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INTRODUCTION

Dear Visitor,

Céad Míle Fáilte go Gaillimh.

We welcome you to Galway City and County to explore the rich and varied bird life of the wide range of habitats in the area. Nineteen sites have been selected to represent particular types of habitats and their birds. The first eight sites are located around Galway Bay, a prime area for wildfowl, waders and seabirds in all seasons. All other sites are inland and the text will indicate whether they are of particular interest in the summer or the winter. Furthermore, the species listed in the back of the brochure are colour-coded to show which birds occur in summer, winter or on migration.

An introduction to bird habitats in County Galway is followed by a site by site guide which includes grid references and where possible road numbers. It is suggested that the Ordnance Survey Discovery Series of maps are used. Numbers 37 to 53 cover County Galway. These maps are widely available. The site numbers correspond with the numbers on the fold out map in this brochure. Where it is necessary, directions are given.

Very few of the sites listed have specific visitor access or car parking facilities. Therefore, the utmost care must be taken when parking and leaving your car. As most of the access roads are very narrow, drive slowly and carefully.

This brochure is based on *Birds of Galway* (2004), a publication by BirdWatch Galway. All involved in the compilation of this booklet are mentioned in the Acknowledgments at the back. There are also lists of useful contacts and suggestions for further reading.

We trust you will have great enjoyment exploring the ornithological sites of Galway City and County.

**BirdWatch Galway, Galway County Council,
Galway County Heritage Forum & Galway City
Council Council**



PREFACE



Birds are one of the easiest and more obvious forms of wildlife to watch. They are always present and unlike many of our mammals, they are active during the daytime. So, it is hardly surprising, that birds have had more attention paid to them than any other group of animals.

One of the great attractions in having birdwatching as a hobby is that it can be practised inexpensively anywhere and at any time of the year. Apart from encouraging us to spend more time out of doors, it also provides an enjoyable antidote to the pressures of modern life. An important aspect of bird-watching is that it can create an awareness of other forms of wildlife and develop the public's general interest in the countryside.

This brochure presents nineteen sites throughout Galway City and County where a variety of birds can be observed at different times of the year. The various species likely to be seen in these areas are also listed with some extra information included, especially as to why particular birds are attracted to these different habitats. The brochure includes the impressive list of over fifty common bird species recorded in County Galway.

Bhíodh ainmneacha álainn ag muintir na Gaeltachta ar na h-éanacha agus tá cuid de na h-ainmneacha sin fós i mbéal na ndaoine. Mar shampla, glaoitear an Mionnán Aeir nó an Mionnán Aerach ar an Naosc agus Meathghabhar a thugtaí ar an éan seo i gCarna. Tá an t-ainm Banaltra na Cuaiche tuillte go maith ag an riabhóg mhóna agus tugtar Giolla Cuaiche nó Gobadán na cuaiche uirthi freisin. Sí an Chorr Riasc a bhíonn i gceist nuair a cloistear ainmneacha ar nós Cáití Fhada, Máire Fhada, Corr Iasc, Corr Mhóna, Corr Scréachóg, Siobhán Fhada agus go fiú Joany an Scrugaill!

Éamon de Buitlear

BIRD HABITATS IN CO. GALWAY

County Galway, the second largest county in Ireland, contains a wide range of habitats. There is a distinct geological difference between the granite hills to the north-west of Galway City and the low-lying limestone in the east and south. There are many glacial features such as moraines in the north-west, drumlins in and around Lough Corrib and eskers mainly in the east.

The **coastline** stretches along Galway Bay and the Atlantic Ocean from Aughinish Bay near Kinvarra in the south to Killary Harbour, Ireland's only fjord, near Leenane in the north.

Galway Bay is about 10 kilometres wide and is a major habitat for wintering wildfowl. Inner Galway Bay is the part of the Bay which runs from Kinvarra north-east to Oranmore and then west to Bearna. This whole area has the better bird sites and is split into two parts, north and south, by Tawin Island. The southern part from Kinvarra to Clarinbridge comprises seashore with inlets and smaller bays but little inter-tidal mud or sand. From Clarinbridge north to Oranmore there are muddy estuaries and sandy shores, saltmarshes and some coastal lagoons. In Galway City, Lough Atalia is a brackish inlet to the east of the docks. At Nimmo's Pier, the River Corrib enters Galway Bay. Rusheen Bay, south of the road to Bearna (R336), is a Bird Sanctuary overlooked by The Small Wood, which was donated to BirdWatch Ireland by the O'Malley family of Bearna. The rocky shore from Bearna to Indreabhán is good for watching birds out to sea. The best time to explore the rich diversity of wildlife typical of the coastline is during low tide.

