

Desert Wheatear, Bray Head, Co. Wicklow. 13th November 2011
Tom Shevlin



Irish Rare Bird Report 2011



IRBC

Introduction

From 2000 to 2010, twenty-two species were added to the Irish list - an average of two per year, and 2011 maintained that average. The two species added were a White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri* (Kerry) in March that subsequently transpired to have been present since February and a Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* (Cork) in April. The latter species became one of the signature birds of 2011 as an autumn influx also provided the second to fifth records (Wexford, Galway and Cork).

The second Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* (Kerry) and third Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus* (Cork) were found in September. The fourth Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (Wexford) was found in May and a Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* (Kerry), also the fourth for Ireland, in August. An influx of four Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* (Wicklow, Dublin and Waterford) provided the fifth to eighth records. Rare sub-species recorded during the year included the third Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius* (Wexford) in October.

The report also contains details of some headline rarities from earlier years. A record of Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica* (Galway) in January 2009 becomes the first record for Ireland and is considered likely to have involved the same individual subsequently found nearby in 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 288). Two records of Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, in October 2009 (Mayo) and October 2010 (Cork), were the fourth and fifth records. Also recorded for the fifth time were an Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* (Mayo) in May 2008, a Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (Mayo) and Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* (Cork) in September 2009 and a Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* (Cork) in October 2010. In addition, an Arctic Redpoll (Cork) in October 2010 showing characteristics of the form *exilipes* was the first record of that form for Ireland.

The start of the year was quiet, with the usual scattering of wintering rarities, the rarest of which were American Coot *Fulica americana* and two Northern Harrier. Although generally a poor year for gulls, the first major rarity of the year was a Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri* (Galway) in February. The only other new gulls in the first part of the year were a Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* and three Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoideus kumlieni*. March was very quiet for migration but saw the first of two White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*.

Spring really took off in April. As is often the case, a Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* and an Alpine Swift *Apus melba* were among the forerunners. A record influx of ten Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*, the first Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* for many years, the first Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* and first two Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* for the year and two early Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* were all part of a wave of spring overshoots in April that brought the first Pallid Harrier. For the fourth year in a row, high numbers of Hobby *Falco subbuteo* arrived in April and May. Foreshadowing what would happen later in the year, there was also a spring mini-influx of Nearctic waders, including a record spring arrival of Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*.

The mid-summer months are often very quiet, and although there were some very good birds, many were elusive. Nonetheless, for a lucky few, summer was enlivened by a Black Kite *Milvus migrans*, a trio of Bee-eater, two adult Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* and a gathering of five Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*. A record total of juvenile Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* in August and September hinted at the possibility of local origin.

Seawatching produced huge numbers of Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* and good numbers of Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* and Fea's/Zino's Petrels *Pterodroma feae/madeira*, although both of the latter were later than normal, peaking in September rather than August. This seawatching bonanza was a result of a series of Atlantic lows in late August and September which also resulted in the greatest ever accumulation of Nearctic waders on our shores, with this report documenting 252 individuals of thirteen species. There were record numbers of American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*, Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*, White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*, Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* and the first Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* for many years. To put this into perspective, in 2006 there were 115 individuals of nine species, and the introduction to the 2006 Irish Bird Report described that as 'an outstanding year for American waders'. With conditions obviously conducive to westerly vagrancy, the arrival of two Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* at the end of August was unexpected.

Surprisingly, the autumn contingent of Nearctic passerines and near-passerines did not coincide with the main September arrival of waders. A Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* and three Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* arrived in October and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* arrived in late October. The small arrival of two Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* in November was almost expected.

From the end of September, eastern and southern vagrants also started to appear, the highlights being a Roller *Coracias garrulus* in a Cork garden and a Blyth's Reed Warbler in Kerry. Influxes of Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* and Crane *Grus grus* commenced at the end of September, and these continued through to early winter. Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* and Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* appeared in record numbers with good numbers of Wryneck, Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* and Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* also arriving, although Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* failed to show. Seven juvenile Rose-coloured Starling in Cork in October and November constituted the best autumn tally ever for the species. A trio of late Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* graced the country in mid-November.

The end of the year was characterised by extremely mild weather, with November mid-month temperatures at least 10 degrees above normal. The result of this was the record influx of Desert Wheatear referred to earlier and a late Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* in Waterford that took full advantage of the mild conditions, remaining until at least the end of the year.

This report marks the removal from consideration by the IRBC of nine commonly occurring rarities (for details, see <http://www.irbc.ie/announcements/announce60.php>). Any new pre-2012 records coming to light for these species will be published in subsequent reports for completeness. For each of these species, a summary of occurrences in Ireland is presented. In most cases, identification of these taxa is not discussed as this is well covered in widely available field guides.

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 <http://www.irbc.ie/provisional/provisional.php> and updated on a monthly basis. Most of the data in this report were taken directly from the 2011 Provisional List. The IRBC expresses its sincere gratitude to all those who provided information during 2011, either directly or indirectly. Although there are no 2011 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. The Committee also extends its thanks to Joe Hobbs, Killian Mullarney, Keith Naylor, Magnus Robb and Paul Walsh for their invaluable assistance.

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

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Records for 2012 (and previous years) should be sent to the following:

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Website: www.nibirds.blogspot.ie/p/the-niba.html

Rarity Description forms may be downloaded from the IRBC website:

www.irbc.ie/records/records.php

Submission of photographs

We welcome photographs of rare and scarce birds, which can be sent to:

photoArchive@irbc.ie

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

2011 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, Crochet *et al.* 2011) and the Taxonomic Subcommittee of the British Ornithologists' Union (Sangster *et al.* 2007, Knox *et al.* 2008, Sangster *et al.* 2009, Sangster *et al.* 2011).

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 number of new individuals 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 Tundra Bean Geese *Anser fabalis rossicus*
Inch Island Lake, Lough Swilly, Co. Donegal. 4th December 2011
(Dermot Breen).



Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus* (9; 14)

Clare Two: Adult, Liscannor Pitch and Putt Course, 27th December to 30th January 2012, photographed (A.Cooney, B.Finnegan, J.N.Murphy *et al.*); One, Lough Muckanagh, 30th December to 23rd January 2012, photographed (H.Williams *et al.*).

Donegal Five: Up to five adults, Inch Island Lake, Lough Swilly, 19th November to 17th March 2012, photographed (C.Ingram, J.Murphy, B.Robson, M.Tickner *et al.*).

Louth Six: Up to six, Lurgangreen, 22nd to 28th March, photographed (M.Casey, E.Dempsey, P.Kelly, G.O'Neill, P.Philips *et al.*).

Wexford One: Adult, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve and South Slob, 2nd January to 3rd April, photographed (T.Kilbane *et al.*).

This was a superb year for this taxon, with all of the counties above, except Louth, recording them for the first time. Previously, there had been only four records. The first was of two together in Louth in 1993, followed by a group of four in the same county four years later. More recently, there were two in Londonderry in 2004 and one in Cork in 2006.

Adult Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus*
with Greenland White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons flavirostris*
Wexford Wildfowl Reserve. 8th January 2011
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



Adult Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus* with Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus*
Liscannor, Co. Clare. 27th December 2011 (John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



Tundra Bean Geese *Anser fabalis rossicus* with Greylag Geese *Anser anser*
Lurgangreen, Co. Louth. 23rd March 2011 (Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).

Russian White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons albifrons (140; 9)

Cork Two: Two, Ballymacoda, 28th December (D.O'Sullivan).

Louth One: Adult, Lurgangreen, 24th December to 2nd January 2012, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Wexford Six: Three adults and three juveniles, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, 11th December to 14th February 2012, photographed (J.F.Dowdall, P.Kelly, N.Keogh *et al.*).

A very good year by recent standards. They were far more common in the 1990s, 34 having occurred, with records in seven of the ten years. Since 2000, there have been only 19 and this is only the fourth year in which they have occurred since the turn of the century.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (104; 1)

Donegal One: White phase adult, Inch Island Lake and Big Isle, Lough Swilly, 3rd December to 6th February 2012, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Mayo Zero: White phase adult, Srah, Mullet Peninsula, from 15th November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 285) remained to 26th February.

The most recent Snow Goose in Donegal, in 2010, was a blue phase bird at Blanket Nook, so this is obviously a different individual. The most recent white phase bird there was in 1993, and it seems reasonable to assume that this is a new bird.

Juvenile Russian White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons* with Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, 31st December 2011 (Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Juvenile Russian White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons* with Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, 31st December 2011 (Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Adult Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* with Greylag Geese *Anser anser* Srah, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 7th January 2011 (Stephen Lawlor, www.flickr.com/photos/69556878@N06).



Adult Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* with Greylag Geese *Anser anser* Inch Island Lake, Lough Swilly, Co. Donegal. 4th December 2011 (Dermot Breen).



Adult Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* with Pale-bellied Brent Geese *Branta bernicla brota* Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. 26th November 2011 (Fran O'Connell).

Adult Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*
with Pale-bellied Brent Geese *Branta bernicla brota*
Barrow, Co. Kerry. 17th November 2011 (David O'Connor).



Adult Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*
with Pale-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla brota*
Rosslare Back Strand, Co. Wexford. 26th February 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).

Male Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* with Teal *Anas crecca*
Coonagh Settlement Ponds, Co. Limerick. 22nd March 2011
(James Hayes).



Male Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*
New Lake, Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal. 3rd January 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie>).



Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

Kerry Zero: Adult, Ventry, 31st March, photographed (D.O'Connor *et al.*); Presumed same, Inch, 1st November (M.O'Clery) and Barrow, 17th November (D.O'Connor), photograph *Birdwatch* 235: 77, presumed to relate to the individual which had been present at Castle Gregory in 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 285).

Mayo Zero: Adult, Carricklahan, Mullet Peninsula, from 27th November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 285) remained to 10th February; Adult male, Carricklahan, Mullet Peninsula, 10th November to 11th April 2012, photographed (D.Suddaby), presumed returning.

Sligo One: One, Streamstown, 9th November (D.Cotton).

Waterford Zero: Adult, Cunnigar, Dungarvan, from 24th October 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 285) remained to 3rd May, photograph *Wings* 62: 26; Adult, Dungarvan, 24th November to 25th February 2012, photographed (F.O'Connell *et al.*), presumed returning.

Wexford Zero: Adult, Rosslare Back Strand, from 22nd October 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 285) remained to 19th March, photograph *Birdwatch* 226: 60; Adult, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, from 5th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 285) remained to 9th April; Adult, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve and South Slob, 5th November to 7th April 2012, photographed (P.Kelly), presumed returning; Adult, Rosslare Back Strand, 13th November to 7th April 2012, photographed (P.Kelly), presumed returning.

2010 Cork Zero: Adult, Whitegate, Lough Beg and Great Island, from 6th December 2009 to 14th February (*Irish Birds* 9: 285) was last seen, at Saleen, 5th April (P.O'Donoghue).

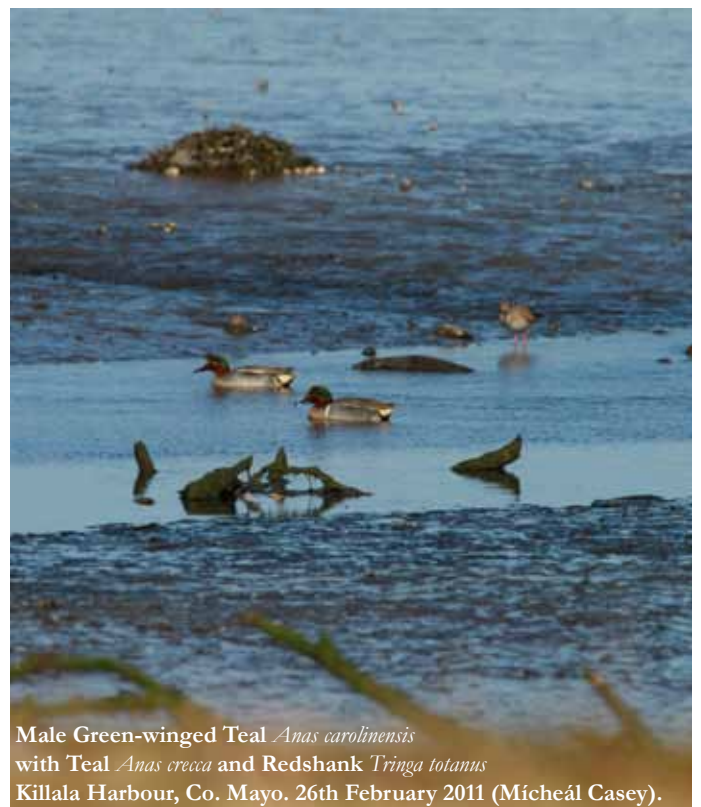
The individual in Mayo from November 2011 was accompanied by a Pale-bellied Brent *B.b.hrota* and two hybrid young, suggesting pairing took place on the wintering grounds. Some studies have shown that pairing in mid-winter is not a rule in geese, as is often assumed for waterfowl in general. In Lesser Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens caerulescens* and Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*, pair formation occurs in winter or spring, whereas in White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* and Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* pair formation occurs during spring migration or in summer (Ely & Scribner 1994).

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (126; 2)

Cork One: Male, Pilmore Strand, from 18th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 285) remained to 13th March; Male, Saleen, 18th to 20th November, photographed (N.Gleeson *et al.*).

Wexford One: Male, Tacumshin Lake, 22nd January (P.Kelly).

The reduction in numbers recorded has been commented on in previous reports. In conjunction with this, there has also been a reduction in the number of presumed returning birds. The most recent bird presumed to be returning was in 2007. Since 2000, only 10 records referred to returning birds, whereas in the 1990s there were 26.



Male Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*
with Teal *Anas crecca* and Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Killala Harbour, Co. Mayo. 26th February 2011 (Mícheál Casey).

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* (161+; 12)

Clare One: Male, Bell Harbour, from 24th October 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 286) remained to 23rd February; Male, Lough Atedaun, 3rd May (D.McNamara).

Cork One: Male, Glounthaune Station, 9th October (J.Wilson).

Donegal Zero: Male, New Lake, Dunfanaghy, 3rd January to 12th March, photographed (D.Charles), presumed returning.

Galway One: Male, Belclare Turlough, 6th February, photographed (D.Breen).

Limerick One: Male, Coonagh Settlement Ponds, 22nd March, photographed (J.Hayes); Male, Lough Gur, 21st December (T.Tarpey), presumed returning.

Mayo Three: Male, Carrowmore Lake, from 9th November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 286) remained to 8th April, joined by another male, 10th February, photographed (M.Reilly *et al.*); Male, Killala Harbour, 26th February, photographed (M.Casey, D.Farrar); Male, Carricklahan, Mullet Peninsula, 10th to 20th November, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*); Male, Carrowmore Lake, 20th November to 10th December, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*), presumed returning.

Tipperary One: Male, Ardcroney Turlough, 20th to 22nd December (P.Brennan *et al.*).

Westmeath One: Male, Billistown, 22nd February (N.T.Keogh, N.Warnock).

Wexford Two: Up to two males, Tacumshin Lake, 1st January to 17th April, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); Two males, Tacumshin Lake, 30th October to 4th December, photographed (J.F.Dowdall, P.Kelly), presumed returning.

Wicklow One: First-winter male, Kilcoole, 11th January to 10th February (N.T.Keogh *et al.*).

This species is the first of a group of nine that, from January 2012, have been removed from the IRBC Appendix 2 list. The first for Ireland was in Laois, in 1953 and records increased each decade from seven in the 1950s to 13, 24, 42 and 51 in successive decades. Geographically, they have occurred throughout the island, although particularly in the west and southwest with by far the largest numbers in Cork, and smaller, although significant, numbers in Kerry, Wexford, Dublin and Waterford. Identification of males is straightforward with the vertical flank stripe being the most obvious distinction from Teal *Anas crecca*, the only real confusion species. Females are, however, a far more difficult proposition and there are currently no accepted records of female Green-winged Teal in Europe. Differences are subtle and there is much overlap between the two taxa. The crown and eye-stripes are on average darker and the fore upper wing-bar generally has a more obvious rusty fringe (Svensson *et al.* 2009).



Male American Black Duck *Anas rubripes*
Sruhill Lough, Co. Mayo. 29th April 2011 (Micheal O'Briain).



Female Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* with Shovelers *Anas chipeata*
North Bull Island, Co. Dublin. 24th September 2011
(Tom Cooney)

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

Kerry Zero: Male, Ventry Harbour, 4th March to 12th April (G.Wilson *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 24: 92, presumed returning.

Mayo Zero: Male, Sruhill Lough, Dooniver, Achill Island, from 16th August 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 286) remained to 19th March; Male, Sruhill Lough, Dooniver, Achill Island, 14th August to 8th April 2012, photographed (M.O'Briain *et al.*), presumed returning.

Contrary to what may have been implied in the comments for this species in the 2010 report (*Irish Birds* 9: 286), observations of this species on Achill Island since 2009 have been at a different location to the series ending in 2006. The current series of records have been at Sruhill Lough, located in the northeast of the island whereas the earlier observations were at Sruhillbeg Lough, near Keel in the south of the island. Nonetheless, the central point that both series of observations may relate to the same individual is still valid..

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (94; 7)

Clare Four: Juvenile, Shannon Airport Lagoons, 18th September (O.Foley *et al.*); Juvenile, Fodry, Loop Head, 21st September, photographed (D.McNamara); Two juveniles, Kilcredaun Marsh, 30th September to 15th October, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*).

Cork One: Juvenile, Ballycotton, 29th October (O.Foley).

Donegal One: Female, Inch Island Lake, Lough Swilly, 24th September (D.Brennan).

Dublin Zero: Female, North Bull Island, from 26th October 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 287) remained to 20th February; Female, North Bull Island, 24th September to 30th March 2012, photographed (Sh.Farrell *et al.*), presumed returning.

Wexford One: Female or first-winter, Tacumshin Lake, 21st to 27th November (G.Lyons *et al.*).

The second best year on record, although a dozen short of the total for 2010, with a late September arrival featuring in both years. There had previously only been three in total in Clare so the occurrence of four in one year is remarkable.



Male American Black Duck *Anas rubripes*
Ventry Harbour, Co. Kerry. 12th March 2011 (David O'Connor).



Male American Black Duck *Anas rubripes*
with Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Ventry Harbour, Co. Kerry. 19th March 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie>).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (303; 19)

Cavan One: Male, Milltown Lake and Parisee, 17th February to 6th March (J.Donaldson).

Clare One: First-winter male, Lough Gash, Newmarket-on-Fergus, 13th January to 11th February, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*), presumed same as that present at Ballyallia Lake during December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 287); Male, Lough Inchiquin, 10th November (J.N.Murphy).

Cork One: Female, River Lee and The Lough, Cork City, from 24th November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 287) remained to 3rd April, photograph (*Birding World* 24: 139; Male, Lough Aderry, 2nd to 16th April, photographed (O.Foley *et al.*).

Donegal One: Male, New Lake, Dunfanaghy, 12th March (W.Farrelly), presumed returning; Male, Inch Island Lake, Lough Swilly, 5th to 7th April, photographed (D.Charles *et al.*), presumed returning; Male, Lough Shinnagh, Fintona, 22nd November to 9th December (B.Porter).

Mayo Six: Male, Carrowmore Lake, from 27th August 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 287) remained to 17th May; Male, Cross Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 22nd April (D.Suddaby); Adult male, Carrowmore Lake, 13th August to 10th December, photographed (M.Reilly *et al.*), presumed returning; Female, Annagh Head, Mullet Peninsula, 1st September (R.Innes, C.D.R.Jones); Male and two females, Keel Lough, Achill Island, 22nd to 28th October (J.Donaldson *et al.*); First-winter male, Carrowmore Lake, 10th December (M.Reilly).

Sligo Five: Three males and two females, Lough Gara, 31st October to 5th November (D.Breen, S.Feeney).

Tipperary One: Male, Goat Island, Lough Derg, 26th April (P.Brennan).

Westmeath Three: Three males, Lough Owel, 24th December (O.Foley).

From January 2012, this species has been removed from consideration by the IRBC. The first occurrence in Ireland was in 1960, when a male was at Lurgan Park Lake, Armagh. This individual subsequently returned for many years, starting a pattern of site-faithful, returning birds that still applies today. Later in the decade, a second male was found close by at Lough Neagh. These remained the only records until 1974, when two were found in Cork and by the end of that decade the total had risen to 15, albeit restricted to those two counties. By the end of the 1980s, a further 36 had been found, with records from a further 11 counties. The 1990s added 41 to the total and there have been a further 234 since the turn of the century. Geographically, they have been widespread, with records from 24 counties, only Antrim in Ulster, Leitrim in Connaught and the inland counties of Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Longford and Offaly in Leinster being without records. See also Appendix 5 for details of adjustments to the statistics.



Female Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*
The Lough, Cork City. 3rd April 2011
(Polina Clarke, www.thingsarelikethis.com).



Female Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*
The Lough, Cork City. 3rd April 2011
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamsphoto.blogspot.ie/>).



Female Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*
River Lee, Co. Cork. 8th January 2011
(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).



Male Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*
Lough Aderry, Co. Cork. 6th April 2011
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



Male Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*
Inch Island Lake, Lough Swilly, Co. Donegal. 5th April 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* (34; 1)

Wexford One: First-winter male, Tacumshin Lake and Rostoonstown, 3rd to 19th January, photographed (T.Kilbane *et al.*).

1984 Down Zero: Male, Quoile Pondage, 30th December (NIBR 1982-85: 38), presumed to be the same individual as at the same location in 1985 (*Irish Birds* 3: 300).

1980 Armagh One: Male, Craigavon Lake and Lurgan Park Lake, 16th November to 14th December (NIBR 1980: 21).

The 2011 record is the first new bird since 2004 and the first in Wexford since 1969. See also Appendix 5 for details of adjustments to the statistics.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (26; 0)

2010 Westmeath Zero: Adult male, Lough Ennell, 26th December 2009 (see below) remained to 17th January.

2009 Cavan One: Adult male, Lough Sheelin, 25th January to 14th February, photographed (J.Donaldson *et al.*).

2009 Galway One: Adult male, Loughrea, 14th November to 16th December, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

2009 Westmeath One: First-winter male, Lough Ennell, 26th December 2008 (see below) remained to 24th January; Male, Lough Derravaragh, 22nd March (N.Warnock); Adult male, Lough Ennell, 26th December to 17th January 2010 (P.Kelly *et al.*), presumed returning.

2008 Westmeath One: First-winter male, Lough Ennell, 26th December to 24th January 2009 (P.Kelly *et al.*).

This is a relatively straightforward species to identify in male plumages but females can be much more challenging, particularly in juvenile and first-winter plumages. Often, the only photographs available to the committee as documentation of claims are of birds at a distance, when it may be very difficult to prove identification beyond reasonable doubt, particularly with regard to ruling out a Lesser Scaup-like hybrid. In order for a claim to be acceptable, the head shape, wing pattern and bill details all need to be documented. With many claims of the species still outstanding, we would encourage observers to submit written documentation in order to facilitate assessment.

