

# Irish Rare Bird Report 2017

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## Introduction

Although there were no new species to Ireland recorded in 2017, there were still several notable records for Ireland included in this report. These include the third Irish records of Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (Mayo) in April and Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* (Donegal) in May.

In addition, Ireland's fourth Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* (Cork) was recorded in December, while a Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (Dublin) in May, a Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia* (Cork) in August and a Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* (Cork) in October were all recorded for the fifth time.

Other highlights in 2017 included the seventh Swainson's Thrush *Catbarus ustulatus* (Cork) for Ireland, the seventh and eighth Marsh Warblers *Acrocephalus palustris* (Cork and Wexford), the 8th Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* (Cork),

and the 10th to 12th records for Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catbarus minimus* (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](http://www.irbc.ie/provisional/provisional.php), which is updated regularly. Most of the data in this report were taken directly from the 2017 Provisional List. The IRBC expresses its sincere gratitude to all those who provided information during 2017, either directly or indirectly. The committee also extends its grateful thanks to Kieran Fahy, Joe Hobbs, Roger Riddington and Andy Stoddart for their invaluable assistance.

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**Plate 21.** Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*, Ring Strand, Ballymacoda, Cork, December 2017 (Andrew Malcolm).

Rarity Description forms may be downloaded from the IRBC website: [www.irbc.ie/records/records.php](http://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](mailto:photoArchive@irbc.ie).

### Rarities:

The full list of taxa requiring substantiating documentation can be found at [www.irbc.ie/records/desclist.php](http://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](http://www.irbc.ie/announcements/announce1.php).

## 2017 Systematic List

The sequence and scientific nomenclature largely follows the IOC World List version 8.2 (Gill & Donsker 2018), 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](http://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.

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

**Kerry** Adult, Sandy Bay, Castlegregory, 4th January to 17th February, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

### **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis* (0; 41; 0)

**Galway** Zero: One, Belclare Turlough, 27th December 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 546), until 5th February, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

**Wexford** Zero: One, possibly of the race *interior*, WWR, North Slob, from 7th November 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 546) remained to 22nd March, photographed (T.Campbell, C.Ingram *et al.*).

### **Cackling Goose** *Branta hutchinsii* (0; 28; 3)

**Donegal** One: One, Culdaff, 3rd November, identified from photographs (C.Cardiff, C.Cassidy *et al.*).



**Plate 22.** Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*, Belclare Turlough, Galway, February 2017 (Dermot Breen).

**Mayo** One: One, Annagh Marsh and Termoncarragh between 28th March and 7th April, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

**Sligo** One: One, Lissadell, 14th and 15th October, photographed (M.Bell *et al.*).

## Russian White-fronted Goose

*Anser albifrons albifrons* (51; 114; 6)

**Cork** One: One, The Gearagh, from 11th November 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 546) remained until 23rd April, photographed (J.Lynch); Adult, Kilcolman Bog, 6th and 7th April, photographed (D.Suddaby).

**Louth** Five: Five, Lurgangreen, 6th to 25th April, photographed (E.Larrissey *et al.*).

## American Wigeon

*Anas americana* (0; 145; 1)

**Donegal** One: Male, Culdaff Estuary, 20th February (R.McLaughlin), and presumed same, 18th to 26th November, photographed (T. Campbell *et al.*) presumed returning bird last reported in November 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 546). Male, Malin Town, 20th February (R.McLaughlin), presumed second returning bird last reported in November 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 546); Male, Inch Island, Lough Swilly, 8th April (C.Ingram).

## Lesser Scaup

*Aythya affinis* (0; 40; 2)

**Cavan** One: Male, Pharisee Lough, 9th January (J.Donaldson).

**Galway** One: Male, Loughrea, 13th November 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 547) to 2nd January (É.MacLochlainn); Male, Rahasane Turlough, 15th November to 7th December, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*).

**Sligo** Zero: Male, Lough Gara, 11th December 2016, photographed (*Irish Birds* 10: 547), to 7th January (S.Feeney, D.Skehan), presumed returning individual.

**King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis* (4; 27; 2)

**Donegal** Zero: Eclipse male, off Murvagh Beach, Donegal Bay, 13th and 14th October (B.Robson *et al.*), presumed returning bird.

**Kerry** One: Female, Sandy Bay, Castlegregory, 2nd February to 27th March (P.Lehikoinen *et al.*), and presumed same 16th November to 28th December, (M.O'Clery *et al.*), photographed.

**Sligo** Zero: Adult male, Mullaghmore, from 10th October 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 547), until 11th January (per Birdguides), photographed; Male, Portavaud, Ballysadare Bay from 11th December 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 547), until 29th March 2017, photographed (S.Feeney), and, presumed same, Ballyconnell, 24th February (M.Boyle, A.McMillan).

**Wexford** One: female, Nethertown, 22nd June (J.Geraty, L.Geraty *et al.*), photographed.



**Plate 23.** King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*, Nethertown, Wexford, June 2017 (Luke Geraty).

**Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata* (6; 236; 15)

**Clare** Two: Adult male, Coolsiva Pier, Gleninagh, 11th March to 9th April (S.Doherty, A.G.Kelly *et al.*); Female/immature, Bridges of Ross, 1st October (V.Cashera, A.G.Kelly); presumed returning male, Coolsiva Pier, Gleninagh, 19th November to 25th December, photographed (P.Cullinan *et al.*).

**Donegal** One: Male, off Murvagh Beach, Donegal Bay, from 29th November 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 547) until 12th March (B.Robson), Adult male, Rossnowlagh, 13th October (B.Robson).

**Dublin** Zero: Adult male, South Dublin Bay, 22nd to 31st January, photographed (N.Keogh *et al.*); One, Skerries, 12th March (B.Carruthers, R.Hynes *et al.*).

**Galway** Two: Female, Carrickoogh, Inishmore, 24th and 25th October, photographed (R.D.Moores); First-winter female, Lettergesh,

29th October to 16th November, photographed (M.Mahoney, J.W.Sheehan).

**Kerry** Nine: Two first-winter males and a female/immature, off Gowlane Beach, Brandon Bay, 3rd January, photographed (M.O'Clery); Adult male and first winter male, Brandon Bay, 19th January (E.Carty); Adult male and two females, Brandon Bay, 8th March (M.O'Clery); Adult male, Reenroe, Ballinskelligs Bay, 14th January, joined by female, 18th January, remained until 4th March, photographed (P.McDaid); Female/immature, Rossbeigh, 25th September (M.O'Clery); Female/immature, Reenroe, Ballinskelligs Bay, 9th October to 27th December (P.McDaid), possibly returning bird from the spring; Male and female, Brandon Bay, 2nd December, presumed returning individuals, photographed (A.G.Kelly).

**Louth** Zero: Two adult males and a female, Salterstown, 5th to 25th March (N.Keogh, B.Porter *et al.*). Presumed same, Baltray, 18th March (A.G.Kelly), with four males and a female, Baltray, 19th March (G.Murray), presumed returning individuals.

**Mayo** One: Male and female, Claggan, Blacksod Bay, 9th March, with two males present, same location, 18th and 19th April, photographed (D.Suddaby, M.Reilly *et al.*), presumed returning individuals; Female/immature, Killala Harbour, 26th November, photographed (H.Lawson).

**Meath** Zero: Male and female, Laytown, 14th January, relocated Mornington, 15th January (A.G.Kelly *et al.*); Presumed same male, Bettystown, 5th February (P.Kelly); Presumed same female, Laytown/Bettystown coast, 1st and 2nd April (A.G.Kelly); presumed returning male and female, Bettystown, 15th to 19th December (A.G.Kelly *et al.*).

It is likely that the five off Baltray, Louth in March represents a maximum count of birds present along the North Dublin, Meath and Louth coastline since January 2017 and involves some returning birds from those present between January and April 2016 at The Hermitage, Louth (*Irish Birds* 10: 547), although the degree of overlap is unknown.

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

**Kerry** Zero: Returning male, off Rossbeigh, 25th October 2016, remained until 3rd March, and again 24th October to 28th December, photographed (D.Farrar, M.O'Clery *et al.*).

The bird first found in January 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 394) returned again for its third winter.

**Pacific Diver** *Gavia pacifica* (0; 2; 1)

**Dublin** One: One, non-breeding plumage, Bremore, 24th August to 1st September, photographed (A.G.Kelly, C.Foley *et al.*).

**Galway** Zero: Presumed returning adult, off Tawin, from 19th November 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 548) remained until 4th January (P.Troake).

**Meath** Zero: One, off Gormanstown, 27th August, photographed (A.G.Kelly, B.McCloskey), same individual as seen off Bremore, County Dublin over the period.

The Galway bird was considered to be the same individual found off Tawin in April 2014 (*Irish Birds* 10: 239), which was the second Irish record. The Dublin bird is the third Irish record, and first for the east coast. The first record for Ireland



was also off Tawin, Galway in 2009 and 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 288, 454).

