

2022

Irish Rare Bird Report

Interim Version

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Irish Rare Bird Report 2022

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Plate 1. Alder Flycatcher, Inishbofin, Galway, 9th October 2022.
Photo: Brian McCloskey.

Introduction

Three new species were added to the Irish List in 2022: Two of these were found in Galway, an Allen's Gallinule in January was followed by an Alder Flycatcher in October and in Mayo, a White-winged Scoter in late December. Two species, Greater Sand Plover and Isabelline Wheatear, were recorded for a second time, while Double-crested Cormorant and Brown Booby were recorded for a third time. Other notable records included the fourth Eastern Olivaceous Warbler in Dublin in September, the fifth Bobolink in Cork in October and the fifth Pallid Swift in Wexford 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 irbc.ie](https://www.irbc.ie), which is updated regularly. Most of the data in this report were taken directly from the 2022 Provisional List. The IRBC

expresses its sincere gratitude to all those who provided information during 2022, either directly or indirectly. The committee also extends its grateful thanks to Joe Hobbs for compiling this interim version and to Kieran Fahy for keeping track of the statistics.

Rarity Description Forms:

Forms may be downloaded from the IRBC website: www.irbc.ie/records/forms/IRBC_form3.doc.

Submission of Photographs:

The committee welcomes photographs of rare and scarce birds, which can be sent to: photoArchive@irbc.ie.

Rarities:

The full list of taxa requiring substantiating documentation can be found at www.irbc.ie/records/desclist.php.

For a full explanation of the background and purpose of the list, see *Irish Birds* 7: 413-418 or online at www.irbc.ie/announcements/announce1.php.

2022 Systematic List

The sequence and scientific nomenclature used for the 2022 Report largely follows the IOC World List version 12.1 (Gill *et al.* 2022) replacing the previously referenced BOU British List (British Ornithologists' Union 2013). For an explanation of this change as well as other taxonomic decisions made by the IRBC please consult the Announcements page on our website at www.irbc.ie/announcements/announcements.php.

The three numbers in parentheses after each species refer respectively to (a) the total number of birds up to 31st December 1949; (b) the total number of birds from 1st January 1950, up to, but excluding, the current year – where this total is enclosed in square brackets, totals are from 1st January 2010 only; (c) the total number of new individuals for the current year. Some totals are minimum figures due to lack of precise numbers in historical texts – where this is the case, the total is succeeded by a '+'. In addition to the species totals, the total number of individuals being added to the species total is included immediately following the county name. Please note that the finders' credits are placed in alphabetical order, which might not always indicate the finder.



Plate 2. Canada Goose
(showing characteristics of the race *interior*),
Termoncarragh Lake, Mullet Peninsula, Mayo,
7th January 2022.
Photo: Deirdre Irwin.



Plate 3. Cackling Goose
Lissadell, Sligo, 12th February 2022.
Photo: Cian Cardiff.



Plate 4. Cackling Goose, Ballintemple, Sligo, Sligo, 19th February 2022. Photo: Aidan G. Kelly.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (0; 47; 2)

Donegal One: Adult showing characteristics of the race *interior* (Todd's Canada Goose), Dooley, 2nd January, photographed (F. Hubbard).

Galway One: Adult showing characteristics of the race *parvipes* (Lesser Canada Goose), Freaghillaun North, 8th to 10th March, and presumed same, Crump Island, 7th April, photographed (D. Breen).

Mayo Zero: The bird showing characteristics of the race *interior* (Todd's Canada Goose) present at Termoncarragh Lake, Mullet Peninsula since 25th October 2021 remained until 7th April 2022.

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii* (0; 37; 0)

Mayo Zero: The bird present on the Mullet Peninsula since 15th November 2021 remained in the area until 7th April 2022, and presumed same, Achill Island, 14th April; One, Mullet Peninsula, 22nd November to 10th December, presumed returning (M. O'Briain).

Sligo Zero: The bird of the nominate subspecies *hutchinsii* present at Ballintemple since 29th November 2021 remained until 21st March; The bird of the nominate subspecies *hutchinsii* present at Lissadell since 5th December 2021 remained until 4th March 2022; One, Lissadell, 29th October to 28th November, presumed returning (P. Keogh).

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (70; 52; 3)

Mayo Two: Adult white morph, Termoncarragh Lake, Mullet Peninsula, 4th October to 10th December (D. Charles, D. Suddaby), joined by an adult blue morph, 6th October to 10th December (B. Chapman).

Offaly One: Adult blue morph, Brosna Callows, 21st to 24th December, photographed (C. Forkan).

Sligo Zero: The white morph bird present at Lissadell since 5th December 2021 remained until 28th February.

The Offaly record is the second for that country following one at the Little Brosna on 25th March 1973 (*IBR* 21: 11).



Plate 5. Snow Goose (blue morph), Termoncarragh Lake, Mullet Peninsula, Mayo, 7th October 2022.
Photo: Micheál Ó Briain.



Plate 6. Tundra Bean Geese, Webb's Field, Kilcoole, Wicklow, 28th September 2022. Photo: Richard H. Coombes.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris* (0; 38; 4)

Kilkenny Two: Two adults, Tibberaghney, 16th January to 27th February, photographed (P.M. Walsh).

Louth Two: Two adults, Dromiskin, 9th January (P. Kelly, G. O'Neill), with one of these, Lurgangreen, 8th February to 27th March, when joined by the second adult with both present up to 31st March and one remaining to 9th April, and presumed same, Lurgangreen, 1st October to 20th November (E. Larrisey). Presumed same as recorded in Wicklow on 28th September.

Wicklow Zero: Two adults, Webb's Field, Kilcoole, 28th September, photographed (M. Boyle). Presumed same as those recorded in Louth in January and October.

Taiga/Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis/serrirostris*

Louth One: Adult, Ballagan, 28th September (P. Phillips).

The views obtained were not sufficient to determine specific identification.

Russian White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons* (51; 127; 2)

Donegal One: One, Blanket Nook, 29th April to 1st May (T. Campbell, C. Ingram).

Mayo One: Second calendar-year, Mullet Peninsula, 25th January (D. Sudaby).

In contrast to the Greenland race *flavirostris*, the smaller nominate form of White-fronted Goose is a rare winter visitor.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* (3; 118; 5)

Cork Two: Male and female, Garretstown, 27th April (R. O'Driscoll).

Kerry Two: Two, Baile an Reannaigh, Smerwick, 17th October (R. Moores).

Wexford One: Adult male, Tacumshin Lake, 28th March to 28th April, photographed (T. Kilbane).

These are the fourth and fifth for March and the fifth for April. Most Blue-winged Teal found in Ireland, by a considerable margin, are found in September (44) and October (32).

American Wigeon *Mareca americana* (0; 162; 2)

Clare One: Adult male, Ballyallia Lake, 25th January to 11th February and 19th to 26th February, also recorded at Cleggan Lough, 18th February, photographed (J. Durrant).

Galway Zero: Adult male, Loch Port Chorrúch, Inishmore, Aran Islands, 2nd to 18th October, presumed returning bird (A. O'Donail).

Limerick One: Adult male, Lough Gur, 18th November (T. Tarpey).

The adult male at Lough Gur is just the second for Limerick. A male at Charleville Lagoons on the Limerick/Cork border from December 1994 to March 1995, and presumed same at Lough Gur on 22nd January 1985 (*Irish Birds* 5: 331 & 5:453) was the only previous Limerick record.



Plates 7-8. Blue-winged Teal,
Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, 21st April 2022.
Photos: Brian McCloskey (above).

Plate 9. American Wigeon,
Ballyallia Lake, Clare, 25th January 2022.
Photo: Jamie Durrant (left).

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (0; 24; 1)

Mayo One: Male, Termoncarragh Lough, 22nd November, presumed returning, photographed (D. Suddaby); First-winter type, Clare Island, 11th October (J.N. Murphy).

The Clare Island bird is the fifth for Mayo.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (0; 48; 8)

Cork Three: The bird first recorded at Ballinascorthy Lake on 21st November 2021 was present up to 8th January (P. Connaughton); First-winter male, site withheld, 16th January (M. Shorten); Female (unaged), Ballinacarriga Lough, 30th January, photographed (P. Moore, D. O'Sullivan); Second calendar-year, Lough Cluhir, 30th March to 7th April, photographed (C. Jones).

Donegal One: Male (unaged), Dunfanaghy, 29th October to 10th December, photographed (D. Brennan).

Leitrim One: Male (unaged), Creenagh Lough, 12th January, photographed (M. Hoit).

Sligo One: Male (unaged), Lough Gara, 22nd January to 6th March, photographed (P. Keogh).

Westmeath Two: Female (unaged), Lough Ennel, 16th to 21st January, photographed (A.A. Kelly, P. Kelly); Male (unaged), Lough Ennel, 21st January (S. King).

2021 Sligo One: Male (unaged), Cloonnacleigha Lough, 20th November to 2nd December (S. Feeney).

Among these records is the first for Leitrim.

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* (0; 4; 2)

Mayo Two: Two female/immature types, Carrowmore Lake, Mullet Peninsula, 12th November, photographed (M. Hoit).

The first for Mayo and the first time two together have been recorded. In contrast to previous occurrences, these did not linger.



Plate 10. Hooded Merganser,
Corragaun, Mayo, 23rd November 2022.
Photo: Tom Shevlin.

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* (3; 3; 1)

Mayo One: Adult male, Corragaun, 19th November to 31st December, photographed (S. Meany, A. Walshe)

The first record for Mayo and the first Irish record since a pair on Tory Island, Donegal from 19th to 23rd May 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 396).

White-winged Scoter *Melanitta deglandi* (0; 0; 1)

Mayo One: First-winter female, Valley Pier, Achill Island, 29th to 31st December, photographed (P. Lonergan).

The first Irish record and the prize find in what was a superb year for Nearctic waterfowl in Mayo. White-winged Scoter formerly comprised two taxa: American White-winged Scoter *M.d. deglandi* and Asian White-winged Scoter (aka Stejneger's Scoter) *M.d. stejnegeri*, until both were raised to full species status in 2019. Stejneger's Scoter (when published as White-winged Scoter) was previously recorded once at Rossbeigh, Kerry, when an adult male was present there from 1st February to 11th April 2011 (*Irish Birds* 9: 453).



