



## **GALWAY BRANCH BIRDWATCH IRELAND**

For information on or to get involved with the BWI Galway branch, e-mail Chairman Cyril Manning ([cyril.manning@hotmail.com](mailto:cyril.manning@hotmail.com)) or Secretary, Bláithín Kennedy ([bliaithin.kennedy@gmail.com](mailto:bliaithin.kennedy@gmail.com))

### **BOOK REVIEW: BIRD GIRL** **Maya Rose Craig**

This remarkable book tells of Maya's travels to the bird world hot spots with her parents. These included Amazon, Antarctica, Africa, Australia, California and several other bird-rich locations. Before she was fourteen years old, she had 'ticked' 4,000 of the world's bird species. Finding those in remote places is described in graphic and exciting detail. Each chapter for a trip/location is headed with a colour illustration of some exotic bird seen there. The book also describes family happenings and her life as a young girl. She subsequently wrote the book in her early twenties. If any other *Newsletter* readers have come read this book, I would appreciate a more comprehensive review. In the link below, it is also well reviewed by *The Guardian* - <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/jul/14/bird-girl-by-maya-rose-craig-review-a-prodigy-takes-flight> (Select the link first - hold Ctrl and then click.)

I got this book through the Co. Galway Libraries request service. Provided you have a library ticket, you can request any book or author on the library website and it will be searched for over the entire national library branches and you will be e-mailed when it is located and brought to your local library – Headford Library, in my case. I started using it when my book shelves started to overflow! This book is also available on Kindle but without the colourful bird pages before each chapter.

NS

## **HOUSE MARTINS AND SWALLOWS**

The evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 was cloudless, still and warm in Lawrencetown. I sat outside the back door and watched 'our' Swallows dashing about over the garden. Young birds with noticeably shorter and faster-moving wings and streamerless forked tails were among them. Every now and again, a young bird was fed by an adult, both birds stalling in mid-flight to face each other. How did they co-ordinate such a meeting? The pair had raised three broods in the shed, building a big new nest at the beginning of May, repairing an old nest for the second brood and returning to the first nest for the third.

The morning of 11<sup>th</sup> September was dull and still, with a steady rain falling. Three hundred or so Swallows and House Martins were arranged along the telephone wires in front of the house. About one third were Martins. In the persistent misty rain, they were preening on the wire and dashing about in the air. At various times, and often, several birds alighted on the flimsy wet stems and foliage of young Ash which had emerged during the summer from the rich hedge beneath the wire. Those executing this feat did so in a fluttering spray of water droplets from the wet leaves. Watching through binoculars, I could see that some birds at least were pecking at the leaves, presumably taking insects. On the series of nine photographs I took

through a rain-splattered window-pane, all but one (of thirty birds seen perched among the leaves) were House Martins.

It was still raining at 13.15hrs and the Swallows and Martins had departed, perhaps to another telegraph wire or perhaps on their migratory journey. I am reminded of the pithy children's poem: On the wire we gather / In a nearly-ready row / We won't shiver in the winter / When the cold winds blow / I wonder which wee swallow / Has the job of shouting "Go!" 'Our' swallows were alone again, flying around their familiar territory.

I (at least) was surprised to learn that little is known about House Martins on their wintering grounds in Africa; apparently, only one British-ringed bird has ever been recaptured. Swallows often fly low and assemble in huge roosts in reedbeds on their wintering grounds, so their recaptures are well documented. Stephen Moss, in *Swallows: a biography* (2020), witnesses such a roost in South Africa. House Martins, on the other hand, when seen at all, are often flying high and do not form large roosts; hence the absence of recapture.

Closer to home, in 1996, I noted a colony of 66 apparently occupied nests under the parapets of the bridge spanning the River Shannon at Banagher. I did not, however, record how many were on the Co. Galway side. A pair were feeding young in a nest at the Beautiful Bird pub in Lawrencetown on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2009, a late date.

Stephen Heery

## **JOHN TEMPLE LANG RIP**

John Temple Lang, who has recently died, played a major role in the protection of our Irish birds and their environment. He was the founding figure of the Irish Wildbird Conservancy (IWC) that is now BirdWatch Ireland. A solicitor by profession, he held a senior role in the European Commission in Brussels where, at all times, he was a supporter of Ireland's environmental interests.

I corresponded with him over the years and it was also always a pleasure to meet him at the annual BirdWatch/RSPB bird conferences.