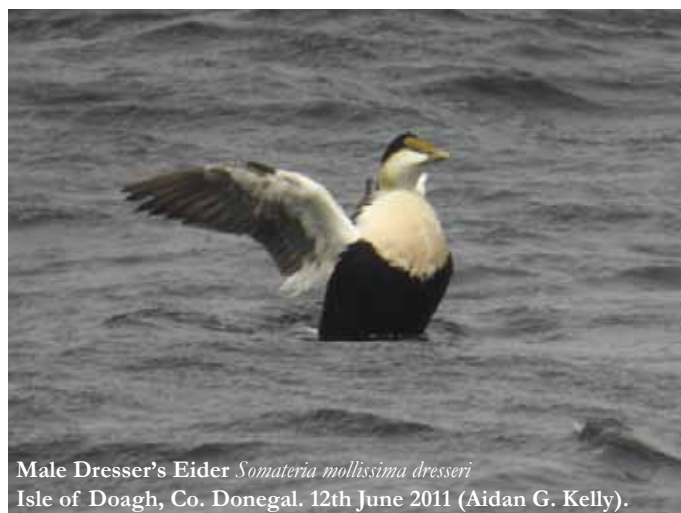
Dresser's Eider

Somateria mollissima dresseri (1; 0)

Donegal Zero: Male, Isle of Doagh, 8th to 19th June (R.McLaughlin *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 225, *Birdwatch* 230: 90.

This is presumed to be the same bird as had been seen at Glassagh Bay, Donegal in 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 288).

First-winter male Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*
with Pochard *Aythya ferina*.
Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford. 3rd January 2011
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Male Dresser's Eider *Somateria mollissima dresseri*
Isle of Doagh, Co. Donegal. 12th June 2011 (Aidan G. Kelly).



Male Dresser's Eider *Somateria mollissima dresseri*
Isle of Doagh, Co. Donegal. 12th June 2011 (Aidan G. Kelly).



Male Dresser's Eider *Somateria mollissima dresseri*
Isle of Doagh, Co. Donegal. 12th June 2011 (Aidan G. Kelly).



Male Dresser's Eider *Somateria mollissima dresseri*
with Eider *Somateria mollissima mollissima*
Isle of Doagh, Co. Donegal. 12th June 2011 (Aidan G. Kelly).

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (18; 1)

Kerry One: First-winter female, Reen Pier, Ballinskelligs, 17th to 31st December (P.McDaid *et al.*), photographs *Birdwatch* 236: 72, *Wings* 64: 26.

This species has been occurring more frequently recently. There have been eight since the turn of the century, compared to only seven in the twentieth century and four in the nineteenth.

Surf Scoter

Melanitta perspicillata (168; 10)

Clare Three: Male and female, Doughmore Bay, Doonbeg and Liscannor Bay, 28th January to 16th April, photographed (J.Fisher, P.Troake *et al.*); First-winter male, Ballyvaughan Bay, 13th February to 22nd March (C.Conroy, M.Davis *et al.*); Adult male, Lahinch, 1st to 6th November (J.Pearson *et al.*), presumed returning.

Cork Zero: First-winter male, Great Island, from 5th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 288) remained to 30th January.

Donegal Zero: First-winter female, Murvagh, from 21st November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 288) remained to 6th January.

Galway One: Adult female, Turbot Island, 20th to 23rd December (D.Breen).

Kerry Six: Female and first-winter male, Waterville, from 24th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 288) remained to 13th March, joined by a second female, 3rd January (F.A.Moore *et al.*); Adult female, Rossbeigh, 26th to 30th March, photographed (D.Charles, C.Hinds, T.Reid, C.Shaw *et al.*); Two females, Kilcummin, Brandon Bay, 18th August (M.O'Clery); Female, Ballinskelligs, 6th to 20th November, photographed (P.McDaid *et al.*); Adult male, Brandon Bay, 8th November to 30th January 2012 (D.Farrar, M.O'Clery).

This species has been erratic in occurrence, fluctuating for no apparent reason. Since the turn of the century, no new birds were found in 2009, only two or three were found in other years and yet, interspersed with these have been good years like 2011. One wonders are numbers largely a function of time spent checking flocks of scoter rather than truly reflective of actual occurrences?

White-winged Scoter

Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri (0; 1)

Kerry One: Adult male, Rossbeigh, 1st February to 11th April (D.Farrar, J.Jones, O.Metcalf *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 90, 105, 106 & 515, *Birdwatch* 227: 50, *British Birds* 104: 286, *Dutch Birding* 33: 135, *Wings* 61: 28 (Farrar & Jones 2011, Jones 2011).

One of the most unexpected finds of the year. Video footage taken on 7th March and photographs taken at great distance in early February of a distant 'Velvet Scoter' were both important in the identification of this bird. However, the key element was the feeling among the finders that something was not quite right for Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*. Even at this early stage, the observers were of the opinion that, not only was this a White-winged Scoter, but also that the subspecies involved was the Asian *stejnegeri*, rather than the nominate, North American form, which might have been thought more likely given the western location. Closer views and better photographs allowed critical analysis of the bill pattern and structure, proving that the sighting did, indeed, involve *stejnegeri*. The taxonomic position adopted by the IRBC (see <http://www.irbc.ie/announcements/announce38.php>) is consistent with the current positions of both AERC and BOURC although other authors treat *deglandi* and *stejnegeri* as different species (Garner *et al.* 2004).

Smew *Mergellus albellus* (Unknown; 7)

Cavan Zero: Female or immature, Derrybrit Lake, Milltown, 14th to 17th December (J.Donaldson *et al.*), presumed returning.

Clare Two: Female or immature, Lough Inchiquin, from 27th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 288) remained to 8th January; Female or immature, Lough Bunny, 11th to 12th March, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*); Female or immature, Finn Lough, Newmarket-on-Fergus, 8th to 9th April (P.Troake *et al.*).

Donegal Two: Male, Inch Island Lake, Lough Swilly from 23rd November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 288) remained to 30th March, joined by two further males 3rd January and 12th February (K.Bennett, D.Breen, D.Brennan *et al.*); Male, Inch Island Lake, Lough Swilly, 27th December (D.Brennan), presumed returning.

Galway Two: Two female or immature, Loughrea, 29th January to 13th February (B.Finnegan, J.N.Murphy *et al.*); Female, Loughrea, 18th December (D.Breen), presumed returning.

Kerry One: Female or immature, Blennerville, from 20th December



First-winter female King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*
Reen Pier, Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry. 19th December 2011
(David O'Connor).



Male Smew *Mergellus albellus*
Inch Island Lake, Lough Swilly, Co. Donegal. 19th February 2011
(Aidan G. Kelly).

2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 288) remained to 7th January; Female or immature, Gortagoss, 19th to 22nd January (M.O'Clery *et al.*).

Wexford Zero: Female or immature, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, from 30th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 288) remained to 7th January.

This species is the third in this report being removed from consideration by the IRBC. Since the earliest dated record, of an adult male in Dublin in 1814, this species could best be described as a scarce wintering species, prone to occasional weather-determined good years. The occurrence of 50 in the nineteenth century was followed by 250 in the twentieth century and there have already been more than 60 in the first eleven years of the current century. There are records from 27 counties and only the perennially under-watched counties of Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Longford and Roscommon lack a record. As would be expected with a species prone to hard-weather interruptions from Scandinavia, the largest proportion of records, are from Ulster (60%), followed by Leinster (27%), Munster (9%) and Connaught (4%).

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Dublin Zero: Male, Broadmeadows Estuary, 19th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 288) remained to 2nd January (B.Black).

Wexford One: First-winter male, Lady's Island Lake, 24th January to 13th March (J.Sheehan *et al.*).

It is clear from these records that this species is either very uncommon or under-recorded in the Republic of Ireland. However, success of the UK eradication programme, which data indicate has reduced the UK population by almost 90% between 2005 and winter 2008/2009 (Henderson 2009), suggests that the low numbers recorded are likely to represent a genuine decline. It should be noted that the traditional strongholds are around Lough Neagh and, as yet, no records have been received from NIBARC. Inclusion of such records may paint a very different overall picture.



Adult male White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri*
Rossbeigh, Co. Kerry. 31st March 2011 (Howard Williams).



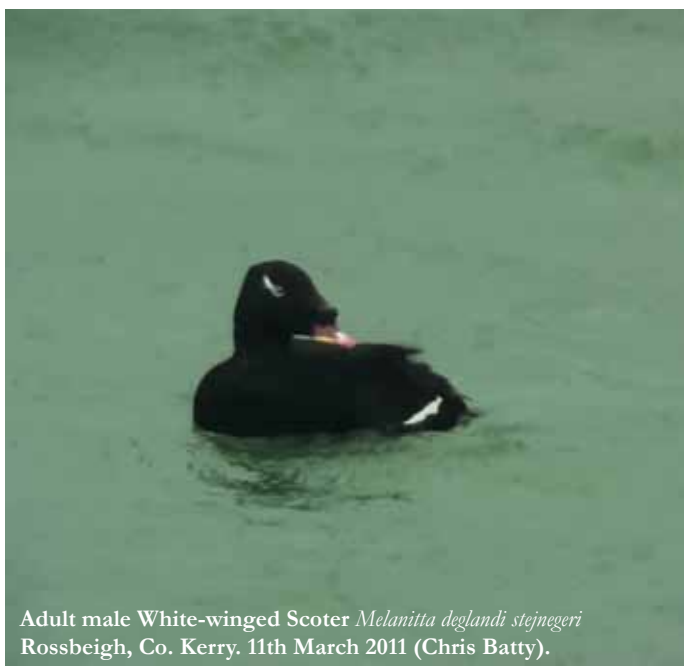
Adult male White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri*
Rossbeigh, Co. Kerry. 14th March 2011 (Seamus Enright).



Adult male White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri*
Rossbeigh, Co. Kerry. 11th March 2011 (Chris Batty).



Adult male White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri*
Rossbeigh, Co. Kerry. 11th March 2011 (Chris Batty).



Adult male White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri*
Rossbeigh, Co. Kerry. 11th March 2011 (Chris Batty).



Adult male White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi stejnegeri*
Rossbeigh, Co. Kerry. 11th March 2011 (Chris Batty).

Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica* (1; 0)

2009 Galway Zero: One, Tawin, 12th January, photographed (P.Cook, L.Pitcher), presumed same as 2010 individual (*Irish Birds* 9: 288).

Although not initially claimed as this species due to the distance of observation, photographic and video documentation forwarded to the committee allowed forensic, frame-by-frame analysis that proved the presence of a chinstrap and the absence of a white anterior thigh patch in the footage were not merely photographic aberrations. It is considered that this is the same bird that was seen nearby in Galway and Clare in 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 288).

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* (12; 2)

Kerry One: Adult winter, Cromane Point, 26th March to 4th April (D.Holman, J.Lansdale *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 91 & 135, *Birdwatch* 228: 57.

Wexford One: Adult, at sea south of Tacumshin Lake, 15th April to 24th May, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly, K.Mullarney *et al.*).

2009 Galway One: Adult, Inishbofin, 13th May (A.Ó'Dónaill *et al.*).

This is the first year in which more than one has occurred. While Kerry and Wexford have both previously recorded the species, the late Galway record is the first for that county. Birds have been found in almost every month between October and May, but, surprisingly, none has ever been recorded in December!

Black-browed Albatross

Thalassarche melanophris (12; 0)

2009 Mayo One: Adult, Annagh Head, Mullet Peninsula, 22nd September (D.Suddaby).

A definite red-letter day for the observer, who had, less than two hours earlier, found Ireland's fifth Solitary Sandpiper! This is the third record for Mayo and, given the longevity of the species, there is even the possibility that both previous records, in 1986 and 2004, and this record could involve the same individual, although they are treated as different in the statistics.

All pictures this page:

Adult winter White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*
Cromane Point, Co. Kerry. 27th March 2011 (Seamus Enright).



Fea's / Zino's Petrel

Pterodroma feae/madeira (67; 6)

Clare Three: One, Bridges of Ross, 3rd September (N.T.Keogh *et al.*); One, Bridges of Ross, 12th September (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); One, Bridges of Ross, 14th September (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh).

Cork Three: One, Seven Heads, 25th August (R.Mundy *et al.*); One, Old Head of Kinsale, 4th September (M.Shorten); One, Mizen Head, 5th September (N.Linehan).

This series of records is slightly later than normal. Previous to 2011, only 25% had occurred later than end of August. Between them, Cork and Clare account for 57 of the total. All 22 in Clare have been at Bridges of Ross and, with 13 at Galley Head, Cork, and 11 at Cape Clear Island, Cork, these three sites account for almost two-thirds of the total.

Macaronesian Shearwater *Puffinus baroli* (20; 2)

Clare Two: One, Bridges of Ross, 21st August (D.Cooper); One, Bridges of Ross, 22nd August (D.Brown, M.Hoit, K.Langdon, T.Lowe *et al.*).

There have now been 17 August records, all but two of which occurred in the last ten days of the month. The first for Ireland was a bird taken alive at Bull Rock, Cork in May 1853, strikingly similar to the subsequent occurrence of one in a Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* colony in Wales in 1981 and 1982 (Dymond *et al.* 1989), and more recently in Devon in 2010 and 2011 (Hudson *et al.* 2012). Almost all of the remainder of Irish records have occurred at west coast seawatch sites, with nine from Bridges of Ross, four from both Cape Clear Island, Cork, and Kilcummin Head, Mayo, and three at Brandon Point, Kerry. The sole record away from the west coast was on the north coast at Ramore Head, Antrim in August 2004.





Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*
Bridges of Ross, Co. Clare. 14th September 2011 (Kris De Rouck).



Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*
Bridges of Ross, Co. Clare. 14th September 2011 (Kris De Rouck).

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (207; 32)

At sea Zero: Thirty-six, 105 miles south-west of Fastnet Rock, 20th September, photographed (R.McLaughlin); One, 30 miles south of Galley Head, 21st September (R.McLaughlin).

Clare Twenty-one: One, Bridges of Ross, 16th July, photographed (J.N.Murphy *et al.*); One, Bridges of Ross, 5th September (D.Farrow, R.Land, K.Langdon); One, Bridges of Ross, 6th September (J.N.Murphy); One, Bridges of Ross, 11th September (J.Adamson, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh); Four, Bridges of Ross, 12th September (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); Six, Bridges of Ross, 13th September (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, J.N.Murphy *et al.*); Four, Bridges of Ross, 14th September, photographed (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); One, Bridges of Ross, 17th September (N.T.Keogh); Two, Bridges of Ross, 18th September (C.Foley, E.O'Flynn, M.Stewart, T.Tarpey *et al.*).

Cork One: One, Galley Head, 13th July (C.Jones).

Galway One: One, Inishbofin, 17th July (A.McGeehan).

Kerry Nine: One, Brandon Point, 6th September (M.Hanafin); Five, Brandon Point, 13th September (P.Moore, M.O'Clery); One, Brandon Point, 17th September (M.O'Clery); One, Brandon Point, 18th September (S.Enright *et al.*); One, Brandon Point, 22nd September (M.O'Clery *et al.*).

The second best year on record, although 40 short of the 2009 record. In common with 2011 records of the Fea's/Zino's Petrel complex, passage was later than normal. Only 15 had previously occurred after the end of August, in contrast to 29 this year. There has been a huge increase in numbers recorded from land since the turn of the century, with 212 in that time, compared with only 27 previously (all but two since 1985). The total for those recorded 'At sea' now rises to 159.

Continental Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis (21; 0)

2010 Limerick One: Adult, Lough Gur, 27th February to 11th March, photographed (T.Tarpey *et al.*).

1985 Tyrone One: One, Lough Neagh, 25th October (per I.Forsyth).

The 2010 record is only the second southern record, following one in Kerry in December 2002. The 1985 record was of a Danish ringed bird, recovered at Lough Neagh. The record was published in an Irish Ringing Report (Forsyth 1987) but never in an Irish Bird Report, although referred to in *Checklist of the Birds of Ireland* (IRBC 1998).



Adult Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Seafield, Bunmahon, Co. Waterford. 29th April 2011
(Micheál Cowming).



Adult Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Seafield, Bunmahon, Co. Waterford. 29th April 2011
(Micheál Cowming).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Galway Zero: One, Muckrush, Lough Corrib, from 27th November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 289) remained to 7th January; One, Muckrush, Lough Corrib, 20th November to 7th December (A.Ó'Dónaill *et al.*), presumed returning.

Wexford Zero: One of the two, Tacumshin Lake, from 12th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 289) remained to 17th March.

While assumed to be a returning bird, due to the naturally secretive nature of this species there must be a possibility that the bird at Lough Corrib remained undetected, rather than being absent for a time.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (56; 0)

1988 Wexford Zero: Adult male, Cullenstown, 22nd April (*Irish Birds* 4: 84) was also present 24th April (per IRBC).

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (72; 3)

Waterford One: Adult, Seafield, Bunmahon, 29th April to 2nd May, photographed (D.Weldon *et al.*).

Wexford Two: First-summer, Tacumshin Lake, 24th May to 3rd June, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*); One, Slaney River between Bunclody and Enniscorthy, 5th June (A.Walsh).

With the exception of Cork, where there have been 33, records of this species are widespread but nowhere common. It has occurred in twenty counties, but most have only single records, and the Waterford record is only the second for the county. There are records for every month of the year with a spring peak between March and May and an autumn peak in November.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (233; 4)

Kerry Two: Two, Ardcanagh, Castlemaine, 7th November (M.O'Clery).

Kilkenny One: One, Drumdowney Upper, 12th November, photographed (M.Cowming, C.Flynn *et al.*).

Mayo One: One, Killala, 26th October to 2nd November (J.Donnelly).

2008 Cork Nine: Eight, Cappanvar, near Bantry, 7th February (C.Heardman); Up to nine, Ballinacarriga, 13th February to 24th March (K.Cronin *et al.*), eight of which are presumed to be the same as had been at Rossmore during early January 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 84).

2007 Cork Two: Two, Ardgroom, Beara Peninsula, 1st December (F.O'Sullivan).

With the exception of the years from 2007 to 2009, when there were large influxes, there have never been more than two in a year. An influx of four, while small in comparison to the numbers involved during those invasions, is nonetheless significant, particularly given the absence of new birds in 2010. The three late records above move the total for 2007/2008 to 172. The 2007 record and the 2008 record from Ballinacarriga included here were published as anonymous in Appendices 4 of the Irish Rare Bird Report 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 610) and Irish Rare Bird Report 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 105) respectively, but further details were received and the records now take their rightful places on the main list.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba* (44; 4)

Carlow One: One, Leighlinbridge, 3rd December, photographed (D.Clarke).

Cork Zero: One, Harper's Island, Cork Harbour, 2nd March to 6th May (P.Wilson *et al.*), presumed returning.

Mayo One: One, Knockmore, Lough Conn, 15th to 21st November, photographed (T.Boccaccio *et al.*).

Sligo One: One, Coen's Lough, Carrowmore, 24th to 26th May, photographed (F.Derrig).

Wexford One: One, Ferrycarrig, 15th April (K.Grace).

2010 Cork One: One, Owenahinch, 14th July (C.Cronin).

The first for Ireland was in Sligo in 1984, and the Sligo record above is the second there, with a very similar arrival date. The second for Ireland occurred in 1997 and a flood of records followed. Now, with records previously in Tipperary and Roscommon, even inland records are not unheard of, although the record in Carlow is the first there.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (181; 26)

At sea Zero: One, 20 miles south-southeast of Galley Head, 27th September (per J.Wilson).

Cork Twenty: Up to seventeen, Courtmacsherry, 4th to 12th October, photographed (R.Mundy); Two juveniles, Dromsullivan, Bantry, 9th October (J.Belcher); One, Inch Strand, 12th November (K.Preston).

Dublin One: One, Turvey, 30th October (S.Kelly, N.T.Keogh).

Wexford Five: Four, Tacumshin Lake and Lady's Island Lake, 8th October to 1st November, photographed (G.Hunt, S.Millar *et al.*); One, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, 5th November, photographed (P.Kelly).

For the fourth year in succession, this species has occurred in large numbers, with this the second best year on record. Almost half of the total (92) has occurred since 2007. The group of 17 in Cork is not unprecedented, as there had previously been four groups of ten or more, and these five instances account for 38% of the total.



Great White Egret *Ardea alba*
Knockmore, Lough Conn, Co. Mayo. 19th November 2011
(Mícheál Casey).



Great White Egret *Ardea alba* with Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Knockmore, Lough Conn, Co. Mayo. 19th November 2011
(Mícheál Casey).



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford. 16th October 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford. 16th October 2011
(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).

2011 Irish Rare Bird Report



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford. 16th October 2011
(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).

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

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (227; 0)

Cork Zero: One, Courtmacsherry, from 3rd December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 290) remained to 31st March, photograph *Wings* 61: 27; Adult, Timoleague, 12th February to 26th March, photographed (R.McLaughlin *et al.*), presumed same.

Kerry Zero: Adult, Cromane, 3rd to 20th March, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*), same as late 2010 individual (*Irish Birds* 9: 290); Adult, Cromane, 28th September to 4th March 2012, photographed (S.Enright *et al.*), presumed returning.

Waterford Zero: Sub-adult, Killlongford, Dungarvan and The Cunnigar, 14th April to 3rd March 2012, photographed (C.Flynn *et al.*), presumed returning.

Wexford Zero: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 3rd to 4th July, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*), presumed returning; One, The Cull, 13th September (P.Archer), presumed returning.

2010 Cork Zero: One, Rosscarbery Estuary, 5th April (C.Cronin), presumed to be one of the group of five that was first seen in October 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 258).

No new birds for the first time since 2000.



Adult Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* with Mute Swans *Cygnus olor*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 3rd July 2011 (Micheál Cowming).



Adult Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Tacumshin, Co. Wexford. 3rd July 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Courtmacsherry, Co. Cork. 22nd January 2011 (Neal Warnock).



Adult Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Cromane, Co. Kerry. 17th March 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Adult Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Cromane, Co. Kerry. 9th March 2011 (James Hayes).



Adult Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Cromane, Co. Kerry. 13th March 2011
(Tom Tarpey, www.flickr.com/photos/ttbirding).



Adult Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
Cromane, Co. Kerry. 19th March 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (10; 0)

Cork Zero: One, Little Island, from 11th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 291) remained to 3rd February.

Previous wintering individuals of this species have remained until late March or into April so this seems somewhat early for a normal departure. This bird is no longer considered to definitively be a first-winter. Ageing this species based on presence or absence of an eye-ring (Cramp & Simmons 1977) is not necessarily definitive as known adults can also lack, or show a restricted, eye-ring.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* (181+; 4)

Clare One: One, Lough Cullaun, 22nd to 29th December, photographed (D.McNamara).

Dublin Zero: One, Dun Laoghaire, from 28th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 291) remained to 21st February; One, Dun Laoghaire, 20th November (J.Proudfoot), presumed returning.