### **White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii* (0; 19; 1)

**Clare** One: Moulting adult, Finavarra, 16th November (E.Dempsey *et al.*).

### **Wilson's Storm Petrel**

*Oceanites oceanicus* (2; 302; 189)

**At sea** Zero: One, 73 nautical miles south of Cape Clear Island, Cork, 17th June (N.T.Keogh).

**Clare** 17: One, off Bridges of Ross, 3rd August (F.MacGabhann, J.N.Murphy); Eight, off Bridges of Ross, 18th August, photographed (V.Cashera, D.Foley *et al.*); Four, off Bridges of Ross, 19th August (M.Boyle, A.Macmillan *et al.*); One, off Bridges of Ross, 26th August (D.Higgins, N.T.Keogh *et al.*); One, off Bridges of Ross, 27th August (S.Dennis *et al.*); One, 8 km north west of Loop Head, 27th August, photographed (N.T.Keogh *et al.*); One, off Bridges of Ross, 10th September, photographed (A.G.Kelly).

**Cork** 149: Nine, 15 nautical miles south of Toe Head, Cork, 21st June, photographed (P.Connaughton *et al.*); 40, south of Cape Clear Island, 25th July, photographed (P.Connaughton *et al.*); One, off Galley Head, 30th July (C.Cronin *et al.*); One, off Cape Clear Island, 31st July (S.Bayley); 56, south of Cape Clear Island, 6th August, photographed (P.Connaughton *et al.*); One, off Power Head, 6th August (D.O'Sullivan *et al.*); One, outside North Harbour, Cape Clear Island, 6th August

(S.Bayley *et al.*); One, off Cape Clear Island, 10th August (M.Boyle); 16, south of Cape Clear Island, 12th August, photographed (P.Connaughton *et al.*); Five, south of Cape Clear Island, 13th August, photographed (P.Connaughton *et al.*); Two, off Galley Head, 16th August (C.Cronin *et al.*); Four, south of Cape Clear Island, 19th August, photographed (P.Connaughton *et al.*); Eight, south of Cape Clear Island, 20th August, photographed (P.Connaughton *et al.*); Three, 12 miles south-east of Galley Head, 22nd August (P.Connaughton *et al.*); One, south of Cape Clear Island, 3rd September (P.Connaughton *et al.*);

**Donegal** Four: One, off Melmore Head, 29th August (O.Campbell, E.Randall); One, off Bloody Foreland, 8th September (T.Campbell, T.Gallagher *et al.*); One, off Arranmore, 8th September (A.MacMillan); One, off Bloody Foreland, 11th September (C.Ingram).

**Kerry** 17: One, between Little Skellig and Puffin Island, 25th July (J.N.Murphy); One, Coosgorm, Valentia Island, 27th July (J.Coveney); One, off Brandon Point, 30th July (F.Hawkins); One, south of Skellig Michael, 1st August (J.N.Murphy); One, between Little Skellig and Puffin Island, 14th August (J.N.Murphy); Seven, off Brandon Point, 18th August (E.Carty, M.Hanafin); Four, 10km south of Great Blasket Island, 25th August, photographed (E.Carty, M.O'Keeffe *et al.*); One, off Puffin Island, 28th August (J.N.Murphy);

**Mayo** Two: One, off Annagh Head, 6th August (D.Suddaby); One, off Kilcummin Head, 8th September (T.Charles, T.Cooney *et al.*).

As in 2016, the regular late summer pelagic trips out of Baltimore, Cork provided the bulk of the records in 2017. The degree of double-counting of individuals and overlap between such trips is unknown



**Plate 24.** Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*, off Great Blasket Island, Kerry, August 2017 (Michael O'Clery).

### **Unidentified Albatross species**

**Waterford** One: One, unidentified to species, off Brownstown Head, 14th August (J.Lennon).

### **Zino's/Fea's/Desertas Petrel**

*Pterodroma madeira/feae/deserta* (0; 115; 6)

**Clare** One: One, off Bridges of Ross, 23rd August (M.Saunt *et al.*).

**Cork** Two: One, off Galley Head, 2nd August (C.O'Sullivan *et al.*); One, off Toe Head, 23rd September (A.Duggan).

**Kerry** One: One, off Brandon Point, 18th August (E.Carty).

**Mayo** One: One, off Annagh Head, 24th August (S.Pierce).

**Wexford** One: One, off Carnsore Point, 10th September (K.Grace).

### **Barolo Shearwater** *Puffinus baroli* (1; 23; 1)

**Wexford** One: One, off Hook Head, 16th August (E.Dempsey).

This is the first record for the county.

### **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* (0, 2, 1)

**Mayo** One: One, Srawaddican Bay, 22nd April, photographed (B.Wilson).

This is the third Irish record, after the first over Phoenix Park, Dublin, 16th August 1987 (*Irish Birds* 3: 614), and one at Boltiagh Bog, Clare, 4th June 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 584).



**Plate 25.** Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, Dungarvan, Waterford, December 2017 (Ian Stevenson).

### White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* (6; 28; 1)

**Dublin** One: One, over Phoenix Park, 2nd April (J.P.Cranney, P.Phillips).

The fifth record for Dublin and the first record in Ireland since 2010.

### Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (103; 306; 26)

**Clare** One: Juvenile, Kilbaha and Cloghaun Lough, 7th to 14th October, photographed (A.G.Kelly, J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

**Cork** 13: Three, Long Strand, then four Red Strand, 26th October, photographed (C.Barton, C.Cronin *et al.*), with one remaining at Red Strand until 30th October (R.Cronin); One, Dunkettle, Cork Harbour, 27th October, photographed (B.Power); Two, Slatty Pool, Cork Harbour, 28th October (T.Gittings); One, Garretstown Marsh, 1st November (L.McGrath); Three, Rathbarry, 24th December (C.Barton), and five there, 27th December, with three remaining into January 2018, photographed (C.Cronin).

**Dublin** Two: Two, Lucan, 2nd November (L.Geraty).

**Galway** One: One, Mainistir, Inishmore, 29th December (P.O'Connell).

**Kerry** Two: Two, Ballinskelligs, 29th October (S.Lynch).

**Mayo** One: One, Crossmolina, 23rd December, photographed (J.Freestone, N.O'Malley).

**Offaly** One: One, Lough Boora Discovery Park, 26th December, photographed (P.Brady).

**Waterford** Two: Juvenile, Whiting Bay, 30th October, photographed (N.J.Bourke); One, Ballyrandle, Dungarvan, 5th December, found dead 13th December, photographed (D.Clarke *et al.*).

**Westmeath** Two: Two, Golden Island, Athlone, 5th December (T.Kelly).

**Wexford** One: One, Tacumshin Lake, 17th November, photographed (P.Kelly).

The Offaly record is only the fourth for the county, after one at an unknown location in November in 1840 (Thompson, 1850), one at Banagher on 15th November 1909 (Kennedy *et al.* 1954), and one at Shannonbridge from 17th January to 1st March 2014 (*Irish Birds* 10: 242). The record from Westmeath is also the fourth county record, after one shot at Tobergill on 5th October 1851 (Ussher and Warren, 1900), one at Lough Ennell on 9th October 1959 (IBR 7: 6), and one at Lough Kinale, Darragh on 14th April 2014 (*Irish Birds* 10: 549).

### Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (92; 170; 7)

**Kerry** Two: Returning adult, Cromane Harbour, from 5th October 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 550) to 15th February, photographed (K.Griffin *et al.*); Sub-adult, Fertha Estuary, Cahersiveen, 27th July to 3rd August, photographed (D.Kavanagh, P.Mullarkey); presumed same, Inny Estuary, Ballinskelligs Bay, 13th August (J.Quinlan); returning adult, Cromane Harbour, 28th September to 29th December, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*); Adult, Portmagee, 23rd to 27th October (S.Lynch *et al.*).

**Waterford** One: Two adults and three juveniles, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, from 15th October 2016 into 2017 (*Irish Birds* 10: 550), with three remaining to 31st December, photographed (M.Cowming *et al.*); Adult, Lisselan, Tramore, 12th May, photographed (A.Jacques).

**Wexford** Three: Two, Rosslare Back Strand, 26th February to 5th March, photographed (T.Shevlin); One, Tacumshin Lake, 8th to 27th March, also at Ring Marsh between 18th and 27th March, photographed (G.Lyons, D.Murphy);

**Wicklow** One: Adult, Broad Lough, 26th to 30th September, photographed (P.Keogh).

### Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (161+; 46; 1)

**Galway** One: One, Muckrush, Lough Corrib, 26th October (A.O'Donail).

The sixth county record, with the last occurring at Clonboo, Muckrush and Curraghmore over the 2012-2013 winter (*Irish Birds* 9: 583 and 10: 77).

### Black-crowned Night Heron

*Nycticorax nycticorax* (27; 53; 4)

**Cork** Two: Juvenile, Youghal, 18th February (T.Nagle); Adult, Goleen, 21st May (L.McGrath, M.Nixon).

**Dublin** One: First summer, Rogerstown, 18th June, photographed (H.Grogan *et al.*).

**Limerick** One: Adult, Adare, 21st April to 5th May, photographed (M.Madden *et al.*).

There are 31 previous records for Cork, involving a total of 37 birds. The Dublin record is the first since one in Bushy Park, Terenure from Easter to September 1916 (Kennedy *et al.* 1954). The Limerick record is the second for the county, after one in Bruree on 5th November 1957 (IBR 5: 7).



**Plate 26.** Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Adare, Limerick, April 2017 (Tom Tarpey).

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* (11; 9; 2)

**Kerry** One: First summer, Ventry, 17th April to 1st May, photographed (B.Wilkens *et al.*); Adult, Ross Castle, Killarney, 25th June, photographed (E.Carty *et al.*).

