

Irish Rare Bird Report 2014

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Introduction

The year under review was the classic year of two halves. The first half was one of the most exciting starts to a year in recent times, whereas the latter half was far more pedestrian. In line with that, both additions to the Irish list in 2014 were during the first six months, with an American Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus* found dead in Mayo and, less than a week later, a Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* in Galway, both of these in February. Undoubtedly, though, the most significant record of the year was a Bermuda Petrel *Pterodroma cabow*, which is categorised as an 'At sea' record as it was observed some 170 nautical miles west of Ireland, a location that lies outside the boundary of the Irish List. Bermuda Petrel is considered endangered by BirdLife International and this is the first sight record for the Western

Paelearctic away from the Azores. Ireland's second Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica* (Galway) and third Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* (Cork) were recorded in April and the fourth records of Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* (Mayo) and American Coot *Fulica americana* (Kerry) were recorded in October and November respectively. Also, this report contains details of the second Little Swift *Apus affinis* from Wexford in May 2002 and the fourth Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* from Cork in October 2013. Significant records of sub-species in the report are of the first Eastern Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans albigristata* from Mayo in 2007 and the first Yellow

Plate 107. Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus*, Waterside, Galway City, Co. Galway, February 2014 (Thomas Cuffe).

Wagtail *Motacilla flava* of the *plexa/tschutschensis* complex from Donegal in 2013.

The year started with a phenomenal influx of gulls. Among a record number of Kumlien's Gulls *Larus glaucoides kumlieni* was a small scattering of Arctic gems; four Ross's Gulls *Rhodostethia rosea* and a record-equalling two Ivory Gulls *Pagophila eburnea* across the southern half of the country. Included in these were long staying individuals of both species, allowing many the opportunity to get close range views of these iconic rarities. Other gulls of note during the early months of the year were an Atlantic Gull *Larus michabellis atlantis* in Wexford and the first Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* since 2008 in Cork, both in January. Three American Herring Gulls *Larus smithsonianus* along the west coast completed a stellar list of early 2014 gulls.

Not to be outdone, other species also occurred in very good numbers early in the year. The Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* invasion that started in late 2013 continued strongly into 2014 with 21 new birds found by the end of March. A new Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* was found in Mayo in January. The end of that month also saw the beginning of the (by now) annual Scandinavian Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis* appearances, with a further 13 found between then and the end of April comprising the second highest annual total of all time. The recent sequence of Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* records was added to with the first for Monaghan at the end of February.

A returning Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* and American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* were seen in Mayo in early April, but the first new rarity of the spring was a Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* in Cork. Later in the month on the same day, but at opposite ends of the country, two handsome rarities were found – a White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* in Donegal and a Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* on Dursey Island in Cork. Just 24 hours later Dursey Island produced another great bird with the Sardinian Warbler previously mentioned. May witnessed the arrival of Hobbies *Falco subbuteo* and Little Ringed Plovers *Charadrius dubius*, both recorded annually in recent years. These were followed by the first Whiskered Tern *Cblidonias hybrida* since 2008 in Cork and two White-winged Black Terns *Cblidonias leucopertus* in Donegal. Two different forms of Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* made appearances in late spring – four of the blue-headed form *flava* were not unexpected but the occurrence of Ireland's seventh record of the grey-headed form *thumbergi* in Kerry was notable. Another notable event was the relocation of a Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* from Offaly to Cork a few days later.

The summer got off to an auspicious start with the occurrence of a Snowy Owl in Clare, a Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* in Cork and an Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis borenmanni* on Dursey Island, Cork, all before 9th June.

Unfortunately, the rest of the summer was quieter than usual, although a Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* in Dublin in early July did its best to alleviate the tedium. Seawatching was a mild distraction from the generally poor fare elsewhere with the second best year ever for the Fea's/Zino's Petrel *Pterodroma feae/madeira* complex, although only small numbers of Wilson's Storm-petrels *Oceanites oceanicus* were seen.

This was the poorest year for Nearctic wader numbers in a decade. Only one Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* and one Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* were found, representing the lowest figures since 2002 and 2000 respectively. Numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers *Calidris fuscicollis* were the lowest since 1998, with only two found and, while ten American Golden Plovers *Pluvialis dominica* occurred, it was their poorest year since 2005. That said, the presence of a Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris bimantopus* in Wexford and Dublin (September) as well as a Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* in Wexford (October) added quality to compensate for low numbers.

Despite conditions that were clearly not conducive to transatlantic vagrancy, three Red-eyed Vireos *Vireo olivaceus* (Clare, Cork and Mayo) and a Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (Clare) still managed to arrive on these shores during late September and early October. Red-eyed Vireo in particular seems to be able to turn up under almost any conditions and there are now over 250 records of this Nearctic passerine in the Western Palearctic since the first was found on Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland in September 1951 (Pétursson & Þráinsson 1999). The months of September and October were not as productive as normal. The highlights were the Red-flanked Bluetail in Mayo, a Swainson's Thrush in Clare and two Nightingales *Luscinia megarhynchos*, one in Cork during October and another 'At sea' record west of Loop Head, Clare in September. Most of the regular vagrants occurred in low numbers, although Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* had its third best year and both Wrynecks *Jynx torquilla* and Ortolan Buntings *Emberiza hortulana* turned up in relatively high numbers. In contrast, there was only one Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* (albeit the first since 2010), one Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*, two Red-backed Shrikes *Lanius collurio* (but no Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* for the first time since 2002), while the sole Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* was notable in being the first for Galway.

November produced two great birds, beginning with an American Coot in Kerry that remained into December. In contrast, a Roller *Coracias garrulus* near Manch, Cork remained just long enough to have its picture taken. Otherwise the end of the year drifted away in the inevitable mix of Water Pipits *Anthus spinoletta* and waterfowl although a further small influx of Glossy Ibis during the autumn took the total to a record 35. Nonetheless, there was one final

remainder of migration as the only Richard's Pipit *Antbus richardi* of the year waited until the dark days after Christmas to put in a brief appearance at Galley Head, Cork. The year ended as it had begun with a Kumlien's Gull in Donegal, bringing the annual total for the taxon to an incredible 84!

The backbone of the IRBC's system for recording occurrences of rare birds in the Republic of Ireland is the Provisional List, published online at www.irbc.ie/provisional/provisional.php and updated on a monthly basis. Most of the data in this report were taken directly from the 2014 Provisional List. The IRBC expresses its sincere gratitude to all those who provided information during 2014, either directly or indirectly. Although there are no 2014 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 Kieran Fahy, Steve Howell, Killian Mullarney and Pat Smiddy for their invaluable assistance.

Records for 2015 (and previous years) should be sent to the following:

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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 list of taxa requiring substantiating documentation 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.

2014 Systematic List

The sequence and scientific nomenclature largely follows British Ornithologists' Union (2013), but also incorporates recommendations of the Taxonomic Advisory Committee of the AERC (Crochet *et al.* 2010, 2011, 2012) and the Taxonomic Sub-committee of the British Ornithologists' Union (Sangster *et al.* 2013, 2015). Further details of taxonomic changes adopted by the IRBC can be viewed via the Announcements page on our website www.irbc.ie/announcements/announcements.php.

The three numbers in parentheses after each species refer respectively to (a) the total number of birds up to 31st December 1949; (b) the total number of birds from 1st January 1950, up to, but excluding, the current year – where this total is enclosed in square brackets, totals are from 1st January 2010 only; (c) the total number of new individuals for the current year. Some totals are minimum figures due to lack of precise numbers in historical texts – where this is the case, the total is succeeded by a '+'. In addition to the species totals, the total number of individuals being added to the species total is included immediately following the county name.

Whistling Swan

Cygnus columbianus columbianus (0; 5; 0)

1992 Wexford Zero: Adult, North Slob, 25th January and 1st February (K.Fahy), presumed to relate to the individual that had been present on 28th December 1991 (*Irish Birds* 4: 578).

1991 Wexford Zero: Adult, North Slob, 3rd March (*Irish Birds* 4: 578), was also present on 2nd March (K.Fahy) and is presumed to relate to the individual present on 29th December 1990 (*Irish Birds* 4: 430).

1983 Cork Zero: Adult, Ballycotton, 3rd to 18th February, also visited Ballymacoda, 18th February (P.Smiddy) (*Irish Birds* 2: 550). The same individual was also at Ballycotton in January and February 1985 (*Irish Birds* 3: 296).

The records of an adult reported here for Wexford in 1991 and 1992, and that already published for 1990 (*Irish Birds* 4: 430) refer to the same individual.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus* (0; 31; 0)

2013 Cork One: One, The Gearagh, 27th to 29th April, photographed (A.Duggan *et al.*).

Russian White-fronted Goose
Anser albifrons albifrons (51; 109; 3)

Wexford Two: Two adults, North Slob NNR, 4th to 17th December, photographed (K.Mullarney, A.Walsh *et al.*).

Wicklow One: One, Kilcoole, 8th January, and, presumed same, Newcastle and Kilcoole, 28th February to 23rd March, photographed (N.T.Keogh *et al.*).

The Wicklow bird represents the first record for the county since five were present in December 1997 and January 1998

(*Irish Birds* 6: 384). In fact, away from Wexford, Russian White-fronted Goose is a very rare bird indeed. The occurrence of this taxon in Ireland may be subject to change as the wintering population continues to decline in Britain where the lowest ever numbers were recorded during winter 2013/2014 (www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u18/downloads/publications/wituk-2013-14-web.pdf).

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (70; 49; 0)

Kerry Zero: White morph adult, Carrahane Strand and Barrow Harbour, from 16th September 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 73) remained to 7th February.

See Appendix 5 for details of corrections to the statistics.

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii* (0; 27; 0)

Clare Zero: Two, Healey's Marsh and Mutton Island, 12th to 24th March, photographed (D.Cosgrove, C.Cronin *et al.*), presumed the same duo as had been seen at Killard in December 2013 (see below).

2013 Clare Two: Two, Killard, Doonbeg, 7th December, photographed (F.MacGabhann, J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

2012 Donegal Zero: One, Trawbreaga Bay, 3rd March, photographed (C.Cassidy), presumed one of the three previously seen in Sligo until mid-February 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 579).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (0; 34; 2)

Clare Zero: One, Healey's Marsh and Mutton Island, 12th to 24th March, photographed (D.Cosgrove, C.Cronin *et al.*), presumed the same individual at Killard in December 2013 (see below).

Louth One: One, Lurgangreen, 29th March to 7th April (P.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 263: 15.

Wexford One: One, North Slob NNR, 29th October to 30th December, photographed (A.Walsh *et al.*).



Plate 108. Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*, North Slob NNR, Co. Wexford, December 2014 (Paul Kelly).

2013 Clare One: One, Killard, Doonbeg, 7th December, photographed (F.MacGabhann, J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

2013 Mayo Zero: One, Termoncarragh, Cross Lough and Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 6th October to 23rd March 2014, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*), presumed returning.

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* (0; 39; 0)

Kerry Zero: One, Castlegregory and Scraggane, from 17th November 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 74) remained to 12th March and was also seen at Ventry; One, Barrow Harbour, 6th November to 3rd December, photographed (D.A.O'Connor *et al.*); One, Spa, 6th November (M.O'Clery); Adult, Castlegregory, 21st December, photographed (S.Enright), all presumed to relate to two returning and wandering individuals.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (0; 135; 2)

Cork One: Male, Harper's Island, 14th to 31st December, photographed (T.Gittings *et al.*).

