

Irish Rare Bird Report 2016

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Introduction

An impressive four species new to Ireland were discovered in 2016. The first of these was a sub-adult Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens* in Castletownbere, Cork, which was first found on 2nd January. An adult Vega Gull *Larus vegae* at Duncannon, Wexford was the next new addition (also new to the Western Palearctic), on 10th January. The third new species for Ireland in 2016 was an adult Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultia* at Tacumshin Lake, Wexford on 20th July, while the final addition was a juvenile Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* southwest of the Skellig Islands, Kerry on a fishing vessel on 13th August.

In addition, the first record of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* for Ireland is also documented in this report, after a rather protracted recirculation, involving photographic evidence of an adult at Ballycotton on 1st July 1971.

Other notable records in this report include; the second Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* (Clare, Kerry & Mayo), the third to sixth records of Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* (Galway, Mayo and Wexford), the fifth Western

Plate 262. Vega Gull *Larus vegae*, Duncannon, Wexford, January 2016 (Killian Mullarney).

Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* (Wexford), and the sixth Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (Cork), Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata* (Cork) and Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* (Cork).

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, which is updated regularly. Most of the data in this report were taken directly from the 2016 Provisional List. The IRBC expresses its sincere gratitude to all those who provided information during 2016, either directly or indirectly. The committee also extends its grateful thanks to Peter Adriaens, Martin Collinson, Kieran Fahy, Killian Mullarney and Pat Smiddy for their invaluable assistance.

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.

2016 Systematic List

The sequence and scientific nomenclature largely follows the IOC World List version 7.1 (Gill & Donsker 2017), replacing the previously referenced BOU British List (British Ornithologists' Union 2013). For an explanation of this change as well as other taxonomic decisions made by the IRBC please consult the Announcements page on our website at 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. Please note that the finder's credits are placed in alphabetical order.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (0; 37; 4)

Galway One: One, Belclare Turlough, 27th December, photographed (E.Delaney).

Sligo Two: One, of the race *interior*, Lissadell, from 17th November 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 393) remained to 19th March, photographed (M.Casey *et al.*); Two, possibly of the race *interior*, Lissadell, from 2nd November to 27th December (M.Casey, S.Feeney, B.Robson *et al.*).

Wexford One: One, possibly of the race *interior*, WWR, North Slob, 7th November to 29th December (L.Geraty, S.Geraty *et al.*).

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii* (0; 28; 0)

Sligo Zero: One, Lissadell, from 23rd December 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 393) remained to 19th March, photographed (D.Sheehan *et al.*), then, presumed same, Lissadell, 27th October to 27th December, photographed (D.Cotton *et al.*).

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris* (0; 33; 0)

2015 Louth One: One, Lurgangreen, Dundalk Bay, 10th February (N.Griffin, M.Stewart).

This species was last recorded at the same site in February 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 579).

Russian White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons albifrons (51; 112; 2)

Cork One: One, The Gearagh, 11th November to 23rd April 2017, photographed (A.Duggan *et al.*).

Wexford One: Adult, Cahore Marsh, 23rd October, photographed (C.Cardiff).

The first record for Cork since one at Ballymacoda in December 2011 (*Irish Birds* 9: 449). The subspecies is historically more regular in Wexford, although numbers have declined in recent years.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (0; 142; 3)

Cork One: Male, White's Marsh, Clonakilty, 20th April, photographed (C.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

Donegal One: Male, Culdaff Estuary, Malin Town, and Lough Swilly, from 24th October 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 394) remained at Culdaff Estuary and Malin Town to 31st March, photographed (T.Campbell, R.McLaughlin, R.Murray *et al.*), with a second male at Malin Town, 2nd January (R.McLaughlin) and 9th January (T.Campbell, R.Murray, R.Smith) and at Goorey, Trawbreaga Bay, 29th to 31st March (R.McLaughlin), and, presumed one of these, Inch Island Lake, 2nd to 10th April (B.Robson *et al.*), then, Culdaff Estuary, 22th October to 6th November (R.McLaughlin), one presumed returning.

Kerry One: Male, Inny Strand, Waterville, from 13th December 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 394) remained to 31st March, photographed (P.McDaid *et al.*); Male, Barrow Harbour, 27th October to 27th November, photographed (D.O'Connor).

Leitrim Zero: Male, Tullaghan, from 24th October 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 394) remained to 17th March (M.Davis *et al.*), presumed returning.

Waterford One: Male, Lisselan, Tramore Back Strand, 12th to 21st January, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*).

Wexford Zero: Male, Tacumshin Lake, from 6th September 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 394) remained to 30th January, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*),

and, presumed same, Templederry, Cahore, 6th February (Sh.Farrell). A long awaited first record for Waterford. It is hard to be sure of how many birds are returning each winter, but three new birds in 2016 is similar to numbers of new birds in recent years.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (0; 21; 1)

Cork One: Male, off Baltimore Fish Factory, 11th to 29th February, photographed (J.Wyllie *et al.*).

The sixth record for Cork. This species remains a rare find in Ireland, although many individuals have lingered and returned to sites for several winters. Birds have been found in all months except April, June and August, although more have turned up in February (five records of six birds) than any other month.



Plate 263. American Black Duck *Anas rubripes*, Baltimore, Cork, February 2016 (Rachel Hynes).

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (0; 38; 3)

Galway Two: Adult male, Tullaghnafrankagh Lough, Kiltiernan East, 24th January to 18th February, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*); Male, Loughrea, 13th November to 27th December, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Sligo Zero: Male, Lough Skean, 18th March to 3rd April, photographed (S.Feeney *et al.*), presumed returning; Different male, Lough Gara, 11th to 29th December, photographed (S.Feeney), presumed returning.

2015 Sligo One: Female, Lough Gara, 30th November to 15th February 2016 (S.Feeney).

New individuals have occurred each year in Ireland since 1996, and after a record breaking six new birds in 2015 (including the above record), beating the previous best of five new birds in 2008, three new birds in 2016 is still above average.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (4; 22; 5)

Donegal Two: Eclipse male, off Murvagh Beach, Donegal Bay, 24th July to 22nd September (B.Robson *et al.*), and, presumed same, off Inishfad Beach, Donegal Bay, 31st July (C.Ingram); Male, off Sheskinmore, 24th October (R.Sheppard).

Sligo Two: Adult male, off Ballyconnell and Cullamore, 20th January to

20th March, photographed (N.Raftery *et al.*), and, presumed same, Inishmurray Island, 22nd May, photographed (M.Bell), then, presumed same, off Mermaid's Cove, Mullaghmore, 10th December to 1st January 2017 (D.Cotton N.Raftery *et al.*); Male, Ballysadare Bay, 11th to 14th December (M.Bell *et al.*).

Wexford One: First-winter female, Wexford Harbour, 14th January to 7th April (T.Murray *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 286: 14.

The highest ever total for a single year, although the possibility of movement of individuals between the Donegal and Sligo sites cannot be ruled out, given the relatively short distances involved. This species has now been recorded annually since 2008, apart from one blank year in 2010.



Plate 264. King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*, Wexford Harbour, January 2016 (Aidan G. Kelly).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (6; 216; 20)

Clare One: Adult male, off Finvarra, 9th January to 3rd April (F.MacGabhann, J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Donegal One: Male, off Murvagh Beach, Donegal Bay, 29th to 30th November (R.Sheppard).

Kerry Two: First-winter male, off Gowlane Beach, Brandon Bay, 12th February to 18th March, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*); Female or immature, Lough Gill, 25th September (A.G.Kelly).

Louth Seven: At least six, including three female, two adult male and a first-winter male, off The Hermitage, 6th January to 9th April, with a maximum number of five on 9th April, photographed (C.Foley, D.Foley, E.Larrissety *et al.*); First-winter male, off The Hermitage, 5th November (P.Kelly).

Mayo Nine: At least nine, including four adult male, three adult female, a first-winter male and a first-winter female, off Doolough and Claggan, Blacksod Bay, Mullet Peninsula, 19th January to 14th April, photographed (M.Reilly, D.Suddaby *et al.*). An adult male was off Doolough, 19th January, 12th February and 16th March, thereafter presumed to join the growing number off Claggan present from 20th March when five were observed, then, six on 28th March, nine on 2nd April, eight on 13th April, and finally, four on 14th April.

Twenty birds in a year beats the previous record of 18 in 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 75-76), while the nine birds together in Mayo beats the previous largest flock of six in Ballinskelligs Bay, Kerry in January 1985 (*Irish Birds* 3: 302). The last year with no records was 2009.

Black Scoter *Melanitta americana* (0; 1; 0)

Kerry Zero: Male, off Rossbeigh, from 10th October 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 394-395) remained to 27th March (M.O'Clery *et al.*), then, presumed same, off Rossbeigh, 25th to 29th October, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*).

The bird first found in January 2015 returned again in October 2016 but for a shorter stay.



Plate 265. Black Scoter *Melanitta americana*, with Common Scoter *M.nigra*, off Rossbeigh, Kerry, October 2016 (Michael O'Clery).

Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica* (0; 2; 0)

Galway Zero: Adult, off Tawin, 5th January to 14th February (P.Troaek *et al.*), then, presumed same, off Tawin, 19th to 20th November, photographed (N.T.Keogh *et al.*).

Considered to be the same individual found off Tawin in April 2014 (*Irish Birds* 10: 239), which was the second Irish record.



Plate 266. Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica*, off Tawin, Galway, November 2016 (Niall T. Keogh).

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* (0; 17; 4)

Donegal Four: Up to four, off Tory Island, between 8th and 13th May, with singles on 8th and 13th and a maximum of three on 9th, 10th and 12th May, photographed (B.Clarke, S.Feeney, C.Ingram, R.Vaughan). The fourth to seventh county records, all of which have been in April and May, and the first occasion more than a single bird has been observed.

Wilson's Storm-petrel

Oceanites oceanicus (2; 273; 29)

At sea Zero: One, 110 nautical miles west of Slyne Head, Galway, 8th July, photographed (N.T.Keogh); One, over the Porcupine Bank, Western Approaches, 9th July, photographed (N.T.Keogh); Two, 22 nautical miles southwest of Slyne Head, Galway, 13th July, photographed (N.T.Keogh); One, 102 nautical miles southwest of Cape Clear Island, Cork, 21st July (N.T.Keogh); One, 102 nautical miles southwest of Cape Clear Island, Cork, 22nd July, photographed (N.T.Keogh); Four, 150 nautical miles southwest of Cape Clear Island, Cork, 24th July (N.T.Keogh).