The third and fourth records for Kerry, but the first in recent times, as the two previous records involved one on the River Laune on 10th June 1875, and one at Waterville on 17th September 1895 (Ussher and Warren, 1900).”

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* (0; 299; 57)

**At sea** Zero: One on a fishing boat, 15 miles south-west off Fastnet Rock, 21st September, photographed (K.Geesley).

**Carlow** One: One, River Burren, Fenagh, 26th January (M.McCarthy).

**Cork** 16: Two, near Kinsale, 1st January (R.O'Driscoll), may have joined the seven individuals at Drake's Pool, Carrigaline, last reported 16th November 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 550), with nine individuals there on 9th January, photographed (D.Fitzpatrick); 10, Myrtleville, 21st January



**Plate 27.** Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*, Ventry, Kerry, April 2017 (Michael O'Clery).





**Plate 28.** Cattle Egrets *Bubulcus ibis*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, April 2017 (Victor Caschera).

(M.O'Keefe) and one, Lough Beg on same date (T.Kelly) likely involved the Carrigaline birds; 11, Drake's Pool, Carrigaline, 21st March to 5th April (D.Fitzpatrick *et al.*), also seen at Lough Beg on 3rd April (M.Kelly, J.N.Murphy); One, Inchydoney/White's Marsh, December 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 550) remained to 4th January (C.Cronin), joined by a second bird, 6th January (S.Cronin), with three present from 16th January to 1st May, photographed (K.Cronin); One, Timoleague, 16th January to 30th March (P.Connaughton); One, Pilmore, 21st February (L.Kelly); One, Cape Clear Island, 28th to 30th March, photographed (M.Cadogan); Four, Inishbeg, Skibbereen, 8th and 9th April (J.Mitchell, M.Mitchell *et al.*); Two, White's Marsh/Cul-de-sac pool, Clonakilty, 7th to 22nd November (S.Cronin *et al.*); One, Rineen, Unionhall, 7th December (J.Minihane).

**Donegal** One: One, Inver, 4th to 26th October, photographed (F.McDaid *et al.*).

**Limerick** Six: At least two, Mungret, from 28th March, with four there 1st April, photographed (T.Browne); Two, Coonagh Nature Reserve, 15th April, photographed (T.Tarpey).

**Sligo** One: One, Collooney, 22nd January to 13th February (K.O'Hara, L.O'Hara).

**Waterford** 12: One, Ballyneety, 27th February (J.A.Power) to 4th March, when two present, photographed (É.MacLochlainn *et al.*), with four present from 9th April (A.Jacques, É.MacLochlainn *et al.*); Two, Kilmurry, 1st and 2nd March, photographed (E.Burke), presumed to move to Ballyneety in April; Five, Kilmaclegue from 11th March, photographed (M.Cowming jr *et al.*), also seen at Corbally on 28th March and Cloghernagh from 1st to 15th April, with six birds present 6th April (J.D.Power); One, breeding plumage, Saleen, 5th May (J.Farrell, D.Sinnott); One, Cloghernagh, found injured and later put down, 7th December (A.Jacques, P.M.Walsh), considered likely one of flock in area in April; One, Ballyshoneen, 31st December (P.Archer).

**Wexford** 16: Seven, Tacumshin Lake/Tomhaggard area from October 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 550) to April, photographed (K.Grace, P.Kelly *et*

*al.*); Additional birds in same area as follows: One, 20th February (N.Keogh, B.Porter); One, 12th March (P.Kelly); One, 16th March (H.Servignat); Two, 18th March (P.Kelly); One, 1st April (P.Kelly); One, 4th April (P.King, S.Mahon *et al.*), resulting in a peak flock size of fourteen birds present between 4th and 18th April. This number began decreasing rapidly during May such that just one bird was left on 29th June; Four, Cahore, 8th May, with two on 9th and 10th May (B.Haslam *et al.*); One, Tacumshin Lake, 30th October, photographed (N.Keogh); Up to four, moving between Killag and Tacumshin Lake, 12 November to 31st December (E.Dempsey, A.G.Kelly *et al.*); One, Cahore, 18th November to 26th December, photographed (C.Cardiff *et al.*).

**Wicklow** Three: Two, Broad Lough, 12th March (M.Boyle, A.McMillan); One, Killoughter, 5th April to 16th May, also seen at Castlegrange, Five Mile Point and BWI East Coast Nature Reserve, photographed (C.Cardiff *et al.*).

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; 25; 1)

**Wicklow** One: First summer, BWI East Coast Nature Reserve, 30th June to 11th July, photographed (T.Shevlin *et al.*).

The second record for Wicklow after one at Kilcoole and Killoughter on 28th and 29th April 1996 (*Irish Birds* 6: 67).

### **Great White Egret** *Ardea alba* (0; 102; 13)

**Clare** One: One, Lough O'Grady, near Scarriff, from 30th November 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 551), remained to 21st January, photographed (F.MacGabhann, J.N.Murphy); One, Lough Inchiquin, 29th December 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 551), relocated to Lough Atedaun, near Corofin, 20th January (J.N.Murphy), until 26th January (P.Cullinan); One, in flight near Latoon, 18th March (J.N.Murphy), and presumed same, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 23rd April (P.Brennan).



**Plate 29.** Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*, East Coast Nature Reserve, Newcastle, Wicklow, July 2017 (Dick Coombes).



**Plate 30.** Great White Egret *Ardea alba*, The Gearagh, Cork, April 2017 (Richard Mills).

**Cork** Two: One, The Gearagh, 19th April to 20th May, photographed (A.Duggan *et al.*); One, Lissagriffin Lake, 30th May, photographed (M.Mitchell, J.Mitchell).

**Galway** Two: One, Muckrush, Lough Corrib from 5th November 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 551), remained to 8th February, when second bird also present (D.Breen); One, flying over M18 south of Gort, 30th May (P.Troake); Two, Lough Corrib (Angliham and Muckrush) from 17th September to 31st December, presumed same as February individuals (D.Breen, T.Griffin *et al.*).

**Kerry** One: One, Caherfealane Pier, 20th September and 15th October, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*).

**Laois** One: One, Shanahoe Wetlands, 4th December (D.Finnamore).

**Roscommon** One: One, Clanwich Island, Lough Ree, 16th July, photographed (M.Craven).

**Tipperary** One: One, Two Mile Gate, Ballycuggeran, 17th October (S.Biggame).

**Waterford** Two: One, Dungarvan, 27th February (F.O'Connell); One, flyover, Dungarvan, 15th October (C.Flynn).

**Wexford** Two: Two, Lady's Island Lake, 26th March (P.Kelly), and presumed one of these, Tacumshin Lake, 8th April (B.Haslam, P.Kelly). The Laois record is the second record for the county, after one at Ballycolla on 2nd January 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 584). The Roscommon record is the third county record, after singles at the Shannon Callows on 17th October 1999 (*Irish Birds* 6: 549), and 18th to 20th April 2012 (*Irish Birds* 10: 78). The Tipperary record is the second county record, after one at Ashton's Callows on 3rd June and 9th August 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 258).

## Continental Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* (0; 66; 1)

**Kerry** One: One, Black Rock, 28th November, photographed (D.O'Connor).

## Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* (0; 7; 1)

**Cork** One: Juvenile, Barry's Head, 7th to 30th October, photographed (S.Cronin *et al.*).

The eighth Irish record, and fourth for Cork.



**Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus* (23; 64; 1)

**Cork** One: Adult male, East Bog, Cape Clear Island, 29th April, photographed (S.Bayley, J.Proudfoot, S.Bayley *et al.*).

There are nine previous records for Cork, involving 10 birds. The fourth record for Cape Clear Island, with the last one there on 24th October 1981 (*Irish Birds* 2: 209).

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* (0; 21; 2)

**Cork** One: First year, north of Midleton, 23rd April, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*).

**Wexford** One: One, Ring Marsh and Tacumshin Lake, 15th to 18th April, photographed (B.Haslam *et al.*).

**Crane** *Grus grus* (29; 170; 4)

**Galway** One: One, in flight, Inishbofin, 2nd May (G.Condron, T.McCormack *et al.*).

**Kildare** One: One, in flight, Ballinafagh, 10th May (D.Wyer).

**Wexford** Two: Two, Cahore, 14th May (J.Ryan).

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* (36; 121; 10)

**Dublin** One: Adult, Baldoyle Estuary, 21st April, photographed (J.Hayes *et al.*).

**Waterford** Two: Two adults, one colour-ringed as chick in Germany in July 2010, Kilmacleague, 4th May, photographed (D.Suddaby).

**Wexford** Seven: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 1st to 7th April, photographed (M.Boyle, P.Kelly *et al.*); Five adults, Tacumshin Lake, 20th to 29th April, photographed (G.O'Sullivan *et al.*), also seen Lady's Island Lake, 28th April; First summer, Tacumshin Lake, 5th to 15th May, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

There are only two previous records for Waterford, with one shot in 1880 (Ussher and Warren, 1900), and one at Tramore Backstrand on 31st March 1997, which had previously been in Wexford (*Irish Birds* 6: 296).

**Pacific Golden Plover**

*Pluvialis fulva* (0; 15; 1)

**Wexford** One: Juvenile, Bannow Island, 18th October to 8th November, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*).

