



**BirdWatchIreland**  
*protecting birds and biodiversity*

# Cape Clear Bird Observatory Annual Report 2022



Prepared by Steve Wing & Brian Caffrey

REPORT NUMBER 30

**Address for correspondence:**

BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co Wicklow

Email: [bcaffrey@birdwatchireland.ie](mailto:bcaffrey@birdwatchireland.ie)

Phone: +353 (0)1 2819878

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	3
SURVEYING & MONITORING .....	4
<i>The Daily Log</i> .....	4
<i>Seawatching</i> .....	4
<i>Bird ringing</i> .....	5
<i>Moth trapping</i> .....	5
WILDLIFE REPORT 2022 .....	6
Birds .....	6
<i>Monthly bird summary</i> .....	6
<i>Systematic list of the birds</i> .....	13
<i>Bird ringing</i> .....	25
<i>CES Ringing Report</i> .....	26
Mammals .....	28
Butterflies .....	30
Moths .....	33
Other taxa .....	47
NOTES .....	49
<i>Avian Influenza outbreak</i> .....	49
<i>Pelagic boat trip</i> .....	49
<i>BirdWatch Ireland volunteers help out</i> .....	51
<i>In memoriam: Robert Gillmor (1936-2022)</i> .....	52

## CCBO Annual Report 2022 Production Team

Author: **Steve Wing**, BirdWatch Ireland Wildlife Officer, Cape Clear Bird Observatory  
Supervisor: **Brian Caffrey**, Assistant Head of Surveys & Monitoring, BirdWatch Ireland  
Layout: **Cóilín MacLochlainn**

**Cover photograph:** *Sanderling, South Harbour, 13th September 2022 (Steve Wing)*

# Cape Clear Bird Observatory Annual Report 2022

## INTRODUCTION



South Harbour view from the Low Road, August 2022 (*Linda Lennon*)

This is the 30th Annual Report for BirdWatch Ireland's Cape Clear Bird Observatory (CCBO). Founded in 1959, CCBO is located on Cape Clear Island, situated eight miles (13 km) off the coast of West Cork.

Cape Clear is one of the best places to watch seabird migration in Europe, especially during the late summer months. Spring and autumn bring large numbers of songbirds moving to and from their breeding grounds, amongst which are usually one or two strays from North America or Siberia.

The Bird Observatory is visited annually by dozens of birdwatchers, ringers and general wildlife enthusiasts. The long tradition of recording birds and biodiversity generally on the island makes the observatory a beacon for environmental research, education and monitoring in Ireland.

2022 saw a very welcome return to normality on the island, with all Covid restrictions lifted and everything open again. This enabled a virtually complete CES ringing programme to be carried out, a few early visits to be made to the islands in Roaringwater Bay to ring Lesser Black-backed Gulls, the Daily Log being called on most evenings and general ringing operations in both Cotter's Garden and the Nordy Wood running whenever the weather and migrants made it possible (which didn't happen together very often!)

However, just as we were thinking everything was rosy, the dreaded Avian Influenza hit the country. This prompted a discussion as to what we should do, and it took very little time to decide that all seabird ringing should be suspended and that any monitoring near seabird breeding sites should cease. This decision was soon followed up nationally. A short note on the outbreak is included at the end of this report.

***Steve Wing & Brian Caffrey***

# SURVEYING & MONITORING

## The Daily Log

The formal Daily Log was called on most nights from March 23rd until the end of October 2022 (casual observations were added from the periods prior to and after these dates).

Table 1 shows the number of days the Daily Log was called each month during our main recording period, with bad weather or absence of recorders from the island being the reasons for days missed.

As usual, our thanks to Mary Cadogan and Geoff Oliver for contributing records obtained outside the recording period. Their efforts really help to give a more complete picture of the island's birdlife.

## Seawatching

The total number of hours (6,000) spent seawatching

was slightly down on the 2019 total (6,875) but was considerably greater than in the previous two 'Covid' years. The breakdown by month is shown in Table 2.

One of the reasons for the drop in number of hours spent seawatching was the rather splendid summer we had – with many fine, calm days with nothing passing the island – which was a lot more conducive to taking pelagic boat trips rather than sitting on the cliffs. An account of one of these pelagic trips follows later in the report (*see Notes, page 49*).

In the 2019 Annual Report, I mentioned that Great Shearwaters had only been recorded on two days and Cory's Shearwaters only on seven. That prompted me to look at this year's totals, and Tables 3 and 4 show on how many days the four main shearwater species were recorded each month, as well as the numbers of each species recorded each month, respectively.

**Table 1.** Number of days the Daily Log was called each month during the main recording period in 2022

Month	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Totals	9	26	26	30	27	30	30	30

**Table 2.** Hours of seawatching carried out by Cape Clear Bird Observatory in 2022

Month	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Totals	0	265	450	850	1020	1140	1210	1070	0



North Harbour and Cape Clear Bird Observatory (*Dick Coombes*)

**Table 3.** Number of days the four main shearwater species were recorded each month in 2022

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Species							
Great	0	0	0	2	3	4	1
Cory's	0	0	2	2	3	5	2
Sooty	0	0	2	6	6	4	8
Manx	7	11	17	22	11	10	7

**Table 4.** Number of birds of each shearwater species recorded each month in 2022

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Species							
Great	0	0	0	65	15	122	1
Cory's	0	0	106	772	74	2011	162
Sooty	0	0	13	74	43	38	195
Manx	6638	17879	34218	36967	6172	2137	72

With the help of local fishermen and whale-watching businesses, we visited an area that they believed held significant numbers of shearwaters, petrels, skuas and cetaceans at times. This was located some 10 to 12 miles (19 kilometres) south of the island, so was not technically within the CCBO recording area, but I imagine we will be making more trips out there in future with a view to perhaps adding sightings made there to the Observatory list. An account of one trip there this year follows later in the Notes section of this report (*see page 49*).