Clare Five: Four, off Bridges of Ross, 20th August, photographed (D.Breen, N.T.Keogh); One, off Bridges of Ross, 22nd August (V.Caschera, S.Gantlett, S.Pierce *et al.*)

Cork Nineteen: One, off Baltimore, 3rd July (P.Connaughton *et al.*); Three, off Baltimore, 17th July, photographed (P.Connaughton *et al.*); Five, off Baltimore, 24th July, photographed (P.Connaughton *et al.*); Four, off Baltimore, 31st July (P.Connaughton *et al.*); Three, off Baltimore, 13th August, photographed (P.Connaughton *et al.*); One, off Baltimore, 27th August (P.Connaughton *et al.*); Two, ten miles southwest of Galley Head, 6th September (C.O'Sullivan).

Galway One: One, five miles off Slyne Head, 16th August (J.Brittain).

Kerry Four: One, off Brandon Point, 4th August (A.Duggan); One, four nautical miles south of Inisvickallane, 16th August (E.Carty *et al.*); One, off Deelick Point, 16th September (M.O'Clery); One, off Brandon Point, 16th September (G.Walker).

A total of 29 birds from (or close to) land is the third best year on record for this species, after 32 in 2011, and 70 in 2009, with the regular late summer pelagic trips out of Baltimore providing the bulk of the records. The sightings further offshore in July are also interesting. The last year with no records was 1997.

Zino's / Fea's / Desertas Petrel

Pterodroma madeira / feae / deserta (0; 107; 8)

Clare One: One, off Bridges of Ross, 20th August, photographed (J.Lynch *et al.*).

Cork Five: Two, off Galley Head, 19th August (C.Cronin); One, off Cape Clear Island, 21st August (S.Bayley, P. Kreischer, E.O'Donnell); One, off Galley Head, 3rd September (C.Barton, P.Connaughton); One, off Cape Clear Island, 3rd September (E.O'Donnell).

Kerry One: One, off Skellig Islands, 30th August (J.N.Murphy).

Waterford One: off One, Ram Head, 3rd August (P.M.Walsh).

An "average" year for this still much prized species group. There was a good spread of records from different sites, but all fairly typical dates. Including the 2016 totals, there are three Irish seawatch points with double figures; Bridges of Ross,

Clare (26), Galley Head, Cork (18) and Cape Clear Island, Cork (12). The Ram Head sighting was only the second record for County Waterford.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (103; 259; 46)

Carlow One: One, Cloydagh, 10th February to 11th March, photographed (A.Kinsella, A.Power *et al.*).

Clare Seven: Two, Lahinch Marsh, 5th to 14th January (D.McNamara *et al.*); One, New Quay, 8th January (J.Copner, J.Senior *et al.*), and, presumed same, Ballyvelaghan Lake, New Quay, 23rd January (J.Lusby); At least two, Lough Erinagh, one on 13th February, two on 15th February and 9th March (F.MacGabhann, J.N.Murphy, H.Williams *et al.*); Two, Lough Gash, near Newmarket on Fergus, 8th to 10th July, photographed (J.N.Murphy).

Cork Twenty: One of two at White's Marsh, near Clonakilty, 18th December 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 400) remained to 5th January (C.O'Sullivan *et al.*); Three of the five at Barleycove, 29th December 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 400) remained to 2nd January (R.Hynes); Four, Kilheangul, between Durrus and Goleen, 30th December 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 400), remained to 2nd January, photographed (R.Hynes); Up to two, Carrigtwohill and Slatty Water, Cork Harbour, 2nd January to 12th March, photographed (T.Gittings, R.McLaughlin, B.Power *et al.*); A total of 17, near Middleton, 8th to 10th January (N.Gleeson *et al.*); Three, flying west at Goleen, 9th January (M.Boyle, A.McMillan), assumed to be three of four at Kilheangul on 30th December 2015; Up to 14, Garryvoe, 14th to 28th January, photographed (C.O'Connor *et al.*), presumed part of the flock near Middleton on 8th January; One, Barleycove, 18th January (P.Wolstenholme), assumed to be one of three present there earlier in the month; Six, Timoleague, 23rd to 24th January (C.O'Connor), presumed part of the flock at Garryvoe on 14th January; One, Middleton, intermittently from 31st January to 15th May, photographed (I.McDermott, R.O'Sullivan, B.Power *et al.*), presumed part of the flock near Middleton on 8th January; One, Youghal, intermittently from 25th January to 16th March, photographed (A.Malcolm, B.Power), presumed part of the flock near Middleton on 8th January; One, Dunkettle, 17th May (B.Power).

Dublin Five: One, North Bull Island, 29th April, photographed (T.Cooney, G.Franck *et al.*), also seen in Wicklow and Wexford; One, Lucan, 13th May (L.Geraty, S.Geraty); One, Rogerstown Estuary and Turvey Parklands, intermittently from 15th May to 18th December, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*), presumed the same individual at Lucan on 13th May; One, Swords, Inner Malahide Estuary, 15th May (A.G.Kelly, D.O'Mahony), presumed the same individual at Lucan on 13th May; Three juveniles, Rogerstown Estuary, 10th October (S.Pierce).

Kerry One: Two, Gallarus and Murreagh, Dingle Peninsula, 15th to 31st January, photographed (J.Crosher, S.Redican *et al.*), presumed two of six that were at Dingle Peninsula in October 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 400); One, Valentia Island, 14th to 17th January (*per* P.McDaid); One, Baile an Reannaigh, Dingle Peninsula, 23rd March to 2nd May, photographed (K.O'Donnell *et al.*), presumed one of two that were at Gallarus and Murreagh in January.

Kilkenny Two: Two, Galmoy, near Urlingford, 25th May (K.Collins).

Limerick Two: Two, King's Island, Limerick City, 14th to 15th April, photographed (P.Duhig, T.Tarpey).

Louth One: One, Castletown River, near Dundalk Docks, 28th to 30th August, upon which day it moved to Lurgangreen, Dundalk Bay,



Plate 267. Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, Rogerstown, Dublin, May 2016 (Aidan G. Kelly).

remaining until 24th October (E.Larrissety *et al.*).

Waterford One: 19, Tramore Back Strand, from 29th December 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 401) remained to 8th January, with 20 on 4th January, when they were possibly joined by a new bird, or more likely, by the long-staying individual present since 20th September 2014 (*Irish Birds* 10: 242), thereafter numbers dwindled until two remained on 16th January, photographed (L.Benson, S.King, H.Servignat *et al.*); One, 6th February, Ballinlough, Kill, photographed (M.Cowming); One, Tramore Back Strand, 19th February, 27th February and 28th March, photographed (M.Cowming, B.Howell, L.Howell), presumed to be the long-staying individual present since 20th September 2014.

Waterford Correction: The number recorded at Tramore Back Strand on 29th December 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 401) was 19 and not 18 as published.

Wexford Four: Two, Wellington Bridge, 10th January (P.Kelly), then Our Lady's Island Lake, 20th January (J.Geraty, S.Geraty), and, South Slob, 19th February (C.O'Connor), and, up to two, Tacumshin Lake, intermittently from 7th February to 8th October, with two on 3rd and 15th June, photographed (F.MacGinley, B.McCloskey, M.Stewart *et al.*), all presumed to involve the same two wandering individuals; Up to five, Cahore Marsh, intermittently from 8th March to 7th June, with a maximum of five on 21st May, photographed (C.Cardiff, T.Cardiff *et al.*), presumed to include two at Kilcoole, Wicklow on 16th January and one at North Bull Island, Dublin on 29th April; One, Ring Marsh, 2nd May (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly), then Our Lady's Island Lake, 13th May (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly) and Tacumshin Lake, 8th October (P.Kelly), presumed to involve one or more of those previously noted.

Wicklow Two: Two, Webb's Field, Kilcoole, 16th January (M.Bowtell, K.Cathcart), also seen in Wexford; Two, East Coast Nature Reserve, Five Mile Point and Six Mile Point, 28th April to 4th May (J.Ivory *et al.*), presumed the same as two at Kilcoole in January; One, flying south at Bray, 29th April (B.McCloskey), presumed the same individual at North Bull Island, Dublin on the same date.

2014 Westmeath One: One, Lough Kinale, Darragh, 14th April (A.McFarlane).

The invasion continues! Depending on interpretation of sightings, slightly fewer turned up in 2016 (46 individuals), compared to 2015 (53 individuals), but the above is a best guess at the total number of birds involved.



Plate 268. Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, April 2016 (Paul Kelly).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (92; 162; 8)

Dublin Three: Three immatures, Rogerstown Estuary, 6th to 17th October, photographed (B.Carruthers, N.Griffin, M.Keating *et al.*).

Kerry Zero: Adult, Cromane Harbour, from 27th September 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 402) remained to 6th March, photographed (S.Enright *et al.*), then, presumed same, Cromane Harbour, 5th October to 2nd December, photographed (S.Enright, M.O'Clery *et al.*), presumed returning.

Waterford Two: Three juveniles, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, from 10th October 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 401) remained to 13th February, photographed (F.O'Connell, J.A.Power, B.Sheridan *et al.*); Second-winter, Dungarvan, from 23rd November 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 401) remained to 4th April, photographed (N.Tierney *et al.*), also seen in Wexford; Up to five, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 15th October to 4th March 2017, photographed (F.O'Connell *et al.*), presumed to include three from the previous February returning.

Wexford Three: Two second calendar-years, Tacumshin Lake, Cahore Marsh, Ring Marsh and Our Lady's Island Lake, 10th March to 24th April, photographed (J.Adamson, P.Kelly, N.Warnock *et al.*), were joined by an adult for one day at Tacumshin Lake on 13th March, when they all moved to Cahore Marsh, where both second calendar-year birds remained until 28th March, before returning to Tacumshin Lake on 30th March, and subsequently commuting between Tacumshin Lake, Ring Marsh and Our Lady's Island Lake until 24th April; Second

calendar-year, Tacumshin Lake, 16th July (P.Kelly *et al.*), also seen in Waterford.

Eight new birds in 2016 was slighter lower than the ten records in 2015, but equalled the 2014 tally. The long-staying adult in Cromane Harbour, Kerry, returned for its 12th consecutive winter on 5th October.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (0; 256; 43)

Cork Fifteen: One, Saleen, Cork Harbour, 25th March, photographed (P.O'Donoghue); Seven, near Carrigaline, 17th October to 16th November (C.Cronin); Six, Oldcourt, 28th October to 10th November, photographed (M.Mitchell, J.Wyllie *et al.*); One, Inchydoney, 23rd to 29th December (D.McAdams).

Donegal One: One, Malin Town, 28th October to 16th November, photographed (M.Gardiner, C.Gilroy *et al.*).

Limerick One: One, Groody Valley, Castletroy, 16th January to 20th February, photographed (T.Tarpey *et al.*).

Meath One: One, Ardcath, 6th November, photographed (P.Kelly), and, presumed same, Ashbourne, 16th November (S.Geraty).