Kerry One: One, Castlegregory, from 6th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 291) remained to 30th January, joined by a second individual, 22nd January (M.O'Clery *et al.*); One, Sandy Bay, Castlegregory, 18th November to 21st December (M.O'Clery), presumed returning.

Mayo Zero: Adult, Trawmore Bay, Mullet Peninsula, from 6th September 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 291) remained to 16th February; Adult, Blacksod Bay, 8th September to 29th November (M.Reilly *et al.*), presumed returning.

Waterford One: One, Lisselan, Tramore, 12th November, photographed (M.Cowming, C.Flynn).

Wexford One: One, Wexford Harbour, 16th January (P.Kelly).

This species is being removed from consideration by the IRBC from January 2012. It is probably best described as a scarce wintering species, with over 90% of the total between mid-October and mid-April, and an average stay of about 29 days. Subsequent to the first record, in 1831, it was not particularly common throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century, accumulating just ten records, and only a further eight had occurred by 1950. Since then, however, they have occurred in larger numbers, with 30 in the 1950s and ten-year totals from then of 22, 17, 45 and 73, with similar numbers since the turn of the century. They have been recorded in most coastal counties although they are particularly regular in south Wexford, Dublin Bay, north Kerry and Strangford Lough, Down, with records from most of these areas since the middle of the last century, and these four counties account for close to 75% of the total.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. 2nd January 2011
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamsphoto.blogspot.ie/>).



Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. 2nd January 2011
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamsphoto.blogspot.ie/>).

2011 Irish Rare Bird Report

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Cork Zero: One, Aghada, from 5th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 291) remained to 30th January.

Dublin Two: One, Baldoyle, 7th January (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); One, Poolbeg, 10th December (N.Keogh).

Tipperary One: Adult summer, Lough Eorna, 29th April (F.O'Duffy *et al.*).

Waterford Zero: Up to three, Ballinacourty Pier, Dungarvan, from 11th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 291) remained to 19th February; One, Ballinacourty Pier, Dungarvan, 19th November to 22nd January 2012, photographed (M.Cowming, M.Cowming Snr. *et al.*), presumed returning.

Wexford One: Three, Wexford Harbour, 23rd January to 28th February (J.F.Dowdall, K.Grace, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*), presumed present since November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 291); One, Lady's Island Lake, 5th to 7th March (R.H.Coombes, T.Kilbane); Two, Wexford Harbour, 31st December (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly), presumed returning.

Another species that is being removed from consideration by the IRBC from January 2012. In common with the previous species, this is predominantly a scarce wintering species, with regular wintering populations, particularly in Wexford and Cork Harbours. However, it is also an infrequent breeding bird, with breeding proven at small lakes in the west. Between 1929 and 1957, Lough Funshinagh, Roscommon, hosted a breeding colony with up to 300 pairs recorded there in 1932. They have occurred at an average of over six per year since 1983, the last blank year.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* (34; 0)

2009 Wexford One: Adult, South Slob, 23rd May (K.Grace).

A very rare species in Ireland, this is only the twelfth since 1950. It is the third in May and one of thirteen spring records between April and June. In addition, there have been three July records, a further twelve in autumn, and six undated historical records. See also Appendix 5 for details of a correction to the statistics.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (15; 1)

Wexford One: One, Lady's Island Lake, 14th June, photographed (J.N.Murphy, A.Walsh).

2010 Cork One: One, Cobh, 7th April (J.Wilson).

2008 Wicklow Two: Adult, Redcross, 22nd April (O.J.Merne); One, near Arklow, 23rd August (M.O'Donnell).

There has been a recent increase in records. The last blank year was 2006 and eight have occurred since then. The 2010 Cork record is the earliest yet, albeit by just three days and seven have been found in April. There have now been five in Wicklow, four in Cork, three in Wexford and one each in Antrim, Clare, Dublin and Limerick.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. 2nd January 2011
(Stephen Lawlor, www.flickr.com/photos/69556878@N06/).



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

Northern Harrier

Circus cyaneus hudsonius (2; 1)

Wexford One: Juvenile female, Tacumshin Lake, from 28th October 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 292) remained to 24th May, photographs *Birding World* 24: 93, *Birdwatch* 227: 56; Second calendar-year male, Tacumshin Lake, 9th October to 19th November (N.Keogh, K.Mullarney *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 24: 403.

Wicklow Zero: Juvenile male, Kilcoole, 13th November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 292) remained to 27th March.

There is a possibility that the second-year male at Tacumshin could be the same as the Kilcoole individual. However, with a complete moult cycle between occurrences, it is not possible to be definitive and they are therefore treated as different in the statistics. In addition to the two recorded at Tacumshin Lake, a claim of a further record there from October 2011 is still being assessed by the committee.



Second calendar-year male Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 15th October 2011
(Killian Mullarney).



Second calendar-year male Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 15th October 2011
(Killian Mullarney).



Second calendar-year male Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 15th October 2011
(Killian Mullarney).



Second calendar-year female Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 18th March 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Second calendar-year female Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 27th March 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Second calendar-year female Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 27th March 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Second calendar-year female Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 27th March 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Juvenile female Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 31st August 2011
(Aidan G. Kelly).



Juvenile Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*
Power Head, Co. Cork. 12th November 2011
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.com).



Juvenile female Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*
Power Head, Co. Cork. 27th November 2011
(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).



Juvenile female Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*
Power Head, Co. Cork. 27th November 2011
(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* (0; 5)

Cork Three: Second calendar-year male, Ballyvergan, 22nd to 23rd April (O.Foley *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 141, *Birdwatch* 228: 51, *Wings* 62: 24 (Foley 2011); Juvenile, Power Head and Ballycotton, 29th October to 16th November, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*); Juvenile female, Power Head, 7th to 29th November (G.Clarke, H.Hussey, P.Moore, G.Walsh *et al.*).

Galway One: Juvenile female, Lough Corrib, 28th September to 2nd April 2012, photographed (D.Breen, A.Ó'Dónaill *et al.*), as a second calendar-year from the start of the year.

Wexford One: Juvenile female, Tacumshin Lake, 30th August to 30th September (J.Archer, R.H.Coombes, B.Haslam, D.Murphy, J.Murphy, P.Phillips, E.Salholm, D.Willis *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 232: 70 (Coombes 2011).

This species had been an expected addition to the Irish list following increases in Britain, where they have been almost annual between 2001 and 2010 (BBRC 2012). However, that five should have occurred in such a short time was most unexpected, as was the occurrence of two together in Cork in November and the successful over-wintering of one in Galway. Given the short stay of the first, in Cork, which disappeared early in the morning of 23rd April, the subsequent long-staying bird at Tacumshin Lake was a great relief to many!



Second calendar-year male Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*
Ballyvergan, Co. Cork. 22nd April 2011
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



Second calendar-year male Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*
Ballyvergan, Co. Cork. 22nd April 2011
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).



Second calendar-year male Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*
Ballyvergan, Co. Cork. 22nd April 2011
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.com).

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Cork One: Second calendar-year male, Old Head of Kinsale, 7th May, photographed (H.Hussey *et al.*), wing-tagged in France in 2010.

Galway Two: Adult male, Knockranny, Moycullen, 11th to 12th April (S.Bierley *et al.*); Second calendar-year male, Shannawoneen, Spiddle, 31st May (A.Ó'Dónaill).

Wexford Two: Adult male, Tacumshin Lake, 26th April, photographed (P.Clancy, C.Foley, J.K.Lovatt *et al.*); Second calendar-year female, The Cull and Tacumshin Lake, 26th June to 15th August, photographed (K.Grace *et al.*).

With no previous records in Galway, the occurrence of two there might be thought somewhat of a surprise. However, readers of these reports over the last few years will have noticed that the number of rarities found in Galway has been increasing, no doubt related to increased coverage by a handful of dedicated observers.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* (43; 2)

Mayo One: One, Carrowcally, 27th September (E.McGreal).

Wicklow One: One, Kilcoole, 21st November to 13th February 2012 (C.Cardiff, T.Cardiff, B.Haslam *et al.*).

These are the first records of this species since the occurrence, in 2005, of a bird of the Nearctic race *B.l.sanctijohannis*. The statistics above relate only to birds presumed referable to the nominate Palearctic subspecies, the most recent of which occurred in 2003. Two in one year has been exceeded only twice - in 1831, when four occurred, and 1906, when there were three. The rate of occurrence has not changed much in the last 120 years, with 18 since 1950 comparing reasonably well with 16 in the previous 60 years.



Second calendar-year female Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*
The Cull, Co. Wexford. 26th June 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Second calendar-year female Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*
The Cull, Co. Wexford. 26th June 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Second calendar-year female Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*
The Cull, Co. Wexford. 26th June 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (242; 27)

Clare Two: One, Seafield, 8th May (J.Copner); One, Lough Atedaun, 5th June (B.Finnegan, J.N.Murphy).

Cork Thirteen: One, Seven Heads, 9th April (R.Mundy); One, Middleton, 3rd May (P.Moore); One, Ballylanders, 3rd May (M.J.O'Mahony); One, Mizen Head, 4th May (A.O'Brien); Second calendar-year, Ballycotton, 5th to 8th May (D.O'Sullivan *et al.*); One, Skibbereen, 5th May (D.Ballard); One, Leap, 14th May (C.Jones); One, Bottlehill, 17th May (C.Cronin); Second calendar-year, Belgooly, 5th July (O.Foley, R.McLaughlin); Second calendar-year, Middleton, 14th August (P.Moore); One, Garretts town, 26th September (R.O'Driscoll); Juvenile, Three Castle Head, 24th October (D.Ballard); Juvenile, Mizen Head, 7th November (D.Ballard).

Galway One: One, Aillebrack, Slyne Head, 8th October (M.Harris).

Kerry One: Adult, Blennerville, 11th September (G.Walker).

Waterford Three: One, Brownstown Head, 1st May (P.M.Walsh); One, Drum Hills, 18th May (J.Adamson); One, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 7th November (F.O'Connell).

Wexford Six: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 29th April to 29th May (P.Kelly *et al.*); Second calendar-year, Oldtown, Tomhaggard, 6th May (K.Grace); Presumed same, Tacumshin Lake, 15th May to 4th June, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); Second calendar-year, South Slob, 18th to 20th May (T.Murray, F.Tennant); Second calendar-year, Lady's Island Lake and Ring Marsh, 19th to 21st May (T.Murray, C.Wilson *et al.*); Second calendar-year, Tacumshin Lake, 16th July (P.Kelly); Presumed same, Tacumshin Lake, 23rd August (N.Keogh); One, Tacumshin Lake, 19th October (G.O'Sullivan).

Wicklow One: Second calendar-year, Newcastle and Five Mile Point, 11th to 13th May (N.Keogh *et al.*).

2008 Tipperary One: One, Rathcabban, 28th July (A.Lauder).

2005 Cork Minus one: Adult, Sherkin Island, 8th July (*Irish Birds* 8: 590) was recorded in 2004, not 2005, as had previously been published (*Irish Birds* 8: 111).

The second best year, although 20 fewer than in 2010. This is the fourth year in succession with large numbers and over 40% of the total has occurred in that time. The 2008 bird was seen carrying a hirundine and, although Hobby can switch to bird prey when feeding young, the observation was an early morning one and insect prey might not have been available, so it is not necessarily indicative of breeding.



Hobby *Falco subbuteo*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 28th May 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Hobby *Falco subbuteo*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 15th May 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Cranes *Grus grus*
Midleton, Co. Cork. 19th November 2011
(Tom Tarpey, www.flickr.com/photos/ttbirding).



Cranes *Grus grus*
Midleton, Co. Cork. 19th November 2011
(Tom Tarpey, www.flickr.com/photos/ttbirding).



Crane *Grus grus*
Wexford Wildfowl Reserve. 20th September 2011 (Alyn Walsh).



Cranes *Grus grus*
Barnaderg, Co. Mayo. 25th November 2011 (Mícheál Casey).

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* (47*; 1) Clare Juvenile, Doonbeg, 24th September (J.N.Murphy).

Records since 1950 have been well distributed, with records for 15 of the 32 counties although not in large numbers anywhere, the highest numbers occurring in Kerry and Cork, both with nine.

American Coot *Fulica americana* (2; 0)

Mayo Zero: First calendar-year, Termoncarragh Lake, Mullet Peninsula, 15th November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 294) remained to 9th April.

The latest date for this bird is remarkably similar to that of the first, which was last recorded 4th April 1981. Additionally, three of the six British records were also last recorded on similar dates - 5th April 2003, 7th April 2004 and 6th April 2005. These presumed departure dates are consistent with North American birds returning to their northern breeding grounds from the second half of March, with a peak spring passage in Maryland from 25th March to 25th April (Cramp & Simmons 1980).

Crane *Grus grus* (96; 77)

Cork Sixty-three: Adult, Long Strand, Galley Head, 20th October (C.Pollock); Adult, Cape Clear Island, 5th November, photographed (A.G.Kelly, T.Murphy); Ten, between Allihies and Ballydonegan, West Beara, 8th November (G.Obermeier); Fifteen, Castletownroche, 12th to 13th November (M.Hirst *et al.*); Fourteen, Ballincollig, 13th November (J.Kennedy) and, presumed to be the same group of fourteen, Power Head, 19th November (S.Ronayne); Nineteen, Midleton, 13th to 25th November, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*); Two, Wellington Bridge, Cork City, 14th November (O.Foley); Adult, Kinsale, 13th to 29th December, photographed (S.O'Brien).

Dublin One: Adult, Rogerstown, 12th to 13th November, photographed (M.Carmody).

Galway Five: Five, Frenchfort, Oranmore, 9th November (per M.Byrne).

Mayo Three: Three adults, Barnaderg, 19th November to 1st December, photographed (M.Casey, P.Coultry, S.Feeney *et al.*).

Waterford Three: Three, Ardmore Bay, 20th November (M.O'Keeffe).

Wexford Two: Adult, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve and Tacumshin Lake, 20th September to 9th October, photographed (A.Walsh *et al.*); Two, Tacumshin Lake, 26th November, photographed (P.Kelly), presumed to include the bird seen earlier at Tacumshin Lake; One, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve and South Slob, 4th December (J.Murphy, G.O'Sullivan), presumed to be one of the above.

2005 Fermanagh One: Near Manoo, 7th September (*NIBR* 17: 62).

In recent times, this species has occurred in higher numbers than ever before, but this was a most unexpected and phenomenal influx, not that far from doubling the total. To put this in context, only once before has there been more than ten in one year, in 1851, when there were 15. The trio in Waterford are the first for the county. Ascertaining the exact numbers of birds in an influx such as this is made more difficult with the number of sightings involved, particularly those in Cork, although the sightings in Midleton and Power Head definitely involve two different groups as they were seen simultaneously.



Crane *Grus grus*
Barnaderg, Co. Mayo. 25th November 2011 (Mícheál Casey).

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius (92; 16)

Cork Twelve: One, Ballycotton, 16th April (O.Foley *et al.*); One, Ballycotton, 1st to 2nd August (D.O'Sullivan); Up to two juveniles, Ballycotton, 24th to 31st August, photographed (O.Foley, P.Moore *et al.*); Two juveniles, Dooniskey, 3rd to 13th September (J.Lynch); Five juveniles, The Gearagh, 3rd to 11th September (J.Lynch); Juvenile, Ballymacoda, 24th September (O.Foley).

Kilkenny One: Female, undisclosed site, 7th April, photographed (K.Collins).

Wexford Three: Female, Tacumshin Lake, 13th to 17th April (A.G.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 62: 26; Male, Tacumshin Lake, 26th April to 2nd May, photographed (R.H.Coombes *et al.*); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 9th September (D.Fitzpatrick).

1995 Cork One: Adult, Shanagarry Marsh, Ballycotton, 4th June (T.Ennis, D.Tipling).

The best year on record, exceeding the total of ten in 2008. Almost two-thirds of the total has now occurred since 2000. The number of juveniles recorded in Cork seems suggestive of local breeding, particularly those at Dooniskey and The Gearagh. The male at Tacumshin Lake coincided almost exactly with a Kentish Plover at the same locality.

Semipalmated Plover

Charadrius semipalmatus (1; 1)

Kerry One: Juvenile, Ventry Harbour, 24th September to 15th October, sound recorded (D.Brown, R.Martin *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 360 & 518, *Birdwatch* 233: 70, *British Birds* 104: 687, *Dutch Birding* 33: 402, *Wings* 63: 33 (Brown 2011).

The second for Ireland, almost eight years after the first, on Arranmore, Donegal, in October 2003. It first came to the finders' attention when the distinctive call was heard. Initially proving somewhat elusive, its long stay allowed many to enjoy good views alongside its major confusion species, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. As well as the distinctive call, this individual showed all of the other subtle differences distinguishing the two taxa, including the presence of obvious palmations between both sets of toes and the dark loreal-stripe reaching the bill above the gape line. For a full account of this, and a plethora of other great birds in Kerry during September 2011, the Punkbirders Kerry 2011 trip report (Punkbirders 2011) is well worth a read as it captures the roller-coaster emotional journey of intensive autumn birding in Ireland, in their typically irreverent and particularly readable style.

Female Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 13th April 2011 (Aidan G. Kelly).



Crane *Grus grus*

Rogerstown, Co. Dublin. 12th November 2011

(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).



Crane *Grus grus* with Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Rogerstown, Co. Dublin. 12th November 2011

(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).



Juvenile Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Dooniskey, Co. Cork. 10th September 2011 (Ed Carty).



Juvenile Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Dooniskey, Co. Cork. 10th September 2011 (Ed Carty).

Juvenile Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 31st August 2011 (Richard T. Mills).



Juvenile Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 31st August 2011 (Richard T. Mills).



Juvenile Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 31st August 2011 (Richard T. Mills).



Female Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 15th April 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Juvenile Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 31st August 2011 (Richard T. Mills).



Female Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 15th April 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Female Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Co. Kilkenny. 7th April 2011 (Kevin Collins).





Juvenile Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*
 Ventry Harbour, Co. Kerry. 24th September 2011
 (Alex Lees, <http://punkbirder.webs.com/>).



Juvenile Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*
 Ventry Harbour, Co. Kerry. 25th September 2011 (Ed Carty).



Juvenile Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*
 with Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
 Ventry Harbour, Co. Kerry. 8th October 2011
 (Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Juvenile Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*
 Ventry Harbour, Co. Kerry. 25th September 2011
 (Richard H. Coombes).



Juvenile Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*
 Ventry Harbour, Co. Kerry. 25th September 2011
 (Dermot Breen).



Juvenile Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*
 with Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
 Ventry Harbour, Co. Kerry. 25th September 2011
 (Michael O'Keefe).



Male Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 25th April 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Male Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
with Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 29th April 2011 (Neal Warnock).



Male Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 25th April 2011 (Pat Lonergan).

Kentish Plover

Charadrius alexandrinus (14; 1)

Wexford One: Male, Tacumshin Lake, 25th April to 2nd May, photographed (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*).

The first since 1995, although one in 2007 was placed in Category E (*Irish Birds* 8: 609). There is a distinct easterly bias to the distribution. This was the second for Wexford and the twelfth for the eastern half of the country, following four in both Antrim and Dublin and two in Down. Indeed, even the three Cork records are from the east of that county!

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* (281; 8)

Donegal Two: Juvenile, Donegal Airport, 11th September (M.Callaghan, D.Charles *et al.*); Juvenile, Malin Head, 4th October (R.McLaughlin).

Galway Two: Juvenile, Truska, Ballyconneely, 22nd to 29th September, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*); Juvenile, Aillebrack, Slyne Head, 24th to 30th October, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Mayo One: One, Clare Island, 14th April (E.McGreal).

Wexford Three: Female, Old Bawn Beach, 21st April, photographed (A.Dunbar); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 20th to 21st September (J.Metcalf, F.Tennant *et al.*); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 24th October (P.Kelly).

There is a distinct westerly bias to the records – there have been almost twice as many from the west coast compared with the east coast. Perhaps more surprising is the fact that over 50 have occurred inland.



Juvenile Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*
Truska, Ballyconneely, Co. Galway. 22nd September 2011
(Michael Harris, www.dynamicphotography.ie/Birds/).



Juvenile Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*
Truska, Ballyconneely, Co. Galway. 22nd September 2011
(Dermot Breen).

American Golden Plover

Pluvialis dominica (161; 37)

Clare Three: Adult summer, Doonbeg, 5th to 16th August (J.N.Murphy *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 232: 77; Adult summer, Shannon Airport Lagoons, 18th August (C.ten Bohmer, H.Derks); Adult, Seafield, 13th September, photographed (P.Brennan, J.N.Murphy, S.Nugent), later seen in Galway.

Cork Seven: One, Hare Island, 1st to 3rd June, photographed (J.Thorn, J.Wyllie *et al.*); Juvenile, Lissagriffin, 24th to 28th September, photographed (M.O'Keeffe *et al.*); One, Dursey Island, 15th to 16th October (D.A.Scott *et al.*); Two juveniles, Ballycotton, 15th to 20th October (G.Walsh *et al.*); Adult, Rosscarbery, 31st October to 12th November, photographed (A.Duggan *et al.*); Juvenile, Ballycotton, 6th to 8th November (D.O'Sullivan).

Donegal Two: Juvenile, Derrybeg, 1st to 3rd October, photographed (D.Charles, W.Veale); One, Tory Island, 25th October (P.Phillips).

Dublin One: Juvenile, Broadmeadows Estuary, Swords, 3rd November (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Galway Two: One, Loughaunbeg, Inveran, 15th to 22nd August, photographed (A.O'Dónaill *et al.*); Juvenile, Truska, Ballyconneely, 23rd September to 30th October, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*); Adult, Truska, Ballyconneely, 4th October, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*), earlier seen in Clare.

Kerry Four: One, Carrahane, 15th September (F.King); Adult, Black Rock Strand, 19th September to 4th October (D.Farrar, D.O'Connor), photograph *Wings* 63: 34; Up to two juveniles, Carrahane Strand, 1st to 8th October (W.Farrelly *et al.*).

Kildare One: Juvenile, The Curragh, 29th September (S.Millar).

Mayo Nine: Adult, Barnatra, 4th September, photographed (R.Innes, C.D.R.Jones); Juvenile, Keel, Achill Island, 21st September to 1st October, photographed (J.Jones *et al.*); Juvenile, Annagh Strand and Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 30th September to 4th November (D.Suddaby); Juvenile, Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 9th to 26th October, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*); Juvenile, Keel, Achill Island, 27th to 28th October (T.Cooney *et al.*); Four juveniles, Trawmore Strand, Mullet Peninsula, 19th to 26th October (M.Reilly *et al.*).

Waterford One: Juvenile, Whiting Bay, 8th October, photographed (M.Cowming, C.Flynn, F.O'Connell, D.Weldon).

