

# Irish Rare Bird Report 2021

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**(On behalf of the Irish Rare Birds Committee)**

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## Introduction

Three new species were added to the Irish List in 2021. A Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* in Sligo and a Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* in Dublin were both found in June and in mid-July an Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* was found in Donegal. In addition, two subspecies were recorded for the first time, an Iberian Wagtail *Motacilla flava iberiae* in Kerry in June and the first two Northern Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris alpestris/pratincola/boyti* in Galway and Cork during October.

Further highlights included the fourth and fifth records of Baillon's Crane *Zapornia pusilla* in Wexford in May and Wicklow in June, and the fifth and sixth records of American Coot *Fulica americana* in Wexford and Kerry in November and December respectively. Rare waders put in a very

respectable showing with the fifth record of Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* in Cork in July, the sixth Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* in Waterford also in July and the seventh and eighth Semipalmated Plovers *Charadrius semipalmatus* in Cork and Kerry in July and October respectively while the eighth Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* was recorded in Mayo in October. Rare raptors were not limited to the aforementioned Egyptian Vulture with the ninth record of Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* in Limerick in May and the tenth Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonianus* in Offaly in November. Passerines of note included the fourth Sardinian

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**Plate 15.** Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal, July 2021 (Tom Shevlin).

Warbler *Currucula melanocephala* in Cork in April, the fifth Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* in Wexford in January and the tenth Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* in Cork in October.

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 2021 Provisional List. The IRBC expresses its sincere gratitude to all those who provided information during 2021, either directly or indirectly. The committee also extends its grateful thanks to Joe Hobbs for his input, comments and corrections, and to Kieran Fahy for keeping track of the statistics.

Rarity Description forms may be downloaded from the IRBC website: [www.irbc.ie/records/forms/IRBC\\_form3.doc](http://www.irbc.ie/records/forms/IRBC_form3.doc).

### 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).

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## 2021 Systematic List

The sequence and scientific nomenclature used for the 2021 Report largely follows the IOC World List version 11.2 (Gill *et al.* 2021) 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 finders' credits are placed in alphabetical order.

### Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

(0; 41; 1)

**Clare** One: Adult, Liscannor, 9th and 10th April, photographed (J. Copner).

**Dublin** Zero: The adult present at Kilbogget Park, Cabinteely from 27th to 30th December 2020, also seen at Blackrock College on 28th December 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 56) ranged widely around Dublin in 2021, last recorded in Ballyfermot on 21st April.

The first to be found in Clare, though not the first to be recorded in that county as the bird present at Newquay in January and February 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 74) was found in Galway in November 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 580). The Dublin bird ranged widely in early 2021 being recorded at ten different locations within that county.

### Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (0; 46; 1)

**Mayo** One: One showing characteristics of the race *interior*, Termoncarragh Lake, Mullet Peninsula, 25th October to 17th December (D. Suddaby).

This is the seventh record for Mayo and the sixth at Termoncarragh Lake. Inishkea North Island is the only other Mayo venue to record one when it did so in October 2018 (*Irish Birds* 42: 72)

### Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii* (0; 33; 4)

**Mayo** Two: The bird of the nominate subspecies Richardson's Cackling Goose present at Cross Lough since 22nd October 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 56) remained until 1st January (see also Appendix 6: Corrigenda to previous reports); One, Inishkea South, 14th and 15th October (D. Cabot); One, Mullet Peninsula, 15th November to 17th December (D. Suddaby).

**Sligo** Two: One, of the nominate subspecies *hutchinsii*, Ballintemple, 29th November to 5th December, photographed (G. Thomas); One, of the nominate subspecies *hutchinsii*, Lissadell, 5th to 28th December, photographed (P. Keogh).

### Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (70; 51; 1)

**Sligo** One: White morph, Lissadell, 19th February (J. Dowdall, A.G. Kelly); White morph, Lissadell, 5th to 31st December, presumed returning (P. Keogh).

### Russian White-fronted Goose

*Anser albifrons albifrons* (51; 126; 1)

**Cork** Zero: The bird present at Toons Bridge near Macroom from 1st November 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 57) remained up to 14th March.

**Wexford** One: Second calendar-year, Cahore Marsh, 20th and 21st March, photographed (C. Cardiff).

### Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* (3; 117; 1)

**Mayo** One: First calendar-year, Termoncarragh Lake, Mullet Peninsula, 28th October (D. Suddaby).



**Plate 16.** Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*, Phoenix Park, Co. Dublin, January 2021 (Luke Geraty).



**Plate 17.** Black Duck *Anas rubripes*, Cross Lough, The Mullet, Co. Mayo, 6th February 2021 (Derek Charles).



**Plate 18.** Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*, Knockaderry Reservoir, Co. Waterford, 3rd March 2021 (Paul Archer).

### American Wigeon *Mareca americana* (0; 159; 3)

**Galway** One: The adult male present at Kilcolgan on 23rd December 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 57) remained until 9th January; Male (unaged), Kiltieman, 3rd to 9th January (P. Troake).

**Mayo** One: The female present at Termoncarragh Lough, Mullet Peninsula from 30th October 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 57) remained until 25th February and was also recorded at Cross Lough, Mullet Peninsula; Female, Cross Lough, 21st to 28th October, presumed returning; The first-winter male present at Termoncarragh Lough, from 6th December 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 57) remained until 13th May and was also recorded at Cross Lough; Male, Cross Lough, 27th September to 22nd November (D. Suddaby).

**Wexford** One: Adult male, Cahore Marsh, 16th January, photographed (C. Cardiff).

**1998 Mayo** One: Adult male, Rostaff Lake, 5th to 10th April 1998 (*Irish Birds* 6: 384). Originally attributed to Galway in error, now becomes the first for Mayo.

### American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (0; 24; 0)

**Mayo** Zero: The first calendar-year male present at Cross Lough, Mullet Peninsula from 14th November 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 57) was recorded up to 1st January, and presumed same, Inishkea North, 3rd April, Termoncarragh Lough, 19th June, Cross Lough, 22nd June to 8th October and again at Termoncarragh Lough, 25th to 28th October.

### Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (0; 44, 3)

**Cavan** Two: Male (unaged), Lough Sheelin, 21st November to 5th December, photographed (A.G. Kelly); Adult male, Round Lough, 5th to 18th December, photographed (B. McCloskey).

**Cork** One: First calendar-year male, Ballinascarthy Lake, 12th to 30th December (P. Connaughton).

**Waterford** Zero: The first-calendar year male recorded at Knockaderry Reservoir on 30th December 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 58) remained until 21st January.



**Plate 19.** Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*, Nohoval, Co. Cork, January 2021 (Dave McGrath).

### **King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis* (4; 34; 2)

**Donegal** Zero: Two first calendar-year females, first recorded at St. John's Beach, Dunkineely on 25th November 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 58) remained in the area until 13th April.

**Mayo** One: Female, Belderra, Mullet Peninsula, 5th January to 2nd February (D. Suddaby *et al.*).

**Kerry** One: Second calendar-year male, Castlegregory, 9th January to 21st February, photographed (M. O'Clery).

Included here are the fourth for Kerry and the tenth for Mayo. Eight of the Mayo total have been at the Mullet Peninsula. Donegal, with seven recorded, has the second highest county total.

### **Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola* (0; 4; 0)

**Cork** Zero: The first-winter female present at Ahgada Pier on 20th December 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 58) was recorded at Oysterhaven on 2nd and 3rd January and at Barry's Head from 23rd January to 18th April.

### **Great Spotted Cuckoo**

*Clamator glandarius* (4; 3; 1)

**Waterford** One: First-summer, Brownstown Head, 29th May, photographed (M. Cowming).

The first for Waterford and the eighth Irish record. While this is the seventh spring record it is the first for May with the remainder in February (3), March (1) and April (2). The sole autumn record relates to one at Mahee Island, Strangford Lough, Down from 9th to 16th September 1975 (IBR 23: 21). In addition there is a Category D♂ record of a first-year bird found dead on the tideline at North Bull Island, Dublin on 13th March 1983 (*Irish Birds* 2: 569). Category D records are not included in the species statistics.



**Plate 20.** American Coot *Fulica americana*, Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, November 2021 (Tom Shevlin).

### **Baillon's Crake** *Zapornia pusilla* (2; 1; 2)

**Wexford** One: Male, Tacumshin Lake, 29th May to 14th June, sound-recorded (P. Kelly).

**Wicklow** One: One, Buckroneigh Marsh, 24th June, sound-recorded (S. Ronayne).

Neither of these were observed in the field. The Wicklow bird was discovered when its flight call was detected using a passive audio device during a nocturnal migration recording session, while the Wexford male proved much more obliging and sang every night for a week. These are the fourth and fifth Irish records. There were two in the 19th Century; one was killed at Claycastle, near Youghal, Cork on 30th October 1845 (*Irish Birds* 7: 241-250, Thompson vol. II) and one was captured alive at Tramore Bay, Waterford on 6th April 1858 (*Irish Birds* 7: 241-250, Ussher & Warren). The most recent was at Great Saltee Island, Wexford on 24th March 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 587, Warnock 2012).

### **American Coot** *Fulica americana* (0; 4; 2)

**Kerry** One: One, Lough Yganavan, 30th December (J. Diggin).

**Wexford** One: One, Tacumshin Lake, 13th to 19th November and again on 26th December, photographed (A. McMillan).

The first record for Wexford and the second for Kerry. The first record was at Ballycotton, Cork from 7th February to 4th April 1981 (*Irish Birds* 2: 209), with all others occurring since 2011. These short-staying records are very much in contrast with the first four whose average length of stay was 115 days. Four of the six records have been found in November with the Kerry bird from this year the first for December.

### **Common Crane** *Grus grus* (29; 186; 2)

**Mayo** One: One, Tirraun, Mullet Peninsula, 6th September (D. Charles).



**Plate 21.** Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow, February 2021 (Dick Coombes).

**Roscommon** One: Adult, Long Island, 19th April, photographed (O. Murphy).

**2003 Galway** One: Adult, Rahasane Turlough, 17th March (T. Griffin). The statistics for Common Crane are for migrants only and exclude breeding records. The 2003 Galway record becomes the third for that county.