Sligo Seven: One, Enniscrone, 4th to 20th April, photographed, (M.Gawley *et al.*); Six, Cartron Bay, Sligo Harbour and Calry, 23rd October (M.Casey, A.O'Hara), photograph *Wings* 94: 29.

Waterford One: One, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 6th to 11th



Plate 269. Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, February 2016 (Tom Shevlin).

December, photographed (J.A.Power *et al.*).

Wexford Seventeen: One, Tacumshin Lake, from 30th October 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 399) remained throughout the year, and, until 8th April 2017, photographed (P.Cutler, A.Power *et al.*); One, Ring Marsh and Our Lady's Island Lake, 11th June, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly); Five, Murrintown, 15th October (D.O'Ceallaigh, O.O'Sullivan); At least six, 20th October into 2017, comprising, one from 20th October (D.Finnamore, H.Sheppard), two from 28th October (N.Keogh), three from 29th October (P.Kelly), four from 30th October (P.Kelly), five from 20th November (P.Kelly), six from 25th November, when they were joined by the long staying individual present since October 2015, all remaining in to 2017, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly), and, presumed same flock, Tomhaggard, 27th December into 2017 (K.Grace *et al.*); Three, Killane, 5th to 19th November (T.Murray); Two, South Slob, 12th November, photographed (P.Kelly); One, WWR, North Slob, 19th November, photographed (P.Kelly); Three, Our Lady's Island Lake, 11th to 24th December (B.Clarke, E.Dunne, G.Murray *et al.*); Two, Inish and Ballyteige Slob, 20th December (T.Murray).

Numbers of new arrivals increased again in late autumn and winter 2016, after the single new addition in 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 399). It is hard to know the degree of double-counting, with birds moving between sites, particularly in Cork and Wexford.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* (1; 24; 1)

Cork One: One, Clogheen Marsh, Clonakilty, 27th April (D.O'Sullivan). A classic late spring date was the only record of the year. Purple Heron remains a rare bird in Ireland, and with just eight records since the turn of the century, is considerably less than annual in recent years.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba* (0; 77; 25)

Clare Three: One, carrying a leg ring, Ballyalia Lake, near Ennis, 3rd November to 21st December, photographed (M.Carey *et al.*); One, Lough O'Grady, near Scarriff, 30th November to 20th December (S.Biggame *et al.*); One, Lough Atedaun, near Corofin, 29th December (G.Pearson).

Cork Six: One, The Gearagh, 3rd February (A.Duggan); One, Clogheen Marsh, Clonakilty, 13th to 23rd April, photographed (C.O'Sullivan *et al.*); One, Sherkin Island, 7th May (P.Connaughton); One, Lissagriffin Lake, 12th May (J.Mitchell, M.Mitchell); One, Dooniskey, near Lissarda, 20th June (R.T.Mills); One, Lissagriffin Lake, 22nd September (C.Foley, D.Foley, O.Foley), and, presumed same, Mizen Head, 4th October (P.Wolstenholme).

Galway Three: One, Kilcolgan, 10th to 22nd July, photographed (M.O'Malley); One, Rahasane Turlough, 24th August to 29th October (T.Murtagh *et al.*); One, Muckrushi, Lough Corrib, 5th November (N.Ellis).

Kerry One: One, Ardcost Cross, 27th to 30th September, photographed (E.Dempsey, M.O'Clery *et al.*)

Louth One: One, Braganstown, 18th October (L.Lenehan).

Mayo One: One, Mulranny, 29th August (J.Horner).

Offaly One: One, Clonmacnoise, 19th October (P.Brennan).

Roscommon One: One, Moate Park, Roscommon Town, 11th January (B.Burke).

Sligo One: One, Bunduff Lough, 4th June (N.Raferay).

Waterford One: One, Youghal Bridge, 3rd June (F.O'Connell).

Wexford Five: One, Cahore Marsh, from 31st March, was joined by a second on 30th April, with both to 9th May (C.Cardiff, T.Cardiff, M.Garland *et al.*); Adult summer, The Cull, 17th April, photographed (P.Kelly); Two, Tacumshin Lake, 29th April to 9th June, photographed (P.Kelly, J.Sheehan *et al.*), and, presumed one of these, Our Lady's Island Lake, 13th May and 8th July (P.Kelly).

Wicklow One: One, Five Mile Point, 3rd June (E.Dempsey), and, presumed same, Broad Lough, 15th June (C.Cardiff).

2015 Roscommon One: Adult, Lough Funshinagh, Rahara, 17th January (G.Hannon).

In contrast to the previous species, numbers of Great White Egrets have increased in recent years, with the 2016 total being the largest on record. The majority of records were in Cork and Wexford, although birds were recorded in 12 counties in 2016. The last year with no records was 2004.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* (0; 0; 1)

Kerry One: Juvenile, southwest of the Skellig Islands on the fishing vessel *Lours des Mers*, 13th to 14th August (T.Browne, D.Harrington), (Anon. 2016b), photograph *Birdwatch* 292: 9. It was first noticed by the ship's crew at 06:00 when the *Lours des Mers* was 5.9 nautical miles southwest of Skellig Michael. The bird remained onboard for the remainder of the day and into the next, but had departed sometime before 06:00 on 14th August, and was not seen again.

The first record for Ireland, although see also Category D records. The nearest breeding colonies of Brown Booby are off the coast of west Africa and increasing appearances in the north east Atlantic of this and other southern seabirds are thought to be linked to increasing sea temperatures. All three species of Atlantic breeding Booby are now firmly on the radar

of Irish birders although on an inland waterway or perched on a boat seem just as good places to look as a coastal promontory, judging by the occurrences so far.



Plate 270. Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*, with Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, off the coast of Kerry, August 2016 (Diarmuid Harrington).

Continental Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis (0; 50; 16)

Clare One: Adult, Ennis, 21st December, photographed (N.Larter).

Kerry Three: Second calendar-year, Cromane Harbour, 27th February (C.Cardiff, T.Cardiff, S.Enright); One, Blennerville, 12th October, photographed (D.O'Connor); One, Blennerville, 1st to 26th December (M.O'Clery).

Sligo Two: Adult, Ballysadare Bay, 10th to 15th August, photographed (S.Feeney); One, Ballysadare Bay, 12th November, photographed (S.Feeney).

Wexford Three: Two, Wexford Harbour, 3rd January (C.Cardiff); Adult, Rosslare Harbour, 30th January (P.Kelly), presumed returning; Adult, Old Rosslare Harbour, 27th February to 13th March (P.Kelly).

Wicklow Seven: Adult, Broad Lough, 3rd February (C.Cardiff); Two adult and third calendar-year, between Wicklow Head and Five Mile Point, 3rd February, photographed (C.Cardiff); Second calendar-year, Killoughter, 10th February (C.Cardiff); Adult, Broad Lough, 25th July, photographed (C.Cardiff); Third calendar-year, Broad Lough, 24th September, photographed (C.Cardiff).

This subspecies was moved from Appendix 1 to Appendix 2 at the start of 2016.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* (22; 12; 1)

Wexford One: Great Saltee Island, 16th May (S.Pierce).

The first record since May 2009. Sightings have occurred between April and November, with peaks of five in June and six in September.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* (2; 111; 0)

2015 Cork One: Adult male, Owenahincha, 6th April (C.Cronin).

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* (0; 6; 1)

Kerry One: Male, Kerry Airport, Farranfore, Killarney, 9th May (E.Carty, B.Horgan).

The seventh Irish record, after a juvenile female in Mayo in October 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 402), and the previous five in 2011. Only two, including this year's bird, have been in spring, with the rest between August and November.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (0; 20; 1)

Wexford One: One, Tacumshane Village, 14th to 16th May (B.Carruthers, R.Hynes, H.Servignat *et al.*), and, presumed same, South Slob, 15th May (D.Fox, M.Fox, P.Kelly), and 16th May (B.Porter).

The first record since one in Mayo in June 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 242). All records have occurred between April and October, with eight in April, four in May, three in June, none in July, three in August, two in September and one in October.

Crane *Grus grus* (29; 168; 2)

Wexford Two: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 26th to 30th October, photographed (T.Murray *et al.*); One, in flight, Bannow Bay, 24th December, photographed (P.Kelly).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (36; 120; 1)

Wexford One: First-summer, Our Lady's Island Lake, 29th May to 15th June, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

The first since June 2014, when one was at Our Lady's Island Lake, Wexford (*Irish Birds* 10: 244). Cork leads the way as far as numbers are concerned, with 27 records, while there have



Plate 271. Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Our Lady's Island Lake, Wexford, June 2016 (Brian Carruthers).

been 19 Wexford records. The majority of birds have turned up in the winter months (37 records), compared to 11 in spring, three in summer and five in autumn, although not all records have dates attached.

American Golden Plover

Pluvialis dominica (1; 287; 20)

Clare One: Juvenile, Loop Head, 4th to 13th October, photographed (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Cork Five: Juvenile, Ballycotton, 27th September, photographed (R.McLaughlin); Juvenile, Rosscarbery, 5th to 8th October (P.Moore); Adult and juvenile, Ballycotton, 10th to 19th October, photographed (R.McLaughlin); One, Ballycotton, 10th to 12th November (D.O'Sullivan).

Galway One: Adult, Omev Island and Aughrus Point, 13th September, photographed (D.Breen).

Kerry Five: Juvenile, Baile an Reannaigh, Dingle Peninsula, 28th September (J.Crosher); Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, 5th October, photographed (D.O'Connor); Two, Cashen Estuary, 7th October, photographed (D.Farrar); Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, 29th October to 20th November, photographed (E.Dempsey, M.O'Clery).

Mayo Three: Juvenile, Corragoun Lough, 20th September (E.McGreal); Juvenile, Keel, Achill Island, 2nd October, photographed (T.Jones *et al.*); One, Annagh Beach, Mullet Peninsula, 9th October (M.Reilly).

Wexford Five: First-summer, Tacumshin Lake, 14th May (V.Caschera, P.Kelly, C.tenBohmer *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 82: 28; Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 6th to 12th June (N.Keogh *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 290: 19; Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 12th August, photographed (P.Kelly); Juvenile, Ring Marsh, 21st August (K.Grace, F.MacGinley), and, later the same day, Tacumshin Lake (P.Kelly); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 17th September (C.Cardiff, T.Cardiff).

An "average" number of records compared to recent years. Double figures have been recorded in every year since 2006, and the mean number of records over this period is just over 20 birds. The last year with no records was 1990.

Semipalmated Plover

Charadrius semipalmatus (0; 2; 4)

Galway One: Juvenile, Ardmore Strand, Carna, 6th October, photographed (D.Breen).

Mayo One: Juvenile, Keel, Achill Island, 2nd to 14th October, photographed (T.Jones, T.D.Jones *et al.*).



Plate 272. American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, May 2016 (Victor Caschera).



Plate 273. Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Achill Island, Mayo, October 2016 (Dermot Breen).