**2016 Wexford** Two: Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 20th to 22nd July, photographed and sound-recorded (V.Cashera, K.Mullarney *et al.*); Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 14th August, photographed (P.Archer *et al.*).

This is the first juvenile recorded in Ireland, with 14 of the previous 15 records involving adults, as well as one first-summer bird. There have been nine previous county records.

**American Golden Plover**

*Pluvialis dominica* (1; 297; 18)

**Clare** One: Juvenile, Loop Head, 18th October (J.N.Murphy).

**Cork** Three: Juvenile, Cockle Strand, Mizen Head, 24th September (D.Ballard); Juvenile, Ballycotton, 27th and 28th October (P.Moore *et al.*); Juvenile, Clonakilty Estuary, 2nd to 8th December (P.Connaughton *et al.*).

**Kerry** Five: Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, 12th September (E.Carty); Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, 2nd to 25th October, photographed (D.Farrer *et al.*); Juvenile, Cashen Estuary, 6th to 19th October, photographed (D.Farrer); Adult-type, Kerry Head, 14th October (M.Hanafin); Juvenile, Beale Strand, 19th October, photographed (A.Ash).

**Mayo** Two: One, Termoncarragh, 20th April, photographed (D.Suddaby); Juvenile, Cross Lough, The Mullet, 18th October (D.Suddaby).

**Meath** One: Juvenile, Mornington, 15th October, photographed (A.G.Kelly).

**Sligo** One: Adult, Inchmore, Lough Gara, 18th November (S.Feeney).

**Wexford** Five: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 29th August, photographed (D.Bakewell, K.Mullarney); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 13th October (P.Kelly); Juvenile, Bannow Bay, 17th October, joined by second juvenile on 25th, with one remaining to 3rd November, both later seen at The Cull, 14th & 15th November, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*); One, Tacumshin Lake, 10th November (D.Murphy).

Several records remain pending, following requests for additional information about the age of birds, or more details of the record for flyover sightings.

**Semipalmated Plover**

*Charadrius semipalmatus* (0; 6; 0)

**Mayo** One: Second calendar year, Achill Island, 13th to 30th September, photographed (O.Metcalf, T.Jones *et al.*), considered same as recorded between 2nd and 14th October 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 553). Considered the same as the 2016 individual, re-found by the same observers the following autumn.

**Little Ringed Plover**

*Charadrius dubius* (0; 156; 13)

**Carlow** Zero: The juvenile at Carlow Sugar Factory Lagoons, Laois, 7th August, was also seen on the Carlow side of the river (B.Power).



**Plate 31.** Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*, Broadmeadows, Swords, Dublin, April 2017 (Tom Shevlin).

**Cork** Two: Adult, Clonakilty, 6th May, photographed (R.T.Mills), and presumed same, with a second bird, White's Marsh, 7th May (A.Duggan *et al.*).

**Dublin** Two: Two adults, Broadmeadows, Swords Estuary, 22nd and 23rd April, with one remaining until 27th April, photographed (N.Griffin, A.G.Kelly *et al.*).

**Laois** One: Juvenile, Carlow Sugar Factory Lagoons, 7th August, photographed (B.Power).

**Wexford** Seven: One, Tacumshin Lake, 13th May (P.Kelly); Two juveniles, Cahore, 27th June, with one remaining until 30th June, photographed (C.Cardiff *et al.*); One juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 5th August joined by a second on 6th August, with a peak of three on 10th August, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*). Two were present, 26th August, one of which was considered to be a new bird, with one bird remaining until 17th September; Three juveniles, Lady's Island Lake, 13th August (D.Daly *et al.*), presumed same individuals; Juvenile, Ring Marsh, 26th August, photographed (P.Kelly), presumed one of the Tacumshin birds above.

**Wicklow** One: Adult female, Kilcoole, 22nd and 23rd June, photographed (A.Butler *et al.*).

The record from Laois and Carlow is the first record for both counties. Several records remain pending, following requests for additional information about the age of the individuals or more details of the sightings.

## Kentish Plover

*Charadrius alexandrinus* (4; 11; 1)

**Wexford** One: Male, Tacumshin Lake, 16th and 17th April, colour-ringed in France, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*).

The first record since one at the same site between 25th April and 2nd May 2011 (*Irish Birds* 9: 462).



**Plate 32.** Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, April 2017 (Killian Mullarney).

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus* (146; 184; 16)

**Clare** Three: Three, The Burren, 1st May, photographed (M.Burke).

**Cork** Three: One, Lissagriffin, 5th May (D.Ballard); One, Galley Head, 5th October (C.Cronin); Juvenile, Dursey Island, 18th October (K.Grace).

**Kerry** Six: Five, Mount Brandon, 23rd April, photographed (M.Connaughton); One, heard only, Mount Brandon, 20th May, sound-recorded (K.Kelly).

**Sligo** One: One, Lenadon Point, 17th April, photographed (D.Cotton *et al.*).

**Wexford** One: Juvenile, Hook Head, 17th October, photographed (K.Mullarney).

**Wicklow** Two: Two females, Mullaghcleevaun, 8th May (J.Murphy). The Sligo record is the first record for the county.

## Long-billed Dowitcher

*Limnodromus scolopaceus* (2; 135; 9)

**Kerry** Four: One, Carrahane Strand, 26th August (P.McDermott); One, Carrahane Strand, 18th to 22nd September (K.Kelly *et al.*); Two, Baile an Reannaigh, Smerwick Harbour, 25th October (P.McDermott).

**Limerick** One: One, Ringmoylan, 18th May, photographed (P.Troake).  
**Mayo** One: Juvenile, Termoncarragh Lake, 27th September (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

**Mayo** One: Juvenile, Termoncarragh Lake, 27th September (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

**Wexford** Three: Juvenile moulting into first summer plumage, Tacumshin Lake, from 21st October 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 555), until 22nd April (B.Haslam); Adult, Bannow Bay, 27th August to 2nd October (D.Bakewell *et al.*); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 1st October, joined by a second juvenile, 6th October to 19th November, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*), with one remaining into 2018.



**Plate 33.** Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, October 2017 (Paul Kelly).

## Hudsonian Whimbrel

*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus* (0; 3; 1)

**Sligo** One: Juvenile, Easkey, 3rd September to 3rd October, also seen Carrowmacbrien, 4th September, photographed (S.Feeney *et al.*).

The first record for Sligo. The previous records involve singles in Tralee Harbour, Kerry on 1st October 1957 (IBR 5: 11), Tacumshin Lake, Wexford on 27th September 1980 (*Irish Birds* 2: 392), and Mizen Head, Cork from 20th to 25th September 2011 (*Irish Birds* 9: 470). There is also a record of one, 105 nautical miles west-southwest of Fastnet Rock, Cork, on 24th August 1960 (*Irish Birds* 9: 245). At sea records are not included in the species totals.

## Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (0; 4; 1)

**Dublin** One: Adult, Broadmeadows, Swords Estuary, 6th to 9th May, photographed (V.Caschera *et al.*).

The first county record, the first in spring, and only the fifth Irish record. The last record was at Great Island, Cork on 20th August 1999 (*Irish Birds* 7: 397), while the three previous records all occurred in Wexford, in August.



**Plate 34.** Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*, Broadmeadows, Swords, Dublin, May 2017 (Victor Caschera).

## Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (0; 165; 10)

**Clare** One: First winter, Islandavanna, Clarecastle, 22nd to 24th October, photographed (C.Cullen *et al.*).

**Cork** Four: Juvenile, Clogheen Marsh, 13th August (K.Woods); One, in flight, Lighthouse Road, Cape Clear Island, 26th August (D.Fitzpatrick *et al.*); Juvenile, Lissagriffin Lake, 1st September (P.Moore); First winter, Cape Clear Island, trapped and ringed, 1st and 2nd October, photographed (M.O'Donnell *et al.*).

**Galway** One: First winter, Inishmore, 5th to 10th October, photographed (A.Ash *et al.*).

**Kerry** One: Juvenile, Cappagh Beach, Cloghane, 9th to 11th September, photographed (I.Jones *et al.*).

**Mayo** Two: Juvenile, Cross Lough, The Mullet, 20th to 28th September, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*); Juvenile, Termoncarragh Lake, 26th and 27th September (D.Suddaby).

**Wexford** One: First winter, Tacumshin Lake, 7th October to 15th November, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Another good year for this regular American wader. The majority of records come from Cork, Kerry and Wexford, but there have now been seven Clare records, six Galway records, and eight Mayo records.



**Plate 35.** Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, Cappagh Beach, Kerry, September 2017 (Michael O'Clery).

## Spotted Sandpiper

*Actitis macularius* (1; 47; 3)

**Cork** One: First winter, Cape Clear Island, 5th to 13th October, trapped and ringed and later taken by Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*, photographed (S.Bayley, M.O'Donnell *et al.*).

**Dublin** One: Juvenile, Rogerstown Estuary, 23rd and 24th August, photographed (B.Carruthers *et al.*).

**Kerry** One: Juvenile, Rough Point, Castlegregory, 29th August, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*).

The first record for Dublin. There have been 17 records in Cork, and eight in Kerry.





**Plate 36.** Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*, Cape Clear Island, Cork, October 2017 (Ciaran Cronin).



**Plate 37.** Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*, Derrymore Strand, Kerry, September 2017 (Michael O'Clery).



