, Co. Kildare. 27th May 2010
(Victor Caschera).



First-summer male Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 28th May 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (195; 47)

Clare One: One, Loop Head, 10th October (C.Glasgow, J.Hayes).

Cork Twenty: Three, Glounthane, near Millstreet, 19th April (T.Gittings); Adult, Oldcourt, 28th May (J.Wyllie); One, Bandon River between Inishannon and Bandon, 1st June (P.Connaughton); First-summer, Ballyvergan, 1st June (H.Hussey, P.Moore, G.Walsh); One, Middleton, 3rd June (P.Moore); One, Kilkerran Lake and Marsh Lane, 27th to 29th August (P.Connaughton); One, Ballycotton, 1st September (G.Walsh); One, Kilbrittain Creek, 13th September (P.Wolstenholme); Two, Mizen Head, 15th September (D.Ballard); Juvenile, Cape Clear Island, 9th to 16th October (P.Moore, P.Phillips *et al.*); One, Firkeel, 14th October (K.Grace); Juvenile, Old Head of Kinsale, 14th October (K.Preston); Juvenile, Power Head, 15th to 16th October (B.Lynch *et al.*); Juvenile, Lissagriffin, 16th October (J.Sherwin); Juvenile, Galley Head, 17th October (M.O'Sullivan *et al.*); Juvenile, Sherkin Island, 27th October (J.Wyllie); Juvenile, Mizen Head, 27th October (O.Foley).

Galway Two: One, Angliham, Lough Corrib, 18th July (T.Griffin); One, Inishmore Island, 11th October (A.Ó'Dónaill).

Meath One: One, Rosnaree, Slane, 2nd June (L.Lenehan).

Waterford Four: Up to three adult, Ballyscanlon Lake, 30th May to 5th June, photographed (M.Cowming, C.Flynn *et al.*); One, Bunmahon, 2nd October (D.Weldon).

Wexford Fifteen: One, Tacumshin Lake, 17th April (K.Grace); First-summer, Tacumshin Lake and Ring Marsh, 8th to 9th May, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*); One, Carnsore Point, 8th May (J.N.Murphy); One, Great Saltee Island, 22nd May (A.Walsh); Up to five, one adult and four first-summer, Tacumshin Lake, 23rd May to 1st June, photographed (P.Kelly, T.Murray *et al.*); Two, South Slob, 29th May (K.Mullarney *et al.*), one still present 6th June (K.Grace); One, Cahore, 18th June (B.Haslam); First-summer, Tacumshin Lake, 27th June (P.Kelly); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 27th September (C.Cronin); Juvenile, Hook Head, 23rd October (M.Boyle).

Wicklow Four: Adult and first-summer, Five Mile Point, 1st to 29th May (M.Boyle *et al.*); One, Redcross, 2nd May (T.Griffin); One, Newcastle, 25th July (M.Bowtell).

This is the best year on record, exceeding, by a large margin, the previous high of 26 in 2008 and including the first record for Meath. The annual total is made up of a record spring arrival of 27 and a record autumn arrival of 18, with two late July records completing the total. The two influxes were very different in character. The spring arrival was concentrated mainly in the east of the country, with only seven in the west and 20 in the east (including the Waterford records, which were in the east of that county). The concurrent arrival of small numbers of Red-footed Falcon perhaps hints at an eastern origin for the spring influx. The autumn arrival, by contrast, almost bypassed the east entirely with only three individuals there, while the remaining 15 were in Cork or on the west coast. The monthly proportions of the spring arrival are remarkably similar to the long term proportions with 37% in May and 13% in June. However, the autumn arrival was later than normal with 11% in September and 26% in October in contrast to the long term proportions of 12% and 11% respectively.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (124; 0)

Sligo Zero: Adult, Raghly, Yellow Strand and Lissadell, intermittently from 5th December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 261) remained to 17th January, on which date it was seen at Knocklane, Ballyconnell (D.Cotton, J.Dunleavy).



First-summer Hobby *Falco subbuteo*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 28th May 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).



First-summer Hobby *Falco subbuteo*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 25th May 2010
(Killian Mullarney).



Adult Hobby *Falco subbuteo*
Ballyscanlon Lake, Co. Waterford. 1st June 2010
(Paul Archer).



Crane *Grus grus*
 Kilcolman, Co. Cork. 21st February 2010
 (Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me/>).

American Coot *Fulica americana* (1; 1)

Mayo One: First calendar-year, Termoncarragh Lake, 15th November to 9th April 2011 (D.Suddaby *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 459, *Birdwatch* 223: 54, *British Birds* 104: 55, *Dutch Birding* 32: 137 (Suddaby 2011).

The second for Ireland following one in Cork in 1981. This was certainly one of the rarest birds to grace the late autumn period and, with two Northern Harrier, was part of a remarkable trio of Nearctic rarities in Ireland throughout most of winter 2010/2011. Although it could be elusive at times, this bird eventually showed well to all those who travelled to see it. The concept of a migratory coot might seem unusual to Irish observers used to the relatively sedentary habits of our native Coot *F. atra* but even that species is migratory in parts of its range and American Coot is mainly migratory, especially east of the Rocky Mountains.

Crane *Grus grus* (93; 2)

Clare One: One, Ennis, 24th May (S.Nugent *et al.*); Presumed same, Hogan's Cross, between Doora and Gurteen, 31st May (F.MacGabhann).

Cork Zero: One, Kilcolman, from 21st December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 261) remained to 10th March.

Offaly One: Adult, Ballycon Bog, 12th to 13th February, photographed (A.Copland *et al.*).

Wicklow Zero: One, Newcastle, 22nd February (S.Fagan *et al.*), presumed to be the same bird as at the same location in October 2009.

If ever this species were to return to Ireland as a breeding species, the bogs of Offaly would seem to provide an ideal habitat. With the species returning slowly in Britain, perhaps the hope of dancing and bugling cranes in Ireland might not be a totally unrealistic pipe-dream?



First calendar-year American Coot *Fulica americana*
 Termoncarragh Lake, Co. Mayo. 16th November 2010
 (Neal Warnock).



First calendar-year American Coot *Fulica americana*
 Termoncarragh Lake, Co. Mayo. 16th November 2010
 (Neal Warnock).



First calendar-year American Coot *Fulica americana*
 Termoncarragh Lake, Co. Mayo. 16th November 2010
 (Victor Caschera).



First calendar-year American Coot *Fulica americana*
 Termoncarragh Lake, Co. Mayo. 16th November 2010
 (Victor Caschera).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (141; 1)

Wexford One: Adult, Tacumshin, 11th to 15th April, photographed (N.Borodina, N.Hatch, S.McAvoy *et al.*).

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* (24; 1)

Cork One: One, Sherkin Island, 20th to 21st March, photographed (J.Wyllie *et al.*).

This is the first record during March since one on Brownstown Head, Waterford in 1840. However, the arrival date is consistent with their normal arrival into Britain, where the breeding areas are invariably reoccupied during the second half of March (Cramp & Simmons 1983). There has never been more than two in one year.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (86; 5)

Cork One: Juvenile, Ballycotton, 31st August to 1st September (D.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

Kilkenny Two: Pair, location withheld, 20th May to 6th June, photographed (K.Collins *et al.*).

Wexford Two: Female, Tacumshin Lake, 15th to 17th April, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*); Juvenile, Tacumshin, 31st July to 2nd August, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

The pair in Kilkenny are the first for the county and the occurrence of a pair, presumably in breeding habitat, gives grounds for optimism that the observer can in future add another proven breeding record to his enviable record with this species (as well as the proven breeding record (Collins 2008), the only other published Tipperary record, in 1991, was also found by him!). Numbers have more than doubled each decade since the 1980s, with nine in that decade followed by 23 in the 1990s and 48 in the 2000s. More important, in the context of becoming a regular breeding species, is the fact that numbers occurring in spring account for about 60% of the total.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* (273; 8)

Cork One: Juvenile, Dursey, 10th October (O.Foley).

Galway Two: Male, Aillebrack, Slyne Head, 23rd to 26th April, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*); Juvenile, Aillebrack, Slyne Head, 10th October, photographed (D.Breen).

Wexford One: Juvenile, Tacumshin, 24th September, photographed (J.Metcalf *et al.*).

Wicklow Four: Up to four adult, Djouce Mountain, 30th April to 2nd May (P.McDermot *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 58: 26.

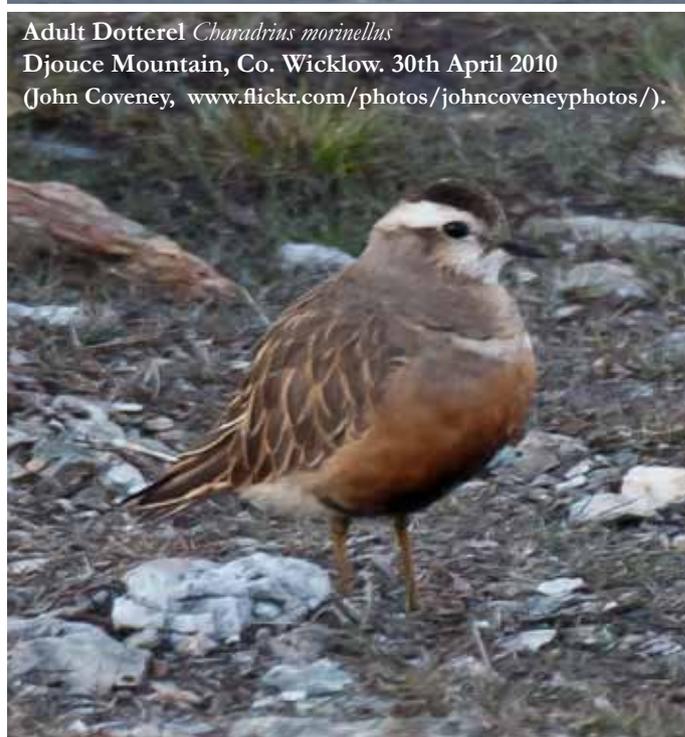
This species has a history of being found in upland areas, which should not come as a surprise given its breeding habitat preferences. In common with those found on Djouce Mountain in 2010, all bar one of the five previous Wicklow records have been found on mountains. One wonders how many would be found if similar suitable habitat was systematically searched at the appropriate time of the year.



Adult Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 15th April 2010
(Killian Mullarney).



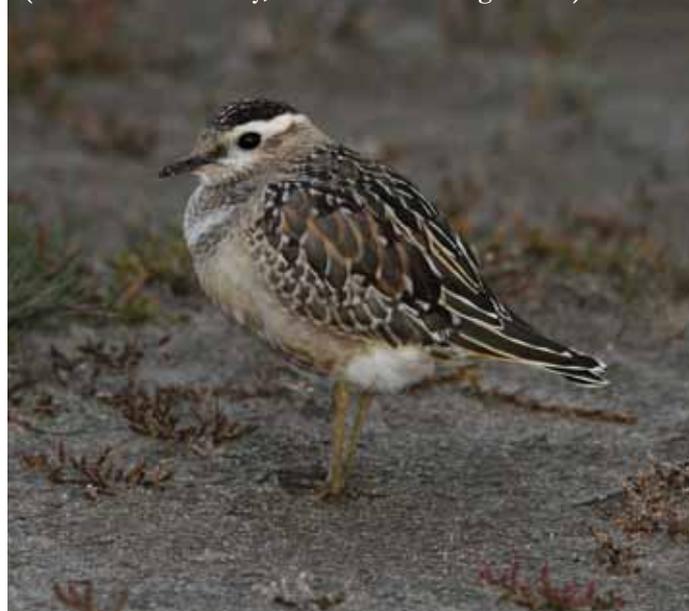
Adult Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*
Djouce Mountain, Co. Wicklow. 30th April 2010
(John Coveney, www.flickr.com/photos/johncoveneyphotos/).



Juvenile Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 24th September 2010
(Killian Mullarney).

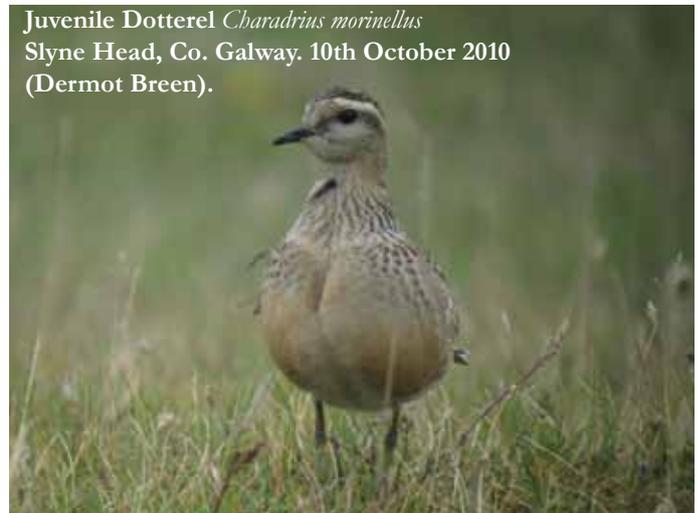


Juvenile Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 24th September 2010
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).





Male Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*
Slyne Head, Co. Galway. 25th April 2010 (Dermot Breen).



Juvenile Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*
Slyne Head, Co. Galway. 10th October 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Juvenile American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* with
Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*
Slyne Head, Co. Galway. 18th November 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Adult American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* with
Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*
Shannon Harbour, Co. Offaly. 7th October 2010
(Neal Warnock).

American Golden Plover

Pluvialis dominica (139; 19)

Clare One: Adult, Moyasta, 24th August to 4th September (C.Foley, R.Vaughan *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 23: 328.

Cork Seven: Adult, The Gearagh, 4th to 5th September (A.Duggan); Juvenile, Pilmore Strand, 17th September, photographed (C.Cullen); Juvenile, Ballycotton, 27th to 28th September (G.Walsh); Adult, Lissagriffin, 8th October, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*); Juvenile, Rosscarbery, 10th October (K.Preston); Juvenile, Lissagriffin, 15th to 30th October, photographed (N.Linehan, M.Shorten, P.Wolstenholme *et al.*); Juvenile, Pilmore Strand, 20th to 27th October (C.Cullen *et al.*).

Galway Four: Juvenile, Truska and Aillebrack, Slyne Head, 6th to 10th October, photographed (D.Breen); Adult, Rahasane Turlough, 10th October (A.Ó'Dónaill); Juvenile, Truska, Slyne Head, 10th to 18th November, photographed (D.Breen); Juvenile, Turloughmore, 20th to 23rd November, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Kerry Three: Juvenile, Carrahane, 20th September (D.Farrar); Juvenile, Carrahane, 28th September (E.Carty); Juvenile, Cashen Estuary, 19th September to 9th October (D.Farrar *et al.*).

Mayo One: First-summer, Inishkea North, 14th to 15th May, photographed (D.Suddaby).

Offaly One: Adult, Shannon Harbour, 7th October (P.Brennan).

Tipperary One: Juvenile, Moyne, 26th to 29th October (D.Farrar).

Wexford One: Adult, Rosslare Back Strand, 17th to 19th September, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*).

2007 Mayo One: One, Westport Quay, 6th January (W.Stringer).

The total for the year equals the record set in 2009. Inland records are unusual and the records for Offaly and Tipperary are the third for both counties. The only other truly inland county with a record is Roscommon, which hosted one in October 1966, although one at Kells, Co. Meath in 1952 should probably be considered an inland record, notwithstanding the very short coastline of that county. The record from Mayo in January 2007 is the first winter record of this species in Ireland. All previous Irish records had been between 15th April and 29th November. Even in Britain, mid-winter records are very rare, with two December records and one January record up to the end of 2005 (K.Naylor, pers. comm.).