Records of the bird populations of the **off-shore islands** are sparse but the islands are home to many species not normally seen on the mainland. The cliffs of Oileáin Árann (the Aran Islands) are home to breeding seabirds, such as Kittiwakes and High Island, further north, hosts breeding Storm Petrels and Manx Shearwaters. Off the north-west coast lie Inishbofin and Inishshark, both having good numbers of cliff-nesting seabirds and Inishbofin also has Corncrakes.

Galway County is divided east from west by the great expanse of **Lough Corrib**. Its numerous islands provide sanctuary for many breeding birds. Inchnagoill, the most historic of the islands, is heavily wooded and Jays and Treecreepers may be seen there.

Lough Corrib itself can be divided into upper and lower parts. Lower Lough Corrib is shallow (maximum depth six metres) and has a bed of limestone. It is rich in nutrients and in many places fringed by reedbeds, making it attractive to thousands of wildfowl. The upper lake is much deeper (up to 45 metres) and overlies less fertile granite, schists, shales and sandstones. Therefore, the lower lake is by far the better for birds and bird watching. Good vantage points are at Cluain Duibh (Clooniff), south-east of Maigh Cuilinn and Gort an Chalaídh (Angliham) near Baile an Dúlaigh (Ballindooly). Winter is the best time, with numbers tending to peak in November.

To the west of Lough Corrib is **Conamara**, where the Maumturk mountains and the bare-topped quartzite Twelve Bens fringe a vast carpet of Atlantic blanket bog. In the east of the county low-lying limestone plains are bordered by the **Shannon and Suck Rivers** and the upper part of Lough Derg. In winter the rivers flood adjacent fields, depositing silt. These callows provide sanctuary for Whooper Swans, Greenland White-fronted Geese, thousands of other wildfowl and waders. The birds in turn fertilise the land. For more specific information on these rivers and adjacent callows the Mid-Shannon Bird Reports, edited by Stephen Heery, are essential reading.

The other wetlands in the county worthy of mention are **turloughs**, 'dry lakes'. Turloughs are unique to a few western counties. They are grassy depressions found in limestone areas which flood through swallow holes when the groundwater rises due to high winter rainfall. They dry up as soon as the water level drops again. The silt deposited by flooding produces rich vegetation. In winter this attracts ducks, swans and geese. They, in turn, fertilise the land while feeding and roosting there.

In the south of the county the lake-studded limestone plain stretches toward the rolling **Slieve Aughty mountains** where there are blanket bogs and coniferous plantations. These plantations support different species of birds at various stages of the trees' growth. At present this is Hen Harrier country.

If you have bird records of your visits to any of these Galway habitats, please submit them to BirdWatch Galway, www.birdwatchgalway.org so that they can be incorporated in the next issue of Birds of Galway.

MAJOR SITES OF ORNITHOLOGICAL INTEREST IN Co. GALWAY

In the following site by site accounts both a grid reference, as used by the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, and a brief route description are given to help locate the site. The site number corresponds with the number on the fold-out map in the front of this brochure.

COASTAL SITES

The coast around Galway Bay provides many excellent sites for birdwatching. Eight of these are listed in the following pages.



Grey Heron

I. ROS AN MHÍL

L965258

Ros an Mhíl, 40km west of Galway City, is well sign-posted on the R336 coast road.

The fish-processing plant in Ros an Mhíl attracts many gulls, especially on weekdays when the plant is in operation. Northern gulls such as Glaucous and Iceland Gulls are regular visitors and in autumn Sabine's Gull have been seen beyond the pier. Strong westerly winds bring in Storm Petrels and the occasional Little Auk. Ground-nesting Grey Herons breed on the small island behind the fish factory and a Little Egret is normally present throughout the year.