## Bird ringing

We were fortunate to be able to carry out the whole Constant Effort Site (CES) season, minus the second visit, when I was in Canada. The totals and details are to be found in the CES Ringing Report (*see page 26*).

We had planned to spend more time ringing European Storm-petrels this year but, as mentioned in the introduction, the bird flu outbreak put a stop to that. I am hoping to encourage more ringers to visit in the late spring/early summer so that we can explore the possibilities a little further.

We spent two weekends in late winter carrying out major pruning in both of the main ringing areas, i.e., Cotter's Garden and the Nordy Wood. This did leave the Nordy Wood pretty exposed to the weather during the spring, and very little ringing effort was made there until the undergrowth had regrown. It now requires more pruning and perhaps a little thinning of trees this winter. This work is discussed later in the report (*see page 51*).

The year's ringing totals are shown in Table 5.

**Table 5.** Bird ringing totals in 2022

<b>New</b>	852
<b>Subsequent captures</b>	469
<b>Total</b>	1321 (of 36 species)

## Moth trapping

A little more moth trapping was carried out at the Observatory this year and the results are included along with all records submitted by 'moth-ers' staying on the island. The lists for this year and the two previous years are included in the Moths section later in this report (*see page 33*).



Spectacle, Observatory moth trap, 8th July 2022 (*Steve Wing*)

# WILDLIFE REPORT 2022

The season started on 23rd March and ran until 5th November. The last week was spent shutting down the Observatory for the winter.

Overall, the year was a moderate success birdwise, with one new species, Citrine Wagtail, being added to the Cape Clear Island list and a scattering of good rarities being recorded in, as you might guess, the month of October. Sadly, there were no American vagrants seen, though we were surrounded by such records to the east, west, north and south of us. There is no logical explanation for this, and we can only look forward to next year... when Cape bites back!

.....

## Birds

### MONTHLY BIRD SUMMARY

#### January and February

There was very little birding coverage on Cape Clear Island in the first two months of 2022, apart from that by island residents. Mary Cadogan had an overwintering Blackcap in her garden from 1st January and spotted a Buzzard on 5th January. The first Sparrowhawk of the year was seen on 18th January and two Bullfinches were noted on the 22nd. February saw two Shovelers appearing on the lake on the 6th, both seen again on the 12th, and two Teal on the 24th.

#### March

Unusually mild and sunny weather greeted the start of our official recording season, with light to moderate east to south-east winds prevailing.

Before the official start, we received news of two Shelducks on the lake on 13th March (they stayed into April) and the first Lesser Black-backed Gull of the spring there on that day too. A Teal appeared the following day, joined by up to eight more later in the month.

The first two Wheatears of the spring were seen on the Wheatear Field on 14th March, along with the overwintering Buzzard. The first Blackcap (1) and Chiffchaffs (3) arrived on 20th March. Wintering finches were still present at this time, with five Siskins recorded on the 19th and up to 15 Bramblings and 20 Chaffinches on 21st March. Also on the 21st, the first Black Redstart of the year was seen around the village and a Golden Plover was noted flying over West Bog.

The 24th saw the first White Wagtails (3) of the year and a month high count of seven newly arrived Wheatears. A small passage of 61 Meadow Pipits and two Black Redstarts, and a Shoveler found on the lake, brightened up 27th March, while a Collared Dove on the 29th was the final highlight of the month.

#### April

The weather in April started promisingly with easterly winds, before winds moved to north-easterly and it became colder and showery. The second half of the month was a little calmer and warmer.

The birding, though, didn't start as promisingly, with a Sparrowhawk, three Snipe and one of the previous month's Black Redstarts being the only birds of note on 1st April.

Eight Cormorants were noted from the ferry on 3rd April, while the first Little Grebe of the year, four Teal and two Shelducks were seen on the lake that day. A Jack Snipe flushed from Central Bog was a very welcome sight.

A trip out to the Bill on 8th April found really good numbers of seabirds in feeding frenzies, including 8,500 Manx Shearwaters, 450 Gannets, 275 Fulmars and 414 assorted auks. Also spotted there on that day, a Minke Whale! On the same day, six Teal, three Buzzards and eight Grey Wagtails were recorded around the west end of the island. Now, that was a good Cape day!

A really good sea passage recorded on the 10th noted an average of just over 6,000 Manx Shearwaters passing west per hour, the first Bonxie of the year, eleven Common Scoters and over 2,500 assorted auks. On land, the highlights were a male Ring Ouzel in Mary Cadogan's garden and a flyover Tree Pipit.

The first hirundines of the season appeared on 11th April, with two Sand Martins at the lake and three Swallows and two House Martins over the village. These coincided with a fall of Willow Warblers (40) and Chiffchaffs (20).