Adult American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
Shannon Harbour, Co. Offaly. 7th October 2010
(Neal Warnock).



First calendar-year Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 6th November 2010
(Polina Kasapova, www.thingsarelikethis.com).



Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 19th September 2010
(David O'Connor).



Adult Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* with
Dunlin *Calidris alpina*
Ring Marsh, Co. Wexford. 11th July 2010 (Pat Lonergan).



Adult Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* with
Dunlin *Calidris alpina*
Ring Marsh, Co. Wexford. 12th July 2010
(Killian Mullarney).

November (M.Cowming, C.Cronin, A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 461, *Birdwatch* 223: 60.
Wexford Eight: Adult, Tacumshin, 30th July to 3rd August, photographed (P.Kelly, T.Murray *et al.*); Adult, Tacumshin, 8th August (R.H.Coombes, P.Kelly, B.Porter *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 329, *Birdwatch* 220: 61; Juvenile, Tacumshin, 12th September (P.Kelly); Juvenile, Tacumshin, 1st to 2nd October, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); Juvenile, Tacumshin, 12th to 16th October (E.Dempsey); Up to three juvenile, Tacumshin, 21st to 24th October (K.Mullarney *et al.*).

The second best year on record, after 2006, when there were 31. The Dungarvan individual is only the second for Waterford, following one at Kinsalebeg in September 2006.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (112; 6)

Kerry Three: One, Ventry, 2nd September (G.Walker); Juvenile, Black Rock Strand, 19th to 20th September (D.O'Connor), photograph *Wings* 59: 30; Juvenile, Carrahane, 3rd October (T.Mee, T.Tarpey).
Mayo One: Juvenile, Annagh Beach, Mullet Peninsula, 20th to 21st September (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).
Wexford Two: Up to two juvenile, Tacumshin, 12th September to 10th October, photographed (P.Kelly, D.O'Sullivan, G.Walsh *et al.*).

A good annual total, which has only been exceeded on four occasions, although still only half of the record total for 2008. Between them, Kerry (34) and Wexford (29) account for over half of the total, with Cork (29) accounting for over half of the remainder.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* (4; 1)

Dublin One: Second calendar-year, Rogerstown Estuary, 16th to 17th October (L.Feeney *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 23: 416.

Following two in both Wexford and Cork since 1994, this is the first for Dublin and the first since 2007. Although the sample size is small, the Irish records so far show a different pattern to those in Britain. By 2007, almost 80% of the 28 British records had occurred in August and September, with just three (about 10%) in October (Hudson *et al.* 2008). By contrast, the two Irish records in October account for 40% of the records, with one record each, in July, August and September.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (108; 2)

Cork One: First calendar-year, Ballycotton, 6th to 21st November (O.Foley *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 461, *Birdwatch* 223: 58, *Wings* 60: 25.

Wexford One: Adult, Ring Marsh, 11th to 13th July (P.Kelly, P.Lonergan, K.Mullarney, D.G.McAdams *et al.*), also seen Tacumshin, 13th July (T.Murray), photographs *Birding World* 23: 282, *Birdwatch* 219: 57.

A rather quiet year, this is the lowest annual total since 1997, when there was only one. The Ballycotton individual is the first to be found in November and this is the first year when records occurred that none were found between August and October.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (240; 16)

Cork Three: Adult, Ballynamona, Ballycotton, 2nd September (R.McLaughlin); Juvenile, Pilmore Strand, 19th September (D.O'Sullivan); Juvenile, Clonakilty, 8th October (A.Duggan, P.Leonard).

Dublin One: Juvenile, Swords Estuary, 16th October (E.Dempsey *et al.*).

Kerry Two: Juvenile, Blennerville, 17th September (E.Carty); Adult, Black Rock Strand, 19th to 30th September (D.Farrar); Presumed same, Carrahane, 25th September (F.King).

Mayo One: Adult, Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 10th to 11th September (R.H.Coombes, A.Lauder *et al.*).

Waterford One: Juvenile, Clonea Strand, 24th October to 15th

Adult White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 8th August 2010
(Neal Warnock).



Adult White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 21st September 2010
(David O'Connor).



Juvenile White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Clonea Strand, Co. Waterford. 14th November 2010
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me/>).



Juvenile White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Clonea Strand, Co. Waterford. 14th November 2010
(Polina Kasapova, www.thingsarelikethis.com).



Adult White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 8th August 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).



Second calendar-year Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Calidris acuminata
Rogerstown Estuary, Co. Dublin. 17th October 2010
(Pat Lonergan).



Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* (23; 1)

Wexford One: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 7th May, photographed (R.H.Coombes *et al.*).

There has been a reduction in numbers of this distinctive wader since the turn of the century, with this only the fourth, and the first since 2006. By contrast, half of the Irish records occurred in the 1990s. This is the sixth for Wexford, all of which have occurred at Tacumshin. The species occurs predominantly in spring and early summer, with this the thirteenth for May. There have been only two recorded later than the 1st August – one in September 1985 in Wicklow and the first for Ireland in Belfast Lough, Antrim, in early October 1844.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Tryngites subruficollis (347; 34)

Clare Two: One, Lough Donnell, 15th to 17th August, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*); Juvenile, Loop Head, 11th to 18th September, photographed (O.Foley *et al.*).

Cork Sixteen: Up to eight, Ballycotton, 7th to 12th September (S.Bourke, P.Moore, T.Nagle, G.Walsh *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 23; 370; Two juvenile, Pilmore Strand, 8th September, photographed (C.Cullen *et al.*); Juvenile, Lissagriffin, 8th to 12th September (D.Ballard); Two juvenile, Dursey Island, 8th September (D.A.Scott *et al.*); Juvenile, Cuiinne, Sherkin Island, 10th September (J.Wyllie); Two juvenile, Dursey Island, 10th to 11th October, photographed (D.A.Scott *et al.*).

Galway One: One, Murvey, Roundstone, 7th September (D.Breen).

Kerry Six: Up to six juvenile, Carrahane, 26th September to 1st October, photographed (N.Warnock *et al.*).

Mayo Three: Juvenile, Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 11th September, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*); Up to two juvenile, Achill Island, 11th to 18th September, photographed (D.Charles, W.Farrelly *et al.*).

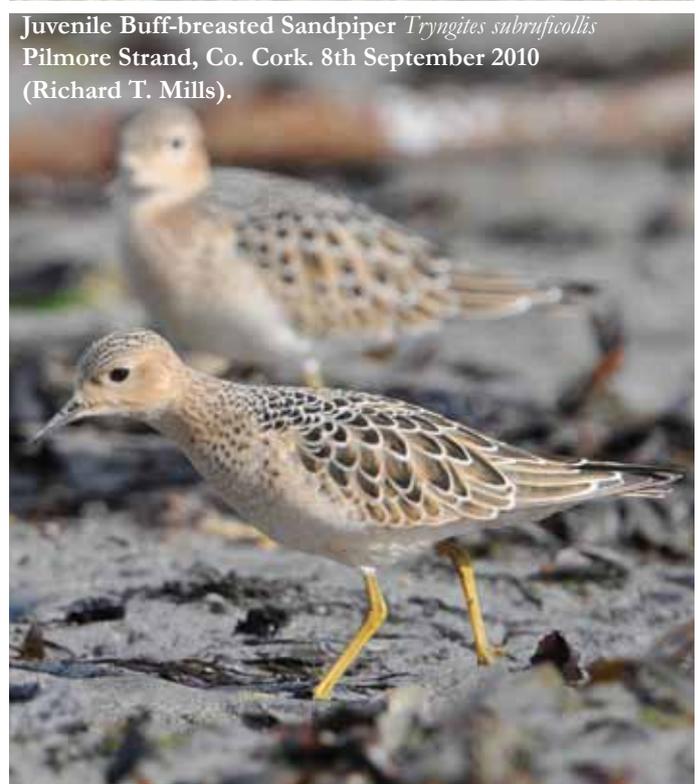
Wexford Six: Six juvenile, Tacumshin, 9th September to 10th October, photographed (P.King, J.Metcalf, K.Mullarney, J.N.Murphy, N.Warnock *et al.*).

The best year on record, three higher than 2006. The three groups in Cork, Kerry and Wexford are notable – only on five occasions previously have there been six together. The group of eight at Ballycotton is the second largest gathering ever in Ireland, one fewer than the group in Tacumshin in 1980, a year that also saw five at Lissagriffin, Cork, until 2010 the largest group in that county.

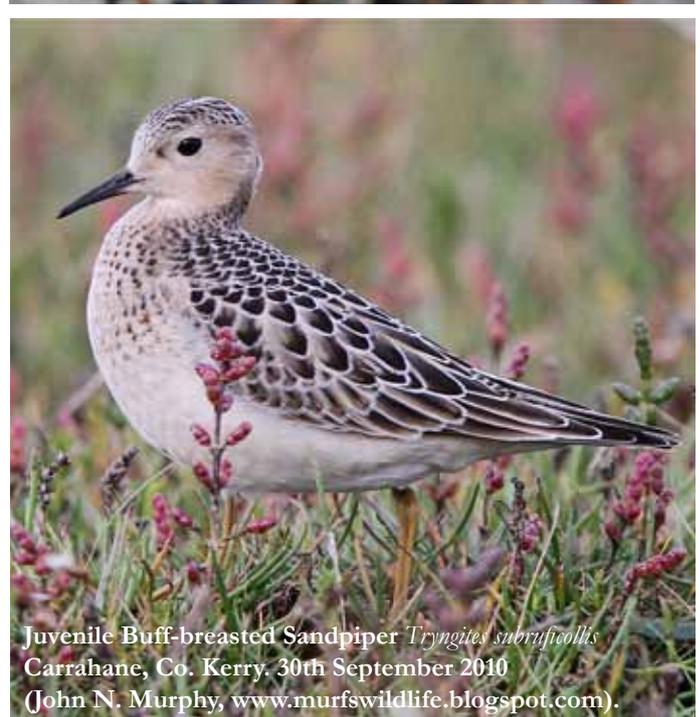
Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Carrahane, Co. Kerry, 28th September 2010
(David O'Connor).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Dursey Island, Co. Cork, 11th October 2010
(Aidan G. Kelly).

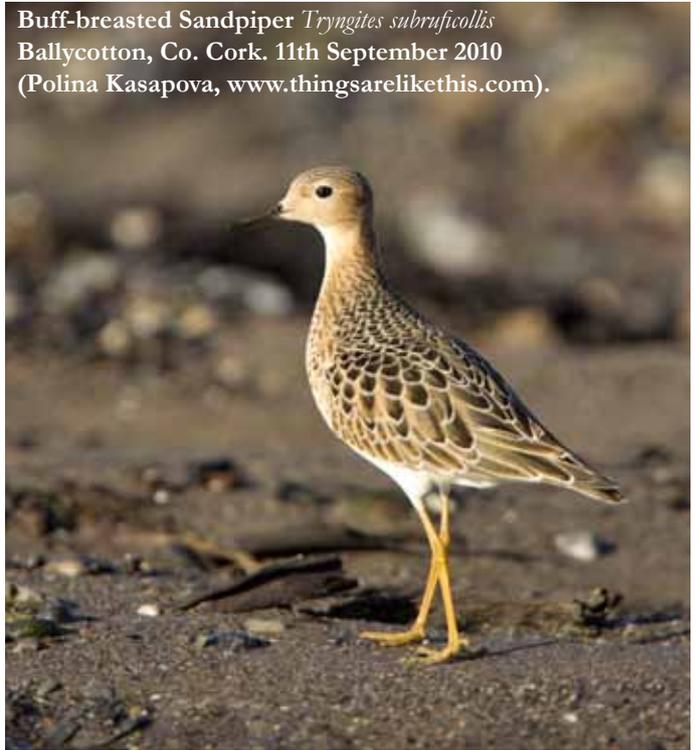


Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Pilmore Strand, Co. Cork, 8th September 2010
(Richard T. Mills).

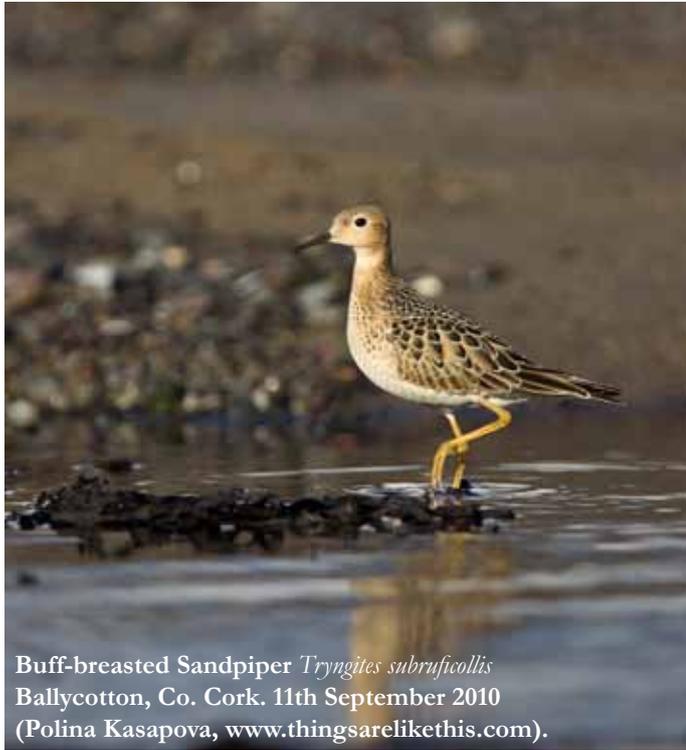


Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Carrahane, Co. Kerry, 30th September 2010
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 11th September 2010
(Polina Kasapova, www.thingsarelikethis.com).



Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 11th September 2010
(Polina Kasapova, www.thingsarelikethis.com).



Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 10th September 2010
(Richard T. Mills).



Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 10th September 2010
(Richard T. Mills).

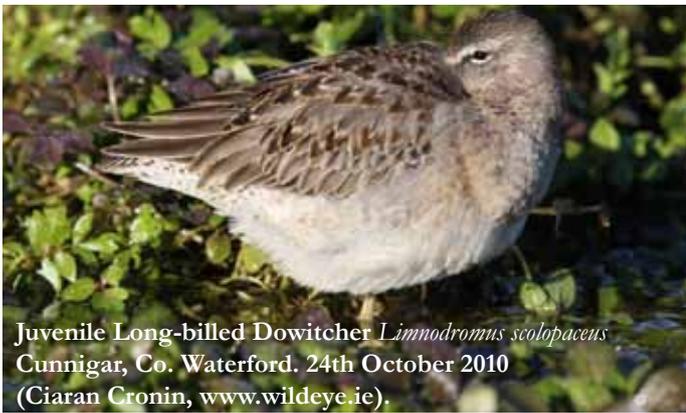


Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 11th September 2010
(Richard T. Mills).



Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 11th September 2010
(Richard T. Mills).





Juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Cunnigar, Co. Waterford. 24th October 2010
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 20th February 2010
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Cunnigar, Co. Waterford. 20th October 2010
(Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Cunnigar, Co. Waterford. 11th October 2010
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



Juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Slyne Head, Co. Galway. 17th September 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Slyne Head, Co. Galway. 17th September 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Slyne Head, Co. Galway. 17th September 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Slyne Head, Co. Galway. 17th September 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Juvenile Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*
Cunnigar, Co. Waterford. 24th October 2010 (Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).