### Eurasian Stone-curlew

*Burhinus oedicephalus* (15; 14; 1)

**Galway** One: One, Carrowkeelanhglass, Clonbern, 21st May (C. Peppiatt).

The fourth for Galway and the third for that county since 2009, following birds at Murvey, Roundstone from 26th to 30th June 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 261) and at Loughaunbeg, Inveran on 18th August 2011 (*Irish Birds* 10: 244).

### Black-winged Stilt

*Himantopus himantopus* (13; 44; 3)

**Cork** Two: Male, White's Marsh, 21st to 25th April, photographed (R. Archibald); Female, Clogheen Marsh, 27th April, photographed (C. Cronin, J. Simms).

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

These are the first records since 2014 while three in a single year has not been recorded since 2006. The Galway record is the first to be found in July and only the second record for that county following one at Aughrus Point, Cleggan from 17th to 20th March 1990 (*Irish Birds* 4: 437). Cork, with 27 of the overall total of 60, has by far the highest county total, while Wexford, with eight, lags far behind in second place.

### Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (36; 137; 4)

**Cork** One: One, Kinsale Marsh, 9th to 13th November and 4th to 27th December, and presumed same, Lough Beg on 25th November,

photographed (R. O'Driscoll).

**Kerry** One: One, Kenmare, 12th to 16th June, photographed (H. Corkery).

**Waterford** One: One, Tramore Back Strand, 26th December, photographed (D. Cullen).

**Wexford** Zero: Adult, South Slob, 13th to 21st March, photographed (P. Kelly), earlier recorded at Kilcoole, Wicklow.

**Wicklow** One: Adult, Kilcoole, 26th and 27th February, photographed (R.H. Coombes), later seen at the South Slob, Wexford.

The Waterford bird is the fourth found in that county but the fifth to have been recorded there as a bird present at Tramore Back Strand on 31st March 1997 (*Irish Birds* 6: 296) was presumed to have been the same bird recorded earlier that month in Wexford (*Irish Birds* 6: 296). The Wicklow bird is the first there since 1994 (*Irish Birds* 6: 72) and the fifth for the county, all of which have been at Kilcoole. The bird at Kenmare is the fifth for Kerry.

### **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

(0; 18; 1)

**Kerry** One: Adult, Blennerville, 10th to 22nd October, photographed (D. Farrar).

The first for Kerry and the fourth October record with Kerry now joining Clare, Dublin, Galway, Mayo and Wicklow as the counties with a single record of this species. Cork with three and Wexford with ten are the only counties to have recorded more than a single bird.

### **American Golden Plover**

*Pluvialis dominica* (1; 372; -)

**2020 Mayo** Two: Juvenile, Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 17th October (D. Charles, D. Suddaby); Juvenile, Tarmon Hill, Mullet Peninsula, 30th October to 3rd November (D. Charles, D. Suddaby). This species was removed from consideration by the IRBC from 1st January 2021. However, for completeness, records from before that date will continue to be published. These two from 2020 bring the Mayo total for that year to four.

### **Semipalmated Plover**

*Charadrius semipalmatus* (0; 6; 2)

**Cork** One: Second calendar-year, Galley Cove, 1st October to 13th December, photographed (P. Moore). This is presumed to be the same bird that was sound recorded during passive nocturnal recording at Lissagriffin on 1st and 31st July and on 1st August (S. Ronayne).

**Kerry** One: First calendar-year, Black Rock Strand, 28th October to 10th November, photographed (D.A. O'Connor).

The Cork bird is the first for that county while the Kerry record is the second for that county following one at Ventry Harbour from 24th September to 15th October 2011 (*Irish Birds* 9: 461).



**Plate 24.** Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Black Rock, Co. Kerry, November 2021 (David O'Connor).

### **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

(0; 236; 31)

**Cork** Eight: Female, Harper's Island, 1st to 3rd May (P. Moore); Adult, Ballycotton, 25th May, sound recorded (P. Moore); Two juveniles, Kilcolman Nature Reserve, 19th August with one remaining to 20th and 21st August (J. McGrath); Two, The Gearagh, 23rd August (A. Duggan); Two juveniles, Ballycotton, 3rd and 4th September (P. Moore).

**Donegal** One: Female, Inch Island Lake, Lough Swilly, 3rd and 4th July, photographed (D. Brennan).

**Galway** Two: Juvenile, Caranavoodaun Turlough, 31st August to 6th September, with two juveniles there, 11th to 15th September, one of these remaining to 19th September (P. Troake).

**Kildare** One: Juvenile, Leixlip Reservoir, 23rd September (P. Kelly).

**Louth** Two: Juvenile, Dundalk Docks, 17th to 27th August, photographed (J. Rod); Juvenile, Templetown, 25th August (P. Phillips).

**Tipperary** Two: Two, Pat Reddan's Lake, 16th April (P. Brennan).

**Wexford** 15: Tacumshin Lake: One, 13th April (P. Kelly), adult male and adult female, 24th April, photographed (P. Kelly), adult, 8th to 14th May, photographed (P. Kelly), adult female, 2nd to 4th July (A. MacMillan), adult male, 3rd and 4th July (P. Kelly), juvenile, 16th July, photographed (P. Kelly), juvenile, 17th August, photographed (E. Dempsey, M. O'Clery), two juveniles, 28th August (P. Kelly), juvenile, 21st to 28th September (B. Haslam); Adult male and female, Cahore Marsh, 24th to 30th April, with one of this pair present from 20th to 23rd April, photographed (S. King); Juvenile, Fethard-on-Sea, 22nd July (G. Lyons); One, Ring Marsh, 21st August (P. Kelly).



**Plate 23.** Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Galley Cove, Co. Cork, October 2021 (Brian McCloskey).

The first records for Donegal and Kildare and only the second and third for Galway after one at the Tuam Sugar Factory Lagoons on 16th and 17th May 1992 (*Irish Birds* 5: 88).

### **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* (4; 12; 1)

**Cork** One: Female, Ballycotton, 19th April, photographed (P. Moore). All four Cork records have come from the Ballycotton area with this being the first for the county since one there on 24th April 1984 (*Irish Birds* 3: 111). More have been found in April (7) than any other month with the remaining records found in June (1), August (5), September (1) and October (2) and one shot in Dublin during the 'autumn' of 1846.

### **Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus* (146; 211; 8)

**Cork** Two: One, heard calling in flight, Blackrock, Cork City, 31st August (M. O'Keefe); One, Galley Head, 2nd September (C. Cronin).

**Galway** One: One, heard calling in flight, Inishmore, 4th September (P. Troake).

**Leitrim** One: Adult male, Tievebaun, 1st May, photographed (C. Helen).

**Mayo** Four: Four juveniles, Mweelrea Mountain, 7th September (J. Kennedy).

**2006 Mayo** One: Female, Sheefry Mountains, 27th April (E. McGreal, A. O'Donail).

The bird in Leitrim is the first for that county while the bird on Inishmore is the first for that island. Eight in one year has been surpassed on three occasions since 1948 – in 1992 (20), 2015 (18) and 2017 (16) – and equalled on a further three (2005, 2010 and 2011). The last year when none were recorded was

1999. A trip of four in autumn is unusual, although not unprecedented with four having been found together in the Galtee Mountains, Tipperary on 8th October 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 399).

### **Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* (3; 10; 1)

**Cork** One: One, Dursley Island, 7th October (K. Grace).

The third for Cork and the second for Dursley Island following one from 18th to 24th September 1991 (*Irish Birds* 4: 589). This is the first time the species has occurred in consecutive years following the bird on Inishbofin, Galway from 30th September to 10th October 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 66). Eight of the 14 records to date have involved one-day birds.

### **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* (0; 186; 10)

**Cork** Two: Juvenile, Clonakilty, 3rd September to 1st October, photographed (P. Connaughton); Juvenile, Timoleague, 17th September (K. Woods).

**Galway** One: Juvenile, Inishdawros Strand, Ballyconneely, 18th September, photographed (D. Breen).

**Kerry** Six: Juvenile, Murreagh, 6th September (G. Walker); Juvenile, Blennerville, 10th September (B. Power); Juvenile, Cashen Estuary, 13th September (D. Farrar); Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, 15th September (G. Walker); Juvenile, Inny Strand, 19th to 21st September (P. McDaid); Juvenile, Black Rock Strand, 30th September to 2nd October, photographed (D. Farrar).

**Wexford** One: Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 20th September (K. Grace). This is the sixth year to record double figures (all of which have occurred since 2006) with all ten records involving birds found in September. The six in Kerry equals the highest county total in a single-year, set by the same county in 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 90) and equals the entire county total for Galway!

### **Semipalmated Sandpiper**

*Calidris pusilla* (0; 258; 4)

**Clare** One: Juvenile, Moneypoint, 23rd September (P. Connaughton).

**Kerry** One: Adult, Rossbeigh, 28th July, photographed (S. Enright).

**Sligo** One: Adult, Lower Rosses, 26th July, photographed (P. Keogh).

**Wexford** One: Juvenile, Carne Harbour, 13th October (A.A. Kelly, P. Kelly).

The third for Sligo following birds at the same location on 19th September 2011 (*Irish Birds* 9: 465) and on 1st and 2nd September 2019 (*Irish Birds* 43: 84).

### **Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* (0; 5; 1)

**Waterford** One: Adult, Ballinclammer, 31st July to 3rd August, photographed (M. Cowming).

The sixth Irish record and the first for Waterford which now joins Wexford with three records and Cork and Galway with a single record apiece as the only counties to have recorded this species. Of the 21 Calidrine species on the Irish list, only



**Plate 25.** Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*, July 2021, Rossbeigh, Co. Kerry (Seamus Enright).

Red-necked Stint *C. ruficollis* with five records and Long-toed Stint *C. subminuta* and Great Knot *C. tenuirostris* with a single record each have been recorded less often.

### **Long-billed Dowitcher**

*Limnodromus scolopaceus* (2; 154; 3)

**Wexford** Three: Tacumshin Lake: Two second calendar-years, 6th March to 8th April, photographed (P. Kelly); First calendar-year, 12th to 25th October, photographed (P. Kelly).

Tacumshin Lake has now recorded 21 Long-billed Dowitchers, which is a record number for an Irish site. Lough Beg, Londonderry with 11 is the only other site with double-figures. With the exception of 2014 this species has now been recorded in Wexford in every year since 2010.



**Plate 26.** Long-billed Dowitchers *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, March 2021, (Tom Shevlin).





**Plate 27 (Left).** Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*, Ring, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, July 2021 (David O'Connor).