Donegal One: Male, Drowes River, Tullaghan, from 31st October 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 75) remained to 1st March, also seen in Leitrim; First-winter male, Lagg, Malin Head, from 23rd November 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 75) remained to 21st February, also seen at the Culdaff Estuary; Male, Inch Lake, 30th September to 4th October (T.Campbell); Male, Culdaff Estuary and Malin, 13th October to 31st December, photographed (M.McLaughlin *et al.*), presumed returning; Male, Tullaghan, 17th October to 7th December (F.Cross), presumed returning, also seen in Leitrim.

Leitrim Zero: Male, Drowes River, Tullaghan, from 31st October 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 75) remained to 1st March, also seen in Donegal; Male, Tullaghan, 17th October to 7th December (F.Cross), presumed returning, also seen in Donegal.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (0; 20; 1)

Mayo One: Male, Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, 19th January to 20th February, photographed (S.Feeney, G.Mitchell *et al.*); Male, Sruhull Lough, Dooniver, Achill Island, 17th to 20th April, photographed (M.O'Briain), presumed returning.

2013 Kerry One: Female, Killelton Polder, Ballylongford, 3rd July to 9th August, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*).

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (3; 109; 1)

Cork One: Male, Beamish's Pool, Clonakilty, 27th May, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*).

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (0; 31; 1)

Galway One: First-winter female, Rahasane Turlough, 12th October, photographed (D.Breen, C.Forkan).

Kerry Zero: Male, Lough Gill, 22nd October to 6th December, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*), presumed returning.

2013 Kerry One: Male, Lough Gill, 15th November to 17th December, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*), presumed returning; First-winter female, Ross Castle, Killarney, 28th November, photographed (D.Farrar).

2012 Clare One: First-winter male, Lough Gash, 4th November to 16th March 2013, photographed (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

2012 Kerry Zero: Male, Lough Gill, 9th November to 31st December, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*), presumed returning.

2011 Kerry One: Male, Lough Gill, 31st December to 17th February 2012, photographed (A.Duggan *et al.*).

2010 Kerry One: Female, Lough Gill, 31st December to 22nd January 2011, photographed (A.Duggan *et al.*).

Northern Eider *Somateria mollissima borealis* (0; 15; 0)

2013 Donegal Two: Male and female, Tory Island, 9th April, photographed (P.Phillips).

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (4; 19; 2)

Cork One: Female, Cahermore, 19th January to 9th March, photographed (F.Moore *et al.*).

Donegal One: Female, Narin Strand and Portnoo, 17th March to 24th April, photographed (P.McDaid *et al.*).

Mayo Zero: Female, Blacksod Bay, Mullet Peninsula, from 22nd November 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 75) remained to 4th April.



Plate 109. King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*, Portnoo, Co. Donegal, April 2014 (Patrick McDaid).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (6; 207; 5)

Clare Zero: Male, Black Head and Ballyvaughan, 8th to 10th March (J.N.Murphy *et al.*), presumed to be the same individual seen at Ballyvaughan in winter 2012/2013 (*Irish Birds* 9: 582).

Cork Zero: First-winter male, Courtmacsherry, from 3rd November 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 75) remained to 6th April; Female, Coolbaun, Seven Heads, from 10th November 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 75) remained to 22nd January; Adult male, Garrettstown, 27th September, photographed (F.Moore *et al.*), presumed returning.

Kerry Two: Female, Ballinskelligs, 22nd September (M.O'Clery); Female, Reenroe, 16th November (M.O'Clery).

Louth Two: Adult male, The Hermitage, 12th October to 22nd November, photographed (G.O'Neill *et al.*); Female, The Hermitage, 22nd November (M.Tierney).

Sligo One: Male, Mullaghmore, 28th February to 1st March, photographed (N.Rafter, P.Keogh, B.Robson *et al.*).

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* (0; [4]; 2)

Dublin One: Female, Swords, Knock Lake and Balrothery, 29th December to 12th January 2015, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Wexford One: Female, Tacumshin Lake, 24th December to 11th January 2015, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

After a rapid increase following the first in 1973 (Culbert & Furphy 1978), this species was removed from the rarity list from 1st January 1989 but was reinstated from 1st January 2010 (see www.irbc.ie/announcements/announce47.php) and statistics are only given from the latter date.

Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica* (0; 1; 1)

Galway One: Adult winter, Tawin, 5th April, photographed (P.Troake). The only other record was one in the same area in 2009 and 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 288, 454). A claim from early in 2011 was presumably the same individual, although no documentation has been received by the IRBC to support this. Notwithstanding that this record is also from Galway Bay, it is treated as a new individual given that there have been neither accepted records nor undocumented claims over two consecutive winters (2011/2012 and 2012/2013) in a relatively well-watched area.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* (0; 16; 1)

Donegal One: Adult, Malin, 19th April, photographed (R.McLaughlin).

Fea's/Zino's Petrel

Pterodroma feae/madeira (0; 91; 10)

At sea Zero: One, Porcupine Seabight, 1st September, photographed (L.Kavanagh).

Clare One: One, Bridges of Ross, 16th August (E.O'Flynn *et al.*).

Cork Four: One, About eight nautical miles off Galley Head, 30th July (P.Connaughton *et al.*); Two, off Baltimore, 24th August, photographed (P.Connaughton, R.Vaughan *et al.*); One, 11 nautical miles south-southeast of Galley Head, 10th October, photographed (C.Cronin).

Donegal One: One, Malin Head, 3rd August (R.McLaughlin).

Mayo Four: One, Kilcummin Head, 10th August (B.Robson); One, Annagh Head, 10th August (D.Suddaby); One, Kilcummin Head, 13th August (D.Charles, M.Ullman); One, Kilcummin Head, 17th August (J.Donaldson *et al.*).

Bermuda Petrel *Pterodroma cahow* (0; 0; 0)

At sea Zero: One, approximately 170 nautical miles west-northwest of Sleah Head, Co. Kerry, 19th May (N.T.Keogh *et al.*) (Keogh 2014), photograph *Wings* 74: 29.

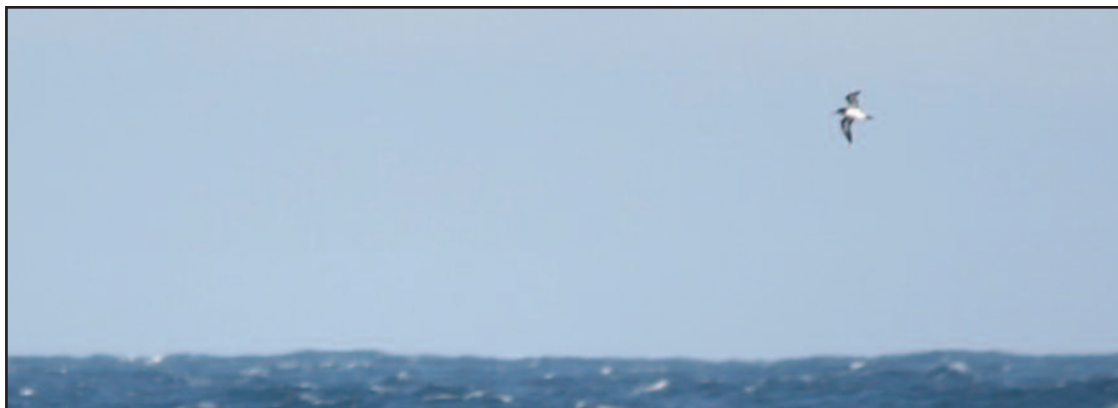


Plate 110. Bermuda Petrel *Pterodroma cahow*, at sea, approximately 170 nautical miles west-northwest of Sleah Head, Co. Kerry, May 2014 (Simon Berrow).

An extraordinary occurrence of an endangered species; recorded during a dedicated survey for seabirds and marine mammals along the western edge of the Porcupine Bank sea-shelf on the R.V. *Celtic Voyager*. The bird was on view for no more than one minute but passed by the ship close enough to allow for several atmospheric images to be obtained. Observed outside the boundary of the Irish List but within the scope of this report meaning it is not added to the main Irish List but does highlight the tantalising possibility of a land based or inshore occurrence. Due to data logging studies conducted on the breeding grounds much more is now known about the distribution of Bermuda Petrel at sea. For adults at least, the optimum time to search for them in Irish waters appears to be between March and June but particularly April and May, which may encourage some off-peak seawatching. Their great rarity in global terms means that any future observers of a Bermuda Petrel in Irish waters will have to be almost indescribably lucky. The continuing intensive conservation efforts on the breeding grounds offers some hope and has witnessed the breeding population rise to its highest levels in several hundred years with 112 pairs in 2015, up from 108 pairs in 2014 (www.nonsuchisland.com/blog/). It is purely idle speculation as to how common this species was in Irish waters 500 years ago when the population was thought to number over one million birds!

While Bermuda Petrel is not especially difficult to identify, other hoped for species of endangered *Pterodroma* petrels such as Black-capped Petrel *Pterodroma basitata* and even Zino's Petrel *Pterodroma madeira* (which can show extensive white on the underwing, similar to Bermuda Petrel) will need to be taken into consideration. For those keen to take on the challenge, Flood and Fisher (2013) is the essential reference.

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* (0; 0; 0)

2003 Kerry Zero: One, Brandon Point, 11th September (*Irish Birds* 7: 574) still considered not proven after review.

1975 Cork Minus one: One, Cape Clear Island, 22nd July (*Irish Birds* 1: 415 & 3: 649), still considered not proven after review; One, Cape Clear Island, 3rd August (*Irish Birds* 1: 415 & 3: 649), now considered not proven after review.

1965 Cork Zero: One, Cape Clear Island, 26th August (*IBR* 13: 14, *Irish Birds* 3: 649), still considered not proven after review.

The result of this review (see *Irish Birds* 10: 264-265) is that Bulwer's Petrel is removed from the Irish List.

Macaronesian Shearwater

Puffinus baroli (1; 22; 0)

2013 Clare One: One, Loop Head, 31st August (Sh.Farrell, O.Foley, R.Vaughan).

Wilson's Storm-petrel

Oceanites oceanicus (2; 252; 13)

At sea Zero: One, approximately 32 nautical miles northwest of Erris Head, Mayo at 54° 39.6'N, 010° 42.6'W, 19th July, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*); One, Porcupine Bank, about 170 nautical miles west of Slyne Head, Galway, 18th September, photographed (N.T.Keogh); One, Porcupine Seabight, 19th September (N.T.Keogh); One, Porcupine Seabight, 20th September (R.Pinfield); One, Porcupine Seabight, 22nd September (N.T.Keogh).

Clare Three: One, Bridges of Ross, 8th August (A.vanLubeck); One, Bridges of Ross, 12th August (E.O'Flynn); One, Bridges of Ross, 30th August (L.Gregory *et al.*).

Cork Ten: Four, around 10 nautical miles off Galley Head, 22nd July, photographed (P.Connaughton); Five, between 10 and 20 nautical miles off Galley Head, 24th July (P.Connaughton); One, 15 nautical miles south-southeast of Galley Head, 10th October (N.T.Keogh).

Numbers recorded from land-based seawatching sites were low and were confined to Bridges of Ross. However, a good showing from pelagic trips off west Cork in late July and

another one in October show that birds are there to be found at either end of the typical seawatching season. The 19th September 'at sea' record over the Porcupine Seabight was notable in that the bird was recorded in the presence of a flock of seabirds associating with a group of seven Killer Whales *Orcinus orca*!