Long-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus scolopaceus (105; 4)

Galway One: Juvenile, Truska Marsh, Slyne Head, 17th September, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Tipperary One: One, Ashton's Callow, 5th March (P.Brennan).

Waterford One: Juvenile, Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 9th to 24th October (J.Power, B.Sheridan *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 23: 417.

Wexford One: One, Tacumshin, 20th to 23rd February (P.Kelly *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 51, *Birdwatch* 214: 65, *British Birds* 103: 258.

Four in a year is one less than the average for the previous ten years. The juvenile in Dungarvan, which was the first for the county, was particularly confiding, resulting in some stunning close-up photographs.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (3; 2)

Dublin One: Adult, Rogerstown Estuary, 21st to 25th June, photographed (L.Feeney *et al.*).

Kerry One: Adult, Blennerville, 11th to 22nd July, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*).

This is the first year in which there has been more than one record and the two above constitute the second records for their respective counties. The bird in Dublin is the first for June and there is the possibility that this may be the same individual that had been recorded at Swords Estuary, Dublin in July 2009, although it is treated as different for the purposes of the statistics.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* (29; 1)

Mayo Juvenile, Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 10th to 11th September, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

The first record for Mayo. The first for Ireland was shot in Westmeath in winter on 2nd February 1899. Since the second, in 1978, they have become more frequent, with two in the late 1970s, five in the 1980s, a slight reduction to four in the 1990s but followed by 17 in the 2000s and the single record above to start the 2010s.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (128; 4)

Cork One: Juvenile, Ballycotton, 15th October, photographed (P.Moore).

Galway One: Juvenile, Glenamaddy Turlough, 9th to 12th October, photographed (T.Cuffe *et al.*).

Mayo One: Juvenile, Keel, Achill Island, 11th to 19th September, photographed (D.Charles, W.Farrelly *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 23: 371.

Wexford One: Juvenile, Tacumshin, intermittently from 25th



Adult Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* with Redshank
Tringa totanus
Blennerville, Co. Kerry. 13th July 2010
(Seamus Enright).



Adult Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*
Blennerville, Co. Kerry. 13th July 2010
(Seamus Enright).

September to 6th November (P.Kelly *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 463, *Birdwatch* 223: 58.

While this species continues to turn up at an average of about four per year, its close relation, Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* has only occurred twice since 1983, in Kerry (1995) and Down (2004). With both of those remaining elusive for long periods, an obliging individual would be welcomed by many.



Juvenile Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*
Leam Lough, Co. Mayo. 11th September 2010
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).



Juvenile Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*
Leam Lough, Co. Mayo. 11th September 2010
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).



Juvenile Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*
Leam Lough, Co. Mayo. 11th September 2010
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).



Juvenile Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*
Leam Lough, Co. Mayo. 11th September 2010
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).



Juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 6th November 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 6th November 2010
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).

Juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 19th September 2010 (John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



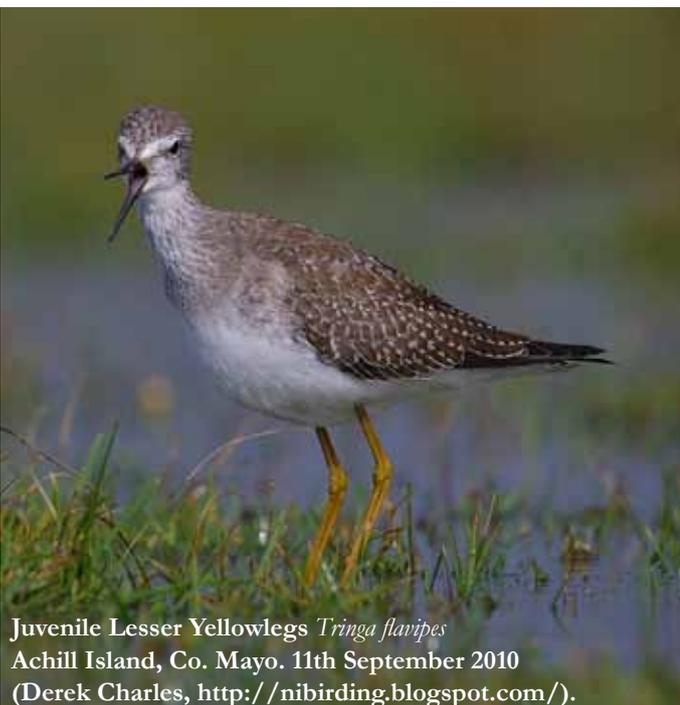
Juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 19th September 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 11th September 2010
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).



Juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 11th September 2010
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).



Juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*
Glenamaddy Turlough, Co. Galway. 9th October 2010
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.com>).

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (85; 2)

Kerry One: First-winter, Ventry Pools, 6th to 7th September, photographed (K.Langdon *et al.*), also seen in Wexford and Wicklow.

Wexford Zero: First-winter, Tacumshin, 16th to 19th September and 24th September to 5th October (P.Kelly, J.Sheehan *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 371, *Birdwatch* 221: 57, *British Birds* 103: 693, *Wings* 59: 30, also seen in Wicklow and Kerry.

Wicklow One: First-winter, Kilcoole, 22nd to 24th September, photographed (P.King *et al.*), also seen in Wexford and Kerry; A different first-winter, Kilcoole, 5th to 13th October, photographed (N.Keogh *et al.*).

A reasonably good year by recent standards, but still some way short of the high of nine individuals in 1980. The wanderings of the individual first seen in Kerry, then Wexford, followed by a visit to Wicklow before eventually returning to Wexford are almost too extensive to believe. However, detailed analyses of photographs taken at all three locations prove that all these observations involved just one bird, with the October record in Wicklow involving a second individual. In particular, the photographs show a distinctive pattern of retained juvenile crown feathers and identical subtle dark sub-marginal markings on the inner greater coverts on the bird's left wing (K.Mullarney, pers. comm.). It is interesting to note that this individual was seen at 0830 on 24th September at Kilcoole and by 1650 had returned to Tacumshin, a journey of about 120 kilometres. The Wicklow records are only the second and third for the county. Of interest, although outside the Irish recording area, a Wilson's Phalarope was seen approximately 320 miles south-west of Ireland at 48°59.8'N 16°22.9'W on 1st June (R.Pascal, pers. comm.).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Limerick One: Juvenile, Coonagh, 3rd to 6th September, photographed (T.Tarpey *et al.*).

Offaly Two: Two female and one male, Lough Boora Parklands, 2nd to 12th June, photographed (A.Copland *et al.*), one female presumed returning.

The chequered history of this species as a sporadic breeding bird is well documented (e.g. Ruttledge 1978, Hutchinson 1989). Since the demise of the regular breeding colony at Annagh in Mayo in the mid 1980s, there have been very few records published in these reports and the occurrence of four in the same year (albeit including a presumed returning female) is the maximum during that time. The occurrence of two female and a male together in Offaly recalls a similar group at Ashton's Callow, Tipperary, likewise for ten days, in June 2002.



First-winter Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*
Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow. 23rd September 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).



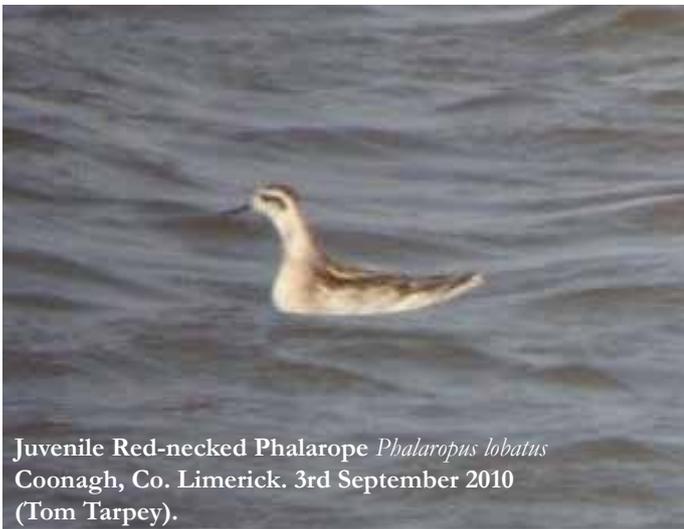
First-winter Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 17th September 2010
(Pat Lonergan).



First-winter Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 19th September 2010
(Neal Warnock).



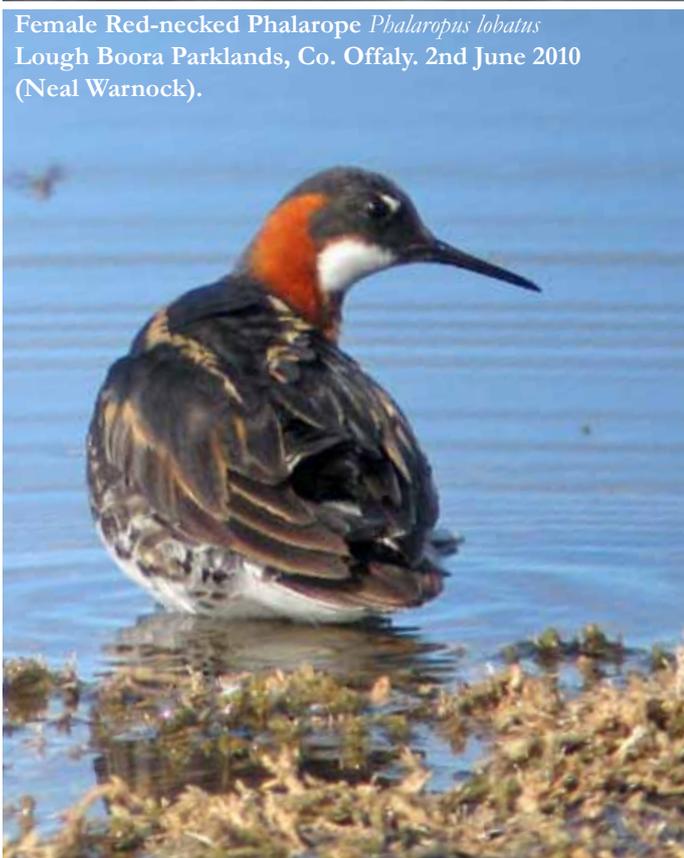
First-winter Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 19th September 2010
(Neal Warnock).



Juvenile Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Coonagh, Co. Limerick. 3rd September 2010
(Tom Tarpey).



Juvenile Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Coonagh, Co. Limerick. 6th September 2010
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



Female Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Lough Boora Parklands, Co. Offaly. 2nd June 2010
(Neal Warnock).



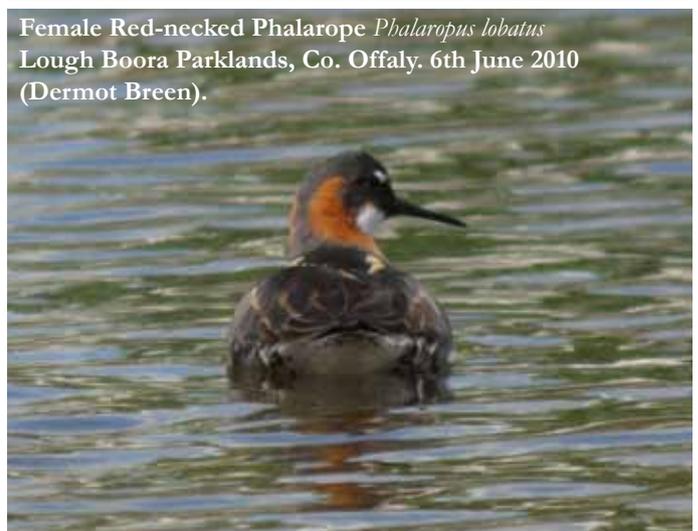
Female Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Lough Boora Parklands, Co. Offaly. 6th June 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Female Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Lough Boora Parklands, Co. Offaly. 2nd June 2010
(Neal Warnock).



Female Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Lough Boora Parklands, Co. Offaly. 6th June 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Female Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Lough Boora Parklands, Co. Offaly. 6th June 2010
(Dermot Breen).

Long-tailed Skua

Stercorarius longicaudus (787; 81)

At sea Zero: Three adult, at 53°49'N 15°15'W, 53°45'N 14°17'W and 53°45'N 13°44'W, 16th May, photographed (J.O'Brien).

Clare Four: Adult and juvenile, Bridges of Ross, 21st August (A.Clewes, G.Hunt *et al.*); Juvenile, Bridges of Ross, 22nd August, photographed (F.MacGabhann *et al.*); Adult, Bridges of Ross, 14th September (N.T.Keogh).

Cork Five: First-summer, Galley Head, 18th July (O.Foley, R.McLaughlin); Three adult and one immature, Dursley Island, 11th September (D.A.Scott).

Donegal Six: Adult, Fanad Head, 12th September (C.Ingram); Five, Melmore Head, 15th September (E.Randall).

Galway Five: Two, Inishbofin, 5th October (A.McGeehan); One, Inishbofin, 18th October (A.McGeehan); Two juvenile, Baile na hAbhainn, 18th October (A.Ó'Dónaill).

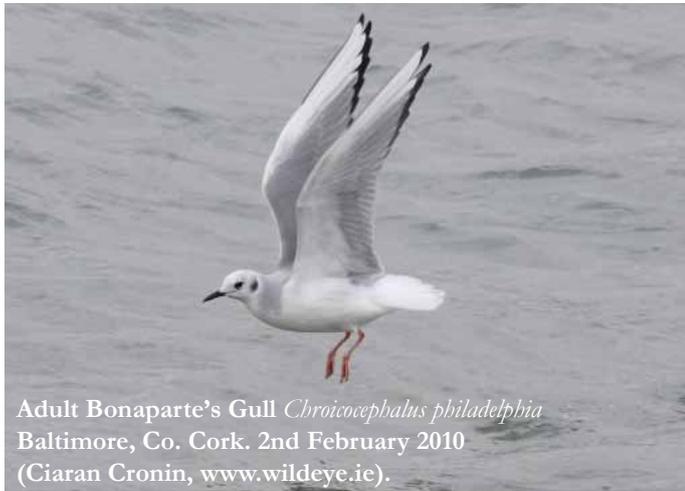
Kerry Four: Three, off Blasket Islands, 10th August (E.Carty *et al.*); Juvenile, Brandon Point, 14th September (M.O'Clery).

Mayo Fifty-five: Adult, Kilcummin Head, 23rd August (J.Donaldson); Two juvenile, Annagh Head, 24th August (D.Suddaby); Adult, at sea northwest of Erris Head, 25th August, photographed (D.Suddaby); One, Kilcummin Head, 28th August (J.Donaldson, S.Feeney, B.Robson); Adult and six juvenile, Kilcummin Head, 29th August (D.Breen, J.Donaldson); Adult, Kilcummin Head, 11th September (J.Donaldson); Thirty-seven, mainly juvenile, Kilcummin Head, 15th September (D.Breen, D.Charles, A.Ó'Dónaill, B.Robson, D.Suddaby, D.Weir); Five, Kilcummin Head, 18th October (J.Donaldson).

Waterford One: Adult, Helvick Head, 10th July (P.M.Walsh *et al.*).

Wexford One: Juvenile, Rosslare Back Strand, 19th September (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly).

Excluding 'At sea' records, this is the second best year on record, three short of the record 84 in 1993. In contrast to the modern preponderance of autumn occurrences, the total of at least 60 recorded in 1862 were in one flock on spring passage on the River Shannon between Westmeath and Roscommon. The spring records in 2010 and in previous reports indicate that there is still a regular but small spring passage, mostly in May.