In recent months, just before his untimely death, John drafted a piece for me on the setting up of the IWC in 1970. While, sadly, we never got to fully finalise it, I hope to include this piece in the next *Newsletter*. There is a very extensive obituary in the *Irish Times* of November 19<sup>th</sup> for those who have on-line or print access. Alternatively, I can send a copy on request.

NS

## **WOODCOCK IN COUNTY GALWAY**

A scarce but possibly under recorded Galway resident, the Woodcock is a widespread passage and winter migrant, with birds arriving in October/November and departing the following March/early April. Opinions differ as to when the Woodcock was first noted breeding in Galway. Vesey-Fitzgerald (1939) stated that there was evidence of Woodcock breeding in Galway as far back as 1770. Palmer (1891) noted that Woodcock had been first recorded breeding on the Clonbrock

estate north-west of Ballinasloe sometime around 1868 and that birds had bred there in most years since then, while also noting reports of Woodcock breeding in the wooded hills in south Galway prior to the discovery of breeding at Clonbrock. Moffat (1899) was not so assured of these reports of breeding, quoting the omission of the Woodcock as a species whose eggs were to be protected in the Act for the Preservation of Game, passed by the Irish Parliament in 1786, as 'a convincing proof' that no Irish landowner at the time believed Woodcock to be nesting on their land. By the late 1940s, it had extended its breeding range as far west as Ballynahinch and Kylemore. The Breeding Atlas survey of 1968-1972 recorded breeding or probable breeding in a number of 10km squares in Connemara south-east of Maam Cross, in north-east Galway and across south Galway as far east as Woodford. The Breeding Atlas survey of 1988-1991 recorded only about thirteen 10km squares with birds breeding or present, though Rutledge (1994) considered this a gross underestimate owing to the difficulty of accurately censuring this species. The Breeding Atlas survey of 2007-2011 recorded no confirmed or probable breeding in Co. Galway, with birds recorded as possibly breeding in only two 10km squares.

The crepuscular and nocturnal nature of breeding Woodcock dictates that dedicated surveying at dusk and after dark is essential for locating displaying birds and it is thought that little such work was carried out during the last two Breeding Atlas surveys. It was persistently searched for between Moycullen and Maam Cross during the breeding seasons of the most recent Breeding Atlas survey and no trace of it could be found. Suitable breeding habitat for the species undoubtedly exists in east and south Galway but, as noted previously, dedicated survey work is required to ascertain its true breeding status. The only recent record of a displaying bird was of one roding east of Lough Cutra at Derrykeel on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

North-west Russia constitutes the main breeding area for migrant Woodcocks wintering in Britain and Ireland, followed by Scandinavia and Finland (Hoodless et al, 2020). Peak arrival of wintering birds occurs in November and it is widespread and sometimes numerous in suitable habitat, particularly so in Connemara. Thompson (1850) stated that Galway was known to have many excellent Woodcock shoots. 140 were shot – 55 on one day alone – by five guns over three days around Christmas of 1842 or 1843 at Ross, Co. Galway (Ussher & Warren, 1900).

Woodcock is a not uncommon winter and passage migrant on Inishmore. Ussher recalled being shown a location near Dun Aengus where fifty or sixty emaciated Woodcock were found during autumn passage. It is less commonly recorded on passage on Inishbofin, no doubt owing to its much-reduced suitable cover. In Co. Galway, birds ringed in Russia and Scandinavia are, as elsewhere in Ireland, regularly recovered in winter while smaller numbers of birds ringed in the UK, the Netherlands, Germany and Portugal have also been recovered. Notable ringing recoveries have included the following:



- 1910** One ringed in Galway in 1910 was recovered in Minho, Portugal, on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1910.
- 1929** A bird ringed at Jamtland, Sweden, on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1928 was shot in Galway on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1929.
- 1929** A bird ringed at Jamtland, Sweden, on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1929 was shot in Galway (1,692km WSW) on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1929.
- 1980** One ringed at Helgoland in Germany on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1980 was shot at Rosscahill (1,126km W) on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1980.
- 1985** One ringed at Ballater, Grampian in Scotland on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1984 was shot at Tuam (537km SW) on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1985.
- 2009** An adult ringed at Helgoland, Germany, on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2009 was shot at Glann, Oughterard (1,131km W) on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009.
- 2014** An adult male ringed at Kamenka, Primorskiy District, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 was shot in Galway (2,473km W) on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014.
- 2015** A first-year bird ringed at Novosaratovka, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014 was shot at Coolcarta West near Clonfert (2,441km W) on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