Great Northern Diver

2. BAILE NA HABHANN

L999203

Take the R336 west out of Galway City for 30km and, west of Indreabhán, after the left turn to Conamara Regional Airport, take any of the small roads leading to the sea shore to find a good vantage point for watching seabirds.



This coastal site is a favourite place for spotting birds at sea. Great Northern Divers and Black Guillemots are regular winter birds and in the early autumn Arctic and Great Skuas are typical passage birds. Among

the thousands of Manx Shearwaters passing through some Sooty Shearwaters may turn up. Westerly gales bring in Storm Petrels and smaller numbers of Leach's Petrels. It is a particularly good place to watch terns on fishing forays from their nests on nearby lakes, running the gauntlet of the ever-watchful skuas. Grey Phalaropes are occasionally present as are Merlin. In spring and early summer there are Whimbrel, Cuckoo, Stonechat and Yellowhammer.



Sandwich Tern

3. **RUSHEEN BAY**

M252230

From the end of the Salthill promenade continue west and at the T-junction turn left onto the R336 to Bearna. After 800m turn left into the slipway, bear left and park on the shore. Retrace your steps to a sharp bend in the lane and turn left through the gate. Follow the track until you see a BirdWatch sign on a gate-pillar to your left. A narrow path takes you to The Small Wood.

At low tide Rusheen Bay, a shallow lagoon connected to the sea by a narrow channel, provides shelter and rich feeding for a variety of waterbirds, especially during autumn and winter. Teal, Wigeon, Shelduck and Red-breasted Merganser are among the duck which are regularly seen while Oystercatchers, Ringed Plover, Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank and Dunlin are common for all but the summer months. In spring up to twenty Grey Herons can be seen here – they nest in the trees bordering the bay to the north. Flocks of Greenshank occur regularly on migration from July to October. In August large parties of Sandwich Terns use the bay as a roost.

Along the north shore of the bay is the Small Wood reserve where two limestone walls in front of the trees provide good vantage points for bird-watching (see directions above).



Ring-billed Gull

4. NIMMO'S PIER, THE CLADDAGH

M301242

This site in Galway City is particularly attractive from late autumn to late spring during low tide when gulls and waders can be observed at very close quarters. Black-headed and Common Gulls are common. Occasionally, Iceland and Glaucous Gulls, one or two Ring-billed Gulls, Little Gulls and other unusual gulls are reported. Mediterranean, Ross's, Bonaparte's, Kumlien's and Laughing Gulls have been seen. Mute Swan numbers build up from a few dozen in December to a pre-moulting peak of up to 300 in early August.

Beyond the end of the pier, Cormorants, Grey Herons, Red-breasted Merganser and Great Crested Grebes can be seen as well as Great Northern Divers and accidentals such as Double-crested Cormorant, Forster's Tern and Red-necked Grebe.

The fields west of the pier provide feeding for Oystercatchers while flocks of Snow Bunting, Linnets and Twite may pass overhead. Black Redstart has been seen along the rocky foreshore further west.



Scaup

5. LOUGH ATALIA

M310255

It is safest and most convenient to watch the birds from the east shore in Renmore. From the Ffrench Roundabout take the N6 out of Galway City and after the pedestrian lights, turn into the housing estate to the right. The second turn right will take you to the shore of Lough Atalia.

Among the regular species to be seen at Lough Atalia are Scaup, Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser and Great Crested Grebe. Little Grebe also occur in small numbers. Regularly present dabbling duck are Wigeon, Shelduck and Teal. Occasional rarities include Ring-necked Duck and Long-tailed Duck.

Along the foreshore Greenshank, Redshank and Grey Herons are common. Cormorants stand on exposed rocks and the iridescent blue flash of a Kingfisher may be seen.



Redshank

6. KILCAIMIN BAY

M370210

In Oranmore turn right to Rinville after the Roman Catholic church, continue straight until the road bears left along the shore, which is now on your right. Find a convenient and safe place to park.

Little Grebes occur here from August through to February and Golden Plover have a traditional roost at the eastern end of the bay. Teal and Shelduck can often be seen scything across the mud surface and every winter Brent Geese spend several weeks foraging among the eelgrass and on the adjoining saltmarsh. Flocks of Black-tailed Godwit have put in a regular appearance in recent winters and the more common Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank and Dunlin are there right through the winter.