Second calendar-year American Herring Gull
Larus smithsonianus
Blennerville, Co. Kerry. 12th July 2010 (David O'Connor).



Bonaparte's Gull

Chroicocephalus philadelphia (61; 2)

Cork One: Adult, Cobh, from 22nd November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 267) remained to 5th February, photograph *Wings* 57: 26; Adult, Baltimore, 1st to 4th February, photographed (J.Wyllie *et al.*).

Kerry One: First-winter, Blennerville, 21st October (P.McDermot).

The last blank year was 2001 and 39 have been found since then. Although there must be a possibility that some wandering adults have been double-counted, there is nonetheless consistent evidence of new birds, with one-third of new birds since 2001 found in first-winter or first-summer plumage.

American Herring Gull

Larus smithsonianus (86; 1)

Galway Zero: Adult, Nimmo's Pier, from 19th November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 267) remained to 18th January.

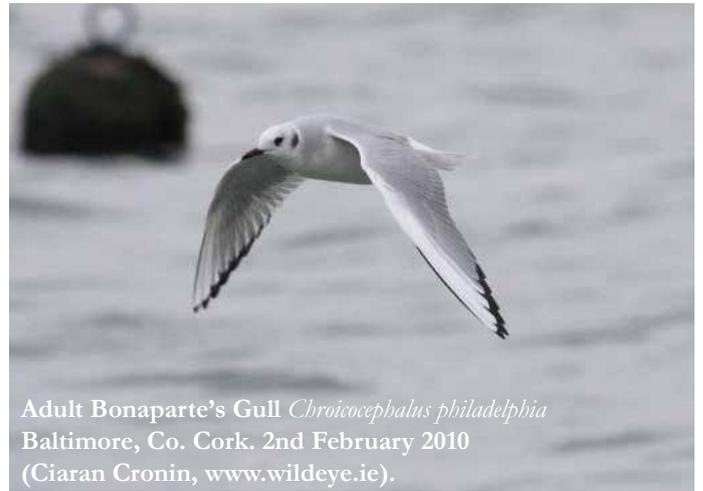
Kerry One: Second calendar-year, Blennerville, 11th July to 1st October (D.O'Connor *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 283, *Birdwatch* 220: 58.

This, with 2006, is the worst year since the last blank year, 1995. When found, the Kerry individual was undergoing its first complete moult and was a very bedraggled individual indeed.

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni* (142; 1)

Donegal One: Adult, Killybegs, 15th February (R.Bonser).

A very poor year and the worst since 2006, in which there was also only one. This mirrors the pattern with American Herring Gull, although the contrast is greater here with annual totals of 11 in 2009, 18 in 2008 and 27 in 2007. High numbers of this taxon have historically been associated with influxes of Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides glaucooides* and Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* and the winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11 have shown a dramatic decline of these species, and a consequent poor showing by this taxon.



Adult American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* with
Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*
Galway Docks. 15th January 2010
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.com>).



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

Galway Zero: Adult, Nimmo's Pier, from 11th November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 269) remained to 23rd April, photograph *Birding World* 23: 52; Adult, Doorus Pier, Nimmo's Pier and Claddagh Beach, 13th November to 20th March 2011, photographed (T.Griffin *et al.*), presumed returning.

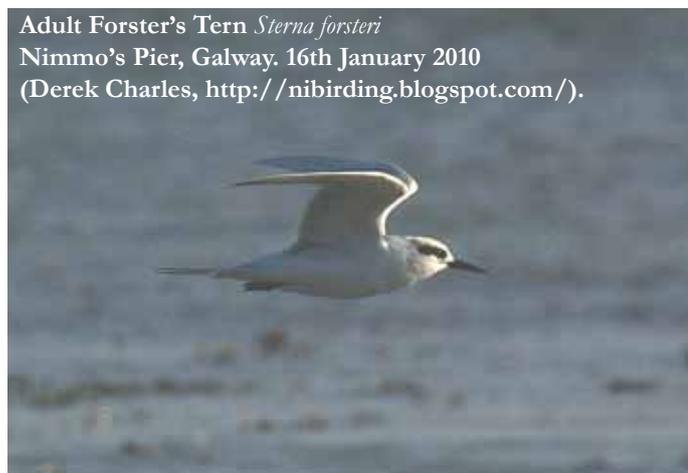
Wexford Zero: Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 8th May to 24th June (P.Kelly, J.Sheehan, T.Shevlin *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 23: 186, presumed returning.

The Galway bird returns for its seventh winter and the Wexford bird for its third summer at Tacumshin.



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
Claddagh Beach, Co. Galway. 27th November 2010
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.com>).

Adult summer Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 8th May 2010
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
Nimmo's Pier, Galway. 16th January 2010
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
Nimmo's Pier, Galway. 16th January 2010
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* with Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Nimmo's Pier, Galway. 16th January 2010 (Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Dublin Two: One: Adult, Dun Laoghaire, 19th February (V.Chipperfield, J.Turner); One, found dead on the tideline, Bremore, 8th December (M.McNamara *et al.*).

Mayo Three: One, Annagh Head, 12th October (D.Suddaby); One, Kilcummin Head, 18th October (J.Donaldson); One, Annagh, Mullet Peninsula, 5th December (D.Suddaby).

Occurrences are not quite annual and numbers are exceedingly variable, with a maximum annual total of 693 in 1991 contrasting with years where numbers are small, such as this year, or even absent, such as 2005 and 2006.

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* (77; 1)

Galway One: One, Knocknalee, 15th March (C.Peppiatt *et al.*).

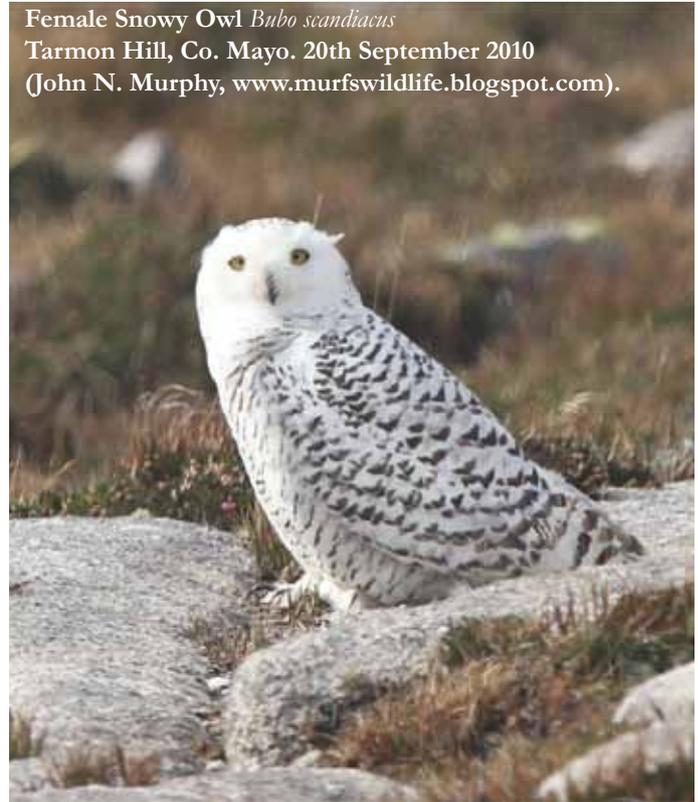
Mayo Zero: Female, Tarmon Hill, Mullet Peninsula, 12th August to 30th September (D.Suddaby *et al.*), returning, photograph *Birdwatch* 220: 58.

This is the fifth year in succession that the returning female has frequented the Tarmon Hill and Blacksod area of the Mullet Peninsula and there must be at least a suspicion that some of the other records in the west over the last number of years, including the Galway record above, may, in fact, relate to the wanderings of this bird, although they are treated as different in the statistics.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (73; 1)

Louth One: One, Drogheda, 22nd to 23rd March (B.Sheils).

This species is most frequent on the east coast with this the 42nd record there, although the first for Louth.



Female Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*
Tarmon Hill, Co. Mayo. 20th September 2010
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



Female Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*
Tarmon Hill, Co. Mayo. 24th August 2010 (Richard Bonser, www.freewebs.com/richbonser/).



Female Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*
Tarmon Hill, Co. Mayo. 22nd September 2010
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).



Female Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*
Tarmon Hill, Co. Mayo. 22nd September 2010
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.com/>).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (220; 36)

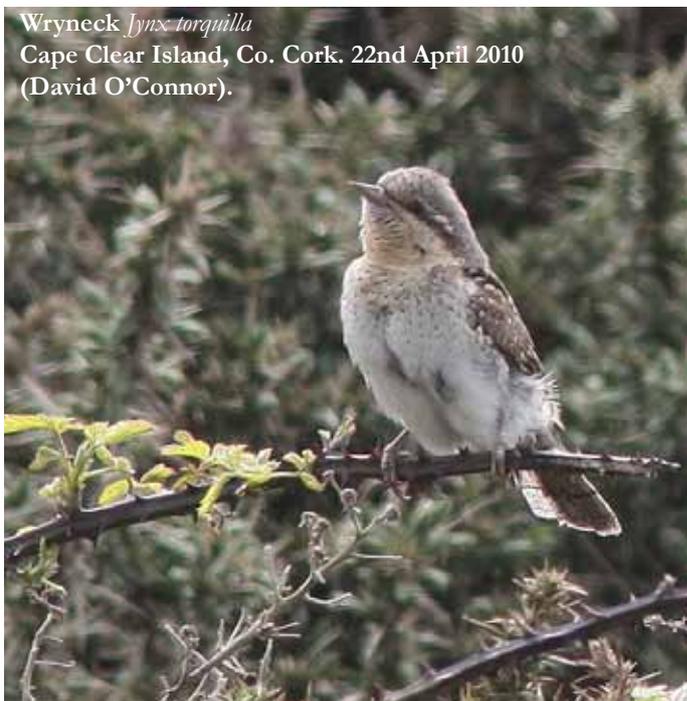
Cork Thirty-one: One, Cape Clear Island, 22nd April, photographed (D.O'Connor); One, Toe Head, 24th April (A.Duggan); One, Drombeg, 1st May (P.Wolstenholme); One, Knockadoon Head, 31st August (P.Moore); Up to three, Three Castles Head, 3rd to 8th September (D.Ballard, H.Hussey, P.Moore *et al.*); One, Long Strand, 3rd September, photographed (C.Barton, M.O'Sullivan); A different bird, Long Strand, 4th September (C.Barton, C.Pollock); Three, Dursey Island, 4th to 9th September (D.A.Scott *et al.*); One, Galleycove, Crookhaven, 4th September (O.Foley); One, Galley Head, 22nd September (C.Cronin); One, Dursey Island, 29th September (K.Grace); One, Garinish, 1st to 3rd October (K.Grace, A.A.K.Lancaster); One, Cape Clear Island, 9th to 10th October (P.Kelly *et al.*); One, Mizen Head, 9th to 12th October (P.Wolstenholme); Up to four, Dursey Island, 9th to 16th October, photographed (K.Grace, A.G.Kelly, A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*); One, Knockadoon Head, 10th to 11th October, photographed (R.McLaughlin *et al.*); A different bird, Knockadoon Head, 15th October (G.Walsh *et al.*); One, Cape Clear Island, 10th October (D.Charles, P.Kelly); One, Firkeel, 11th to 14th October (K.Grace); One, Long Strand, 12th to 17th October, photographed (C.Barton *et al.*); One, Three Castles Head, 12th to 14th October (D.Ballard); One, Crookhaven, 13th October (P.Wolstenholme); One, Sherkin Island, 14th October (J.Wyllie); One, Mizen Head, 10th November (D.Ballard).

Kerry One: One, Dunquin, 10th October (D.Farrar).

Waterford One: One, Ardmore, 9th October, photographed (C.Flynn, M.Cowming *et al.*).

Wexford Three: One, Hook Head, 4th to 5th September, photographed (M.Reimann *et al.*); Two, Great Saltee Island, 7th September, photographed (J.F.Dowdall, A.Walsh *et al.*).

This is by far the best year on record, exceeding the number recorded in 2006 by 11. Hidden in the veritable cascade of autumn records however, is also a record-equalling spring total of three birds. The pattern of the autumn influx is strikingly similar to that of Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*, with an arrival in late August and early September, followed by a smaller influx about three weeks later and a third influx in mid October.



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 22nd April 2010
(David O'Connor).



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*
Ardmore, Co. Waterford. 9th October 2010
(Micheál Cowming).



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*
Dursey Island, Co. Cork. 11th October 2010
(Aidan G. Kelly).

Male Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
Co. Wicklow. 3rd June 2010 (Richard H. Coombes).



Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* (175; 47)

Dublin Five: At least five, various locations (per R.H.Coombes *et al.*).

Kildare One: One, location withheld, November (per R.H.Coombes *et al.*).

Wicklow Thirty-five: At least thirty-five, various locations (per R.H.Coombes *et al.*).

Wexford Six: At least six, various locations (per R.H.Coombes *et al.*).

This species appears for its last time in these reports following recent increases, hopefully resulting in permanent colonisation. In order to minimise disturbance at potential breeding sites, only a summary of records is presented and all locations have been withheld. Identification of the species is very straightforward in an Irish context and any bird seen well will doubtlessly be correctly identified. It is perhaps more likely that a vagrant woodpecker might be passed off as a Great Spotted Woodpecker rather than the other way round. Given the relatively sedentary nature of Europe's pied woodpeckers it may perhaps be more likely that a Nearctic woodpecker might be overlooked although Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*, the only Nearctic woodpecker that has so far occurred, is significantly different. Until 2005, the pattern of occurrences was consistent. During most years, the species was absent from Ireland but there was a history of winter influxes of varying numbers. Ussher & Warren (1900) list 39 in the 19th century with influxes in the winters of 1845/46, 1849/50, 1886/87 and 1889/90, the latter the largest with nine obtained. Only five occurred between 1900 and winter 1949/50, although these included a pair in Antrim in April 1931 (Kennedy *et al.* 1954). There were nine found in an influx during winter 1949/50. Thereafter there was another lull with just two until an influx of five in winter 1962/63. The winter of 1968/69 saw a large influx of 27, mostly concentrated on the east coast but with some found as far west as Galway and Clare. One in 1971 was followed by 16 in winter 1972/73 and a further 5 between 1988 and 2001. Since 2005, numbers have been increasing and, contrary to the historical pattern, they are now also being found during summer. As would be expected, the vast majority of records are from the east coast counties, with 115 recorded from Antrim south to Wexford. Nonetheless, all west coast counties, with the exception of Leitrim, also have records, albeit in much smaller numbers. In addition to Leitrim, only the relatively under-watched counties of Roscommon, Tyrone and Westmeath are without records.



Female & juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
Co. Wexford. 11th June 2010 (Richard H. Coombes).

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (50; 3)

Cork Three: One, Firkeel Glen, 6th to 7th October (K.Grace *et al.*); One, Dursey Island, 12th October (K.Grace); One, Firkeel Glen, 14th to 19th October (K.Grace *et al.*).

Observers consider that the two birds at Firkeel Glen were different, with the first considerably duller than the second. Despite being a well-watched area, these are only the third to fifth records for the Dursey and Firkeel area. Although not frequent, they are certainly regular, occurring with ten year gaps, following the first in 1990 and the second in 2000 – will the next prove 2020 foresight?!

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* (204; 4)

Cork Two: Adult, Skibbereen, 24th April (D.Ballard); Female or immature male, Dursey Island, 23rd May, photographed (B.Finch *et al.*).

Galway One: First-summer male, Inishbofin, 25th to 27th May (A.McGeehan *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 58: 25.