- Hoodless, A., Heward, C.J. and Williams, O.,** 2020. Migration and movements of Woodcocks wintering in Britain & Ireland. *British Birds*, 113: 256-278.
- Moffat, C.B.,** 1899. The Woodcock as an Irish Breeding Bird. *The Irish Naturalist*, 8: 109–112.
- Palmer, J.E.,** 1891. Breeding of the Woodcock in Ireland. *The Zoologist Series III* 15: 191-2.
- Thompson, W.,** 1849-1851. *The Natural History of Ireland, Volumes I to III*. Reeve, Benham & Reeve, London.
- Ussher, R.J. and Warren, R.,** 1900. *Birds of Ireland*. Guernsey and Jackson, London.
- Vesey-Fitzgerald, B.,** 1939. *A Book of British Waders*. Collins, London.

Aonghus O Donail

**A LIST OF BIRDS IN COUNTIES  
GALWAY & MAYO BY R.F. RUTLEDGE**  
(Continued from Tree Creeper)

**Great Tit. *Parus major newtoni* (Prazak)**

Resident and common but not as widespread as the two following species. Rare in Achill Island where proof of breeding is still lacking. Very rare in Connemara.

**Blue Tit. *Parus caeruleus obscurus* (Prazak)**

Resident, widespread and common. There is no evidence that it is resident in Clare Island or other marine islands except Achill where a few breed. The only record for the Mullet appears to be one at Bingham Castle for two days in March 1922. I have, however, found it as far west as Clifden in Co. Galway and it nests at Kylemore and Carna, Ballinahinch and Roundstone.

**Coal Tit. *Parus ater hibernicus* O. (Grant)**

Resident, common and generally distributed - its range extends to woods on the coast line in both counties. It has spread to Achill by 1900; Dr. C.B. Ticehurst saw pair three in 1904 and it is now said to breed in Glendarary.

**Long-tailed Tit. *Aegitalos candatus rosaceus* (Matthews)**

Resident. Until the end of January 1945, it was common except in bare country and large numbers could be seen hunting for food in company with other tits in winter and soaring. The severe spell at the end of January 1945 took such a toll that it is now exceptional to find any of these birds in most parts of the counties. It must be considered rare at present. Some survived very locally, but no recovery has been made similar to that after the 1916/17 winter. I have seen it as far west as Ballinahinch woods in Connemara in June and G.R. Humphreys has seen it in the Kylemore woods. In May 1944, I saw numbers near Spiddal in Connemara and at Louisburg in January 1944 where W.A. Wallace states they are only seen in winter. Ussher knew it to occur in Achill.

**Red-backed Shrike. *Lanius colluria colluria* (L)**

One was obtained at Eeragh Island Lighthouse, Aran Islands, Co. Galway on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1927.

**Waxwing. *Bombicilla garrulous garrulous* (Mullet)**

Has twice occurred in Co. Galway – one at Craughwell March 18<sup>th</sup> 1893; one at Ballinasloe January 14<sup>th</sup> 1895 (*Birds of Ireland*, Ussher and Warren p. 45). In February 1909 nine visited Eagle Island (*Irish Nat. Vol xxiv* p. 15) and in Co. Mayo there are now two further records in 1946; one was seen and clearly identified by W.A. Wallace at Oldhead, near Louisburgh on December 11<sup>th</sup>; one was identified by W. Rutledge near Mullaranny on December 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Flycatcher. *Muscicapa striata striata* (Pall)**

Summer visitor, May to September. Earliest date May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1945. Latest date September 2<sup>nd</sup>. In 1932 it wasn't seen before May 29<sup>th</sup> and was exceptionally scarce all that summer. Somewhat local, its numbers fluctuate and none appeared in the Westport district in 1924. Not seen by Messers Fitter or Course in Achill in 1938 and 1939, though Ussher recorded it as a regular visitor there.

J. Walpole-Bond found it nesting in 1906 and a pair probably nested in 1947. Breeds as far as the shores of Clew Bay in Co. Mayo and in Co. Galway at Ballinahinch (McClintock) though it is very scarce generally west of Lough Corrib. I have not noticed it on any marine Island.

**Pied Flycatcher. *Muscicapa hypoleuca hypoleuca* (Pall)**

Very rare straggler. Has occurred once in spring and three times in autumn. In Co. Mayo an adult male was obtained in Dugort on Achill Island on May 9<sup>th</sup> 1920. The specimen is now in my possession. One was said to have been captured in Louisburgh on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1921. Mrs Gough has

twice observed a bird which came in 1928 to Radford House near Athenry, Co. Galway, one on September 15<sup>th</sup> 1928 and one on September 26<sup>th</sup> 1930, respectively.