Plates 11-12. White-winged Scoter,
Valley Pier, Achill Island, Mayo,
1st January 2023.
Photos: Micheál Ó Briain.



All six members of the genus *Melanitta* have now been recorded in Ireland, i.e. Common Scoter *M. nigra*, Black Scoter *M. americana*, Velvet Scoter *M. fusca*, Stejneger's Scoter *M. stejnegeri* and now White-winged Scoter *M. deglandi*.

In common with other difficult-to-identify species found in recent years, the use of digital photography helped determine the identity. It is now possible to study images in the field and check for subtle, nuanced features that are key to establishing an identity, as was the case with this record that required close scrutiny of the shape of the feathering around the bill in order to clinch the identity and eliminate other 'white-winged' Scoter species. Such a subtle feature might not otherwise have been obvious or even overlooked completely.

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

Kerry Zero: Male (unaged), Rossbeigh, 5th March to 1st April (J. Diggin); Male (unaged), Rossbeigh, 29th September (D. Farrar).

Presumed returning bird.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* (7; 81; 2)

Cork One: One, Ladysbridge, 19th April (A. Jeffery).

Waterford One: One, near Waterford Airport, 11th April (M. Cowming).

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* (1; 3; 1)

Wexford One: Juvenile, Wexford Town, 27th October, photographed (É. MacLochlainn).

The first record for Wexford. Never an easy species to identify, this bird was part of a major influx which saw 60 birds recorded in Britain during late October and early November.



Plates 13–16. Pallid Swift, Wexford Town, 27th October 2022. Photos: Tom Shevlin.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* (Unknown; 54; 2)

Cork Two: One, presumed male, heard calling, Clogheen Marsh, 4th June (C. Cronin); One, White's Marsh, 11th September (C. Cronin).

American Coot *Fulica americana* (0; 6; 1)

Kerry One: The bird first recorded at Lough Yganavan on 30th December 2021 was present up to 17th March, and presumed same, 18th November; One, Lough Gill, 14th to 29th January, photographed (D. Farrar).

Wexford Zero: The bird first recorded at Tacumshin Lake on 13th November 2021 was present up to 2nd April.

The third for Kerry and the second at Lough Gill, following one present there from 5th November 2014 to 5th March 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 244 & 10: 402).



Plates 17-18. American Coot, Lough Yganavan, Kerry, 20th January 2022. Photos: Sean Cronin.



Plates 19-20. American Coot, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, 9th February 2022 (left), 8th February 2022 (right). Photos: Richard H. Coombes (left), Tom Shevlin (right).

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni* (0; 0; 1)

Galway One: Adult, Bun Gabhla, Inishmore, Aran Islands, 4th January, photographed (H. Müller), found freshly dead.

The first Irish record. As with other gallinules this species is both shy and secretive, but also a prodigious wanderer with associated serious long range vagrancy potential. Allen's Gallinule has been recorded as far from its breeding grounds in sub-Saharan Africa as Finland, the Azores, Ascension Island and Rodrigues (Mauritius), with one even making it to South Georgia (South Atlantic) during December 1984, ca.4800 km from the nearest part of mainland Africa.

The species is a partial migrant within Africa, although some are thought to be sedentary in permanent wetlands. At the onset of the rainy season, birds in the northern tropics usually move north and those in the southern tropics depart to the south. Consequently, most European records (over 60 have been recorded in the Western Palearctic) involve birds found between December and February, correlating with the wet season exodus of birds from their breeding areas. The arrival of this bird in Ireland coincided with a notable influx of African rails to the Canary Islands with two African Crakes *Crex egregia* (on Lanzarote and Fuerteventura) and three Allen's Gallinules (on Lanzarote, Fuerteventura and Tenerife) around this time.

Common Crane *Grus grus* (29; 188; 3)

Statistics quoted for Common Crane are for migrants only and exclude breeding records.

Donegal One: One, Benduff, 24th April, photographed (C. Thompson).

Dublin Two: Two, Rush, 15th March (P. Lynch) and presumed same, Swords, 24th March (T. O'Halloran).

Only the fourth record for Donegal, which last recorded Crane in 1975 when one was present at Blanket Nook from 24th May to at least mid-November of that year (*IBR* 23: 13).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (13; 47; 1)

Galway One: Male, Muckrush, Lough Corrib, 22nd to 26th June, photographed (A. O'Donail).

The third Galway record and the second year in succession that a male bird has been found at this location. This is only the second June record, the first being a bird at Tacumshin Lake, Wexford from 4th to 6th June 1994 (*Irish Birds* 5: 337 & 5:458).

Plate 21. Avocet,
Kinsale Marsh, Cork, 2nd January 2022.
Photo: Richard T. Mills.



Plate 22. Avocet,
Ballylongford, Kerry, 6th September 2022.
Photo: Tom Tarpey.



Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (36; 141; 5)

Cork Two: The bird at Kinsale Marsh and Lough Beg in November and December 2021 was present at Kinsale Marsh from 3rd January to 3rd April; Two, Kinsale Marsh, 6th December (R. O'Driscoll), and presumed same, Argideen Estuary, 26th to 30th December (J. Mitchell, M. Mitchell).

Kerry One: One, Saleen Pier and Ballylongford, 3rd to 9th September (D. Clifford).

Wexford Two: One, Rosslare Back Strand, 20th to 25th March (D. O'Sullivan), and presumed same, South Slob, 18th April (P. Kelly *et al.*); One, Rosslare Back Strand, 21st October (P. Kelly).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (0; 19; 1)

Wexford One: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 6th to 9th July, photographed (K. Grace).

Plate 23. Pacific Golden Plover, with American Golden Plover (to the right), Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, 6th July 2022.
Photo: Kieran Grace.



Plate 24. Pacific Golden Plover, Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, 6th July 2022.
Photo: Kieran Grace.



Plate 25. Pacific Golden Plover, with American Golden Plover (to the right), Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, 6th July 2022.
Photo: Killian Mullarney.

This is the 11th record for Wexford and the ninth at Tacumshin Lake, although one present from 24th July to 2nd August 1993 had been found at the nearby Cull Bank, Wexford on 21st July 1993 (*Irish Birds* 5: 219). This is the eighth found in July and the sixth found between the 1st and 14th of July.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* (0; 8; 0)

Cork Zero: The bird recorded at Galley Cove, Cork to 13th December 2021 was present to 3rd April, by which time it had acquired third calendar-year plumage.



Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (0; 267; 27)

Cork Two: One, Ballycotton, 18th April (P. Moore); One, Owenahincha, 22nd May (S. Bayley).

Donegal One: Adult female, Inch Island, Lough Swilly, 21st May, photographed (D. Brennan).



Plate 27. Little Ringed Plover, Our Lady's Island Lake, Wexford, 26th July 2022. Photo: Kieran Grace.

Dublin One: Adult male, Merrion Gates, 29th and 30th April, photographed (M. Meehan).

Limerick One: One, undisclosed location, 16th August (D. Farrar).

Waterford One: Adult, Lisellan, 31st May (D. Weldon).

Wexford 18: Tacumshin Lake: One, 31st March (D. O'Sullivan); One, 16th April, sound recorded, (*per.* S. Ronayne); One, 1st May, photographed (P. Kelly); Adult, 7th to 10th July (N. Keogh), was joined by a second adult on the latter date (P. Kelly); Two juveniles, 15th July with one present 19th to 31st July (P. Kelly); One, 14th August (J.F. Dowdall); Juvenile, 21st to 27th August (P. Kelly); Two juveniles, 3rd and 4th September with one remaining, 5th September (A. McMillan *et al.*).

Our Lady's Island Lake: Juvenile, 26th July, photographed (K. Grace); Two juveniles, 29th July (K. Grace); Adult and juvenile, 31st July to 4th August (T. Shevlin); Two juveniles, 5th to 7th August, was joined by an adult on 6th and 7th August (P. Kelly) with three juveniles present, 9th to 14th August, four juveniles present, 15th to 19th August, joined by a fifth juvenile, 20th to 23rd August, with two juveniles remaining from 27th to 30th August and one remaining, 5th to 7th September (K. Grace *et al.*). One, Rosslare, 21st August (P. Kelly).

Wicklow Three: Adult male, Poulaphuca Reservoir, 18th and 19th June, photographed (C. Cardiff); One, Kilcoole, 19th July (M. Boyle, N. Keogh); One, Kilcoole, 21st to 23rd August (S. King).

This set of records includes the first for Limerick and the second for Donegal, following one at the same location on 3rd and 4th July 2021 (*Irish Birds* 45: 54).

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* (0; 1; 1)

Waterford One: At least third calendar-year male, Tramore, 2nd to 5th May, photographed (A. Jacques).

The second Irish record following one at Tacumshin Lake, Wexford on 20th July 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 554). The four day stay of this bird was very much appreciated by the many who got to catch up with it, especially as the only previous record remained for just 30 minutes and was only seen by a single observer.



Plate 28. Greater Sand Plover, Tramore, Waterford, 3rd May 2022. Photo: Richard H. Coombes.

Plate 29. Greater Sand Plover,
Tramore, Waterford, 3rd May 2022.
Photo: Brian McCloskey.



Plate 30. Greater Sand Plover,
Tramore, Waterford, 5th May 2022.
Photo: Richard T. Mills.



Plate 31. Dotterel,
Cape Clear Island, Cork, 6th October 2022.
Photo: John Lynch.



Plate 32. Dotterel,
Valentia Island, Kerry, 1st October 2022.
Photo: Werner Sheehan.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* (146; 219; 6)

Cork Three: Adult, Galley Head, 12th April, photographed (C. Barton); Juvenile, Hungry Hill, Beara Peninsula, 4th September (I. O'Brien); Juvenile, Cape Clear Island, 6th and 7th October, photographed (E. Quinn).

Kerry One: Juvenile, Valentia Island, 1st and 2nd October, photographed (J.W. Sheehan).

Wexford Two: One, Ring Marsh, 5th January (S. Ronayne); One, Tacumshin Lake, 20th November (P. Kelly).

The Ring Marsh bird was not observed, rather its presence was confirmed using a passive audio recorder to study nocturnal migration. It is only the second to have been found in January, following one that was discovered in a Dublin poulterer's shop by E. Williams in January 1889. It had arrived with other game from some unnamed location in Ireland (Ussher & Warren 1900).