Wexford Six: Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 11th to 31st May, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*); Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 27th August to 3rd October (B.Haslam, P.Kelly *et al.*); One, Rosslare Back Strand, 2nd to 10th September (P.Kelly *et al.*); Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 3rd September, photographed (D.Charles, P.Kelly *et al.*); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 20th October to 4th November (K.Mullarney *et al.*); Juvenile, South Slobs, 7th November, photographed (K.Mullarney).

Wicklow One: Juvenile, Kilcoole, 16th September (P.King, P.McCullough).

One of a number of records set by Nearctic waders in 2011, this almost doubles the previous record (19), set in 2009 and equalled in 2010. The distribution fits the established pattern of mainly west and south coast occurrences but also includes the first record for Kildare and the first record for Dursey Island, Cork. The only other notable aspect was the spring record in Wexford, only the ninth in the first half of the year. Since the Forty-fifth Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 6: 296), the statistics for this species have excluded all accepted records of Lesser Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica sensu lato*). Of 25 records of Lesser Golden Plover prior to 1985, only two are counted in the statistics - specimen records from Mayo in 1894 and from Meath in 1952 were published as referring to the Nearctic 'sub-species' *P.d.dominica* (Kennedy *et al.*). See also Appendix 5 for details of adjustments to the statistics.



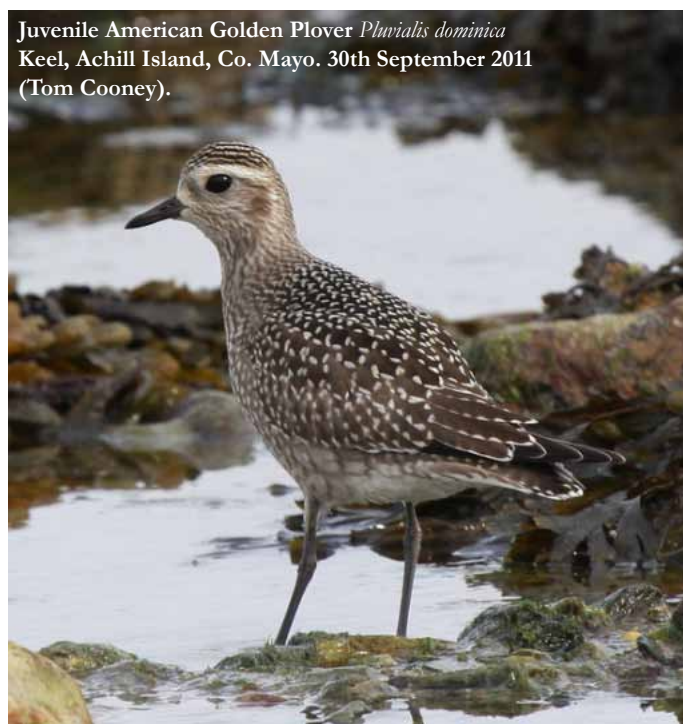
Juvenile American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
with Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
Leam Lough, Co. Mayo. 22nd October 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Juvenile American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
Keel, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 25th September 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Juvenile American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
Keel, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 25th September 2011
(Pat Loneran).



Juvenile American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
Keel, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 30th September 2011
(Tom Cooney).





Adult American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
 Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 14th May 2011
 (Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Adult American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
 Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 28th May 2011
 (Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Adult American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
 Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 23rd May 2011
 (Killian Mullarney).



Adult American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
 Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 23rd May 2011
 (Killian Mullarney).



Adult American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
 Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 13th May 2011
 (Richard H. Coombes).



Adult American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
 Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 14th May 2011 (Paul Archer).



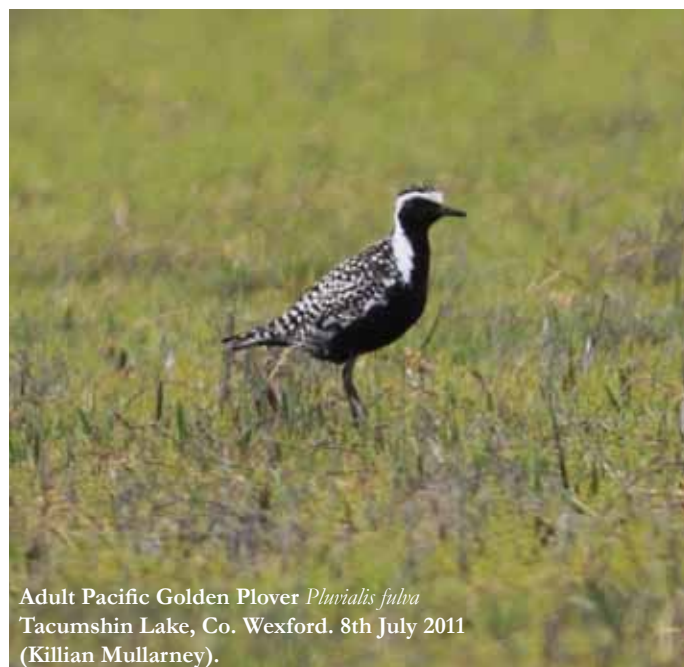
Adult American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 19th September 2011
(David O'Connor).



Adult American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 5th September 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Juvenile American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
Lissagriffin, Co. Cork. 24th September 2011
(Michael O'Keeffe).



Adult Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 8th July 2011
(Killian Mullarney).



Juvenile American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
Lissagriffin, Co. Cork. 28th September 2011
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



Adult Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 8th July 2011
(Killian Mullarney).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (11; 1)

Wexford One: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 8th July (K.Mullarney), photograph *Birding World* 24: 281.

This is a fairly typical record. It is the sixth for Tacumshin Lake, and the seventh for south Wexford, all of which have been in July or August. There have been three in Cork, two in October and one in August. The remaining records are from Dublin and Galway in August and September respectively.

American/Pacific Golden Plover

Pluvialis dominica/fulva (28; 0)

2009 Wexford One: One, Tacumshin Lake, 30th July (K.Fahy) and, presumed same, Tacumshin Lake, 8th August (K.Grace), seen in flight only.

The total includes all published records of 'Lesser Golden Plover', of which the vast majority were prior to 1985.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Calidris pusilla (110; 63)

Clare Two: Juvenile, Doughmore Beach, Doonbeg, 26th to 27th August (A.Clewes *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 232: 75; Juvenile, Seafield, Quilty, 24th September, photographed (J.N.Murphy).

Cork Six: Juvenile, Pilmore Strand, 5th to 16th September (O.Foley); One, Muckross Estuary, 6th to 9th September (M.O'Sullivan *et al.*); Juvenile, Ballynamona, 10th to 12th September, photographed (O.Foley *et al.*); Juvenile, Barleycove, 22nd September (J.N.Murphy); One, Muckross Estuary, 7th to 8th October (M.O'Sullivan *et al.*); One, Ballycotton, 16th to 20th October (G.Walsh *et al.*).

Donegal One: Juvenile, Inch Island Lake, Lough Swilly, 30th September to 4th October, photographed (C.Ingram *et al.*).

Dublin One: Juvenile, North Bull Island, 26th September (T.Cooney).

Galway Two: Juvenile, Inishbofin, 12th to 14th September, photographed (A.McGeehan *et al.*); Adult, Inishmore, 3rd to 4th October (H.Delaney).

Kerry Twenty-six: Adult, Black Rock Strand, 9th to 14th June (D.O'Connor *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 62: 25; Adult summer, Cuan Pier, Ventry, 7th to 13th August, photographed (A.McElwee *et al.*); Adult, Carrahane, 3rd September (O.Foley *et al.*); Juvenile, Carrahane, 8th September (D.Farrar, D.O'Connor); Juvenile, Smerwick Harbour, 12th to 21st September, photographed (J.Crosher *et al.*); Juvenile, Blennerville, 13th to 19th September (G.Walker *et al.*); Juvenile, Carrahane, 14th September, photographed (D.Farrar, D.O'Connor *et al.*); Juvenile, Ballinskelligs, 16th to 26th September, photographed (P.McDaid); Juvenile, Cashen Estuary, 17th to 22nd September, photographed (D.Farrar); Juvenile, Ferriter's Cove, 18th September (D.Brown *et al.*); Juvenile, Reenroe Beach, Ballinskelligs, 21st to 29th September (P.McDaid); Two juveniles, Derrymore Strand, 23rd to 25th September, photographed (J.Gilroy, A.Lees *et al.*); Juvenile, Inch, 23rd September (M.Telfer); Two juveniles, Blennerville, 24th September, photographed (E.Carty); Juvenile, Reenroe Beach, Ballinskelligs, 26th to 29th September (P.McDaid *et al.*); Two juveniles, Caherfealane Marsh, Castlemaine, 27th September, photographed (M.O'Clery); Juvenile, Cromane, 28th to 30th September, photographed (S.Enright); Juvenile, Glenbeigh, 28th September, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*); Juvenile, Castlegregory, 1st October (E.Carty); One, Black Rock Strand, 7th October (F.King); Juvenile, Cloghane Estuary, 8th October (M.O'Clery); One, Ventry Harbour, 15th October (G.Hunt); Juvenile, Blennerville, 21st October (E.Carty).

Louth One: Juvenile, Dundalk Docks, 24th September (E.Larrissey, G.O'Neill).

Mayo Eleven: Two juveniles, Corragaun Lough, 20th September to 6th October, photographed (J.Jones *et al.*); Four juveniles, Sruhll Lough, Achill Island, 21st to 25th September, photographed (J.Jones *et al.*); Two juveniles, Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 21st September (D.Suddaby); Up to two juveniles, Mallaranny, 21st to 24th September, photographed (J.Jones *et al.*); Juvenile, Keel Beach, Achill Island, 30th September (T.Cooney).

Sligo One: Juvenile, Lower Rosses, 19th September (P.Keogh).

Waterford One: Juvenile, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 20th to 21st August, photographed (F.O'Connell *et al.*).

Wexford Eleven: Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 22nd August to 1st September (P.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 24: 310; Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 24th August to 2nd September (P.Lonergan, B.Porter *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 24: 310; Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake and Lady's Island Lake, 9th to 11th September (O.Foley *et al.*); Juvenile, Rosslare Back Strand, 18th to 25th September, photographed (P.Kelly, K.Mullarney); Five juveniles and one adult, Tacumshin Lake, 24th

September to 27th October, sound recorded (R.H.Coombes, B.Haslam, A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly, T.Kilbane, K.Mullarney, B.Porter *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 24: 361; Juvenile, Carne Harbour, 24th September to 2nd October, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*).

In common with many Nearctic waders in 2011, this is the best year on record, and a complete contrast to 2010, when there were only two. It is almost impossible to put the total into context. Only in 1999, when there were 18, and 2006, when there were 11, has the total exceeded ten in a year and the long-term average has been less than 2.5 per year. The series includes the first records for both Louth and Sligo and the totals for Kerry and Mayo have more than doubled. The Kerry record in June is also notable as it is only the fourth spring record and the first in June.



Juvenile and adult Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 24th August 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile and adult Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 24th August 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile and adult Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 24th August 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 25th August 2011
(Stephen McAvoy).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 25th August 2011
(Stephen McAvoy).



Adult Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 27th August 2011
(Aidan G. Kelly).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 9th October 2011
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 30th September 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
with Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 14th October 2011 (Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 16th October 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. 21st August 2011
(Mícheál Cowming).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Ballynamona, Co. Cork. 10th September 2011
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamsphoto.blogspot.ie/>).

Adult Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 9th June 2011 (David O'Connor).



Adult Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
with Sanderling *Calidris alba* and Dunlin *Calidris alpina*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 9th June 2011 (David O'Connor).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Smerwick Harbour, Co. Kerry. 19th September 2011
(Rob Martin, <http://punkbirder.webs.com/>).



Adult Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 14th June 2011 (Ed Carty).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Smerwick Harbour, Co. Kerry. 19th September 2011
(Alex Lees, <http://punkbirder.webs.com/>).



Adult Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Cuan Pier, Ventry, Co. Kerry. 9th August 2011 (Ed Carty).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Blennerville, Co. Kerry. 24th September 2011 (Ed Carty).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Sruhill Lough, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 25th September 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Sruhill Lough, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 25th September 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
with Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* and Dunlin *Calidris alpina*
Corragaun Lough, Co. Mayo. 1st October 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Corragaun Lough, Co. Mayo. 24th September 2011
(Dermot Breen).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers *Calidris pusilla*
Sruhill Lough, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 25th September 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers *Calidris pusilla*
Sruhill Lough, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 25th September 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*
Keel Beach, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 30th September 2011
(Tom Cooney).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (right)
with Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
Corragaun Lough, Co. Mayo. 24th September 2011
(Dermot Breen).

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* (3; 1)

Kerry One: Adult summer, Reenroe Beach, Ballinskelligs, 1st to 3rd August (P.McDaid *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 231: 68 (McDaid 2011).

Cork 1998 Zero: One, Ballycotton, 2nd to 5th July (*Irish Birds* 6: 389), was an adult in summer plumage.

All four have been summer-plumaged adults in July or August, with this the first for Kerry. Timing of Irish records is very similar to that in Britain, where all seven, of which six were also summer plumaged adults, have occurred between 18th July and 21st September (Hudson *et al.* 2011). The 1998 record in Ballycotton, the first for Ireland, was originally published without age details, and this is now remedied.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* (42; 0)

2001 Kerry One: One, Black Rock Strand, 23rd to 29th November (E.Carty *et al.*).

A late record, in both senses of the word, this is the first to be found in November. The lateness of the record is not unprecedented, as the first for Ireland was killed in January 1848 in nearby Tralee and one wintered in Wexford, mostly at The Cull and Killag, although it was also seen at Lady's Island Lake and Tacumshin Lake, during winter 1998/1999.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (9; 3)

Kerry Two: Juvenile, Carrahane, 26th September to 3rd October (D.Brown *et al.*), photographs *Birdwatch* 233: 74, *Wings* 63: 32; Juvenile, Black Rock Strand, 21st November to 17th December (D.O'Connor *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 24: 448.

Wexford One: Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 8th to 14th October, photographed and sound recorded (T.Kilbane *et al.*).

This is the first year in which more than one has occurred and these are the first since 1998. The only previous Kerry record, the first for Ireland, occurred in 1965, and one in 1978 was the only previous Wexford record. Eight of the nine previous records occurred between 7th August and 17th September, with four in August and four in September. With only one previous October record, in Wicklow in 1970, the records in 2011 were later than normal. Records in Britain display a September peak with fewer in October (Dymond *et al.* 1989) and none has ever been found there in November. As would be expected with a Nearctic vagrant, two-thirds have occurred in the southwest, with five in Cork and three in Kerry. The remainder have been in the east and southeast – two in Wexford, one in Dublin and one in Wicklow. The stay of 27 days for the second bird in Kerry is the longest stay on record.



Juvenile Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
Carrahane, Co. Kerry. 27th September 2011
(Tom Tarpey, www.flickr.com/photos/ttbirding/).



Juvenile Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
Carrahane, Co. Kerry. 26th September 2011
(Alex Lees, <http://punkbirder.webs.com/>).



Juvenile Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
Carrahane, Co. Kerry. 2nd October 2011
(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).



Juvenile Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
Carrahane, Co. Kerry. 28th September 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Juvenile Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
Carrahane, Co. Kerry. 1st October 2011 (Micheál Cowming).



Juvenile Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 10th December 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Juvenile Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
with Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 22nd November 2011
(David O'Connor).



Juvenile Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* with Dunlin *Calidris alpina*
Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 27th November 2011
(Dermot Breen).



Juvenile Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 9th October 2011
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Juvenile Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 14th October 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 9th October 2011
(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).



Juvenile Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 9th October 2011
(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).



Adult summer White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford. 17th August 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Adult summer White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford. 17th August 2011
(Killian Mullarney).



Adult summer White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 27th August 2011
(Aidan G. Kelly).



Adult White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford. 17th September 2011
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis (256; 34)

Clare One: Adult summer, Shannon Airport Lagoons, 16th to 18th August (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Cork Three: Adult summer, Ballycotton, 2nd August, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*); One, Ballycotton, 24th October (D.O'Sullivan); Juvenile, Ballynamona Beach, 3rd to 15th November, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*).

Donegal One: Adult, Inch Island Lake, Lough Swilly, 28th September to 3rd October (C.Ingram).

Galway Three: Adult, Mweenish Island, Tawin, 15th to 16th September, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*); Adult, Inishmore, 18th September (D.Breen), photograph *Birding World* 24: 363; Adult, Mannin Bay, 29th September, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Kerry Eight: Adult, Blennerville, 22nd August to 2nd September (D.Brown *et al.*); One, Carrahane, 4th September (I.Jones); Adult, Carrahane, 14th September, photographed (D.Farrar, D.O'Connor); Adult, Trabeg, 15th to 29th September, photographed (D.O'Connor *et al.*); Adult, Castlemaine, 27th September (M.O'Clery); Two, Ventry Harbour, 2nd October (M.Carmody); One, Black Rock Strand, 7th October (F.King).

Mayo Eight: Adult, Corragaun Lough, 17th to 27th September, photographed (R.Bonser *et al.*); Adult, Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 21st September (D.Suddaby); One, Sruhull Lough, Achill Island, 30th September (T.Cooney); Two adults, Trawmore Strand, Mullet Peninsula, 30th September to 3rd October, photographed (M.O'Reilly, D.Suddaby); Adult, Sruhull Lough, Achill Island, 13th to 16th October, photographed (J.Donaldson *et al.*); A different adult, Sruhull Lough, Achill Island, 17th October, photographed (M.O'Briain); Adult, Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 25th October (J.N.Murphy, T.Tarpey).

Offaly One: Adult, Boora Lake, Lough Boora Parklands, 17th to 19th September (P.Brennan *et al.*).

Wexford Nine: Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake and Lady's Island Lake, 15th August to 17th September, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 25th August to 9th October, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); Two adult summer, Rosslare Back Strand, 27th August, photographed (K.Mullarney); Two adults, Rosslare Back Strand, 11th to 25th September, photographed (K.Mullarney); Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 12th September (P.Kelly *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 363, *Birdwatch* 233: 78; Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 24th September to 2nd October, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 7th November (P.Kelly), photograph *Birding World* 24: 447.

Three more than in 2006, 34 represents a new record for this species, and includes the first for Offaly. Unusually, only two of the influx were aged as juvenile, while 25 were aged as adult. Prior to 2011, records of this species published with age details show that there were more juveniles (91) than adults (71) but, with 2011 included, the reverse becomes the case.



Adult White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Sruhull Lough, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 16th October 2011
(Micheal O'Briain).



Adult White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Corragaun Lough, Co. Mayo. 27th September 2011
(Dermot Breen).



Adult White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Inishmore, Co. Galway. 18th September 2011 (Dermot Breen).



Adult White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
with Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
Mannin Bay, Co. Galway. 29th September 2011 (Dermot Breen).



Adult White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Carrahane, Co. Kerry. 18th September 2011 (David O'Connor).



Adult White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Sruhill Lough, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 17th October 2011
(Micheal O'Briain).



Juvenile White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Ballynamona Beach, Co. Cork. 3rd November 2011
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



Juvenile White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Ballynamona Beach, Co. Cork. 3rd November 2011
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (118; 14)

Cork Two: Juvenile, Pilmore Strand, 8th September (P.Moore); Juvenile, Ballycotton, 1st October (O.Foley).

Donegal One: Juvenile, Carrickart, 14th to 17th September, photographed (C.Nash *et al.*).

Dublin One: Juvenile, Gormanston Beach, 3rd October, photographed (N.T.Keogh *et al.*), also seen in Meath.

Galway Two: Juvenile, Mweenish Island, Tawin, 16th to 17th September, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*); Juvenile, Inishmore, 3rd to 5th October, photographed (H.Delaney *et al.*).

Kerry Two: Juvenile, Carrahane, 27th September to 3rd October, photographed (D.O'Connor); One, Ventry Harbour, 28th September (F.King).

Mayo Three: Up to two juveniles, Keel Golf Course, Achill Island, 17th to 25th September, photographed (R.Bonser *et al.*); Juvenile, Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 21st September (D.Suddaby).

Meath Zero: Juvenile, Gormanston Beach, 3rd October, photographed (N.T.Keogh *et al.*), also seen in Dublin.

Wexford Three: Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 21st to 27th August (P.Kelly *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 315, *Birdwatch* 232: 69; Juvenile, Bannow Bay, 11th October (K.Mullarney); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 16th October to 4th November, photographed and sound recorded (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, A.Power *et al.*).

This is the best year on record, exceeding the total of 12 in 2008, and including the first record for Meath.





Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Mweenish Island, Tawin, Co. Galway. 16th September 2011
(Dermot Breen).



Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Carrickart, Co. Donegal. 15th September 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Mweenish Island, Tawin, Co. Galway. 16th September 2011
(Dermot Breen).



Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Carrickart, Co. Donegal. 15th September 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Keel Golf Course, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 25th September 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Keel Golf Course, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 25th September 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
Keel Golf Course, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 25th September 2011
(Pat Lonergan).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* (5; 2)

Clare One: Adult summer, Shannon Airport Lagoons, 26th to 27th August, photographed (P.Pirinen, J.Riihimäki *et al.*).

Wexford One: Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 28th August to 13th September (P.Kelly *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 316, *Birdwatch* 232: 68, *Dutch Birding* 33: 339, *Wings* 63: 33 (Kelly 2011).

2010 Dublin Zero: One, Rogerstown Estuary, 16th to 17th October (*Irish Birds* 9: 297) is considered to be an adult, not second calendar-year.

Initially, there had been some speculation that perhaps these two records referred to the same bird. However, once photographs became available, it became clear that two different birds were involved, the first time that two have occurred in the same year. There have now been three in Wexford, all at Tacumshin Lake, while the bird in Clare is the first for the county.



Adult summer Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 13th September 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Adult summer Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 4th September 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Adult summer Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 30th August 2011
(Peter Phillips, <http://toryislandbirdblog.blogspot.ie/>).



Adult summer Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 4th September 2011
(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).



Adult summer Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 5th September 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).

Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* (14; 0)

2009 Wexford One: Adult summer, The Cull, 23rd to 24th June (M.Maddock, K.Mullarney *et al.*), photographs *Birdwatch* 206: 73, *Wings* 54: 25; Same individual, Tacumshin Lake, 25th to 26th June, photographed (N.Hatch, S.McAvoy *et al.*).

2005 Armagh One: Adult, Reedy Flat, Lough Neagh, 19th August (*NIBR* 17: 67).

1983 Wexford Zero: One, Tacumshin Lake, 1st August (*Irish Birds* 2: 559), was an adult.

1979 Cork Zero: One, Ballycotton, 14th to 17th July (*Irish Birds* 1: 564), was an adult.

The 1979 and 1983 records, the second and third for Ireland, were originally published without age details and the 2005 record was published in the Northern Ireland Bird Report but never published in these reports. There have been nine adults between late June and early September. From mid-September onwards, no adults have occurred but there have been four juveniles and one, the first for Ireland, in October 1968, was un-aged. Assuming that adults are no more prone to vagrancy than juveniles, this unusual age distribution suggests that perhaps the far more subtle juveniles are being overlooked. The 2009 Wexford bird was subsequently relocated just over 400 miles to the northeast at Loch of Strathbeg, Aberdeenshire in Scotland (Hudson *et al.* 2010), yet another example of the interchange of rarities between these two islands.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Tryngites subruficollis (385; 93)

Clare Sixteen: Up to fifteen juveniles, Loop Head, 9th to 18th September, photographed (J.Copner, D.Farrow, R.Land, K.Langdon, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); One, Quilty, 24th September (J.N.Murphy).