**Note:** For several species Major Rutledge precedes their names with 'British' and in one case 'Irish' (Coal Tit). I think the feeling then was that they were somewhat different in plumage from their equivalent European ones. I have omitted these prefixes. Not sure what the basis was as it is not mentioned nowadays as far as I know. An early form of 'Brexit' difference perhaps! Has anyone else an opinion?

NS

**BIRDS IN POETRY**

'Lonely, White Fields' is another carefully structured poem by Mary Oliver. The introductory lines remind us of John Clare's gift of painting a word-picture with a few deft brush strokes. The beauties and terrors of the natural world are conveyed in lines of brilliant linguistic effect.

Pat Finnegan

This is a repeat from a well-chosen poem by Pat in the 2001 Newsletter and I extend a repeat thanks to him for this.

NS

**Lonely, White Fields**

Every night  
the owl  
with his wild monkey-face  
calls through the black branches,  
and the mice freeze  
and the rabbits shiver  
in the snowy fields —  
and then there is the long, deep trough of silence  
when he stops singing, and steps  
into the air.  
I don't know  
what death's ultimate  
purpose is, but I think  
this: whoever dreams of holding his  
life in his fist  
year after year into the hundreds of years  
has never considered the owl —  
how he comes, exhausted,  
through the snow,  
through the icy trees...  
past snags and vines, wheeling  
out of barns and church steeples,  
turning this way and that way  
through the mesh of every obstacle —  
undeterred by anything  
filling himself time and time again  
with a red and digestible joy  
sickled up from the lonely, white fields —  
and how at daybreak,  
as though everything had been done  
that must be done, the fields  
swell with a rosy light,  
the owl fades  
back into the branches,  
the snow goes on falling  
flake after perfect flake.

Mary Oliver

## BirdWatch Galway (Branch of BirdWatch Ireland) 3<sup>rd</sup> Quadrimester 2021

QUADRIMESTRAL BIRD REPORT COMPILED BY CHRIS PEPPIATT

DATE OF ISSUE: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

1st September: 2 Garganey & Green Sandpiper, still present, Caranavoodaun turlough. (1), (2)
1st September: 2 Ruff, 2 Pintail & Whooper Swan, Caranavoodaun turlough (Tom Murtagh & Chris Peppiatt). (3), (4)
2nd September: Juv. Little-ringed Plover, Wood Sandpiper & 2 Gadwall, again present, Caranavoodaun turlough. (5), (6)
2nd September: Juv. Spotted Redshank, Murlach, Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).
3rd September: Glossy Ibis, Rosleague, Letterfrack (Brian Graham).
3rd September: Glossy Ibis, Inishbofin.
4th September: Barred Warbler, St. Colman's Church, Inishbofin (Gerard Walshe).
4th September: Dotterel, heard in flight over Frenchman's Beach, Inishmore (Paul Troake).
5th September: 3 Little Stint, 2 Peregrine & ringtail Hen Harrier, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Aonghus O'Donail). (7)
5th September: 2nd yr. Fem. Marsh Harrier, again present, Muckrush, Lough Corrib. (8)
5th September: 3 Juv. Little Stint, 3 Curlew Sandpiper & Spotted Redshank, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Dermot Breen & Gerard Walshe). (9)
5th September: Curlew Sandpiper, Caranavoodaun turlough (Dermot Breen).
6th September: 4 Gadwall, 2 Pintail, Peregrine & 4 Common Buzzard, Caranavoodaun turlough (Paul Troake).
6th September: 2 Green Sandpiper, Lydacan turlough (Paul Troake). (10)
6th September: Reed Warbler, Inishbofin (Dermot Breen).
7th September: Ad. White-tailed Eagle, Barna (Cathal Forkan).
8th September: 2 Pectoral Sandpiper & Juv. Little Stint, Muckrush, Lough Corrib (Paul Troake). (11)
9th September: Arctic Skua, Loughaunbeg, Galway Bay (Aonghus O'Donail).
9th September: Pied Flycatcher, Kilmurvey woods, Inishmore (Cathal Forkan).
10th September: Juv. Pectoral Sandpiper, Caranavoodaun turlough (Sean Pierce). (12)
10th September: 2-1st yr. Little Gull & Black Tern, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Paul Troake).
10th September: Little Stint & Sanderling, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Gerard Walshe).
10th September: 2 Curlew Sandpiper, Kilcaimin (John Curley).
11th September: 2 Juv. Little Stint & Osprey, Caranavoodaun turlough (Paul Troake & Tom Murtagh). (13)
11th September: Wood Sandpiper & Garganey, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake). (14)
11th September: 2 Curlew Sandpiper, Crompaun Bay (Dermot Breen).
11th September: 2 White Wagtail, Ballyconneely Bay (Dermot Breen).
11th September: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Traught (Neil Ellis).
12th September: Tree Pipit, over Renvyle Point (Niall Keogh).
14th September: Ad. White-tailed Eagle, Angliham, again present, Lough Corrib. (15)
14th September: 11 Mediterranean Gull, Kilkieran Bay (Dermot Breen).
15th September: Glossy Ibis, Caranavoodaun turlough (Paul Troake).
15th September: Common Buzzard & Spotted Flycatcher, Inishmore (Dermot Breen). (16)
16th September: Marsh Harrier, differing from bird seen earlier this month, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Aonghus O'Donail). (17)
16th September: Knot, Glenamaddy Turlough (Pat Brennan).
17th September: Kingfisher, Canal Road Upper, Eglinton Canal, Galway city (Cathal Forkan).
18th September: Juv. Baird's Sandpiper, Inishdawros Strand (Dermot Breen).
18th September: Osprey, Inagh Lough (John Flaherty).
19th September: White Wagtail, Caranavoodaun turlough (Dermot Breen).
19th September: 7 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake).
19th September: Juv. Curlew Sandpiper, Rusheen Bay, Galway city (Dermot Breen).
22nd September: 6 (Ad. & 5 Juv.) Little Gull & Arctic Skua, Mutton Island, Galway city (Mike Sylvia).