Wexford Two: First-summer, Tacumshin Lake, 11th May to 9th June (K.Mullarney *et al.*), photographs *Birdwatch* 290: 15, *Dutch Birding* 38: 404, *Wings* 82: 28; Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 26th July (P.Loneragan, K.Mullarney), photograph *Birdwatch* 291: 13. With only two prior records (2003 and 2011), four records in 2016 is exceptional. The July sighting at Tacumshin Lake was the first adult, with the first four Irish records all juvenile birds in October, and the fifth being a first-summer bird.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius (0; 148; 8)

Cork One: Juvenile, White's Marsh, near Clonakilty, 23rd to 30th July (C.O'Sullivan).

Kilkenny One: Probable male, Galmoy, near Urlingford, 25th May (K.Collins).

Wexford Five: One, Tacumshin Lake, 15th May (P.Kelly); One, Tacumshin Lake, 25th July (C.Foley, D.Foley); Two juveniles, Tacumshin Lake, 10th to 12th August (P.Loneragan *et al.*), were joined by a third, 13th August, photographed (P.Kelly).

Wicklow One: Juvenile, Broad Lough, 22nd August (C.Cardiff).

A fairly typical number of records for recent years, and a typical spread of dates.

Greater Sand Plover

Charadrius leschenaultii (0; 0; 1)

Wexford One: Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 20th July (K.Mullarney), (Mullarney 2016a), photograph *Birdwatch* 291: 8.

An early morning visit by Killian Mullarney to Tacumshin Lake on the 20th July found only thick fog. However, as the fog began to lift, he made his way out to the lake shore where he noticed a small to medium-sized wader flying past that he couldn't immediately put a name, or even a family to. It landed on the mud with its back to him but on registering its plover-like shape, long legs and the faded buff hindneck he realised it was a sand plover! After several seconds it turned its head to one side, revealing an attractive black mask and an impressively long, weighty bill. The bird was Ireland's first Greater Sand Plover! After quickly securing a few distant record shots, the bird became active, and Killian got his first view of the beautiful, clearly demarcated pastel-orange breast-band. Almost exactly 30 minutes later, and just five minutes before the arrival of the first local birder, the bird took off for no apparent reason and flew away high north-northwest, until it disappeared from view. It was not seen again. This represents the first Irish record of a long-awaited and much hoped for species. The same individual was subsequently recorded almost two weeks later at Santoña in Spain (Mullarney 2016b).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* (146; 180; 4)

Clare One: Adult, Loop Head, 22nd August, photographed (J.N.Murphy, N.Warnock).

Waterford One: Adult, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 23rd August (F.O'Connell).

Wicklow Two: Two, Sorrell Hill, near Blessington, 7th May (B.Barry).

Long-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus scolopaceus (2; 128; 7)

Galway One: Juvenile, Rusheen Bay, 19th to 21st September, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Kerry One: One, Carrahane Strand, 10th September (M.Hanafin).

Louth One: Juvenile, Dundalk Docks, 20th to 24th October, photographed (F.Meegan *et al.*).

Waterford Two: Juvenile, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 14th to 15th September, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*); Juvenile, Ballyshunnock Lake, near Kilmeaden, 17th to 22nd September, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*).

Wexford Two: One, Tacumshin Lake, 5th August (J.Murphy); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 21st October to 27th December, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

A good year, with seven records. Annual numbers of Long-billed Dowitchers have varied considerably in recent years, with other good years being eight in 2012, six in 2009, seven in 2008, nine in 2007 and 11 in 2005, with lower numbers in other years. The last blank year was 2015, and before that, 2000.

Greater Yellowlegs

Tringa melanoleuca (2; 11; 1)

Wexford One: One, Cahore Marsh, 18th to 19th December, photographed (T.Kilbane *et al.*).

First recorded near Skibbereen, Cork in 1940 (Kennedy *et al.* 1954), the species became “regular” in the 1960s, with four records in that decade. Three more followed in the 1970s, but records have been more infrequent since, with singles in Blennerville, Kerry in late 1982 to April 1983 (*Irish Birds* 2: 560); Tralee Bay in November and December 1995 (*Irish Birds* 5: 75); and one at Quoile Pondage, Down in May and June



Plate 274. Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, Rusheen Bay, Galway, September 2016 (Dermot Breen).

2004 (*Irish Birds* 8: 834). Will it be another 10 years until the next one?

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (0; 154; 11)

Cork Two: Adult summer, White’s Marsh, near Clonakilty, 15th August, photographed (P.Connaughton); Juvenile, Foxhole Pool, Youghal, 13th to 25th September, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*).

Dublin Two: Juvenile, Swords, Inner Malahide Estuary, 11th to 15th



Plate 275. Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, Black Rock Strand, Kerry, August 2016 (David O’Connor).

August, photographed (P.Lonergan *et al.*); Adult, Rogerstown Estuary, 23rd to 24th August, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Kerry One: Adult summer, Black Rock Strand, 19th August, photographed (D.O'Connor).

Offaly One: One, Shannon Harbour, 17th October (P.Brennan).

Wexford Five: Adult summer, Our Lady's Island Lake, 5th to 6th May, photographed (C.Foley, D.Foley, B.McCloskey, M.Stewart *et al.*), and, presumed same, Tacumshin Lake, 6th May (K.Mullarney); Adult summer, Ring Marsh, 14th August, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 19th to 20th August (K.Grace *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 292: 15; One, Bannow Bay, 13th September (C.Foley, D.Foley, O.Foley); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 15th September, photographed (P.King, A.McMillan).

The 2016 total of 11 records is the highest annual total since the record year of 2005, when there were 12 records. The last year with no records was 2004.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (0; 6; 1)

Clare One: Adult, Cloghaun Lough, near Kilbaha, 15th to 18th August (J.N.Murphy *et al.*), photograph *Dutch Birding* 38: 404.

The seventh record for Ireland and the first for County Clare. This was the second August record, with four in September and one in October. There have been four records since August 2008, with three prior to that (1968, 1971 and 1974).

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (0; 7; 2)

Dublin One: Adult, North Bull Island, 16th July, photographed (G.Franck *et al.*).

Wexford One: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 21st to 23rd August, photographed (P.Lynch *et al.*).

Although there have only been nine Irish records, this is the third year that there has been two records, after two in 2009, and two in 2010. There are two previous Dublin records; one

at Swords in July 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 264), and one at Rogerstown Estuary in June 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 298). There have also been two previous Wexford records; the first Irish record in August and September 1996 (*Irish Birds* 6: 75), and the last record at Tacumshin Lake in July 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 84). There have been seven adults, one juvenile and one unaged bird.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* (1; 45; 2)

Cork One: First-winter, Pilmore, near Youghal, from 22nd November 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 406) remained to 23rd February (K.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 286: 18; Juvenile, Cape Clear Island, 31st August, photographed (B.Power).

Kerry One: Juvenile, Skellig Michael, 31st August to 1st September, photographed (J.N.Murphy).

The fourth record for Cape Clear Island and the first record for the Skelligs. After a six year gap from 1998 to 2003, this species has been annual since, with multiple records every year, apart from 2014, when none were recorded. The two new records in 2016 were both juveniles and occurred on typical dates.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Calidris pusilla (0; 195; 27)

Clare Two: Juvenile, Lough Donnell, 27th August, photographed (R.Väisänen); Juvenile, Quilty, 15th October (J.Copner, J.N.Murphy).

Cork Three: One, Ballycotton, 27th August (A.Robinson); Juvenile, Ballinamona Beach, Ballycotton, 8th to 22nd September (R.McLaughlin *et al.*); One, Pilmore Strand, 14th to 22nd October, photographed (D.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

Donegal One: Juvenile, Inch Island Lake, 14th to 22nd October (R.Vaughan *et al.*).



Plate 276. Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*, Cloghaun Lough, Clare, August 2016 (Tom Tarpey).



Plate 277. Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, August 2016 (Tom Shevlin).

Kerry Thirteen: Adult, Reenroe Beach, Ballinskelligs, 6th to 21st August, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*); Juvenile, Ferriters Cove, Dingle Peninsula, 29th August to 3rd September, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*); Juvenile, Inny Strand, Waterville, 27th August, photographed (C.Cronin); Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, 2nd September (E.Carty); Juvenile, Fahamore, Maharees Peninsula, 5th September (M.O'Clery); Juvenile, Blennerville, 5th to 16th September, photographed (E.Carty, G.Walker *et al.*); Juvenile, Cashen Estuary, 14th September (D.Farrar); One, Carrahane Strand, 15th September (K.Kelly); Juvenile, Inny Strand, Waterville, 18th to 21st September, photographed (P.McDaid *et al.*), and, presumed same, Reenroe Beach, Ballinskelligs, 28th September, photographed (E.Dempsey, M.O'Clery); One, Carrahane Strand, 29th to 30th September (D.Farrar); Juvenile, Black Rock Strand, 3rd October, photographed (D.O'Connor); Juvenile, Kilshannig, 4th to 9th October, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*); Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, 15th October (M.O'Clery).

Wexford Eight: Juvenile, Bannow Island, Bannow Bay, 12th September, photographed (T.Murray); Four juveniles, Tacumshin Lake, 17th September to 25th October, photographed (K.Grace, K.Mullarney, M.Stewart *et al.*), comprising, two juveniles, 17th September (K.Grace, M.Stewart), a new juvenile, 20th September (K.Mullarney), and, another new juvenile, 22nd September (K.Mullarney), at least two of these remained until 14th October, and, the bird found 20th September was still present on 25th October; Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 29th September to 26th November, photographed (S.King, K.Mullarney *et al.*); Juvenile, Rosslare Back Strand, 1st October, photographed (P.Kelly); Adult winter, Tacumshin Lake, 18th to 28th November (P.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 295: 16.

A total of 27 in a year is the second highest annual total on record, after 63 birds in 2011, although the possibility of some double-counting cannot be ruled out, particularly at some of the Kerry sites.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* (0; 4; 1)

Wexford One: First-summer male, Tacumshin Lake, 23rd to 26th July (P.Kelly, K.Mullarney *et al.*), (Kelly 2016), photographs *Birdwatch* 291: 9, *British Birds* 109: 558.

The fifth Irish record, and the third for the county. This was the earliest record, with the previous four occurring in August and September.



Plate 278. Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, July 2016 (Killian Mullarney).



Plate 279. Semipalmated Sandpipers *Calidris pusilla*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, September 2016 (Killian Mullarney).

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* (1; 42; 1)

Cork One: One, The Gearagh, 25th May (A.Duggan).

Only the third record for County Cork, after singles at Ballycotton in September 1981 (*Irish Birds* 2: 212), and August 1987 (*Irish Birds* 3: 622).

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (0; 13; 2)

Clare One: Adult, Cloghaun Lough, near Kilbaha, 14th to 25th August, photographed (D.Cully, T.Cully, J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Wexford One: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 13th August, photographed (T.Kilbane *et al.*).