A small increase in hirundines on the 12th coincided with a newly-arriving Hoopoe, seen flying over the Low Road. It proved elusive but, with intensive search effort, continued to be seen irregularly up until the 20th.

Three Great Northern Divers were a welcome sight from the ferry on 15th April, which turned out to be a great day. The highlight was a superb male Western Subalpine Warbler found in Paddy Timsey's garden. Sadly, it remained for only one day. Also seen that day



Whitethroat, Paddy Timsey's, 26th June 2022 (Steve Wing)

were a Whimbrel, a Greenshank, two Collared Doves and the above-mentioned Hoopoe. By Cape standards, this was a very good spring day's birding!

The following days were relatively quiet: the Hoopoe continued to give brief views, while a Golden Plover flyover and a 'tristis' Chiffchaff at Paddy Timsey's were the other main highlights from the 15th to 26th.

The first Sedge Warblers of the season turned up on 26th April (7), along with 12 Sand Martins. A fairly late Great Northern Diver was seen the next day, as well as a Collared Dove and a Brambling, both of which stayed for three days.

An amazing 16 Great Northern Divers were noted from the ferry on the 28th, a day we recorded a Ring Ouzel and had 120+ Swallows feeding over the lake, most of which were still present the following day.

## May

The month of May had every conceivable weather pattern, with winds of every strength, from calm to storm force, and from every direction: the direction swings were often 180° in a day! Temperature wasn't going to be left out of its mood swings, with some days being extremely cold but the following day finding us in T-shirt and shorts!

The migrants recorded during May, and the times of their arrival, clearly showed how weather affects migration, but we had few, if any, unexpected arrivals. We had the first visiting Moorhen of the year on 1st May, as well as the first Grasshopper Warbler and six

Blackcaps. There were 100 Swallows noted that day.

The 3rd of May saw the first Merlin of the year and a small fall of Sedge Warblers (22). On the 4th, we recorded good numbers of Stonechats (26) and, on the 5th, a Whimbrel. The Moorhen was still present on the 10th, along with the first Spotted Flycatcher, found in Cotter's Garden.

The only birds of note during the middle part of the month were a Whinchat on the 14th, the first Whitethroats (10) of the year on the 15th, and a Common Sandpiper in South Harbour on the 16th.

A short but productive seawatch on the 22nd noted 4,500 Manx Shearwaters passing by. We counted another 3,800 on the 24th, and good numbers of Sedge Warblers (24) and Whitethroats (18) were also recorded that day.

Two Tree Sparrows on 27th May became the first ever to be ringed on Cape – hard to believe, as they are virtually an annual visitor!

A Shoveler turned up on the lake on the 28th and stayed until the 30th. A good number (35) of Whitethroats was also noted that day, though many moved on overnight, leaving only 20 on the 31st. A good passage of c4,500 Manx Shearwaters made a quick seawatch worthwhile at month's end.

## June

The light to moderate winds remained in the west to south-west quarter for most of the month, with little rain. The last few days saw the wind direction move to

north-west and increase to gale force on the 30th.

Birdwise, June started as May had done... quietly. The long-staying Buzzard and the Little Grebes on the lake were the only birds of note for the first three days. Then, on the 4th, three Collared Doves and two Turtle Doves arrived. They were joined by 30 House Martins the following day.

A Cape rarity in recent years, a Wigeon, was seen on the lake on the 9th, when nearly 5,000 Manx Shearwaters were seen passing the island. Thirty-one Whitethroats were a good count that day. The shearwater passage increased on the 12th, with up to 8,500 per hour, and 15 Wheatears were seen around the western end. Two Swifts were seen over the village on the 18th, along with 80 Swallows, and the Swift count increased to 10 the following day.

We had a big surprise on the 21st when one of the islanders emailed me a picture of a juvenile Long-eared Owl. She had also flushed an adult alongside, but the juvenile remained on its perch in the Mass Track pines. Despite many further searches, neither the adult nor the juvenile were seen again. Plenty of pellets, many of them fresh, were collected and taken for analysis. Long-eared Owls have long been suspected of breeding or attempting to breed on the island, but this was the first confirmed record.

The following day, the 22nd, saw the first Garden Warbler of the year appear, found in Cotter's Garden. The 25th saw another Cape rarity, a Tufted Duck, arrive at the lake (it stayed until the 30th) and the first Sooty Shearwater of the year, seen on a seawatch.

The following day's seawatch produced very few Manx Shearwaters (c400) but two Cory's Shearwaters, one European Storm-petrel and five Common Scoters. A scarcity in mid-summer, a single Rook was seen on the island that day too.

The Manx Shearwater count increased to 7,000 on the 27th, with little else keeping them company, though passage numbers rose to 9,900 on the 28th. This time, they were accompanied by 104 Cory's Shearwaters, 12 Sooty Shearwaters, 460 Fulmars, 1,380 Gannets, three Bonxies and an Arctic Skua. A Little Egret arrived that day and proved long-staying, remaining on the north coast, near the fish farm, until 4th July.

## July

The first week of July was dry with light north to north-west winds or none at all. This was followed by a short period of moderate to strong south-westerlies with heavy showers from the 21st to 24th. The wind then returned to the northerly quarter and it remained fairly dry for the rest of the month.