There are no December or February records, however a first-year bird found on the North Slob, Wexford on 25th November 2007 remained until 2nd December (*Irish Birds* 8: 591). The November bird at Tacumshin Lake is only the sixth for that month. Three records in one year in Cork has happened just once previously, in 2017 (*Irish Birds* 11: 66).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* (0; 9; 1)

Cork One: Adult, Clogheen Marsh, Clonakilty, 17th to 19th August, photographed (D. Farrar).

This is the fourth Cork record, all previous county records were at Ballycotton; in 1971 (*Irish Birds* 10: 558), in 2003 (*Irish Birds* 7: 559) and in 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 594).

Cork now surpasses Wexford (with three, 1994, 1997 & 2011) as the county with most records. Of the total of ten birds found to date, eight were adults. August has recorded the most with four, followed by October (3), July (2) and September (1).



Plate 33. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Clogheen Marsh, Clonakilty, Cork, 17th August 2022. Photo: Richard T. Mills.

Plate 34. Temminck's Stint,
Ballycotton, Cork, 9th September 2022.
Photo: Luke Geraty.



Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* (1; 45; 1)

Cork One: Juvenile, Ballycotton, 8th to 14th September, photographed (A. Robinson).

The fourth record for Cork and the third for Ballycotton following birds there in 1981 (*Irish Birds* 2: 212) and 1987 (*Irish Birds* 3: 622), with The Gearagh hosting the other in 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 558). This is the 15th September record, the only month to have recorded double figures, next comes both August and October with eight apiece.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (0; 196; 9)

Cork Two: Juvenile, Ballycotton, 8th September (A. Robinson); Juvenile, Ballycotton, 6th October (D. O'Sullivan).



Plate 35. Baird's Sandpiper,
The Cunnigar, Waterford, 8th September 2022.
Photo: Micheál Cowming.

Donegal One: Juvenile, Blanket Nook, Lough Swilly, 20th September (T. Campbell, C. Ingram).

Kerry Two: Juvenile, Cashen Estuary, 1st October (D. Farrar); Juvenile, Kilmore, 7th October (B. Power).

Waterford One: Juvenile, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 8th and 9th September (M. Cowming).

Wexford Three: One, Tacumshin Lake, 4th September (É. MacLochlainn); Juvenile, the Cull Bank, 10th September (K. Grace); Juvenile, Tacumshin Lake, 5th October (P. Kelly).

This set of records includes only the fifth for Waterford. Kerry has 61 records, putting it well ahead of Wexford and Cork whose county totals are 47 and 39 respectively. Mayo, with 15 is the only other county to have recorded double figures. There have been 31 individuals at Tacumshin Lake and 26 at Ballycotton, their combined total of 57 amounts to 27% of the national total.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (0; 262; 2)

Mayo One: Juvenile, Achill Island, 4th and 5th October, photographed (J. Jones).

Wicklow One: Adult, Poulaphuca Reservoir, 1st and 2nd August, photographed (S. Millar).

The second record for Wicklow following one at the same location on 9th and 10th September 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 83).

Since the new millennium, this Nearctic wader has been recorded in every year apart from 2014. Annual totals vary greatly, most years in single figures, however there are periodic bumper years when totals have reached double figures, i.e. a record 63 in 2011, 26 in 2017, 16 in 2019 and 11 in 2006. This Calidrine breeds from western Alaska across Arctic Canada to the Atlantic coast. It seems likely that birds arriving on these shores in autumn originate from the eastern Canadian population, which undertakes a transoceanic migration route to Caribbean and South American wintering grounds, thus making them vulnerable to eastward displacement by fast moving North Atlantic depressions (Paulson 2005).



Plate 36. Semipalmated Sandpiper.
Poulaphuca Reservoir, Kildare, 1st August 2022.
Photo: Steve Millar.



Plate 37. Semipalmated Sandpiper.
Achill Island, Mayo, 5th October 2022.
Photo: Micheál Ó Briain.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (2; 156; 1)

Clare One: One, Doonbeg, 29th August (J.N. Murphy).

The 11th record for Clare and the first there since one at Rineville Beach on 30th September 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 264).

Long-billed/Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus/griseus* (0; 42; 1)

Kerry One: One, Kilmore, 7th October (B. Power).

The views obtained were not sufficient to determine specific identification.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (0; 91; 1)

Kerry One: First calendar-year, Blennerville, 30th August, photographed (G. Davies).

The 11th for Kerry and the first there since one in 2010 (*Irish Birds* 9: 300). The first Irish record of this elegant wader was at Our Lady's Island Lake, Wexford on 12th and 13th of August 1961 (*IBR* 9: 15-16). It would be a little over six years to the next occurrences, when single birds were recorded in Kerry and Cork on successive days in September 1967 (*IBR* 15: 31). Apart from 1972 and 1973, Wilson's Phalarope was recorded in every year from 1967 to 1992, including a record total of nine in 1980 (*Irish Birds* 2: 105, *NIBR* 1980: 25).

In the 30 years from 1993 to 2022 a total of 25 individuals was recorded during 15 different years, this compared to a total of 67 individuals recorded in the 32 years from 1961 to 1992. Decadal totals of individuals clearly illustrate this rise and subsequent decline with seven in the 1960s, 20 in the 1970s, 35 in the 1980s, 13 in the 1990s, 10 in the 2000s and 5 in the 2010s. The reasons for this decline in numbers reaching our shores (a similar pattern has evolved in Britain) remains unknown, the species' population trend appears to be increasing across its normal geographic range.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* (4; 61; 3)

Statistics quoted for Red-necked Phalarope are for migrants only and exclude breeding records (*Irish Birds* 10: 246).

Galway Two: At least second calendar-year, off Slyne Head, 4th June (J. Britain); At least second calendar-year female, Roundstone Bog, 20th June (D. Breen).

Waterford One: Juvenile, Tramore Back Strand, 8th September, photographed (A. Jacques).

Included here is the first record for Waterford.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* (1; 54; 3)

Cork One: Juvenile, Castletownbere, 15th October (K. Grace).

Kildare Two: Adult, Landenstown Bridge, 27th May, photographed (C. McKenna); Juvenile, Leixlip Reservoir, 3rd to 15th November, photographed (L. Geraty, S. Geraty, P. Kelly).



Plate 38. Spotted Sandpiper,
Leixlip Reservoir, Kildare, 9th November 2022.
Photo: Luke Geraty.

These include the first for Kildare. The county with the most records is Cork, the bird at Castletownbere becomes the 18th for that county, next come Kerry (8) and Wexford (6). November records are not uncommon, the Leixlip bird being the ninth overall, only October (17) and September (13) have more.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (0; 207; 3)

Cork Two: One (unaged), White's Marsh, Clonakilty, 13th April, photographed, and presumed same, Rosscarbery, 16th to 20th April, photographed, and presumed same, Timoleague, 6th to 8th May, photographed (P. Connaughton); Juvenile, Rosscarbery, 16th to 18th October (J. Simms).

Galway Zero: The bird first recorded at Rahasane Turlough on 30th October 2021 was present up to 24th March.

Louth One: Juvenile, Dundalk Docks, 26th August to 12th September (E. Larrissey).

Wexford Zero: The bird first recorded at Tacumshin Lake on 17th September 2021 was present up to 4th May.

The bird at Dundalk Docks is the third for Louth, following birds from 1997 to 1998 (*Irish Birds* 6: 297) and 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 84). The 230-day stay of the overwintering Tacumshin Lake bird is the third-longest on record, surpassed by the 316 day stay of the 1997/98 overwintering bird at Dundalk Docks from 13th July 1997 to 24th May 1998 (*Ibid.*) and the 329 day stay of a bird at the Douglas Estuary, Cork, from 16th May 1992 to 9th April 1993 (*Irish Birds* 5: 90 & 5:220).



Plates 39–42. Lesser Yellowlegs,
 Rosscarbery, Cork, 16th April 2022.
 Photo: John Lynch (left).

Rosscarbery, Cork, 21st April 2022.
 Photo: Jez Simms (bottom left).

Dundalk Docks, Louth, 1st September 2022.
 Photo: Brian McCloskey (below).

Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, 5th January 2022.
 Photo: Kieran Grace (bottom right).



Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* (2; 12; 1)

Kildare One: Adult, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, 29th to 31st July, photographed (G. Scott).

Waterford One: First-winter, Tallow, 15th to 31st December, photographed (S. Delaney).

Two in one year has occurred once before in 1962 when birds were in Antrim, at Bog Meadows in April and at Three Islets, Lough Neagh in September (*IBR* 10: 13 & 11: 20). These records are the first for Kildare and for Waterford. The Kildare bird was the second species of Nearctic wader to be added to the county list in 2022 following Spotted Sandpiper, with one at Landenstown Bridge on 27th May and a second much later in the year at Leixlip Reservoir in November.



Plates 43–47. Greater Yellowlegs,

Tallow, Waterford, 20th December 2022.

Photo: Sean Cronin (top left).

Tallow, Waterford, 16th December 2022.

Photo: Richard T. Mills (top right).

Carton Demesne, Kildare, 31st July 2022.

Photos: Pat Lonergan (above left & right).

Carton Demesne, Kildare, 30th July 2022.

Photo: Richard H. Coombes (right).



Pratincole sp. *Glareola* sp.

Cork One: One, near Dunmanus, 8th May (D. Ballard).

More than likely this was a Collared Pratincole *G. pratincola*.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* (1; 109; 7)

Cork Three: Second calendar-year, Harbour View, 4th March, photographed (K. Woods, L. Woods); At least third calendar-year, The Lough, 15th May, photographed (S. Enright, H. Hussey); Adult, Harper's Island, 27th and 28th July, photographed (A. Farrell, G. Kelleher); Adult, Whitegate, 29th August, and presumed same, 29th September, photographed (P. Connaughton).

Kerry Two: Adult, Rough Point, 8th October to 13th November, photographed (M. O'Clery); Adult, Tralee Bay Wetland Centre, 22nd November, photographed (B. Power).

Wexford Two: Adult winter, Tacumshin Lake, 28th March, and presumed same, 17th and 22nd April and 3rd to 5th May, and presumed one of two present at the South Slob, 17th April, photographed (T. Kilbane); Adult, South Slob, 17th to 27th April, with two adults present on 17th April, one of which is presumed to be the bird found at Tacumshin Lake on 28th March, photographed (P. Kelly).



Plates 48–49. Bonaparte's Gull,
South Slob, Wexford, 18th April 2022.
Photos: Paul Kelly.