The Clare individual was the first record for the county, while the Wexford bird was the third county record.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis (0; 334; 3)

Kerry One: One, Ferriter's Cove, Dingle Peninsula, 29th September (I.Crosher, J.Crosher).

Wexford Two: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 24th to 31st July (S.Enright, H.Hussey *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 291: 17; Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 20th to 27th September, photographed (B.Bulger, E.Dempsey, P.King *et al.*).

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (0; 149; 16)

Clare Four: Juvenile, The Rine, Ballyvaughan, 4th September, photographed (N.Larter); Adult, The Rine, Ballyvaughan, 10th September, photographed (P.Troake); Juvenile, Querrin Creek, 10th September (C.Glasgow, J.N.Murphy); Juvenile, Seafield, Quilty, 17th to 18th September, photographed (H.Wright)

Dublin One: Juvenile, North Bull Island, 26th September to 3rd October, photographed (T.Cooney *et al.*).

Galway Two: Juvenile, Rusheen Bay, 19th to 23rd September (D.Breen); Juvenile, Inishmore, Aran Islands, 8th to 11th October, photographed (H.Delaney *et al.*).

Kerry Five: One, Derrymore, Inner Tralee Bay, 8th September (M.O'Clery); One, Blennerville, 8th September (I.Jones); One, Baile an Reannaigh, Dingle Peninsula, 10th to 12th September (J.Crosher); Two juveniles, Derrymore, Inner Tralee Bay, 18th to 19th September (M.O'Clery), presumed to include the bird found at the same location on 8th September; Juvenile, Black Rock Strand, 22nd September (E.Carty).

Mayo One: Juvenile, Lough Sruhull, Achill Island, 14th October (P.Keogh).

Waterford One: Juvenile, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 13th to 22nd September, photographed (J.A.Power *et al.*).

Wexford Two: Juvenile, Nethertown, 10th to 18th September, photographed (B.Haslam *et al.*), and, presumed same, Carne Beach, 18th September (N.Keogh, B.Porter); Juvenile, The Cull, 11th September (K.Grace).

The best year on record in terms of numbers. Previous recent high totals were 12 birds in 2013, 14 in 2011, 12 in 2008 and 10 in 2006.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Calidris acuminata (0; 8; 1)

Kerry One: Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, 7th October, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*).

1971 Cork One: Adult, Ballycotton, 1st July (T.C.Kelly, R.T.Mills).



Plate 280. Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*, Cloghaun Lough, Clare, August 2016 (Mick Boyle).



Plate 281. White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, September 2016 (Victor Caschera).



Plate 282. Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*, North Bull Island, Dublin, September 2016 (Tom Cooney).

The Kerry record was the first record for the county and the ninth record for Ireland.

For 13 years from 1973, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper resided on the Irish List on the basis of a bird at Ballycotton in August of that year. This bird was later deemed not proven in a wide ranging review of records in 1986 (*Irish Birds* 3: 493) and the species was absent from the Irish list until August 1994 when an adult was recorded at Tacumshin Lake in Wexford (*Irish Birds* 5: 339). While Dave McAdams was sorting IRBC files in preparation for their transfer to the National Biodiversity Data Centre for safe storage, he noticed a photograph of a Pectoral Sandpiper *C. melanotos* taken by Richard T. Mills at Ballycotton in 1971, that he immediately suspected was a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. The accompanying description by the finder, Tom Kelly, gave details of the occurrence and prompted a recirculation of the record, and it was accepted as the first Sharp-tailed Sandpiper for Ireland, even predating the 1973 claim. As identification criteria has been refined over the years and with generally improved identification skills all round, a number of older records have been removed from the Irish List so it is particularly pleasing to 'get one back' in this instance. Perhaps Richard should be encouraged to trawl through his old black and white photos to see what else is lurking there?



Plate 283. Red-necked Phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, August 2016 (Pat Lonergan).

Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus (3; 49; 3)

Wexford Three: Two juveniles, Tacumshin Lake, 10th August, photographed (P.Lonergan); Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 20th August, photographed (P.Kelly).

Bonaparte's Gull

Chroicocephalus philadelphia (1; 76; 4)

Carlow One: Adult, Kildavin, 18th March, photographed (K.Mullarney, B.Power).

Clare One: Adult, Quilty, 20th September to 27th November, photographed (I.Jones, G.Pearson *et al.*), and, presumed same, Lough Donnell, 27th November, photographed (J.Copner).

Wexford Two: Adult, Lumsdin's Bay, Hook Head, 23rd to 30th January,

photographed (A.G.Kelly); Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 23rd to 30th April, photographed (T.Kilbane *et al.*), and, presumed same, Tagoat, 30th April (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly).

The Kildavin record was the first for County Carlow, while the Clare individual was the fourth county record, and the first since 2007. The two birds in Wexford constitute the 13th and 14th county records.

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* (0; 18; 1)

Kerry One: Second-winter, Cashen Estuary, 24th to 28th January (S.Enright *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 81: 27.

The second record for Kerry, after the first Irish sighting at Black Rock, Ballyheigue in 1993 (*Irish Birds* 5: 222).



Plate 284. Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*, Hook Head, Wexford, January 2016 (Aidan G. Kelly).



Plate 285. Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*, Cashen Estuary, Kerry, January 2016 (David O'Connor).

Glaucous-winged Gull

Larus glaucescens (0; 0; 1)

Cork One: Sub-adult, Castletownbere, Beara Peninsula, 2nd January to 2nd May (F.Moore *et al.*), (Anon. 2016a), photographs, *Birdwatch* 284: 9 & 12 and 285: 13 and 286: 13, *British Birds* 109: 188, *Dutch Birding* 38: 104, *Wings* 81: 27.

The finding of a tideline corpse Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* in west Cork on 2nd January 2016 should have been the ornithological highlight of the day, but news emerged that evening of a probable Glaucous-winged Gull in the fishing port of Castletownbere. Good photographs of the bird by the finder, Fionn Moore, soon followed, which did indeed seem to show that species. From the outset the darkness of the wingtips prompted discussion and debate, with some birders from North America expressing the view that it was a hybrid. Certainly this species is known to regularly hybridise with others producing a multitude of lookalikes, although it is also known that birds on the Asian side of the Pacific Ocean tend to show darker primary tips than those on North American coasts. Observers with recent experience of the species in Japan felt the bird accorded well with birds seen there. After further consultation the IRBC decided that the bird's features fell within the limits of pure Glaucous-winged Gull and it is now accepted as the first Irish record.

The general consensus for the recent increase in records of Pacific gulls in northern Europe is that they are using the decreasing distribution of Arctic sea-ice to get here, possibly via a northeastern route. This bird's arrival coincided with the appearance of the Vega Gull *L. vegae* in Wexford further

strengthening the case for an Asian origin. Slaty-backed Gull *L. schistisagus* has occurred here twice, in 2014 and 2015, and there are other species of Pacific gull yet to occur in the Western Palearctic so we seem very well placed to host other exciting winter visitors.

Kumlien's Gull

Larus glaucooides kumlieni (0; 308; 13)

Donegal Three: Third-winter, Killybegs, 14th February, photographed (M.Callaghan, D.Charles); First-winter, Killybegs, 20th February (M.Boyle, A.McMillan); Fourth-winter, Moville, 30th December (M.Callaghan, D.Charles).

Galway One: Second-winter, Omev Island, 6th January to 10th February, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Kerry Three: Juvenile, Cashen Estuary, from 30th November 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 410) acquired first-winter plumage, and remained to 22nd January, photographed (D.Farrar); First-winter, Tralee, 5th January to 27th February, photographed (E.Carty *et al.*); Second-winter, Black Rock Strand, 23rd January, photographed (S.Enright); Second-winter, Tralee, 23rd to 26th December, photographed (D.O'Connor).

Mayo Five: Third-winter, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 7th to 12th January, and, presumed same, Annagh Beach, Mullet Peninsula, 13th January, and, Elly Bay, near Belmullet, 12th February, photographed (D.Suddaby); Adult, Elly Bay, near Belmullet, 11th February (D.Suddaby), and, presumed same, Belmullet, 28th March (D.Suddaby *et al.*); First-winter, Elly Bay, near Belmullet, 11th February (D.Suddaby); First-winter, Belmullet, 2nd March (D.Suddaby); Adult, Belmullet, 22nd April (M.Reilly *et al.*).

Waterford One: Adult, Boatstrand, near Bunmahon, 5th March, photographed (M.Cowming).



Plate 286. Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*, Castletownbere, Cork, January 2016 (Richard H. Coombes).



Plate 287. Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*, Killybegs, Donegal, February 2016 (Derek Charles).

American Herring Gull

Larus smithsonianus (0; 97; 3)

Cork Two: First-winter and second-winter, Black Ball Harbour, West Beara, 3rd April (F.Moore), photograph *Birdwatch* 287: 16.

Sligo One: First-winter, Yellow Strand, near Knocklane, 5th February (D.Cotton, S.Feeney), photograph *Birdwatch* 286: 12.

This species has been annual since 1996, with several records in most years since then. The vast majority of records have been in Cork (33 records), with Kerry (14 records) and Donegal (11 records) the only other counties with more than 10 records. The Sligo record was the first for the county.

Vega Gull *Larus vegae* (0; 0; 1)

Wexford One: Adult winter, Duncannon, Hook Head, 10th to 13th January (K.Mullarney *et al.*), (Mullarney 2016c), photographs *Birdwatch* 284: 8 and 285: 14, *British Birds* 109: 134, *Dutch Birding* 38: 104, *Wings* 81: 26.

Concentrations of Sprats *Sprattus* sp. in Waterford Harbour had attracted fishermen and gulls to the area. On 10th January Killian Mullarney decided to take advantage of this and check for gulls at the fishing village of Duncannon, and on his arrival there just after 11:00 noticed a congregation of about 40, mainly Herring Gulls *L. argentatus*, on seaweed-covered rocks to the south of the village. His attention was immediately drawn to an adult with darker upperparts that perhaps suggested a nominate Scandinavian individual. However, nominate *argentatus* was soon forgotten once he viewed this gull in his telescope, and Killian was reminded of pictures of

gulls that were taken at Choshi in Japan. It showed a dark eye with a pinkish-red orbital ring, had more extensive black on the primary feathers than *argentatus* and it had still not completed its primary moult. The bill was pale yellow with a neat red gonydeal spot and the legs were pink. Just before the bird flew off, Killian shot off some pictures and viewing them on the camera's screen he considered the bird a good candidate for Vega Gull. He alerted some others that were in the vicinity that he had a possible Vega Gull and remained in the hope the 'Vega-type' would return. Fortunately it came back and on this occasion Killian got much better and closer views. On his return home he checked reference material as well as emailing gull experts Peter Adriaens and Chris Gibbons with his photos requesting their evaluation and a nervous wait ensued. Subsequent replies from Peter and Chris both agreed without equivocation that the bird was a Vega Gull. It was present for just a couple of hours the following morning and only very intermittently after that and was dipped by many that searched for it. This represents the first Irish and Western Palearctic record of this Eastern Palearctic gull.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* (0; 13; 2)

Cork One: Adult, Baltimore, 5th February (J.Wyllie).