Cork Six: One, Ballycotton, 15th September (P.Moore); Three juveniles, Dursey Island, 25th September, photographed (K.Finch *et al.*); Two juveniles, Dursey Island, 3rd October (K.Grace *et al.*).

Donegal Six: Juvenile, Bunbeg, 10th September (M.Callaghan, D.Charles *et al.*); Four juveniles, Tory Island, 14th to 16th September, photographed (P.Phillips *et al.*); One, Bloody Foreland, 17th September (C.Ingram).

Dublin Three: Up to two juveniles, North Bull Island, 27th September to 4th October, photographed (T.Cooney *et al.*); Juvenile, Rogerstown, 3rd October (P.Kelly).

Galway Three: Juvenile, Mweenish Island, Tawin, 15th September, photographed (P.Troake); Two juveniles, Truska, Ballyconneely, 24th September to 1st October, photographed (M.Harris *et al.*).

Kerry Ten: Up to three juveniles, Carrahane, 3rd September to 7th October (O.Foley *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 63: 34; Juvenile, Reenroe Beach, Ballinskelligs, 3rd to 4th September, photographed (P.McDaid); Juvenile, Brandon Point, 17th September (M.O'Clery); One, Inch, 23rd September (M.Telfer); Four juveniles, Ventry Harbour, 28th to 29th September, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*).

Kildare Four: Four, The Curragh, 24th to 29th September (S.Kelly).

Mayo Five: Adult, Annagh Strand, Mullet Peninsula, 9th to 11th May, photographed (M.Reilly, D.Suddaby *et al.*); Juvenile, Corragaun Lough, 10th September, photographed (D.Breen); Juvenile, Carrowmore Beach, 20th September, photographed (J.Jones *et al.*); Juvenile, Keel Golf Course, Achill Island, 21st to 30th September, photographed (J.Jones *et al.*); Juvenile, Keel, Achill Island, 15th to 16th October, photographed (M.O'Briain).

Waterford Two: Two juveniles, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 4th to 11th September, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*).

Wexford Thirty-five: Adult male and female, Tacumshin Lake, 11th to 29th May (R.H.Coombes, K.Mullarney *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 24: 183; Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 23rd August to 4th September, photographed (N.Keogh *et al.*); Up to twenty-eight juveniles, Tacumshin Lake, 23rd August to 27th October, sound recorded (O.Foley, J.Geraty, S.Geraty, P.Kelly, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, T.Kilbane, K.Mullarney *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 354 *Birdwatch* 233: 77; One, Lady's Island Lake, 4th September (A.G.Kelly); Two juveniles, The Cull, 23rd September, photographed (K.Mullarney); One, Raven Point, 30th September (J.Cassidy).

Wicklow Three: One, Kilcoole, 11th May, photographed (N.T.Keogh *et al.*); One, Kilcoole, 8th June (N.T.Keogh *et al.*); Juvenile, Kilcoole, 24th to 27th September, photographed (J.Proudfoot).

This year there were multiple records set by this species. The annual total exceeded the previous high, set in 2006, by 59, the flock of 28 at Tacumshin, 27th September, was the largest ever recorded in the Western Palearctic and the occurrence of five records in May and June was an unprecedented spring influx. The inland record in Kildare, the first

for the county, is only the second record for an inland county, following one in Armagh in 1998. Beyond the dry statistical and numerical, however, is the fact that the duo at Tacumshin Lake in May was seen and photographed displaying – surely a first for the Western Palearctic? The species is going out on a high, with January 2012 marking its removal from consideration by the IRBC. Prior to 1950, there had only been two records, both in the nineteenth century. The next record was in 1953 and, since then, with the exception of 1964, they have been annual, in varying numbers. Surprisingly, Tacumshin Lake, renowned as a location for the species, did not receive its first until 1977, although, since then 158 have occurred there! As would be expected for a Nearctic vagrant, the vast majority of records have been between August and October, and mostly from southern (54%) and western (23%) coastal counties. The east and north account for the balance, almost equally, but slightly more in the north. See also Appendix 5 for details of adjustments to the statistics.

Adult summer Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*
with Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

The Cull, Co. Wexford. 24th June 2009 (Killian Mullarney).



Adult summer Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*
The Cull, Co. Wexford. 24th June 2009 (Killian Mullarney).



Adult summer Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus*
The Cull, Co. Wexford. 24th June 2009 (Killian Mullarney).



Adult Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 18th May 2011 (Pat Lonergan).



Adult Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 18th May 2011 (Pat Lonergan).



Adult Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 28th May 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Adult Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 16th May 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Adult Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 23rd May 2011
(Killian Mullarney).



Adult Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 17th May 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Adult Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 14th May 2011 (Paul Archer).



Adult Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 14th May 2011 (Paul Archer).



A flock of 26 juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpipers *Tryngites subruficollis* with 2 Ringed Plovers *Charadrius hiaticula* and a single Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 26th September 2011 (Killian Mullarney).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 14th September 2011 (Neal Warnock).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 11th September 2011 (Kris De Rouck).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpipers *Tryngites subruficollis* Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 11th September 2011 (Kris De Rouck).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 27th September 2011 (Joe Geraty).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 16th September 2011 (Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).

Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow. 27th September 2011 (Joe Gerety).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. 4th September 2011
(Micheál Cowming).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
North Bull Island, Co. Dublin. 3rd September 2011
(Tom Cooney).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpipers *Tryngites subruficollis*
Tory Island, Co. Donegal. 14th September 2011
(Peter Phillips, <http://toryislandbirdblog.blogspot.ie/>).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpipers *Tryngites subruficollis*
North Bull Island, Co. Dublin. 3rd September 2011
(Tom Cooney).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Tory Island, Co. Donegal. 14th September 2011
(Peter Phillips, <http://toryislandbirdblog.blogspot.ie/>).





Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Keel Golf Course, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 25th September 2011
(Pat Lonergan).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Keel Golf Course, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. 24th September 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Carrahane, Co. Kerry. 14th September 2011 (Ed Carty).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpipers *Tryngites subruficollis*
Carrahane, Co. Kerry. 8th September 2011 (Ed Carty).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Truska, Ballyconneely, Co. Galway. 26th September 2011
(Dermot Breen).



Adult Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Annagh Strand, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 11th May 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*
Dursley Island, Co. Cork. 25th September 2011 (Derek A. Scott).

Long-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus scolopaceus (112; 3)

Kerry One: First-winter, Fahamore, Castlegregory, 18th November to 16th January 2012 (M.O'Clery *et al.*).

Wexford Two: Juvenile, Bannow Bay, 11th to 13th October, photographed and sound recorded (O.O'Sullivan *et al.*); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 20th to 23rd October (P.Archer, K.Mullarney *et al.*).

2008 Louth Zero: One, Dundalk Docks, 19th October to 15th March 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 92 & 9: 264) remained until 25th April 2009.

2008 Mayo Zero: One, Roonah Lough, 7th October (*Irish Birds* 9: 92) was at Roonagh Lough.

1977 Londonderry One: Bann Estuary, 9th October to 22nd April 1978 (*Irish Birds* 1: 426) formerly accepted as an unidentified Dowitcher is now considered a Long-billed Dowitcher (NIBR 1982-85: 56).

Contrasting markedly with many Nearctic waders, this was the worst year since 2002, when there were only two. With an October peak, this species on average arrives later than Buff-breasted Sandpiper which tends to peak in September. However, both American Golden Plover and White-rumped Sandpiper arrived in record numbers in 2011 and their peak arrival month is also October, so higher numbers of Long-billed Dowitcher might have been expected. While the 2008 Mayo individual was in the town-land of Roonah, the specific location is referred to as Roonagh Lough by Ordnance Survey Ireland. See also Appendix 5 for details of corrections to the statistics.

Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus* (2; 1)

Cork One: Juvenile, Mizen Head, 20th to 25th September, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*) (Moore 2011).

Only the third for Ireland, following one in Kerry, in October 1957 and one in Wexford, in September 1980, another of the great years for Nearctic waders. Coincidentally, the 2011 individual arrived within days of a BOURC announcement of their intention to split this species from Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, a taxonomic position that the IRBC have also adopted (see <http://www.irbc.ie/announcements/announce6.php> for details).

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* (11; 1)

Mayo One: Juvenile, Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, 12th to 27th October, sound recorded (D.Suddaby *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 64: 27.

This is the first since 1995 and the second for Mayo, following one in 1988, also on the Mullet Peninsula. As would be expected, most records have been in September and October, although one was found in July 1974 in Dublin. Additionally, feathers of one were found in December 1986 in Antrim, although the actual arrival date remains open to speculation.



Juvenile Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*
Mizen Head, Co. Cork. 24th September 2011 (Michael O'Keeffe).



Juvenile Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*
Mizen Head, Co. Cork. 20th September 2011 (Victor Caschera).

Juvenile Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*
Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 19th October 2011
(Micheal O'Briain).



Juvenile Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*
Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 26th October 2011
(Pat Lonergan).





Juvenile Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*
Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 20th October 2011
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



Juvenile Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*
Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 20th October 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Juvenile Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*
Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 22nd October 2011
(Aidan G. Kelly).



Juvenile Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*
Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 22nd October 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Juvenile Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*
Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 20th October 2011
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



Juvenile Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*
Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 25th October 2011
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



Juvenile Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*
Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 25th October 2011
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



Juvenile Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*
Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo. 22nd October 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* (30; 7)

Cork Two: Juvenile, Knockadoon Pier, 6th October, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*); Juvenile, Victoria Quay, Cork City, 27th November, photographed (G.Desmond *et al.*).

Kerry One: Juvenile, Lehid Harbour, 5th October, photographed (F.A.Moore).

Mayo One: Juvenile, Sruhill Lough, Achill Island, 23rd September, photographed (J.Jones *et al.*) and, presumed same, Sruhill Lough, Achill Island, 28th October (T.Cooney).

Meath One: Juvenile, Sonairte Nature Trail, Laytown, 28th November to 3rd December, photographed (N.T.Keogh, O.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

Waterford One: One, River Blackwater, Ballyduff, 27th to 28th November, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*).

Wexford One: Adult summer, Lady's Island Lake, 17th to 18th July, photographed (Se.Farrell *et al.*).

This sequence continues the unbroken run of annual occurrences since 2004 and involves the highest annual total on record, two more than in 2007. Previously, there had only been four November records, and the record in Meath is the latest by four days and the first for the county.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (5; 0)

2009 Mayo One: Juvenile, Annagh Head and Termoncarragh Lake, Mullet Peninsula, 22nd September (D.Suddaby).

The first away from the south-west, following one in Kerry and three in Cork, and the latest, albeit by only one day. The short stay of this bird would have been far more widely lamented were it not for the four-day stay of one on Cape Clear Island, Cork, the previous year, which had remained in its chosen puddle long enough for many observers to see it.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (132; 4)

Clare One: Adult, Kilbaha, 21st May, photographed (P.Ryan).

Cork One: Juvenile, Rosscarbery, 12th to 13th September (K.Cronin *et al.*).

Wexford Two: Adult, Lady's Island Lake, 19th June, photographed (P.Kelly); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 1st to 2nd October (P.Kelly *et al.*).

A quiet year, some way short of the record total of 12 seen in 2005. In the context of the numbers of other Nearctic waders that arrived in autumn, two autumn records is a particularly dismal performance.

Juvenile Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*
Sonairte Nature Trail, Laytown, Co. Meath. 3rd December 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Male Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 9th June 2011 (Fran O'Connell).



Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (87; 1)

Cork One: First-winter, Douglas Estuary, 17th to 20th September, photographed (B.Ryan *et al.*).

Continuing the run of low numbers since the turn of the century, this is only the fourth for Cork since 1990, contrasting markedly with 12 there in the 1980s.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Kerry One: Juvenile, Valentia Island, 21st September (M.O'Clery).

Mayo Seven: Three males and two females, site A, 4th June to 13th July, photographed (observers' names withheld); Male, site B, 27th to 30th June, photographed (observers' names withheld); Juvenile, Sruhill Lough, Achill Island, 22nd September (J.Jones *et al.*).

Wexford Two: Two males, Tacumshin Lake, 8th to 9th June, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*).

As copulation was observed, it is believed that one pair attempted to breed, although almost certainly unsuccessfully, at 'site A' in Mayo. It may not be coincidental that these are the highest numbers since 1970, when breeding numbers were at their highest since 1950 (Hutchinson 1989).

First-winter Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*
Douglas Estuary, Co. Cork. 17th September 2011
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamsphoto.blogspot.ie/>).



First-winter Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*
Douglas Estuary, Co. Cork. 17th September 2011
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamsphoto.blogspot.ie/>).



Long-tailed Skua

Stercorarius longicaudus (983; 312)

At Sea Zero: Two juveniles, 105 miles south-west of Fastnet Rock, 20th September (R.McLaughlin).

Clare Two-hundred-and-one: Two adults, Bridges of Ross, 21st August (D.Brown, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); Adult, Baltard, Kilkee, 21st August (T.Cooney); Two adults, Bridges of Ross, 28th August (N.T.Keogh, N.Warnock); Adult, Bridges of Ross, 2nd September (N.T.Keogh *et al.*); Two adults, Bridges of Ross, 6th September (N.T.Keogh *et al.*); Adult, Bridges of Ross, 7th September (D.Farrow, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); Adult, Bridges of Ross, 8th September (D.Farrow, R.Land); Adult, Bridges of Ross, 11th September (J.Adamson, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh); Nine adults, four immatures and eight juveniles, Bridges of Ross, 12th September (J.Adamson, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, D.McNamara, P.Troake *et al.*); Adult, Kilbaha, 12th September (K.Bennett); Fourteen adults, two immatures and four juveniles, Bridges of Ross, 13th September (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, J.N.Murphy, S.Nugent, K.deRouck *et al.*); Fourteen adults, one immature and one juvenile, Bridges of Ross, 14th September (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); Adult, Bridges of Ross, 15th September (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); Thirty-one adults, two immatures and two juveniles, Bridges of Ross, 16th September (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); Sixty-four adults and twelve juveniles, Bridges of Ross, 17th September, photographed (O.Foley, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, T.Kilbane, K.Mullarney *et al.*); Three adults and thirteen juveniles, Bridges of Ross, 18th September (Sh.Farrell, C.Foley, O.Foley, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); One adult and three juveniles, Bridges of Ross, 19th September (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh).

Cork Three: Juvenile, Seven Heads, 27th August (R.Mundy); Immature, Dursey Island, 18th September (D.A.Scott); One, Mizen Head, 29th October (P.Wolstenholme).

Donegal Twenty-one: Adult, Bloody Foreland, 26th May (C.Ingram); Adult, Malin Head, 8th June (R.McLaughlin); Juvenile, Melmore Head, 28th August (O.Campbell, E.Randall); Five juveniles, Melmore Head, 29th August (O.Campbell, E.Randall); Juvenile, Malin Head, 4th October (R.McLaughlin); Seven, Bloody Foreland, 7th October (C.Ingram, R.Sheppard); Five, Melmore Head, 7th October (E.Randall).

Dublin One: Juvenile, Rockabill Island, 13th October (S.Pierce).

Galway Twelve: Two adults, Baile na hAbhainn, 23rd May (A.Ó'Dónaill); Sub-adult, Slyne Head, 26th August (A.Ó'Dónaill); Juvenile, Slyne Head, 27th August (D.Breen, A.Ó'Dónaill); Two adults, Inishbofin, 6th September (A.McGeehan); Three adults, Inishbofin, 12th September (A.McGeehan); Adult and juvenile, Baile na hAbhainn, 12th September (A.Ó'Dónaill); Juvenile, Inishbofin, 13th September (A.McGeehan).

Kerry Twenty: One, Brandon Point, 6th September (M.Hanafin); Six adults and nine sub-adults, Brandon Point, 13th September (P.Moore); Two adults, Brandon Point, 17th September (M.O'Clery); One, Brandon Point, 18th September (S.Enright); Adult, Brandon Point, 22nd September (M.O'Clery *et al.*).

Mayo Forty-four: Two adults, Kilcummin Head, 8th August (J.Donaldson); One, Kilcummin Head, 27th August (D.Charles, J.Donaldson); Adult, Annagh Head, 29th August (C.D.R.Jones *et al.*); One, Kilcummin Head, 6th September (J.Donaldson); Adult, Annagh Head, 7th September (D.Suddaby *et al.*); Two adults, Annagh Head, 13th September (D.Suddaby *et al.*); Adult, Portacloy, 13th September (S.Foster); Two adults and three juveniles, Kilcummin Head, 14th September (J.Donaldson); Two adults, Annagh Head, 17th September (D.Suddaby); One, Creevagh Head, 6th October (J.Donaldson); One, Kilcummin Head, 6th October (J.Donaldson); Eight, Kilcummin Head, 7th October (J.Donaldson); Juvenile, Annagh Head, 16th October (D.Suddaby); Two adults, Eachleim, Mullet Peninsula, 17th October (D.Suddaby); Thirteen, Kilcummin Head, 18th October (J.Donaldson, M.Kenny); Two juveniles, Annagh Head, 1st November (T.Cooney).

Sligo Four: Three sub-adults, Lenadoon Head, 7th October (S.Feeney, D.Skehan); Adult, Coanmore Point, Easky, 7th October (S.Feeney, D.Skehan).

Waterford Three: Adult and juvenile, Helvick Head, 16th September (C.Flynn); Juvenile, Helvick Head, 31st October (C.Flynn).

Wexford One: Juvenile, Carne Beach, 3rd September (C.Baines, D.Charles).

Wicklow Two: Two adults, Kilcoole, 23rd May (N.T.Keogh).

1992 Cork One: Immature, 10 miles south of Galley Head, 16th August (*Irish Birds* 5: 91) previously considered an 'At sea' record and excluded from the totals should be included as it is within the 30 kilometre inshore zone.

1986 Kerry One: Adult or sub-adult, 26 kilometres south-southwest of Inishtearaght, 22nd September (*Irish Birds* 5: 463) previously considered an 'At sea' record and excluded from the totals should be included as it is within the 30 kilometre inshore zone.

This species is being removed from consideration by the IRBC from January 2012. It is both a spring and autumn passage migrant, with spring passage largely concentrated in May and autumn passage more drawn out, occurring between August and October, with a September peak. This has been true since the nineteenth century, with about 100 individuals recorded between both seasons prior to 1900. During the first half of the twentieth century, there were very few records. Even the advent of Cape Clear Bird Observatory, a site that has proven so prolific for many other seabirds, resulted in no significant change in occurrences in the 1960s and 1970s. The 1980s saw a concentrated effort by observers to see this species, starting first during spring at Slyne Head in the early 1980s. However, it was from 1984 that numbers started to increase with systematic seawatching, particularly during autumn, at west and north coast sites like Bridges of Ross, Clare and Ramore Head, Antrim. There were 87 during the 1980s, followed by 386 in the 1990s and 683 since 2000, helped in no small way by the record total for 2011, which included the highest ever daily total (76) at Bridges of Ross on 17th September.

Almost two-thirds (844) have been in the west from Kerry to Donegal. A further 220 (17%) have occurred on the coast between Londonderry and Down, with the south coast accounting for almost exactly half that figure (109). The remainder were from the east coast (52) and inland (70), although this latter figure is mostly accounted for by the presence of a flock of 60, on the Shannon in 1862. The long-term trend is reflected in the distribution for 2011, when all but ten were on the west coast from Kerry to Donegal, with seven on the south coast and three on the east coast. See also Appendix 5 for details of adjustments to the statistics.

Bonaparte's Gull

Chroicocephalus philadelphia (64; 1)

Cork Zero: Adult, Cobh, 15th January to 20th February (O.Foley, R.McLaughlin, S.Ronayne *et al.*), presumed returning, photographs *Dutch Birding* 33: 136, *Wings* 61: 27.

Kerry Zero: Adult, Blennerville, 26th September (E.Carty), presumed returning.

Sligo One: First-winter, Quay Street, Sligo, 20th February (P.Keogh).

2010 Kerry One: Adult, Blennerville, 3rd July (E.Carty).

A poor year, with the fewest presumed new birds since 2001, when none occurred, although the Sligo record is the first for the county.

Adult American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*
Galway Docks. 5th February 2011
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.ie>).



Atlantic Gull *Larus michahellis atlantis* (7; 0)

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

2009 Cork One: Third-winter, Castletownbere, 23rd to 25th January, photographed (D.G.McAdams *et al.*).

2006 Dublin Minus one: One, Sandymount Strand, 6th December to 10th January 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 404), now presumed returning.

The 2009 bird is the first record for Cork of a bird showing characteristics of this taxon. The Dublin record means that the bird first recorded 5th October 2005 (*Irish Birds* 8: 385) was last recorded exactly two years later (*Irish Birds* 8: 597).

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* (89; 1)

Cork One: First-winter, Baltimore, 27th November to 10th December (O.Foley *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 236: 74.

Galway Zero: Adult, Nimmo's Pier and Rossaveel, 5th to 26th February (T.Cuffe *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 226: 58, presumed returning.

2001 Galway One: First-winter, Rossaveel, 9th to 15th December (D.Breen *et al.*).

1991 Antrim One: First-winter, Belfast Rubbish Tip, 13th March (*NIBR* 1991-92: 49).

Continuing a run of poor years, this is the second year in a row with only one new bird. The adult in Galway was present there for its eighth winter, having been found as a first-winter in January 2004.



Adult American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*
Galway Docks. 5th February 2011
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.ie/>).



First-winter American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*
Baltimore, Co. Cork. 10th December 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



First-winter American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*
with Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus*
Baltimore, Co. Cork. 10th December 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoides kumlieni* (145; 6)

Donegal Three: Adult, Killybegs, 12th February (B.Robson); Adult, Killybegs, 20th November to 28th February 2012, photographed (M.Callaghan, D.Charles); First-winter, Killybegs, 28th December to 8th January 2012, photographed (M.Callaghan, D.Charles).

Kerry One: Second-winter, Milltown, Dingle, 31st December, photographed (S.Enright).

Sligo One: First-winter, Quay Street, Sligo, 16th February to 29th March, photographed (M.Casey *et al.*).

Wicklow One: Second-winter, Arklow Ponds, 16th January, photographed (R.H.Coombes).

As might be expected, the geographic spread of this species shows a distinct bias to the west and northwest. The coastal counties from Galway to Antrim account for almost 70% of the total although the bird in Sligo is only the second there. By contrast, there have been very few records on the east coast and that in Wicklow is the first for the county. See also Appendix 5 for corrections to statistics and previous reports.