Waterford One: Adult male, Brownstown Head, early May (J.Caulfield *et al.* per P.M.Walsh).

Although late April records are not infrequent, this species very rarely occurs earlier than the last week of April, with only six found earlier than 23rd April. The earliest on record is of one on Inishbofin, Donegal, 15th April 1987. The Galway record is the first published in these reports for the county since 1954, and only the fourth in total, although Ruttledge (1994) lists three records of five birds, between 1987 and 1994, which have not been submitted to the IRBC.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* (150; 5)

Cork Five: Male, Long Strand, 22nd May (C.Barton); Two juvenile, Cape Clear Island, 2nd September (S.Wing); Juvenile, Three Castles Head, 4th to 8th September (D.Ballard *et al.*); Juvenile, Cape Clear Island, 9th to 10th October (D.Charles, P.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 60: 24.

Five more for Cork bring the total for that county to 100. The remaining records are from Wexford (32), Donegal (7), Dublin (3), Wicklow (3), Galway (3), Down (2), Waterford (2) and singles from Antrim, Armagh and Kerry.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (77; 4)

Cork Three: Adult, Mizen Head, 22nd to 29th April (D.Ballard *et al.*); Second calendar-year male, Dursey Island, 2nd to 3rd May, photographed (K.Finch *et al.*); Juvenile, Three Castles Head, 2nd to 24th September (D.Ballard *et al.*).

Wexford One: Adult male, Churchtown, 24th to 25th April (J.A.Coveney, D.Daly, R.McLaughlin *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 216: 61.

While conforming to geographical and seasonal patterns, this series nevertheless includes the first record for Dursey Island and the longest staying individual on record, that on Three Castles Head in September.



Adult male Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Churchtown, Co. Wexford. 24th April 2010
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Juvenile Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 10th October 2010
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me/>).



Juvenile Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 10th October 2010
(David Dillon, www.flickr.com/photos/crotach/).



Adult male Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Churchtown, Co. Wexford. 25th April 2010 (Dave Daly).

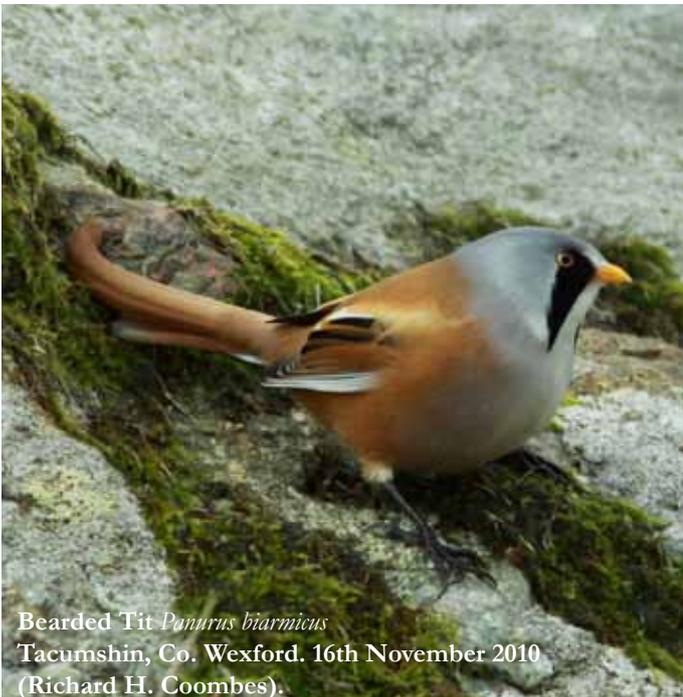
Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 16th November 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).



Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 16th November 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).



Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 16th November 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).



Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

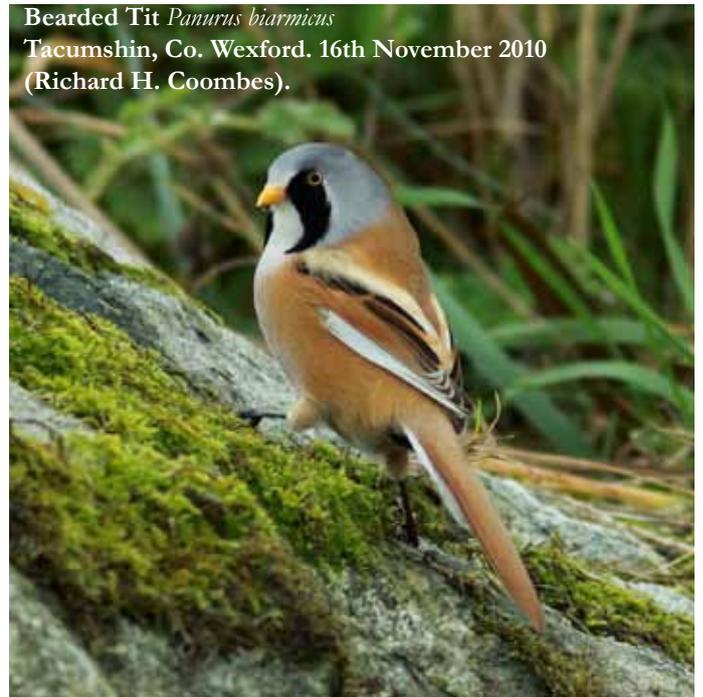
Wexford Seven: Up to seven adult, Tacumshin, 14th November to 24th January 2011 (P.J.Doyle, K.Grace, T.Kilbane *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 60: 26.

To many, one of the most characterful birds on the Irish list, this was a welcome return after a wait of more than 20 years since the previous record, at Ring Marsh in June 1990. For a time in the mid 1980s, when it was regularly proved breeding, it appeared that this species might become a permanent addition to the avifauna. Unfortunately, this did not happen, but the arrival of a small group such as this in appropriate breeding habitat could provide another opportunity.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 19th November 2010
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 16th November 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).





Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 2nd May 2010
(Polina Kasapova, www.thingsarelikethis.com).



Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 30th April 2010 (Seamus Enright).



Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 2nd May 2010 (Mark Carmody, www.markcarmodyphotography.com).

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (63; 4)
Cork Two: Adult, Ballycotton, 29th April to 10th May (C.Cullen *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 23: 189; Adult, Cape Clear Island, 22nd May (S.Wing).

Mayo One: One, Erris Head, Mullet Peninsula, 14th October (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Wexford One: Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 27th September (C.Cronin).

Four in a year is a record, although four also occurred in both 1993 and 2004. Between them, Cork and Wexford account for 55 of the total. The remainder show a distinctly north and north-westerly bias with six in Donegal, four in Mayo and one each in Down and Antrim.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* (34; 3)

Cork Two: Adult, Cape Clear Island, 24th April (S.Wing *et al.*); Adult, Old Head of Kinsale, 25th April (E.Carty).

Kerry One: One, Blennerville, 27th June (E.Carty).

With the addition of the two Cork records, April is now the peak month of occurrence with ten recorded, followed closely by October, with nine and May with seven. The late June arrival of the first for Kerry is unusual, but not without precedent, as there was a record in early July 2001 in Wicklow. All of the southern coastal counties from Dublin to Galway have now recorded this species. Only four have occurred in the northern half of the country, with records in Donegal, Londonderry and Down, the latter a record of two together.

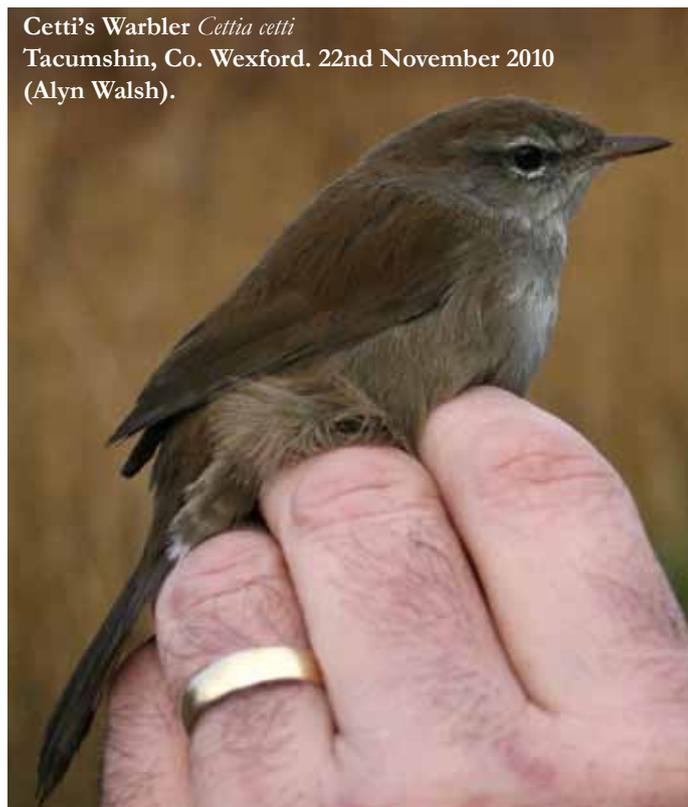


Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 4th May 2010 (Tom Tarpey).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* (2; 1)

Wexford One: One, Tacumshin, 6th November to 18th March 2011, photographed, sound recorded and ringed (R.Bonser, A.Clewes, L.Gregory *et al.*).

Anyone who has had the pleasure of attempting to see Cetti's Warbler in its normal range will attest to the difficulty of seeing the species, which normally advertises its presence with its characteristic loud and explosive song. This individual, the first for Wexford, certainly lived up to its reputation by being typically elusive, although very noisy. Despite its long stay, it was seen on only a handful of occasions and proved an exceedingly frustrating individual. As this was a vocal individual it is thought more likely to have been a male, although not definitively so, as females are known to sing occasionally (Cramp 1992). All three Irish records have occurred this century. The first was seen and heard at Ballymacoda, Cork in May 2002 and the second seen and heard in May 2005 in Wicklow. This is therefore the first record of wintering in Ireland and the fact that it survived a very hard winter gives hope for the oft-predicted colonisation.



Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 22nd November 2010
(Alyn Walsh).



Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 22nd November 2010
(Alyn Walsh).

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (33; 1)

Cork One: One, Strawtown, Galley Head, 5th to 7th September (C.Foley *et al.*).

Although early, not atypically so – nine have now been found between 25th August and 9th September. About two-thirds (23) of the records are from Cork.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* (34; 1)

Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 30th to 31st October (A.Cook, S.Wing *et al.*).

The tenth for Cape Clear Island on a typical late October date.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

Kerry Zero: One, Ross Castle, Killarney, from 28th December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 274) remained to 1st January.

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus* (0; 1)

Waterford One: Male, Brownstown Head, 16th June, photographed and sound recorded (P.M.Walsh *et al.*).

This is the first record for Ireland of a taxon that was not regarded as a full species until recently. Following the first record for Britain in 1972, increasing numbers since 1999 (Slack 2009), and a record influx there in 2010 (Hudson *et al.* 2011), the arrival of this species had been expected. Managing to clinch the identification of this taxon, however, is not easy. With plumage characters perhaps not diagnosably different to Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, it is most likely that the presence of this species will first be suspected upon hearing the song, as was the situation in this case. Even then, only individuals singing the classic Iberian Chiffchaff song are likely to be acceptable given the number of 'mixed-singers' that have been recorded. Fortunately, in this case, the characteristic song was heard and recorded and a series of supporting photographs was also obtained.



Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*
Brownstown Head, Co. Waterford. 16th June 2010
(Michael O'Keeffe).

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*
Brownstown Head, Co. Waterford. 16th June 2010
(Michael O'Keeffe).



Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*
Brownstown Head, Co. Waterford. 16th June 2010
(Michael O'Keeffe).



Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*
Brownstown Head, Co. Waterford. 25th September 2010
(Micheál Cowming)



Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*
Brownstown Head, Co. Waterford. 25th September 2010
(Micheál Cowming).



Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (136; 17)

Cork Eleven: First calendar-year, Three Castles Head, 3rd September (D.Ballard); One, Mizen Head, 4th September (D.Ballard); First calendar-year, Garinish, 4th September (K.Grace); One, Baltimore, 25th September (O.Foley); First-calendar year, Dursey Island, 28th September to 3rd October (D.A.Scott *et al.*); One, Three Castles Head, 29th September to 4th October (D.Ballard); First calendar-year, Cape Clear Island, 1st October (N.Warnock); First calendar-year, Garinish, 6th October (A.A.K.Lancaster); First calendar-year, Crookhaven, 10th October (M.Shorten); First calendar-year, Mizen Head, 20th October (P.Wolstenholme); First calendar-year, Knockadoon Head, 8th November (I.Hill, H.Hussey).

Donegal One: First calendar-year, Tory Island, 31st August to 1st September (P.Phillips).

Galway Three: First calendar-year, Inishbofin, 11th to 14th October (A.McGeehan); First calendar-year, Inishbofin, 17th October (A.McGeehan); First calendar-year, Inishmore Island, 24th to 26th October (D.Breen *et al.*).

Kerry One: First calendar-year, Mweevoe, 17th October, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*).

Waterford One: One, Brownstown Head, 25th September, photographed (C.Flynn, M.Cowming *et al.*).

This is the largest influx on record, more than doubling the previous high, of eight during 2008. As can be seen, there was a small influx of four at the end of August and early September, followed by a three week gap in which no birds were found. A second arrival then took place between 25th September and 1st October, with a subsequent arrival during the third week of October. The year is particularly representative of the overall timing of records, with small numbers in August and November but the bulk of records during late September and October. Unusually, given their relatively wide geographical spread, none were recorded in Wexford. Also unusual was the bird in Kerry, which was found at an inland location.

First-summer female Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 25th May 2010
(Patrick Manley).



Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (47; 2)

Cork One: Male, Knockadoon Head, 2nd to 3rd May, photographed (N.Warnock *et al.*).

Wexford One: First-summer female, Great Saltee Island, 26th May, photographed (D.Manley *et al.*).

Roughly four times more common in spring than autumn, the Wexford record is quite late for a spring record.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* (212; 7)

Cork Six: One, Mizen Head, 1st September (D.Ballard); Two, Ballinacarraige, West Beara, 3rd September (K.Grace); One, Three Castles Head, 3rd to 10th September (D.Ballard *et al.*); One, Crookhaven, 5th September (O.Foley); One, Mizen Head, 29th September (P.Moore).

Wexford One: One, Hook Head, 12th September (S.Farrell, C.Foley, D.Foley).

The highest numbers since 1997 and very welcome given the relatively low numbers since then.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* (183; 6)

Cork Five: One, Marsh Lane, Galley Head, 3rd to 6th September, photographed (C.Barton, M.O'Sullivan *et al.*); One, Old Head of Kinsale, 4th to 9th September (H.Hussey, B.Lynch); One, Mizen Head, 4th September (O.Foley); One, Cape Clear Island, 4th to 6th September (G.Oliver); One, Dursey Island, 12th September (D.A.Scott).