Continental Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis (0; 33; 6)

Dublin One: Adult, Scotsman's Bay, 1st February, photographed (S.Lawlor).

Limerick One: Adult, Corbally, 28th December, photographed (T.Tarpey).

Louth Two: First-winter and second-winter, Port Oriel, 2nd to 3rd February, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Westmeath One: Immature, Lough Ennel, 20th December, photographed (P.Kelly).

Wexford Zero: Adult, Rosslare Harbour, from 27th December 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 77) remained to 4th July.

Wicklow One: Adult, Newcastle, 22nd April, photographed (N.T.Keogh).

2012 Kerry One: One, Cromane, 25th April, photographed (S.Enright).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (161+; 43; 1)

Cork One: One, Kilcolman NNR, 31st March (M.Hirst).

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (27; 51; 1)

Cork One: Juvenile, Crosshaven, 29th November, photographed (B.Cudmore).

2011 Kerry One: Adult, Abbeyfeale, 25th November (E.Carty).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (0; 250; 5)

Laois One: One, Cullahill, 22nd June (E.Salholm).

Waterford One: Up to two, Bunmahon, from 21st December 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 78) remained to 29th January; One, Saleen, Tramore Back Strand, 27th April (J.D.Power).

Wexford Two: Two, Tacumshin Lake, 27th April to 15th June (T.Kilbane *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 74: 30.

Wicklow One: One, East Coast Nature Reserve, Blackditch, 11th March, photographed (C.Clarke).

There were just ten records between the first in 1976 and 2006. Thereafter a remarkable influx of over 200 birds took place between late autumn and winter of 2007 and the end of 2009, with a few stragglers remaining to March 2010. These were spread across Cos. Clare, Cork, Donegal, Galway, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow. Included here is the first record for Laois, which missed out during the influx.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba* (0; 60; 5)

Galway Two: One, Angliham, Lough Corrib, 6th September (A.Ó'Dónaill *et al.*), and, presumed same, Muckrush, 30th November



Plate 111. Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, May 2014 (Tom Shevlin).



Plate 112. Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, with Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, East Coast Nature Reserve, Co. Wicklow, March 2014 (Colum Clarke).

to 31st December, photographed (N.Ellis *et al.*); One, Kinvarra, 30th October (P.Troake), and, presumed same, Aughinish, 23rd November (C.Peppiatt).

Mayo One: One, Sruwaddacon Bay, 2nd October (G.Fennessy).

Wexford One: One, Churchtown, 25th October, photographed (M.Noonan), and, presumed same, Tacumshin Lake, 2nd November (P.Kelly), and, presumed same, Cahore Marsh, 12th to 23rd November (C.Foley, D.Foley, M.Stewart *et al.*).

Wicklow One: One, Vartry Reservoir, 28th July, photographed (P.King *et al.*).

2009 Monaghan One: One, Ballybay Wetlands, 19th December, photographed (D.Nesbitt *et al.*).

These include the first record for Monaghan.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* (1; 23; 0)

2013 Dublin One: One, Knock Lake, 28th April (B.Gormley).

As might be expected, the first for Dublin and, of the neighbouring counties, only Wicklow has recorded one – at Kilcoole and Killoughter in April 1996 (*Irish Birds* 6: 67).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* (6; 28; 0)

2002 Waterford Zero: One, Tallow, 28th April (N.Hennessy per P.Smiddy), presumed to be the same individual seen in Cloyne (Cork) a few days previously (*Irish Birds* 7: 393).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (103; 170; 35)

Clare One: One, Lough Atedaun, 12th January (D.McNamara).

Cork Nine: First-winter, Carrigrohane, Cork City, from 26th December 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 78) remained to 12th January; Two, Owenahincha Cross, from 27th December 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 79) remained to 12th January; Two, Ballycotton, 8th January to 2nd August, photographed (D.O'Sullivan *et al.*); One, Timoleague, 5th to 15th March (D.Hollingsworth); Two, Oysterhaven, 29th March (U.Keating); Two, Cuskinny Marsh, Great Island, 30th May, photographed (M.Carmody); Two, Ballywilliam, 1st July (D.O'Sullivan).

Dublin One: One, Rogerstown Estuary, 6th to 7th September (C.Crowley *et al.*).

Kerry One: One, Callinafercy, 6th to 15th March, photographed (D.O'Loughlin *et al.*).

Limerick Two: One, Coonagh, 7th March to 5th April, photographed (T.Tarpey); One, Coonagh, 7th to 14th June (T.Tarpey).

Louth Two: One, Grangebellew, 3rd May to 7th August (G.O'Neill *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 74: 28; One, Ardee, 18th October (P.Phillips).

Mayo Zero: One, Kilmeena, from 30th December 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 79) remained to 2nd January.

Offaly One: One, Shannonbridge, 17th January to 1st March, photographed (per S.Heery *et al.*).

Roscommon One: One, Lough Funshinagh, 14th June to 2nd July (A.G.Kelly, P.Brennan).

Sligo Two: Two, Ballincarr, 26th February to 3rd April, photographed (P.Keogh *et al.*).

Tipperary One: One, Cabragh Wetlands, 1st March (P.Brennan).

Waterford One: One, Tramore Back Strand, 20th September to 15th December, photographed (A.Allen *et al.*).

Wexford Thirteen: One, South Slob, from 31st December 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 79) remained to 9th February; One, The Cull, 4th January, photographed (P.Kelly); Three, Ballyhealy Marsh, 8th to 11th January, photographed (T.Murray); One, Riverchapel, 9th January (J.Adamson); One, Wexford Harbour, 9th February, photographed (P.Kelly); Two, Cahore Marsh, 28th January to 31st May, photographed (P.Lee *et al.*); One, Enniscorthy, 23rd March (A.Savitzky); One, The Cull, 1st September (M.Wink); One, Ring Marsh, 4th September (B.Haslam); One, Tacumshin Lake, 6th September (P.Kelly); One, Tacumshin Lake, 16th October (P.Kelly).

For the third year in a row, a new record is set, with one more than in 2013, including firsts for Roscommon, Limerick, Louth and Sligo. With growing numbers it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep an accurate account of numbers involved and duplication cannot be ruled out.



Plate 113. Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, Ballincarr, Co. Sligo, February 2014 (Micheál Casey).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (92; 145; 7)

Kerry Zero: Adult, Cromane Harbour, from 1st October 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 79) remained to 9th March; Adult, Cromane Harbour, 20th September to 31st December, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*), presumed returning.

Louth One: Juvenile, The Hermitage, 19th October to 27th November, photographed (G.O'Neill *et al.*).

Waterford One: Adult, Dungarvan, from 28th October 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 79) remained to 15th February; Adult and juvenile, Dungarvan, 26th November to 29th December, photographed (F.O'Connell *et al.*), adult presumed returning.

Wexford Four: One, Rosslare, 3rd March (F.Tennant *et al.*); Adult, North Slob NNR, 19th May, photographed (A.Butler, J.Kiernan, A.Walsh); Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 23rd July to 1st August, photographed (K.Mullarney); Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 14th September (E.Dempsey).

Wicklow One: One, Kilcoole, 16th May (C.Cardiff, T.Cardiff).

2001 Waterford One: Older than first-winter, Kinsalebeg, 18th December to 9th January 2002 (P.Smiddy).

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* (0; 12; 0)

Mayo Zero: Adult in summer plumage, Sruhullbeg Lough, Achill Island, 16th April, photographed (M.O'Briain), presumed returning.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (0; 20; 0)

2013 Mayo One: One, Tarmon Hill, Mullet Peninsula, 1st June (D.Suddaby).

2012 Galway One: One, Derrynreen, Recess, 20th April, videoed (T.McDermott).

2010 Cork One: One, Toe Head, 9th October (A.Brewer, C.Cronin, T.Kelly).



Plate 114. American Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinicus*, Carne Golf Links, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo, February 2014 (Dave Suddaby).

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*
(23; 63; 1)

Wexford One: Female, Tacumshin Lake, 5th to 6th August (K.Grace *et al.*).

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*
(Unknown; 50; 2)

Cork One: Male, calling at night in breeding habitat, west Cork, 4th to 6th May (Observer names withheld).

Wexford One: One, Tacumshin Lake, 13th August (T.Murray).

1996 Wicklow One: One, heard, 26th to 27th April (P.Farrelly, A.McMillan).

American Purple Gallinule
Porphyrio martinicus (0; 0; 1)

Mayo One: First-winter male, found dead, Carne Golf Links, Mullet Peninsula, 2nd February (K.Donnely, E.Killeen, D.Suddaby) (Suddaby 2014), photograph *Wings* 73: 26.

This represents the first record of this New World species for Ireland. The typical wintering range of the species migratory populations extends from southern Florida south to Argentina, however during the autumn and late winter of

2013/2014 there were an unusual number of observations and specimens collected across North America and Bermuda well outside its expected range. In addition, there were at least two claims (yet to be accepted by the relevant rarity committees) of this species in the Western Palearctic; at the Parque Florestal Monsanto, Lisbon, Portugal from the 7th to 11th November 2013 and on the River Krossá, Fljótshverfi in southern Iceland on 30th January 2014. While it was mooted that the polar vortex of January 2014 might have influenced the displacement of some birds, it was not particularly cold in Florida. In fact, temperatures in Florida that winter were slightly above average. The current thinking is that severe drought conditions over southeastern Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and northern South America, including the Greater Antilles, coupled with the movement of air parcels across that region, could quite easily have influenced a northward passage towards Canada and, for some it appears, across the Atlantic. A very interesting analysis on these movements was presented in The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Birdcast article published on 12th February 2014 (<http://birdcast.info/forecast/purple-gallinule>).

American Coot *Fulica americana* (0; 3; 1)

Kerry One: One, Lough Gill, 5th November to 7th December, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*).

The fourth record and the fourth different county to host one, following records from Cork (1981), Mayo (2011) and Galway (2013).

Crane *Grus grus* (29; 160; 4)

Cork One: One, between Ballydehob and Skibbereen, 15th December (P.Wolstenholme).

Dublin Two: Up to two, Baldongan, North Bull Island, Lusk, Donabate and Rogerstown, 12th to 20th December, photographed (J.English *et al.*).

Westmeath One: One, between Athlone and Moate, 11th February (N.T.Keogh).

Wicklow Zero: Adult, Newcastle and Kilcoole, from 23rd November 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 80) remained to 22nd March, and, presumed same, Redcross, 17th April (P.Kelly).

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedipnemos* (15; 12; 0)

2011 Galway One: One, Loughaunbeg, Inveran, 18th August (A.Ó'Donail).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (13; 42; 2)

Clare One: One, Doonbeg, 23rd August (G.Fennessy).

Cork Zero: Male, Clogheen Marsh and White's Marsh, 30th to 31st May, photographed (R.Cronin *et al.*), previously seen in Offaly.

Offaly One: Male, Finnermore Lake, Lough Boora Parklands, 28th May (J.M.Murphy *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 74: 30, subsequently seen in Cork.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (36; 119; 1)

Wexford One: Second calendar-year, Lady's Island Lake, 27th June, photographed (T.Murray *et al.*).

See Appendix 5 for corrections and clarifications of the statistics.

American Golden Plover

Pluvialis dominica (1; 264; 10)

Cork One: Juvenile, Ring Strand, Ballymacoda, 4th October (D.O'Sullivan).