Plates 50–51. Ross's Gull,
Mutton Island, Galway, 26th February 2022.
Photo: Aidan G. Kelly (left).
Mutton Island, Galway, 5th March 2022.
Photo: John Lynch (below).



Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea* (0; 23; 1)

Galway One: First-winter, Mutton Island, 19th February to 1st May, photographed (M. Sylvia).

1994 Galway One: Adult, Nimmo's Pier, 10th to 18th March (T. Griffin).

The first record since 2014 when an unprecedented four were recorded in counties Cork, Dublin, Galway and Wexford (*Irish Birds* 10: 248-249). The 72-day stay of the 2022 bird is the longest to date surpassing the previous record of 54 days set by an adult bird at Nimmo's Pier, Galway from 11th January to 4th March 1984 (*Irish Birds* 3: 115).

These records constitute the third and ninth records for Galway. In addition a bird first recorded at Aughinish, Clare on 28th February 1998 was later seen at Galway Docks on 12th March 1998 (*Irish Birds* 4: 99). The Nimmo's Pier/Galway Docks/Mutton Island area has recorded a total of seven Ross's Gulls and an additional two at nearby Blackrock, Salthill, one of which was later observed at Nimmo's Pier. No other county has recorded more than three, a total achieved by Antrim, Cork and Dublin with the remaining records from Clare (1), Donegal (1), Down (2) and Wexford (2).

Unusually for a vagrant, 18 of the total of 24 have been adults with the remaining six made up of five first-winters and one second-winter. Galway's records reflect this pattern with seven adults and two first-winters. The 2022 bird is not the first to have lingered into May, an adult found in Killybegs, Donegal on 3rd April 1983 (*Irish Birds* 2: 567) was later re-found at Sligo Harbour on 6th May 1983 (*Irish Birds* 3: 476).

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* (0; 18; 2)

Wexford Two: Third-winter, Duncannon, 16th November to 18th December, photographed (K. Mullarney); Adult, Duncannon, 13th December, photographed (K. Mullarney).

The fifth and sixth records for Wexford.



Plates 52-54. Adult Caspian Gull, Duncannon, Wexford, 13th December 2022. Photos: Killian Mullarney.



Plates 55-58. 3rd-winter Caspian Gull,
Duncannon, Wexford, 16th November 2022.
Photos: Killian Mullarney.



Plate 59. Gull-billed Tern.
Harper's Island, Cork, 17th May 2022.
Photo: Brian Lynch (left).

Plates 60–61. Elegant Tern.
Aughinish Island, Clare, 8th August 2022.
Photos: James Organ (below).



Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (0; 26; 2)

Cork One: Adult, Harper's Island, 17th to 19th May, photographed (P. Moore).

Wexford One: Adult, Tacumshin Lake, 30th and 31st May (E. Dempsey).

These are the second and third records for May, following one at Ballymacoda, Cork on 20th and 21st May 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 404). Most occurrences of this species have been in June (9) and July (7). The Wexford bird is the tenth for that county and the ninth at Tacumshin Lake. Cork has the next highest county total with six.

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* (0; 6; 1)

Clare Zero: Adult, Aughinish Island, 8th August, photographed (J. Organ), presumed to have been the same individual recorded in Wexford and Galway during July.

Galway Zero: Adult, Inishroo, 18th to 22nd July, photographed (S. Holland), presumed to have been the same individual recorded in Wexford in July and Clare in August.

Wexford One: Adult, Our Lady's Island Lake, 4th to 10th July, photographed (T. Buckley, S. Millar).

The seventh Irish record and the second for Wexford following the adult also recorded at Our Lady's Island Lake from 8th to 19th July 1999 (*Irish Birds* 6: 562).

The subsequent relocation of this bird to Galway and Clare was warmly welcomed by those on the west coast and recalled that of the first Irish record at Carlingford Lough, Down in June and July 1982 which resurfaced at Ballymacoda, Cork in August of the same year (*Irish Birds* 3: 632).

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

Dublin Zero: Adult, Portrane, 3rd June to 13th August, photographed, presumed returning (B. Carruthers *et al.*). Also recorded in Wicklow.

Wicklow Zero: Adult, Kilcoole, 18th June (D. Gioppo). Also recorded in Dublin.

Presumed the same individual first recorded in Dublin in 2021 (*Irish Birds* 45: 60).



Plates 62-63. Least Tern, Portrane, Dublin, 5th June 2022. Photos: Paul Lynch.



Plates 64–65. Forster's Tern,
Kinvara Bay, Galway, 26th February 2022.
Photos: Aidan G. Kelly.



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

Galway Zero: Adult, Kinvara Bay, 1st January to 21st March, Traught Breach, 17th March, Inishroo, 9th July and same at Kinvara Bay, 7th November, Claddagh Beach, 10th December and Nimmo's Pier, 31st December, presumed returning.

Louth Zero: Adult, Soldier's Point, Dundalk, 1st August to 16th October, presumed returning.

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

Cork Zero: Adult, Crookhaven, 1st January to 19th March, presumed returning.

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* (0; 13; 1)

Kerry One: Adult, Brandon Point, 24th August (M. O'Clery).

The third record for Kerry following one in Brandon Bay on 15th August 1964 (*IBR* 12: 7) and one off Skellig Michael on 1st May 2018 (*Irish Birds* 42: 75).

Zino's/Fea's/Desertas Petrel *Pterodroma madeira/feae/deserta* (0; 141; 4)

Cork At least two: Two, Galley Head, 24th July (P. Archer, D.G. McAdams), and presumed same, Cape Clear Island, 24th July (P. Moore, M. Shorten) and Myross Island, 24th July (C. Jones).

Kerry One: One, Skellig Michael, 24th August (B. Power).

Galway One: One, off Slyne Head, 3rd July (J. Brittain).

The bird off Slyne Head is the second Galway and site record following one there in July 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 82). Both were found in roughly the same offshore location by the same observer. The Kerry bird is the sixth county record and the second to be observed from Skellig Michael following one on 30th August 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 548). All other Kerry records have been observed from Brandon Point. The timing of the Galway record is unusually early, one off Galley Head, Cork on 2nd July 2005 (*Irish Birds* 8: 376) is the only earlier record.

The series of sightings off Cork on 24th July is intriguing and the total of two birds is a minimum count only. The two birds at Galley Head were recorded heading west at 10:45 and 11:15, while those at Cape Clear Island (40km west of Galley Head) were recorded between 11:30 and 14:30 and those at Myross Island (27km east of Cape Clear Island) were recorded between 14:30 and 16:30. While it is possible that up to six different birds were present, it is also possible that the same two wandering individuals were involved, which seems more likely.

Two at Galley Head brings the tally for that site to 33 making it the premier site for recording this species complex in Ireland, surpassing the Bridges of Ross, Clare, which has a total of 31. None were recorded off the Bridges of Ross for the second year in succession, which has not happened since the early 2000s.

Barolo Shearwater *Puffinus baroli* (1; 25; 3)

Clare Two: Two, Bridges of Ross, 5th October (F. Gibson, J.N. Murphy, P.Troake,).

Wexford One: One, Carnsore Point, 20th August (K. Grace).

These are the first records since 2018 when single birds were recorded at the Bridges of Ross, Clare and Brandon Point, Kerry (*Irish Birds* 43: 75) and represent the 12th and 13th for Clare and the second for Wexford, following one off Hook Head on 16th August 2007 (*Irish Birds* 11: 60).

Elsewhere records are spread between Antrim (1), Cork (6), Kerry (4) and Mayo (4). The Clare records are the first for October, most having occurred in August (21) and September (4) with May and June each having a single record. Two records on a seawatch in Ireland has occurred twice before; presumed same birds on consecutive days off Cape Clear Island, Cork on 25th and 26th September 1978 (*Irish Birds* 1: 416 & 6: 411) and off Kilcummin Head, Mayo on 29th August 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 587).

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* (0; 2; 1)

Dublin One: Adult, Great South Wall, 20th October (S. Bagnol).

The third Category A record for Ireland. Unfortunately for those who did not catch up with the ill-fated 2020 bird in Wicklow (*Irish Birds* 44: 62) this bird did not linger.

Double-crested Cormorant *Nannopterum auritum* (0; 2; 1)

Leitrim One: Third calendar-year, Doon Lough, 14th February to 10th April and 15th September to 31st December (R. Vaughan).

The first record for Leitrim. There was a gap of 25 years between the first record of this species in Galway in 1995 (*Irish Birds* 5: 450) and the second in Kerry in 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 62), the third took a mere 14 months to be discovered.

Away from the Azores, where in excess of 80 have been recorded up to the end of 2020, this Nearctic species remains an extremely rare vagrant to the Western Palearctic with this record representing only the fourth following the first record at Billingham, Cleveland, Britain from 11th January to 26th April 1989 (Blick 1989, Williams 1996) and the three Irish records.



Plate 66. Double-crested Cormorant, Doon Lough, Leitrim, 19th February 2022. Photo: Aidan G. Kelly (right).

Plate 67. Double-crested Cormorant, Doon Lough, Leitrim, 4th March 2022. Photo: Cian Cardiff (below).



Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (174+; 58; 1)

Wexford One: Second calendar-year, Tacumshin Lake, 31st March and 1st April, photographed (G. Murray, P. Phillips).

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (11; 13; 1)

Cork One: Immature, White's Marsh, Clonakilty, 27th May to 8th June (R. Archibald).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* (1; 31; 1)

Cork One: One (unaged), Clogheen Marsh, 15th May and 5th June, and presumed same, White's Marsh, 27th to 30th May, photographed (C. Jones).



Plate 68–69. Squacco Heron, White's Marsh, Clonakilty, Cork, 30th May 2022. Photos: Richard T. Mills.



Plate 70. Purple Heron, White's Marsh, Clonakilty, Cork, 30th May 2022. Photo: Richard T. Mills (above).

Plate 71. Purple Heron, White's Marsh, Clonakilty, Cork, 28th May 2022. Photo: Luke Geraty (left).

Great Egret *Ardea alba* (0; 237; 36)

Clare Two: One, Scarriff Bay, Lough Derg, 1st March, photographed (N. Lynch, J.N. Murphy); One, Clarecastle, 22nd August, photographed (E. Shaw).