First-winter Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*
with Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Quay Street, Sligo. 13th March 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



First-winter Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*
Killybegs, Co. Donegal. 28th December 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



First-winter Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoides kumlieni*
Killybegs, Co. Donegal. 28th December 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).

Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri* (7; 1)

Galway One: First-winter, Rossaveel, 18th February to 5th March (D.Breen *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 51 & 143, *Birdwatch* 227: 52, also at Nimmo's Pier, 5th April (M.Davis) (Garner 2011).

2010 Galway One: First-winter, Cleggan, 19th January to 10th February (D.Breen *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 23: 51, *Birdwatch* 214: 65.

These are the first two for Galway. There have also been two in Donegal and Mayo, with Cork and Antrim hosting one each. There have been some suggestions that the 2011 bird was too large to be Thayer's Gull. However, this taxon overlaps Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* in size and it is thought that the bird in question may, on size, be more likely to be a male. The authority best qualified to determine the taxonomic status of this species is the American Ornithologists' Union, and the IRBC continues to follow their lead on this matter by treating this taxon as a full species.



Adult Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*
Killybegs, Co. Donegal. 20th November 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).

Second-winter Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*
Arklow Ponds, Co. Wicklow. 16th January 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Second-winter Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*
Arklow Ponds, Co. Wicklow. 16th January 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



First-winter Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri*
with Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Cleggan, Co. Galway. 3rd February 2010
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



First-winter Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri*
Cleggan, Co. Galway. 3rd February 2010
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



First-winter Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri*
Rossaveel, Co. Galway. 19th February 2011 (James Hayes).



First-winter Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri*
Rossaveel, Co. Galway. 19th February 2011 (James Hayes).

All pictures this page:

First-winter Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri*
some with Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*
Nimmo's Pier, Galway. 5th April 2011 (Michael Davis).



Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* (10; 0)

2009 Dublin One: Adult, Broadmeadows Estuary, Swords, 22nd August (E.Dempsey, P.Kelly), presumed also seen in Louth.

2009 Louth Zero: Adult, Dunany Point, 15th September (O.J.Merne), presumed earlier seen in Dublin.

Although not proven, it is thought highly likely that these sightings, separated by a distance of less than 30 miles, refer to the same individual. It is the first for the east coast of a species that has been recorded in Cork (five), Kerry (two), Donegal and inland at Lough Derravaragh, Westmeath.

White-winged Black Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus (88; 5)

Clare One: Second-summer, Lough Atedaun, 5th June (D.McNamara *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 24: 228.

Dublin One: Adult winter, North Bull Island, 24th September (T.Cooney, Sh.Farrell).

Meath One: Juvenile, Gormanston Beach, 15th September (V.Caschera, E.O'Donnell, P.Phillips).

Wexford Two: Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 4th September, photographed (J.F.Dowdall, A.G.Kelly *et al.*); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 15th September to 4th October (P.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 24: 413.

The second best year ever, only exceeded by the total of seven in 1976. This series contains the first for Meath, the nineteenth county in which the species has occurred. There have been records in all months between May and November, with a September peak, and very few thereafter. Ageing of this species is covered in Olsen & Larsson (1995). The Clare bird was identified as a second-summer based on the wedge of dark outer primaries, dark marks in the alula and primary coverts and blotchy, not solidly black, underwing-coverts.

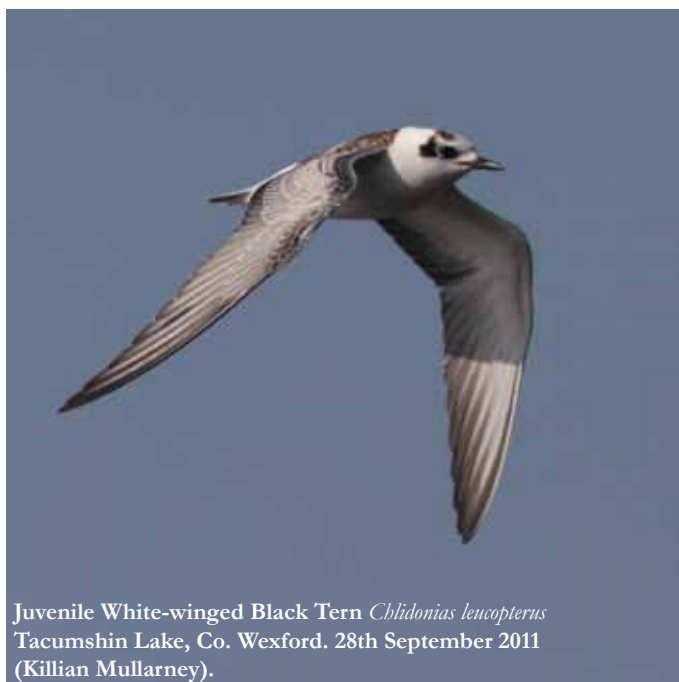
Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (35; 0)

Galway Zero: Adult, Doorus Pier, Nimmo's Pier and Claddagh Beach, 13th November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 301) remained to 20th March, photograph *Birdwatch* 225: 57; Adult, Newtownlynch Pier, 6th November to 23rd February 2012 (D.Breen *et al.*), presumed returning.

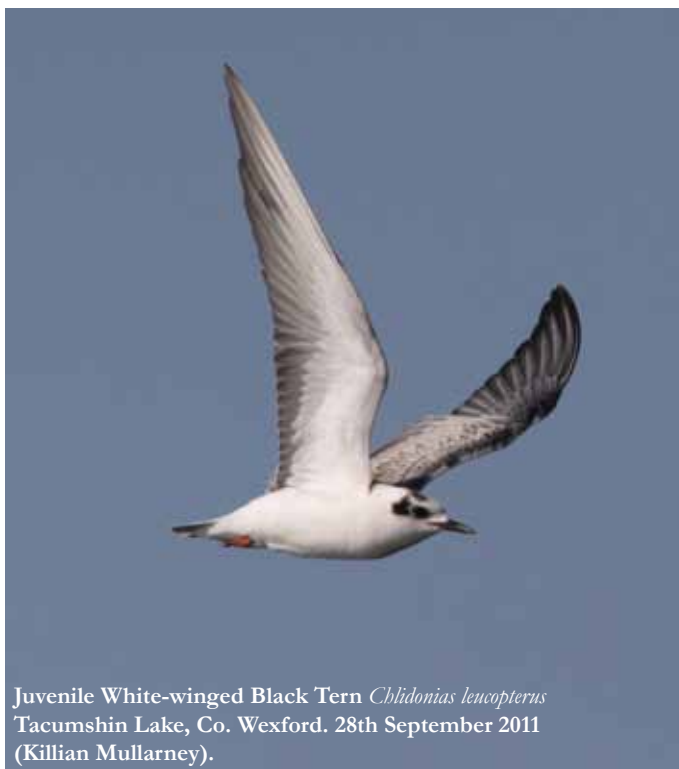
Louth Zero: Adult, Cruisetown, 13th to 17th October, photographed (D.Hodgers *et al.*), presumed returning.

Wexford Zero: Adult, Rosslare Back Strand, 16th April (P.Kelly) and Tacumshin Lake, 11th May to 27th June (K.Mullarney *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 228, *British Birds* 104: 473, *Dutch Birding* 33: 204, presumed returning.

With non-overlapping annual sightings since winter 2007/2008 of the presumed returning Louth, Galway and Wexford individuals, there have been suggestions that these records may relate to the same individual. While this may be the case, a detailed analysis of the records shows that there is more to this than meets that simplistic view. The difficulty is that this neat analysis ignores the presence of a second bird in Wexford in winter 2007/2008 and records in Down throughout the same winter. The analysis is even more complex when attempting to determine when this alleged loop started. If it is assumed, not unreasonably, that the first record of the Wexford bird is the occurrence of a first-summer at Lady's Island Lake in summer 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 404) then neither the returning adult in Galway, nor the returning adult in Louth can possibly be the same bird as both of these birds were older at that time.



Juvenile White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 28th September 2011
(Killian Mullarney).



Juvenile White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 28th September 2011
(Killian Mullarney).



Juvenile White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 30th September 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Juvenile White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 30th September 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).

Second-summer White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Lough Atedaun, Co. Clare. 5th June 2011
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.ie/).



Second-summer White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Lough Atedaun, Co. Clare. 5th June 2011
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.ie/).

Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
Claddagh Beach, Co. Galway. 19th January 2011
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.ie/>).



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* with
Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus* and Common Gull *Larus canus*
Cruisetown, Co. Louth. 14th October 2011
(Stephen Lawlor, www.flickr.com/photos/69556878@N06/).



Second-summer White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Lough Atedaun, Co. Clare. 5th June 2011
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.ie/).

Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
Claddagh Beach, Co. Galway. 19th January 2011
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.ie/>).



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* with
Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus* and Common Gull *Larus canus*
Cruisetown, Co. Louth. 14th October 2011
(Stephen Lawlor, www.flickr.com/photos/69556878@N06/).





Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
 Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 14th May 2011
 (Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
 Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 15th May 2011
 (Aidan G. Kelly).



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
 Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 15th May 2011
 (Aidan G. Kelly).



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
 Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 3rd June 2011
 (Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
 Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 3rd June 2011
 (Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Adult Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*
 Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 3rd June 2011
 (Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).

Little Auk *Alle alle* (1888; 7)

Cork Four: One, Dursey Island, 23rd January (D.Cooke, J.Lynch *et al.*); One, Timoleague Abbey, 17th February (J.Meade, B.Ryan, P.Wolstenholme *et al.*); Two, Ballycotton, 11th November (D.O'Sullivan).

Donegal One: One, Tory Island, 8th November (P.Phillips).

Kerry One: One, Reen Pier, Ballinskelligs, 19th December (P.Moore, D.O'Sullivan).

Wicklow One: One, Bray Head, 15th December (J.Ivory).

This is the most numerous of nine species being removed from consideration by the IRBC from January 2012. November and December account for more than half of the records, with smaller numbers during the other late autumn and winter months. It seems likely that numbers are present offshore throughout winter, with suitable weather conditions bringing them inshore. Winter seawatching in the correct conditions has proven productive from locations such as Bridges of Ross, Clare and Cape Clear Island, Cork.

The first dated record, and indeed one of the earliest records of a vagrant in Ireland, was of one found dead on the coast of Wexford in 1791. Between then and 1949, a further 89 occurred. From 1950, they have been reported with greater regularity. A wreck that year was said to have left about 50 scattered across Cork (Kennedy *et al.* 1954) and there were a further 52 recorded until 1974, the most recent blank year. From 1975, they have been annual in wildly fluctuating numbers, with numbers as low as two in some years but over 100 on three occasions, including 693 in 1991, the peak year.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* (8; 0)

1897 Kerry One: Near-adult, Great Skellig, 30th April (T.King).

This record is accepted following a review. It was originally published in Ussher & Warren (1900), and subsequently in Ussher (1908), Nichols (1924) and Humphreys (1937). Kennedy *et al.* (1954) noted that 'The second [record in Ireland] was reported to have been seen on 30th April 1897, on the Great Skellig, by T.King, the lightkeeper, who gave a sufficiently detailed description to enable R.M.Barrington to identify the bird as of this species. This seems to be a good record on its own merits, and was accepted as such by Barrington, Howard Saunders and others, but C.B.Moffat expressed grave doubts to Ussher as to its reliability'. Rutledge (1966) omits the record in its entirety without any reference even to this detail.

The observer was almost certainly unknown personally to Moffat and has no other rarities attributed to him in Barrington (1900). Mr. King would appear not to have been 'in the habit' of claiming outlandish records so it seems likely that Moffat did not have a problem with the observer *per se* and only had doubts on the record itself. Given that the description is clearly of a Great Spotted Cuckoo, only a photograph or a specimen could have made the record more definitive. One wonders, in the absence of any published reference to the nature of the 'grave doubts', could it simply have been down to the absence of a specimen?

Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* (9; 1)

Wexford One: One, Ballycogley, 27th October, photographed (J.Kelly, per H.Deneen).

This is the first since 1994 and the first for Wexford. Only Cork, with three, has had more than one, including the first record of a Nearctic rarity in Ireland, which was also the first record of the species in the Western Palearctic, in Youghal in 1825. Singles have occurred in Antrim, Donegal, Mayo, Sligo, Waterford and Wicklow. Almost all records have been of birds present for only one day. The exception is the Mayo record of 30th September 1964. A record 14 kilometres away the following day is considered to relate to the same individual, although there must be a suspicion that these may, in reality, refer to two different birds. Only eight records are dated and, of these, this is the fifth in the last five days of October.

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* (78; 0)

Mayo Zero: Adult female, Ballycastle and Corvoderry, Bellacorick, 2nd March to 13th February 2012, photographed (D.McLoughlin, D.McNicholas, W.Woodrow *et al.*), considered to be the same bird as the regular returning Termon, Mullet Peninsula individual (*Irish Birds* 9: 302).

2008 Mayo Minus one: Female, Slieve Fyagh, 26th June (*Irish Birds* 9: 96) now considered the same bird as the regular returning female at Termon on the Mullet Peninsula (*Irish Birds* 9: 96).

1876 Galway One: Near Clifden, caught alive, early December (W.Anning).

2011 Irish Rare Bird Report

The 1876 record for Galway, which becomes the first record for the county, was never published in the standard references on Irish birds, including Ussher & Warren (1900). Kendall (1876) reports 'Last week another Snowy Owl was captured alive by my keeper, William Anning, near Clifden, in Ireland, and forwarded to London. I have presented it to the Zoological Society, and it may now be seen alive in the Society's menagerie'. The record is corroborated in Harting (1877) where it is stated that 'The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of December, and called attention to a Snowy Owl captured in Ireland, presented by Mr. John Kendall'.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (74; 1)

Cork One: One, Bull's Cove, 3rd April (P.Connaughton).

There is a clear early spring peak for occurrences of this species. The first half of the year accounts for 75% of the total, with April (17), and March (16), the peak months.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (53; 6)

Cork Two: One, Kilcatherine Point, Eyeries, Beara Peninsula, 3rd June (C.Heardman); One, Dursey Island, 4th June, photographed (D.A.Scott *et al.*).

Kerry One: One, Black Rock Strand, 25th October, photographed (D.O'Connor).

Mayo Two: Two, Termon, Mullet Peninsula, 28th April, photographed (D.Suddaby).

Waterford One: One, Ram Head, 11th June, photographed (A.Malcolm *et al.*).

The best year since 1983, when a group of seven occurred in Kerry. Previous to that, the only years in which more than two occurred were 1888 and 1892, which likewise comprised single groups, of seven and six respectively. The Kerry record is very late, with only one record later, in Wicklow, on 2nd November 1892. The Mayo duo, by contrast, is one of the earliest. The late spring records in Cork and Waterford are more typical, with over half of the total in May or June, although the Waterford record is the first for the county.



Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Black Rock Strand, Co. Kerry. 25th October 2011
(David O'Connor).



Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Ram Head, Co. Waterford. 11th June 2011 (Mícheál Cowming).

Roller *Coracias garrulus* (18; 1)

Cork One: One, Aghada, 26th September, photographed (H.Sheerin).

2010 Wexford One: One, Yoletown, Tacumshin, 24th April (K.Fahy).

Two great garden ticks! This species is notoriously difficult to connect with in Ireland. There were ten in the nineteenth century and only two further records until 1950. The next two, in 1956 and 1958, were both found dead. Since then, there have been five records and only one, in Tyrone in 1976, remained more than a day. Indeed, all since 1976 have been brief encounters, the 1990 record staying the longest, and that only remained for a few hours.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (256; 16)

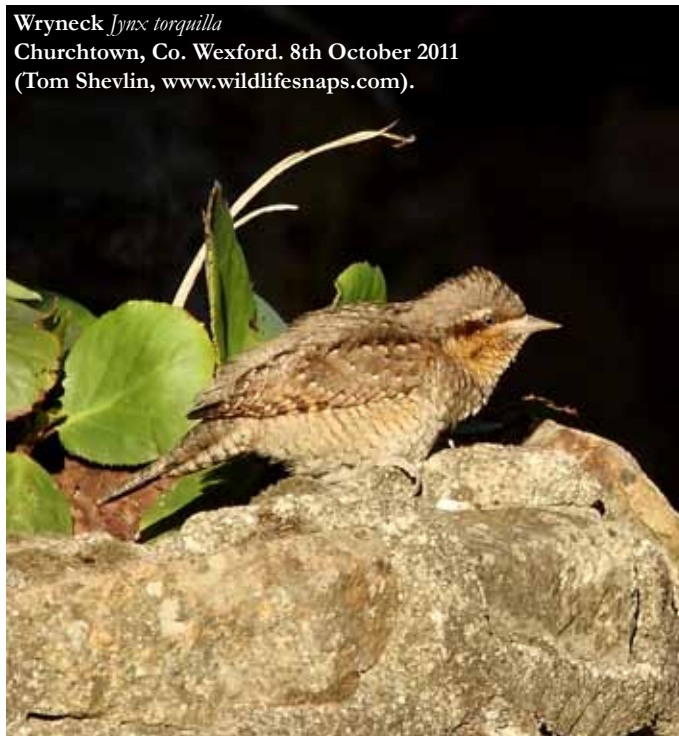
Cork Twelve: One, Galley Head, 21st April, photographed (C.Barton); One, Mizen Head, 4th September (D.Ballard); Two, Three Castle Head, 10th September (D.Ballard); One, Dursey Island, 11th September (D.A.Scott); One, Mizen Head, 20th September (O.Foley); One, Dursey Island, 3rd October (K.Grace); One, Cape Clear Island, 4th to 16th October, photographed (S.Wing *et al.*); One, Brow Head, 9th October (O.Foley); One, Cape Clear Island, 10th October (S.Ronayne *et al.*); One, Toor Pier, Mizen Head, 15th October (O.Foley); One, Barleycove, 22nd October (P.Wolstenholme).

Waterford One: One, Clonea Strand, Dungarvan, 7th October, photographed (P.Sheridan).

Wexford Two: One, Killag, 8th April, caught by hand, photographed and released (M.Reville *et al.*); One, Churchtown, 3rd to 9th October, photographed (D.Daly *et al.*).

Wicklow One: One, Kilcoole, 1st October (N.Keogh).

Fewer than 10% of records are in spring but there seems to have been a recent increase - of 23 recorded in spring, eight have been since 2005. There have been nine previous April records, mostly in the last week of the month. Only one of these, 4th April 2005 (Cork), was earlier than the Wexford spring record above.



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 9th October 2011

(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamsphoto.blogspot.ie/>).



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 10th October 2011

(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Clonea Strand, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. 7th October 2011

(Paddy Sheridan).



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Galley Head, Co. Cork. 21st April 2011

(Colin Barton, [/www.corkecology.net](http://www.corkecology.net)).

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (53; 3)

Cork Three: One, Toor Pier, Mizen Head, 2nd to 4th October, photographed (N.Linehan *et al.*); One, Cape Clear Island, 10th to 16th October (S.Wing *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 428, *British Birds* 104: 763, *Dutch Birding* 33: 411; One, Mizen Head, 19th to 27th October, photographed (Sh.Farrell, C.Foley, O.Foley *et al.*).

As might be expected with a transatlantic vagrant, Red-eyed Vireo occurs primarily in the west, with 47 recorded from Cork to Mayo and the remainder in Wexford and Waterford. Cape Clear Island is by far the most productive area, with 15, although six have been found in the Mizen Head and Crookhaven area. All have been found during the two peak months for transatlantic landbird vagrancy, with roughly two-thirds of the total (37), in October, and the remainder in September. Arrival dates are largely concentrated between 19th September and 19th October, with only five earlier records and four later.



Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 16th October 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 10th October 2011 (Ed Carty).



Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 10th October 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*
Mizen Head, Co. Cork. 24th October 2011
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.com).



Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*
Mizen Head, Co. Cork. 20th October 2011
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamsphoto.blogspot.ie/>).



Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 10th October 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Juvenile Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*
Churchtown, Co. Wexford. 30th October 2011
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Juvenile Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*
Churchtown, Co. Wexford. 30th October 2011 (Kieran Fahy).



Adult male Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*
Barleycove Hotel, Lissagriffin, Co. Cork. 24th October 2011
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* (208; 1)

Waterford One: Female or first-summer male, Helvick Head, 7th May (C.Flynn).

Although this is the thirteenth for Waterford, eight of those occurred in the nineteenth century. Over half of dated records have been found in May.

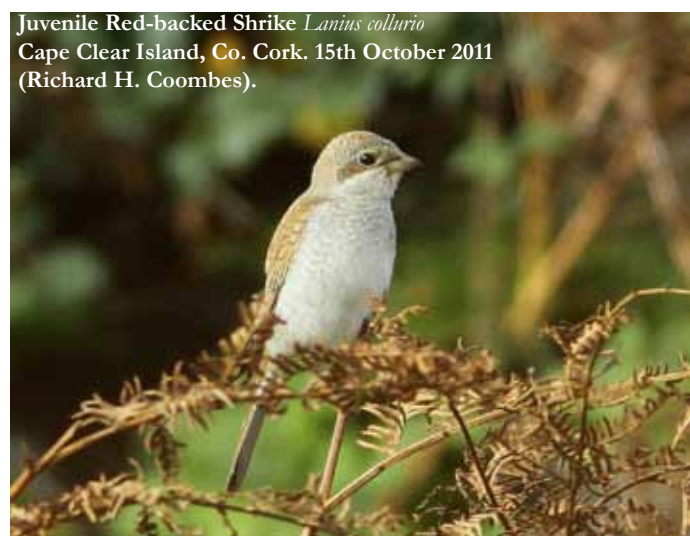
Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* (155; 6)

Cork Four: Juvenile, Mizen Head, 16th September (D.Ballard); Juvenile, Cape Clear Island, 15th October, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*); Juvenile, Mizen Head, 15th October (O.Foley); Adult male, Barleycove Hotel, Lissagriffin, 22nd to 24th October, photographed (Sh. Farrell).

Mayo One: Juvenile, Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, 4th November, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Wexford One: Juvenile, Churchtown, 30th October to 6th November, photographed (M.Flanagan, G.Griffin, J.Griffin, G.Hunt *et al.*).

This species is surprisingly rare on the west coast. From Kerry to Leitrim, there have only been five – one in Kerry and three in Galway, with the 2011 Mayo record the first for the county. By contrast, south coast counties account for 139. Of the remainder, eleven have been in the north and north-west, and six on the east coast, split evenly between Wicklow and Dublin.



Juvenile Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 15th October 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Adult male Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*
Barleycove Hotel, Lissagriffin, Co. Cork. 24th October 2011
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).

First-summer Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Helvick Head, Co. Waterford. 16th April 2011
(Mick Cowming Snr.).



First-summer Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Helvick Head, Co. Waterford. 23rd April 2011
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.ie/).