Wexford Two: First-winter, Loftus Hall, Hook Head, 5th January to 9th February, photographed (A.G.Kelly, K.Mullarney, A.Walsh *et al.*); Adult, Duncannon, Hook Head, 10th to 11th January, photographed (K.Mullarney).



Plate 288. Vega Gull *Larus vegae*, Duncannon, Wexford, January 2016 (Paul Kelly).

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (0; 20; 1)

Wexford One: Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 10th to 15th June, photographed (P.Lonergan, K.Mullarney *et al.*).

Of the 21 individuals that have been recorded in Ireland, nine birds have occurred in Wexford. The majority of records (62%) have occurred in June and July.



Plate 289. Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*, Hook Head, Wexford, February 2016 (Killian Mullarney).

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus* (0; 1; 1)

Clare Zero: Third calendar-year, Rinavella Bay and Carrigaholt Bay, 25th to 28th August, photographed (V.Caschera, J.Copner *et al.*), also seen in Kerry and Mayo.

Kerry Zero: Third calendar-year, Beale Strand and Littor Strand, 23rd to 28th August, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*), also seen in Clare and Mayo.



Plate 290. Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, June 2016 (Pat Lonergan).



Plate 291. Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*, Beale Strand, Kerry, August 2016 (Victor Caschera).

Mayo One: Third calendar-year, Roonagh Lough, near Louisburgh, 16th to 17th August (S.Feeney *et al.*), (Feeney 2016), photographs *Birdwatch* 292: 10, *Dutch Birding* 38: 394.

An obviously injured right leg confirmed that the subsequent sightings in Clare and Kerry involved the same bird. The relocation to Kerry allowed many twitchers who had missed the bird in Mayo to catch up with it, while some birders managed to get it on their Clare lists too!

In a sign of the times some birders have taken to carrying around a sample bottle in case a rare bird leaves an all important DNA sample behind. Unfortunately in this case those valiant efforts proved fruitless as it was not possible to get a definite result from the bottle of sand and faecal matter collected. A split has been proposed for this species between the North American *T.m.maximus* and the West African *T.m.albididorsalis*.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (0; 39; 0)

Dublin Zero: Adult, Rogerstown Estuary, 8th to 9th October, photographed (P.Lynch), presumed returning, also seen in Louth.

Galway Zero: Adult winter, Nimmo's Pier, from 24th October 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 409) remained to 7th July (G.Hunt *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 286: 14, then, presumed same, Nimmo's Pier, 4th November to 22nd December (C.Forkan *et al.*), Kinvarra Bay, 17th November (P.Troake), and, Barna Pier, 22th December (C.Forkan), presumed returning.

Louth Zero: Adult summer, Soldier's Point, 8th August to 9th October, photographed (G.O'Neill *et al.*), presumed returning, also seen in Dublin.

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* (55; 28; 3)

Clare One: One, Luogh, Doolin, 28th December, photographed (D.Burke).

Galway One: Female, Cloghernagun, 19th February (A.Cooney *et al.*), then, presumed same, Cloghernagun, 10th to 27th December, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*).

Mayo One: Adult male, Inishkea North, 14th July to 6th September, photographed (D.Breen, D.Suddaby).

With the recent upgrading of this species global conservation status to 'Vulnerable' by BirdLife International and a downwards revision of the world population from 200,000 individuals to about 14,000 pairs, observers should perhaps make the effort to connect with one of these magnificent owls in case they return to their former major rarity status.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (9; 324; 11)

Cork Five: One, Mizen Head, 1st October (A.Duggan, P.Leonard); One, Galley Head, 4th October, photographed (S.Enright); One, near the Lighthouse, Cape Clear Island, 10th October (M.Stewart); One, The Waist, Cape Clear Island, 13th October, photographed (J.Lynch); One, Lehanemore, West Beara, 18th October (K.Grace, A.A.K.Lancaster).

Galway One: One, Inishbofin, 12th September (A.McGeehan).



Plate 292. Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*, Brownstown Head, Waterford, September 2016 (Norma Gleeson).

Waterford Three: One, Brownstown Head, 3rd to 12th September, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*); One, Brownstown Head, 6th October (J.Farrell); One, Brownstown Head, 10th October (P.Archer).

Wexford Two: One, Tomhaggard, 11th May (D.O'Sullivan, P.Moore *et al.*); One, Hook Head, 1st to 11th October, photographed (K.Grace *et al.*).

A reasonable year. Since the turn of the century, Wrynecks have occurred every year, although numbers have varied considerably. The peak year during this period was 2010, when 36 individuals were recorded, while 25 records in 2006 and 23 birds in 2013 are also noteworthy. The last year with no records was 1995.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (14; 348; 20)

Cork Three: Adult, near Middleton, 11th April (P.Moore); Adult, Galley Head, 10th May, photographed (P.Connaughton); One, Mizen Head, 30th September (D.Ballard).

Galway Two: Juvenile, Milltown, 22nd August (C.Benson); One, Mweenish Island, Carna, 25th August (D.Green).

Waterford Three: One, Brownstown Head, 7th to 8th May (M.Cowming); One, Bunmahon, 14th to 15th May, photographed (A.Jacques); One, Dungarvan, 4th July (F.O'Connell).

Wexford Seven: One, Tacumshin Lake, 14th May to 28th June, photographed (B.Carruthers, R.Hynes, H.Servignat *et al.*); Second bird seen 28th May with above individual (P.Kelly, C.tenBohmer); One,

South Slob, 21st to 23rd May (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly); One, second-year, Tacumshin Lake, 18th to 25th June (T.Buckley, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); One, Ring Marsh, 25th June (P.Kelly), One, Gorey, 17th July (N.Keogh); One, Tacumshin Lake, 29th July (L.Feeney, P.Pykett).

Wicklow Five: Up to four, Newcastle, 21st May to 18th June, with a peak of four, 31st May and 4th June (J.McDonnell *et al.*); One, Five Mile Point, 18th July (J.McDonnell).

A fairly typical showing compared to recent years. Since 2000, the annual average number of records is 16 birds, with peaks of 47 birds in 2010, 34 in 2012 and 31 in 2013. The last year with no records was 1986.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* (87; 42; 0)

2015 Mayo One: White morph, Carrowmore Strand, Louisburgh, 15th January (E.McGreal).

Undetermined grey shrike species

Lanius spp.

Monaghan One: One, Slieve Beagh, 25th May, photographed (D.Cooney).

2015 Mayo One: One, Derrymore, 25th May, (A.Boyd, A.Renshaw). In both cases, the bird was most likely a Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* but the clarity of photographs/descriptions submitted did not support a definitive identification. The same date in both years is interesting.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* (7; 182; 1)

Cork One: Adult male, Mizen Head, 8th May (C.O'Sullivan).

The poorest year for records since 2000, when none were recorded.

Isabelline/Red-tailed Shrike

Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides (0; 5; 1)

Cork One: One, Toe Head, 31st October to 1st November, photographed (M.O'Keeffe *et al.*).

There have now been six records in Ireland since the first on the North Slob, Co. Wexford in November and December 2000 (*Irish Birds* 7: 105). This is the third record for Cork, with two in Wexford and one in Mayo. All have turned up between 4th October and 24th November. Following adoption of the IOC taxonomy, the 'Isabelline' shrike complex has been split into Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* and Red-tailed Shrike *L. phoenicuroides*. The former is currently on the Irish List, courtesy of the 2007 Mizen Head bird having been published as this taxon. As identification criteria are still being refined, especially for 1st-winter birds, it is not presently known to which species the other Irish records (including the 2016 bird) refer, though it seems likely that most, if not all, have been *isabellinus*. As such, recent taxonomic changes in this group will warrant a review of Irish records in the near future.



Plate 293. Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*, Toe Head, Cork, October 2016 (Michael O'Keeffe).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (2; 102; 4)

Cork Two: Adult male, Toormore, 25th May, photographed (A.Hadland, P.Hadland); Juvenile, Mizen Head, 13th to 16th October (C.Foley *et al.*).

Waterford One: Adult male, Rathmoylan Cove, 8th May, photographed (M.A.Duggan, P.M.Walsh *et al.*).



Plate 294. Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*, Ducormick, Wexford, October 2016 (Killian Mullarney).

Wexford One: Juvenile, Rathangan, Duncormick, 3rd October, photographed (J.Lambert *et al.*).

A typical year for the species. As expected, the south and southeast coast counties hold the majority of records, with 47 birds in Wexford and 42 in Cork, while the male at Rathmoylan Cove was the ninth record for Waterford.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (0; 61; 1)

Galway One: One, Inishbofin, 29th September to 4th October (A.McGeehan), photograph *British Birds* 109: 696.

The second for Inishbofin, following one there in September 2009 (*Irish Birds* 8: 392), and the fourth record for County Galway. Red-eyed Vireos have been recorded in six other counties, with more than half of all records in Cork (34 birds), Mayo (eight birds), Clare (six birds), Wexford (six birds, which included two found dead), Kerry (four birds) and Waterford (three birds).

Bearded Reedling

Panurus biarmicus (0; 127; 21)

Wexford Nineteen: 19, Tacumshin Lake, Ring Marsh and Cahore Marsh, all months except February, August, October and November, with highest counts at Tacumshin Lake, eight, 18th July (L.Geraty, S.Geraty), seven, 30th July (R.Busby), and, at Ring Marsh, five, 26th December (P.Kelly) and at Cahore Marsh, six, 28th May (S.King, S.Pierce).

Wicklow Two: Male, Five Mile Point, 22nd to 23rd May (M.Boyle, J.Creamer, N.Keogh, B.Porter *et al.*); One Broad Lough from June to 4th November (C.Cardiff).

Woodlark *Lullula arborea* (Unknown; 18; 1)

Cork One: One, High Road, Cape Clear Island, 13th October (V.Caschera), in flight and calling.

There have only been 18 records of Woodlark in Ireland since 1950, and only three of these have occurred since 1991. The last record was one on Dursey Island in October 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 602).

Short-toed Lark

Calandrella brachydactyla (1; 78; 2)

Cork Two: One, Knockadoon Head, 9th to 12th May (P.Moore *et al.*); One, Sands Cove, Galley Head, 17th to 25th September, photographed (D.Fitzpatrick *et al.*).

This species has been recorded annually in Ireland since 2005. There have now been 37 birds recorded in Cork, while 29 have been recorded in Wexford.