Cork Eight: The three present at The Gearagh on various dates throughout 2021 (*Irish Birds* 45: 63) were again present on 4th February, 18th March, 2nd October, from 8th to 14th October and on 24th October, with four there, 20th to 22nd January, 15th October and 12th November (D. Farrar) and five there, 17th December (A. Duggan), with up to two present in all months with the exception of June; Two present at Courtmacsherry since 31st December 2021 were present to 6th March (*Ibid.*); One, Clogheen Marsh, Clonakilty, 28th March to 7th June (R. Archibald), also seen at White's Marsh,



Plate 72. Great Egret.
Clogheen Marsh, Clonakilty, Cork
17th November 2022.
Photo: Richard T. Mills (above).

Plate 73. Great Egret,
Between Carrick-on-Shannon and
Leitrim Village, 22nd January 2022.
Photo: Richard H. Coombes (left).



Clonakilty on various dates in April and May was joined by a second bird at the same locations, 12th to 18th April, photographed (P. Connaughton); One, Marlogue, Great Island, 28th March (P. Connaughton); One, Clogheen Marsh, Clonakilty, 17th to 21st November (R.T. Mills); One, Kilkeran Lake, 25th November (C. Barton); One, Kinsale Marsh, 25th November to 11th December (R. O'Driscoll).

Donegal Four: One, Blanket Nook, Lough Swilly, 1st May, and presumed same, Inch Island, Lough Swilly, 16th May, photographed (D. Brennan); One, Lough Swilly, 8th September to 6th November (D. Brennan) was joined by a second bird at Inch Island, Lough Swilly, 11th September (B. Bryce), and presumed same, Inch Island and Blanket Nook, Lough Swilly, 15th September with three present, Blanket Nook, Lough Swilly, 14th October (B. Calder, J. Calder, R. Hunter).

Dublin One: One, Rogerstown Estuary, 12th and 13th March, photographed (A.G. Kelly).

Galway One: Two, Muckrush, Lough Corrib, 7th January, and presumed same, 22nd to 31st December, photographed, presumed resident/returning; One, Glassillaun, 9th May, photographed (D. Flaherty).

Kerry Three: Two, Ballyheigue, 9th to 23rd November, photographed (E. Carty *et al.*); One, Killorglin, 22nd December, photographed (S. Enright).

Leitrim Zero: One, between Carrick-on-Shannon and Leitrim Village, 22nd January, presumed same at, Leitrim Village, 18th December 2021 (*Irish Birds* 45: 63) photographed (R.H. Coombes).

Mayo One: One, Lough Cullin, 14th October (S. Meany).

Offaly One: One, Lough Boora, 22nd to 25th October (A. Copland, M. Whelan).

Waterford Four: One, Dungarvan, 22nd March (F. O'Connell); One, The Cunnigar, 3rd June (F. O'Connell); One, Bunmahon, 15th October (D. Weldon); One, Tramore Back Strand, 20th November (A. Jacques).

Westmeath One: One, Lough Lene, 6th February (P. Kelly).

Wexford Six: Tacumshin Lake: One, 18th March and 1st and 2nd April (P. Kelly); One (presumed new bird), 29th April to 4th May (P. Kelly); One, 27th August (P. Kelly). One, Cahore, 8th May (Sh. Farrell); One, Cahore, 6th July (C. Cardiff); One, Our Lady's Island Lake, 17th October (A.A. Kelly, P. Kelly);

Wicklow Four: Four, Glenealy, 11th October, photographed (A. Lauder).

The bird at Lough Lene is the first for Westmeath.

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

Roscommon Zero: The sub-adult last reported at Carrownolan on 31st December 2021 was at nearby Ardmullen, 26th and 27th February, and Carrowlaughan, 28th February to 12th March, and Cushla on 6th May.



Plates 75–77. Egyptian Vulture,
Carrowloughan, Roscommon.

5th March 2022.

Photo: John Lynch (top).

28th February 2022.

Photo: Peter Phillips (above).

4th March 2022.

Photo: Micheál Ó Briain (right).

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonianus* (0; 10; 0)

Offaly Zero: The bird found at Lough Boora Discovery Park on 12th November 2021 (*Irish Birds* 45: 65) was present up to 23rd March, and presumed same, 27th October, photographed (C. Henry).



Plate 78. Pallid Harrier,
Three Castles Head, Cork, 23rd October 2022.
Photo: Victor Caschera.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* (0; 9; 1)

Cork One: Juvenile, Three Castles Head, 23rd October, photographed (V. Caschera).

The fifth record for Cork and the fourth in October.

Pallid Harrier is a relatively recent addition to the Irish List, the first was at Ballyvergan, Cork in April 2011 (*Irish Birds* 9: 459). A remarkable mini-influx of five in 2011 was followed by single records in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2021.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (0; 25; 4)

Cork Two: One (unaged), Knockadoon Head, 12th April (D. O'Sullivan); At least second-calendar year, Lisagriffin, 22nd April (P. Moore), photographed.

Kerry One: At least second-calendar year, Skellig Michael, 17th May (B. Power).

Wicklow One: At least second-calendar year, Kilmacaongue, 18th May (E. Dempsey).

The first record for Kerry, sixth for Wicklow and ninth and tenth for Cork. Four in a year surpasses the previous best of three in 2008 (*Irish Birds* 9: 260 & 9: 458). Although there is a secondary record peak in autumn, as with the majority of Black Kite occurrences in Ireland these were all one-day birds in April and May.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (9; 374; 8)

Cork Six: One, Toe Head, 12th April (C. O'Sullivan); One, Galley Head, 11th September (C. Cronin); One, Cape Clear Island, 11th to 16th September (D. Murphy); Two, Mizen Head, 12th September (P. Moore); One, Ballycotton, 20th September (G. Kelleher).

Kerry One: One, Dunquin, 24th October, photographed (D. Farrar).

Wexford One: One, Great Saltee Island, 14th and 15th May, photographed (T. Shevlin).

Two spring records does not reflect the usual seasonal division of records, which is heavily biased towards autumn passage.



Alder Flycatcher *Empidonax alnorum* (0; 0; 1)

Galway One: One, Inishbofin, 8th to 11th October, photographed (T. Buckley, S. Millar)

The first Irish and sixth record for the Western Palearctic. There are previous records from Iceland in 2003 (Kolbeinsson *et al.* 2006) and 2020 (Sigurðsson 2023), Britain in 2008 and 2010 (Hudson & RC 2014) and Norway in 2016 (Olsen 2018). *Empidonax* flycatchers have long been known as one of the most challenging-to-identify closely related group of species, indeed finding one is an experience in equal parts exciting and daunting. Until they were raised to full species status, Alder Flycatcher was lumped with Willow Flycatcher *E. traillii* as Traill's Flycatcher, and both were thought to be near-inseparable in the field. Excellent views of the Inishbofin bird combined with in-the-field analysis of high-quality digital photographs led to a consensus that the bird was an Alder Flycatcher. This was confirmed after a faecal sample collected by the finder was analysed at the Wildlife Forensics Laboratory of the University of Aberdeen. This is the fourth new species for Ireland to have been found on Inishbofin following Mourning Dove in 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 600), Cedar Waxwing in 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 275) and Tennessee Warbler in 2020 (*Irish Birds* 44: 81).



Plate 82. Alder Flycatcher, Inishbofin, Galway, 9th October 2022. Photo: Tom Shevlin.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* (76; 207; 2)

Cork Two: One, Mizen Head, 4th September (D. Ballard); One, Brow Head, 14th October, photographed (P. Keogh).

A poor year for this species. These records bring the Cork total to 130, or roughly 44% of all records. Although there are spring records, mainly concentrated in May, Red-backed Shrike is predominantly an autumn vagrant with the majority occurring in September (48) and October (52).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (2; 118; 2)

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

Wexford One: Female, Great Saltee Island, 15th and 16th April, photographed (J. Cusack).

In contrast to Red-backed, this shrike is predominantly an overshooting spring migrant with a secondary peak in autumn, consisting mainly of wandering juveniles.

Plate 83. Red-backed Shrike,
Brow Head, Cork, 14th October 2022.
Photo: Cian Cardiff.



Plate 84. Woodchat Shrike,
Great Saltee Island, Wexford, 16th April 2022.
Photo: Tom Shevlin.



Plate 85. Red-eyed Vireo,
Mizen Head, Cork, 17th October 2022.
Photo: Jez Simms (above left).

Plate 86. Red-eyed Vireo,
Lehanmore, Cork, 17th October 2022.
Photo: Kieran Grace (above right).

Plate 87. Red-eyed Vireo,
Kilbaha, Clare, 1st October 2022.
Photos James Organ (left).

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (0; 84; 5)

Clare Two: One, Kilbaha, 1st to 9th October, photographed (J. Organ) was joined by a second bird on 2nd October, photographed (R. Glynn).

Cork Two: One, Lehanmore, West Beara, 14th to 29th October, photographed (K. Grace); One, Mizen Head, 17th to 21st October, photographed (J. Simms).

Galway One: One, Inishmore, Aran Islands, 2nd and 3rd October, photographed (C. Forkan)

These include the seventh and eighth for Clare and 11th for Galway. Just over 50% of the national total have been found in Cork, these being the 44th and 45th for that county. This is the fourth year where five have occurred (previously happened in 1990, 2000 and 2017), a total bettered only by 1995 when nine were recorded (*Irish Birds* 6: 400) and 2019 when a record ten were noted (*Irish Birds* 43: 93).

Red-eyed Vireo is by far the most numerous Nearctic passerine to be recorded in Ireland where a total of 89 has occurred and in the Western Palearctic where about 560 have been recorded.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* (62; 165; 1)

Cork One: Male (unaged), Blackrock, Cork City, 2nd June, sound recorded (M. O'Keeffe).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* (0; 5; 4)

Cork One: Presumed male, White's Marsh, Clonakilty, 21st March to 15th May, sound recorded (C. Barton).

Wexford Three: Presumed male and a female, Cahore, 25th February to 6th December, sound recorded (C. Cardiff); Presumed male, Tacumshin Lake, 19th November to 26th December, sound recorded (P. Kelly).



Plate 88. Cetti's Warbler,
Cahore, Wexford, 22nd March 2022.
Photo: Steve Millar.



Plate 89. Cetti's Warbler,
Cahore, Wexford, 29th March 2022.
Photo: Jimmy Murphy.