**Plate 28.** Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*, Ring, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, July 2021 (Ian Stevenson).

### Short-billed Dowitcher

*Limnodromus griseus* (0; 4; 1)

**Cork** One: Second calendar-year, Clonakilty, 3rd to 27th July, photographed (C. O'Sullivan).

The fifth Irish record, the first for Cork and the second species of wader to be added to the Cork list in the space of three days following the Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* recorded at Mizen Head on 1st July. Of the 73 species belonging to the Order Charadriiformes (the shorebirds) on the Irish list a total of 63 has now been recorded in Cork. Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*, with nine records, remains the 'commonest' wader species on the Irish list yet to be recorded in the county.

### Red-necked Phalarope

*Phalaropus lobatus* (4; 59; 2)

As previously stated, the statistics for Red-necked Phalarope are for migrants only and exclude breeding records (*Irish Birds* 10: 246).

**Galway** Two: Male and female, Inishbofin, 9th June (D. Breen *et al.*). The first for Galway since 15th June 1984 when a single bird was recorded at Rahasane Turlough (*Irish Birds* 3: 310).

### Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

(0; 90; 1)

**Wexford** One: First calendar-year, Tacumshin Lake, 11th to 17th October (L. Feeney, P. Pykett).

This is the 23rd for Wexford, only Cork with 28 has recorded more. A total of 16 has now been found at Tacumshin Lake, making it the most favoured Irish site for this species, with Ballycotton, Cork a close second with 14.

### Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (0; 7; 1)

**Mayo** One: Juvenile, Devlane Post Office Road, Clogher, Mullet Peninsula, 1st to 8th October, photographed (D. Charles, M. Charles). The eighth Irish record and the second for Mayo and the Mullet Peninsula, following one at Annagh Head and Termoncarragh Lake on 22nd September 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 471). Although this bird was present for eight days it both frustrated and pleased in equal measure proving elusive for some while showing well for others.



**Plate 29.** Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*, Clogher, The Mullet, Co. Mayo, October 2021 (Derek Charles).



**Plate 30.** Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*, Clogher, The Mullet, Co. Mayo, October 2021 (Josh Jones).

### **Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* (0; 196; 11)

**Clare** Two: Juvenile, Lough Gash, 18th to 19th October, photographed (J. Durrant); Juvenile, Lough Atedaun, 24th November (J.N. Murphy).  
**Cork** One: Juvenile, Ballycotton, 30th October, photographed (D. O'Sullivan).

**Galway** One: Juvenile, Rahasane Turlough, 30th October to 31st December (D. Breen).

**Mayo** Three: Juvenile, Leam Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 14th to 16th September, photographed (D. Charles); Two juveniles, Annagh Beach, Mullet Peninsula, 15th September (D. Suddaby).

**Waterford** One: The first calendar-year at Killongford Pools, Dungarvan from 24th October 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 69), remained until 17th April; Juvenile, Kinsalebeg, 18th September, photographed (D. Weldon).

**Wexford** Two: Tacumshin Lake: Adult summer, 15th to 24th June (K. Mullarney), juvenile, 17th September to 19th December, photographed (K. Grace).

**Wicklow** One: Juvenile, Kilcoole, 30th September to 21st October (S. King).

**2003 Galway** One: Juvenile, Rahasane Turlough, 26th September to 12th October, photographed (M. Davis).

This series of records include the eighth and ninth for Clare and the third (in 2003) and ninth for Galway, while the three in Mayo bring the total for that county to ten. The Wicklow record is the sixth county record and the first there since 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 595).



**Plate 31.** Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*, Tacumshin, Co. Wexford, September 2021 (Tom Shevlin).

### **Bonaparte's Gull**

*Chroicocephalus philadelphia* (1; 100; 9)

**Clare** One: Adult, Seafield, Quilty, 1st and 2nd December, photographed (J.N. Murphy).

**Cork** Four: Adult winter, Whiddy Island, 2nd March, and presumed same, Bantry, 17th March, photographed (A. Duggan); Adult winter, Marlogue, Great Island, 6th March and same, Whitegate and Aghada, 7th March (A. Duggan); Second calendar-year, Ringaskiddy, 18th July (R. O'Driscoll); Second calendar-year, Whitegate, 18th August (P. Connaughton); Adult, Garretstown, 5th and 6th September, presumed returning (R. O'Driscoll); Adult, Long Strand, 7th to 25th October and same Owenahincha, 28th October, presumed returning (C. Barton).



**Plate 32.** Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*, Black Rock, Co. Kerry, April 2021 (David O'Connor).

**Wexford** Four: Tacumshin Lake: Adult winter, 6th March (K. Grace), second calendar-year, 22nd April (P. Kelly); Third calendar-year, Wexford Town, 12th and 13th March and same, South Slob, 27th March and same, Cahore Marsh, 31st March and 1st April, photographed (K. Mullarney); Adult summer, Rosslare, 21st and 22nd May, photographed (P. Kelly).

An annual total of nine has been recorded only twice before in 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 596) and in 2019 (*Irish Birds* 43: 88).

### Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

(0; 19; 1)

**Kerry** One: Second calendar-year, Black Rock Strand, 28th April and same, Ballyheigue, 28th to 30th April, photographed (D.A. O'Connor). The third for Kerry and the second record for Black Rock Strand where the first Irish record was found on 7th May 1993 (*Irish Birds* 5: 222).

### Kumlien's Gull

*Larus glaucooides kumlieni* (0; 362; -)

**2020 Mayo** Second-winter, Termoncarragh Lake, Mullet Peninsula, 30th November to 3rd December (D. Suddaby *et al.*).

This species was removed from consideration by the IRBC from 1st January 2021. However, for completeness, records from before that date will continue to be published.

### Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* (0; 12; 1)

**Wexford** One: Second calendar-year, Courtown, 30th March, photographed (C. Cardiff).

The fourth for Wexford and the first Irish record since one in Limerick in 2017 (*Irish Birds* 11: 71).



**Plate 33.** Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*, Courtown, Co. Wexford, March 2021 (Cian Cardiff).



**Plate 34.** Gull-billed Tern *Gelocheilidon nilotica*, Carrickfinn, Co. Donegal, April 2021 (Derek Charles).

### Gull-billed Tern *Gelocheilidon nilotica*

(0; 25; 1)

**Donegal** One: Adult, Carrickfinn, 27th April to 16th May, photographed (N. Newell).

The second for Donegal following one at Blanket Nook from 16th to 19th August 2003 (*Irish Birds* 8: 117).

### Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* (0; 12; 1)

**Cork** One: At least second calendar-year, Skibbereen, 10th July (D. Weldon), and presumed same, Ring, Clonakilty, 11th July (H. Servignat).

More have been found in Cork (6) than in any other county. Kerry, with two, is the only other county to have recorded



**Plate 35.** Least Tern *Sternula antillarum*, Portrane, Co. Dublin, June 2021 (Paul Lynch).



**Plate 37.** White-winged Tern *Chidonias leucopterus*, Carrig Island, Co. Kerry, May 2021 (Seamus Enright).



**Plate 36.** Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* (left) and Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* (right) comparison, Portrane, Co. Dublin, June 2021 (Killian Mullarney).



**Plate 38.** Forster's Tern *Sterna fosteri*, Soldier's Point, Co. Mayo, August 2021 (Brian McCloskey).

more than one and there are single records from each of the counties of Donegal, Dublin, Westmeath and Wexford. This is the fourth for July with six having been found in August and one found in each of the months of June and September.

### **Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* (0; 0; 1)**

**Dublin** One: Adult, Rogerstown Estuary, 19th June and Portrane, 19th June to 20th July and again, 26th July to 24th August, (N. Keogh, N.T. Keogh). Also recorded in Louth.

**Louth** Zero: Adult, Baltray, 21st to 25th July (G. Murray, J. Rod *et al.*). Also recorded in Dublin.

The first Irish record and only the third for the Western Palearctic following a bird that frequented the tern colony at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, East Sussex, England between 1983 and 1992 (Yates 2010) and a first-winter bird at Gipuzkoa, Basque Country, Spain on 26th September 2019 (Gil Velasco *et al.* 2022). Picked up on call by the finder who, while many of us would have been blinded by adrenaline, had the presence of mind to record the bird's calls on his mobile

phone as it flew past him on its way out of Rogerstown Estuary to the nearby Portrane Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* colony where it performed admirably for its many observers over the following weeks. A bird calling like a Least Tern was noted at this location in 2020 and in the weeks preceding this birds' discovery while photographs taken at this Little Tern colony in 2020 suggest that this bird may have been present in 2020 (Keogh 2021). Dublin has now recorded 13 of the 16 tern species on the Irish list, a number equalled only by Kerry and bettered only by Cork which has recorded 14 tern species.

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

**Galway** Zero: Adult, Inishroo, 21st May and same at, Oranmore Bay, 3rd to 15th June, Doorus, 24th June, Kinvara Bay, 16th to 21st

November and Nimmo's Pier, 23rd November to 25th December, presumed returning.

**Louth** Zero: Adult, Soldier's Point, Dundalk, 3rd August to 23rd October, presumed returning. Also recorded in Meath.

**Meath** Zero: Adult, Gormanston, 31st August. Also recorded in Louth.

## White-winged Tern

*Chlidonias leucopterus* (9; 103; 3)

**Cork** One: First calendar-year, Lough Beg, 2nd September, caught and ringed (B. O'Mahony).

**Dublin** One: Adult summer, Sandymount, 16th September (B. Porter).

**Kerry** One: Adult summer, Ballylongford, 30th May, photographed (J. Larkin, E. McLaghlan).

The Dublin record brings the total for that county to 20, surpassed only by Wexford which has recorded 22. Most birds have been recorded in September (32) followed by August (21) and then May (19).

## Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica* (0; 5; 0)

**Cork** Zero: Adult, Crookhaven, 31st October to 20th December, presumed returning bird.

**Mayo** Zero: The adult first recorded at Blacksod Bay, Mullet Peninsula,

on 18th October 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 59) remained in the area until 26th May.