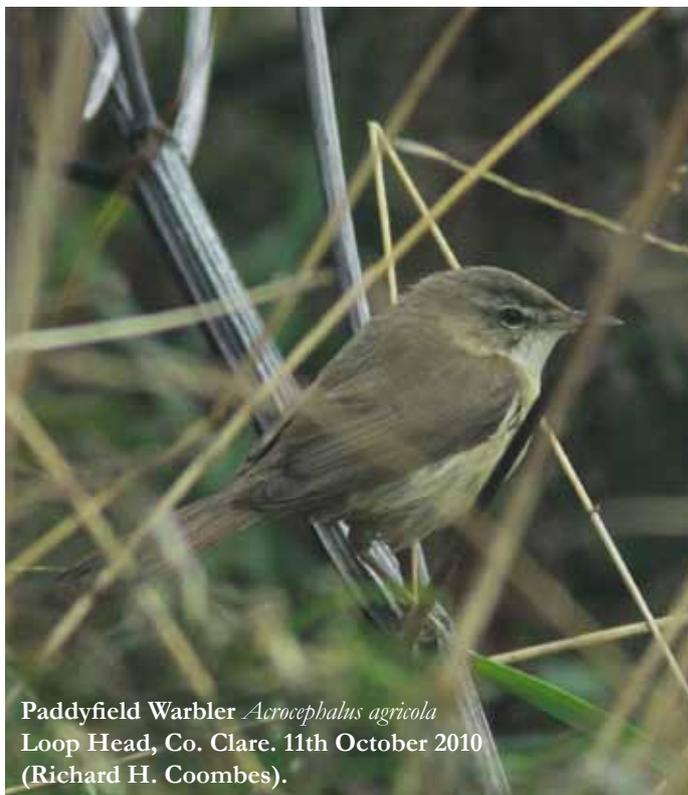
Wexford One: One, Hook Head, 5th September, photographed (K.Mullarney).

A reasonably good year, improving considerably on the single bird found during 2009. Given the remarkable quality of the autumn for other sympatric species, however, one can't help feeling that numbers of this and the previous species are still somewhat disappointing.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* (4; 1)

Clare One: One, Loop Head, 10th to 11th October, photographed (F.MacGabhann, T.Mee, J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

In a purple patch for Loop Head, this individual shared the lighthouse complex with a Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*, recalling the occurrence of the same species with a Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* on Tory Island, Donegal in 1998. The first for Ireland was on the incredibly late date of 3rd December 1982 in Wexford and died early the following day. The second met with a similar fate, being found dead at the foot of Galley Head lighthouse in October 1991. The third was the Donegal individual referred to above and the fourth was at Garinish, West Beara, Cork in October 2000, both of which only stayed for one day.



Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*
Loop Head, Co. Clare. 11th October 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).



Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*
Loop Head, Co. Clare. 11th October 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).



Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*
Hook Head, Co. Wexford. 5th September 2010
(Killian Mullarney).



Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*
Loop Head, Co. Clare. 10th October 2010
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*
Loop Head, Co. Clare. 10th October 2010
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* (123; 2)

Cork One: One, Lehanemore and Garinish, Beara, 28th September to 7th October (K.Grace *et al.*).

Galway One: Juvenile, Inishbofin, 25th September (A.McGeehan).

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* (25; 3)

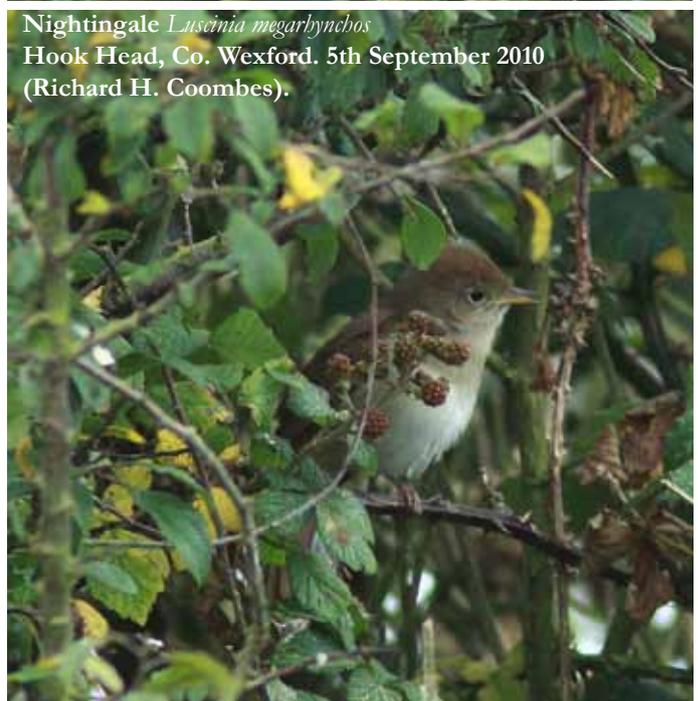
Clare One: First calendar-year, Loop Head, 10th to 11th October, photographed (F.MacGabhann, T.Mee, J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Wexford Two: One, Hook Head, 5th to 8th September (S.Collins *et al.*), photograph Wings 59: 29; One, Great Saltee Island, 7th September (T.Murray, A.Walsh).

A record autumn influx and equalled only once in spring, as far back as 1955! Although perhaps thought to be more typically a spring vagrant, there have now been 13 in autumn and 15 in spring. The bird in Clare is the first for the county and almost the latest on record, one in Kerry in 2005 being later by only two days.



Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*
Hook Head, Co. Wexford. 5th September 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).



Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*
Hook Head, Co. Wexford. 5th September 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).



Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*
Hook Head, Co. Wexford. 5th September 2010
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



First calendar-year Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*
Loop Head, Co. Clare. 10th October 2010
(Dermot Breen).



First calendar-year Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*
Loop Head, Co. Clare. 10th October 2010
(Dermot Breen).



Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*
Hook Head, Co. Wexford. 5th September 2010
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).

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

Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 12th October (J.F.Dowdall *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 60: 25.

Following hot on the heels of the first record less than a year earlier, this bird was present for only a few hours late in the evening and, like the previous individual, departed overnight, leaving many still hoping for a more accommodating individual.

Eastern Stonechat

Saxicola torquatus maurus / stejnegeri (6; 1)

Cork One: First calendar-year male, Galley Head, 8th October, photographed (C.Cronin *et al.*).

This is the first record of this taxon since 1998 and is the third to be recorded on Galley Head. The first was on Great Saltee Island, Wexford, in 1977 and this was followed by records in 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993 and 1998, all in Cork. All have been found between 24th September and 27th October.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica* (4; 1)

Wexford One: First-summer female, Great Saltee Island, 15th to 16th May (J.F.Dowdall, K.Grace *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 23: 189, *Birdwatch* 217: 50, *Dutch Birding* 32: 209, *Wings* 58: 25 (Grace 2010).

Clearly, mid-May is the prime time for this wanderer from the Mediterranean – all have been found between 7th and 26th May, four in Wexford and one in Cork. The first was collected on Tuskar Rock, Wexford in 1916 and, in addition to the bird in 2010, two others have been found on Great Saltee Island, in 1987 and 1997. The remaining record was on Cape Clear Island, in 1992. Their stay is typically relatively short, with none staying longer than four days and an average stay of two. The task of assigning vagrants of this species to either of its constituent taxa (so called 'Eastern' *melanoleuca* and 'Western' *hispanica*) can be straightforward in the case of adult males but is often fraught with difficulty where females and first-year males are involved, the only two assigned so far being male *hispanica* at Tuskar Rock and Cape Clear Island. This is the first record of a female in Ireland, which makes the job of assigning the record to sub-specific level especially difficult. It is tentatively felt that this individual is more likely referable to the western *hispanica* race due to its upperparts colour being a decidedly warm, gingery brown, possibly outside the range of variation in *melanoleuca*.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* (250; 5)

Clare One: One, Loop Head, 4th September (F.MacGabhann, J.N.Murphy).

Cork Three: One, Cape Clear Island, 8th to 10th October (E.O'Donnell); One, Mizen Head, 11th October (O.Foley); One, Old Head of Kinsale, 21st October (J.Diggin).

Mayo One: One, Erris Head, Mullet Peninsula, 11th October, photographed (D.Suddaby).

The long term average from 1960 to 2009 is just over 4.5 per year, although this rises to 4.85 per year if blank years are excluded. Five in a year is therefore slightly better than average, although on this occasion including the first published record for Mayo.

First calendar-year male Eastern Stonechat
Saxicola torquatus maurus / stejnegeri
Galley Head, Co. Cork. 8th October 2010
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 12th October 2010
(David Dillon, www.flickr.com/photos/crotach/).

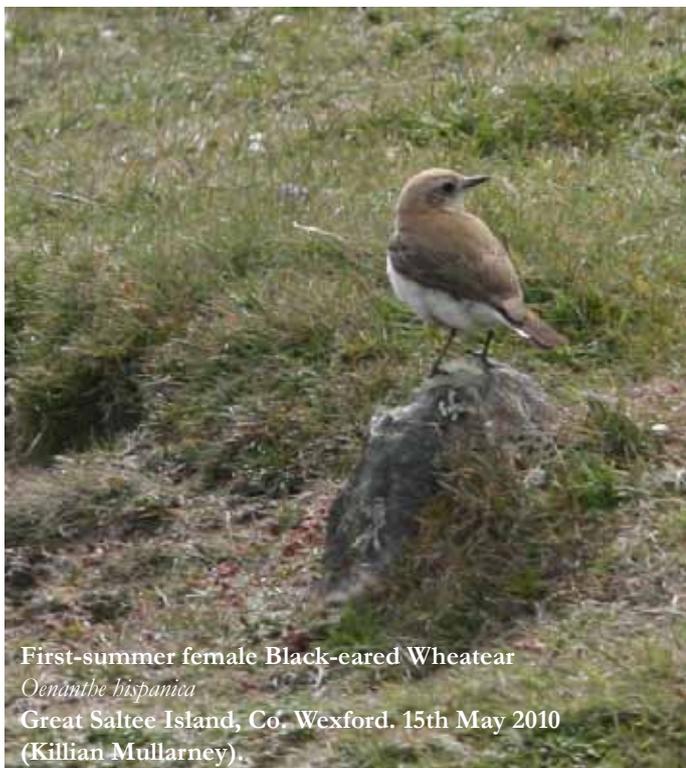


Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 12th October 2010
(Victor Caschera).



First calendar-year male Eastern Stonechat
Saxicola torquatus maurus / stejnegeri
Galley Head, Co. Cork. 8th October 2010
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).





First-summer female Black-eared Wheatear
Oenanthe hispanica
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 15th May 2010
(Killian Mullarney).



First-summer female Black-eared Wheatear
Oenanthe hispanica
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 15th May 2010
(Killian Mullarney).



First-summer female Black-eared Wheatear
Oenanthe hispanica
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 15th May 2010
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



First-summer female Black-eared Wheatear
Oenanthe hispanica
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 15th May 2010
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



First-summer female Black-eared Wheatear
Oenanthe hispanica
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 16th May 2010
(Seamus Enright).



First-summer female Black-eared Wheatear
Oenanthe hispanica
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 16th May 2010
(Seamus Enright).

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (23; 1)

Limerick One: First-winter, Coonagh, 12th to 14th September (T.Tarpey *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 23: 374.

The first for Limerick, but otherwise a typical record. Twenty-one of the total have been first-winter birds and only one autumn bird has been aged as an adult, a female in Wexford in September 2009.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (95; 1)

Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 30th October (O.Foley).

In contrast to the next species, Richard's Pipit is almost annual in occurrence and both the location and the date are typical, with this the 28th for Cape Clear Island.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* (36; 2)

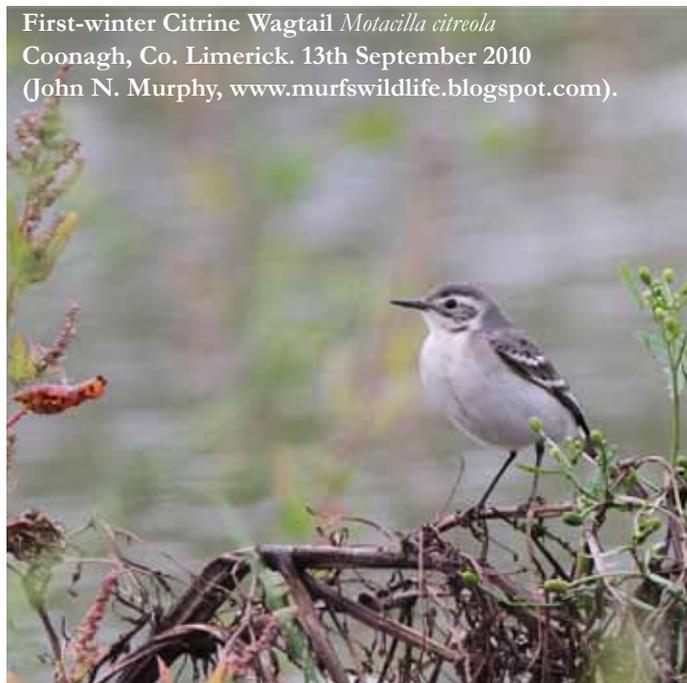
Cork One: One, Ballycotton, 23rd April (P.Moore).

Wicklow One: One, Newcastle, 9th June (B.Haslam *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 58: 26.

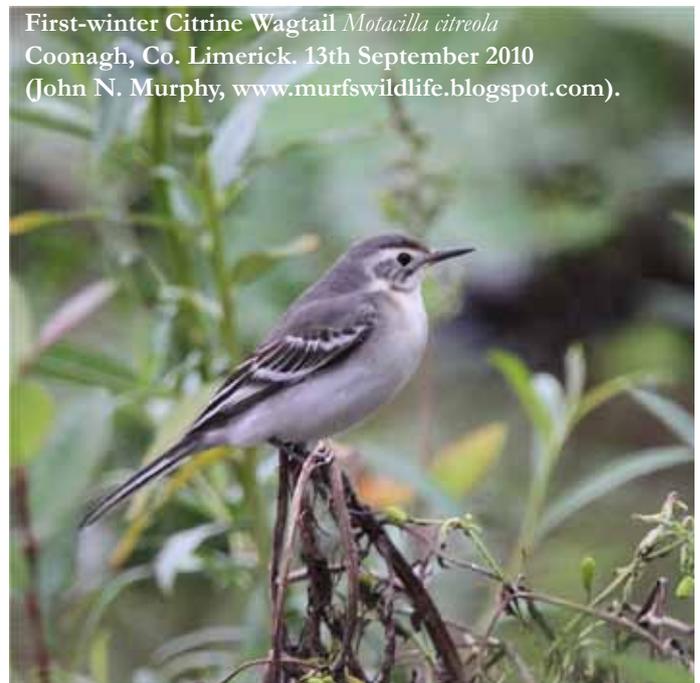
Distinctly less than annual in occurrence, there have never been more than three in a year. The bird in Cork is among the earliest on record while that in Wicklow is the first for June and only the third away from the south coast. There have now been 17 in both Cork and Wexford. The remainder have been in Wicklow (2), Waterford and Antrim, the latter as far back as 1957.



First-winter Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Coonagh, Co. Limerick. 13th September 2010
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



First-winter Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Coonagh, Co. Limerick. 13th September 2010
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



First-winter Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Coonagh, Co. Limerick. 13th September 2010
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*
Newcastle, Co. Wicklow. 9th June 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).



Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*
Newcastle, Co. Wicklow. 9th June 2010
(Richard H. Coombes).

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (36; 5)

Clare One: One, Loop Head, 11th October (B.Haslam).

Cork Three: One, Cape Clear Island, 10th to 15th October (P.Kelly, J.Lynch); One, Dursey Island, 10th October (M.Hanafin, H.Hussey, G.Walsh); One, Cape Clear Island, 30th October (S.Wing).

Kerry One: One, Carrahane, 30th September (J.Hayes, J.N.Murphy).

This is the best year on record and the series contains the first record for Clare and the second for Kerry. Cork, by contrast, now accounts for over half (22) of the total with Dursey Island hosting its sixth and Cape Clear Island its seventh and eighth. Familiarity with the distinctive call is a definite advantage and the long, drawn out, and somewhat sibilant call is often the first indication of their presence.