Brent Geese

7. TAWIN

M300195

Coming from Kilcaimin turn right at the T-junction at the end of the bay and then take the third turn left, signposted to Tawin.

The road to Tawin Island has several vantage points to watch large numbers of waders, wildfowl and seals, which haul out on the rocks to the south. Brent Geese feed during the winter on the damp pastures and foreshore close to the road. Snipe and Wheatear are regular visitors on the island. Divers can be seen off the headland while Mallard, Wigeon and Herons feed along the shore. To get closer to these birds, leave the car at the end of the road and continue on foot onto the headland.



Little Egret

8. TRAUGHT / TRAUGHT BEACH M353141

There is a well sign-posted right turn to Traught on the N67 to Ballyvaughan.

Just north-west of Kinvarra the Traught area offers excellent bird-watching. Brent Geese are regular in winter and early spring. Ducks such as Mallard, Teal, Shelduck and Red-breasted Merganser are most abundant. Long-tailed Duck and Common Scoter can be seen most winters, while Velvet Scoter and Slavonian Grebes are occasional visitors. Among the waders Dunlin, Redshank, Greenshank, Grey and Ringed plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew and Turnstone are common. You may also find a Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank or Little Stint. Little Egrets seem to have settled permanently. Regular raptors are Kestrel and Peregrine while Merlin occur occasionally. Snow Buntings have been seen foraging along the foreshore.

Of the three diver species, Great Northern Diver are most abundant while Black-throated Divers are regular from winter into late spring. In most winters a Slavonian Grebe turns up.

INLAND SITES

The inland sites provide excellent locations for birdwatching. There are nine of these listed in the following pages.



Treecreeper

9. **MIONLOCH (Menlough)** [M285285](#)
GORT AN CHALAI DH (Angliham) [M290305](#)

On the N84 out of the City to Headford take the first left on the Kirwan roundabout and go uphill past the Menlo Park Hotel. At the T-junction at the top of road turn right. At the next T-junction, after 1.8kms, turn left; bear left past the school and past a stone archway and continue to the small harbour. To get good views from the high ground at Gort an Chalaith retrace your steps but, at the T-junction, instead of turning right to Galway, continue straight up the hill.

The small harbour at Mionlach is fringed by reeds where Little Grebes, Mallard, Moorhen and Coot occur. In the adjoining woodland you may get a glimpse of a Treecreeper. Raptors such as Kestrel and Sparrowhawk frequent this site and Hen Harriers frequent the reedbeds a bit further north of the quarry at Gort an Chalaith.



Great Crested Grebe

From Gort an Chalaídh huge numbers of diving ducks and Coot can be seen from late October to February. Pochard occur in internationally important numbers and Tufted Duck, Coot, Golden Plover and Lapwing in nationally important numbers. Goldeney, Great Crested Grebes, Little Grebes and Black-headed and Common Gulls also occur. Unusual sightings have included Smew, Red-crested Pochard, Marsh Harrier and Rough-legged Buzzard.



Peregrine

10. ROSTAFF LAKE

M250490

Take the N84 to Headford (26km). Go straight through Headford onto the R334. After 3km turn left and then take the 2nd left. Continue until Rostaff Lake comes into view on your left.

Although this site is just north of the Galway-Mayo border it is one of the more popular 'Galway' sites. A hide was erected here in the 1980s by members of the local gun club and BirdWatch and, when the area is flooded in winter, it offers good views of wildfowl and waders, with the occasional Hen Harrier, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and Peregrine hunting for prey.

Tufted Duck and Pochard are the most abundant diving ducks and Gadwall, Shoveler, Wigeon, Teal and Mallard are the dabbling wildfowl most frequently seen. There is also a mixed flock of feral geese and a small flock of Greenland White-fronted Geese in winter. Lapwing, Dunlin and large flocks of Golden Plover also occur in winter.



Lapwing

11. BELCLARE TURLOUGH

M380495

On the N17, 5km before Tuam, turn left onto the R333 to Headford. After 2km turn right. A stone hide is on the left after about 1km.