The Cork record is the second for that county following one, the first Irish, at Ballymacoda on 21st May 2001 (*Irish Birds* 7: 407). This series of records also includes the third, fourth and fifth for Wexford. These birds were not observed, rather they were heard to call and sing on a number of occasions and were sound recorded at Cahore and Tacumshin Lake.

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* (0; 21; 1)

Wexford One: One, Great Saltee Island, 4th September, photographed (T. Shevlin *et al.*).

The fifth record for Wexford and third for Great Saltee Island. Cork, with 13 individuals recorded, accounts for the lion's share of Irish records. Galway and Waterford, with two apiece, make up the remaining records.



Plate 90. Western Bonelli's Warbler, Great Saltee Island, Wexford, 4th September 2022. Photo: Tom Shevlin.



Plate 91. Pallas's Warbler,
Helvick Head, Waterford, 30th October 2022.
Photo: Brian Carruthers.



Plate 92. Pallas's Warbler,
Mizen Head, Cork, 28th October 2022.
Photo: Victor Caschera.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* (0; 43; 3)

Cork One: One, Mizen Head, 28th and 29th October, photographed (C. Boakes).

Waterford One: One, Helvick Head, 29th and 30th October, photographed (G. Tobin).

Wexford One: One, Hook Head, 14th November (K. Grace).

The first records since 2016 when five were recorded (*Irish Birds* 10: 569 & 43: 95). The Cork record is the 28th for that county placing it well ahead of Wexford, which lies second in county tallies with ten. Waterford, with four records, is the only other county to have recorded more than one. Single records have occurred in Clare, Donegal, Dublin and Tyrone.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* (2; 318; 67)

Clare One: One, Ennis, 5th March, photographed (B. Howell).

Cork 27: One, Enniskeane, 6th to 11th January (S. Bayley); One, Sherkin Island, 6th January (J. Wylie); Two, Owenahincha, 11th January (S. Bayley); One, Crosshaven, 12th January (D. Fitzpatrick); One, Ladysbridge, 16th January (A. Jeffery); One, Gurranabraher, Cork City, 25th January to 27th February (H. Hussey); Two, Ballinacarriga Lake, 30th January (P. Moore, D. O'Sullivan); Two, Kennedy Quay, Cork City, 30th January (B. Power); One, Tramore River, Cork City, 11th February (K. Barry); One, Cape Clear Island, 24th February (S. Wing); Two males in song, Clogheenmilcon Fen, 23rd March (N.T. Keogh); One in song, Owenahincha, 25th to 30th March (S. Bayley); Male in song, The Lough, Cork City, 25th March (H. Hussey); One, White's Marsh, Clonakilty, 9th April (M. Duggan, P.M. Walsh); One, Toe Head, 27th October to 1st



Plate 93. Siberian Chiffchaff,
Leixlip, Kildare, 10th January 2022.
Photo: Paul Kelly (left).

Plate 94. Siberian Chiffchaff,
Limerick City, 16th March 2022.
Photo: Tom Tarpey (below).



November (A.G. Kelly); One, trapped and ringed, Owenahincha, 1st November (S. Bayley); One, Ballycotton, 2nd November (B. Power); Four, trapped and ringed, Owenahincha, 17th November (S. Bayley); One, trapped and ringed, Owenahincha, 1st December (S. Bayley); One, Middleton, 6th December (L. O'Sullivan).

Donegal One: One, Tory Island, 19th October (R. Vaughan).

Dublin Three: The three recorded at Tolka Valley Park from 19th December 2021 (see '**2021 Dublin**' record further on) were present up to 5th January, with two remaining to 30th March (B. Carruthers); Two, Tolka Valley Park, 17th to 19th December, with one present, 24th December (B. Carruthers); One, Howth Head, 24th December (A. Young).

Galway One: One, University of Galway, 15th January to 1st February, photographed (M. Sylvia).

Kerry 14: The two birds present at Ross Castle, Killarney from 20th December 2021 (*Irish Birds* 45: 68) were present to 15th January, when they were joined by three more (D. Farrar), with a minimum of ten recorded on 30th January, photographed (M. O'Clery); Two, Tralee Bay Wetland Centre, 11th to 15th January (B. Power); One, Killorglin, 6th March, photographed (W. Sheehan); Two, Ross Castle, Killarney, 3rd and 4th December (W. Sheehan); One, Blennerville, 13th December (S. Bayley).

Kildare Two: One, Leixlip Reservoir, 10th January, photographed (P. Kelly); One, Hazelhatch, 23rd February (P. Kelly).

Limerick One: One, King's Island Marsh, Limerick City, 16th March (T. Tarpey).

Meath One: One, Ashbourne, 19th February (D. Foley).

Monaghan Two: One, in song, Monalty Lough, 28th March, with two present, 31st March (B. McCloskey).

Waterford Five: The four present in Waterford City on 20th December 2021 (*Irish Birds* 45: 68) remained in the area until 19th February (P. Archer, D. Weldon); The bird first recorded at Dungarvan on 19th December 2021 (*Ibid.*) remained in the area until 7th January (A. Malcolm); Two, Ballynagaul, 5th January, photographed (T. Murphy); Two, Dunhill, 3rd February (A. Watson); One, Tramore, 3rd February (A. Jacques).

Westmeath Two: Two, Lough Ennel, 8th January to 6th February, photographed (P. Kelly).

Wexford Five: The two birds present at Tacumshin Lake on 24th December 2021 (*Irish Birds* 45: 68) remained in the area until 22nd January (P. Kelly); The bird first recorded at the South Slob on 28th December 2021 (*Ibid.*) remained in the area until 19th February (P. Kelly); One, Rosslare Europort, 8th to 27th January, photographed (C. O'Laighneanáin); One, Cahore, 21st January (C. Cardiff); One, Hook Head, 30th October (A.A. Kelly, P. Kelly); One, Tacumshin Lake, 1st to 3rd December (P. Kelly); One, South Slob, 10th to 30th December (A.A. Kelly, P. Kelly).

Wicklow Two: One, Kilcoole, 6th to 19th March (N. Keogh, N.T. Keogh); One, Newcastle, 24th March, photographed (F. MacGinley, P. Smith).

2021 Dublin Three: At least three, Tolka Valley Park, 19th to 31st December (B. Carruthers).

The total of 67 surpasses the previous record of 61 recorded in 2021 (*Irish Birds* 45: 69). This series of records includes the first for Meath and Monaghan, the second for Westmeath, after one at the same location in 2019 (*Irish Birds* 43: 95) and the second and third for Kildare. The count of ten at Ross Castle, Killarney on 30th January is a minimum figure and it is possible that up to 15 birds were present.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (0; 25; 3)

Cork Two: One, Galley Head, 12th September (C. Cronin); One, Cape Clear Island, 14th to 23rd October (J.E. Fitzharris, D. Weir).

Waterford One: One, Helvick Head, 30th October (P.M. Walsh).

This is the fourth year that three have occurred with 1998, 2005 and 2016 being the other years. The Galley Head bird is the first September record, the previous earliest was at Tory Island, Donegal on 2nd October 2003 (*Irish Birds* 7: 567). At ten days, the Cape Clear Island bird is the longest staying, surpassing by one day the previous longest-staying, that was first observed at Brownstown Head, Waterford from 9th to 13th October 2016 (trapped on 9th October) before relocating to Barry's Head, Cork from 15th to 18th October (*Irish Birds* 10: 569). Of the overall total of 28 seen to date, 20 have been one-day birds.



Plate 95. Radde's Warbler, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 14th October 2022. Photo: Tom Shevlin.



Plate 96. Dusky Warbler,
Cape Clear Island, 29th October 2022.
Photo: Aidan G. Kelly (above).



Plate 97. Greenish Warbler,
Tory Island, Donegal, 10th September 2022.
Photo: Wilton Farrelly (left).

Plates 98-99. Arctic Warbler,
Helvick Head, Waterford, 18th September 2022.
Photos: Daniel Weldon (below).



Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* (0; 12; 2)

Cork Two: One, Cape Clear Island, 29th October, photographed (A.G. Kelly); One, Lehanmore, West Beara, 29th October (K. Grace).

These are the eighth and ninth records for Cork, the fifth for Cape Clear Island and the first since one on Dursey Island, Cork, on 29th October 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 569). Of a total of 14 records only three have not occurred in Cork, i.e. Limerick City on 5th December 1970 (*IBR* 18: 48-49), Great Saltee Island, Wexford on 8th and 9th May 1990 (*Irish Birds* 4: 456) and Inishmore, Galway from 19th to 24th October 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 600). Two in one year has occurred twice before, in 1987 (*Irish Birds* 3: 640) and 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 607).

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (0; 47; 1)

Donegal One: First calendar-year, Tory Island, 10th September, photographed (W. Farrelly).

The second for Donegal and Tory Island, following one trapped there on 21st September 1998 (*Irish Birds* 6: 399).

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (0; 16; 4)

Cork One: One, unaged, Knockadoon Head, 3rd and 4th November (B. Power).

Donegal Two: First calendar-year, Tory Island, 8th September, photographed (A. Meenan); First calendar-year, Tory Island, 22nd to 24th October, photographed (A. Meenan).

Waterford One: First calendar-year, Helvick Head, 18th September, photographed (D. Weldon).

Four in a year beats the previous record of three set in 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 415). These include the first for Waterford, the third and fourth for Donegal and the second and third for Tory Island, where the first Irish record was trapped and ringed on 1st September 1960 (*IBR* 8: 22). The Knockadoon Head bird is the first for November, all others having occurring either in September (11) or October (8).

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (0; 18; 2)

Donegal One: One, Tory Island, 16th to 27th October, photographed (A. Meenan).

Kerry One: First-calendar year, Skellig Michael, 13th September, photographed (B. Power).

The second for Kerry following one in September 2009 (*Irish Birds* 9: 482) and the third for Donegal and Tory Island following birds there in 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 602) and 2018 (*Irish Birds* 42: 85).



Plates 100–101. Blyth's Reed Warbler,
Skellig Michael, Kerry, 13th September 2022.
Photos: Brian Power (above).

Plate 102. Eastern Olivaceous Warbler,
Balscadden, Dublin, 12th September 2022.
Photo: Mark Collins (right).

Plate 103. Eastern Olivaceous Warbler,
Balscadden, Dublin, 12th September 2022.
Photo: Victor Caschera (below).



Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida* (0; 3; 1)

Dublin One: First-winter, Balscadden, Howth, 12th to 15th September, photographed (M. Collins).

The fourth Irish record, the first for Dublin and a fabulous find for the east coast. All previous occurrences have been in Cork, the first Irish was on Dursey Island on 16th September 1977 (*Irish Birds* 1: 267), followed by two on Cape Clear Island, the first in September 1999 (*Irish Birds* 6: 565) and another in September 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 408).

The only rarer passerines to have occurred in Dublin are the first Irish Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Helopsaltes certhiola* found dead on Rockabill on 28th September 1908 (Barrington 1909, Kennedy *et al.* 1954) and the second Irish Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* at Swords from 3rd to 10th March 1996 (*Irish Birds* 6: 87).

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* (2; 228; 2)

Cork One: One, Galley Head, 12th September, presumed same, 18th September (C. Cronin, D. O'Sullivan)

Kerry One: One, Skellig Michael, 1st September, photographed (B. Power). Only the fifth for Kerry.

Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria* (6; 229; 6)

Cork Two: First calendar-year, Firkeel, 22nd October (K. Grace); First calendar-year, Dunnycove, 1st to 5th November (C. O'Sullivan).

Donegal One: First calendar-year, Tory Island, 12th to 15th September (A. Meenan).



Plates 104–105. Icterine Warbler,
Skellig Michael, Kerry, 1st September 2022.
Photos: Brian Power (above).

Plate 106. Barred Warbler,
Inishbofin, Galway, 12th October 2022.
Photo: Steve Millar (left).

Galway One: First calendar-year, Inishbofin, 12th to 17th October, photographed (S. Millar).

Wexford Two: First calendar-year, Great Saltee Island, 10th September (J.E. Fitzharris); First calendar-year, Barnawheel, 1st October (A.A. Kelly, P. Kelly).

Of the total of 241 records, 130 Barred Warblers (just shy of 54%) have occurred in Cork. The only other counties to have recorded double figures are Wexford, Galway and Donegal with 38, 21 and 19 respectively. November records are not unprecedented, this being the 19th for that month.

Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus* (41; 207; 4)

Cork One: Juvenile, Roche's Point, 22nd to 25th September (T. Gittings).

Dublin One: Adult, Leopardstown, 12th August (C. Cardiff).

Galway One: Adult, Lettergesh, Renvyle, 6th to 9th August (V. Cummings).

Kerry One: Adult, Ballyferriter, 3rd July (E. Mannion *et al.*).

A return to leaner times after the record year of 2021 when a total of 50 was recorded (*Irish Birds* 45: 71).

The Committee is aware of a number of uncorroborated anonymous records of this species, a number of which are detailed in 'Appendix 4: List of anonymous records not accepted'.



Plate 107. Rosy Starling,
Roche's Point, Cork, 25th September 2022.
Photo: Brian McCloskey (left).

Plate 108. Swainson's Thrush,
Termoncarragh, Mayo, 7th October 2022.
Photo: Micheál Ó Briain (below left).

Plate 109. Swainson's Thrush,
Termoncarragh, Mayo, 7th October 2022.
Photo: Derek Charles (below right).



Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (0; 9; 1)

Mayo One: One, Termoncarragh, Mullet Peninsula, 7th October, photographed (D. Suddaby).

The tenth Irish record and the second for Mayo, 66 years after the first Irish was found dead at Blackrock Lighthouse on 25th May 1956 (*IBR* 4: 17). Elsewhere there have been seven in Cork and a single Clare record in 2014 (*Irish Birds* 10: 254). All, apart from the first, have occurred in October.

Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (0; 12; 1)

Wicklow One: One, Newcastle, 16th November, photographed (M. Hogan). An extraordinary record for this east coast location. Seen only by the photographer, this is only the second Nearctic passerine to have been recorded in Wicklow, a Dark-eyed Junco at Ballygannon on 10th August 2000 (*Irish Birds* 7: 573) being the other.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyনারus* (0; 6; 1)

Wexford One: Female or second calendar-year male, Great Saltee Island, 26th and 27th March, trapped and ringed on the 27th, photographed (T. Shevlin).

The first for Wexford and the first since one in Cork in 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 571) and the second spring record following one in Cork in March 2012 (*Irish Birds* 9: 604).



Plate 110. Red-flanked Bluetail, Great Saltee Island, Wexford, 27th March 2022. Photo: Tom Shevlin.



Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* (0; 1; 1)

Cork One: One, Toe Head, 24th October to 21st November, photographed (C. O'Sullivan).

The second Irish record after the first at Mizen Head from 10th to 17th October 1992 (Bird 1992, *Irish Birds* 5: 97).

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava* (0; 83; 2)

Cork One: Male (unaged), Mizen Head, 20th May, photographed (C. O'Sullivan).

Wicklow One: Male (unaged), Kilcoole, 16th and 17th April (N. Keogh).

Although it has bred on at least three occasions (Antrim 1963, Kerry, 1965 and Wicklow 1996), Blue-headed Wagtail is normally recorded as a passage migrant, as both of these records were.

Blue-headed Wagtail is the nominate form of Western Yellow Wagtail. It is found in Britain and the adjacent coasts of northwestern Europe from Brittany to southernmost Norway.

Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi* (0; 7; 1)

Donegal One: Male (unaged), Inishtrahull, 11th and 12th June, photographed (J. Collins, M. Sarda).

The eighth Irish and first Donegal records. Elsewhere there have been five in Wexford and singles in Cork and Kerry.

Grey-headed Wagtail is the form of Western Yellow Wagtail found across northern Eurasia as far east as Siberia.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (0; 36; 2)

Cork One: First-winter, Cape Clear Island, 6th to 12th September, photographed (S. Wing).

Wexford One: First-winter, Tacumshin Lake, 27th to 29th August, photographed (P. Kelly).

The bird at Tacumshin Lake is the 11th at that popular and well watched site and the 13th for Wexford and the fourth for August. The bird at Cape Clear Island is the first to be recorded there and the tenth for Cork. Other records in Cork have been at Ballycotton (6) and Lissagriffin (3).



Plate 112. Citrine Wagtail,
Cape Clear Island, Cork, 12th September 2022.
Photo: Jez Simms (right).

Plates 113. Citrine Wagtail,
Tacumshin Lake, Wexford, 27th August 2022.
Photo: Tom Shevlin (below).



Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (2; 137; 1)

Cork One: One, Ballydonegan, West Beara, 20th October (K. Grace).
The second poor year in a row with only a single bird recorded.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* (0; 11; 1)

Clare One: One, Loop Head, 22nd October, photographed (C. Cullen).

The first for Clare and the first since two in Cork in 2016 (*Irish Birds* 10: 574). Ten of the twelve records have occurred in October; of the other two, one at Bolus Head, Kerry avoiding October by a single day on 30th September 2015 (*Irish Birds* 10: 422) and an atypical record was at Cobh, Cork on 23rd and 24th January 1991 (*Irish Birds* 4: 600).

This record means that eight of the nine species of the genus *Anthus* on the Irish list have occurred in Clare, a tally equalled only by Wexford, however both are missing Pechora Pipit *A. gustavi* from their county lists. Cork is the only county to have recorded all nine.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* (1; 212; 9)

Clare One: One, Clahane, 26th January to 19th February, photographed (G. Pearson).

Cork Two: One, Ballycotton, 4th February (D. O'Sullivan); One, Old Head of Kinsale, 10th March (R. O'Driscoll).

Waterford Two: Two, Tramore Back Strand, 6th February (A. Jacques).

Wexford Four: Tacumshin Lake: Of the four birds present on 24th December 2021, up to two remained to 2nd April; Two, 29th October, with one present on 2nd and 3rd December (P. Kelly); One, South Slob, 2nd January (P. Kelly); One, Ring Marsh, 3rd April (P. Kelly).



Plate 114. **Water Pipit**,
Tacumshin Lake, Wexford,
30th January 2022.
Photo: Brian McCloskey.

Plate 115. Common Rosefinch,
Inishbofin, Galway, 16th October 2022.
Photo: Steve Millar.



Plate 116. Common Rosefinch,
Great Saltee Island, Wexford, 15th May 2022.
Photo: Tom Shevlin.



Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* (0; 274; 9)

Cork Two: Female or second calendar-year male, Knockadoon Head, 5th June (P. Moore); Adult male, Ballycotton, 5th June, photographed (*per.* S. Fleming).

Donegal One: Female or second calendar-year male, Tory Island, 6th June, photographed (D. Brennan).

Galway Four: Juvenile, Inishbofin 29th September to 16th October with two present, 4th to 9th October, and three present, 9th October (T. Buckley, C. Forkan, S. Millar); Juvenile, Inishmore, 17th October (H. Delaney).

Wexford Two: Female or second calendar-year male, Great Saltee Island, 15th May, photographed (J.F. Dowdall); Juvenile, Great Saltee Island, 1st September (K. Grace).

A good showing for the second year in succession. The unfortunate bird at Ballycotton was caught by a domestic cat, successfully retrieved and released unharmed, it then collided with a window and was killed. It had been trapped and ringed in Pembrokeshire, Wales on 21st May 2021.

European Serin *Serinus serinus* (2; 8; 3)

Wexford Three: One, Great Saltee Island, 30th April to 2nd May, photographed (J.F. Dowdall); One, Churchtown, 1st to 3rd May, photographed (S. King); One, Hook Head, 14th November (K. Mullarney).

Three in a year is unprecedented, this being the first time more than a single record in a year has occurred. These are the first for Wexford, elsewhere there have been three in Dublin (1893, 1907, 2000) and one in Louth (1974).

Plate 117. European Serin,
Churchtown, Wexford, 2nd May 2022.
Photo: Tom Shevlin (right).

Plate 118. European Serin,
Great Saltee Island, Wexford, 30th April 2022.
Photo: Tom Shevlin (below).



Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (3; 67; 2)

Cork Two: One, Cape Clear Island, 22nd and 23rd October, photographed (L. Geraty); One, Galley Head, 1st November (C. Barton).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* (0; 22; 1)

Cork One: One, Cape Clear Island, 21st and 22nd October, photographed (L. Geraty).

The 20th record for Cork and the 12th for Cape Clear Island.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (0; 4; 1)

Cork One: One, Garinish, West Beara, 1st October (K. Grace).

The fifth Irish record and the third for Cork following birds on Cape Clear Island from 13th to 24th September 1982 (*Irish Birds* 2: 408) and on 10th October 2003 (*Irish Birds* 7: 573).