Donegal One: One, Tory Island, 27th September (J.Adamson, C.Ingram, R.Sheppard).

Galway One: Juvenile, Aillebrack, Slyne Head, 21st October to 3rd November, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Kerry Two: One, Carrahane Strand, 12th September (G.Walker); One, Ferriter's Cove, 14th to 19th September (I.Jones *et al.*).

Mayo Three: Adult summer, Inishkeas, 24th June (D.Suddaby); Adult, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 1st July, photographed (D.Suddaby); Juvenile, Corragan Lough, 3rd October (J.Donaldson).

Wexford Two: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 1st June (P.Kelly); One, Tacumshin Lake, 28th September, photographed (P.Kelly).

1978 Mayo One: Adult, Termoncarragh Lake, 24th September (*Irish Birds* 1: 426), previously considered indeterminate Lesser Golden Plover.

1971 Cork One: Adult, Ballycotton, 10th to 18th September (*IBR* 19: 35), previously considered indeterminate Lesser Golden Plover.

1971 Kerry One: Adult, Akeragh Lough, 25th May (*IBR* 19: 34), previously considered indeterminate Lesser Golden Plover.

1966 Roscommon One: Juvenile, Keenagh Turlough, near Mount Talbot, 15th to 16th October (*IBR* 14: 29), previously considered indeterminate Lesser Golden Plover.

1963 Kerry One: Adult, Akeragh Lough, 15th to 22nd September (*IBR* 11: 17), previously considered indeterminate Lesser Golden Plover.

The lowest number recorded since 2005. For the results of a review by the IRBC of 20th century records of Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica dominica/fulva* see *Irish Birds* 10: 266-267.

American/Pacific Golden Plover

Pluvialis dominica/fulva (0; 23; 0)

The following records, previously considered indeterminate American/Pacific Golden Plover are now considered acceptable as American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* after review:

1978 Mayo Minus one: Adult, Termoncarragh Lake, 24th September (*Irish Birds* 1: 426).

1971 Cork Minus one: Adult, Ballycotton, 10th to 18th September (*IBR* 19: 35).

1971 Kerry Minus one: Adult, Akeragh Lough, 25th May (*IBR* 19: 34).

1966 Roscommon Minus one: Juvenile, Keenagh Turlough, near Mount Talbot, 15th to 16th October (*IBR* 14: 29).

1963 Kerry Minus one: Adult, Akeragh Lough, 15th to 22nd September (*IBR* 11: 17).

The following records are still considered indeterminate after review:

1983 Cork Zero: Adult, Ballycotton, 22nd to 23rd July (*Irish Birds* 2: 557).

1983 Galway Zero: One, Rahasane Turlough, 23rd August (*Irish Birds* 3: 111) and one, Rahasane Turlough, 15th to 29th September (*Irish Birds* 2: 557) should be treated as follows – Adult, Rahasane Turlough, 23rd August to 7th September (P.Buckley) and, presumed same, Rahasane Turlough, 15th to 29th September (M.Donohue *et al.*); Juvenile, Rahasane Turlough, 7th September (P.Buckley).

1978 Wexford Zero: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 25th to 27th September (*Irish Birds* 1: 426).

1971 Dublin Zero: Adult, North Bull Island, 10th October (*IBR* 19: 35).

1970 Cork Zero: One, Barley Cove, 19th to 21st August (*IBR* 18: 29).

1969 Kerry Zero: Adult, Ballinrannig Marsh, near Ballyferriter, 25th June (*IBR* 17: 34); One, Cooltraw, near Akeragh Lough and Carrahane Strand, 13th to 27th September (*IBR* 17: 34).

1966 Cork Zero: Adult, Lissagriffin, 7th to 21st September (*IBR* 14: 29); One, Shanagarry, 18th September (*IBR* 14: 29); Adult, Douglas Estuary, 30th September to 8th October (*IBR* 14: 29).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

(0; 13; 0)

1999 Galway Zero: Adult, Inishbofin, 9th September (*Irish Birds* 6: 553), still considered acceptable after review.**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

(0; 130; 8)

Cork One: Adult, Ring Strand, Ballymacoda, 15th May (D.O'Sullivan).**Waterford** One: Adult, Annewstown, 23rd May, photographed (D.Clarke).**Wexford** Six: Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 24th July to 1st August, photographed (M.McLoughlin *et al.*); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 26th July to 7th August, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); Juvenile, Lady's Island Lake, 15th to 17th August, photographed (P.Kelly); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 31st August to 13th September, photographed (P.Kelly, M.McLoughlin, K.Mullarney *et al.*); Juvenile, North Slob NNR, 2nd September (A.Walsh); Juvenile, Ring Marsh, 12th September, photographed (P.Kelly).**1999 Waterford** One: Adult female, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 1st May (C.Flynn *et al.*).**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus* (146; 157; 4)**Clare** One: Juvenile, Loop Head, 4th October, photographed (T.Mee, T.Tarpey *et al.*).**Wexford** One: Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 19th to 21st October, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*).**Wicklow** Two: Juvenile, Mullaghcleevaun Mountain, 22nd September(F.Ryan); Juvenile, Maulin Mountain, 2nd to 8th October, photographed (P.Hogan *et al.*).

See Appendix 5 for corrections and clarifications of the statistics.

Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*

(0; 3; 0)

1960 At sea Zero: One, 105 nautical miles west-southwest of Fastnet Rock, Cork, 24th August, photographed (S.E.Chapman) (Chapman 1961).This individual was first noticed early on the morning of 24th August 1960 on board the S.S. *Birmingham City* while it was east-bound in the Atlantic. It remained on board or close by the ship until 15:10, when it was observed to fly against the side of the ship and fall back in to the water, not to be seen again. By this time the *Birmingham City* was 105 nautical miles west-southwest of Fastnet Rock. At sea records are not included in the species totals.**Stilt Sandpiper** *Calidris himantopus* (0; 15; 1)**Dublin** Zero: Adult, Swords Estuary, 4th to 7th September (N.Griffin, P.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 75: 29. Same individual as seen before and after these dates in Wexford, see next record.**Wexford** One: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 2nd September, Ring Marsh, 3rd September, Lady's Island Lake, 10th September, and Rosslare Back Strand, 12th to 13th September, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*). Same individual reported in Dublin also, see previous record.**Plate 115.** Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, Maulin Mountain, Co. Wicklow, October 2014 (R.H. Coombes).

This bird covered a lot of ground while in Ireland. Initially identified in flight as it departed Tacumshin Lake in the company of a party of Ruff *Calidris pugnax*, it was relocated the following evening at Ring Marsh, loosely associating with a small number of Redshank *Tringa totanus*. It could not be found in Wexford the following day, but amazingly, the same bird (recognisable individually on plumage detail) was discovered that afternoon at Swords Estuary, Co. Dublin, where it attracted a lot of interest during its four-day stay. Wexford birders had another chance to catch up with this bird when it was relocated at Lady's Island Lake on 10th September and, after another short absence, reappeared at Rosslare Back Strand from 12th to 13th September. The same bird was subsequently claimed in France, at Joué-sur-Orde, Loire Atlantique, from 25th September to 4th October (yet to be accepted by the French Rarity Committee). There is precedence for a Stilt Sandpiper observed in Wexford relocating outside the country. An adult summer bird at The Cull on 23rd and 24rd June 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 469) was later observed at Loch of Strathbeg, Aberdeenshire in Scotland (Hudson *et al.* 2010) the following month, just over 400 miles distant.

There are five previous records of the species in Wexford (1983, 1988, 1989, 2000 & 2009) but this is the first to be recorded in Dublin. Wicklow birders were understandably a little peeved by the near certainty that this bird must have passed through that county twice, undetected!

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* (1; 41; 1)

Dublin One: Adult, Sandymount, 5th July, photographed (H.Delaney *et al.*).

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (0; 148; 1)

Mayo One: Juvenile, Cross Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 26th to 27th September, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*).

The lowest number recorded since 2002.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis (0; 325; 2)

Cork One: Adult, Pilmore Strand, 17th August (D.O'Sullivan).

Wexford One: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 9th to 10th July, photographed (C.Cardiff, T.Cardiff *et al.*).

2000 Cork One: Juvenile, Pilmore Strand, 11th October (P.Smiddy).

The lowest number recorded since 1998.

Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus (3; 44; 2)

Kerry One: Adult, Great Skellig, 20th June, photographed (K.Collins).

Mayo One: Juvenile, found dead, Achill Island, 2nd October, photographed (J.Donaldson).

Since 2013, the IRBC only considers records of this species outside the breeding season (see *Irish Birds* 10: 84).



Plate 116. Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*, Cross Lough, Co. Mayo, September 2014 (Dermot Breen).

According to Cramp and Simmons (1983) the breeding season begins in late May and lasts to the end of July, with adult females departing from the end of June and males by the end of July. Consequently, records between May and July inclusive are regarded as potentially breeding and the totals above exclude birds observed in breeding habitat in these months. An analysis of historical records shows almost all records from late May to the end of July were of birds in potential breeding habitat. The only exceptions, apart from the Kerry record above, are of one flying south past Bridges of Ross in June 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 92) and one 10 km off Annagh Head in July 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 592) – these are treated as migrant birds and are included in the totals.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (0; 7; 0)

2009 Kerry One: One, Barrow Harbour, 10th to 14th September (J.Adamson *et al.*).

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

(1; 44; 0)

2012 Kerry One: One, Ross Castle, Killarney, 23rd to 25th October (W.Wagstaff *et al.*).

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (0; 5; 1)

Wexford One: Juvenile, Duncormick, Rathangan and The Cull, 6th to 14th October (J.Lambert, M.Maddock *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 76: 27.

Over twenty years ago, Matti Maddock constructed a pond in his garden with the express wish of attracting a Solitary Sandpiper some day. On the afternoon of 6th October 2014 he noticed a sandpiper in the corner of the pool but viewed directly against the glare of the sun it was impossible to discern detail. The bird's shape (and the fact that it hadn't flown off as he approached) made him suspicious that this was the bird he had been waiting for! However, as he cautiously manoeuvred into a better position the bird



Plate 117. White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*, with Dunlin *Calidris alpina*, Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, July 2014 (Paul Kelly).

disappeared silently without him noticing, thereby depriving him an opportunity to check the all-important rump and tail. He was confident it would return, but before it did he received a phone call from his friend and neighbour to tell him there was a surprisingly confiding sandpiper on his newly-constructed pool, and he had managed to obtain some photographs of it... the rest, as they say, is history, but the story demonstrates two things; good things come to those who wait, but in the right circumstances some people do not have to wait as long as others! This long-anticipated first for Wexford delighted many visitors but proved to be far from easy to connect with for some as it utilised a series of little-known pools, creeks and marshes in the vicinity of the original sightings.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (0; 146; 6)

Clare One: Juvenile, Moyasta, 27th to 31st October, photographed (V.Caschera, J.F.Dowdall, D.O'Mahony *et al.*).

Cork One: Juvenile, The Gearagh, 2nd to 5th October (A.Duggan *et al.*).

Donegal One: Juvenile, Blanket Nook, 6th to 19th September (D.Brennan, B.Robson *et al.*).

Dublin One: Juvenile, Rogerstown Estuary, 1st October to 30th December (R.Vaughan *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 271: 20.