Belclare Turlough is one of a cluster of North Central Galway lakes, between the Ballindine to Tuam and Tuam to Headford roads, which regularly support nationally important numbers of Whooper Swan, Wigeon and Golden Plover. It attracts thousands of wildfowl and waders when flooded in winter. Small numbers of Greenland White-fronted Geese, possibly part of the Rostaff Lake flock, have been recorded. Wigeon are the most abundant duck species with Mallard, Teal and Pintail also present in good numbers. Rarities have included Green-winged Teal and Pink-footed Goose. The waders most regularly seen are Lapwing, Golden Plover and Dunlin while Spotted Redshank and Ruff are seen occasionally. Raptors visit the site regularly.



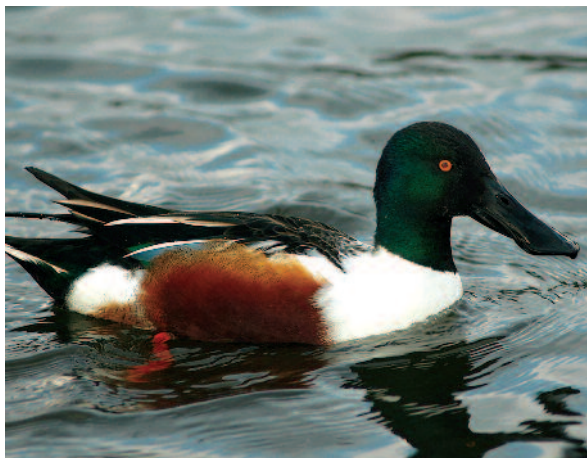
Pintail

12. RAHASANE TURLOUGH

M470198

On the N18 to Limerick, at the end of Kilcolgan village turn left to Craughwell. After 3.5km the turlough will appear to the right and can be viewed from the road or by going down a small lane to the right.

The best time of year to visit Rahasane is in autumn, before winter flooding drives the birds out of viewing range. It is an important site for Whooper Swans, Greenland White-fronted Geese, Wigeon, Pintail, Shoveler, Golden Plover, Lapwing and Black-tailed Godwit. More unusual geese seen here have been Pink-footed, Greylag and Barnacle geese. Summer surprises have been two Whooper Swans staying for a number of years, Wigeon probably breeding and the occasional visit of a Garganey. Ruff, Little Stint and Curlew Sandpipers occur annually while rarer waders have included Green and Wood Sandpiper, an American Golden Plover and a single Buff-breasted Sandpiper. A Black Tern and a Little Gull have also been recorded.



Shoveler

13. LOUGH REA

M615155

Good viewing points are on the N66 (Loughrea to Gort) north of the lake and the R351 (Loughrea to Woodford) to the east.

This very accessible lake on the southern edge of the town of Loughrea is a nationally important site for Shoveler and Coot. Unfortunately, Tufted Duck do not occur in nationally important numbers anymore and numbers of Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Pochard and Goldeneye have declined as well. Curlew and Lapwing used to be numerous on the shores but have moved onto adjacent farmland. The lake is fringed by reed beds in a number of sheltered bays and these offer good habitat for Mute Swans, Mallard, Moorhen and Little Grebe. On the island Cormorants can be seen on the trees while Black-headed Gulls frequent the shore nearest to the town.



Blackcap (Female)

14. PORTUMNA FOREST PARK

M837037

Take the R352 west out of Portumna. The entrance to Portumna Forest Park is 1.5km on the left. A car park, with picnic tables, is another 1km down the tarmac drive.

This site comprises over 400ha of woodland, parkland and juniper scrub on the shores of Lough Derg. There are several well-signed trails, including one that is wheelchair friendly. In summer, all the common woodland birds are to be seen and heard in abundance, including Jays, Treecreepers and Blackcaps.

The songs of Sedge Warblers and Little Grebes dominate the reedbeds. The observant may be lucky enough to find breeding Siskins. The largest inland colony of Cormorants occurs on an island close to the shore, just west of Rinmaher Point. Common Terns and assorted gulls feed on the open lake. Much of the forest is Scots Pine and there are large Monterey Pines. The cones attract feeding flocks of Crossbills from January to March in most years, although a sighting cannot be guaranteed in such a large forest. An added attraction is the good chance to see Red Squirrels and Fallow Deer.



Corncrake

15. TOWER CALLOW, BANAGHER N005160

5kms along the N6 east of Loughrea, take the N65 to Portumna. At Killimor take the R356, 20 kms via Eyrecourt to Banagher. Tower Callow is to the right of the road before crossing the bridge. Park the car safely downstream of the road. A metalled track leads past a Martello Tower, through hay meadows. Keep strictly to the track and for a night time visit take a torch.