Plate 119. Little Bunting,
Cape Clear Island, Cork, 22nd October 2022.
Photo: Luke Geraty.



Plate 120. Rustic Bunting,
Cape Clear Island, Cork, 21st October 2022.
Photo: Luke Geraty.



Plate 121. Baltimore Oriole, Loop Head, Clare, 1st October 2022. Photo: James Organ.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* (0; 5; 1)

Clare One: First calendar-year, Kilbaha, 1st and 2nd October, photographed (C. Cullen, J.N. Murphy, J. Organ).

The sixth Irish record and the first for Clare. After one-day birds on Tory Island, Donegal in 2017 (*Irish Birds* 11: 80) and at Lehanemore, Cork in 2019 (*Irish Birds* 43: 98) and a notoriously elusive bird on Achill Island, Mayo also in 2019 (*Irish Birds* 43: 98), the two-day stay of this bird was warmly welcomed.

Plate 122. Blackpoll Warbler,
Inishbofin, Galway, 16th October 2022.
Photo: Steve Millar.



Plate 123. Blackpoll Warbler,
Inishbofin, Galway, 16th October 2022.
Photo: Steve Millar.



Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata* (0; 14; 1)

Galway One: First calendar-year, Inishbofin, 16th October, photographed (S. Millar).

The fourth Galway record and the third for Inishbofin following birds there in 2013 (*Irish Birds* 10: 99) and 2018 (*Irish Birds* 42: 92). Cape Clear Island, Cork is the only other Irish location to have recorded three (1976, 1982 and 1984). Apart from a single September record at Inishbofin in 2013, all other occurrences have been in October.

The first Irish Blackpoll Warbler was found in Cotter's Garden on Cape Clear Island, Cork on 6th October 1976 (Fitzharris 1977, *Irish Birds* 1: 95). Remarkably the first Irish Myrtle Warbler (*Ibid.*) was found 24 hours later in the same location by birders looking for the Blackpoll Warbler.

Myrtle Warbler *Setophaga coronata* (0; 19; 1)

Clare One: First calendar-year, Kilbaha, Loop Head, 12th to 22nd October, photographed (P. Cullinane).

The second for Clare following one on Loop Head in October and November 1986 (*Irish Birds* 3: 644). The 11-day stay of this individual is the longest on record surpassing by a single day that of one on Cape Clear Island, Cork in October 1983 (*Irish Birds* 2: 577).

Just 24 hours after the Blackpoll Warbler, first Irish Myrtle was found in the same location (see Blackpoll Warbler above). Unfortunately it was later found dead, probably taken by a Sparrowhawk (Burrows 1977).



Plates 124–125. Myrtle Warbler,
Kilbaha, Clare, 22nd October 2022.
Photos: Tom Tarpey (above & right).



Plate 126. Myrtle Warbler,
Kilbaha, Clare, 13th October 2022.
Photo: Brian McCloskey (below).



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.

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*

Cavan One: One, Derrybrick Lake, Milltown, 22nd December, photographed (B. McCloskey).

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Wexford Seven: South Slob, three: Adult blue morph, 8th March to 27th April, with one present, 14th May, photographed (F. Damer); Adult white morph, 14th May (P. Kelly); One, 29th December (P. Kelly); Our Lady's Island Lake, adult blue morph and adult white morph, 17th December (P. Kelly).

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

Louth One: One, Commons Cross, 25th November (J. Proudfoot).

Appendix 2: Contributors

P.Archer, R.Archibald, S.Bagnel, D.Ballard, K.Barry, C.Barton, S.Bayley, M.Bell, L.Benson, C.Boakes, M.Boyle, D.Breen, D.Brennan, J.Brittain, B.Bryce, T.Buckley, B.Calder, J.Calder, T.Campbell, C.Cardiff, B.Carruthers, E.Carty, V.Caschera, B.Chapman, D.Charles, M.Collins, J.Collins, P.Connaughton, R.H.Coombes, A.Copland, M.Cowming, C.Cronin, C.Cullen, P.Cullinane, V.Cummings, J.Cusack, J.Daly, G.Davies, H.Delaney, S.Delaney, E.Dempsey, J.Diggin, J.F.Dowdall, A.Duggan, L.Dunne, J.Durrant, S.Enright, D.Farrar, A.Farrell, Sh.Farrell, W.Farrelly, L.Feeney, S.Feeney, D.Fitzpatrick, J.E.Fitzharris, D.Flaherty, S.Fleming, D.Foley, C.Forkan, L.Geraty, S.Geraty, F.Gibson, D.Gioppo, T.Gittings, R.Glynn, K.Grace, T.Griffin, C.Henry, J.Hobbs, M.Hogan, M.Hoit, S.Holland, B.Howell, F.Hubbard, R.Hunter, H.Hussey, C.Ingram, A.Jacques, A.Jeffery, C.Jones, J.Jones, G.Kelleher, A.A.Kelly, A.G.Kelly, P.Kelly, N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, P.Keogh, T.Kilbane, S.King, C.O'Laighneanain, E.Larrisey, A.Lauder, P.Lonergan, N.Lynch, P.Lynch, G.Lyons, F.MacGabhann, F.MacGinley, É.MacLochlainn, P.Madigan, A.Malcolm, E.Mannion, D.G.McAdams, B.McCloskey, C.McKenna, A.McMillan, S.Meany, M.Meehan, A.Meenan, S.Millar, R.T.Mills, J.Mitchell, M.Mitchell, P.Moore, R.Moores, K.Mullarney, H.Müller, D.Murphy, J.N.Murphy, T.Murphy, G.Murray, M.ÓBriain, A.Ó'Brien, I.Ó'Brien, M.Ó'Clery, F.Ó'Connell, A.Ó'Donail, E.Ó'Donnell, R.Ó'Driscoll, T.Ó'Halloran, J.Organ, C.Ó'Sullivan, D.Ó'Sullivan, L.Ó'Sullivan, G.Pearson, B.Power, E.Quinn, A.Robinson, S.Ronayne, M.Sarda, G.Scott, E.Shaw, J.Sheehan, J.W.Sheehan, W.Sheehan, T.Shevlin, J.Simms, P.Smith, F.Stanley, D.Suddaby, M.Sylvia, T.Tarpey, C.Thompson, G.Tobin, P.Troake, L.vanderNoll, R.Vaughan, R.WadeStewart, P.M.Walsh, A.Walshe, A.Watson, D.Weir, D.Weldon, M.Whelan, G.White, S.Wing, K.Woods, L.Woods, J.Wylie, A.Young.

Appendix 3: List of anonymous records not accepted

2022 records not proven

The following reports concern rarities that were entered in the Provisional List of Rare Bird Sightings during 2022 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.

White-billed Diver

One, Tory Island, Donegal, 3rd May.

Great Egret

One, Wellingtonbridge, Wexford, 2nd August.

One, Fountainstown, Cork, 5th November.

Egyptian Vulture

One, Athlone Callows, Westmeath, 9th October.

Siberian Chiffchaff

One, Lisellan, Waterford, 16th March.

One, Mizen Head, Cork, 13th October.

One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 21st October.

One, Rossbeigh, Kerry, 23rd December.

Rosy Starling

One, Malin Head, Donegal, 15th June.

Adult, Roscommon, 28th June, location required.

Eastern Black-eared Wheatear

Adult male, Cliffs of Moher, Clare, 16th June.

Blue-headed Wagtail

Male, Tory Island, 30th April.

Water Pipit

Two, Coolfin Meadows, Waterford, 30th January.

European Serin

One, Raheny, Dublin, 5th May.

One, Our Lady's Island Lake, Wexford, 16th May.

Appendix 4: Corrigenda to previous reports

Bittern

In the 2021 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 45: 62) the text should read “2015 Galway One: One, Coolough Fen, Galway City, 24th February (C. Peppiatt)” and not “2016 Galway One: One, Coolough Fen, Galway City, 24th February (C. Peppiatt)” as stated, while text in the species account for the same species should read “The early Galway..... and 2015..’ and not ‘The early Galway.....and 2016..” as stated.

Caspian Gull

In the 2021 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 45: 59) the numbers in parentheses should read “(0; 17; 1)” and not “(0; 12; 1)” as stated.

Forster’s Tern

In the 2021 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 45: 60) the text should read “Plate 38. Forster’s Tern *Sterna forsteri*, Soldier’s Point, Co. Louth, August 2021” and not “Plate 38. Forster’s Tern *Sterna forsteri*, Soldier’s Point, Co. Mayo, August 2021” as stated.

Blue-headed Wagtail

In the 2021 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 45: 72) the statistics should read “(0; 80; 1)” and not “(0; 82; 1)” as stated.

Icterine Warbler

In the 2020 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 44: 76) the text should read “with Waterford and Kerry boasting only six and four individuals respectively” and not “with Waterford and Kerry boasting only six and two individuals respectively” as stated.

Rosy Starling

In the 2021 Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 45: 72) the text should read “Sligo One: Adult, Sligo Town, 13th to 18th September (S. Donnelly)” and not “Sligo One: Adult, Sligo Town, 13th and 18th September (M. Bell)” as stated.

Hawfinch

In the 2020 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 44: 79) the text should read “Limerick Five” and not “Limerick Three” as stated. The statistics for 2020 should thus read “(Unknown: 309; 12)” and not “(Unknown; 309; 10)” as stated, while the statistics for this species in the 2021 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 45: 73) should thus read “(Unknown; 322; 2)” and not “(Unknown; 320; 2)” as stated.

2021 Appendix 5 correction

In the 2021 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 45: 77) the text should read “The following reports concern rarities that were entered in the Provisional List of Rare Bird Sightings during 2021” and not “The following reports concern rarities that were entered in the Provisional List of Rare Bird Sightings during 2019” as stated.

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Abbreviations used

AKA: also known as.

BOU: British Ornithologists' Union.

IBR: Irish Bird Report.

ca.: Circa (with dates or measurements indicating 'around' or 'approximately'). Latin, from *circum* = around.

Ibid: Short for *ibidem* (Latin for 'in the same place'), used to refer to the previously cited reference in a note.

i.e.: Short for *id est* (Latin for 'that is').

IOC: International Ornithological Community.

IRBC: Irish Rare Birds Committee.

IRBR: Irish Rare Bird Report.

km: Kilometres.