23rd September: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Omey Island (Dermot Breen).
23rd September: Juv. American Golden Plover, Omey Strand (Dermot Breen). (18)
23rd September: White Wagtail, Inishmore (Mike Sylvia).
25th September: Juv. Little Gull, Spiddal (Steve West).
26th September: Ad. Ring-billed Gull & 9 Sandwich Tern, again present, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (19).
26th September: 3 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Aonghus O'Donaill).
28th September: Imm. Marsh Harrier, Green Sandpiper, 6 Ruff, Greenshank, Ringed Plover & 330 Golden Plover, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake).
29th September: 2 Pink-footed Goose, Inishbofin (Dermot Breen). (20)
30th September: Turtle Dove, Doonloughan Road, Nr. Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).
2nd October: 5 Ruff, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake).
3rd October: American Horned Lark/Shorelark, Nr. Dog's head, Inishmore (Mike Sylvia). (21)
3rd October: Spotted Flycatcher, Inishbofin (Paul Kelly). (22)
4th October: Lesser Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, Lapland Bunting & Redwing, Inishbofin (Paul Kelly & Steve Millar). (23)
5th October: Snow Bunting, Nr. Dog's head, Inishmore (Aonghus O'Donaill).
6th October: Red-eyed Vireo, East End, Inishbofin (Paul Kelly).
8th October: Imm. White-tailed Eagle, Galway Wind Park, Seecon (Paidí Cullinan).
8th October: 4 Swallow & 4 Whooper Swan, Inchiquin, Lough Corrib (Neil Sharkey).
9th October: Snow Bunting, Rossaveal (Sean Farrell). (24)
9th October: Great White Egret, again present, opposite Angliham, Lough Corrib. (25)
9th October: Western Bonelli's Warbler, Seven Churches, Inishmore (Paul Troake).
9th October: Red-breasted Flycatcher, Garden Warbler &, Inishbofin (Steve Millar & Paul Kelly). (26)
10th October: Garden Warbler, again present, Inishbofin.
10th October: Ring Ouzel, Inishbofin (Steve Millar & Paul Kelly).
11th October: Pied Flycatcher, Seven Churches, Inishmore (Paul Troake).
11th October: Sooty Shearwater & Great Skua, Aran Ferry between Galway and Inishmore (Gerard Walshe).
12th October: Hoopoe & Siberian Chiffchaff ( <i>P. c. tristis</i> ), Inishbofin (Steve Millar). (27)
13th October: Juv. Common Rosefinch, Creig an Cheirín, Inishmore (Hugh Delaney). (28)
13th October: Yellow Wagtail, Inishbofin (Steve Millar).
13th October: Snow Bunting, Lesser Whitethroat & Reed Warbler, Inishmore (Mike Sylvia). (29), (30), (31)
14th October: Juv. American Golden Plover, Truska, Ballconneely (Chris Peppiatt).
14th October: 29 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Pink-footed Goose, Juv. Peregrine & Storm Petrel, Rahasane turlough (Paul Troake). (32)
14th October: Pied Flycatcher & Merlin, Inishbofin (Steve Millar & Tom Buckley). (33), (34)
15th October: 44 Whooper Swan, Inishbofin (Steve Millar & Tom Buckley).
16th October: Juv. Surf Scoter, Kinvara (Paul Troake).
16th October: 24 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Glennamaddy turlough (Cathal Forkan).
16th October: 17 Whooper Swan, Caherglassaun turlough (Paul Troake).
17th October: Hen Harrier, 4 Mediterranean Gull, 2 Long-tailed Duck & Whooper Swan, Inishmore (Dermot Breen, Hugh Delaney & Gerard Walshe).
17th October: Juv. White-tailed Eagle (Green Z) & 35 Barnacle Goose, Ballyconneely (William Lishman).
18th October: Red Kite, Woodford (Eoin Murphy).
19th October: Fieldfare, lower Lough Corrib (Mike Sylvia).
21st October: Glossy Ibis, Kiltullagh Lough (Martin Ryan).
21st October: 45 Gadwall, Turloughcor/Doolough, Nr. Headford (Neil Sharkey).
22nd October: Pink-footed Goose, Caranavoodaun turlough (Sean Holland).
23rd October: Great White Egret, flying alongside the N67 between Clarinbridge and Kilcolgan (Gerard Walshe).
23rd October: Male Marsh Harrier, again present, Baranny, Lough Corrib. (35)