Tower Callow is one of the sites on the River Shannon where Corncrakes have been heard annually for the past two decades and hopefully will continue to be heard. Normally, one does not have to walk more than 200m to the bend in the track to hear the rasping call of a Corncrake. If there is no wind it might even be heard from the bridge. The best time to hear the bird is at late dusk and early night time. During a walk on a calm, late evening you will probably also hear the eerie 'drumming' or bleating of a Snipe displaying in the sky.



Golden Plover

16. RIVER SUCK CALLOWS, MUCKANAGH

M790505

On the N63, about 55km north-east of Galway, turn right in Ballygar to Ballyforan. After just over 1 km turn left, after 2km bear right at the fork and proceed to the callows.

The River Suck forms the Galway/Roscommon border between Athleague and Ballinasloe. The callows comprise an area of semi-natural lowland wet grassland and ditches which flood extensively in winter. It holds internationally important numbers of Greenland White-fronted Goose and nationally important numbers of Whooper Swan, Wigeon and Lapwing. Pintail and Shoveler are numerous and important winter waders are Golden Plover, Snipe and Curlew. In summer Lapwing, Snipe, Redshank and the occasional Corncrake breed here. Whimbrel pass through in spring and Ruff pass in autumn.



Blackcap (male)

17. COOLE PARK

M040426

Coole Park is a deciduous woodland with an adjacent turlough on the N18 on the Galway side of Gort. It is well signposted and there is an information office in the visitor centre. During the summer it is alive with the songs of woodland birds. It is probably one of the best places in the county to see Jays and sustains a healthy population of Blackcaps. The turlough is best viewed in winter when Whooper Swan, Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Shoveler, Pintail, Tufted Duck, Pochard and Goldeneye occur here and at the adjoining Garryland Turlough. The most regular waders are Golden Plover, Lapwing, Dunlin and Curlew. Black-tailed Godwit also occur in small numbers. Common Sandpiper breed along the shores of the turlough and the rarer Green Sandpiper has been noted in autumn on passage. A Ferruginous Duck has been present for several winters and Bewick's Swans occasionally occur.

CONAMARA

Conamara appears to have a paucity of bird life but closer inspection reveals quite a wealth of specialised species. Among the common passerines the Meadow Pipit is ubiquitous. Wheatear are plentiful throughout the summer. The stony edges of the lakes resound in summer with the plaintive calling of breeding Common Sandpipers. Kestrels are regularly seen hovering, Sparrowhawks frequent areas of woodland and Merlins breed on the bogs. Hen Harriers are noted annually, generally in autumn, on the mountains west of Oughterard and in winter hunt over the reed beds. Among the rarer raptors are Osprey, Red-footed Falcon and Goshawk. Some Golden Plover, Curlew and Dunlin breed on the bogs while Cormorants, Grey Herons, Teal, Red-breasted Merganser and Common Gulls breed on some of the lakes, such as Lough Scannive (a Special Protection Area for Birds). Crossbills and Siskins breed in the plantations. In winter Snow Buntings and small numbers of Greenland White-fronted Geese visit the area.



Wheatear



Crossbill

18. LEITIR CREAMHA RUA

(Lettercraffroe) Cloosh Wood

M063368

In Oughterard, on the N59, 27km north of Galway City, turn left for Casla and Seanadh Phéistín. After about 8km park at the lay-by on either side of the road.

Cloosh Wood, which is an upland plantation of mainly coniferous trees, is one of the few areas where Crossbills are regularly seen and several pairs breed. There was a large eruption in 1995 when there were roving flocks of up to a hundred birds. Other woodland species breeding here are Siskin, Redpoll, Coal Tit and Jay. Raptors most often seen are Hen Harrier (mainly in autumn), Kestrel and Sparrowhawk. Ravens are regularly seen and heard.