**Plate 38.** White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, November 2017 (Paul Kelly).



**Plate 39.** Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, September 2017 (Dermot Breen).

## Semipalmated Sandpiper

*Calidris pusilla* (0; 222; 11)

**Cork** Four: Juvenile, The Gearagh, 3rd September, photographed (J.Lynch); Juvenile, Ring Strand, 3rd September (D.O'Sullivan); Juvenile, Lissagriffin Lake, 4th September (D.Ballard); Juvenile, Clogheen Marsh, 28th September to 7th December, photographed, (C.Cronin, C.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

**Kerry** Four: Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, 3rd September (E.Carty); Juvenile, Derrymore Strand, 6th September, photographed (M.O'Clery); Juvenile, Blennerville, 7th September (E.Carty); Juvenile, Baile an Reannaigh, Smerwick Harbour, 7th to 13th September, photographed (J.Crosher *et al.*).

**Wexford** Three: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 13th to 21st July, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 31st August to 6th September, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*); Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 7th to 10th September, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*).

The long-staying bird at Clogheen Marsh, Cork was the first recorded in December. There have been two birds that stayed into November, one at Ballycotton, Cork in 2010 that stayed until 21st November (*Irish Birds* 9: 296), and one at Tacumshin Lake, Wexford in 2016, which remained until 28th November (*Irish Birds* 10: 557).

## White-rumped Sandpiper

*Calidris fuscicollis* (0; 337; 15)

**Cork** Four: Adult, Lough Errul, Cape Clear Island, 26th and 27th August, photographed (S.Bayley, E.Dempsey); Adult, Muckross Estuary, 28th August (M.Mitchell, J.Wyllie); Adult, Muckross Estuary, 9th to 11th September, photographed (J.Lynch *et al.*); Juvenile, Ring Strand, 30th October (D.O'Sullivan).

**Donegal** One: Juvenile, Lough Swilly, 21st to 23rd October (C.Ingram *et al.*).

**Galway** One: Adult, Mannin Bay, Ballyconneely, 8th August, photographed (D.Breen).

**Kerry** Three: Adult, Carrahane Strand, 13th to 29th September,

photographed (D.O'Connor *et al.*), also seen at Black Rock between 21st and 25th September; Two juveniles, Carrahane Strand, 24th October, photographed (D.O'Connor), also seen Black Rock Strand, with single birds at Black Rock Strand, 6th November, and Carrahane Strand, 7th November.

**Mayo** One: Juvenile, Corragaun Lough, 26th to 30th October (D.Breen, E.McGreal *et al.*).

**Wexford** Five: Adult, The Cull, 7th to 13th August, photographed (K.Grace *et al.*); Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 10th August (P.Kelly *et al.*); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 18th October, joined by first winter, 29th October until 4th November, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); First-winter, Tacumshin Lake, 1st to 3rd December, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

The Donegal record is only the fourth for the county, while the record for Galway is the seventh for the county.

## Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (0; 165; 6)

**Cork** One: Juvenile, Muckross Estuary, 10th to 18th September, photographed (T.C.Kelly *et al.*).

**Kerry** One: Juvenile, Ballycarbery, Cahersiveen, 1st to 3rd September, photographed (P.McDaid).

**Sligo** One: Juvenile, Long Rock and Dunmorán Strand, Aughris, 1st to 14th September, photographed (D.Shehan *et al.*).

**Wexford** Three: Two juveniles, Tacumshin Lake, 31st August to 9th September, photographed (J.F.Dowdall, K.Mullarney *et al.*); Juvenile, The Cull, 24th September (P.Kelly).

The Sligo record is only the second for the county, following one at Ballysadare Bay from 21st September to 1st October 2000 (*Irish Birds* 7: 94).

## Red-necked Phalarope

*Phalaropus lobatus* (3; 52; 2)

**Cork** One: Adult-type, off Galley Head, 11th June (P.Moore, D.O'Sullivan).

**Wexford** One: Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 16th September, photographed (C.tenBohmer *et al.*).



**Plate 40.** Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, September 2017 (Tom Shevlin).

### **Bonaparte's Gull**

*Chroicocephalus philadelphia* (1; 80; 2)

**Cork** One: Adult, Kennedy Quay, Cork City, 12th to 14th February, photographed (J.Diggin *et al.*), presumed same, The Gearagh, 19th and 20th February, and Coolcower, Lee Reservoir, 3rd to 11th March (A.Duggan *et al.*).

**Kerry** One: First winter, Kenmare, 11th March to 21st May, photographed (F.Moore *et al.*).

### **Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* (0; 43; 2)

**Galway** One: Adult, Creggoduff Strand, Slyne Head, 3rd February (D.Breen).

**Sligo** One: Sub-adult, Staid Abbey, Agharrow, 18th to 31st August, photographed (M.Bell *et al.*), also seen at Lislary and Streedagh up to 22nd August, and then relocated on 31st August at Long Rock, between Aughris Head and Dunmorán Strand.

The first record for Sligo. There are six previous records for Galway, with the last in 2006.

### **Kumlien's Gull**

*Larus glaucooides kumlieni* (0; 321; 13)

**Cork** Three: First-winter, Ballycotton, 17th January (P.Moore); Adult, Kilkieran Lake, 28th to 31st January, photographed (C.Barton); First-winter, Kinsale Harbour, 5th February (R.O'Driscoll).

**Donegal** Zero: Fourth-winter, Moville, 30th December 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 561), presumed same, 30th January (T.Campbell, R.Smith) and 18th November, photographed (T.Campbell, R.Murray *et al.*).

**Galway** Three: First-winter, Rossaveel, 24th January to 19th February, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*); First-winter, Rusheen Bay, 12th March, photographed (A.Ash); Adult, Omev Strand, 20th December, photographed (D.Breen).

**Kerry** Four: Second-winter, Tralee from December 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 561) remained to 21st February, photographed (L.Geraty, S.Geraty), and presumed same, 10th to 29th December, photographed (B.O'Connor *et al.*); First-winter and second-winter, Cashen Estuary, 14th March (D.Farrer); Adult, Reenard, 27th March, photographed (P.McDaid); Adult, Blennerville, 17th December (D.O'Connor).





**Plate 41.** Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus Philadelphia*, Cork City, February 2017 (Harry Hussey).

**Waterford** Two: First-winter, Helvick Pier, 5th to 11th February, photographed (M.Cowming jr *et al.*); First-winter, Ballinagaul, 11th March (F.O'Connell, J.A.Power *et al.*).

**Wexford** One: First-winter, Rosslare Bay, 5th February (K.Grace, T.Shevlin), presumed same Rosslare Harbour, 30th April, photographed (P.Kelly).

### **Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans* (0; 16; 1)

**Limerick** One: Second-winter O'Callaghan's Strand, Limerick City, 15th January to 13th May, photographed (G.Hunt *et al.*), also seen at Thomond Weir, Honan's Quay, and Arthur's Quay over the period. The first record for Limerick, and the 17th for Ireland.

### **Gull-billed Tern**

*Gelochelidon nilotica* (0; 21; 1)

**Cork** One: Adult summer, Muckross Estuary, Clonakilty, 26th April to 6th May, photographed (C.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

The fourth record for Cork, and the first since one on the Womanagh River, near Ballymacoda on the 20th and 21st May, 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 404).

### **'Orange-billed' Tern** *Sterna* sp.

**2016 Wexford** One: Adult winter, Carnsore Point, 26th August could not be identified to species (P.Cosgrove, L.Waters).



**Plate 42.** Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*, Tralee, Kerry, February 2017 (Luke Geraty).



**Plate 43.** Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*, Limerick City, January 2017 (Tom Tarpey).



**Plate 44.** Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*, Muckross Estuary, Cork, April 2017 (Harry Hussey).

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

**Galway** Zero: Returning adult winter, Nimmo's Pier, and several other sites in Co. Galway from 4th November 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 564) to 26th March at Furbo, photographed (A.Ash), presumed same, at several sites in Galway Bay, between 26th October and 22nd December, photographed (T.Griffin *et al.*).

**Louth** Zero: Adult summer, Soldier's Point, 19th July to 17th October, photographed (E.Larrissety *et al.*), presumed returning, also seen in Wexford.

**Wexford** Zero: Adult summer, Tacumshin Lake, 1st and 2nd July (T.Kilbane *et al.*), presumed same as Louth individual.

### **White-winged Tern**

*Chlidonias leucopterus* (9; 95; 1)

**Cork** One: Adult, Cape Clear Island, 1st July (S.Bayley *et al.*)

The 17th record for Cork, and the second for Cape Clear Island, following one which visited Sherkin Island on 19th July 2005 and Cape Clear Island the following day (*Irish Birds* 8: 387 and 599).

### **Snowy Owl** *Bubo scandiacus* (55; 31; 0)

**Galway** Zero: Female, Cloghernagun from 10th December 2016 (*Irish birds* 10: 564) remained until 31st January, photographed (D.Breen).

**Mayo** One: Adult female, presumed returning individual, Tarmon Hill, Blacksod, 8th March, photographed (S.Stutz), then, presumed same, Tarmon Hill, 12th August to 30th September, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*), then, presumed same, Carrowmore Lake, 31st December (L.deBurgh-Whyte).

The Tarmon Hill female was first found in the same location in September 2006, when it was a second calendar year individual (*Irish Birds* 8: 404).