Juvenile Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Galley Head, Co. Cork. 12th October 2011
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (81; 11)

Cork Six: Female, Knockadoon Head, 8th to 10th April, photographed (H.Hussey *et al.*); First-summer male, Old Head of Kinsale, 10th to 21st April, photographed (S.Ronayne *et al.*); Male, Inch Strand, 11th to 20th April (P.Moore *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 62: 25; Female, Rosscarbery, 20th to 26th April, photographed (C.Jones *et al.*); One, Mizen Head, 23rd to 24th April (P.Connaughton *et al.*); Juvenile, Galley Head, 7th to 18th October, photographed (O.Foley *et al.*).

Kerry One: One, Great Blasket Island, 19th April (C.Murphy, T.Murphy).

Waterford Two: First-summer male, Helvick Head, 16th to 25th April, photographed (M.Cowming, M.Cowming Snr., C.Flynn *et al.*); First-summer female, Brownstown Head, 16th to 17th April, photographed (P.M.Walsh).

Wexford Two: One, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, 3rd to 4th April, photographed (M.Wilson *et al.*); Female, Great Saltee Island, 10th April (P.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 24: 134.

By far the best year ever, due to the arrival of ten in April, exceeding by five the previous record set in 1958 and equalled in 2006. October records are unusual and the Galley Head record is only the fourth. The Kerry bird is the first for the county and only the fourth away from the south coast following two in Dublin and one in Down. Between them, Cape Clear Island (16) and Great Saltee Island (30) account for exactly half of the records.

Juvenile Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Galley Head, Co. Cork. 12th October 2011
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Female Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Rosscarbery, Co. Cork. 20th April 2011
(Colin Barton, www.corkecology.net).



Female Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Rosscarbery, Co. Cork. 20th April 2011
(Colin Barton, www.corkecology.net).





Female Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, 24nd April 2011 (Calvin Jones).



Female Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford, 10th April 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Female Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, 22nd April 2011
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



Female Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford, 10th April 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Female Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, 22nd April 2011
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



Female Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford, 10th April 2011
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Wexford Fifteen: Up to seven adults, Tacumshin Lake, 14th November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 303) remained to 24th January; Up to 22, involving adult males, adult females and juveniles, Tacumshin Lake, 3rd July to 20th May 2012, photographed (N.Keogh, B.Porter *et al.*), presumed to include the group of seven adults above.

True post breeding dispersal of this species usually takes place in autumn, typically October (Cramp & Perrins 1993). Therefore, with juveniles involved at such an early date, this presumably indicates successful local breeding rather than a fresh influx.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (66; 5)

Cork Two: One, Cape Clear Island, 11th to 12th October, photographed (M.Cowming, C.Flynn, F.O'Connell *et al.*); One, Cape Clear Island, 12th to 18th October (M.Cowming *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 413, *Wings* 64: 27.

Wexford Two: One, Hook Head, 7th to 8th May, photographed (F.O'Connell *et al.*); One, Tacumshin Lake, 2nd October (C.ten Bohmer, P.Kelly, T.Kilbane).

Wicklow One: One, Kilcoole, 10th May, photographed (N.T.Keogh *et al.*).

2001 Cork Minus one: One, Cape Clear Island, 24th to 28th October (*Irish Birds* 7: 233), erroneously duplicated, but dated 24th to 29th October (*Irish Birds* 7: 405) was present 24th to 31st October.

This is the best year on record and includes the first record for Wicklow. Otherwise, a typical series of records - October (27) and May (19) are the two peak months of occurrence and, between them, Cork (32) and Wexford (26) account for the majority of records.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* (37; 6)

Cork Four: One, Ballymacoda, 8th May, photographed (O.Foley *et al.*); One, Kilkerran Lake, 14th May (K.Cronin); One, Mizen Head, 31st May (D.Ballard); One, Mizen Head, 20th September (O.Foley).

Wexford Two: One, Tacumshin Lake, 2nd April, photographed (P.Kelly); One, Great Saltee Island, 30th April (F.O'Connell).

This is only the second time there have been more than three in a year and this series ties, with 2007, as the best year on record. The September record is only the second for that month of a species that tends to occur in early spring and late autumn. This species can be very difficult to connect with and the series of one-day records above is reflective of the overall pattern of occurrences – over 75% have been one-day birds.



Adult male Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 4th September 2011
(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).



Adult male Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 4th September 2011
(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).



Bearded Tits *Panurus biarmicus*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 30th July 2011 (Aidan G. Kelly).



Bearded Tits *Panurus biarmicus*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 30th July 2011 (Aidan G. Kelly).



Juvenile male Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 9th September 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 10th October 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Hook Head, Co. Wexford. 7th May 2011
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Hook Head, Co. Wexford. 7th May 2011
(John N. Murphy, www.murfswildlife.blogspot.ie/).



Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 11th October 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 12th October 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Hook Head, Co. Wexford. 7th May 2011
(John N. Murphy, www.murfswildlife.blogspot.ie/).



Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 10th September 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Power Head, Co. Cork. 19th November 2011
(Jim Wilson, www.irishwildlife.net).



Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Power Head, Co. Cork. 19th November 2011
(Tom Tarpey, www.flickr.com/photos/tbirding).



Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Power Head, Co. Cork. 14th November 2011
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamsphoto.blogspot.ie/>).



Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* (3; 0)

Wexford Zero: One, Tacumshin Lake, 6th November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 305) remained to 18th March.

Having survived the winter of 2010/2011, the harshest recorded in Ireland since at least 1962/1963, it is somewhat disappointing that there was no sign of this bird during the breeding season. Nonetheless, it is positive for potential colonisation that survival through such a winter is possible.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (34; 1)

Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 3rd to 11th September (E.O'Donnell *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 63: 33.

This species has now occurred every year since 2005, and this is the fourteenth for Cape Clear Island, which accounts for 40% of the total.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (9; 0)

2010 Cork One: One, Ballynacarriga, Garinish, Beara, 6th to 7th September (F.A.Moore, F.Moore, D.A.Scott).

Still very rare here, this is nonetheless the third since the turn of the century, all of which have remained for more than one day. Surprisingly, given that Isles of Scilly has had a considerable number of records (Slack 2009), all Irish records have occurred in the west - six in Cork, two in Donegal and one in Clare – surely Wexford is overdue a record?

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* (35; 3)

Cork Two: One, Power Head, 13th to 19th November, photographed (O.Foley *et al.*); One, Knockadoon Head, 20th to 21st November, photographed (O.Foley *et al.*).

Waterford One: One, Brownstown Head, 16th November, photographed (P.Archer *et al.*).

Although normally arriving in late autumn, historically from 12th October onwards, these three are at the latter end of that time scale – only one, in Tyrone in December 2002, has been later. The second for Ireland was in 1985 and it has occurred in over half (14) of the years since then. With multiple arrivals in many of those years, it has averaged more than one per year over that 27-year timeframe.



Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Knockadoon Head, Co. Cork. 21st November 2011
(Howard Williams).



Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Brownstown Head, Co. Waterford. 16th November 2011
(Paul Archer).

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (12; 1)

Cork One: One, Toor Pier, Mizen Head, 11th to 14th September, sound recorded (D.Ballard *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 24: 369.

2010 Wexford One: One, Great Saltee Island, 26th September, trapped and photographed (D.Manley *et al.*).

Following just one record during the 1960s and again during the 1970s, a small flurry of records between 1980 and 1984 hinted that the species might become more common. However, this has not yet transpired and these are only the fifth and sixth since 1984. See also Appendix 5 for details of a correction to the statistics.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

2010 Cork One: One, Crow Head, Dursey Sound, 27th October (H.Hussey, P.Moore).

2010 Galway One: One, Inishbofin, 23rd to 24th October (A.McGeehan), photographs *Birding World* 24: 18, 19 & 20 (McGeehan 2011).

In January 2010, this taxon was moved from Appendix 2 to Appendix 1 (for distinctions between the different appendices, see <http://www.irbc.ie/announcements/announce1.php>). As a result, substantiating documentation is now required before publication in these reports. For most taxa, the Committee can successfully deliberate on records based on published photographs. However, for this taxon, vocalisations are a critical component of the identification process and it is difficult to make an accurate determination without the support of sound recordings. The Committee requests that finders of this taxon furnish at least a written description of vocalisations, or better still, a recording thereof.

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 26th September 2010
(Patrick Manley).



Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 26th September 2010
(Patrick Manley).



Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 26th September 2010
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 26th September 2010
(Patrick Manley).



Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 26th September 2010
(Patrick Manley).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (153; 19)

Cork Fourteen: First-winter, Cape Clear Island, 25th September (S.Wing); One, Cape Clear Island, 9th to 10th October (A.Dalton, S.Ronayne, M.Stewart *et al.*); Adult female or first-summer male, Garinish, West Beara, 11th October (A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*); One, Dirk Bay, Galley Head, 12th October (M.O'Donnell); One, Garinish, West Beara, 13th to 15th October (A.A.K.Lancaster); First-winter, Dursey Island, 14th October (K.Grace); One, Mizen Head, 16th October (D.Ballard); One, Ballaghboy, West Beara, 19th October (A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*); One, Mizen Head, 20th to 23rd October (C.Foley, O.Foley); First-winter, Old Head of Kinsale, 20th October, photographed (S.Cronin); One, Garinish, West Beara, 20th October (A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*); First-winter, Mizen Head, 24th to 29th October, photographed (P.Wolstenholme *et al.*); One, Ballycotton, 6th to 8th November, photographed (H.Hussey *et al.*); One, Knockadoon Head, 6th November (O.Foley).

Galway Three: First-winter, Slyne Head, 27th September to 1st October (D.Breen *et al.*); One, Inishmore, 12th October (J.Adamson); First-winter, Slyne Head, 19th to 29th October (D.Breen *et al.*).

Waterford One: One, Brownstown Head, 2nd to 3rd October, photographed (P.M.Walsh *et al.*).

Wexford One: One, Hook Head, 27th to 28th October (J.K.Lovatt *et al.*).

1954 Wexford Zero: One, Great Saltee Island, 31st August, trapped (*IBR* 2: 20), had been present since 30th August and remained to 1st September (Davis & Weaving 1955).

The best year on record, exceeding the total for 2010 by two. There have now been 80 since 2001, making the run of three consecutive blank years between 1998 and 2000 even more inexplicable, particularly as there had been only four blank years in the previous 40. The occurrence of the adult female or first-summer male in Cork is particularly noteworthy as almost all previous records where the age has been recorded have been of first-year birds. There has previously been only one adult female, in Wexford in 2003 (*Irish Birds* 7: 567). The update to the 1954 record is a result of an ongoing project to examine the historical record and correct any statistical or other inaccuracies that are found.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (49; 1)

Cork One: First-winter, Crookhaven, 2nd to 5th October, photographed (V.Caschera, J.F.Dowdall, A.G.Kelly *et al.*).

This is only the eleventh autumn record ever and the first autumn record since 2006. There is a distinct south-westerly bias in autumn, with nine from Cork and only two in Wexford. Indeed, there have now been seven autumn records in the extreme southwest, with five on Cape Clear Island and two in Crookhaven.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* (194; 5)

Cork Three: One, Mizen Head, 4th to 11th September (D.Ballard); One, Knockadoon Head, 15th October (D.O'Sullivan); One, Three Castle Head, 15th October (D.Ballard).

Mayo One: One, Termon, Mullet Peninsula, 18th to 19th September, photographed (R.Hoy, D.Hunter *et al.*).

Wexford One: One, Hook Head, 15th September, photographed (T.Murray *et al.*).

Since 1959, when Cape Clear Bird Observatory opened, this species has averaged just over 3.5 per year. In the 12 years since 2000, the frequency, at 3.3, has been lower than that long-term average. This does not compare well with 4.1 per annum in the 12 years up to 1999. See also Appendix 5 for details of a correction to the statistics.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*
Hook Head, Co. Wexford. 15th September 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



First-winter Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*
with Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*
Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork. 20th October 2011
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



First-winter Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*
with Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*
Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork. 20th October 2011
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).



First-winter Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 6th November 2011
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamsphoto.blogspot.ie/>).

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
Slea Head, Co. Kerry. 20th September 2011
(Alex Lees, <http://punkbirder.webs.com/>).



Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
Slea Head, Co. Kerry. 20th September 2011
(Rob Martin, <http://punkbirder.webs.com/>).



Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
Slea Head, Co. Kerry. 20th September 2011
(Rob Martin, <http://punkbirder.webs.com/>).

Blyth's Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus dumetorum (5; 1)

Kerry One: One, Slea Head, 20th to 22nd September, photographed (D.Brown *et al.*).

2010 Cork One: One, Dursey Island, 26th to 27th October (D.A.Scott *et al.*).

2009 Mayo One: One, Keel, Achill Island, 15th October, photographed (D.G.McAdams *et al.*).

Since first recorded in 2006, only 2008 has been without a record. There have been three in Cork and two in Mayo and the 2011 record is the first for Kerry. For a species that originates in mainland Europe it may seem odd that all Irish records have been in the west. However, a theory postulated by Slack (2009) to explain the distribution of British records may provide an explanation. In Britain, they are most common in Shetland and Orkney, with smaller numbers on the east coast. Records along the south coast of Britain are few in number and tend to appear much later than northern records, suggesting that southern birds have trickled down after landfall farther north. The Irish records are also later on average than those in Shetland and, together with a small number of records in the Outer Hebrides, suggest that some of those making landfall farther north continue south along the western seaboard of Scotland and Ireland.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* (5; 0)

2009 Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 25th to 26th September, trapped and photographed (M.O'Donnell, S.Wing *et al.*).

This bird had erroneously been ringed as a Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* in Norway, demonstrating the difficulty of separating these two taxa, even in the hand. All three autumn records have been in Cork, two of which were trapped. Identification of the third was only clinched when the call was recorded. Two spring records in Wexford were of photographed, singing birds.

Great Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus arundinaceus (3; 1)

Wexford One, Great Saltee Island, 7th to 8th May (T.Murphy *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 229: 57.

One of the great finds of the year and the first for Wexford, following three in Cork. The first for Ireland was found dead in Castletownsend in May 1920 and subsequently there were two on Cape Clear Island - one from 10th to 26th June 1964 and the most recent record, 18th May 1979. They have been inexplicably rare in Ireland, considering that they have occurred in Britain almost every year between 1958 and 2010 and that 234 have occurred in that time. This bird was heard singing on multiple occasions and is thought likely to have been a male. However, females are also known to sing so it is not possible to sex it definitively.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 25th September 2009
(Michael O'Donnell).



Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 25th September 2009
(Michael O'Donnell).



Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 25th September 2009
(Michael O'Donnell).



Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 25th September 2009
(Michael O'Donnell).



Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 7th May 2011
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 7th May 2011
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 7th May 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. 7th May 2011
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.ie/).



Juvenile Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 12th October 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Juvenile Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 13th October 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



Juvenile Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*
Durse Island, Co. Cork. 14th October 2011 (Derek A. Scott).



First-winter Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*
Durse Island, Co. Cork. 14th October 2011 (Derek A. Scott).

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* (126; 9)

Cork Seven: Three juveniles, Cape Clear Island, 10th to 20th October, photographed (P.Kelly, J.McNally *et al.*); Juvenile, Dursey Island, 14th to 15th October, photographed (D.A.Scott *et al.*); Juvenile, Mizen Head, 16th October (O.Foley); Juvenile, Ballycotton, 16th to 18th October (S.Ronayne); Juvenile, Power Head, 6th to 13th November, photographed (M.O'Keeffe).

Galway One: Adult, Inishbofin, 21st to 24th July (A.McGeehan *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 24: 273.

Louth One: Adult, Tallanstown, Dundalk, 1st to 2nd July, photographed (E.Smyth).

2002 Tipperary One: Adult, Cashel, 6th August, photographed (M.McDonald *et al.*).

With the Tipperary bird in 2002, the record total for that year moves on to 18, while the second highest annual total was recorded in 2011. The occurrence of seven late autumn juveniles contrasts sharply with 2002 however, when most were adult and all were found during summer. Surprisingly, the bird on Dursey Island was the first for this well-watched island.

Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (6; 1)

Cork First-winter, Dursey Island, 14th to 15th October, photographed (A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*).

Although still a rare species here, this is a rather typical record, albeit the first recorded on Dursey Island. All records have occurred during October and six of the seven have occurred in Cork, the exception being in Clare in 1991. While the similar Bicknell's Thrush *Catharus bicknelli* has often been mooted as a potential vagrant to Ireland, Sibley (2010) characterizes their separation as 'one of the most challenging field identification problems in eastern North America'. He goes on to state that 'Voice (and primarily song) is still the most reliable way to distinguish these species. In areas where they are expected, it may be reasonable to identify small and reddish birds as Bicknell's Thrush after careful and lengthy study, even without hearing them sing, but I don't think sight observations or photos alone would ever be acceptable evidence of a bird out of range'.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* (28; 1)

Wexford One: Male, The Raven, 9th May, photographed (T.Moore).

Heard singing by the lucky observer, it was only when photographs were examined that the identity became apparent. While Wexford has recorded 16, this is only the second there away from Great Saltee Island, following one on Hook Head in September 2010.



Juvenile Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*
with Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris*
Power Head, Co. Cork. 6th November 2011
(Michael O'Keeffe).



Juvenile Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*
Power Head, Co. Cork. 6th November 2011
(Michael O'Keeffe).

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* (38; 1)

Waterford One: First-winter male, Clonea, Ballinclammer, 20th November to 8th January 2012 (M.Cowming *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 24: 493, *Wings* 64: 28.

This is the first record of this species attempting to overwinter in Ireland, probably encouraged by mild weather in December. Although December mean average temperatures were only slightly better than normal, minimum air temperatures were higher, leading to a below average number of air frosts recorded. Rainfall was also lower than normal on the south coast. Johnstown Castle, Wexford recorded 76% of normal rainfall while Cork was even drier at 60% (Met Éireann 2012). The January departure does not seem to be attributable to weather, which remained broadly similar beyond the last date recorded, so perhaps this bird may just have moved nearby and not been relocated.

First-winter male Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
Clonea, Ballinclammer, Co. Waterford. 20th November 2011
(Aidan G. Kelly).



First-winter male Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
Clonea, Ballinclammer, Co. Waterford. 29th December 2011
(Polina Clarke, www.thingsarelikethis.com).



First-winter male Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
Clonea, Ballinclammer, Co. Waterford. 29th December 2011
(Polina Clarke, www.thingsarelikethis.com).



First-winter male Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
Clonea, Ballinclammer, Co. Waterford. 21st December 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



First-winter male Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
Clonea, Ballinclammer, Co. Waterford. 22nd November 2011
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.ie/).



First-winter male Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
Clonea, Ballinclammer, Co. Waterford. 20th December 2011
(Sean Cronin, www.flickr.com/photos/sean_cronin/).

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* (255; 9)

Cork Nine: First-winter, Three Castle Head, 20th September (D.Ballard *et al.*); One, Crookhaven, 1st to 4th October (N.Linehan, P.Wolstenholme); First-winter, Dursey Island, 14th October, photographed (D.A.Scott *et al.*); One, Garinish, West Beara, 14th October (A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*); Two first-winters, Cape Clear Island, 14th to 20th October, photographed (P.Kelly, P.Lynch *et al.*); One, Seven Heads, 23rd to 26th October (D.Ballard); One, Knockadoon Head, 5th to 7th November (O.Foley *et al.*); One, Mizen Head, 6th November (D.Ballard).

This is the final species (and the only passerine) in this report being removed from consideration by the IRBC from January 2012. The first record for Ireland was of one found dead at the South Arklow Lightship off Wexford in 1887. A further four were found dead at lighthouses in the following sixteen years. Further hints that the species might be regular were provided by three more corpses at lighthouses between 1948 and 1952. It was only when Great Saltee Island and Cape Clear Island bird observatories opened in the 1950s that the species really started to occur with any regularity, and they still account for 60% of the total. Since 1959, when Cape Clear Bird Observatory was opened, 250 have occurred, at an average of 4.7 per year and only 1982, 1992 and 1998 have been without records. Away from Wexford and particularly Cork, this remains a relatively rare bird with more than one only in Clare (12), Donegal (6), Galway (4) and Waterford (2). With only three spring records, this is almost exclusively an autumn migrant, with records from July to December, although over 90% have been in September and October.



First-winter Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 15th October 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



First-winter Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 16th October 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



First-winter Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 15th October 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



First-winter Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork. 16th October 2011
(Richard H. Coombes).



First-winter Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*
Dursey Island, Co. Cork. 14th October 2011 (Derek A. Scott).



Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* (4; 4)

Dublin One: Male, North Bull Island, 20th to 21st November, photographed (Sh.Farrell *et al.*).

Waterford One: Female, Brownstown Head, 22nd November, photographed (M.Flynn).

Wicklow Two: Two males, Bray Head, 13th to 15th November (A.McMillan *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 64: 28.

Until 2011, there had never been more than two in the same year in Ireland. There were four between 1990 and 1997 but these are the first since then. The earlier records comprised two each for Wexford and Cork and the records in 2011 are the first for their respective counties. With the addition of these records, there is now a distinct late autumn peak, with seven found between 27th October and 2nd December, mirroring the pattern in Britain (Slack 2009).



Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava* (59; 6)

Cork Four: Male, Kilkerran Lake, 10th April (P.Connaughton); Male, Warren Road, Rosscarbery, 20th to 23rd April, photographed (P.Connaughton); Male, Red Strand, 28th April (P.Connaughton); One, Old Head of Kinsale, 15th October (K.Preston).

Galway One: First-winter, Barna Pier, 30th September to 2nd October, photographed (T.Cuffe, A.Ó'Dónaill *et al.*).

Wexford One: Male, Tacumshin Lake, 29th April, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

2010 Cork Two: Cape Clear Island, 9th October (D.O'Connor).

This is the best year since 1976, when there were also six, although those in 1976 occurred in autumn. The occurrence of April records is not unprecedented although spring records more normally occur in May.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (24; 3)

Kerry One: First-winter, Ballylongford, 15th to 16th September, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*).

Wexford Two: Two first-winters, Tacumshin Lake, 2nd to 10th September, photographed (P.Archer, P.Kelly *et al.*), only one remaining after 2nd September.

These records fit the established pattern - September records account for all but four records, although the duo in Wexford is the first time that two have occurred together.

Male Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 29th April 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



First-winter Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 3rd September 2011
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



First-winter Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 3rd September 2011
(Aidan G. Kelly).



First-winter Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 4th September 2011
(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).



First-winter Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford. 4th September 2011
(Mark Carmody, www.flickr.com/photos/drcarmo/).



First-winter Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*
Barna Pier, Co. Galway. 1st October 2011
(Tom Cuffe, <http://birdsgalway.blogspot.ie>).

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (96; 2)

Cork Two: One, Dursey Island, 4th October (K.Grace); One, Knockadoon Head, 6th November (S.Cronin, O.Foley).

2000 Londonderry Minus one: One, Lough Beg, 30th October (*Irish Birds* 7: 102), was erroneously duplicated in the 2005 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 8: 389).

This species is found primarily, but not exclusively, on the south coast, with 79 recorded there and the 2011 records neatly fit that pattern. Elsewhere, there have been five on the west coast and three on the east coast with the remaining 11 occurring in northern counties. See also Appendix 5 for details of corrections to the statistics.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* (38; 2)

Cork One: One, Dursey Island, 16th September (D.A.Scott).