In what appears to be a new trend in local sea passage, the bird month started quietly with six European Storm-petrels and c1,500 Manx Shearwaters noted passing on the 2nd. A Sooty Shearwater on the 6th brightened up a moderately quiet seawatch with few Manxies, but nine Common Scoters, one Bonxie, one Sandwich Tern and a 'comic' tern boosted the list.

The 7th saw a big increase in Manx Shearwater numbers (5,400ph) and a continuing passage of Common Scoters, with seven on that day, 38 on the 8th and 14 on the 9th.

There then followed another quiet spell, both at sea and on land, with no significant sea passage or other migrants, until the 15th, when 35 Sooty Shearwaters were recorded moving west and a Common Sandpiper appeared in South Harbour.

A pair of Little Grebes on the lake showed off their two new chicks on the 19th, the first of many broods on Cape this year (involving different pairs).

Manx Shearwaters were seen passing on the 20th at a rate of 6,500 per hour, with 3,100ph the following day and four Sooty Shearwaters. The first Great Shearwaters (6) of the year were seen on the 23rd, along with 12 Cory's Shearwaters, 4,000+ Manx Shearwaters, 100+ Puffins and four European Storm-petrels.

The 24th was even better, with counts of 59 Great Shearwaters, 760 Cory's Shearwaters, 29 Sooty Shearwaters, 4,500+ Manx Shearwaters, six European Storm-petrels and, the real stars, two Fea's-type petrels. Bizarrely, and something that got the hearts fluttering, was a Swift, flying low over the sea with the Manx Shearwaters!

As the month was quietly petering out, two Sooty Shearwaters and five Shelducks were seen on the 29th. One lucky observer saw a Little Shearwater fly past on the 30th, while a White-tailed Eagle was seen flying around the old windmills on the 31st, bringing an end to a very up-and-down month.

## August

The first two weeks of the month, apart from a foggy day on the 2nd, were glorious, sunny and windless – and consequently had very few birds of note. From the 15th, the wind turned to north to north-east in varying strengths before a return to light easterlies and sunshine for the last few days of the month.

Three Common Sandpipers in South Harbour and three Sandwich Terns passing the Bill were reported on the 1st. The 2nd saw one Sooty Shearwater passing, a Common Sandpiper still in South Harbour, a Grasshopper Warbler around the Nurdy Wood and the first flock of Common Linnets (71) of the autumn.





Meadow Pipit, High Road, 30th June 2022 (Steve Wing)

Continuing the autumnal theme, the first notable passage of hirundines occurred on the 10th, with 85 Swallows and 30 House Martins passing through.

There was a high count of 18 Little Grebes on the lake on the 11th (a number that remained fairly constant for the rest of the autumn). Also present that day were a Redshank at the lake, briefly, and 150 Barn Swallows.

A few Cape birders on a pelagic from Baltimore on the 13th were fortunate to find a rare Scopoli's Shearwater – identified via photographic ID later. They also noted six Great Shearwaters, 30 Cory's Shearwaters, 30 Sooty Shearwaters, 100+ European Storm-petrels and three Bonxies.

The first Pied Flycatcher of the autumn was found in Cotter's Garden on 14th August when little else was present on the island; it stayed until the 18th.

The 16th saw a small increase in Linnet numbers (100+) and eight Skylarks, with the long-staying Common Sandpiper still in South Harbour.

Two Greenshanks were at the lake on the 17th, together with a Common Sandpiper (presumably the South Harbour bird), a Gadwall and three Teal. Also on the 17th, a Black-headed Gull, the first of the year, was seen flying up through Olly Gully towards the lake, but did not stop.

A Wood Warbler was found in the pines beside the lake on the 18th and stayed until the 21st. Linnet numbers increased to 135 and a Golden Plover flew over the Wheatear Field.

Another pelagic on the 21st reported four Cory's Shearwaters, two Bonxies, one Sandwich Tern and an amazing 15 Wilson's Storm-petrels. Two Redshanks were heard and then seen on the lake on the 22nd.

On the 28th, a Ringed Plover was heard calling over North Harbour, while a Danish couple staying at the Obs had eight Sabine's Gulls, one Arctic Skua and 3,000+ Manx Shearwaters passing Blanan. They had another three Sabine's Gulls, one Great Shearwater, 40 Cory's Shearwaters, one Sooty Shearwater, six Arctic Skuas and three Bonxies on a seawatch from Bullig on the 29th.

Also on the 29th, Meadow Pipits were starting to move, with 70 recorded; the male Gadwall was still at the lake and a flyover Tree Pipit was reported by a visiting German birder. A Spotted Flycatcher on the 31st was the first of the autumn.

## September

September had typically variable weather, with the first two weeks having light to moderate E-SE winds with showers, though there was a southerly gale on the 4th. From the 15th, the wind came predominantly from the north, with dry weather. The 27th produced a north-westerly gale with heavy rain, and the 30th had a south-westerly gale with rain.

A little flurry of House Martins (25) on 1st September and two Whinchats on the 2nd were both good autumnal indicators. A short pelagic, staying inside of Fastnet Rock, on the 3rd produced four Great

Shearwaters, 30 Sooty Shearwaters, one Wilson's Storm-petrel, three European Storm-petrels, one Sabine's Gull, three Bonxies and ten Arctic Terns.