Offaly Two: Two juveniles, Derrinlough, 9th September, photographed (P.Brennan).

The one bright spot for Nearctic waders in 2014, although six is no higher than the average for the previous decade. This is the second time Offaly has recorded Lesser Yellowlegs, following one at Shannon Harbour in December 1996 (*Irish Birds* 6: 297), and two together at an inland location is notable.

Long-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus scolopaceus (2; 121; 1)

Offaly One: Adult summer, Boora Lake, Lough Boora Parklands, 18th to 25th August, photographed (P.Brennan *et al.*).

Both 2013 and 2014 have recorded just a single bird each, the joint lowest number since 2000.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* (1; 20; 1)

Cork One: Adult, Lough Aderry, Ballybutler Lake and Ballyhonock Lake, 4th to 13th May, photographed (D.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

This is the first record since one at Kilcolman NNR, Cork in 2008.

White-winged Black Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus (9; 91; 3)

Donegal Two: Two, Tory Island, 15th May, photographed (A.Meenan).

Limerick One: Juvenile, Coonagh, 31st August to 2nd September (T.Tarpey), photograph *Birdwatch* 268: 16.

1994 Waterford One: Adult, Ballinclamper, Clonea, 9th September (C.Flynn *et al.*).



Plate 118. Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*, Rathangan, Duncormick, Co. Wexford, October 2014 (Killian Mullarney).

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (0; 38; 1)

Dublin Zero: Adult winter, Rogerstown Estuary, 15th to 30th October (Sh.Farrell *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 271: 15, presumed returning.

Galway Zero: Adult winter, Nimmo's Pier, 16th February to 11th April, photographed (J.F.Dowdall, A.G.Kelly *et al.*), presumed returning; Adult winter, Galway Bay, 23rd November to 20th December, photographed (C.Peppiatt *et al.*), presumed returning.

Louth Zero: Adult winter, Dundalk, 14th to 28th September, photographed (D.Hodgers, G.O'Neill *et al.*), presumed returning.

Mayo One: First-winter, Elly Strand, Mullet Peninsula, 16th January to 23rd February, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

2007 Kerry One: Adult winter, Blennerville, 24th September (E.Carty).

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* (7; 10; 2)

Kerry One: Juvenile, Cromane, 30th to 31st January, photographed (S.Enright *et al.*).

Wexford One: Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 8th to 24th January (T.Murray *et al.*), photographs *Birdwatch* 261: 15, *Wings* 73: 28.

Winter storms washed the corpse of a Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* into Tacumshin Lake, which no doubt enticed the Ivory Gull to that site. It remained faithful to the

area for some time allowing many to catch up with stunning views of this highly sought after species; an unusual, but welcome, addition to the Tacumshin Lake site list.

Bonaparte's Gull

Chroicocephalus philadelphia (1; 71; 4)

Kerry One: Adult, Dingle, 23rd April (D.Farrar).

Waterford One: Adult winter, Tramore, 2nd November, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*).

Wexford Two: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 8th to 13th May, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*); Different adult, Tacumshin Lake, 11th May, photographed (T.Kilbane *et al.*).

2004 Waterford One: Adult, Shandon, Dungarvan, 24th April, photographed (C.Flynn *et al.*).

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* (0; 18; 4)

Cork One: Adult winter, Kinsale, 9th February to 9th March (B.Power *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 262: 10.

Dublin One: Adult winter, North Bull Island and Poolbeg, 15th January to 27th February (N.T.Keogh, R.Whelan *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 73: 28.



Plate 119. Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*, Cromane, Co. Kerry, January 2014 (Seamus Enright).



Plate 120. Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*, Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, January 2014 (Tom Shevlin).



Plate 121. Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*, Kinsale, Co. Cork, February 2014 (Leon van der Noll).



Plate 122. Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*, North Bull Island, Co. Dublin, January 2014 (Victor Caschera).

Galway One: Adult winter, Salthill, 4th January, photographed (A.O'Dónaill *et al.*).

Wexford One: Adult winter, Lady's Island Lake, 20th February, photographed (T.Murray *et al.*).

These are the first since 2005, and represent the best year on record exceeding by one the totals in both 1981 and 1983.

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (0; 42; 1)

Cork One: First-winter, Ballycotton, 18th January to 16th March (O.Foley, N.Gleeson *et al.*), photographs *Birdwatch* 262: 14, *Wings* 73: 27, and, presumed same, as second calendar-year, Ballycotton, 27th June to 28th December (D.O.Sullivan *et al.*), photographs *Birdwatch* 268: 16, *Wings* 75: 29.

This is the first record since one on the Mullet Peninsula, Mayo in 2008.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (0; 17; 0)

2006 Down Zero: First-winter, Dundrum Inner Bay South, 28th to 29th January (*Irish Birds* 8: 403) – finders should read (D.Charles, W.Farrelly).



Plate 123. Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*, Ballycotton, Co. Cork, January 2014 (David O'Connor).

Atlantic Gull *Larus michahellis atlantis*

(0; 12; 2)

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

Kerry One: 4th calendar-year, 21st to 25th October, Dingle, photographed (R.Moore *et al.*).

Wexford One: Adult, Wexford Harbour, 17th to 27th January (C.Foley, D.Foley *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 261: 15.

2013 Cork One: Third-winter, Rosscarbery, 29th October, photographed (B.Richards).

American Herring Gull

Larus smithsonianus (0; 92; 4)

Cork One: Second calendar-year, Baltimore, 17th February (J.Wyllie).

Donegal One: First-winter, Killybegs, 20th December (O.Foley, R.Vaughan).

Kerry One: Second-winter, Portmagee, 9th to 25th March (P.Connaughton *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 263: 15.

Mayo One: First-winter, Carrowmore Lake, 17th February to 23rd March, photographed (C.Foley, D.Foley *et al.*).

2010 Kerry Zero: Second calendar-year, Blennerville, 11th July to 1st October (*Irish Birds* 9: 301) was present until 2nd October (E.Carty).

Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* (0; 0; 1)

Galway One: Fourth-winter, Waterside, Galway City, 8th February (T.Cuffe) (Cuffe 2014), photograph *Wings* 73: 27.

This is a first for Ireland and only the fourth Western Palearctic record, following birds in Lithuania in 2008 (and presumed same individual the following year in neighbouring Latvia), Finland in 2012 and Belarus in 2012. In addition, there are pending records from Britain (2011) and Iceland (2012). This large and stocky dark-backed gull is largely sedentary in parts of extreme northeastern Asia with some post-breeding dispersal west to the Bering Sea and south to the Sea of Japan and occasionally further south along the Chinese coast and to Taiwan. As a vagrant, it has reached North America on both west and east coasts and was added to the Western Palearctic list after a near-adult bird was observed at Klaipeda Rubbish Tip, Lithuania in November 2008.

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*

(0; 213; 84)

Clare Five: First-winter, Lahinch, 9th to 19th January, photographed (J.Copner *et al.*); First-winter, Quilty, 28th January, photographed (D.Farrar); Third-winter, Carrigaholt, 13th March, photographed (C.Cronin); First-winter and adult, Kilkee, 14th March (C.Cronin).

Cork Twelve: Adult, Ballycotton, 24th January, photographed (D.A.O'Connor); First-winter, Kinsale, 25th January to 22nd February, photographed (J.Diggin *et al.*); First-winter, Ballycotton, 1st February to 13th March, photographed (O.Foley *et al.*); First-winter, Long Strand and Kilkerran Lake, 7th February to 16th March (C.Barton); Two first-winters, Courtmacsherry, 8th February (J.Diggin); First-winter, Old Head of Kinsale, 11th February (R.O'Driscoll); First-winter, Castletownbere, 16th February, photographed (H.Hussey, D.O'Sullivan,



Plate 124. Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*, Poolbeg, Co. Dublin, February 2014 (Aidan G. Kelly).

M.Shorten); One, Timoleague, 18th March (P.Wolstenholme); Two first-winters, Ballycotton, 22nd March (R.McLaughlin); First-winter, Ring, Clonakilty, 23rd March to 13th April (M.O'Keefe).

Donegal Seventeen: Fourteen at Killybegs as follows: Adult, 3rd to 29th January (D.Charles); Another adult, 29th January (J.N.Murphy); Three first-winters, one second-winter and one adult, 8th to 22nd February, photographed (D.Charles *et al.*); One first-winter, two second-winters and an adult, in addition to those seen on 8th February, 9th to 22nd February, photographed (B.Robson *et al.*); Third-winter, 9th to 15th February (B.Robson *et al.*); Returning adult, 15th to 22nd February, photographed (D.Charles *et al.*); First-winter and second-winter, 22nd February, photographed (D.Charles *et al.*); Three at locations other than Killybegs, as follows: First-winter, St.John's Point, 9th February (M.Callaghan, D.Charles); First-winter, Malin Head, 21st February (R.McLaughlin); Second-winter, Greencastle, 31st December (R.McLaughlin).

Dublin One: Adult, Poolbeg, 2nd to 9th February, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*).

Galway Six: Second-winter, Nimmo's Pier and Rossaveal, from 22nd October 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 87) remained to 8th March; Adult, Rossaveal, 21st February, photographed (D.Breen); Second-winter, Nimmo's Pier, 26th February (T.Cuffe); Up to two first-winters, Ross Beach, 23rd to 25th February, photographed (D.Breen); Two first-winters, Ballynahown, 8th March (D.Breen).

Kerry Twenty-four: First-winter, Reenroe and Annascaul, 4th to 13th January, photographed (M.O'Clery); Adult, Inch Strand, 11th to 14th January, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*); Adult, Rossbeigh, 15th January (M.O'Clery *et al.*); First-winter, Rossbeigh, 15th January to 16th February, photographed (S.Enright *et al.*); First-winter, Dingle, 17th January to 12th March, photographed (M.O'Keefe *et al.*); First-winter, Inch Strand, 19th to 22nd January, photographed (M.O'Clery); First-winter, Inch Strand and Rossbeigh, 20th to 30th January, photographed

(M.O'Clery); First-winter, Reenard, 21st January, photographed (D.Farrar); Another first-winter, Dingle, 22nd January to 13th March, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*); Adult, The Cashen, 27th January, photographed (D.Farrar); First-winter, Black Rock Strand, 30th January, photographed (D.A.O'Connor); First-winter, Blennerville, 3rd February (E.Carty); First-winter, Kilmoyley, 5th February, photographed (D.A.O'Connor); Second-winter, Dingle Harbour, 9th February, photographed (S.Enright); First-winter, Lehid Harbour, Kenmare, 9th to 23rd February, photographed (F.Moore *et al.*); First-winter, Kells, 15th February (M.O'Clery); Second-winter and two first-winters, Inny Estuary, Iveragh, 17th February, photographed (R.Bonser); First-winter, Waterville, 17th February, photographed (R.Bonser); Adult, Dingle Harbour, 18th February, photographed (R.Bonser); Adult, Reenard Point, 20th to 23rd February (P.McDaid); First-winter, Fertha Estuary, Cahersveen, 15th March (M.O'Clery); First-winter, Black Rock Strand, 21st March (D.A.O'Connor).

Louth One: Second-winter, Cruisetown, 2nd February, photographed (P.Kelly).