### **Alpine Swift** *Apus melba* (7; 72; 5)

**Cork** One: One, Ballyannan Wood, Midleton, 10th March (B.Power).

**Wexford** Three: One, Tacumshin Lake, 25th March (C.tenBohmer); One, Rosslare Strand, 8th April (A.Wheeler, M.Wheeler); One, Tacumshin Lake, 23rd April, photographed (P.Kelly).

**Wicklow** One: One, Five Mile Point, 20th to 22nd April, photographed (C.Cardiff *et al.*), also seen at Newcastle Airfield, East Coast Nature Reserve and Castlegrange.



**Plate 45.** Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*, Cloghernagun, Galway, January 2017 (Dermot Breen).

### **Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* (9; 335; 6)

**Cork** Two: One, Knockadoon Head, 18th October (P.Moore); One, Dursley Island, 30th October (P.Rowe *et al.*).

**Kerry** Two: One, Skellig Michael, 28th August (J.N.Murphy); One, Bray Head, Valencia, 1st October, photographed (S.Enright).

**Waterford** One: One, Whiting Bay, 8th October (C.Flynn).

**Wicklow** One: One, Newcastle, 2nd September, photographed (B.Smith).

The seventh and eighth records for Kerry, the 15th record for Waterford and the fourth record for Wicklow.

### **Red-footed Falcon**

*Falco vespertinus* (1; 32; 1)

**Cork** One: Male, Barryroe/Dunworley, 25th May (P.Connaughton).

The seventh record for Cork, with the last being an adult male at Owenahincha on 24th May, 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 586).

### **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* (14; 368; 16)

**At Sea** Zero: One, over the Porcupine Seabight, approximately 256km/138nm south west of Mizen Head, Co. Cork, 23rd April, photographed (J.Power).

**Cork** One: First-summer, Dunkettle, 18th July (B.Power).

**Dublin** One: One, Rogerstown Estuary, 10th September (B.Carruthers, T.Kavanagh).

**Galway** One: One, Cloonasee, Kinvarra, 20th June (J.Meade).

**Kilkenny** One: Juvenile, Ahenny Slate Quarry, 23rd August (B.Pinchen).

**Waterford** Five: Adult, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 7th May (F.O'Connell); First-year, Helvick Head, 13th May, photographed (F.O'Connell, J.A.Power *et al.*); Adult, Coumaraginmountain, 26th May (J.A.Power, B.Seridan); First-year, Carrigavantry, Tramore, 31st May to 3rd June, photographed (P.Archer *et al.*); First-year, between Curragh beach and Ballyquin, Ardmore; 2nd June (A.O'Brien).

**Wexford** Five: One, South Slob, 1st May (P.Kelly); First-year, Tacumshin Lake, 3rd to 10th May, photographed (T.Kilbane, P.King *et al.*); Immature, Tacumshin Lake, 26th May to 6th June (P.Kelly *et al.*); One, Killinick, 28th May (K.Grace); One, South Slob, 5th June (P.Farrelly).

**Wicklow** Two: First-summer, Kilcoole, 10th July (N.T.Keogh, I.O'Sullivan); Adult, Broad Lough, 19th September (E.Dempsey).

### **Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* (7; 183; 2)

**Cork** Two: Juvenile, The Slob, Youghal, 1st to 3rd October, photographed (B.Power *et al.*); Juvenile, Mizen Head, 27th October (D.Ballard *et al.*).

### **Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator* (2; 106; 2)

**Waterford** One: Female, Brownstown Head, 17th April, photographed (É.MacLochlainn *et al.*).

**Wexford** One: Male, Great Saltee Island, 23rd May, photographed (G.Murray, P.Phillips).

### **Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* (0; 62; 5)

**Cork** Two: One, Toor Pier, Mizen Head, 3rd to 9th October, photographed (G.Murray, P.Phillips); One, Dursley Island, 5th October (K.Grace).





**Plate 46.** Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*, Inishmore, Galway, October 2017 (Dermot Breen).

**Galway** Two: One, Bun Gabhla, Inishmore, 7th to 8th October, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*); One, Kilronan, Inishmore, 11th October (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

**Kerry** One: One, Sleah Head, 4th and 5th October, photographed (S.Enright *et al.*).

Five in one year is good, equalling the tally from 2000. However, the best year to date remains 1995, with nine records involving 10 birds. The Kerry record is the fifth for the county, while the two in Galway bring the county total to six, with four recorded on Inishmore, and two on Inishbofin.

### Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* (62; 156; 2)

**Cork** One: Male, Cape Clear Island, 2nd May (S.Bayley).

**Wexford** One: Female type, Great Saltee Island, 21st April (D.O'Sullivan).

The first records since 2015.

### Short-toed Lark

*Calandrella brachydactyla* (1; 80; 1)

**Cork** One: One, Cape Clear Island, 19th to 30th October, photographed (E.O'Donnell *et al.*).

### Red-rumped Swallow

*Cecropis daurica* (0; 53; 2)

**Cork** One: One, Midleton, 10th May (P.Moore).

**Wexford** One: One, Greenore Point, 28th April, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly).

### Siberian Chiffchaff

*Phylloscopus collybita tristis* (2; 123; 27)

**Cork** 13: Two, Ballycotton, 15th January (R.McLaughlin); Two, Curragheen River near Cork Institute of Technology, Cork City, 15th January (M.O'Keefe); One, Carrigaline, 23rd January (S.Bayley); One, Cape Clear Island, 18th October (S.Bayley); One, Cape Clear Island, 29th October, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*); Two first-winters trapped and ringed, Cape Clear Island, 1st November, photographed (S.Bayley *et al.*); One, Cape Clear Island, 15th November (S.Bayley); One, Knockadoon Head, 21st November (P.Moore); One, Ballycotton, 30th November, photographed (R.McLaughlin); One, Midleton, 29th December, photographed (P.Moore).

**Dublin** One: One, Kilbogget Park, Cabinteely, from 29th December



**Plate 47.** Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*, Cape Clear Island, Cork, October 2017 (Victor Caschera).





**Plate 48.** Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*, Cape Clear Island, Cork, October 2017 (Tom Shevlin).



**Plate 49.** Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*, Kilbaha, Clare, October 2017 (Tom Tarpey).

2016 (*Irish birds* 10: 568), remained to 13th April, photographed (N.T.Keogh); One, Tolka Valley Park, from 31st December 2016 (*Irish birds* 10: 568), remained to 26th January, photographed (D.O'Mahony); One, Ranelagh Gardens, 11th February (M.Carmody).

**Galway** One: One, Lough Atalia, 21st January, sound-recorded (N.T.Keogh).

**Kerry** Five: One, Ross Castle, Killarney, 5th February (M.O'Clery); One, mouth of River Finglas, Camp, 8th March (M.O'Clery); One, Dunquin, 20th November (D.Farrar); Two, Ross Castle, Killarney, 8th to 30th December, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*).

**Mayo** Two: One, Tarmon, Blacksod, 17th October (D.Suddaby); One, Annagh, Mullet Peninsula, 5th November (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

**Wexford** Five: Two, Cahore from 30th December 2016 (*Irish birds* 10: 568), remained to 21st January, with one still present 12th March, photographed (C.Cardiff, T.Cardiff); One, Rosslare Harbour, from 31st December 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 568), remained to 8th January, photographed (P.Kelly); One, Cahore, 2nd January, in addition to two already present, photographed (C.Cardiff); One, Kilmore Quay, 2nd and 3rd January (K.Grace); One, Greenore Point, 7th to 22nd January, photographed (P.Kelly); One, Tacumshin, 16th December (P.Kelly); One, Cahore, 16th December (C.Cardiff).

## Radde's Warbler

*Phylloscopus schwarzi* (0; 20; 2)

**Clare** One: One, Kilbaha, 30th October, photographed (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

**Cork** One: One, trapped and ringed, Cape Clear Island, 1st November, photographed (S.Bayley *et al.*).

The first record for Clare, and the 12th for Cork.

## Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* (0; 3; 0)

**2016 Cork** One: One, Cape Clear Island, 23rd October (G.Jones).

The first record for Cape Clear Island, and the third for Ireland, after singles at Knockadoon Head (Cork) from 18th December 2003 to 6th January 2004 (*Irish Birds* 7: 567), and Hook Head (Wexford) from 28th December 2003 to 29th February 2004 (*Irish Birds* 7: 567).

## Greenish Warbler

*Phylloscopus trochiloides* (0; 40; 1)

**Wexford** One: Singing male, Great Saltee Island, 28th and 29th May, photographed (J.F.Dowdall *et al.*).

The second record in May, and the earliest, just ahead of one on Cape Clear Island, Cork on 30th May 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 600). There are also two June records; one, Rockabill, Dublin, 3rd June 1996 (*Irish Birds* 6: 85), and an adult male, Great Saltee Island, Wexford, 13th June 1995 (*Irish Birds* 5: 470).

## Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* (0; 6; 2)

**Cork** One: First-winter, Crookhaven, 7th to 10th October, photographed (A.Duggan, P.Leonard *et al.*).

**Wexford** One: Singing male, Cahore, 27th June to 9th July, photographed (C.Cardiff *et al.*).

The Cork record is the fifth for the county, and the first since 2014, when a singing male was at the Old Head of Kinsale on 9th June (*Irish Birds* 10: 254). The three other Cork records were in autumn. The Wexford record is the third for the county, with the previous two also in June; a male at Tacumshin on 22nd and 23rd June 1996 (*Irish Birds* 6: 85), and a singing male at Carnsore Point on 3rd June 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 604).