Back on land, the highlights of the day on the 4th were a Whimbrel heard calling over the village, two Yellow Wagtails over the Post Office and a Kingfisher in North Harbour.

A first-year Citrine Wagtail was found near the bottom of Central Bog on the 6th – the first for Cape! It stayed around the area until the 12th, though was very elusive at times. Also on the 6th, an Osprey was seen being mobbed by gulls and crows high over the lake.

The 7th produced a very good seawatch, with a Fea's-type petrel, 78 Great Shearwaters, 1,398 Cory's Shearwaters, one Sooty Shearwater, 1,256 Manx Shearwaters and six Arctic Skuas. The large shearwaters were well offshore and many, many more 'dots' were seen, but not counted! On land, the second Jack Snipe of the year was flushed in Central Bog.

A Barn Owl was seen taking flight from outside Ciaran Danny Mike's on the evening of the 9th. Three Yellow Wagtails and nine White Wagtails were seen earlier that day.

The first Wryneck of the autumn was reported along the High Road on the 11th, along with two Redstarts, two Pied Flycatchers and two Spotted Flycatchers in Michael Vincent's garden; another Pied Flycatcher and Spotted Flycatcher were seen in Cotter's Garden. A short seawatch produced 15 Great Shearwaters, 350 Cory's Shearwaters, five Sooty Shearwaters and an Arctic Skua.

The 12th was productive on land and sea: 95 Cory's Shearwaters, two Sooty Shearwaters, two Bonxies and a Black-headed Gull were seen during a brief seawatch. On land, a Common Sandpiper was in South Harbour, the Citrine Wagtail and Wryneck had moved to the lakeside, a Garden Warbler was found in Cotter's Garden and a Reed Warbler was located in the Nordy Wood, where it stayed until the 23rd.

The 13th saw 18 Cory's Shearwaters passing, a Sanderling, a Cape rarity, on the beach in South Harbour, the male Gadwall back at the lake, a Whinchat at Paddy Timsey's and a Pied Flycatcher still in Cotter's Garden.

A leucistic Robin was seen along the Low Road on 14th and was still present at the end of the recording season. It has a white tail and some white primaries and tertiaries but, seen head-on, it looks like a normal Robin.

Good numbers of Stonechats (42) were recorded on the 15th as well as a Garden Warbler, found at the end of the Low Road. The 16th saw the Wryneck moving down into Olly Gully and a single Yellow Wagtail flying over.

Two Whinchats and a Shoveler at the lake were joined on the 17th by the first of the winter finches: two Siskins and a Lesser Redpoll – a good sign of the coming winter.

The following day saw 20 Blackcaps, 10 Chiffchaffs, 30 Goldcrests and another Siskin, and there were three Mediterranean Gulls off the north end of the island. However, the stars of 18th September were the seabirds seen on our first trip out to a spot roughly 12 miles (19 km) south-east of Cape. A full report follows on page 40.

A Redstart, eight Whitethroats, two Garden Warblers and 70 Goldfinches were present on the 20th. The following day, a short seawatch produced 25 Great Shearwaters and 150 Cory's Shearwaters. A new Pied Flycatcher was found in Cotter's Garden on the 22nd, and a late Sedge Warbler was in the Nordy Wood on the 24th and 25th, along with three Rooks near the Post Office.

Two Pink-footed Geese found in fields along the Low Road on 28th September were only the second Cape record; they stayed until 16th October.

The month drew to a close with two Moorhens around the bogs, a Bar-tailed Godwit flyover, a single Mediterranean Gull and the first Brambling of the autumn.

## October

Weather in the first week of October was variable, with mainly W-NW winds ranging from calm to gale force 8, and with rainy and sunny days. The rest of the month was generally breezy, with winds from every quarter and some heavy showers and sunny periods.

There was a fall of Goldcrests (51) on the 1st of the month and a marked increase in Robin numbers over the first few days.

A seawatch from the Beehive on the 3rd produced one Red-throated Diver, 161 Cory's Shearwaters, 81 Sooty Shearwaters, two Pomarine Skuas, three Bonxies, nine Arctic Skuas, one Common Gull, one Mediterranean Gull, 800 Guillemots and 300 Puffins. There were now seven Teal on the lake and four Turnstones near the fish farm.

Two Sooty Shearwaters, three Bonxies and four Arctic Skuas were seen passing on the 4th, and the first Yellow-browed Warblers (3) of the season were recorded.

One Great Shearwater and 22 Sooty Shearwaters were seen on the 6th and a Dotterel was found on the Wheatear Field; it stayed there until the following day, when a Long-tailed Skua and 27 Sooty Shearwaters were seen offshore.

Twelve Sooty Shearwaters were recorded on the 8th,



Pink-footed Goose, Low Road, 28th September 2022 (Steve Wing)

as well as a good passage of Skylarks (60), Sand Martins (30), House Martins (25) and Rooks (30) over land. Also seen were a Ring Ouzel, one Crossbill flying over the High Road and 15 Lesser Redpolls; there was also an increase in Greenfinch numbers.