27th October: Long-tailed Duck, Tawin (Sean Holland).
30th October: Juv. Lesser Yellowlegs, Rahasane turlough (Dermot Breen). (36)
30th October: 11 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Baranny, Lough Corrib (Cathal Forkan).
31st October: Black-throated Diver & Whimbrel, Traught (Michael Hoit).
4th November: 2 Siberian Chiffchaff ( <i>P. c. tristis</i> ), Inishmore (Mike Sylvia).
7th November: Green Sandpiper, Lough Coy, Peterswell (Ray Glynn).
10th November: 220+ Whooper Swan, 60 Greenland White-fronted Goose &, Rahasane turlough (Tom Murtagh).
15th November: 1st yr. Glaucous Gull, Ross Beach, Ballynakill Harbour (Dermot Breen).
16th November: Ad. Win. Forster's Tern, Kinvara Bay (Fintan Damer). (37)
18th November: 35 Greenland White-fronted Goose & Peregrine, Belclare turlough (Cathal Forkan).
22nd November: Pink-footed Goose, Caherglassaun turlough (Paul Troake).
22nd November: Fem. Goosander, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Denis Healy). (38)
22nd November: Twite, Rossadillask (Dermot Breen).
23rd November: 10 Twite, Murlach, Ballyconneely (Dermot Breen).
27th November: Ad. Little Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Gerard Walshe).
28th November: Male Brambling, Ballinaboy Bridge, Nr. Clifden (Dermot Breen).
1st December: Iceland Gull, Waterside, Galway city (Tom Cuffe).
5th December: Brambling, Angliham, Lough Corrib (Dermot Breen).
5th December: Ad. Win. Little Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Dermot Breen).
7th December: 2 Long-tailed Duck, Tawin (Sean Holland).
12th December: Short-eared Owl, found injured, Loughrea (per John Carrig).
13th December: Spotted Redshank, Tawin (Sean Holland). (39)
17th December: 2 Brambling, Moycullen (Gerard Walshe). (40)
18th December: 4 Glossy Ibis, Mweenish Island, Nr. Carna (Cillian Boyd & Maria Casey). (41)
18th December: 2nd yr. White-tailed Eagle, Derryclare Lough (Dermot Breen).
19th December: Fem. Common Scoter, Caranavoodaun turlough (Ray Glynn).
22nd December: 1st yr. Glaucous Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Brian Gormley).
22nd December: 73 Greenland White-fronted Goose, Rahasane turlough (Sean Holland).
24th December: Storm Petrel, Tawin (Sean Holland).
24th December: Ad. Win. Little Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (Andy Young).
25th December: Ad. Win. Little Gull & 3 Sandwich Tern, again present, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city.
26th December: 3 Barnacle Goose & 2 Light-bellied Brent Goose, Inis Meáin (Fearghas Mac Lochlainn).
27th December: Ad. Win. Little Gull, again present, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city.
27th December: 2 Brambling, Ardahan (John Dempsey).
28th December: Iceland Gull, Waterside, Galway city (Tom Cuffe).
29th December: 4 Purple Sandpiper, An Caladh Mór, Inis Meáin (Fearghas Mac Lochlainn).
30th December: Ad. Win. Little Gull, Nimmo's Pier, Galway city (David O'Keeffe).
30th December: 2 Long-tailed Duck & 6 Pintail, Tawin (Sean Holland).