Mayo Nine: First-winter, Keel, Achill Island, 18th January, photographed (T.Jones, O.Metcalf); First-winter, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 28th to 30th January (D.Suddaby); First-winter, Belderra, Mullet Peninsula, 6th to 28th February, photographed (M.Reilly *et al.*); Another first-winter, Belderra, Mullet Peninsula, 7th to 28th February, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*); First-winter, Falmore, Mullet Peninsula, 10th to 17th February (D.Suddaby *et al.*); Adult, Cross, Mullet Peninsula, 14th February, photographed (D.Suddaby); First-winter, Annagh, Mullet Peninsula, 18th February (D.Suddaby); First-winter, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 19th February to 18th March, photographed (D.Suddaby); First-winter, Belderra, Mullet Peninsula, 28th February (D.Suddaby).

Sligo Two: Third-winter, Enniscrone, 25th to 26th January, photographed (S.Feeney); First-winter, Enniscrone, 26th January, photographed (S.Feeney).

Waterford Three: Adult, Helvick Head, 19th January to 2nd February (R.Zamora); First-winter, Helvick Head, 20th January (R.Zamora); Adult, Ballyvooney Cove, 2nd March (D.O'Sullivan).

Wexford Four: First-winter, Kilmore Quay, from 29th December 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 87) remained to 12th January; First-winter, Wexford Harbour, 18th January, photographed (P.Kelly, K.Mullarney *et al.*); First-winter, Carne Beach and Carnsore Point, 2nd February to 24th March, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*); First-winter, Rosslare Back Strand, 8th February (P.Kelly); First-winter, Kilmore Quay, 23rd February, photographed (P.Kelly).

An amazing year, more than doubling the previous record of 37 set in 2012.

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* (55; 24; 2)

Clare One: Male, Black Head, 5th June, photographed (M.Lewis).

Monaghan One: One, Sliabh Beagh, Knocktallon, 28th February to 25th March, photographed (J.Moyna *et al.*).

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (7; 71; 0)

1829 Cork Zero: One obtained, about 15 km off Cape Clear Island about midsummer 1829 (Ussher & Warren 1900).

The date of occurrence of the first Alpine Swift recorded in Cork (and in Ireland) requires explanation. Harvey (1845)

gave the year as 1838. However, Thompson (1849), although referring to it, omitted mention of the year of the Cork record, possibly because it occurred offshore, rather than on land. Ussher and Warren (1900) gave more details of this record than previous authors, and gave the date and year as about midsummer 1829. No author has given an explanation of why the dates differ. However, since Thompson (1849) and subsequent authors, notably Ussher and Warren (1900), refer to the Cork record as the first for Ireland, then it must have been before 1833, the year the second one was obtained in Dublin. This account is based on research provided to the committee by Pat Smiddy.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* (0; 2; 0)

2002 Wexford One: One, Great Saltee Island, 16th May (M.Smyth). Only the second record for Ireland, almost 35 years after the first in 1967 (*IBR* 15: 36). The untimely passing of the sole observer, Martyn Smith, precluded a proper submission, but his field notes were made available to the IRBC recently. Understandably, these were sparser in detail than a full submission but the committee was happy that the identification was established on the evidence provided. It is worth noting that a Little Swift was photographed the following day on the Isles of Scilly (*Birding World* 15: 184) and while it is tempting to speculate that this was the Saltee bird moving south there is obviously no way of proving this. The most that can be said is that at least conditions were conducive to the arrival of the species.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (21; 39; 2)

Cork One: One, Dursey Island, 19th April (D.Cooke *et al.*).

Kerry One: One, Tralee, 23rd May (E.Carty).

Roller *Coracias garrulus* (12; 7; 1)

Cork One: Juvenile, Manch, Dunmanway, 16th November (J.Quinn), photograph *Wings* 76: 26.

A real surprise for one lucky birder who noticed this bird perched on a wire at the side of the R586 Dunmanway to Bandon road. Yet another short-staying single observer record for this species. Only one record in Ireland remained more than a day – one in Castledeger, Tyrone from 11th to 24th July 1976 (*Irish Birds* 1: 88).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (9; 291; 18)

At sea Zero: One, Porcupine Seabight, 4th September, photographed (L.Kavanagh).

Clare One: One, Loop Head, 14th September, photographed (N.Keogh *et al.*).

Cork Seven: One, Mizen Head, 29th August (D.Ballard, C.O'Sullivan); One, Mizen Head, 5th to 6th September (D.Ballard, P.Connoughton *et al.*); One, Cape Clear Island, 9th to 10th September (R.H.Coombes); One, Cape Clear Island, 12th to 13th September (R.H.Coombes); One,

Galley Head, 13th September (C.Barton); One, Mizen Head, 19th September (C.Foley); One, Galley Head, 20th September (C.Cronin *et al.*).

Donegal One: One, Tory Island, 19th September (J.F.Dowdall).

Kerry One: One, Great Blasket Island, 21st September (J.McDonnell).

Mayo One: One, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 21st September (D.Suddaby).

Waterford Two: One, Brownstown Head, 11th September, photographed (M.Cowming); One, Clonea, found dead, 12th or 13th September, photographed (M.Kennedy).

Wexford Five: One, Great Saltee Island, 6th September (L.Benson, K.Grace, T.Shevlin); Two, Great Saltee Island, 13th to 14th September, photographed (K.Grace, A.A.K.Lancaster, A.Walsh *et al.*); One, Carne Beach, 18th to 28th September, photographed (T.Moore *et al.*); One, Great Saltee Island, 20th September (J.E.Fitzharris, K.Grace, T.Shevlin *et al.*).

The 'at sea' record on the Porcupine Seabight landed on board a survey vessel.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (14; 320; 9)

Cork One: One, Glengarriff, 1st July (P.Farrelly).

Dublin One: One, Balbriggan, 9th May (C.McNamee).

Monaghan One: One, Rossmore Forest Park, 1st July (J.McGuirk).

Waterford One: One, Tramore Back Strand, 28th July (A.Jacques).

Wexford Four: One, Oldtown, Tomhaggard, 24th May (K.Grace); First-summer, Tacumshin Lake, 25th to 30th May (N.Keogh, B.Porter *et al.*), presumed same as the individual at Tomhaggard the previous day; One, Tacumshin Lake, 28th May (P.Connaughton), in addition to the bird already present; First-summer, Cahore Marsh, 12th June (J.Adamson, Sh.Farrell); One, Tacumshin Lake, 3rd to 9th August (R.Busby *et al.*).

Wicklow One: One, Five Mile Point, 5th July (M.Boyle).

2012 Cork One: One, Inishannon, 25th January and 20th February (C.Cronin *et al.*).

These nine records are in contrast to the high numbers of recent years; 31 in 2013, 34 (including the Inishannon record above) in 2012, 27 in 2011 and the all-time-record of 45 in 2010. Autumn passage for Western Palearctic Hobbies generally begins around late August, when birds depart breeding grounds for their African winter quarters. Returning birds normally arrive in northern Europe by late May where it is one of the latest summer migrants (Snow & Perrins 1998). Western Palearctic winter records are very rare (Snow & Perrins 1998) making the 2012 Cork individual exceptional. It is the first Irish Hobby to be recorded between 14th November and 9th April and its presence is a puzzle, especially as it remained for almost three weeks. One clue that might shed light on its stay is that mean temperatures recorded at nearby Cork Airport during January and February 2012 were almost 2° higher than the mean temperature for both those months at the airport between 1981 and 2010 (<http://www.met.ie/climate/monthly-data.asp?Num=3904>).

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (87; 39; 0)

Kerry Zero: Juvenile white morph, Fenit, 18th January, photographed (L.Doyle), presumed same individual as previously seen at Ferriter's

Cove and Dunquin during November 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 90).

2012 Kerry One: White morph, Kerries, Blennerville, 27th November (D.A.O'Connor).

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (0; 58; 3)

Clare One: One, Loop Head, 27th September, photographed (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Cork One: One, Firkeel, 28th to 29th September, photographed (A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*).

Mayo One: One, Achill Island, 3rd October (M.O'Brian), photograph *Wings* 75: 29.

In a very poor year for Nearctic species, it is amazing that three Red-eyed Vireos made it across the Atlantic. They seem to be able to make it here under any conditions!

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* (7; 173; 3)

Donegal One: Juvenile, Tory Island, 13th September (D.Charles).

Mayo One: Juvenile, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 28th September to 1st October, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Wexford One: Female, Great Saltee Island, 31st May, photographed (L.Benson, T.Shevlin, A.Walsh *et al.*).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

(32; 16; 0)

1834 Cork Zero: One obtained, near Cork city, undated (Harvey 1845).

There is disagreement in the literature over the year of the first record for Cork. Thompson (1849) gave the year as 1824, but he noted that Harvey (1845) had published a different one (1834). It is known that Harvey was a correspondent of Thompson, therefore, presumably the latter (Thompson) based his year on a communication from the former (Harvey). Communications would most likely be by hand-written notes, so it is easy to understand how Harvey might have written '1824' for '1834' when communicating with Thompson. There is no evidence that Harvey was making a correction (if he was, then Thompson would surely have been aware of it). Later authors have followed Thompson and have given the year as 1824, and there has been no further comment or speculation on the different date published by Thompson. However, the record should be accepted as 1834 on the basis of priority, and in the absence of a specific mention of a correction being made. This account is based on research provided to the committee by Pat Smiddy.

Lesser/Great Grey Shrike

Lanius minor/excubitor (0; 1; 0)

1966 Cork One: One, Cloyne, 12th December (C.Longfield).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus* (0; 120; 3)

Wexford Three: The group of up to 30 at Tacumshin Lake, from 3rd July 2011 (*Irish Birds* 9: 478, 598; 10: 93) remained to at least 17th October (K.Grace *et al.*); The group of up to 22 at Ring Marsh, from



Plate 125. Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*, Truska, Co. Galway, September 2014 (Dermot Breen).

19th February 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 598; 10: 93) remained to 12th April; Twelve, including males and females, South Slob, 15th November, photographed (P.Kelly), presumed to include the group of ten that had been present in November 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 93); Up to six, including males and females, Cahore Marsh, 16th November to 6th December, photographed (T.Kilbane *et al.*), five of these presumed present since April 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 93).

2013 Wexford Three: The group of up to 27 at Tacumshin Lake, from 3rd July 2011 (*Irish Birds* 9: 478, 598; 10: 93) remained throughout the year, with a peak count of 30 on 19th October (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Short-toed Lark

Calandrella brachydactyla (1; 76; 1)

Galway One: One, Truska, 23rd September, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

2009 Kerry One: One, Carrahane Strand, 14th May (D.A.O'Connor). This is the first record for Kerry.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

(0; 49; 1)

Cork One: One, Owenahincha, 10th April (C.Cronin).

2013 Dublin One: Adult, Dun Laoghaire, 30th April (R.Busby).

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

(0; 39; 1)

Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 10th September (R.H.Coombes).

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (0; 10; 0)

2013 Cork One: One, Dursley Island, 13th September, photographed (D.A.Scott *et al.*).

This is a very rare bird for Ireland in contrast to Britain where it averages about eight per year and a grand total of 350 overall (Hudson *et al.* 2014). The IRBC undertook a review of Arctic Warbler records up to 1986 and found that two of the eight records were no longer acceptable (Mullarney 1988). Since then there have been four; on Bloody Foreland, Donegal in late September 2003, on Cape Clear Island, Cork in October 2009, on the Beara Peninsula, Cork in early September 2010 and the above.