The first Firecrest, Bullfinches (2) and Lesser Whitethroats (3) of the autumn were seen on the 9th, with the Firecrest being joined by an incredible eleven more on the 10th! Also that day, we had 31 Skylarks in the Wheatear Field, the first Mistle Thrush of the year, four Lesser Whitethroats, a Whinchat behind the Observatory and good numbers of Blackcaps (38) and Chiffchaffs (40).

On the 11th, over 2,760 auk spp, 15 Sooty Shearwaters, eight Black-headed Gulls and three Common Scoters passed the southern end, and we logged a Redstart at Michael Vincent's, four Firecrests and a single Long-tailed Tit.

A large flock of Snipe (26) flew over Central Bog on the 12th, when we also had the last Wheatears (2) of the year.

The 13th saw the last records for Common Scoters (16) and House Martins (2), with four Yellow-browed Warblers still present. Also seen were a Barn Owl in trees in Pat Con's driveway, a Little Egret near the fish farm and a Common Sandpiper at the lake.

Bird of the day on the 14th was a Radde's Warbler

found just below the Post Office drive. Remaining until the 23rd, it stayed in much the same area, and indeed, the same three willows, for most of that time.

Also seen on the 14th were a Greenshank in North Harbour, five Lesser Whitethroats, three Yellow-browed Warblers and a Quail, flushed along the road back from looking at the Radde's Warbler!

A Red-throated Diver, 35 Sooty Shearwaters and five Arctic Skuas were seen offshore on the 15th, as well as the last Sand Martins (2) of the year.

The following day, a very tame Snow Bunting was found near Mary Mac's at the lake; it stayed in that area until the 21st. Two Golden Plovers were found near the Beehive on the 17th, remaining there for ten days, and were joined on the island by two Black Redstarts and six Redwings on the 18th.

A good fall on the 19th comprised 14 Dunlin flying through, 110 Skylarks around the Wheatear Field (and constantly calling overhead), five Black Redstarts, 60 Redwings, 51 Blackcaps, four Spotted Flycatchers, over 400 Chaffinches, 200+ Siskins, two Lesser Whitethroats and a Reed Warbler in Mary Cadogan's garden, which stayed until the 30th.

The influx continued into the 20th with a Ringed Plover calling at the lake, two Ring Ouzels on the Lighthouse Road and 800+ Fieldfares, 80 Redwings, 500+ Chaffinches and 150 Siskins around the island.



Western Barn Owl, Pat Con's drive, 13th October 2022 (Steve Wing)

Something else had to be there with all those thrushes and finches... and there was! On the 21st, in the potato patch on the Lighthouse Road that held most of the Chaffinches, a Rustic Bunting was found along with 200 Goldfinches.

Fieldfare numbers on Cape had increased to over 900 and 27 Skylarks, five Yellow-browed Warblers and a 'tristis' Chiffchaff were also noted.

On the 22nd, the Rustic Bunting was still in the potato patch and a Little Bunting was found associating with a small group (6) of Chaffinches at Mary Mac's; it remained there until the 25th.

The only Hen Harrier of the year, a ringtail, was seen over West Bog on the 23rd, which also saw the last records for Swallow (2) and Redstart (1). Fieldfare numbers increased again to over 1,000 and there were over 50 Blackcaps, but numbers of Redwings (10) and Chaffinches (300) were well down.

A very late Willow Warbler was seen around the Waist on the 26th, staying there until the 28th.

There was a small, mixed influx on the 27th, with two Great Northern Divers and two Mediterranean Gulls off the east end, two Turnstones at the fish farm, three Mistle Thrushes at the east end, 32 Chiffchaffs dotted around the island, a Barn Owl outside Ciaran Danny Mike's bar (again!) and a first-year

Red-breasted Flycatcher at Mary Mac's – the only record of the year.

Eight Turnstones were on the beach at the fish farm the next day and three '*coburnii*' Redwings were photographed near Paddy Timsey's. A very elusive Dusky Warbler was found in the Youth Hostel garden on the 29th, but gave everyone other than the finder the runaround! Five Black Redstarts were also present, mainly close to the village, and a Yellow-browed Warbler was near the Post Office.

The last day of census, 30th October, saw a second-winter Glaucous Gull feeding with other gulls, crows and Ravens near the Post Office. There was also a new Snow Bunting near the crossroads, three Black Redstarts, three Yellow-browed Warblers, two late Spotted Flycatchers, one Garden Warbler, six Blackcaps, eleven Chiffchaffs, four Fieldfares and 40 Chaffinches.

There were two tantalising glimpses of what was probably the Dusky Warbler, one in the morning in the Youth Hostel garden, where it had been found, and then in Bríd's garden mid-afternoon.

And to finish off the recording year, what could have been the same Radde's Warbler last seen at the Post Office on the 23rd was seen again, very briefly but well, in the hedge between the campsite and Bríd's garden on 4th November.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST OF THE BIRDS

This list follows the sequence and nomenclature of the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) World Bird List (version 9): Gill F & D Donsker (Eds). 2019. IOC World Bird List (v9.1). doi 10.14344/IOC.ML.9.1.

A total of 155 species was recorded on Cape Clear in 2022, with one new species, Citrine Wagtail, being added to the island list, which now stands at an impressive 328.

---

**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*  
(Gé Ghobghearr)

Two birds were seen along the Low Road on 28th September – Cape's second only record of the species.