#### NOTES:

- (1) The two Garganey were originally reported at Caranavoodaun turlough on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2021, they were also recorded at the same site on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of September, with singletons being recorded there on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.
- (2) A Green Sandpiper was originally reported at Caranavoodaun turlough on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2021. Two Green Sandpiper were recorded at this site on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September and another on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September.
- (3) A Ruff was originally reported at Caranavoodaun turlough on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2021. In addition to the two birds seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, birds were also seen at this site on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September (two birds), the 5<sup>th</sup> of September (two birds), the 11<sup>th</sup> of September and the 19<sup>th</sup> of September (two birds) 2021.
- (4) The Whooper Swan was still present at Caranavoodaun turlough on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021; this bird may be the same one that was recorded at this site during July 2021 and (as a potentially sick/injured/summering bird) it has not been considered when the first arrival date for migrants of this species for autumn 2021 was assessed.



- (5) A juvenile Little-ringed Plover was originally reported at Caranavoodaun turlough on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2021. Juvenile birds were also recorded at this site on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> (two), 12<sup>th</sup> (two), 15<sup>th</sup> (two), 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.
- (6) A Wood Sandpiper was originally recorded at this site on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2021. Further birds were recorded at the same on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> (three birds), 6<sup>th</sup> (four birds), 7<sup>th</sup> (two birds), 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> (two birds), 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> (three birds), 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2021.
- (7) Hen Harriers were also seen at Muckrush on the 5<sup>th</sup> (ringtail), 8<sup>th</sup> (ringtail) and 10<sup>th</sup> (ringtail) of September 2021, at Barranny on the 1<sup>st</sup> (two birds, a ringtail and a male) and the 5<sup>th</sup> (ringtail) of October, while birds were also seen around lower Lough Corrib on the 17<sup>th</sup> (two ringtails), 19<sup>th</sup> (a female) and 22<sup>nd</sup> (one) of October 2021 and the 17<sup>th</sup> (ringtail), the 27<sup>th</sup> of December (two birds) and at Barranny on the 28<sup>th</sup> (four birds, a male and three ringtails) of December 2021.
- (8) The female Marsh Harrier was previously seen at Muckrush on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2021. What was apparently this bird was also seen at Muckrush on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of September and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of September at Barranny. A Marsh Harrier was also seen at Muckrush on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.
- (9) The Spotted Redshank recorded on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September at Rusheen Bay was also recorded there on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.
- (10) Two Green Sandpiper, possibly the same as those seen on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, were also seen at Lydacan turlough on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (11) In addition to the two Pectoral Sandpiper seen on this date, four birds were seen at the same site on the next day, the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2021, by Aonghus O'Donail and Ian Brophy.
- (12) In addition to the Juv. Pectoral Sandpiper seen on this date, birds were also seen at this site on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September (two birds), the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, the 15<sup>th</sup> of September (two birds), the 16<sup>th</sup> of September and the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.
- (13) In addition to the two juvenile Little Stint recorded on this date, birds were also recorded at this site on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September (two birds), the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, the 15<sup>th</sup> of September and the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.
- (14) In addition to the Garganey that was reported at Rahasane turlough on this date, birds were also recorded on this site on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of September and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October (three birds) 2021.
- (15) White-tailed Eagle are effectively resident in the lower Lough Corrib area, where single birds were also recorded on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September, the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, the 25<sup>th</sup> Of November and the 17<sup>th</sup>, the 23<sup>rd</sup> (bird #10) and the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.
- (16) After the 15<sup>th</sup> of September bird, another two Spotted Flycatcher were recorded on Inishmore on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, with a singleton remaining on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (17) Presumably the same female/immature Marsh Harrier was also present on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (18) Presumably the same juvenile American Golden Plover was also recorded at Omev Strand on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September and the 1<sup>st</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (19) An adult Ring-billed Gull was previously reported at Nimmo's Pier on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2021. In addition to being reported on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, this bird was also recorded at Nimmo's Pier on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of October, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of November and the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2021.
- (20) After the first two birds were recorded on Inishbofin on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, a number of Pink-footed geese were recorded on the island, with one on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, four on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October and 26 on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (21) This bird was positively identified as being of the American subspecies, or a North American Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris* ssp. *alpestris*), a first Irish record.
- (22) After the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October bird, the same or a differing Spotted Flycatcher was also recorded on Inishbofin on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (23) The 4<sup>th</sup> of October Inishbofin Lesser Whitethroat was also recorded there on the 5<sup>th</sup>, the 9<sup>th</sup>, the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (24) After the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, the Rossaveal Snow Bunting was also seen there on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (25) Great White Egret are resident in the lower Lough Corrib area. In addition to being recorded on this date, this species was also recorded there on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October (two birds), the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, the 5<sup>th</sup> of December (two birds), the 27<sup>th</sup> of December (three birds) and the 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.
- (26) The Inishbofin Red-breasted Flycatcher was seen there on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (27) The Inishbofin Hoopoe was recorded from the 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> of October and also on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (28) The 13<sup>th</sup> of October Inishmore juvenile Common Rosefinch was also recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (29) The 13<sup>th</sup> of October Inishmore Snow Bunting was also recorded there on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (30) The 13<sup>th</sup> of October Inishmore Lesser Whitethroat was also recorded there on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (31) The Reed Warbler recorded on Inishmore on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October was also recorded there on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (32) After being first recorded on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, the Rahasane turlough single Pink-footed Goose was also recorded there on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November and the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2021.
- (33) The 14<sup>th</sup> of October Inishbofin Pied Flycatcher was also recorded there on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (34) The Merlin recorded on Inishbofin on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October was also recorded there on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2021.
- (35) Male Marsh Harrier were also seen in the lower Lough Corrib area on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October (two birds, a male with a female/immature at Barranny), the 30<sup>th</sup> of October (Muckrush), the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November (Barranny), the 17<sup>th</sup> of December (Barranny) and the 28<sup>th</sup> of December (Barranny) 2021.
- (36) The juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs was also recorded at Rahasane turlough on the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2021.