## White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* (0; 24; 2)

**Cork** One: Adult, off Whiddy Island, 2nd March (A. Duggan).

**Donegal** One: Adult, off Tory Island, 13th May (T. Campbell, C. Ingram).

The first records since 2018 (*Irish Birds* 43: 74). May is the month to see this species in Ireland. Ten of the overall total of 26 have been found in May and five of these were off Tory Island, Donegal and two others remained off Tory Island from 28th April to 2nd June 2018, (*Irish Birds* 43: 74), making a grand total of seven for that northern island.

## White-chinned Petrel

*Procellaria aequinoctialis*

**At sea** Zero: One, Porcupine Bank, 130 nautical miles west of the Irish Coast, 15th September, photographed (S. García-Barcelona).

Another extraordinary seabird record from the Porcupine Bank and only the second record for the Western Palearctic following the bird at Scapa Beach, Orkney, Scotland on 25th



**Plate 39.** White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*, Porcupine Bank, 130 nautical miles west of the Irish Coast, September 2021 (Salvador García-Barcelona).



**Plate 40.** White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*, Porcupine Bank, 130 nautical miles west of the Irish Coast, September 2021 (Salvador García-Barcelona).

May 2020 (Foubister 2020, Holt *et al.* 2021). Photographed from the Spanish research vessel *Vizconde de Eza* during a fisheries survey this bird was observed outside the boundary of the Irish List but within the scope of this report meaning it is not added to the main Irish list. White-chinned Petrel breeds on sub-Antarctic islands throughout the southern oceans with some birds dispersing as far north as Peru, Brazil and Namibia outside the breeding season.

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

*Pterodroma madeira/feae/deserta* (0; 139; 2)

**Mayo** Two: One, Kilcummin Head, 19th July (O. Campbell); One, Annagh Head, 22nd September (D. Charles).

Irish records of gadfly petrels have not yet been identified to species, but it is likely that one or more of these three North Atlantic petrels is/are the most likely candidates. The majority of Irish records occur during August and September, making the bird off Kilcummin Head unusually early, indeed there are only two earlier, both in Cork, off Galley Head on 2nd July 2005 (*Irish Birds* 8: 376) and off Mizen Head on 16th July 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 582). Two in a year is a poor return and the fewest since 2010, when just a single bird was recorded.

### Double-crested Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax auritus* (0; 2; 0)

**Kerry** Zero: The juvenile present at Ballylongford since 25th November 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 62) remained in the area until 30th May.

### Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (103; 448; -)

**2020 Mayo** One: first-winter, Eachleim, Mullet Peninsula, 22nd November to 27th November (F. Irwin, P. Irwin *et al.*).

This species was removed from consideration by the IRBC from 1st January 2021. However, for completeness, records from before that date will continue to be published.

### Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (89; 200; -)

**1995 Galway** One: Adult, Mutton Island, 17th October (T. Griffin).

This species was removed from consideration by the IRBC from 1st January 2021. However, for completeness, records from before that date will continue to be published.

### Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (174+; 58; 0)

**1893 Galway** One: One, Oileain Imill, Slyne Head, 7th (Ussher 1912) or 27th (Barrington 1900) August. Caught in a rocky pool while clearly in an emaciated state.

**1927 Galway** One: One, near Athenry, early autumn or winter (Ruttledge 1950, 1994).

**1946 Galway** One: One, Portumna, 13th January, found dead (Ruttledge 1950, 1994).

**1947 Galway** One: One, Menlo, Lough Corrib, 19th January, shot (Ruttledge 1950, 1994).

**1947 Galway** One: One, near Gort, February, obtained (Ruttledge 1950).

**1947 Galway** One: One, Portumna, end of February (Ruttledge 1950, 1994).

**1952 Galway** One: One, near Headford, January, shot. (Ruttledge 1994)



**Plate 41.** Great Egret *Ardea alba* and Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, January 2021 (Kieran Grace).

1989 Galway One: One, Mount Ross, Headford, 7th September, accidentally caught and released (J. Higgins).

**2016 Galway One:** One, Coolough Fen, Galway City, 24th February (C. Peppiatt).

The early Galway records were unearthed during an independent project on the birds of County Galway and together with the 1989 and 2016 records bring the number of county records to 15, a tally surpassed only by counties Cork, Wexford and Down. A number of historic Eurasian Bittern records (all occurring after the last recorded breeding) were added to the official record in the 2012 IRBR (*Irish Birds* 9: 583) though none of these Galway records were known to the Committee at that time. The 1989 bird was accidentally caught during a wildfowl ringing session and is only the third to be recorded in September since breeding ceased sometime in the 1840s.

### Bittern/American Bittern

*Botaurus stellaris/lentiginosus* (0; 5; 1)

**2020 Galway One:** One, Baranny, Lough Corrib, 28th November (P. Tyndall).

### Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* (1; 30; 1)

**Cork One:** At least second calendar-year, Dunworley, 22nd May to 3rd June, photographed (C. O'Sullivan).

A total of 16 has now been found in Cork accounting for exactly half of the Irish total.

### Great Egret *Ardea alba* (0; 189; 48)

**Carlow Zero:** The bird first recorded at Kildavin on 1st December 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 61) remained in the area until 14th January, and presumed same, Clonmahon, Wexford, 14th January.

**Cavan One:** One, Lough Inchin, 4th and 5th March (S. O'Connor).

**Clare Two:** One, Doonbeg, 23rd September (P. Connaughton); One, Lake Inchiquin, 23rd September (J. Copner).

**Cork 12:** The three birds present at The Gearagh on 24th December 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 61) were present again from 10th to 20th January and from 27th February to 3rd March with one remaining until 10th April, and on various dates between 8th September and 25th October between one and three of these birds was present, all presumed returning; River Illen Estuary; One of two present since 27th December 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 61) was recorded again on 23rd January and at nearby Baltimore from 12th to 26th January; One, Oldcourt, 6th January (J. Wylie); One, Clogheen Marsh, 16th February (K. Cronin); One, Castlefrefre, photographed, 17th February (N. Hurley, J. O'Sullivan); One, Fota Island, 21st February, photographed (P. Oviedo); One, Halfway, 11th and 12th March, photographed (P. Connaughton); One, Lough Aderra, 19th April (K. Cronin), also recorded at Waterrock Golf Course, Middleton, 19th April; One, Lissagriffin, 24th April (S. Ronayne); One, Bantry, 6th June, photographed (G. Ó Sé); One, Rostellan Lake, 25th August, photographed (P. Connaughton); One, Courtmacsherry, 15th October to 31st December, joined by a second bird on the latter date, photographed (J. Deasy, G. Desmond); One, Glandore, 18th to 20th October (L. Miles).

**Donegal Three:** One, Lough Fern, 31st May, photographed (J. Bliss); One, Kiltorish Lough, Portnoo, 13th and 14th June, photographed (M. Clements, M. Cunningham); One, Blanket Nook, 30th June (G. Mitchell).

**Galway One:** One, Murlach, Ballyconneely, 18th to 21st April (E. Mannion); One, Muckrush, Lough Corrib, 31st July to 23rd October, with two there, 5th December, presumed resident/returning birds.

**Kerry Two:** One, Blennerville, 20th September, photographed (F. Moore); One, Caherciveen, 30th September to 3rd October (H. Servignat).

**Kildare Two:** Two, Hazelhatch, 4th March (P. Kelly).

**Leitrim One:** One, Leitrim Village, 18th December (R.H. Coombes).

**Longford Three:** Two, location withheld, 24th to 31st January (per IRBC); One, location withheld, 14th May (B. McCloskey).

**Roscommon Two:** Two, Portrunny, Lough Ree, exact date unknown, present sometime between 12th and 18th April, photographed (O. Murphy).

**Sligo One:** One, Cartron Bay, Sligo, 24th November (S. Hickey).

**Waterford** Three: One, Knockaderry Reservoir, 2nd May, photographed (M. Cowming, M. Cowming Sr., J. Farrell); One, Ballydwan, 4th May, (D. Weldon); One, Dungarvan, 28th November to 11th December (J. Power).

**Wexford** Eight: One, Tacumshin Lake, 4th January to 20th March, photographed (K. Grace); One, Our Lady's Island Lake, 27th February, photographed (P. Kelly); One, Cahore Marsh, 3rd April, and presumed same, 24th April (S. King); One, Tacumshin Lake, 27th and 28th August, and presumed same, Our Lady's Island Lake, 29th and 30th August and thereafter at Tacumshin Lake up to 31st October (P. Kelly, K. Mullarney); One, Rosslare Back Strand, 25th September (P. Kelly); One, Inish and Ballyteigue Slob, 12th to 21st October, photographed (T. Murray), with two there, 16th November (T. Murray); One, Rosslare Back Strand, 11th December (P. Kelly).

**Wicklow** Seven: One, Newcastle, 7th to 12th April, and presumed same, Broad Lough, 11th April, photographed (E. O'Sullivan); One, Five Mile Point, 15th May (S. King); One, Blessington, 22nd May (A.G. Kelly); One, Killoughter, 12th June (E. Dempsey); One, Newcastle, 21st and 22nd June (N. Hatch); Two, Kilcoole, 20th September, photographed (E. Dempsey, D. Fox).

Included here are the first records for Cavan, Leitrim and Longford. The total of 48 easily eclipses the previous record total of 32 set in 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 62). Birds were recorded across 15 different counties, surpassing the record of 14 set in both 2019 and 2020. With the number of presumed resident/returning birds increasing year on year, the possibility of breeding occurring in the near future must be considered likely. By 2021, the British breeding population was estimated to be 50 pairs, with 73 young fledged (Morgan *et al.* 2022).

## **Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus* (0; 0; 1)

**Donegal** One: Sub-adult, Dunfanaghy, 14th and 15th July, photographed (Sh. Farrell), also recorded in Mayo and Roscommon.

**Mayo** Zero: Sub-adult, Ballycastle, 4th August, and same, Shanvolohan, 11th August, photographed (N. O'Malley). Also recorded in Donegal and Roscommon.

**Roscommon** Zero: Sub-adult, Carrownolan, 31st December, photographed (O. Murphy). Also recorded in Donegal and Mayo.

The first Irish record and just the second vulture to be added to the Irish List since an immature Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* was caught near Cork Harbour in the Spring of 1843. This bird had previously been recorded at the Isles of Scilly on the islands of St. Mary's and Tresco on 14th June, a month prior to its discovery in Donegal. Even with the extremely low density of birders in Ireland it is remarkable how such a bird managed to go unnoticed for months at a time while passing through a number of counties. Egyptian Vulture has shown it is not averse to making relatively long sea crossings with a high percentage of non-reproductive (2CY to 4CY) birds from the Tunisian population regularly observed crossing the Sicilian Channel (Angostini *et al.* 2015), with one even reaching the Azores in 1932 (Barcelos *et al.* 2015), which would confirm an Irish Sea crossing is not beyond its ability.