Scandinavian Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus littoralis (38; 5)

Clare One: One, Liscannor, 26th March, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*).

Cork Two: Two, Ballycotton, 21st to 27th March (R.McLaughlin).

Galway One: One, Mutton Island, 4th to 9th March, photographed (T.Cuffe).

Waterford One: One, Whiting Bay, 14th March (P.M.Walsh).

Although only half of the total for 2009 this, with 1996, is the second best year on record and this series contains the first for Galway. There is nothing unusual in the timing of the records, as 26 of the total have now been found during March, a time when the distinctive breeding plumage starts to become apparent.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* (106; 18)

Clare Two: One, Seafield, 24th to 25th October (D.McNamara); One, Doonaha, 14th December (P.Troake).

Cork Seven: One, Ballycotton, 21st March to 11th April (R.McLaughlin); One, Garretstown, 25th October (O.Foley); Two, Ballycotton, 6th to 19th November, photographed (O.Foley, R.McLaughlin *et al.*); One, Sherkin Island, 18th to 21st November (J.Wyllie); One, Pilmore Strand, 10th December to 7th February 2011, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*); One, Macroom, 21st December (A.Duggan).

Dublin One: One, Knock Lake, from 28th December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 277) remained to 9th January; One, Swords Estuary, 17th February to 19th March (P.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 214: 65.

Kerry One: One, Black Rock Strand, 3rd December to 21st February 2011, photographed (D.O'Connor *et al.*).

Waterford Two: One, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 4th April (K.Preston); One, Clonea Strand, 14th November (O.Foley).

Wexford Three: One, Tacumshin, 15th February (K.Grace); Up to two, Tacumshin, 1st to 21st November (P.Kelly, T.Kilbane *et al.*).

Wicklow Two: Two, Broad Lough, 30th January to 10th April (R.H.Coombes).

This is the second best year on record, although 10 short of the total in 2007. There have now been over 100 since the turn of the century, following 19 in the 1990s. Prior to 1990 there were only four recorded, two in 1985, and one each in 1943 and 1861. The series in Cork equals the previous total for the county of a species that was recorded there for the first time as recently as 2007.



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 7th November 2010

(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me/>).



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Swords Estuary, Co. Dublin. 18th February 2010

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



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 3rd December 2010

(David O'Connor).



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 7th November 2010

(Richard T. Mills).



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 6th November 2010

(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* (10; 5)

Cork One: First calendar-year, Pilmore Strand, 12th October, photographed (C.Cullen).

Galway One: First calendar-year, Truska Marsh, Slyne Head, 2nd to 3rd October, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Waterford Two: First calendar-year, Clonea Strand, 17th to 24th October, photographed (P.M.Walsh *et al.*); A different individual, Clonea Strand, 12th to 13th November (M.Carmody *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 23: 464.

Wexford One: First calendar-year, Carne Harbour, 30th to 31st October (E.Dempsey *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 539, *British Birds* 103: 750.

The status of this species has changed considerably in the last number of years and this series includes the first records for Galway and Waterford. Prior to 2007, it was one of the rarer Nearctic passerines on the Irish list. However, with the influx above, it becomes the second most numerous, exceeding Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*, although still with considerably fewer records than Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*, which has amassed 53 records to date.



First calendar-year Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*
Carne Harbour, Co. Wexford. 30th October 2010
(Killian Mullarney).



First calendar-year Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*
Carne Harbour, Co. Wexford. 30th October 2010
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



First calendar-year Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*
Slyne Head, Co. Galway. 3rd October 2010
(Dermot Breen).

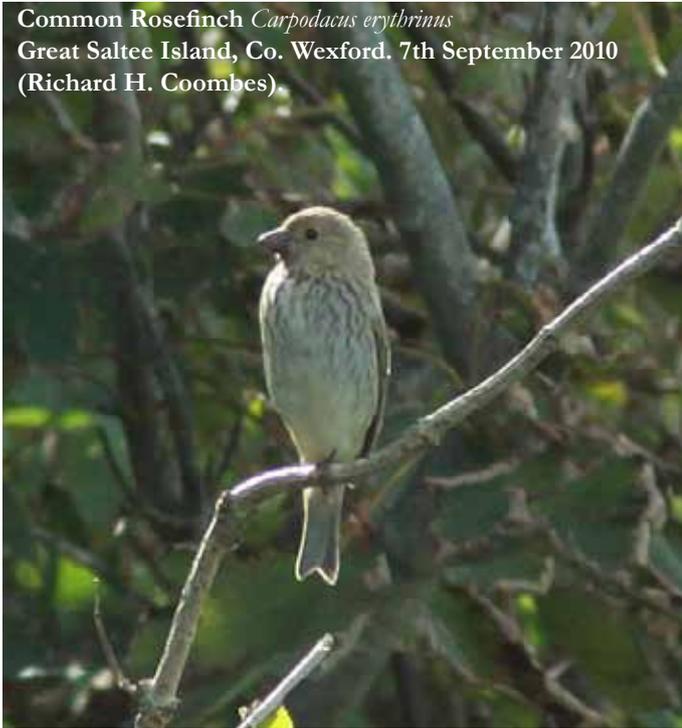


First calendar-year Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*
Clonea Strand, Co. Waterford. 19th October 2010
(Paul Archer).

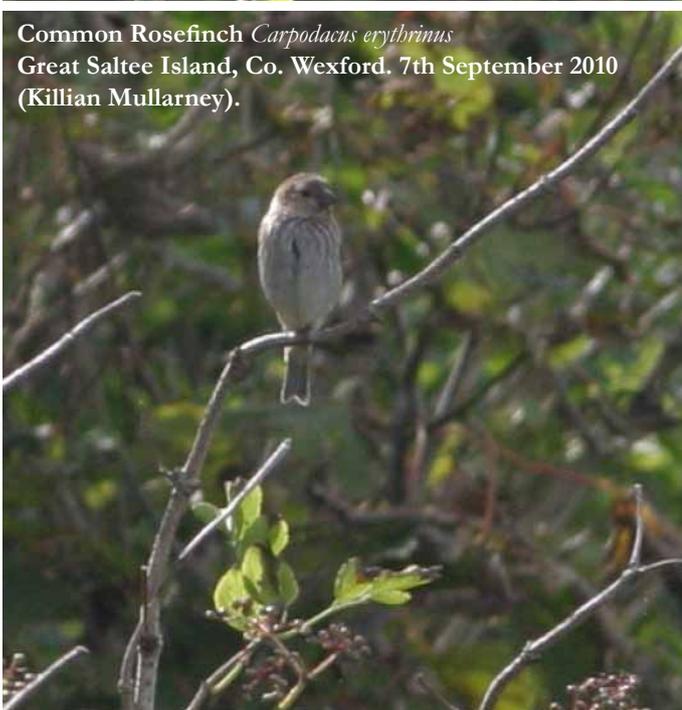


First calendar-year Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*
Clonea Strand, Co. Waterford. 24th October 2010
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 7th September 2010
(Richard H. Coombes)



Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 7th September 2010
(Killian Mullarney).



Female 'Northern' Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula*
Tory Island, Co. Donegal. 26th October 2004
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* (158; 10)

Cork Five: Male, Dursey Island, 15th June, photographed (D.A.Scott *et al.*); Immature, Dursey Island, 26th to 30th September (D.A.Scott *et al.*); First calendar-year, Cape Clear Island, 4th to 6th October (P.Phillips *et al.*); Two, Three Castles Head, 9th October (D.Ballard).
Mayo Two: First calendar-year, Annagh Head, Mullet Peninsula, 7th October (D.Suddaby); First calendar-year, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 24th October (D.Suddaby).
Wexford Three: One, Hook Head, 5th September (P.Kelly); One, Great Saltee Island, 7th September, photographed (J.F.Dowdall *et al.*); One, Hook Head, 12th September (S.Farrell, C.Foley, D.Foley).

Since 1975, this species has occurred every year except 1984 and the total this year equals the record set in 2001. Although more frequent in autumn, spring records are regular and June accounts for 23 of the total.

'Northern' Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula* (4; 0)

Birds showing the characters of the subspecies *pyrrhula*:
2004 Donegal One: Female, Tory Island, 25th to 26th October, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly).

This is the first bird submitted to the IRBC from the exceptional influx of birds assumed to be of this form into Britain and Ireland in 2004, although two in January 2005 have been accepted by NIBARC. The IRBC is aware that others were reported on the various information services at the time (McGeehan 2004). Additionally, Irish reports were summarised in the context of the wider influx in Pennington & Meek (2006). The Committee would welcome any documentation of these claims.

Female 'Northern' Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula*
Tory Island, Co. Donegal. 26th October 2004
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Female 'Northern' Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula*
Tory Island, Co. Donegal. 26th October 2004
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes (168; 20)

Cork Three: Two, Three Castles Head, 10th October (N.Linehan, K.Mullarney); One, Cape Clear Island, 10th to 16th October, photographed (D.Weir *et al.*).

Limerick Fourteen: Up to fourteen, Curraghchase National Park, 13th November to 29th January 2011 (C.Glasgow, J.Hayes, H.Williams *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 60: 26.

Mayo One: One, Blacksod, Mullet Peninsula, 10th October (D.Suddaby).

Wicklow Two: Two, Glencree, 22nd August (G.Binchy).

Given that the species has occurred widely in Ireland and given the presence of suitable habitat in the county, it is perhaps surprising that the Wicklow records above are the first for the county. This species seems to be prone to occasional large autumn influxes. The best year on record is 1988, in which there were 109, followed by 2005 with 34. Prior to 1988, there had been smaller influxes in 1828 and 1889. It has been found in all months of the year although there is a distinct winter peak and the August record above is only the second for that month following one on Cape Clear Island in 1973. In the nineteenth century, it was known as an irregular winter visitor, particularly in the Phoenix Park in Dublin but it also occurred regularly in the 1860s near Clonmel, Tipperary. Even then, however, there were irregular occurrences during the breeding season, particularly at Straffan in Kildare. Between the last of the records in Straffan in 1902, and the large influx in 1988, occurrences became exceedingly scarce, appearing occasionally at well watched migration sites. Since 1988, however, the habit of occasional wintering in Ireland seems to have been renewed, with Curraghchase in Limerick now the most regular location. However, defining the exact status of this species in Ireland is made more difficult by its elusive nature and one wonders whether this species is more regular even in winter than records show. There has even been some speculation that breeding may have occurred in the more recent past (O'Sullivan & Smiddy 1992).

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* (108; 5)

Cork Five: Two, Three Castles Head, 2nd to 3rd September (D.Ballard); Two, Mizen Head, 3rd to 6th September (O.Foley *et al.*); One, Marsh Lane, Galley Head, 4th September, photographed (C.Barton *et al.*).

This species tends to be somewhat erratic in occurrences with good years, such as this, interspersed with years with low numbers, or even a complete absence of records. The species was absent in 2007 and 2009, but four occurred in 2008 and the total for 2010 is exceeded only by the record ten in 1960 and six in 1961, 1976 and 2003.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (38; 1)

Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 20th October (A.Cook, J.Torino, S.Wing).

Although the species has occurred in six different counties and in both spring and autumn, the records would suggest that those seeking this species would be best advised to search in Cork in late autumn, a combination that accounts for over 46% (18) of the total.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* (11; 2)

Cork One: First calendar-year, Cape Clear Island, 5th to 13th October (P.Phillips *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 437, *Birdwatch* 222: 52 (Phillips 2010).

Galway One: First calendar-year, Inishmore Island, 10th to 11th October (H.Delaney *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 437, *Wings* 60: 25.

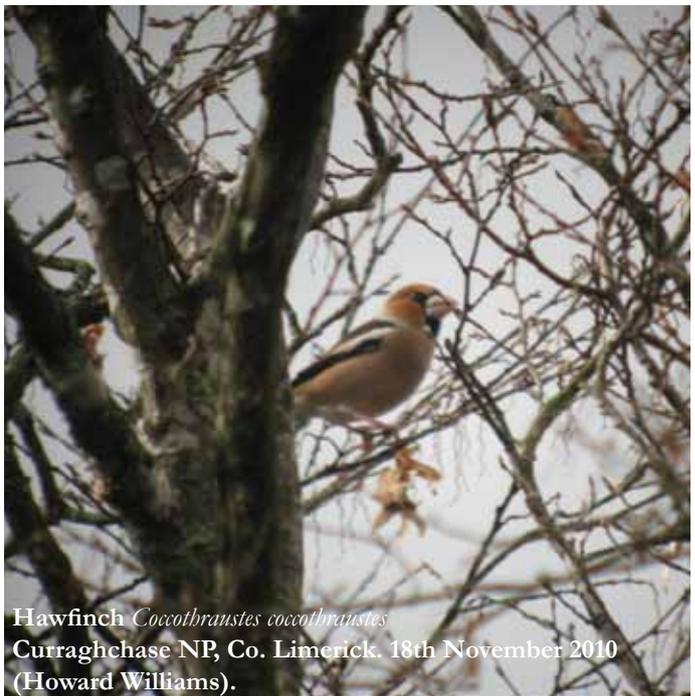
These are the first for Ireland since 2005. The tenth for Cape Clear Island cements its place as one of the prime locations for this species in the Western Palearctic. Galway, by contrast, receives its first record. The remaining Irish records are from Great Blasket Island, Kerry in 2001 and the sole mainland record at Loop Head, Clare in 1986. All Irish records have occurred in October, although one has remained into early November and this is the third occasion for two individuals to reach our shores in the same year, following two in both 1983 and 2001. This species is very difficult to safely sex in non-breeding plumages with considerable overlap, particularly between adult female and first-year male (Curson *et al.* 1994). Keeping this caveat in mind, it would seem from photographs that the dull bird in Cork may perhaps be female, while the brighter Galway individual would seem more likely to be male.



Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
Curraghchase NP, Co. Limerick. 18th November 2010
(Howard Williams).



Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
Curraghchase NP, Co. Limerick. 18th November 2010
(Howard Williams).



Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
Curraghchase NP, Co. Limerick. 18th November 2010
(Howard Williams).



First calendar-year Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 6th October 2010
(Seamus Enright).



First calendar-year Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 10th October 2010
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me/>).



First calendar-year Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 13th October 2010
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



First calendar-year Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*
Inishmore Island, Co. Galway. 10th October 2010
(Tom Tarpey).



First calendar-year Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*
Inishmore Island, Co. Galway. 10th October 2010
(Tom Tarpey).



First calendar-year Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*
Inishmore Island, Co. Galway. 10th October 2010
(Tom Tarpey).

Appendix 1: Category D records

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.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Sligo Zero: Female, Gibraltar Point, Sligo Harbour, from 10th December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 280) remained to 15th March, photographed (S.Feeney *et al.*).

Wexford Zero: Two first calendar-year, Tacumshin, South Slob and Rosslare Back Strand, from 9th November 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 280) remained to 5th March, albeit as second calendar-year from 1st January.

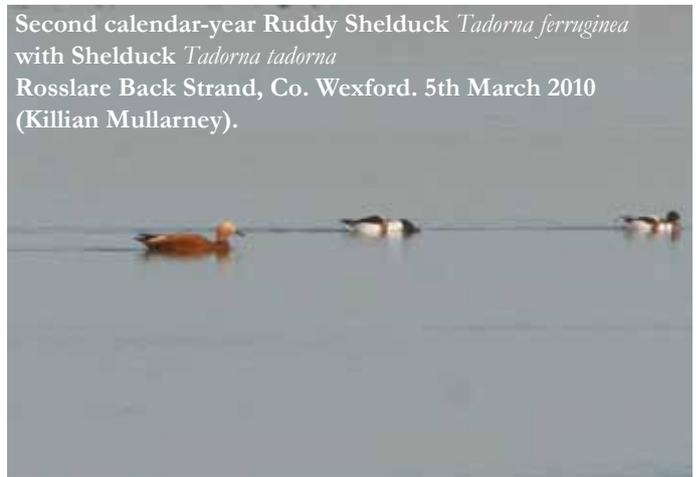
Category D2 records

Species that have arrived through ship or other human assistance.