(37) The long staying adult Forster's Tern was previously seen at a tern colony in Corranroo Bay on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2021. In addition to being recorded at Kinvara Bay on the 16 of November, it was also recorded on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November (Kinvara Bay), the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November (Nimmo's Pier), the 25<sup>th</sup> of November (Nimmo's Pier) and the 25<sup>th</sup> of December (Nimmo's Pier) 2021.

(38) The female Goosander remained in the Nimmo's Pier area for some time and was also recorded on the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> of November, the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> of December and the 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

(39) The Spotted Redshank recorded at Tawin on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December was also recorded there on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

(40) After the two birds on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, Brambling were later seen in the same Moycullen garden on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December (two birds), the 25<sup>th</sup> of December (one) and the 27<sup>th</sup> of December (three birds) 2021.

(41) The four Glossy Ibis recorded at Mweenish Island on this date had increased to seven birds on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December and three birds remained there on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2021.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

7-11 Glossy Ibis, Surf Scoter, 5-6 Garganey, 2 Osprey, Red Kite, 2 Little-ringed Plover, at least 5 Wood Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, 1-2 American Golden Plover, Dotterel, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, 5 Pectoral Sandpiper, Turtle Dove, Hoopoe, Tree Pipit, Ring Ouzel, Red-eyed Vireo, Barred Warbler, Western Bonelli's Warbler, 2 Reed Warbler, American Horned Lark, Lapland Bunting, Yellow Wagtail, Common Rosefinch, 4-5 Spotted Flycatcher, 3 Pied Flycatcher & Red-breasted Flycatcher. Long-staying birds: Forster's Tern and 3 Great White Egret.

#### **ARRIVING WINTERING MIGRANTS:**

Light-bellied Brent Goose (11<sup>th</sup> September), Pink-footed Goose (29<sup>th</sup> September), Redwing (4<sup>th</sup> October), Whooper Swan (8<sup>th</sup> October), Greenland White-fronted Goose (14<sup>th</sup> October), Barnacle Goose (17<sup>th</sup> October) & Fieldfare (19<sup>th</sup> October).

#### **OTHER BEASTIES:**

9<sup>th</sup> September: 2 Minke Whale, Loughaunbeg, Galway Bay (Aonghus O'Donail).