Three members of the Order Accipitriformes (the hawks, eagles, vultures and kites) have been added to the Irish list in the last 12 years, i.e. Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius* in 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 292 & 9: 458), Pallid Harrier *C. macrourus*



**Plate 42.** Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, Dunfanaghy, Co. Donegal, July 2021 (Tom Shevlin).



in 2011 (*Irish Birds* 9: 459) and Egyptian Vulture. The three most recent members of the Order Accipitriformes added to the Irish list prior to these were: Montagu's Harrier *C. pygagrus* in 1848 (Thompson Vol. 1), Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* in 1973 (IBR 21: 12 & *Irish Birds* 5:456; NIBR 1996: 38) and Black Kite *Milvus migrans* in 1980 (*Irish Birds* 6: 71), a total of 131 years required to add the same number of species.

Donegal has now added three species to the Irish list in the last decade, i.e. Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* in 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 605) and Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* in 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 256) and this record represents the 11th species added to the Irish list from that county.

### **Northern Harrier** *Circus hudsonianus* (0; 9; 1)

**Offaly** One: Juvenile, Lough Boora Discovery Park, 12th November to 31st December, photographed (F. MacGinley, P. Smith).

The tenth Irish record and the first for Offaly.

### **Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus* (0; 8; 1)

**Limerick** One: Adult male, undisclosed location, west Limerick, mid-May and 21st July, photographed (S. Acun, F. Connolly), also seen at a different location 8 km from where first recorded, 29th June.

The ninth Irish record and the first record for Limerick. Although this is the third Pallid Harrier to have been recorded in spring it is the first to have been recorded in breeding habitat. This bird was observed to make a food pass to a female Hen Harrier on 14th May, however it is not known if any other breeding activity occurred.

Pallid Harrier first bred in Finland in 1993 and then bred intermittently there until 2010 since when it has bred annually with a peak of 13 confirmed pairs fledging 39 juveniles in 2018. Successful breeding occurred in The Netherlands in both 2017 and 2019, and in Castilla y León in northwestern Spain in 2019, but the Spanish pair failed to return in 2020. In 2020 successful breeding occurred in both the Czech Republic and at Pas-de-Calais in northern France. Typical breeding behaviour between Pallid Harriers and Hen and Montagu's and even Marsh Harriers, has been documented many times in Europe. Predominantly, as in this instance, this has involved a male Pallid Harrier. Hybridisation between species may sometimes be an indicator of a local decline of one or more of the species involved. From a conservation perspective, hybridisation is regularly considered as a potential issue for declining species and has been shown to be more common where one of the parent species is scarce and/or on the edge of its range. The expansion of the breeding range and progressive colonisation of new territories may be an indication that all is not well on the traditional Pallid Harrier breeding grounds and this colonisation may represent a forced shift in range rather than an expansion (Réglade *et al.* 2022).

### **Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygagrus*

(23; 68; 3)

**Cork** Two: Second calendar-year male, Ballycotton, 14th to 16th May, photographed (J. Hayes); Unaged female, Mizen Head, 17th July (D. Ballard).

**Dublin** One: Unaged female, The Burrow, Portrane, 13th May (Sh. Farrell).

Only the second time two have been recorded in a single year in Cork, the first time was as far back as 1957 when a pair bred there successfully (Hutchinson 1989) The Dublin record is the eighth for that county and the first since one at Dublin Airport on 8th August 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 80).

### **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* (0; 23; 2)

**Cork** One: At least second calendar-year, Cape Clear Island, 24th August, photographed (J. McNally), and presumed same, Garinish, West Beara, 30th August (D. Cooke, N. Linehan).

**Wexford** One: Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 28th and 29th September (P. Kelly).

The eighth record for Cork, the sixth for Wexford and the first since 2017 when two were also recorded (*Irish Birds* 11: 65). Black Kite mainly occurs as a spring overshoot with 17 of its 25 records found during spring. There is a secondary peak in the autumn and the Tacumshin Lake bird is the second-latest on record, surpassed only by one at Toe Head, Cork on 9th October 2010 (*Irish Birds* 10: 242).

### **Snowy Owl** *Bubo scandiacus* (55; 37; 0)

**Cork** Zero: The female/immature recorded at Cobh on 7th November 2020 and at Aghada from 21st to 30th November 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 71) was found dead beside the N25 near Harper's Island on 10th March, presumed road casualty.

### **Belted Kingfisher** *Megaceryle alcyon* (0; 5; 0)

**Cork** Zero: the first-year male present at Dunboy, Castletownbere since 9th November 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 71) remained in the area until 25th April.

### **Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* (21; 49; 2)

**Cork** Two: One, Owenahinch, 6th June (S. Bayley); One, Youghal, 6th June (D. O'Sullivan).

Cork has now accounted for 27 of the overall total of 72 while Kerry with 10 and Wexford with eight rank second and third in county totals. These records are the eighth and ninth to be recorded in June. A total of 32 have been recorded in May, 10 in April, one in each of July, August and September, four in October and six (one flock) in November.

### **Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* (9; 357; 17)

**Cork** 13: One, Lissagriffin, 12th August (D. Ballard); Two, Dursley Island, 29th and 30th August (N. Linehan); One, Dunowen, 3rd September, photographed (P. Connaughton); One, Cape Clear Island, 4th to 10th September (A. Baxter); One, Mizen Head, 8th to 10th



**Plate 43.** Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*, Carne, Co. Wexford, April 2021 (Tom Shevlin).

September (P. Moore); One, Galley Head, 10th September, with two there, 11th September with a different bird present, 18th and 19th September, photographed (C. Barton, C. Cronin, C. Foley); One, Ballynamona, Ballycotton, 15th September (P. Moore); One, Brow Head, 16th September (D. Ballard); One, Connonagh, 17th September (C. Jones); One, Garinish, 17th October (N. Warnock).

**Waterford** Two: One, Helvick Head, 6th September (F. O'Connell); One, Ardmore, 19th September, photographed (G. Tobin).

**Wexford** Two: One, Churchtown, 4th to 9th September (T. Shevlin); One, Great Saltee Island, 15th September (L. Benson, K. Grace, T. Shevlin).

A strong showing again from Cork with a total of 13. This is the sixth time that county has recorded an annual total in double figures. No other county has managed this, a total of six in Wexford during 1961 (IBR 9: 28) comes closest.

### **Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus* (1; 41; 1)

**Wexford** One: Female (unaged), Tacumshin Lake, 17th May (K. Grace).

The 14th for Wexford and the 11th for the Tacumshin area.

### **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* (14; 447; -)

**2010 Galway** One: One, Muckrush, Lough Corrib, 13th May (the late P. Hillis).

**2020 Galway** One: One, R349 between Athenry and Loughrea, 22nd May (P. Capsey).

This species was removed from consideration by the IRBC from 1st January 2021. However, for completeness, records from before that date will continue to be published.

### **Gyr Falcon** *Falco rusticolus* (89; 46; 0)

**2018 Galway** One: Juvenile white morph, Bunowen Pier, Ballyconneely, 13th February, photographed (G. Roberts).

The sixth record for Galway and the second for the Ballyconneely area following one present there from 31st March to 22nd April 1991 (*Irish Birds* 4: 585). This bird was found, presumably exhausted, sitting on a road at 01:00; about 20 minutes later the finder returned to find the bird still sitting in the original location and allowed him approach to get close enough in his car to take its photograph with his mobile phone.

### **Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* (7; 200; 7)

**Cork** Three: Adult female, Mizen Head, 8th to 10th May (D. Ballard); First calendar-year, Mizen Head, 10th September, photographed (S. Ronayne); First calendar-year, Mizen Head, 18th September (P. Connaughton).

**Dublin** One: First calendar-year, Howth Head, 12th to 15th September, photographed (M. Collins).

**Kerry** One: Adult male, Bolus Head, 26th September to 4th October, photographed (M. O'Clery).

**Wexford** Two: Adult male, Carnsore Point and Ring Marsh, 1st June, photographed (V. Hall, D. Hogg, D. McCabe); Adult female, Tacumshin Lake, 2nd June (K. Grace).

The second record for Kerry following one at Dunquin from 9th to 11th November 2001 (*Irish Birds* 7: 237) and the fifth record for Dublin. Records in June are rare, the two Wexford records being only the sixth and seventh for that month.

### **Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator* (2; 117; 1)

**Cork** One: One, Mizen Head, 10th May (D. Ballard).

### **Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus* (0; 81; 3)

**Galway** One: One, Inishbofin, 6th October, photographed (P. Kelly).

**Mayo** Two: One, Blacksod, Mullet Peninsula, 1st and 2nd October, photographed (G. Murray, P. Phillips *et al.*); One, Achill Island, 4th to 9th October (J. Jones).

The tenth for Galway while the two Mayo birds also bring the total for that county to ten. Eight of the Galway total and nine of the Mayo total have occurred since 2005, highlighting the increase in observer coverage along the west coast in recent years. Eight of the Mayo records have been at the Mullet Peninsula with the other two at Achill Island. Galway shows a similarly restricted pattern of distribution with six from Inishmore, three at Inishbofin and a single mainland record at Slyne Head.



**Plate 44.** Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*, Bolus Head, Co. Kerry, September 2021 (Michael O'Clery).