Siberian Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita tristis (2; 69; 55)

Cork Twenty one: One, Tramore River, Cork City, from 27th December 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 417), remained to 24th February; One, Garryvoe, 16th January to 7th February, photographed (R.McLaughlin *et al.*); One, Mizen Head, 7th October, (P.Wolstenholme *et al.*); One, Kilmichael, Dursey Island, 9th October, (K.Grace); One, Galley Head, 10th to 11th



Plate 295. Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*, Galley Head, Cork, September 2016 (Billy Clarke).

October, (C.Barton, C.Cronin); One, Knockadoon Head, 11th October (R.McLaughlin); One, Cotter's Garden, Cape Clear Island, 11th October (G.Murray, M.Stewart); One, Mizen Head, 12th October (C.Foley, D.Lysaght, P.Wolstenholme); One, Firkeel Glen, West Beara, 13th October (K.Grace, A.A.K.Lancaster); One, Mizen Head, 14th October (C.Foley, C.O'Sullivan); One, Mizen Head, 23rd October (D.Ballard, P.Moore, P.Wolstenholme); One, Ballycotton, 27th October, joined by a second, 28th October (P.Moore); At least six, Cape Clear Island, 29th October to 7th November, with high counts of, three, Cotter's Garden,



Plate 296. Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*, Cape Clear Island, Cork, October 2016 (Aidan G.Kelly).

30th October, photographed (J.F.Dowdall, Sh.Farell, E.O'Donnell *et al.*), Six, Comillane, 31st October, photographed (A.G.Kelly), Four, Cotter's Garden and The Waist, 1st November (A.G.Kelly); One, Baltimore, 31st October (J.Wyllie); One, The Gearagh, 24th November (A.Duggan); One, Skibbereen, 10th December (J.Wyllie).

Donegal Two: One, Tory Island, 10th October (R.Vaughan); One, Malin Town, 30th October to 1st November, photographed (R.McLaughlin).

Dublin Three: One, Irishtown Nature Park, 21st November (J.deBrito); One, Kilbogget Park, Cabinteely, 29th December into 2016 (N.T.Keogh); One, Tolka Valley Park, 31st December (B.Carruthers, P.Keating).

Galway Eleven: Three, Inishbofin, 15th October (A.McGeehan); One, Inishmore, 28th October, with two 30th October (H.Delaney); One, Inishbofin, 29th October (A.McGeehan); One, Inishmore, 31st October (H.Delaney); One, Keerhaun South, Slyne Head, 1st November, photographed (D.Breen); One, Ballyconneely, Slyne Head, 7th November, with two, 12th to 29th November, photographed (D.Breen). One, Connemara, 8th December (H.Hussey).

Kerry Four: One, Kerry Airport, 11th January (E.Carty); One, Bolus Head, 30th October, photographed (E.Dempsey, M.O'Clery); One, Finian's Bay, 30th October (E.Dempsey, M.O'Clery); One, Coumeenoule, 1st November (J.Crosher).

Wexford Seven: One, South Slob, 2nd to 3rd January, photographed (M.Boyle, D.Daly, A.McMillan); One, Hook Head, 1st November (T.Cooney); One, WWR, North Slob, 3rd November (K.Mullarney); One, Tacumshin Lake, 4th to 10th November (K.Mullarney); One, South Slob, 17th to 31st December, photographed (P.Kelly); One, near

Tacumshane village, 26th December, photographed (P.Kelly); One, Rosslare Harbour, 31st December, photographed (P.Kelly).

Wicklow Seven: One, Killoughter Lane, from 16th January, was joined by a second on 19th February, with both to 14th March (C.Cardiff, T.Cardiff); One, Bray Head, 18th February (N.Keogh, B.Porter); One, Greystones, 28th March to 23rd April, photographed (C.Cardiff, T.Cardiff); One, 2nd November, Killoughter (C.Cardiff); Two, Cahore, 30th December (C.Cardiff).

2014 Cork One: One, Ballinacarraige, West Beara, 12th October (K.Grace).

2014 Wexford One: One, Hook Head, 2nd November (J.F.Dowdall, K.Grace).

This subspecies was moved from Appendix 1 to Appendix 2 at the start of 2016.

Western Bonelli's Warbler

Phylloscopus bonelli (0; 16; 4)

Cork Three: One, Galley Head, 15th to 16th September, photographed (C.Barton *et al.*); One, Firkeel Glen, West Beara, 18th October, photographed (A.A.K.Lancaster); One, East Bog, Cape Clear Island, 15th to 18th October, photographed (P.J.O'Keefe *et al.*).

Galway One: One, Creig a'Chéirin, Inishmore, Aran Islands, 20th to 21st October, photographed (D.Breen).

2015 Cork One: One, Galley Head, 17th September (C.Cronin *et al.*). Four records in a year is unprecedented, with two being the previous highest annual total, occurring in 1981, 2005 and 2015. The three records in Cork in 2016 bring the county total to 13, while the Inishmore record is the first record for Galway.



Plate 297. Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*, Inishmore, Galway, October 2016 (Dermot Breen).

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (0; 11; 1)

Cork One: One, Tilickafinna, Dursey Island, 29th October (K.Grace). This species remains very rare in Ireland. Eight of the 12 records have occurred in Cork, although only Cape Clear Island has had multiple records, with four in total. This was the first record for Dursey Island.

Radde's Warbler

Phylloscopus schwarzi (0; 17; 4)

Cork Three: Two, Barry's Head, 15th to 18th October, including one ringed at Brownstown Head, Waterford on 9th October, with the unringed bird remaining to 20th October (S.Enright, M.Shorten *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 84: 29; One, Lighthouse Road, Cape Clear Island, 29th October to 1st November, photographed (Sh.Farrell *et al.*).

Waterford One: One, Brownstown Head, 9th to 13th October, photographed (M.A.Duggan, P.M.Walsh *et al.*), trapped and ringed on 9th October, also seen in Cork.

Unsurprisingly, this is the first occasion that two birds have occurred together at one site. The movement of the Brownstown bird to Barry's Head is interesting – how many other migrants visit multiple Irish headlands?

Pallas's Warbler

Phylloscopus proregulus (0; 38; 4)

Cork Two: One, Dursey Island, 13th October (D.A.Scott); A different bird, Dursey Island, 18th October (K.Grace).

Donegal One: One, Malin Beg, 31st October (J.O'Boyle).

Wexford One: One, Hook Head, 22nd October, photographed (C.Foley *et al.*).

Blyth's Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus dumetorum (0; 12; 1)

Wexford One: One, Slade Lane, Hook Head, 25th September to 1st October, photographed and videoed (K.Grace *et al.*).

Whilst waiting for a Barred Warbler to show itself at Hook Head on 25th September, Kieran Grace noticed a movement in a hedgerow (c.40 metres away) and on raising his binoculars, was a little surprised to see what looked like an unstreaked *Acrocephalus* warbler in the bush. It remained somewhat hidden before emerging into view. The bird showed cold and plain upperparts, a very obvious supercilium extending just behind the eye, a flat-headed appearance and, on one or two occasions, a "saucer" or "banana" shaped posture. A mild panic set in as Kieran suspected that the bird could be a Blyth's Reed Warbler but he did not have a telescope with him to make certain. However, two other birders present, Andrew McMillan and Mick Boyle had cameras and managed to obtain some photos. The following weekend, Kieran revisited the area and managed telescope views of the same warbler for several minutes, while other observers obtained photographs and video footage later in the day. Based on the submitted description and images, this record was accepted as a Blyth's Reed Warbler, the first record for County Wexford, and the 13th for Ireland.



Plate 298. Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*, Barry's Head, Cork, October 2016, one of two birds present (Tom Tarpey).



Plate 299. Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*, Hook Head, Wexford, October 2016 (Killian Mullarney).



Plate 300. Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, Hook Head, Wexford, October 2016 (Micheál Cowming).

Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata* (0; 5; 1)

Cork One: One, Firkeel Glen, West Beara, 7th October, photographed (E.Carty, P.Keogh, A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*).

While searching for the long staying Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Garinish, Ed Carty found a warbler that he was unfamiliar with. It was a small warbler, judged about size of a Chiffchaff, and was strikingly greyish-brown above, with pale greyish (off

white) underparts, fairly short primary projection (appearing long-tailed), greyish legs, a rather pale bill and a distinct supercilium. It was very active in bracken, giving the impression of a recent arrival. Ed's first impression was that the bird was a Booted Warbler, however it disappeared and he did not see it again. Later in the day, Paul Keogh and the late Tony Lancaster also saw the bird and Tony photographed it. Based on the submitted description and photograph, the record was accepted as a Booted Warbler.

This is the second record for Cork, following one at Ballycotton in September 2004 (*Irish Birds* 8: 118).

Melodious Warbler

Hippolais polyglotta (2; 207; 1)

Donegal One: One, Tory Island, 19th to 20th September, photographed (B.Clarke, G.Murray *et al.*).

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* (2; 220; 1)

Galway One: One, near Seven Churches, Inishmore, 1st October, photographed (M.Boyle, D.Breen).

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* (0; 10; 1)

Wicklow One: Male, Five Mile Point, Newcastle, 19th to 27th May, sound recorded singing from a reedbed (Sh.Farrell *et al.*).

The first record for Wicklow, this long-staying individual was seen and heard by many observers over the course of its stay. This was the first record since one at Tacumshin Lake in June 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 602).



Plate 301. Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*, Inishmore, Galway, October 2016 (Dermot Breen).



Plate 302. Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*, Tory Island, Donegal, September 2016 (Séamus Feeney).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (6; 204; 3)

Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 19th October (V.Caschera), and, presumed same individual, 23rd October (G.Jones).

Galway One: One, Inishbofin, 12th October (F.O'Connell, T.O'Keefe, J.A.Power, P.Veale).

Wexford One: Hook Head, 25th September to 2nd October (M.Boyle, J.F.Dowdall, K.Grace, A.McMillan), video-recorded.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (2; 52; 1)

Wexford One: Second calendar-year male, Great Saltee Island, 8th May (N.Keogh *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 82: 29.

Rose-coloured Starling

Pastor roseus (41; 109; 2)

Cork One: Juvenile, Olly Gully, Cape Clear Island, 15th to 16th September, photographed (R.H.Coombes).

Wexford One: First-winter, Courtown, 31st January (J.Adamson).

2015 Cork One: Juvenile, Mizen Head, 14th October, photographed (N.Mitchell).

Red-flanked Bluetail

Tarsiger cyanurus (0; 5; 1)

Cork One: One, Lissagriffin, 22nd to 23rd October, photographed (P.Connaughton, C.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

Chris O'Sullivan and Paul Connaughton had been birding around Mizen Head, but as the day progressed with little seen, both hope and energy levels were disappearing fast. Heading up the hill from Lissagriffin Lake, Chris suggested checking a garden at the end of a gully that he'd always thought looked good for migrants but had never been to. As they walked towards the gully, Chris jokingly said to Paul "We are going to find a mega here and they will name this gully after me!" Just then a bird flew up on a wire fence at the entrance to the garden. They both raised their binoculars simultaneously to see a Red-flanked Bluetail on the fence. Chris turned to Paul to celebrate, jumping up and down with excitement, while



Plate 303. Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*, Great Saltee Island, Wexford, May 2016 (Aidan G. Kelly).