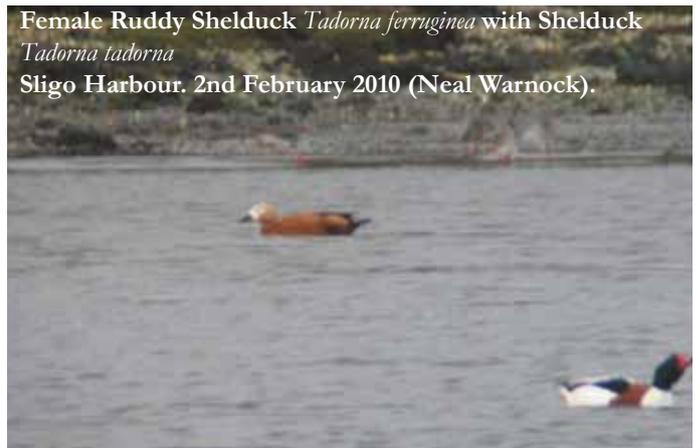
House Crow *Corvus splendens* (1; 1)

Cork One: One, Cobh, 5th September to at least 11th August 2011 (J.Wilson *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 390-392, 466, 538, *Birdwatch* 221: 54-55, *Dutch Birding* 32: 347, *Wings* 59: 30 (Wilson 2010a, Wilson 2010b).

This is the second record for Ireland, following one in Dunmore East, Waterford from 3rd November 1974 to 26th October 1980, also placed in category D2 (McAdams *et al.* 1999, Mullarney *et al.* 1999, Milne 2005). Many arguments have been offered to support acceptance of this species to Category A of the Irish list. However, given the definition of Category D2 above, it would seem illogical to place this species in any other category, as there is an almost universal acknowledgement that this individual, and the 1974 record before it, had arrived through ship assistance.



Second calendar-year Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* with Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
Rosslare Back Strand, Co. Wexford. 5th March 2010
(Killian Mullarney).



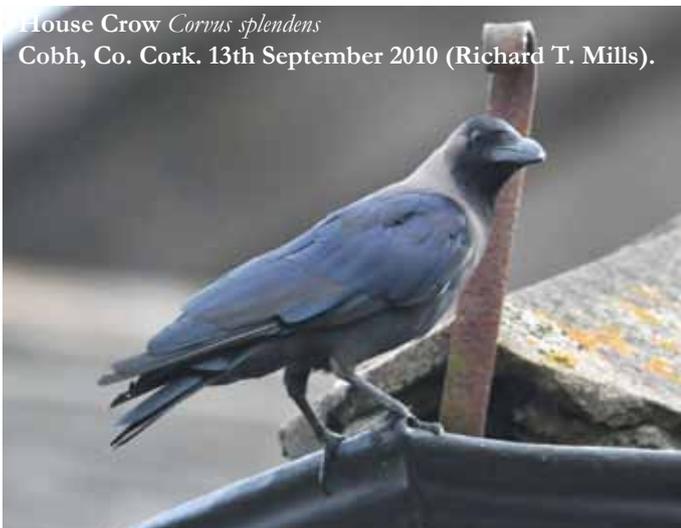
Female Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* with Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
Sligo Harbour. 2nd February 2010 (Neal Warnock).



House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 13th September 2010 (Victor Caschera).



House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 12th September 2010
(Jim Wilson, www.irishwildlife.net).



House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 13th September 2010 (Richard T. Mills).



House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 21st September 2010
(Mark Carmody, www.markcarmodyphotography.com).

Appendix 2: Contributors

J.Adamson, D.Allen, G.Armstrong, D.Ballard, C.Barton, M.Berney, G.Binchy, R.Bonser, N.Borodina, I.Boustead, M.Bowtell, M.Boyle, D.Breen, D.Brennan, P.Brennan, A.Brewer, A.Brown, D.Brown, M.Carmody, E.Carty, V.Caschera, M.Casey, J.Cassidy, J.Caulfield, D.Charles, V.Chipperfield, P.Clancy, D.Clarke, G.Clarke, A.Clewes, K.Collins, S.Collins, P.Connaughton, S.Connolly, A.Cook, R.H.Coombes, A.Copland, J.Copner, D.Cotton, J.Cousins, J.A.Coveney, M.Cowming, M.Cowming Snr, C.Cronin, S.Cronin, T.Cuffe, C.Cullen, D.Daly, M.Davis, H.Delaney, E.Dempsey, J.Devlin, J.Diggin, J.Donaldson, J.F.Dowdall, T.Doyle, F.Drew, A.Duggan, M.Duggan, J.Dunleavy, S.Enright, S.Fagan, K.Fahy, T.Farnell, D.Farrar, S.Farrell, W.Farrelly, L.Feeney, S.Feeney, B.Finch, K.Finch, B.Finnegan, J.E.Fitzharris, M.Flanagan, C.Flynn, C.Foley, D.Foley, O.Foley, J.Foss, J.Fox, J.Geraty, S.Geraty, T.Gittings, C.Glasgow, K.Grace, G.Greenham, L.Gregory, T.Griffin, M.Hanafin, J.Hanlon, M.Harris, B.Haslam, N.Hatch, J.Hayes, I.Hill, M.Hirst, M.Hoit, B.Howell, G.Hunt, M.Hunt, R.Hunter, H.Hussey, C.Ingram, J.Jones, P.Kasapova, P.Keating, A.A.Kelly, A.G.Kelly, P.Kelly, T.Kelly, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, P.Keogh, M.Kerrane, T.Kilbane, F.King, P.King, A.A.K.Lancaster, K.Langdon, R.Lathwell, A.Lauder, S.Lawlor, S.Ledwith, L.Lenehan, P.Leonard, A.Lewis, N.Linehan, P.Lonergan, T.Lowe, B.Lynch, E.Lynch, J.Lynch, N.Lynch, T.Lynch, F.MacGabhann, M.Maddock, D.Manley, P.Manley, N.Marples, A.Matthews, D.G.McAdams, S.McAvoy, C.McConnell, P.McDermot, M.McGee, A.McGeehan, A.McKeever, O.McLaughlin, R.McLaughlin, A.McMillan, D.McNamara, M.McNamara, T.Mee, C.Mellon, J.Metcalf, R.T.Mills, Finn Moore, Forrest Moore, P.Moore, T.Moore, K.Mullarney, R.Mundy, D.Murphy, J.Murphy, J.N.Murphy, T.Murray, C.Nash, J.Nolan, M.Nolan, S.Nugent, M.O'Brian, C.O'Brien, J.O'Brien, M.O'Clery, F.O'Connell, M.O'Connell, D.O'Connor, A.Ó'Dónaill, E.O'Donnell, B.O'Donoghue, F.O'Duffy, M.O'Keeffe, P.O'Keeffe, S.O'Laoire, G.Oliver, J.O'Mahony, M.J.O'Mahony, M.O'Malley, A.O'Rourke, D.O'Sullivan, M.O'Sullivan, R.Pascal, C.Peppiatt, P.Phillips, C.Pollock, B.Porter, J.Power, K.Preston, J.Proudfoot, E.Randall, M.Read, P.Reaney, M.Reilly, M.Reimann, B.Robson, S.Ronayne, T.Ronayne, A.Rooney, L.Ryan, D.A.Scott, S.Shanagher, J.Sheehan, B.Sheils, B.Sheridan, J.Sherwin, T.Shevlin, M.Shorten, D.Skehan, J.Smith, K.Smith, W.Soar, A.Speer, M.Stewart, B.Strickland, D.Suddaby, P.Tadeusz, T.Tarpey, F.Thompson, J.Torino, Y.Traynor, P.Troake, J.Turner, R.Vaughan, W.Veale, G.Walker, A.Walsh, B.Walsh, G.Walsh, P.M.Walsh, M.Ward, N.Warnock, D.Weir, D.Weldon, H.Williams, J.Wilson, S.Wing, J.Wolstenholme, P.Wolstenholme, J.Wyllie.

irishbirding.com

Irish Rare Breeding Birds Panel (IRBBP)

Birds of Ireland News Service (BINS)

BirdWatch Ireland (BWI)

Cape Clear Bird Observatory (CCBO)

Copeland Bird Observatory (CBO)

Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association (NIBA)

The Cork Bird Report (CBR)

Appendix 3: List of records not proven

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

2010 records not proven

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

Pair, River Dodder, Sandymount, Dublin, 28th March to 10th April.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

One, Dungarvan, Waterford, 29th August.

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 2010 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.

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

One, Bridges of Ross, Clare, 10th August.

One, Galley Head, Cork, 20th August.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Two, Bandon River, Cork, 25th December.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

One, Askeaton, Limerick, 28th November.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Two, Ringarogy Island, Cork, 15th July.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

One, Killala, Mayo, 28th February.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Adult, Ballymacrown, Cork, 22nd May.

One, Tacumshin, Wexford, 17th April.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

One, Ballycotton, Cork, 3rd April, in addition to that already present.

One, Balscadden Beach, Howth, Dublin, 20th January.

One, Tacumshin, Wexford, 14th to 15th February.

References

- Brazier, H., Dowdall, J.F., Fitzharris, J.E. & Grace, K.** 1986. Thirty-third Irish Bird Report, 1985. *Irish Birds* 3: 287-336.
- Collins, K.** 2008. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* breeding in County Tipperary in 2008. *Irish Birds* 8: 435-436.
- Cramp, S. & Simmons, K.E.L.** (eds.) 1983. *Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, The Birds of the Western Palearctic, Volume 3: Waders to Gulls*. Oxford University Press.
- Cramp, S.** (ed.) 1992. *Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, The Birds of the Western Palearctic, Volume 6 - Warblers*. Oxford University Press.
- Crochet, P.-A., Raty, L., De Smet, G., Anderson, B., Barthel, P.H., Collinson, J.M., Dubois, P.J., Helbig, A.J., Jiguet, F., Jirle, E., Knox, A.G., Le Maréchal, P., Parkin, D.T., Pons, J.-M., Roselaar, C.S., Svensson, L., van Loon, A.J. & Yésou, P.** 2010. *AERC TAC's Taxonomic Recommendations. July 2010* [online]. Available at <http://www.aerc.eu/tac.html> [Accessed May 2011].
- Curson, J., Quinn, D. & Beadle, D.** 1994. *New World Warblers*. Christopher Helm, London.
- Dudley, S.P., Gee, M., Kehoe, C., Melling, T.M. & The British Ornithologist's Union Records Committee** 2006. The British List: A Checklist of Birds of Britain (7th Edition). *Ibis* 148:526-563.
- Farrar, D.** 2010. Perseverance and a Pied-billed Grebe. *Birdwatch* 214: 52-53.
- Farrelly, W. & Charles, D.** 2010. The Dresser's Eider in County Donegal – a new Western Palearctic bird. *Birding World* 23 (2): 62-64.
- Fox, A.D., Christensen, T.K., Bearhop, S. & Newton, J.** 2007. Using stable isotope analysis of multiple feather tracts to identify moulting provenance of vagrant birds: a case study of Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* in Denmark. *Ibis* 149: 622-625.
- Grace, K.** 2010. Wild western wheatear. *Birdwatch* 217: 50.
- Hutchinson, C.D.** 1989. *Birds in Ireland*. T.&A.D.Poyser, Calton.
- Hudson, N. & the Rarities Committee** 2008. Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 2007. *British Birds* 101: 516-577.

- Hudson, N. & the Rarities Committee** 2009. Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 2008. *British Birds* 102: 528-601.
- Hudson, N. & the Rarities Committee** 2011. Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 2010. *British Birds* 104: 557-629.
- Kennedy, P.G., Ruttledge, R.F. & Scroope, C.F.** 1954. *The Birds of Ireland*. Oliver and Boyd, London.
- Knox, A.G., Collinson, J.M., Parkin, D.T., Sangster, G. & Svensson, L.** 2008. Taxonomic recommendations for British birds: Fifth report. *Ibis* 150: 833-835.
- Martin, J.P.** 2008. 'Northern Harrier' on Scilly: new to Britain. *British Birds* 101: 394-407.
- McAdams, D.G., Milne, P. & O'Sullivan, O.** 1999. Forty-sixth Irish Bird Report, 1998. *Irish Birds* 6: 377-406.
- McGeehan, A.** 2004. *The Great Northern Bullfinch Hunt* [online]. Available at www.birdsireland.com/pages/site_pages/features/bullfinch.html [Accessed July 2011].
- Milne, P.** 2005. Fifty-first Irish Bird Report 2003. *Irish Birds* 7: 549-574.
- Mullarney, K. & Forsman, D.** 2010. Identification of Northern Harriers and vagrants in Ireland, Norfolk and Durham. *Birding World* 23: 509-523.
- Mullarney, K., O'Sullivan, O. & Lovatt, J.K.** 1999. House Crow *Corvus splendens* in County Waterford – an addition to the Irish List. *Irish Birds* 6: 427-430.
- Murphy, J.N.** 2010. Murphy's luck. *Birdwatch* 215: 52.
- O'Sullivan, O. & Smiddy, P.** 1992. Thirty-ninth Irish Bird Report, 1991. *Irish Birds* 4: 571-610.
- Pennington, M.G., Meek, E.R.** 2006. The 'Northern Bullfinch' invasion of autumn 2004. *British Birds* 99: 2-24.
- Phillips, P.** 2010. A Myrtle in Cork. *Birdwatch* 222: 52.
- Rogers, M.J. and the Rarities Committee** 1985. Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1984. *British Birds* 78: 529-589.
- Ruttledge, R.F.** 1978. Red-necked Phalaropes breeding south of latitude 53°37' in Ireland. *Irish Birds* 1: 229-231.
- Ruttledge, R.F.** 1994. *Birds in Counties Galway and Mayo*. Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin.
- Sangster, G., Collinson, J.M., Knox, A.G., Parkin, D.T. & Svensson, L.** 2007. Taxonomic recommendations for British birds: Fourth report. *Ibis* 149: 853-857.
- Sangster, G., Collinson, J.M., Knox, A.G., Parkin, D.T. & Svensson, L.** 2009. Taxonomic recommendations for British birds: Sixth report. *Ibis* 152: 180-186.
- Slack, R.** 2009. *Rare Birds Where and When: An Analysis of Status & Distribution in Britain and Ireland. Volume 1: sandgrouse to New World orioles*. Rare Bird Books, York.
- Suddaby, D.** 2011. Mullet back in vogue. *Birdwatch* 223: 54.
- Ussher, R.J. & Warren, R.** 1900. *Birds of Ireland*. Gurney and Jackson, London.
- Votier, S.C., Bowen, G.J. & Newton, J.** 2009. Stable-hydrogen isotope analyses suggest natural vagrancy of Baikal Teal to Britain. *British Birds* 102: 697-699.
- Wilson, J.** 2010a. The House Crow in County Cork. *Birding World* 23: 390-393.
- Wilson, J.** 2010b. Eyes up for a full House. *Birdwatch* 221: 54-55.

Abbreviations used

IBR: Irish Bird Report – annual from 1953 to 1975.