**Plate 45.** Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*, Doogort, Achill Island, Co. Mayo, October 2021 (Josh Jones)

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* (62; 164; 1)

**Cork** One: Female/immature, Cape Clear Island, 8th May (S. Wing).

**Northern Horned Lark**

*Eremophila alpestris alpestris/pratincola/hoyti*  
(0; 0; 2)

**Cork** One: One, Dursey Island, 25th October (K. Grace).

**Galway** One: One, Dog's Head, Killeany, Inishmore, 3rd October, photographed (M. Sylvia).

The first Irish records of the North American taxa of Shore Lark, known as Northern Horned Lark and the first records of any Shore Lark subspecies since one on Arranmore Island, Donegal on 15th December 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 272). Both of these records involved one-day birds and the timing and location of their discovery ruled out any possibility of anyone other than those present at their respective island locations from seeing either. Shore Lark is one of the most globally widespread species of passerine, its 42 subspecies can be found breeding on five continents. Of the 26 subspecies found in North America only three, i.e. *E.a. alpestris*, *hoyti* and *arcticola*, are fully migratory. The subspecies *alpestris* breeding range extends from eastern Arctic Canada south to Newfoundland and is thought to be the subspecies most likely to occur here. There are three previous confirmed occurrences of Northern Horned Lark in the Western Palearctic, at St. Agnes and Tresco, Isles of Scilly in October



**Plate 46.** American Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris alpestris/pratincola/hoyti*, Inishmore, Co. Galway, October 2021 (Mike Sylvia).

2001, at South Uist, Outer Hebrides in October 2014 and Surrey, England from November 2017 to April 2018. A bird collected at Garðskagi, Gullbringusýsla, Iceland in November 1981, showed some characteristics consistent with one of the Nearctic forms (Ólafsson 1983, Pétursson & Ólafsson 1999). A Shore Lark present at Tyrella Beach, Down from 3rd January to 1st March 1998 (*Irish Birds* 6: 397; NIBR 1998: 76), while showing characteristics consistent with one of the North American races (Garner 1999) its subspecific identity could not be confirmed.

### Short-toed Lark

*Calandrella brachydactyla* (1; 85; 1)

**Wicklow** One: One, Kilcoole, 7th to 9th October, photographed (N. Keogh).

Only the second for Wicklow following another at Kilcoole, on 10th May 2011 (*Irish Birds* 9: 478) which was found, incidentally, by the son of the finder of this bird!

### Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

(0; 62; 4)

**Cork** Two: At least second calendar-year, Mizen Head, 2nd June (P. Moore), joined by a second bird of the same age later that day (D. Ballard) with one remaining until 5th June.

**Dublin** One: At least second calendar-year, Howth Head, 26th April (D. O'Connor).

**Wexford** One: At least second calendar-year, Cahore Marsh, 1st April (C. Cardiff).

A good showing which has been bettered on only three occasions (2019, 2011 & 2007) and equalled once (2012). April has recorded the most records with 20, two ahead of May.

### Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* (0; 4; 1)

**Wexford** One: One, Cahore Marsh, 23rd January to 21st March (C. Cardiff); One, Cahore Marsh, 2nd December (C. Cardiff), presumed returning.

The fifth Irish record and the second for Wexford following one which overwintered at Tacumshin Lake from 6th November 2010 to 18th March 2011 (*Irish Birds* 10: 415). The Committee is aware of a number of records of this potential colonist which have not been submitted for assessment and would encourage their submission.

### Western/Eastern Bonelli's Warbler

*Phylloscopus bonelli/orientalis* (0; 7; 1)

**Cork** One: One, Mizen Head, 3rd June (D. Ballard).

The specific identity of this bird as either a Western or Eastern Bonelli's Warbler cannot be confirmed. This bird, unfortunately, was not heard to call.

### Western Bonelli's Warbler

*Phylloscopus bonelli* (0; 20; 1)

**Galway** One: One, Inishmore, 9th October (P. Troake).

The second for Galway and the first since 2016 when there was a record total of four that included the first Galway record which was also at Inishmore (*Irish Birds* 10: 568).

### Siberian Chiffchaff

*Phylloscopus collybita tristis* (2; 254; 61)

**Carlow** Two: The bird first recorded at Bagenalstown on 27th December 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 75), remained in the area until 3rd January; One, Goresbridge, 19th December (C. ten Bohmer); One, Carlow Town, 19th and 20th December (B. Power).

**Clare** Two: One, Kilbaha, 29th and 30th October, photographed (J.



**Plate 47.** Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow, November 2021 (Dick Coombes).

Copner, J. Kirby, J.N. Murphy); One Killimer, 23rd November, photographed (J.N. Murphy).

**Cork** 26: The bird present at the Gearagh since 17th December 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 75) remained until 21st March; Three, including one present since 30th December 2020, Tramore River, Cork City, 3rd January (L. van der Noll); One, Gurrabraher, Cork City, 4th to 8th January, photographed (H. Hussey); One, Clogheenmilcon Fen, 2nd February, photographed (A. Lauder), with two there, 21st December, photographed (N.T. Keogh); One, Kennedy Quay, Cork City, 5th February, with two there, 29th March (B. Power); One, Lehanmore, West Beara, 10th October (K. Grace); One, Brow Head, 13th October (E. Larrisey); One, Dursley Island, 13th October (K. Grace); One, Garinish, West Beara, 14th October (K. Grace); One, Crookhaven, 14th to 19th October, photographed (M. Shorten); Cape Clear Island: One, 14th October (P. Keogh, G. Murray, M. Stewart), one, 28th and 29th October, photographed (A.G. Kelly); One, Ballinacarraige, West Beara, 18th October (K. Grace); One, 13.5 miles southeast of Galley Head, 24th October (N.T. Keogh); Owenahincha: Single birds trapped and ringed on 13th November, 20th November and 28th November (S. Bayley), one, 5th December (S. Bayley); One, trapped and ringed, Enniskeane, 29th November (S. Bayley); Two, Charleville Lagoons, 3rd December (D. Farrar); One, Fountainstown, 5th December (D. Fitzpatrick); One, Clogheen Marsh, 13th December (J. Simms).

**Donegal** One: One, Arranmore Island, 5th November (A. McMillan). Dublin Three: Two, Tolka Valley Park, 16th to 18th December, three there 19th December with two remaining, 26th December (B. Carruthers).

**Galway** One: One, Inishbofin, 12th October (T. Buckley, S. Millar).

**Kerry** Two: Two, Ross Castle, Killarney, 20th December (D. Farrar).

**Limerick** One: One, Coonagh, 19th December (T. Tarpey).

**Mayo** Eight: One, Devlane, Mullet Peninsula, 13th October (D. Charles), with another there, 8th November (D. Suddaby); Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula: One, 17th October (D. Suddaby), three, 15th and 16th November, with two remaining until 20th November and a single bird remaining until 12th December; One, Carton, Mullet Peninsula, 15th to 21st November (D. Suddaby); One, Saleen, Mullet Peninsula,



**Plate 48.** Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*, Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, September 2021 (Tom Shevlin).

15th November (D. Suddaby).

**Waterford** Five: One of two birds present at Dungarvan since 26th December 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 75) remained in the area until 20th February, with a new one there, 19th to 23rd December, photographed (F. O'Connell *et al.*); Waterford City: Two, 18th December, three, 19th December, four, 20th December, photographed (P. Archer, D. Weldon).

**Wexford** Nine: Tacumshin Lake: One of the two birds present on 30th December 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 75) remained until 1st January, one, 15th October (P. Kelly), one, 28th November (P. Kelly), three, 19th December, with two remaining, 24th December (P. Kelly); One, Cahore Marsh, 20th and 21st March, sound recorded (C. Cardiff); One, Hook Head, 9th October, photographed (K. Mullaney); One, Cahore Marsh, 16th November (C. Cardiff); One, South Slob, 28th December (P. Kelly).

**Wicklow** One: One, Kilcoole, 5th to 7th November (S. King).

**2020 Cork** One, Tramore River, Cork City, 30th December to 3rd January 2021, photographed (L. van der Noll).

**2020 Mayo** Three: One, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 2nd November to 5th November (D. Suddaby *et al.*); One, Blacksod, Mullet Peninsula, 30th November (D. Charles); One, Mullach Rua, 6th December (D. Charles, D. Suddaby).

The total of 61 recorded surpasses the previous record of 55 in 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 568 & 11: 74), while the additional records from 2020 bring the total for that year to 49. This series of records also includes the second and third records for Clare and the third records for both Donegal and Limerick.

### **Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*** (0; 24; 1)

**Cork** One: One, Cape Clear Island, 9th and 10th October, photographed (D. Weir).

The twelfth for Cork and the fifth for Cape Clear Island. The only other Irish locations with more than a single record are Helvick Head in Waterford and the Old Head of Kinsale in Cork which have each recorded single birds on two occasions.

## Greenish Warbler

*Phylloscopus trochiloides* (0; 45; 2)

**Cork** One: One, Cape Clear Island, 5th September (S. Wing).

**Wexford** One: One, Great Saltee Island, 27th August (K. Grace).

These records fall within the range of typical arrival dates and locations for this predominantly autumn vagrant. Cape Clear Island with 17 and Great Saltee Island with eight are the two sites with the most Irish records. This is the second year in succession this species has been recorded on Great Saltee Island and the fourth to be recorded there since 2013 while the bird on Cape Clear Island is the first to be recorded there since one on 10th September 2014 (*Irish Birds* 10: 253).

## Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (0; 15; 1)

**Mayo** One: First calendar-year, Clare Island, 13th October, photographed (J.N. Murphy).

The second for Mayo following one at Glenlara on the Mullet Peninsula in 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 415) and perhaps an indication of the untapped potential of this underwatched location.

## Blyth's Reed Warbler

*Acrocephalus dumetorum* (0; 16; 2)

**Waterford** Two: At least second calendar-year male, Brownstown Head, 28th May, photographed and sound-recorded (D. Weldon); First calendar-year, Brownstown Head, 9th September, photographed (D. Weldon).

The second and third records for Waterford following one at Helvick Head from 15th to 18th October 2012 (*Irish Birds* 10: 254). The May occurrence is the first spring record while the September record is the fourth for that month.

## Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

(0; 9; 1)

**Donegal** One: At least second calendar-year male, Tory Island, 31st May, photographed (A. Meenan).

The first record for May and the second record for Donegal, Tory Island and the finder who found one at the same location in June 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 76).

## Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata* (0; 7; 1)

**Cork** One: One, Galley Head, 5th September, photographed (C. Barton).

The third for Cork and the first record since 2018 when one was at Bolus Head in Kerry (*Irish Birds* 42: 87). Booted Warbler is exclusively an autumn vagrant with records in August (1), September (5) and October (2).

## Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

(2; 219; 3)

**Cork** Two: One, Mizen Head, 31st August (D. Ballard); One, Galley Head, 4th September (C. Barton).

**Donegal** One: First calendar-year, Tory Island, photographed, 8th September (A. Meenan).

The third for Donegal following birds at the same location on 27th August 1995 (*Irish Birds* 5: 470) and on 19th and 20th September 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 570).

## Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* (2; 225; 3)

**Cork** Three: One, Dursley Island, 27th August (N. Linehan); One, Cape Clear Island, 17th September (S. Wing); One, Barry's Head, 19th and 20th September (R. O'Driscoll).

The Cape Clear Island record is the 115th for that island and accounts for exactly half of the entire Irish total. Great Saltee Island, Wexford and Hook Head, Wexford with totals of 21 and 12 respectively are the only other Irish sites to have recorded numbers in double figures.

## Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (6; 223, 6)

**Cork** Four: One, Mizen Head, 30th September (D. Ballard); First calendar-year, Cape Clear Island, 17th October (J. Dowdall); First calendar-year, Garinish, 17th October (K. Grace); First calendar-year, Dursley Island, 18th October (K. Grace).

**Galway** One: One, Inishbofin, 4th September (G. Walshe).

**Mayo** One: First calendar-year, Achill Island, 4th October (J. Jones).



**Plate 49.** Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*, Doogort, Achill Island, Co. Mayo, October 2021 (Josh Jones).

**2020 Mayo** One: One, Tarmon, Mullet Peninsula, 26th October to 5th November (D. Suddaby *et al.*).

The average number of birds recorded per annum over the last 50 years has been just under four, but that figure has risen significantly over the past two decades to just over seven compared to just under 2 for the years 1972 to 2001. The decadal totals for the last 50 years have shown a significant increase rising from 16 during the decade 1972 to 1981 to 22, 20, 77 and 65 for the four decades between 1982 and 2021. The 2020 Mayo record brings the total for that county to eight while the Galway record is the 20th for that county, 16 of which have occurred since 2010, and the 11th to have been found on Inishbofin.

### **Dartford Warbler** *Curruca undata* (1; 9; 1)

**Cork** One: First calendar-year male, Cape Clear Island, 21st October, photographed (E. O'Donnell).

The 11th Irish record and the first since one at Brow Head, Cork on 31st March 2003 (*Irish Birds* 7: 567). This is the eighth record for Cork and the sixth for Cape Clear Island though it is the first there since 1987 (*Irish Birds* 3: 639). All six Cape Clear Island records have occurred in autumn with five of those six occurring in October and the sixth in August.

### **Sardinian Warbler**

*Curruca melanocephala* (0; 3; 1)

**Cork** One: Male (unaged), Knockadoon Head, 21st to 23rd April, sound recorded (P. Moore).

The fourth Irish record, and, like its predecessors, found in Cork in the month of April. This is the second record for Knockadoon Head, the second Irish record having been present there from 14th to 21st April 1993 (*Irish Birds* 5: 226).

### **Rosy Starling** *Pastor roseus* (41; 157; 51)

**Clare** Three: Adult, Rineville Bay, Carrigaholt, 1st to 3rd June, photographed (S. Ryan); Adult, 'east' Clare, 15th June, photographed (I. Smith); Adult, Carrigaholt, 16th and 17th July, photographed (P. Ryan).

**Cork** Ten: Adult, Mizen Head, 2nd June (P. Moore); Adult, Ballincollig, 5th June, photographed (per S. Cronin); Adult, Dursey Island, 5th June (K. Finch); Adult, Cape Clear Island, 11th June, photographed (M. Cadogan, S.Wing); Two adults, Castletownbere, 11th June, photographed (A. Duncan); Adult, Garinish, 15th June (C. Heardman); Adult, Schull, 18th June (D. Ballard); Adult, Galley Head, 20th and 21st July, photographed (P. Moore); Adult, Dursey Island, 31st July (D. Cooke).

**Donegal** Four: Adult, Tory Island, 4th and 5th June, photographed (P. Keogh); Adult, Carrickfinn, 5th to 7th June, photographed (M. Dixon),



**Plate 50.** IRose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow, June 202 (Dick Coombes)

with three adults present, 8th June, photographed (N. Newell).

**Dublin** Two: Adult, Stillorgan, 7th July, photographed (P. Keegan); Adult, Howth, 9th July, photographed (D. Galavan).

**Galway** Four: Adult, Tuam, 6th June, photographed (A. Corrigan, K. Corrigan); Adult, Clifden Castle, 6th June, photographed, (D. Staunton); Adult, Clifden, 16th to 28th June (R. Harrison); Adult, Inishbofin, 23rd June, photographed (C. Coyne).

**Kerry** Eleven: Adult, Ballybunion, 2nd June, photographed (L. Quille); Two adults, Ventry, 3rd to 10th June (S. Williams); Adult, Portmagee, 4th June (G. O'Sullivan); Adult, Three Sisters, Dingle Peninsula, 6th June, photographed (A. Ní Chiobhán); Adult, Ballyferriter, 22nd June (E. Manning, S. Manning); Adult, Skellig Michael, 24th and 25th June, photographed (B. Power); Two adults, Ferriter's Cove, 29th June, one remaining to 1st July, photographed (J. Biddle); Adult, Dunquin, 1st to 5th July, photographed (S. Redican); Juvenile, Skellig Michael, 8th to 15th September, photographed (E. Masterson); Juvenile, Black Rock Strand, 13th September (G. Walker).

**Limerick** Two: Adult, Athlaca, 7th June (I. Kelleher); Adult, Newcastle West, 12th and 13th June (T. Ivess).

**Mayo** Five: Adult, Achill Island, 5th June, photographed (W. Pickles); Adult, Termoncarragh Lake, Mullet Peninsula, 19th to 22nd June, photographed (D. Suddaby *et al.*); Adult, Belmullet, Mullet Peninsula, 11th July (S. Walton); Two adults, Ballycastle, photographed, 14th August (G. Murray).

**Sligo** One: Adult, Sligo Town, 13th and 18th September (M. Bell).

**Waterford** One: Adult, Abbeyside, 14th to 27th August (M. Cowming Sr.)

**Wexford** Two: Adult, Cahore, 8th June (B. Haslam); Adult, Baginbun Head, 15th July, photographed (J. Ivory).

**Wicklow** Six: Adult, Kilcoole, 2nd June, with three, 3rd June, and two, 4th June with one still present, 5th to 7th June, photographed (J. Bowman *et al.*); Adult, Greystones, 8th June (M. Curtis); Adult, Ashford,

9th June, photographed (A. Farrelly); Adult, Wicklow Town, during the week of 21st July, photographed (J. O'Brien).

**2019 Galway** One: Adult, Aillebrack, Ballyconneely, present for a number of days up to 2nd July (P. O'Malley).

A record year with the total of 51 surpassing by a considerable margin the previous record total of 23 set in 2018 (*Irish Birds* 42: 88 & 43: 97) and including the first records for Limerick. As has been the case during previous influxes, the majority of records were comprised of adults in June. The Committee is aware of a number of uncorroborated anonymous records, a number of which are detailed at the end of this report under 'Appendix 5: List of anonymous records not accepted' which cannot be accepted, making 51 a minimum total only.

## Blue-headed Wagtail

*Motacilla flava flava* (0; 82; 1)

**Wexford** One: Male (unaged), Cahore Marsh, 27th to 29th April, photographed (S. Ronayne).

## Iberian Wagtail *Motacilla flava iberiae*

(0; 0; 1)

**Kerry** One: Male (unaged), Baile an Reannigh, 8th to 12th June, photographed (M. O'Clery).

The first Irish record of this taxon.

## Western Yellow Wagtail

*Motacilla flava feldegg x flava*

**Wexford** One: Second calendar-year male, Cahore Marsh, 27th and 28th April, photographed (S. Ronayne).

This bird most closely resembled a *M.f. feldegg* (Black-headed



Plate 51. Iberian Wagtail *Motacilla flava iberiae*, Baile an Reannaigh, Co. Kerry, June 2021 (Michael O'Clery).





**Plate 52.** Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*, Keel, Achill Island, Co Mayo, October 2021 (Josh Jones).

Wagtail) x *M.f. flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail) hybrid, which is a frequent intergrade between these subspecies, known as *M.f. superciliaris*. Birds of this type are characterised by an all black head, apart from a conspicuous short white supercilium. The call of this bird was recorded, analysed and found to conform to north-western taxa (*flava/flavissima/thunbergi*) rather than *feldegg*.

### **Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus* (0; 61; 1)

**Cork** One: One, Mizen Head, 18th November (D. Ballard).

The 35th record for Cork.

### **Buff-bellied Pipit** *Anthus rubescens* (0; 23; 2)

**Clare** One: One, Kilkee, 8th to 15th October, photographed (J.N. Murphy).

**Mayo** One: One, Keel Golf Course, Achill Island, 8th October, photographed (J. Jones, D. Owen).

These are the first records since one in Galway in 2017 (*Irish Birds* 11: 78). The Mayo record is the second for that county, following one at Belderra on the Mullet Peninsula in 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 486) and the Clare record is the third for that county, following birds at Liscannor in 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 602) and 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 277).

### **Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta* (1; 207; 5)

**Wexford** Five: Tacumshin Lake: The two birds present from 21st November 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 79) remained until 1st January with one present up to 16th January, adult summer, 31st March (P. Kelly), minimum of four with one present 30th October, minimum of two on 13th November, with four present, 14th November to 24th December (P. Kelly).

A total of 76 or just shy of 36% of the overall Irish total have now been found at Tacumshin Lake.

### **Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (Unknown; 320; 2)

**Mayo** Two: Two, Binghamstown, Belmullet, 22nd and 23rd April, photographed (A. O'Hara *et al.*).

**2020 Mayo** One, Tiraun, Mullet Peninsula, 3rd December (D. Charles). These records bring the total number for Mayo to 11, eight of which have been recorded on the Mullet Peninsula since 2005.

### **Common Rosefinch**

*Carpodacus erythrinus* (0; 264; 10)

**Cork** Eight: Second calendar-year, Mizen Head, 2nd June (P. Moore); Juvenile, Dursley Island, 25th September (K. Grace); Juvenile, Old Head of Kinsale, 8th October (A. Robinson); Juvenile, Dursley Island, 9th

October (K. Grace); Juvenile, Cape Clear Island, 10th October, photographed (J. Lynch); Juvenile, Dursey Island, 12th and 13th October, photographed (K. Grace); Juvenile, trapped and ringed, Owenahincha, 15th October (S. Bayley); Juvenile, Mizen Head, 22nd October (C. O'Sullivan).