Golden Plover

19. CONNEMARA NATIONAL PARK, LETTERFRACK

[L720585](#)

As well as common upland and woodland species rarer birds such as Crossbill, Red Grouse, Ring Ouzel, Jack Snipe, Siskin, Whinchat, Grasshopper Warbler and Woodcock are regularly noted. Golden Plover breed at various locations throughout Connemara. Raptors include Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Peregrine and Merlin while the most common crows are Hooded Crows and Ravens. Occasional visitors to the park have been Osprey, Black-winged Stilt and Red-footed Falcon while nearby Spoonbill, Pink-footed Goose, Turtle Dove, Snow Bunting, Twite and Hen Harrier have also made an appearance.

COMMON BIRD SPECIES RECORDED IN COUNTY GALWAY

Colour codes:

Residents

Summer visitors

Winter visitors

Passage migrants

B

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Bunting, Reed *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Snow *Plectrophenax nivalis*

C

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Coot *Fulica atra*

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Crow, Hooded or Grey *Corvus corone cornix*

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

D

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Diver, Great Northern *Gavia immer*

Red-throated *Gavia stellata*

Dove, Collared *Streptopelia decaocto*

Rock *Columba livia*

Stock *Columba oenas*

Duck, Long-tailed *Clangula hyemalis*

Tufted *Aythya fuligula*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

E

Egret, Little *Egretta garzetta*

F

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Flycatcher, Spotted *Muscicapa striata*

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

G

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Godwit, Bar-tailed *Limosa lapponica*

Black-tailed *Limosa limosa*

Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Goose, Greenland White-fronted	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>
Light-bellied Brent	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>
Grebe, Little	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Grouse, Red	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>
Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>
Black	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>
Gull, Black-headed	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Common (Mew)	<i>Larus canus</i>
Glaucous	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>
Great Black-backed	<i>Larus marinus</i>
Herring	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Iceland	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>
Lesser Black-backed	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Little	<i>Larus minutus</i>
Ring-billed	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>

H

Harrier, Hen	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Heron, Grey	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>

J

Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>

K

Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>
Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>

L

Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>

M

Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Martin, House	<i>Delichon urbica</i>
Sand	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Merganser, Red-breasted	<i>Mergus serrator</i>
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>

O

Owl, Barn	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Long-eared	<i>Asio otus</i>
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>

P

Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Pipit, Meadow	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Rock	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>
Plover, Golden	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
Grey	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Ringed	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>

R

Rail, Water	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>

S

Sandpiper, Common	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Purple	<i>Calidris maritima</i>
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Scaup	<i>Aythya marina</i>
Scoter, Common	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>
Shearwater, Manx	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
Skua, Arctic (Parasitic)	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
Great	<i>Catharacta skua</i>
Long-tailed	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>
Sparrow, House	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
Storm Petrel, European	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Swan, Mute	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Whooper	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>

T

Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Tern, Arctic	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
Common	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Little	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
Sandwich	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
Thrush, Mistle	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Song	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Tit, Blue	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
Coal	<i>Parus ater</i>
Great	<i>Parus mayor</i>
Long-tailed	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>

W

Wagtail, Grey	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Pied	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>
Warbler, Grasshopper	<i>Locustella naevia</i>
Sedge	<i>Acrocephalus Schoenobaenus</i>
Willow	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>

Y

Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
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Yellowhammer

USEFUL CONTACTS

BirdWatch Ireland. The largest non-governmental conservation organisation in Ireland, working for the conservation of wild birds and their habitats. Nearly 14,000 members.

Tel: 01-2819878. www.birdwatchireland.ie

General email: info@birdwatchireland.org

BirdWatch Galway. Galway Branch of BWI.

www.birdwatchgalway.org

Conamara National Park, Letterfrack,

Co. Galway. Tel: 095-41054/41006.

www.npws.ie/nationalparks/connemaranationalpark/

Coole Park, Gort, Co. Galway.

Tel: 091-631804. www.coolepark.ie

ENFO

A public service which provides easy access to information on the environment.

17 Andrew's Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-8882001 or 1890 200 191.

www.enfo.ie; info@enfo.ie

Galway County Council

Local authority service provider for the county.

Tel: 091-509198. www.galway.ie

Heritage Officer: mmannion@galwaycoco.ie

Heritage Council

Statutory body for the identification, protection, conservation and enhancement of heritage.

Tel: 1850 200878. www.heritagecouncil.ie

Ireland West Tourism

The official Regional Tourism Authority for Galway, Mayo and Roscommon.

www.irelandwest.ie

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FURTHER READING

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