**Plate 50.** Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*, Great Saltee Island, Wexford, May 2017 (Tom Shevlin).



**Plate 51.** Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*, Cahore, Wexford, July 2017 (Tom Shevlin).





**Plate 52.** Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*, Galley Head, Cork, September 2017 (Sean Cronin).

### Melodious Warbler

*Hippolais polyglotta* (2; 208; 3)

**Cork** Two: One, Barry's Head, 24th September (D.Fitzpatrick); One, Galley Head, 24th and 25th September, photographed (C.Barton, C.Cronin *et al.*).

**Wexford** One: One, Great Saltee Island, 2nd September (J.F.Dowdall *et al.*).

### Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* (2; 221; 1)

**Wexford** One: One, Hook Head, 28th September, photographed (C.Foley, D.Foley *et al.*).

### Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (6; 209; 5)

**Cork** Two: First-winter trapped and ringed, Cape Clear Island, 30th September to 5th October, photographed (S.Bayley *et al.*); First-winter, Dursey Island, 18th October (K.Grace).

**Galway** Two: First-winter, Kilmurvey, Inishmore, 9th October, photographed (N.T.Keogh); First-winter, Kilmurvey, Inishmore, 19th October (H.Delaney).

**Kerry** One: First-winter, Coumeenoule, 7th to 9th October, photographed (D.Farrar *et al.*).

The Kerry record is the sixth for the county, with the first county record occurring at the same site on the 11th and 12th September 2008 (Irish Birds 9: 98).

### Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (2; 53; 1)

**Wexford** One: Male, showing characteristics of Eastern Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans albigristata*, Great Saltee Island, 21st April, photographed (T.Buckley, S.Millar *et al.*).

### Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus* (41; 111; 1)

**Clare** One: Adult, Kilkee, 22nd August, photographed (E.O'Flynn).

The ninth record for the county, with the last one at Spanish Point on 13th June 2012 (Irish Birds 9: 603).



**Plate 53.** Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*, Galley Head, Cork, October 2017 (Calvin Jones/Ireland's Wildlife).





**Plate 54.** Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*, Rosscarbery Pier, Cork, October 2017 (Dick Coombes).



**Plate 55.** Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*, Red Strand, Cork, October 2017 (Richard Mills).

### Grey-cheeked Thrush

*Catharus minimus* (0; 9; 3)

**Cork** Three: One, Dirk Bay, Galley Head, 19th to 22nd October, photographed (C.Barton, C.Cronin *et al.*); One, Rosscarbery Pier, 20th to 23rd October, photographed (C.Cronin *et al.*); One, Red Strand, 26th and 27th October, photographed (C.Barton, C.Cronin *et al.*).

The eighth to tenth records for Cork, and probably the first time an observer has found the same species of American vagrant on consecutive days? All three birds remained for a few days and were seen well by many observers. There have

now been three species of American thrush recorded in Dirk Bay, Galley Head, with a Hermit Thrush *Catbarus guttatus* there on 25th and 26th October 1998 (*Irish Birds* 6: 398), and a Swainson's Thrush *Catbarus ustulatus* on 11th October 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 99).

### Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (0; 6; 1)

**Cork** One: One, Cape Clear Island, 14th October, photographed (S.Bayley, R.H.Coombes *et al.*).

The third record for Cape Clear Island, and the fifth for Cork.



**Plate 56.** Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*, Cape Clear Island, Cork, October 2017 (Tom Shevlin).



**Plate 57.** Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*, Ring Strand, Ballymacoda, Cork, December 2017 (Andrew Malcolm).

### Pied Wheatear

*Oenanthe pleschanka* (0; 3, 1)

**Cork** One: First-winter female, Ring Strand, 11th to 15th December, photographed (A.D.Malcolm *et al.*).

The fourth Irish record, and the second for Cork, after one at Knockadoon Head on 8th to 16th November 1980 (*Irish Birds* 2: 113). There have also been singles at Ballinaclesh, Wexford on 19th and 20th November 1983 (*Irish Birds* 2: 571), and Loop Head, Clare from 5th to 8th November 1988 (*Irish Birds* 4: 249).

### Blue-headed Wagtail

*Motacilla flava flava* (0; 75; 3)

**Cork** One: Male, Galley Head, 9th May, photographed (C.Barton).

**Wexford** Two: Male, Cahore, 1st July, joined by 2nd male on 2nd, with one remaining until 22nd July, photographed (C.Cardiff *et al.*).

### Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (2; 125; 3)

**Cork** Two: One, Mary Mac's, Cape Clear Island, 22nd October (V.Cashera *et al.*); One, Durse Island, 4th November (S.Enright).

**Wexford** One: One, Hook Head, 23rd October (K.Grace).

### Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (0; 56; 4)

**Cork** Two: One, Lissagriffin, 10th to 14th October, photographed and sound-recorded (C.Foley, D.Foley *et al.*); One, Cape Clear Island, 28th October (V.Cashera).

**Donegal** One: One, Tory Island, 17th September (R.Vaughan).

**Wexford** One: One, Tacumshin Lake, 29th October (K.Grace, P.Kelly). The Donegal bird is the second record for the county, and for Tory Island, after one there on 30th September 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 422).

### Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* (0; 22; 1)

**Galway** One: One, Mweenish Island, 12th September, photographed (P.Troake).

This is the third record for Galway, after singles at Truska Marsh, Slyne Head on 2nd and 3rd October 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 309), and Inishmore, 5th to 8th October 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 96).

### Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* (1; 167; 14)

**Cork** Two: One, Baltimore, 28th October (J.Wyllie); One, Pilmore Strand, 4th to 15th November, photographed and sound-recorded (B.Power, D.O'Sullivan *et al.*).



**Kerry** One: One, Kilshannig, 19th February (M.Hanafin)

**Wexford** Seven: One, Tacumshin Lake from November 2016 (*Irish birds* 10: 574) remained to 28th January (K.Grace); One, Ballinoulart, Cahore, from November 2016 (*Irish birds* 10: 574), remained to 2nd January, when a second bird was also present (C.Cardiff, T.Cardiff); Two, breeding plumage, Tacumshin Lake, 8th April, with one still present 9th April, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); One, Tacumshin Lake, 29th October, with two on 4th November and 2nd December, photographed (K.Grace, P.Kelly *et al.*); One, Cahore, 2nd November to 16th December, photographed (C.Cardiff); One, The Cull, 14th November, photographed (K.Mullarney).

**Wicklow** Four: Two, Broad Lough from 1st December 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 574) to 18th February, with one remaining to 12th March (M.Boyle, A.McMillan); Two, Broad Lough, 18th February (four birds seen), with three present 19th February (R.H.Coombes, J.Ivory *et al.*); One, Broad Lough, 15th November (H.Servignat).

## Scandinavian Rock Pipit

*Anthus petrosus littoralis* (0; 127; 16)

**Clare** Three: One, Clahane, 27th February, with three there from 11th March to 21st March, photographed (J.N.Murphy).

**Cork** One: One, Pilmore Strand, 26th November (D.O'Sullivan).

**Donegal** Three: One, Dawros Point Lighthouse, Rosbeg, 19th March (P.McDaid, P.McDaid jr *et al.*); Two, Tory Island, 23rd March (R.Vaughan).

**Galway** One: Singing male, Galway Docks, 9th March to 10th April (N.T.Keogh).

**Kerry** Three: One, Black Rock, 8th February, and two there from 13th March, photographed (D.Farrar, D.O'Connor *et al.*); One, Kilshannig, 19th February (M.Hanafin).

**Louth** One: One, Clogher Head, 12th April (E.Larrisey).

**Wexford** Two: One, Carnsore Point, 4th March (K.Grace); One, Rosslare Harbour, 5th March (P.Kelly).

**Wicklow** Two: One, Broad Lough, 19th February, with two present 11th March, photographed (C.Cardiff, T.Cardiff).

The two birds at Black Rock, Kerry were present as a breeding pair from mid-March, with two fledged young seen on 12th June (D.O'Connor).

## Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

(Unknown; 225; 48)

**Cork** 25: One, Toe Head, 15th October (H.Hussey, D.O'Sullivan); Female, Cape Clear Island, 15th October, photographed (T.Shevlin *et al.*); Two, Cape Clear Island, 16th to 18th October (V.Cashera *et al.*); One, Cape Clear Island, 20th October (P.Moore); Two, Garinish, 23rd October (P.Moore, D.O'Sullivan); 12, including a flock of 11, Cape Clear Island, 26th October (S.Bayley, V.Cashera *et al.*); One, Dirk Bay, 26th October, photographed (C.Cronin *et al.*); One, Mizen Head, 27th October (D.Ballard); One, Cape Clear Island, 29th October (S.Bayley); Female trapped and ringed, Cape Clear Island, 1st November, photographed (S.Bayley *et al.*); One, Middleton, 13th November (P.Moore); One, near Taur village, 30th November (P.Moore).