**Galway** One: Juvenile, Inishmore, 13th to 15th October (H. Delaney).

**Mayo** One: Juvenile, Achill Island, 9th October (J. Jones).

A good showing. The total of ten has been equalled once in 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 310) and surpassed only by totals of 14 in 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 98) and the record total of 29 in 2011 (*Irish Birds* 9: 487). The county total of eight recorded in Cork has been matched once before by Cork in 2013 and surpassed only by totals of ten in Galway in 2011 and 15 in Cork in 2011. One has to go back to 1984 to find a year without a record.

### Red-winged Blackbird

*Agelaius phoeniceus* (0; 0; 1)

**Sligo** One: Second calendar-year male, Castleconnor, 11th June, photographed (S. Judge). Also recorded in Mayo.

**Mayo** Zero: Second calendar-year male, Annagh Marsh, Mullet Peninsula, 21st and 22nd June. Also recorded in Sligo (D. Suddaby *et al.*).

The first record for Ireland and the second for the Western Palearctic following one on North Ronaldsay, Orkney, from 29th April to 14th May 2017 (Davies 2019). Photographs sent to BirdWatch Ireland on 16th June showed this bird on a bird table in a Sligo garden on 11th June. Ten days later and 65km further west the same bird was miraculously rediscovered at

Annagh Marsh in Mayo. It was clearly the same bird, identifiable through a combination of the identical shape and colour of the inner median coverts and the presence of similarly patterned pale edges to a number of upperpart feathers that was evident in photographs taken at both sites. Not for the first time in recent years did the long mid-summer day allow a small group of lucky birders to twitch the Mullet from afar and while present again the following day it offered only brief views to those who travelled. Sligo has now added four species to the Irish list, i.e. Great Egret *Ardea alba* in 1984 (*Irish Birds* 3: 108), Eskimo Curlew *Numenius borealis* in 1870 (Ussher & Warren 1900) and Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* in 1875 (Ussher & Warren 1900, Warren 1875).

### Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

(0; 137; 3)

**Cork** Three: Second calendar-year or older, Dursey Island, 6th June (D. Cooke *et al.*); One, Mizen Head, 31st August (D. Ballard); One, Galley Head, 8th to 10th September (C. Barton).

These records include only the second record for June following one in Donegal in 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 80). Just shy of 71% (99) of the overall total have now been recorded in Cork.

### Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (3; 65; 2)

**Cork** Two: One, Dursey Island, 6th October (K. Grace); One, Dursey Island, 9th October, photographed (P. Rowe).



Plate 53. Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*, The Mullet, Co. Mayo, June 2021 (Dave Suddaby)



**Plate 54.** Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, September 2021 (Tom Shevlin).

Of the overall total of 70 birds, 40 have now been recorded in Cork. Dursy Island and Cape Clear Island have each recorded 11. Donegal with eight is the county with the second highest total.

### **Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica* (0; 21; 1)

**Waterford** One: One, Seafield, Bunmahon, 21st January to 19th February, photographed (D. Weldon).

The first for Waterford and the first to be recorded in either January or February. Cork, with a total of 19, holds a near monopoly on this species. Waterford now joins Antrim in 1997 (*Irish Birds* 6: 310; NIBR 1997: 93) and Clare in 1985 (*Irish Birds* 3: 330) as the only other counties to have hosted Rustic Bunting.

### **Blackpoll Warbler** *Dendroica striata* (0; 13; 1)

**Cork** One: First calendar-year, Galley Head, 10th and 11th October, photographed (C. Barton).

Exactly half of the Irish records have been in Cork. This is the seventh species of Nearctic passerine to have been found at Galley Head. Surprisingly, Galley Head has not recorded any of the three most commonly recorded Nearctic passerines on the Irish list, i.e. Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*, Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* and Myrtle Warbler *Sethophaga coronata*.

### **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

*Pheucticus ludovicianus* (0; 9; 1)

**Cork** One: First calendar-year male, Cape Clear Island, 7th to 9th October, photographed (P. Moore).

Eight of the ten Irish records to date have occurred in Cork with five of those at Cape Clear Island. One at Kilmore, Wexford from 3rd to 7th October 1985 (*Irish Birds* 3: 331) and one on Great Blasket Island, Kerry on 29th September 2000 (*Irish Birds* 7: 107) remain the only Irish records away from Cork.

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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.

### Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

**Cork** One: Adult white morph, Coolmain, 10th September, photographed (P. Wolstenholme).

**Mayo** 42: 41 adult white phase and one adult blue morph, Termoncarragh Lake, Mullet Peninsula, 14th to 17th June (D. Suddaby *et al.*).

**Wexford** Two: Two adult blue morph, South Slob, 16th May and 29th June (P. Kelly).

### Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

**Clare** Five: One, Doonbeg, 23rd September (P. Connaughton), with four, 1st to 23rd October, photographed (M. van Engelen); One, Lahinch, 6th and 7th October (G. Pearson).

**Cork** Two: One (unaged), The Gearagh, 31st August to 23rd October, photographed (J. Lynch); One, Reen Pier, 21st October, photographed (S. MacGillivray).

### Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

(75; 0; 0)

**Mayo** One: One, Killala, 24th to 28th January (S. Meany).

**Sligo** One: One, Ballisodare, 1st May (D. Skehan).

**Wexford** One: One, Tacumshin Lake, 11th September (J. Sheehan).

### Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

**Dublin** One: Adult male, Skerries, 13th October, found dead on 14th October (C. Halpin).

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## Appendix 2: Category E records

Individuals to be considered probable or certain escapes from captivity.

### Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

**Cork** One: First calendar-year, Galley Head, 8th to 14th September, photographed (C. Barton).

This was a captive-reared bird released as part of a conservation scheme in Catalunya, Spain.

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## Appendix 3: Contributors

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## Appendix 4: 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.

### 2021 records not proven

#### Common Crane *Grus grus*

Coolharbour Lower/Raheen, Co. Wicklow, 15th May.

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## Appendix 5: List of anonymous records not accepted

The following reports concern rarities that were entered in the Provisional List of Rare Bird Sightings during 2019 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.

### Common Crane *Grus grus*

Inch, Gorey, Wexford, 12th August.

### Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*

Adult, Crumlin, Dublin City, 8th June.

Adult, Ballinlough, Cork City, 10th June.

Adult, Arklow, Wicklow, 15th June.

Adult, Leixlip, Kildare, 18th June.

Adult, Killarney, Kerry, 24th June.

Adult, Rogerstown, Dublin, 3rd July.

### Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Female/immature, Mallow, Cork, 7th May.

### Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

At least second calendar-year, Mizen Head, Cork, 29th May.

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## Appendix 6: Corrigenda to previous reports.

### Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*

In the Irish Rare Bird Report 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 56) the text should read “Mayo...Cross Lough, 21st October to 31st December (D. Charles *et al.*) and not “...Termoncarragh Lough, 22nd October to 31st December (D. Suddaby)”.

### American Wigeon *Mareca americana*

In the Irish Rare Bird Report for 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 57) the text should read “Mayo Two: Female (unaged), Termoncarragh Lake, Belmullet Peninsula, 30th October to 31st December (D. Suddaby *et al.*), joined by a first-winter male, 6th to 31st December (D. Suddaby *et al.*)” and not “Mayo Two: Female (unaged), Termoncarragh Lake, Belmullet Peninsula, 30th October to 6th December (D. Suddaby), joined by a first calendar-year male on the latter date (D. Suddaby).”

### American Black Duck *Anas rubripes*

In the Irish Rare Bird Report for 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 57) the text should read “Mayo One: First calendar-year male, Cross Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 14th November to 31st December”

and not “Mayo One: First calendar-year male, Cross Lough, Mullet Peninsula, 14th November to 30th December” as stated.

### Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

In the Irish Rare Bird Report 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 59) the text should read “Mayo... Termoncarragh Lake, 22nd and 23rd December (D. Suddaby *et al.*)” and not “Termoncarragh Lake, 23rd December (D. Suddaby)” as stated.

### Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burbinus oedicnemus*

In the Irish Rare Bird Report for 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 64) the text should read “in all months except September” instead of “in all months except November” as stated.

### Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

In the Irish Rare Bird Report for 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 65) the text should read “Wexford... Juvenile, 10th July (A. McMillan) and, presumed same individual, 14th to 16th July when joined by a second juvenile (K. Grace), with four juveniles, presumed to include two already present, 17th to 21st July (P. Kelly)... Two juveniles, Our Lady’s Island Lake, 6th July (A. McMillan) with a different juvenile there, 27th July (K. Grace)” and not “Wexford... Juvenile, 10th July (A. McMillan) and, presumed same individual, 14th to 16th July when joined by a second juvenile (K. Grace); Four juveniles, 17th to 21st July (P. Kelly)... Two juveniles, Our Lady’s Island Lake, 6th July (A. McMillan) with a juvenile there, 27th July (K. Grace)” as stated.

### Wilson’s Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

In the Irish Rare Bird Report for 2019 (*Irish Birds* 43: 86) the text should read “22nd record for the county” and not “21st record for the county” as stated.

### Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus*

In the Irish Rare Bird Report for 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 72) the observers should read “(D. Charles, D. Suddaby)” and not “(D. Suddaby)”.

### Dartford Warbler *Curruca undata*

In the Irish Bird Report 2003 (*Irish Birds* 7: 567) the numbers in parenthesis should read (9; 1) and not (9; 0) as stated.

### Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

In the Irish Rare Bird Report 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 79) the text should read “Mayo...One, Binghamstown, Mullet Peninsula, 6th May (per. D. Deadman) and not “One, Binghamstown, Mullet Peninsula, 8th May (D. Suddaby)” as stated.

### Tennessee Warbler *Leiothlypis peregrina*

In the Irish Rare Bird Report for 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 81) the text should read “*Leiothlypis peregrina*” and not “*Leiothlypis peregrine*” as stated.

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## Abbreviations used

- BOU: British Ornithologists' Union.  
CY: Calendar Year.  
IBR: Irish Bird Report.  
IOC: International Ornithological Community.  
IRBC: Irish Rare Birds Committee.  
IRBR: Irish Bird Report.  
NIBR: Northern Ireland Bird Report.