Siberian Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita tristis (2; 38; 1)

Wexford One: One, Rosslare, 10th to 11th January, photographed (H.Delaney, P.Kelly *et al.*).

2013 Cork One: One, Middleton, 4th to 9th February, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*).

2013 Wexford One: One, Kilmore Quay, 13th December to 11th January 2014, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*).

2012 Galway One: One, Inishbofin, 20th December to 3rd January 2013, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

2010 Cork One: One, Firkeel, 15th to 23rd October (K.Grace *et al.*).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (6; 184; 13)

Cork Three: One, Cape Clear Island, 9th October (E.O'Donnell); One, Garinish, 29th October (A.A.K.Lancaster); One, Dursley Island, 30th October (A.A.K.Lancaster).

Donegal Two: One, Tory Island, 14th to 22nd September (D.Charles); One, Tory Island, 20th September (J.F.Dowdall).

Galway One: One, Inishbofin, 7th October (E.A.MacLochlainn, F.O'Connell, J.A.Power *et al.*).

Kerry One: One, Dunquin, 19th September (I.Jones).

Mayo One: One, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 21st to 25th September, photographed (D.Suddaby).

Wexford Five: Juvenile, Hook Head, 31st August (K.Grace); One, Churchtown, 28th September (K.Grace); One, Hook Head, 6th October (B.Haslam); First-winter, Hook Head, 1st November (K.Grace, A.A.K.Lancaster); One, Clones Lower, 7th to 9th November (M.O'Donnell *et al.*).

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (2; 50; 1)

Wexford One: First-winter female, Churchtown, 11th November, photographed (K.Mullarney).

Note that the statistics exclude the next taxon.

Eastern Subalpine Warbler

Sylvia cantillans albistriata (0; 1; 0)

2007 Mayo One: Male, in song, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 3rd May, photographed (R.H.Coombes *et al.*).

This is the first Irish record of the southeastern European form of Subalpine Warbler. The finder had completed an early morning square as part of the Countryside Bird Survey and



Plate 126. Eastern Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans albistriata*, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo, May 2007 (R.H. Coombes).

was preparing breakfast when he heard an unfamiliar song outside. Grabbing his bins he went to investigate thinking it might be a *Hippolais* warbler but soon discovered a Subalpine Warbler. A phone call alerted a nearby birder and both were able to get very good views and some photographs were taken. They discussed the possibility that it was one of the eastern races and subsequent investigation showed this to be the case.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* (0; 2; 1)

Cork One: Male, Dursley Island, 20th April to 14th May (P.Rowe *et al.*), photographs *Birdwatch* 264: 14, *Wings* 74: 29.

This, the third Irish record, was the highlight of the spring for many, especially considering the 21 year wait since the previous two in 1993. All three records have been males in Co. Cork during April and, while the extended stay of this bird, a little under a month, was comfortably the longest stay of this species in Ireland, there is a precedent for Sardinian Warblers staying for extended periods in Britain (Slack 2009, p. 280).

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* (2; 218; 1)

Cork One: One, Mizen Head, 18th September (C.Foley, D.Foley).

This is the first record since 2010. See Appendix 5 for details of corrections to the statistics.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* (2; 200; 3)

Cork Three: One, Mizen Head, 4th September (P.Wolstenholme); One, Dursley Island, 8th September (D.A.Scott *et al.*); One, Cape Clear Island, 20th to 23rd September, photographed (P.Connaughton *et al.*).



Plate 127. Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*, Dursley Island, Co. Cork, April 2014 (Paul Rowe).

Blyth's Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus dumetorum (0; 10; 0)

2012 Cork One: One, Ballinacarraige, West Beara, 8th October (K.Grace, A.A.K.Lancaster).

2012 Waterford One: One, Helvick Head, 15th to 18th October (C.Flynn *et al.*).

2010 Cork Zero: One, Dursley Island, 26th to 27th October (*Irish Birds* 9: 482) should read 26th to 27th September.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* (0; 5; 1)

Cork One: Male in song, Old Head of Kinsale, 9th June, photographed (P.Connaughton, C.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* (41; 102; 4)

Cork Three: Juvenile, Mizen Head, 3rd September (C.Foley); Juvenile, Galley Head, 19th September, photographed (P.Connaughton, C.O'Sullivan); Juvenile, Firkeel and Dursley Island, 29th September to 11th October, photographed (A.A.K.Lancaster, D.Weir).

Galway One: Adult, Inishbofin, 15th to 20th June, photographed (A.McGeehan, T.Murtagh *et al.*).

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (0; 5; 1)

Clare One: One, Loop Head, 4th October, photographed (J.Copner *et al.*).

Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (0; 8; 0)

2013 Cork One: First-winter, Dursey Island, 3rd October, photographed (D.A.Scott *et al.*).

This was a very tired looking individual that was observed on a track in Tillickafinna for about one hour. It is the second Grey-cheeked Thrush for the island following another in 2011 (*Irish Birds* 9: 483). See Yellow-rumped Warbler comments for a full list of Nearctic passerines recorded on Dursey Island.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* (0; 4; 0)

2013 Cork One: One, Dursey Island, 22nd October (K.Grace, A.A.K.Lancaster).

All four Irish records have been on Cork islands. The previous three were on Cape Clear Island (1989, 1990 and 1999).

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* (0; 33; 1)

At sea Zero: One, 40 nautical miles west of Loop Head, Co. Clare, 22nd September, photographed (N.T.Keogh *et al.*).

Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 11th October (S.Enright, M.Hanafin, M.O'Keefe).

2012 Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 6th May (E.O'Donnell).

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* (0; 42; 0)

1995 Cork Zero: Male of the red-spotted race *svecica*, in song, Kilcolman NNR, 6th to 13th April (*Irish Birds* 5: 469) still considered acceptable to subspecies level following review.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* (0; 3; 1)

Mayo One: First-winter, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 28th to 30th October (D.Suddaby *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 76: 26.

This is the fourth record and the first one away from Cork.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* (0; 9; 0)

2012 Cork One: Immature, Firkeel, West Beara, 1st October (K.Grace).

Previously considered a race of Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*,



Plate 128. Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, Co. Mayo, October 2014 (Dermot Breen).

Siberian Stonechat was split as a full polytypic species by the IRBC in 2012 (see www.irbc.ie/announcements/announce6.php). Prior to that, Asian races of Stonechat were recorded in these reports as Eastern Stonechat.

Black-eared/Pied Wheatear

Oenanthe hispanica/pleschanka (0; 1; 0)

1994 Wicklow One: First-year male, Kilcoole, 24th November (D.Keddy, B.Porter).

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava* (0; 63; 6)

Cork Two: Adult, Old Head of Kinsale, 15th October (K.Preston); Male, Ballycotton, 21st to 25th May, photographed (D.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

Donegal One: Male, Tory Island, 26th May, photographed (D.Brennan).

Wexford Three: Male and female, Tacumshin Lake, 20th to 21st June (K.Grace); Male, Tacumshin Lake, 16th August (P.Kelly).

Grey-headed Wagtail

Motacilla flava thunbergi (0; 6; 1)

Kerry One: Male, Ballinskelligs, 30th May, photographed (P.McDaid).

'North-eastern' Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava plexa/tschutschensis (0; 1; 0)

2013 Donegal One: First-winter, Tory Island, 12th to 28th October, photographed and DNA sequenced (V.Caschera, J.F.Dowdall, J.E.Fitzharris *et al.*)

Thanks to DNA analysis, this occurrence can be attributed to one or other of these taxa. The exact taxonomic status of these two taxa is far from certain however, with some, such as the IOC (Gill & Donsker 2015), treating the Eastern and Western forms of Yellow Wagtail as distinct full polytypic species, placing *plexa* in Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* and *tschutschensis* with Eastern Yellow Wagtail *M. tschutschensis*. To date the IRBC have not adopted this split.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (0; 30; 0)

2013 Kerry One: First-winter, Black Rock Strand, 22nd to 24th August, photographed (D.A.O'Connor *et al.*).

2013 Wexford Two: Two first-winters, Tacumshin Lake, 22nd to 26th August, photographed (P.Archer, P.King *et al.*).

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (2; 105; 1)

Cork One: First-winter, Galley Head, 27th December, photographed (C.Cronin *et al.*).



Plate 129. Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*, Ballycotton, Co. Cork, May 2014 (Leon van der Noll).

December records are not without precedent as there have been three previously. One was at Kilcolman NNR, Cork from 1st to 3rd December 1994, another was at Tacumshin Lake, Wexford from 3rd to 10th December 1995 and a long-staying bird was also at Tacumshin Lake from 12th November to 31st December 2007.

Scandinavian Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus littoralis (0; 70; 14)

Cork One: One, Baltimore, 6th to 11th April (J.Wylie).

Donegal One: One, Malin Head, 18th April (R.McLaughlin).

Kerry Two: One, Black Rock Strand, 24th February to 28th April, photographed (D.A.O'Connor); One, Black Rock Strand, 21st March to 16th April, photographed (D.A.O'Connor).

Wexford Ten: One, Kilmore Quay, 27th January to 1st March, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); Three, Great Saltee Island, 22nd to 30th March, photographed (K.Grace, N.Keogh, K.Mullarney *et al.*); Three, Nemestown, Kilmore Quay, 1st April, photographed (K.Mullarney); One, Carne Beach, 3rd April, photographed (K.Mullarney); One, Carnsore Point, 3rd April, photographed (K.Mullarney); One, Great Saltee Island, 19th to 21st April (J.F.Dowdall, B.Porter, T.Shevlin *et al.*).

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* (1; 143; 6)

Kerry Two: One, Carrahane Strand, 2nd December, photographed (D.A.O'Connor); One, Black Rock Strand, 3rd to 23rd December, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*).

Sligo One: One, Ballyconnell Beach, 28th to 30th November, photographed (S.Feeney *et al.*).

Wexford Three: One, Cahore Marsh, 2nd April (R.Vaughan); One, Tacumshin Lake, 5th April (P.Kelly); One, Tacumshin Lake, 29th November to 28th December (P.Kelly *et al.*).

1943 Dublin Minus one: One, North Bull Island, 18th March (Kennedy 1947), now considered not proven following review.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* (0; 21; 0)

2012 Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 21st to 24th September (E.O'Donnell *et al.*).

2011 Wexford One: One, near Carne Harbour, 5th November (K.Grace).

This is the first blank year since 2006. The IRBC undertook a review of both 20th century records (Great Saltee Island in 1951 and Newcastle, Wicklow in 1967) of this species and the Saltee bird was the only one found to be acceptable (Hussey 2014). There were just 15 Western Palearctic records to the end of 1999 (including three 19th century records). Thereafter



Plate 130. Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*, Ballyconnell Beach, Co. Sligo, November 2014 (Declan Skehan).

numbers increased considerably with almost 100 more to the end of 2013 in places as far apart as Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Svalbard, Faroe Islands, Spain, Azores as well as Ireland, Britain and Jersey in the Channel Islands. Buff-bellied Pipit is polytypic and all Irish records to date concern the North American nominate race *rubescens*. A summary of the main differences between *rubescens* and the eastern race *japonicus* is outlined in the 2013 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 10: 97).

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (Unknown; 210; 5)

Donegal One: One, Portnoo, 12th to 15th June, photographed (B.Naughton).

Galway Three: Male, Inishbofin, 26th April, photographed (P.J.King); Female, Inishmore, 2nd to 4th May, photographed (S.Flaherty); A second female, Inishmore, 3rd May, photographed (S.Flaherty).