Plate 304. Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*, Cape Clear Island, Cork, September 2016 (Richard H. Coombes).



Plate 305. Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*, Lissagriffin, Cork, October 2016 (Norma Gleeson).

Paul could barely utter the word "Bbbblue-tail!". Paul managed to take a few images, and after he was sure he had clinched a decent shot they proceeded to celebrate their find. After regaining their composure, they continued to watch the bird for a further 30 seconds. A Robin *Erithacus rubecula* began to harass the Red-flanked Bluetail, forcing it to fly to the opposite wire fence and then eastwards until out of sight. Thankfully it was relocated the next day, and enjoyed by many. Although recorded for the third year in a row, it is perhaps still a little soon to claim the species as annual. Of the six records, five have occurred in Cork, with Mizen Head having hosted the last two birds.

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* (0; 9; 1)

Cork One: One, Barry's Head, 11th to 17th October, photographed (M.Shorten *et al.*).

The eighth record for Cork, and the tenth record for Ireland. The two non-Cork records were both in Wexford, with the first Irish record on Great Saltee Island in October 1977 (*Irish Birds* 1: 265).

Blue-headed Wagtail

Motacilla flava flava (0; 73; 2)

Wexford Two: Pair, Tacumshin Lake, 14th May, photographed (V.Caschera, P.Kelly *et al.*).



Plate 306. Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, May 2016 (Paul Kelly).

1954 Donegal One: Male, Tory Island, 22nd May (P.Redman *per* P.Phillips).

The male on Tory Island becomes the first documented record for Ireland, superceding the previous first record of two in Antrim in July 1958 (*IBR* 6: 23) by four years.



Plate 307. Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*, Barry's Head, Cork, October 2016 (Richard T. Mills).

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (0; 32; 1)

Cork One: One, Lissagriffin Lake, 23rd August (D.Ballard).

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (2; 120; 5)

Cork Two: One, Dursey Island, 10th October (K.Grace, D.A.Scott); One, Galley Head, 12th to 15th October (C.Barton, C.Cronin).

Kerry One: One, Carrahane, 1st November (E.Dempsey).

Waterford One: One, Bunmahon, 12th March (N.Linehan).

Wexford One: One, Tacumshin Lake, 9th October (P.Kelly).

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* (0; 40; 1)

Clare One: One, Loop Head, 29th October, photographed (J.Copner, J.N.Murphy).

The first record for County Clare. There have now been 18 records in both Cork and Wexford, two in Waterford and singles in Clare and Wicklow.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* (0; 9; 2)

Cork Two: One, Dursey Island, 10th October (K.Grace); One, Firkeel Glen, West Beara, 19th October, photographed (K.Grace, A.A.K.Lancaster).

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (0; 54; 2)

Cork One: One, Galley Head, 2nd June (C.Cronin).

Wexford One: One, Hook Head, 23rd October (E.Dempsey).

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* (0; 21; 1)

Sligo One: One, Dunmorán Strand, 30th October to 1st November, photographed (S.Feeney *et al.*).

This was the first record for County Sligo, and the first in Ireland since 2013.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* (1; 155; 12)

Cork One: One, Ballynamona, 10th November (P.Moore).

Sligo One: One, Raghly, 17th to 18th December, photographed (M.Bell *et al.*).

Waterford Two: One, Killongford, near Dungarvan, 6th February to 31st March, photographed (C.Flynn *et al.*); One, Tramore Back Strand, 7th March to 23rd March, photographed (A.Jacques *et al.*).

Wexford Four: One, Tacumshin Lake, 27th February (P.Kelly); Up to two at Tacumshin Lake in November, with singles present 5th (K.Grace) and 10th (K.Mullarney), and two present on 19th (P.Kelly); One, Ballinoulart, Cahore, 26th November to 19th December (Sh.Farrell).

Wicklow Four: One, Killoughter, 30th January (C.Cardiff); One, Broad Lough, 20th February to 12th March (J.Ivory, S.Mahon, H.Servignat, C.tenBohmer); One, Broad Lough, 2nd November, with two, 1st December (C.Cardiff *et al.*).

Scandinavian Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus littoralis (0; 99; 28)

Cork Three: Two, Eyeries, West Beara, 20th March, photographed (F.Moore); One, The Gearagh, 7th April, photographed (A.Duggan).

Galway One: One, Mutton Island, 4th to 7th March (N.T.Keogh).

Kerry Fifteen: At least four, Black Rock Strand, 29th February to 11th April, photographed (D.O'Connor *et al.*); One, Fahamore, Maharees Peninsula, 7th March to 8th April (D.Farrar); One, Rough Point, Maharees Peninsula, 9th March (D.Farrar); Four, Castlegregory, 16th to 23rd March, photographed (D.Farrar); Four, Scraggan, Dingle Peninsula, 31st March, photographed (D.Farrar); One, Feohanagh, Dingle Peninsula, 26th April, photographed (D.Farrar).

Waterford Two: One, Tramore Back Strand, 8th to 9th March, photographed (M.Cowming); One, Curragh Beach, Ardmore, 18th March (M.Cowming).



Plate 308. Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*, Dunmorán Strand, Sligo, October 2016 (Séamus Feeney).

Wexford Six: At least five, Kilmore Quay, 9th March to 16th April, photographed (K.Mullarney), with a maximum count of five on 25th March; One, Great Saltee Island, 17th April (L.Benson, J.F.Dowdall, T.Shevlin *et al.*).

Wicklow One: One, Broad Lough, 12th March, photographed (C.Cardiff).

2015 Kerry One: One, Black Rock Strand, 31st March, photographed (D.O'Connor).

Hawfinch

Coccothraustes coccothraustes (Unknown; 218; 7)

Cork One: North Harbour, Cape Clear Island, 6th to 9th December, photographed (M.Cadogan).

Donegal One: One, Tory Island, 5th June (A.Meenan), photograph *Wings* 82: 29.

Limerick Four: Four, Curraghchase Forest Park, 20th February to 4th March, photographed (M.Stewart *et al.*).

Waterford One: One, Congress Place, Waterford City, 8th May, photographed (T.Dalton).

Common Rosefinch

Erythrina erythrina (0; 236; 4)

Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 23rd September (M.A.Duggan, P.M.Walsh).

Donegal Two: One, Tory Island, 30th May (B.Robson); One, Tory Island, 11th to 12th October (P.Phillips, R.Vaughan).

Wicklow One: Second-year male, Bray, 17th June, (A.McMillan).



Plate 309 Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, Curraghchase Forest Park, Limerick, March 2016 (Brian Carruthers).



Plate 310. Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*, Cape Clear Island, Cork, November 2016 (Aidan G. Kelly).



Plate 311. Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, Garinish, Cork, October 2016 (Tom Shevlin).

Greenland Redpoll

Acanthis flammea rostrata (13; 40; 1)

Galway One: One, Inishmore, 20th October, photographed (D.Breen).

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* (0; 128; 2)

Cork Two: One, Galley Head, 7th September (C.Cronin); One, Knockadoon Head, 10th October (R.McLaughlin).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (3; 41; 8)

Cork Eight: One, Three Castles Head, Mizen Peninsula, 12th October (D.Ballard); One, Galley Head, 13th October (É.MacLochlainn); Two, Lighthouse Road, Cape Clear Island, 9th to 17th October, photographed (E.O'Donnell *et al.*), both trapped and ringed on 10th October; One, Michael Vincent's, Cape Clear Island, 14th October

(J.Lynch), joined by a second, 17th October, photographed (V.Caschera *et al.*); One, Durse Island, 24th October (K.Grace); One, Secret Valley, Cape Clear Island, 31st October to 1st November, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Pheucticus ludovicianus (0; 8; 1)

Cork One: Female, Garinish, West Beara, 29th September to 10th October (A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*), photographs *Birdwatch* 293: 15, *Wings* 84: 28.

A well-twitched individual, this was the first record since one on Great Blasket Island in September 2000 (*Irish Birds* 7: 107). There have now been seven in Cork, with singles in Kilmore in Wexford and the above Kerry individual.

Appendix 1: Category D records

Category D1 records

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

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* (75; 0; 0)

Donegal Two: Male and one other, Farland Bank, Inch Island, Lough Swilly, 23rd September, then the male only, 5th October to 8th April 2017, photographed (T.Campbell, C.Ingram *et al.*).

Category D3 records

Species that have only ever been found dead on the tideline.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* (0; 0; 1)

Cork Zero: Adult, long-dead tideline corpse, Owenahincha Beach, 2nd January (A.Brewer, C.Cronin), (Cronin 2016), photographs *Birdwatch* 284: 11, *Wings* 81: 27.

Appendix 2: Contributors

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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 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.

2016 records not proven

Harlequin Duck *Histrionicus histrionicus*

One, off Sherkin Island, Cork, 15th November.

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophrys*

One, from Valentia Island, Kerry, 9th April.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

One, Cross, Mayo, 18th March.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

One, Bridgetown, Wexford, 31st July.

Atlantic Gull *Larus michabellis atlantis*

Sub-adult, Dunkettle, Cork Harbour, 26th July.

Adult, Blennerville, Kerry, 5th October.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

One, Coumeenoole, Slea Head, Kerry, 12th October.

Mealy Redpoll *Acanthis flammea flammea*

One, Turvey Parklands, Dublin, 2nd January.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

Female/juvenile, Coumeenoole, Slea Head, Kerry, 12th October.

2015 records not proven

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

One, Broad Lough, Wicklow, 29th April.

Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

One, Tralee, Kerry, 16th December.

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*

One, Lough Mask, Mayo, 12th June.

2014 records not proven

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

Adult winter, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, 16th September.

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 2016 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 report.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

One, Bray, Wicklow, 10th November.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One, Ballinaboola, Wexford, 20th September.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

One, Cape Clear Island, 19th October.

One, Cape Clear Island, 26th October.

Appendix 5: Corrigenda to previous reports

Western/Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli/orientalis* – Incorrect statistics were given in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 417). The text (0; 1; 0), should be replaced with (0; 7; 0).

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* - The species comments in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 421) stated that 'All nine Wexford records have been at Tacumshin Lake'. This is incorrect and should be replaced with, 'Seven of the nine Wexford records have been at Tacumshin Lake'.

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Abbreviations used

BOU: British Ornithologists' Union.

IOC: International Ornithological Congress.

WWR: Wexford Wildfowl Reserve.