Wexford One: One, Great Saltee Island, 21st April (K.Grace *et al.*).

This species is only marginally more common in autumn than in spring, which now has 18 records. The April record is the joint earliest ever, with one in 1954, also on Great Saltee Island. Although equally common in Cork and Wexford, with 18 each, Cork is more favoured in autumn, with 14, whereas Wexford occurrences are more likely during spring, when there have been 11.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (41; 7)

Cork Six: One, Ballymaloe, 10th October (D.O'Sullivan); One, Cape Clear Island, 14th to 15th October (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly); One, Dursey Island, 14th October (O.Foley); One, Mizen Head, 15th October (D.Ballard); One, Ballycotton, 18th October (G.Walsh); One, Ballycotton, 4th November (R.McLaughlin).

Galway One: One, Slyne Head, 4th November (D.Breen).

This record arrival, exceeding the previous best of five in 2010, includes the first for Galway. With only four records previously in east Cork, the records from Ballycotton and Ballymaloe are noteworthy. As most have been from Cork or Wexford, the absence of any record in Waterford is surprising. Away from the south coast, there have been records from Kerry (two), Clare, Dublin and Down.

Scandinavian Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus littoralis (43; 6)

Cork Two: One, Ballycotton, 3rd March, photographed (R.McLaughlin); One, Knockadoon Head, 20th March to 10th April, photographed (R.McLaughlin).

Kerry One: One, Black Rock Strand, mid-March, photographed (D.O'Connor).

Sligo One: One, Aghris Head, 27th March (R.Hunter).

Waterford Two: One, Clonea, 19th March (J.Power); One, Ballinclammer, 30th April, photographed (M.Cowming).

The second best year on record, four fewer than 2009. Kerry and Waterford (nine each) and Cork (seven) account for over half of the total, and the bird in Sligo is the first for that county.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* (124; 12)

Clare Two: One, Clahane, 23rd January to 9th April, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*); One, Seafeld, 2nd to 6th February, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*).

Cork Six: One, Pilmore Strand, from 10th December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 309) remained to 7th February; One, Ballycotton, 6th to 21st January (R.McLaughlin *et al.*); One, Burren, Courtmacsherry, 3rd April (K.Preston); One, Ballinwillig, 30th to 31st October (O.Foley); One, Ballycotton, 5th November to 1st December (O.Foley *et al.*); One, Pilmore Strand, 10th November (P.Moore); One, Roche's Point, 20th November (S.Ronayne).

Kerry Zero: One, Black Rock Strand, from 3rd December 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 309) remained to 21st February.

Wexford Four: One, Tacumshin Lake, 7th January (P.Kelly *et al.*), presumed one of the duo in 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 309); Two, Tacumshin Lake, 6th November to 26th February 2012 (P.Kelly *et al.*); Up to two, Nethertown, 12th November to 18th December, photographed (A.G.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*).

Although there were fewer birds recorded than in 2010, this series nevertheless continues the recent run of good numbers. Since 2005, only 2009, with five, had fewer than ten new birds and 75% of all records have occurred during that time.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* (16; 2)

Cork One: One, Ballycotton, 5th to 12th November, photographed (D.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

Waterford One: One, Clonea, Ballinclammer, 22nd November to 20th December (P.Archer, J.N.Murphy *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 24: 493.

2010 Mayo One: One, Belderra, Mullet Peninsula, 15th to 16th November, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

The record for Mayo, the first there, takes the total for 2010 to a record equalling six. Annual since 2007, this species has almost become an expected part of late autumn and one wonders whether they were overlooked in the past? Long-staying individuals are common, with many staying for a week or more. This may, perhaps, be part of the reason that so many have been found here as observers became familiar with the species. Since 2007, with sixteen recorded, it has been the most commonly occurring Nearctic passerine, compared to 'only' ten Red-eyed Vireo.



Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*
Clonea, Ballinclammer, Co. Waterford. 22nd November 2011
(Paul Archer).



Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 6th November 2011
(Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*
Clahane, Co. Clare. 6th February 2011 (James Hayes).

Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis flammea flammea* (112; 1)

Sligo One: One, Oakfield Park, Sligo, 23rd February (D.Skehan).

Identification of the Redpoll complex is far from straightforward, with bewildering variation even within the various taxa. Often, the only evidence available to the committee is a single photograph, perhaps not even of great quality, making confident determination even more difficult. The committee asks that finders of birds of this complex provide written documentation to assist the assessment process.

Greenland Redpoll

Carduelis flammea rostrata (50; 0)

2007 Donegal Eight: Up to eight, Tory Island, 28th September to 7th October (A.A.K.Lancaster, D.Weir *et al.*).

The comments under *C.f.flammea* apply equally to this taxon.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni* (6; 0)

2010 Cork One: One, showing characteristics suggestive of the race *exilipes*, Dursley Island, 1st to 2nd May, photographed (D.A.Scott *et al.*).

2008 Mayo One: One, showing characteristics suggestive of the race *hornemanni*, Annagh Marsh, Mullet Peninsula, 1st May, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*).

These two records are the second for their respective counties, and, indeed, for both Dursley Island and the Mullet Peninsula. They are also the first in spring, all previous records having occurred between 18th September and 4th October. This is a somewhat unusual situation compared to occurrences in Britain, which tend to occur later in the autumn and early winter, with many overwintering, for example in winter 1995/1996 (Rogers *et al.* 1996). All records have been on the west coast, with two on Tory Island, Donegal in addition to the Cork and Mayo records.

Common Rosefinch

Carpodacus erythrinus (168; 29)

Clare One: Juvenile, Kilbaha, 18th September, photographed (N.T.Keogh *et al.*).

Cork Fifteen: Female or immature male, Dursley Island, 4th June, photographed (D.A.Scott *et al.*); Juvenile, Dursley Island, 1st September (D.A.Scott); Three, Cape Clear Island, 16th September (Sh.Farrell); One, Ballycotton, 24th September (O.Foley); One, Cape Clear Island, 29th September (S.Wing); One, Three Castle Head, 2nd October (V.Caschera, J.F.Dowdall, A.G.Kelly); One, Cape Clear Island, 6th October (S.Wing); One, Three Castle Head, 9th October (D.Ballard); One, Three Castle Head, 15th to 18th October (D.Ballard); One, Mizen Head, 15th October (D.Foley); One, Toor Pier, Mizen Head, 15th October (C.Foley, O.Foley); Juvenile, Dursley Island, 18th to 25th October, photographed (K.Grace *et al.*); One, Mizen Head, 6th November (D.Ballard).

Donegal Two: Up to two, Tory Island, 19th to 24th September (C.Ingram, T.Murphy).

Galway Ten: One, Inishbofin, 14th September (A.McGeehan); Up to eight, Inishbofin, 24th to 25th September (A.McGeehan *et al.*); One, Slyne Head, 1st October (D.Breen).

Kerry One: One, Sleah Head, 21st September, photographed (D.Brown, A.Lees, R.Martin *et al.*).

This is an exceptional showing. Never before have more than ten been recorded in one year. Ten in Galway (equalling the previous annual national record) is an extraordinary total for a county that had previously only hosted one, in 2007. It must be emphasised, however, that coverage of that county, and in particular, the offshore islands during migration season is a relatively recent phenomenon. Otherwise, geographically typical with Cork dominating and small numbers elsewhere. The November record from Mizen Head is the latest ever, and the first to be found in that month.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (189*; 1)

Cork One: One, Skibbereen, 25th April, photographed (M.O'Sullivan).

Limerick Zero: Up to fourteen, Curraghchase Forest Park, from 13th November 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 311) remained to 29th January.

2008 Waterford One: One, Nire Valley, 15th February (M.Proudfoot, P.Proudfoot).

One new bird is a stark contrast to the total of 20 recorded in 2010 but is in keeping with the boom and bust nature of occurrences here. The April record is only the fourth for that month (involving six birds). However, many earlier records are undated, and some refer to birds

2011 Irish Rare Bird Report

seen 'in the breeding season', which might perhaps imply presence during April. The 2008 record is only the third for Waterford and the only Hawfinch reported for that year.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* (113; 3)

Clare One: One, Quilty, 27th September (P.Troake).

Cork Two: One, Galley Head, 20th September (C.Cronin); First-winter male, Dursley Island, 3rd October, photographed (A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*).

The record for Clare is only the third for the county.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (40; 1)

Donegal One: One, Tory Island, 3rd November, photographed (P.Phillips).

2008 Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 1st November (G.Oliver, S.Wing).

Occurrences of this species are not widely distributed in Ireland, with records from only six counties. Nevertheless, there is a distinct westerly bias to the records, with 75% of the total from Cork (20), Donegal (6), and Clare (5). The balance have been on the east coast, in Dublin (5), Wexford (4) and Down (1). It is normally a late autumn vagrant, with the bulk of records in October, a few in November, and there have even been two in early December. The late 2008 record included here was published as anonymous in Appendix 4 of the Irish Rare Bird Report 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 105), but further details were received and the record now takes its rightful place on the main list.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* (5; 0)

2010 Cork One: Female or first-winter, Dursley Island, 9th October (K.Grace).

This is the first since one in September 1998, on Tory Island, Donegal and is the latest on record. The first for Ireland was on Tory Island, Donegal, in September 1959 and this was followed by two in relatively quick succession on Cape Clear Island, Cork, in 1983 and 1985, both in September. All five records have occurred on offshore islands, and only one, in 1983, remained for more than one day. This species has recently been updated to Vulnerable by BirdLife International following evidence that suggests it has undergone a very rapid population decline. Formerly a regular breeding bird in Finland, with up to 300 pairs (Cramp & Perrins 1994), no birds bred there in the three years up to 2011. Additionally, its range has contracted northwards by 300 kilometres in Kazakhstan over the last 15 years, it has declined rapidly in Russia both in the Moscow and Baikal Regions, and severe declines have also recently been noted in Hokkaido, Japan and Mongolia (BirdLife International 2012). Simultaneously, numbers of vagrants occurring in Britain have also declined considerably. Numbers on Fair Isle have fallen from an average of 3.8 per annum between 1980 and 1989 to just 0.4 between 2000 and 2007 (Slack 2009).

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*
Dursley Island, Co. Cork, 1st May 2010 (Derek A. Scott).



Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*
Dursley Island, Co. Cork, 1st May 2010 (Derek A. Scott).



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

Female or immature male Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Durse Island, Co. Cork. 4th June 2011 (Derek A. Scott).



Juvenile Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
with Dunnock *Prunella modularis*
Kilbaha, Co. Clare. 18th September 2011
(Richard Bonser, www.freewebs.com/richbonser/).



Juvenile Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Durse Island, Co. Cork. 22nd October 2011 (Derek A. Scott).



Hawfinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Skibbereen, Co. Cork. 11th January 2011 (Michael O'Sullivan).



Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Slea Head, Co. Kerry. 21st September 2011
(Rob Martin, <http://punkbirder.webs.com/>).



Hawfinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Skibbereen, Co. Cork. 11th January 2011 (Michael O'Sullivan).

Appendix 1: Category D records

Category D2 records

Species that have arrived through ship or other human assistance.

House Crow *Corvus splendens* (1; 1)

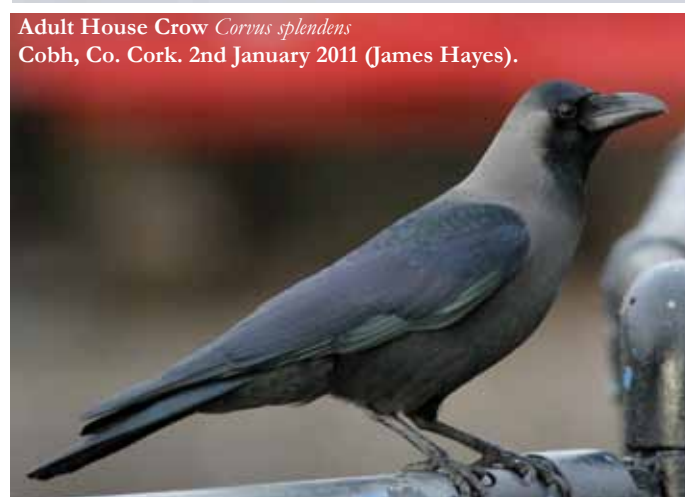
Cork Zero: Adult, Cobh, from 5th September 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 313) remained throughout the year and into 2012, photograph *Birding World* 24: 99.



Adult House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 5th August 2011 (Richard T. Mills).



Adult House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 13th January 2011 (Richard T. Mills).



Adult House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 2nd January 2011 (James Hayes).



Hawfinch *Carpodacus erythrinnus*
Curraghchase Forest Park, Co. Limerick. 11th January 2011
(John N. Murphy, www.murfwildlife.blogspot.ie/).



Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
Tory Island, Co. Donegal. 3rd November 2011
(Peter Phillips, <http://toryislandbirdblog.blogspot.ie/>).



Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
Tory Island, Co. Donegal. 3rd November 2011
(Peter Phillips, <http://toryislandbirdblog.blogspot.ie/>).



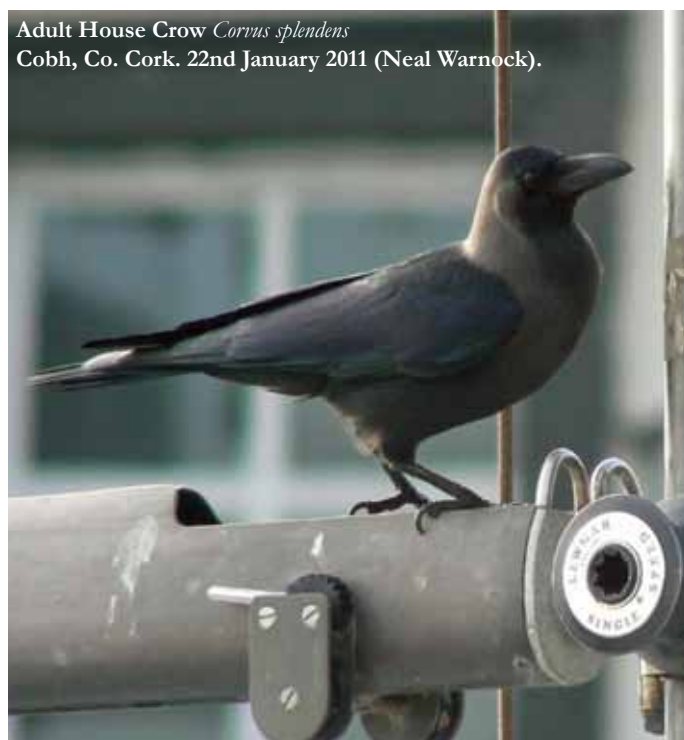
Adult House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 11th December 2011
(Derek Charles, <http://nibirding.blogspot.ie/>).



Adult House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 22nd January 2011 (Neal Warnock).



Adult House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 18th June 2011 (Ciaran Cronin, www.wildeye.ie).



Adult House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 22nd January 2011 (Neal Warnock).



Adult House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 20th January 2011 (Mícheál Casey).



Adult House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Cobh, Co. Cork. 20th January 2011 (Mícheál Casey).

Appendix 2: Contributors

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Irish Rare Breeding Birds Panel (IRBBP)

BirdWatch Ireland (BWI)

Cape Clear Bird Observatory (CCBO)

Copeland Bird Observatory (CBO)

Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association (NIBA)

Appendix 3: List of records not proven

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

2011 records not proven

Continental Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis

One, Newtownlynch Pier, Galway, 12th February.

Adult, Bunlickey, Limerick, 27th April.

2011 Irish Rare Bird Report

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

One, Saint Columba's College, Dublin, 15th August.

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*

One, Townley Hall Wood, Louth, 28th April to 8th May.

Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis flammea flammea*

One, Ballinode, Monaghan, 17th January.

Supplemental 2010 records not proven

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

One, Kilcolman Nature Reserve, Cork, 25th May.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*

One, Tralee, Kerry, for a week before Christmas.

Supplemental 2009 records not proven

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

Female, Inchquin, Lough Corrib, Galway, 10th March.

Appendix 4:

List of anonymous records not accepted

The following reports concern Appendix 2 rarities that were entered in the Provisional List of Rare Bird Sightings during 2011 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.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Male, Dooniskey, Cork, 11th January.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

One, Ventry Harbour, Kerry, 4th September.

One, Lady's Island Lake, Wexford, 12th to 13th September.

One, Loop Head, Clare, 17th September.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

One, The Gearagh, Cork, 7th September.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, 9th September.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Adult, Bridges of Ross, Clare, 17th July.

Juvenile, Bridges of Ross, Clare, 6th October.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

One, Cockle Strand, Mizen Head, Cork, 30th January.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

One, Rathfarnham, Dublin, 6th April.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 3rd to 4th September.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Juvenile, Crookhaven, Cork, 7th to 12th October.

Supplemental anonymous record for 2009

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

One, Kilcolgan, Galway, 20th November.

Supplemental anonymous record for 2008

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Eight, Dunmanus Bay, Cork, 14th February.

Appendix 5: Corrigenda to previous reports

2010 Irish Rare Bird Report Appendix 2 (*Irish Birds* 9: 313): P.Archer was inadvertently omitted from the list of contributors and should be added between 'D.Allen' and 'G.Armstrong'.

2009 Irish Rare Bird Report The statistics presented for Royal Tern *Sterna maxima* (*Irish Birds* 9: 268) were incorrect and should have read (0; 1). The occurrence of the 2009 individual in Cork does not confer legitimacy on the 1954 record, which, as a tideline corpse, remains in Category D3 of the Irish list.

2009 Irish Rare Bird Report Appendix 5 (*Irish Birds* 9: 281): Under the account for Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* replace 'This overstatement has been perpetuated...' with 'This understatement has been perpetuated...'.
'This understatement has been perpetuated...'

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

The statistics reported in the 2006 Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 8: 397) understated the number of new records for 2006 by one and should have read (140; 29). Additionally, the opening total in the 2009 report (*Irish Birds* 9: 255) was understated by a further one and the statistics should be corrected to read (265; 23). Consequently, the statistics in the 2010 report (*Irish Birds* 9: 287) should read (288; 15). The opening figure in the current report has been adjusted to reflect these corrections.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

A thorough analysis of all records published in Irish Bird Reports prior to this report shows that there had been records published relating to 34 different individuals. However, this overstates the total as NIBR 1986-90 clearly states that an Armagh record in July 1988 (*Irish Birds* 4: 87) refers to the same individual that had been seen in the same county in August 1987 (*Irish Birds* 3: 617). Totals reported in the current report have been adjusted to reflect this correction.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Statistics reported in the 2006 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 8: 398) were incorrect. They failed to take into account the duo in Wexford in 2000 (*Irish Birds* 7: 393) and should have read (32; 1). Totals reported in the current report have been adjusted to reflect this correction.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Since the 1997 Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 6: 296), when overstated by two, statistics for this species have been inconsistent with the published record. Subsequent reports have consistently understated the totals by three (except for the 2006 report (*Irish Birds* 8: 399) and 2007 report (*Irish Birds* 8: 591) which overstated by two and four respectively). A detailed analysis of records published in Kennedy *et al.* (1954) and the various Irish Bird Reports has been completed, and 161 have been published up to, and including, the 2010 Irish Rare Bird Report. Totals reported in the current report reflect this analysis.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Tryngites subruficollis

Statistics have been incorrect since the 1985 Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 3: 468), when the total was overstated by three. Subsequently, totals have been understated, by up to 12, and overstated, by up to eight. A detailed analysis of records published in Kennedy *et al.* (1954) and the various Irish Bird Reports has been completed, and 385 have been published up to, and including, the 2010 Irish Rare Bird Report. Totals reported in the current report reflect this analysis.

Long-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus scolopaceus

A detailed analysis of the published record shows that totals have been understated by one since the Fifty-first Irish Bird Report, 2003 (*Irish Birds* 7: 559). In addition, the statistics reported for this species in the 2009 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 9: 264) understated the total prior to 2009 by a further one. Totals reported in the current report have been adjusted to reflect these corrections.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

The statistics for this species since the 2000 Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 7: 97) have understated the total by the exclusion of all pre-1950 records, amounting to 112 individuals. Additionally, a detailed analysis of the published record shows that 983 have been accepted up to 2010 and totals reported in the current report reflect this analysis.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*

The total of six quoted for this species in 2006 in *Irish Birds* 8: 403 was overstated, only five individuals being listed in the detail of the report. The statistics should therefore have read (10; 5). In addition, the statistics reported in the 2007 edition of the Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 8: 597) were incorrect and should be amended to read (16; 0).

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*

In the 2007 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 8: 599) there were six 2005 records listed for Londonderry and therefore the text '2005 Londonderry Culmore Refuse Tip, five' should be replaced with '2005 Londonderry Culmore Refuse Tip, six'. Consequently, in the same report, replace the text 'The late 2005 records published here extend the record total for that year to 17 birds, seven more than in the previous best year (1998)' with 'The late 2005 records published here extend the record total for that year to 18 birds, eight more than in the previous best year (1998)'. Additionally, the statistics reported in that report were incorrect. Only seven of nine additional 2005 and 2006 records published were included in the opening total, and the statistics should therefore have read (88; 27). This understatement by two was perpetuated in subsequent reports and the statistics reported in the current report have been adjusted to reflect these corrections.

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

Statistics reported in the 2007 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 8: 607) were incorrect. The additional 2005 record published in that report was excluded from the total of birds up to, but not including, 2007. The statistics should have read (11; 0) in that report and the totals reported in the current report have been adjusted to reflect this correction.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

The record in the 1969 Irish Bird Report of nine at Cape Clear Island between 7th August and 5th October (*IBR* 17: 50) was incorrect as only eight are listed in the relevant CCBO report (Jackson 1971). Although this correction has not previously been published, the correction has been incorporated into the statistics since they were first published in the 1997 Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 6: 307). Additionally, statistics reported in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 604) understated by five the starting total for the year and, with the inclusion of the 2004 record in that report, should have read (177; 0). This understatement has been perpetuated since then and the statistics are now adjusted to correct this error.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Statistics reported in the 2007 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 8: 602) were incorrect. Only one of the two additional 2006 records published in that report was included in the opening total and the statistics should have read (86; 5). Totals reported in the current report reflect this correction and the correction resulting from the duplication of the Lough Beg record in 2000 referred to in the species account. For clarity, three sightings on Cape Clear Island in 1966 (*IBR* 14: 47 & 15: 45) are counted as three separate individuals – 24th September, 26th September and 4th October (*Cape Clear Bird Observatory Report* 8: 35).

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Abbreviations used

- AERC: Association of European Rarities Committees.
 BOURC: British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee.
 IBR: Irish Bird Report – annual from 1953 to 1975.
 NIBARC: Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association Rarities Committee.
 NIBR: Northern Ireland Bird Report - periodically from 1980 onwards.