Limerick One: One, Curragh Chase Forest Park, 30th December (J.Hayes).

Common Rosefinch *Erythrina erythrina* (0; 220; 8)

Cork Three: First-summer male, Cape Clear Island, 30th May to 3rd June (S.Wing); One, Firkeel, 19th September (A.A.K.Lancaster); Juvenile, Cobh, 23rd to 27th November, photographed (R.McLaughlin *et al.*).

Donegal One: One, Tory Island, 14th September (D.Brennan).

Galway Three: Male, Inishbofin, 17th June (A.McGeehan); Up to two juveniles, Inishbofin, 5th to 6th October (J.A.Power, B.Sheridan, B.A.Wheeler *et al.*).

Wexford One: First-summer male, Great Saltee Island, 31st May, photographed (L.Benson, M.McLoughlin, A.Walsh *et al.*).

Mealy Redpoll *Acanthis flammea flammea* (21; 101; 0)

2011 Cork One: One, Garinish, West Beara, 16th October (K.Grace, D.O'Sullivan).

2007 Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 28th October, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

2005 Cork One: One, Dursey Island, 22nd October (K.Grace).

2000 Cork One: One, Dursey Island, 13th October (K.Grace).

The 2007 record on Cape Clear Island is said to have involved a total of three individuals. However, no evidence has been received by the committee to support the occurrence of any other individuals.

Greenland Redpoll

Acanthis flammea rostrata (13; 38; 1)

Donegal One: One, Tory Island, 22nd October, photographed (V.Caschera, J.F.Dowdall, T.Shevlin).

2007 Donegal One: One, Tory Island, 27th October, photographed (J.Adamson).

Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni* (0; 10; 1)

Cork One: Dursey Island, 5th to 10th June (D.Cooke, D.A.Scott, J.E.Scott).

2007 Clare One: One, near Kilcredaun Lighthouse, 29th to 30th October, photographed (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

The 2007 record from Clare is said to have involved a total of four individuals. However, no evidence has been received by the committee to support the occurrence of any other individuals.



Plate 131. Greenland Redpoll *Acanthis flammea rostrata*, Tory Island, Co. Donegal, October 2014 (Tom Shevlin).



Plate 132. Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*, Ballyconneely, Co. Galway, September 2014 (Dermot Breen).



Plate 133. Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*, Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, September 2014 (R.H. Coombes).

Serin *Serinus serinus* (2; 8; 0)

1947 Cork Minus one: One, Fermoy, 3rd to 9th May (Abbott 1947), now considered not proven following review.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* (0; 121; 3)
Cork Two: One, Mizen Head, 4th to 5th September, photographed

(D.Ballard *et al.*); Juvenile, Cape Clear Island, 13th September (R.H.Coombes), photograph *Wings* 75: 28.

Galway One: One, Ballyconeeley, 6th to 7th September, photographed (J.Mazenauer *et al.*).

The second record for Galway following one on Inishbofin in 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 608), making it the first for the Galway mainland.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Setophaga coronata (0; 17; 0)

2012 Cork One: First-winter, Dursey Island, 3rd to 6th October (K.Grace, A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*).

Along with two on Inishmore (*Irish Birds* 9: 608), both on 6th October, this brings the 2012 total to a record three. To date, Dursey Island has produced seven species of Nearctic passerine; two Red-eyed Vireos *Vireo olivaceus* (1990 & 2010), two Grey-cheeked Thrushes *Catbarus minimus* (2011 & 2013) and single records of Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla* (1990), Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* (1989), Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata* (2006), Yellow-rumped Warbler (2012) and Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* (2013), while the Bull Rock, just west of Dursey, has recorded Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (1983). Many of these as well as other Dursey Island rarities are the result of the diligence of one resident and two long-time autumn regulars.

Appendix 1: Category D records

Category D1 records

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

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* (0; 4; 0)

1845 Wicklow Zero: One, near Luggala, shot, November, still considered attributable to Category D1 after review.

Thompson (1849: 373-374) reports that it was on the river between Luggala and Lough Dan, which suggests that it may have been the River Cloghoge.

American Goldfinch *Carduelis tristis* (0; 0; 0)

1894 Mayo Zero: Adult male, Achill Island, 6th September (J.R.Sheridan), still considered attributable to Category D1 after review. (Sheridan 1894).

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

This list includes all records of taxa set out in *Irish Birds* 7: 416-418 (and subsequent updates online at www.irbc.ie/records/desclist.php and www.irbc.ie/records/desclist1.php) which, after circulation to the Irish Rare Birds Committee or the Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association Rarities Committee, as appropriate, were considered to be not proven. Records of birds not attributed to any definite species by the observers are not included, nor are birds considered to have been escapes from captivity.

2014 records not proven

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Third-winter, Tallaght, Dublin, 16th November to 28th December.

Mealy Redpoll *Acanthis flammea flammea*

Male, Ardcaith, Meath, 1st to 2nd April.

Supplemental 2013 records not proven

Continental Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

One, Rosslare Harbour, Wexford, 16th to 17th March.

Macaronesian Shearwater *Puffinus baroli*

One, Porcupine Bight, 9th August.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

One, Blanket Nook, Donegal, 25th August.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Two juveniles, Blanket Nook, Donegal, 29th August to 1st September.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Second-winter, Tallaght, Dublin, 8th December to 18th April 2014.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

Two, Lough Gash, Clare, 5th to 11th February.

Supplemental 2012 records not proven

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

One, Mizen Head, Cork, 26th October.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

One, Trawbreaga Bay, Donegal, 24th November.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelocbelidon nilotica*

Adult, Bloody Foreland, Donegal, 4th August.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

One, Malinbeg, Donegal, 7th to 11th November.

One, North Bull Island, Dublin, 20th November.

Supplemental 2011 record not proven

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

First-year, Carrahane Strand, Kerry, 8th September.

Supplemental 2010 records not proven

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

Female or immature, Lough Gill, Kerry, 24th January.

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*

One, Bridges of Ross, Clare, 18th August.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Adult, Tory Island, Donegal, 9th October.

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica*

One, Farranfore, Kerry, 5th October.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

One, Dunquin, Kerry, 11th October.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*
Juvenile, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 9th October.

Supplemental 2009 records not proven

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*
Adult, Dingle, Kerry, 1st January.

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*
First-winter, Tralee, Kerry, 20th November.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*
Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, Kerry, 9th October.

Supplemental 2007 record not proven

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*
One, Sherkin Island, Cork, 8th November.

Supplemental 2005 record not proven

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinmans*
One, Salterstown, Louth, 15th January.

Supplemental 2003 review record not proven

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*
One, Brandon Point, Kerry, 11th September.

Supplemental 2002 record not proven

'African' Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs africana*
Male, Coolaney, Sligo, 23rd December to 22nd February 2003.

Supplemental 2000 record not proven

Continental Song Thrush
Turdus philomelos philomelos/bebridensis
Two, Annagassan and Salterstown, Louth, 31st December to 1st January 2001.

Supplemental 1999 records not proven

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*
Juvenile, Fintragh Bay, Donegal, 7th to 9th October.

Western/Eastern Bonelli's Warbler
Phylloscopus bonelli/orientalis
One, Galley Head, Cork, 25th August.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*
One, Allihies, Cork, 24th October.

Supplemental 1998 records not proven

Albatross Sp. *Thalassarche* sp.
One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 10th September.

Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes balli*
One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 10th September.

Swinhoe's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma monorhis*
One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 10th September.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*
One, Letterkenny area, Donegal, March and April.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
One, Corofin, Clare, 4th to 30th March.

Supplemental 1997 record not proven

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*
Adult, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, 15th September, in addition to one already accepted from this site at this time (*Irish Birds* 6: 297).

Supplemental 1994 record not proven

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*
Adult, Cruisetown Strand, Louth, 11th September to 27th January 1995.

Supplemental 1991 records not proven

Baltic Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus fuscus*
Adult, Clogher Head, Louth, 2nd July.

Scandinavian Lesser Black-backed Gull
Larus fuscus intermedius
Three adults and one second-year, Stabannon, Louth, 18th March.

Supplemental 1975 review records not proven

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*
One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 22nd July.
One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 3rd August.

Supplemental 1969 review record not proven

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 13th to 19th October.

Supplemental 1968 record not proven

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola*
One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 29 August.

Supplemental 1965 review record not proven

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*
One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 26th August.

Supplemental 1947 review record not proven

Serín *Serinus serinus*
One, Fermoy, Cork, 3rd to 9th May.

Supplemental 1943 review record not proven

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*
One, North Bull Island, Dublin, 18th 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 2014 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.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
One, Drogheda, Louth, 14th April.

Whiskered Tern *Cblidonias hybrida*
One, Aghills Lake, Skibbereen, Cork, 1st to 2nd May.

Appendix 5: Corrigenda to previous reports

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* – Totals for this species in recent reports and *Checklist of the Birds of Ireland* (IRBC 1998) have excluded the record of 12 at Mutton Island, Galway

on 5th December 1917 (*IN* 1918: 112). However, the record was included by Humphreys (1937), Kennedy *et al.* (1954) and implicitly in Kennedy (1961) and Ruttledge (1966). Moreover, it was not specifically excluded by any subsequent works (Ruttledge 1975, Hutchinson 1989) and totals have thus been incremented to include this record. For clarity, the record of two in Kerry on 23rd May 1954 (*IBR* 2: 10) are excluded from the total due to the extremely late date of the occurrence.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* – Reported statistics for this species in recent reports and *Checklist of the Birds of Ireland* (IRBC 1998) have consistently understated the national total prior to 1950 by two. Examining the literature, Thompson (1849–1851) published seven records involving nine birds. A further thirteen were published in Ussher and Warren (1900), and another eight records involving fourteen birds prior to 1950 in Kennedy *et al.* (1954). These comprise a total of 36 prior to 1950, and the totals have been adjusted to reflect this correction. For clarity, the series of records in Cork Harbour from February 1956 to winter 1964/1965 and a similar series at the North Bull Island in Dublin from January 1968 to winter 1973/1974 are treated as involving twelve and four birds respectively.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* – Reported statistics for this species in *Checklist of the Birds of Ireland* (IRBC 1998) understated the national total since 1950 by one. This under-reporting has been perpetuated since that publication and has been corrected in the statistics in this report. For clarity, the breeding record in Mayo in 1975 (*IBR* 23: 13) is treated as two individuals notwithstanding that the introduction to the same report indicates that only one adult was seen with chicks (*IBR* 23: 3).

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* – Totals for this species have been increased by one to accurately reflect the occurrences on Cape Clear Island in 1961. Reports of the occurrence at Cape Clear Island state 'at Cape Clear four, probably five, perhaps six between Aug. 28th and Sept. 25th' (*IBR* 9: 22). Historically, this has been counted as four individuals. However, perusal of the Cape Clear Bird Observatory report for 1961 indicates that five is the most accurate count, with three on 31st August 1961 presumed to include one that had been present from 28th August. One in Central Bog on 2nd September is treated as different, with the fifth individual occurring at Cummer from 25th September to 1st October.

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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.
 IN: Irish Naturalist – monthly journal between 1892 and 1924.
 INJ: Irish Naturalists' Journal – monthly journal from 1925.
 IOC: International Ornithological Congress
 NIBARC: Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association Rarities Committee.
 NIBR: Northern Ireland Bird Report - periodically from 1980 onwards.