**Kerry** One: One, Burnham Wood, 17th October (M.O'Clery).

**Limerick** 16: Two, Curraghchase Forest Park, 5th November (T.Tarpey), with 11 there, 20th November (T.Tarpey, G.Hunt), 12 on 22nd November (P.Cullinan), 15 on 22nd November (P.Cullinan, J.Fox



**Plate 58.** Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, Cape Clear Island, Cork, October 2017 (Tom Shevlin).

*et al.*), 16 on 23rd November (D.Farrar, M.O'Clery), and a report of 15 to 20 birds on 9th December, photographed (C.ten Bohmer).

**Mayo** One: One, Mullet Peninsula, 28th October (D.Suddaby).

**Wexford** Four: Two, Tacumshin Castle, 15th October (P.Kelly); One, Hook Head, 17th October (J.Lovatt); One, Hook Head, 28th October (K.Grace).

**Wicklow** One: One, Newcastle, 21st November (E.Dempsey).

An unprecedented irruption of Hawfinches occurred in the UK and to a lesser extent Ireland in October 2017, possibly as a result of Storm Ophelia pushing birds from central Europe further west than usual (Bucks Bird Club, 2017). Several records remain pending, following requests for additional information of records of flyover sightings.

## 'Northern' Bullfinch

*Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula* (4; 1)

**Cork** One: Adult male, Dursey Island, 15th to 18th June, photographed (D.Scott *et al.*).

The last accepted record was of a female on Tory Island on 25th and 26th October 2004 (*Irish Birds* 9: 311), which was part of an exceptional influx into Britain and Ireland that autumn. There were other records in Ireland reported at the time, and these were summarised by Pennington and Meek (2006), however no descriptions of these sightings were submitted to the Committee.

## Common Rosefinch

*Erythrura erythrura* (0; 240; 5)

**Clare** One: First-winter, Kilbaha, 8th October (N.Lynch, T.Lynch).

**Cork** One: First-winter trapped and ringed, Cape Clear Island, 12th to 15th October, photographed (S.Bayley, M.O'Donnell *et al.*).



**Galway** Two: One, Inishbofin, 15th October (A.McGeehan); First-winter, Onaght, Inishmore, 26th October, photographed (R.D.Moores).

**Mayo** One: First-winter, Tarmon, Blacksod, 12th September (D.Suddaby).

### Mealy Redpoll

*Acanthis flammea flammea* (21; 101; 1)

**Donegal** One: One, Tory Island, 20th September, photographed (R.Vaughan).

A second individual reported present on Tory Island for several weeks up to 25th March was accepted as a Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*, showing features of Mealy Redpoll. There were additional records in 2017 of this Appendix 1 subspecies for which descriptions have not yet been received.

### Greenland Redpoll

*Acanthis flammea rostrata* (13; 41; 2)

**Donegal** Two: One, Tory Island, 13th September, with two present from 17th to 20th September, and one still present 29th September, photographed (G.Meehan, R.Vaughan *et al.*)

**Arctic Redpoll** *Acanthis hornimanni* (0; 12; 0)

**2015 Dublin** One: One, Lucan, 27th February to 1st March, photographed (S.Geraty), was accepted as *exilipes*.

**Yellow Warbler** *Setophaga petechia* (0; 4; 1)

**Cork** One: One, Mizen Head, 21st and 22nd August, photographed (P.Dillon-Hooper, E.Dillon-Hooper *et al.*).

The fifth record for Ireland, and the third for Cork.

### Blackpoll Warbler

*Setophaga striata* (0; 10; 1)

**Mayo** One: First-winter, Blacksod, 7th to 15th October, photographed (B.Robson, D.Suddaby *et al.*).

The 11th record for Ireland and the second for Mayo, after one at Termon on the Mullet Peninsula on 9th November 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 608).

**Baltimore Oriole** *Icterus galbula* (0; 2; 1)

**Donegal** One: Second calendar year male, Tory Island, 15th May, photographed (A.Meenan).

The third record for Ireland, and the first for Donegal. The two previous records were from Cork, with the first at



**Plate 59.** Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*, Mizen Head, Cork, October 2017 (Calvin Jones/Ireland's Wildlife).

Baltimore on 7th and 8th October 2001 (*Irish Birds* 7: 238), and the second on Cape Clear Island on 12th to 19th October 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 415).

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla* (3; 49; 3)

**Cork** Three: One, Cape Clear Island, 26th October, photographed (V.Caschera, M.Stewart); One, Galley Head, 27th October (C.Cronin); One, Mizen Head, 28th October (N.Linehan).

**Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica* (0; 20; 1)

**Cork** One: One, Cape Clear Island, 15th to 23rd October, photographed (S.Bayley, D.Foley *et al.*).  
The 19th record for Cork, and the 11th for Cape Clear Island.

**Scarlet Tanager** *Piranga olivacea* (0; 4; 1)

**Cork** One: First-winter, Mizen Head, 3rd to 6th October, photographed (H.Hussey *et al.*).  
The fifth record for Ireland, and the fourth record for Cork. The last record was at Garinish on the Beara Peninsula, 7th to 11th October 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 101).



**Plate 60.** Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*, Cape Clear Island, Cork, October 2017 (Victor Caschera).



**Plate 61.** Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*, Cape Clear Island, Cork, October 2017 (Tom Shevlin).

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## 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.

#### Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (0; 41; 0)

**Galway** Zero: One of unknown origin, Lydacan, associating with Whooper Swans, 28th November, photographed (P.Troake).

#### Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (70; 50; 0)

**Wexford** Six: Six white morph adults, Cahore, 28th and 29th June, photographed (S.Millar, P.Phillips *et al.*).

#### Ruddy Shelduck

*Tadorna ferruginea* (75; 0; 0)

**Donegal** One: Male, Farland Bank, Inch Island, Lough Swilly, from 15th October 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 577) to 8th April, photographed

(C.Ingram *et al.*), also recorded at Burnfoot, 4th January (L.Feeney, M.Murphy *et al.*).

**Waterford** Zero: First-winter male, Kilmacleague and Tramore Backstrand, 1st to 31st October, photographed (M.Cowming jr *et al.*), also seen at Creadon Beach, 9th December (J.Finnegan), same individual recorded in Co. Wexford.

**Wexford** Two: First-year female, Tacumshin Lake, 17th May to 6th June, photographed (K.Mullarney *et al.*), also recorded at Cahore, 20th to 22nd May (C.Cardiff, T.Cardiff *et al.*); First-winter male, Rosslare Backstrand, 29th September, photographed (K.Mullarney), also seen Bannow Island, 28th to 31st December (P.Dwan *et al.*), and also seen in Co. Waterford.

#### Wood Duck *Aiz sponsa*

**2016 Kerry** Zero: Male, Lough Leane, 29th July to 19th June, 2017, photographed (Á.Ní Shuilleabháin).

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## 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](http://www.irbc.ie/records/desclist.php) and [www.irbc.ie/records/desclist1.php](http://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.

### 2017 records not proven

#### Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

Male, Lough Gill, Kerry, 9th November.

#### Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

One, Toormore, Cork, 30th September.

#### Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

One, Letterkenny Golf Course, Donegal, 28th January to 2nd February.

#### Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

One, Old Head of Kinsale, Cork, 14th April.

#### Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

One, Forest access near Shay Elliot Memorial, Glenmalure, Wicklow, 16th March.

#### Water Pipit *Antbus spinoletta*

One, Killoughter, 13th February.

#### Scandinavian Rock Pipit *Antbus petrosus littoralis*

Eight, Broad Lough, 24th September.

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## 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 2017 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.

#### Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

Two, Bridges of Ross, Clare, 12th August.

#### Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 29th August.

#### Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 22nd January and 22nd February.

#### Richard's Pipit *Antbus richardi*

One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 31st October.

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## Appendix 5: Corrigenda to previous reports

**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* – Incorrect statistics were given in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 547). The text (0; 38; 3) should be replaced with (0; 38; 2).

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* – The text for sightings in Waterford should read as follows: “Waterford Two: Nineteen, Tramore Back Strand, from 29th December 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 401) remained to 8th January, with twenty on 4th January, when they were joined by a new bird, 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.” In addition, incorrect statistics were given in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 549). The text (103; 259; 46), should be replaced with (103; 259; 47).

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* – The text for sightings in Wexford should read as follows: “**Wexford** 23: 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, Tacumshin Lake, 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).” In addition, incorrect statistics were given in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 550). The text (0; 256; 43) should be replaced with (0; 256; 49).

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba* – The record of one, Lough Atedaun, near Corofin, Clare, 29th December 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 551) should read as follows: “Clare One, Lough Inchiquin, 29th December 2016 (G.Pearson).”

**Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans* - Incorrect statistics were given in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 562). The text (0; 13; 2) should be replaced with (0; 13; 3).

**Siberian Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* – The record of two, Cahore, 30th December (*Irish Birds* 10: 568) was incorrectly included with the Wicklow sightings, and should read as follows “Wexford Two, Cahore, 30th December 2016 (C.Cardiff)”. The 2016 total for Wicklow was Five, not Seven as published, and the 2016 Wexford total was Nine, not Seven as published. In addition, incorrect statistics were given in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 567). The text (2; 69; 55) should be replaced with (2; 68; 55).

**Radde’s Warbler** *Phylloscopus schwarzi* – The 2016 total for Cork was Two, not Three as published. In addition, incorrect statistics were given in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 569). The text (0; 17; 4) should be replaced with (0; 17; 3).

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## Abbreviations used

BOU: British Ornithologists’ Union.

IOC: International Ornithological Congress.

WWR: Wexford Wildfowl Reserve.