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*  
(Eala Bhalbh)

Rare visitor. Only one record this year: two birds were seen flying into the island in early October before dying, almost immediately. They were presumed to be victims of the bird flu outbreak.

**Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*  
(Seil-lacha)

Rare visitor. A pair that had spent the last few winters on Cape were seen on the lake again in the spring. They are likely one of the Calf Islands or Sherkin Island breeding pairs.

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*  
(Spadalach)

Rare visitor. Singles were recorded on the lake on 27th March, 28-30th May, 17th September and the 4th, 19th and 24th October.



Gadwall, Lough Errul, 13th September 2022 (Steve Wing)

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*  
(Gadual)

Rare visitor. A single bird was recorded on the lake on

17-18th and 29th August and on the 8th, 13th, 19-20th, 22nd and 25-26th September. Two were seen there on 29th September.

**Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope*  
(Rualacha)

Rare visitor. A male on the lake on 9th May was the first record since 2016.



Eurasian Wigeon, Lough Errul, 9th June 2022 (Steve Wing)

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*  
(Mallard)

Breeds at numerous sites around the island.

**Eurasian Teal** *Anas crecca*  
(Praslacha)

Regular visitor to the lake at both ends of the season.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*  
(Lacha Bhadánach)

Rare visitor. A male was on the lake from 25th to 30th of June, the first record since 2003.

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*  
(Scótar)

A flock of 11 was seen passing the island on 10th April, with more sightings from 26th June until 13th October. High count: 38 on 8th July.

**Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*  
(Gearg)

Very rare visitor. A single bird was flushed from the roadside near the Post Office on 14th October.

**Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*  
(Piasún)

Breeds all around the island.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*  
(Lóma Rua)

Single birds recorded from the ferry on three dates: 28th September, 3rd October, 15th October.

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*  
(Lóma Mór)

Recorded on three dates in the spring: 15th April (3), 27th April (1) and 28th April (16). Two were seen on 27th October, the only autumn record this year.

**Wilson's Storm-petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus*  
(Guairdeall Wilson)

Fifteen were seen during a pelagic boat trip on 21st August and another on 3rd September, again at sea.

**European Storm-petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*  
(Guairdeall)

Seen from shore throughout the season in small numbers, but 48 on 30th March was a good count. Over 100 were seen on a pelagic trip on 13th August.

**Northern Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*  
(Fulmaire)

Breeds in good and increasing numbers around the island's coast. Passage numbers seemed to be well down on previous years.

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis*  
(Cánóg Cory)

The first record was on 26th June (2), with 104 passing on 28th June. A good passage of 760 on 24th July was a good reward for birdwatchers from a visiting cruise ship and the volunteers who had come to guide them. A high count of 1,398 on 7th September was followed by 350 on 11th, 150 on 21st September and 161 on 3rd October.

**Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea*  
(Cánóg Dhorcha)

First record: 25th June.  
Last record: 15th October.  
High count: 81 on 3rd October.



Sooty Shearwater at sea, 18th September 2022 (Steve Wing)

**Great Shearwater** *Ardenna gravis*  
(Cánóg Mhór)

First record: 23rd July (6), with 59 the following day. Small numbers then trickled past until September 7th, with 78 that day, the 11th (15) and 21st (25). Last record: a single bird on 6th October.



Great Shearwater at sea, 18th September 2022 (Steve Wing)

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*  
(Cánóg Dhubh)

Good numbers were recorded passing daily. First record: 25th March (6). Last record: 15th October (8). High count: 9,900 on 28th June.

**Barolo Shearwater** *Puffinus baroli*  
(Cánóg Bheag)

Vagrant. A single bird was seen flying west on 30th July.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
(Spágaire Tonn)

Breeds, and seen almost daily. The first record was on 3rd April and the last on 30th October, with a high count of 18 several times in late summer.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*  
(Corr Réisc)  
Common. Seen almost daily.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*  
(Éigrit Bheag)  
Rare visitor, becoming more frequent. A single bird was seen daily from the ferry, along the coast near the fish farm, from 28th June to 4th July. A different bird was seen at the lake on three dates between 13th and 20th October.

**Northern Gannet** *Morus bassanus*  
(Gainéad)  
Common. Not seen in numbers as large as in previous years, presumably as a result of the bird flu outbreak. We had a handful of casualties wash ashore.

**European Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*  
(Sheaga)  
Common and breeds. No discernible rise or fall in numbers.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
(Broigheall, Cailleach Dubh)  
Regular. Seen throughout the year in small numbers.

**Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*  
(Coirneach)  
Very rare visitor. One was seen flying south, high over the lake on 6th September.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*  
(Spioróg)  
Common. Seen throughout the year.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*  
(Cromán na gCearc)  
Uncommon. There was a single record of a 'ringtail' (female/immature) hunting over West Bog on 23rd October.

**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*  
(Iolar Mara)  
Very rare. There was a single record of one bird seen flying over the windmills on 31st July.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*  
(Clamhán)  
Uncommon, but increasing. Recorded throughout the year, with at least one bird overwintering. Highest count: 8 on 10th July.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*  
(Rálóg Uisce)  
Common and breeds. Seen throughout the year.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*  
(Cearc Uisce)  
Uncommon. Seen irregularly throughout the year. There were unconfirmed reports of chicks being seen at the lake.

**Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*  
(Roilleach)  
Common and breeds.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*  
(Feadóg Bhuí)  
Scarce. Single records in March, April and August. Two were present on 26th September. Another two were seen on Fírbreaga from 17-24th October.

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*  
(Feadóg Chladaigh)  
Scarce. Two records this year: single birds on 28th August and 20th October, both flyovers.



Eurasian Dotterel, Wheatear Field, 7th October 2022 (Tom Shevlin)

**Eurasian Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*  
(Amadán Móinteach)  
Very rare visitor. A single bird was present on the Wheatear Field on 6th and 7th October.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*  
(Crotach Eanaigh)  
Common. Recorded in every month this year except June. Mostly in ones and twos, but a flock of 14 was seen at the east end on 7th August.

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*  
(Crotach)

Common but decreasing. First record on 1st August, then low numbers until the last record of the year, three on 26th October.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*  
(Guilbneach Stríocearrach)

Rare visitor. A single record at the east end on 30th September.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*  
(Piardálaí Trá)

Common. The only records were in October. Highest count: eight on 28th October.



Sanderling, South Harbour, 13th September 2022 (Steve Wing)

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*  
(Luathrán)

Rare visitor. The first sighted since 2007 was feeding on the tideline below the Youth Hostel on 13th September.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*  
(Breacóg)

Scarce. A flock of 14 flew past Blanan on 19th October, the only record this year.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*  
(Naoscach Bhídeach)

Scarce. Single birds were flushed from Central Bog on 3rd of April and 7th September.

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*  
(Naoscach)

Common. Seen throughout the year, with high counts of 20 on 29th April and 26 on 12th October.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*  
(Gobadán Coiteann)

Common. Seen throughout the year; mainly singles, but three were present in South Harbour on 1st August.

**Common Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*  
(Cosdeargán)

Scarce. Two records, both in August: a single bird around the lake on 11th and two there on 22nd.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*  
(Laidhrín Glas)

Scarce. Three records involving four birds: singles on 15th April and 14th October, both over North Harbour, and two on the lake on 17th August.

**Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*  
(Saidhbhéar)

Common. Passage numbers were well down on previous years. There still appears to be a roost of over 1,000 birds using the Fastnet Rock.

**Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini*  
(Sléibhín Sabine)

Rare visitor. Seawatching produced eight on 28th August, three on 29th August and one on 3rd October.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*  
(Sléibhín)

Common. The first record was on 17th August and the last on 28th October, with a high count of 151 on 26th October, feeding off the east end.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*  
(Sléibhín Meánmhuirí)

Scarce. The first record was on 18th October (3) with the odd single bird being seen until the last were recorded on 27th October (2).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*  
(Faoileán Bán)

Scarce. Single birds were seen on the 1st, 3rd and 30th October.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*  
(Droimneach Mór)

Common and breeds. No noticeable change in status.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*  
(Faoileán Glas)

Rare visitor. One record of a second-winter bird feeding on meat put out near the Post Office on 30th October.





Glaucous Gull near Post Office, 30th October 2022 (Aidan J Kelly)

**European Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*  
(Faoileán Scadán)

Common and breeds. Seen throughout the year; no noticeable change in status.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*  
(Droimneach Beag)

Common and breeds. The first record was of 18 at the lake on 14th March. Then seen in every month until end of recording season. High count of 390 on 25th June.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*  
(Geabhróg Scothdhubh)

Scarce. Seen on four dates: a single bird on 6th July, three on 1st August, one on 21st August and 10 on 2nd September.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*  
(Geabhróg)

Scarce. The only record was of three on 13th August.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*  
(Geabhróg Artach)

Scarce. Only recorded on three dates: 13th August (4), 29th August (6) and 10 on 3rd September.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*  
(Meirleach Mór)

Common. Seen in small numbers, with the first record on 10th April, the last on 14th October, and a high count of four on 11th September.

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*  
(Meirleach Pomairíneach)

Scarce. The only record was of two on 3rd October.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*  
(Meirleach Artach)

Scarce. A singleton on 28th June was the only spring/summer record. The autumn passage started on 28th August and ended on 15th October. Nine were seen on 3rd October, the highest count.

**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*  
(Meirleach Earrfhada)

Rare visitor. One was seen on 7th October.

**Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*  
(Foracha)

Common and breeds. No noticeable change in breeding numbers, but thousands were seen rafting, well offshore, on our pelagic trips post the breeding season.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*  
(Crosán)

Common and breeds. Still breeding in small numbers around the south and west coast.

**Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle*  
(Foracha Dhubh)

Common and breeds. North Harbour and the cliffs between Bullaun and the Bill are still the strongholds for the species.

**Atlantic Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*  
(Puifín)

Common. Seen offshore all summer.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*  
(Colm Aille)

Common and breeds. Birds seen all year, mainly on Mary Cadogan's roof in the early morning, from where they disperse around the island every day.

**Common Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*  
(Colm Coille)

Common and breeds. Seen in most months, usually at or near the Post Office woods.

**European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*  
(Fearán)

Scarce. Two birds were present near the lake on 4th and 5th June.

**Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*  
(Fearán Baicdhubh)

Scarce. Seen almost daily from 29th March until 18th July, with a high count of five on 28th May.

**Western Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

(Scréachóg Reilige)

Rare visitor. Single birds were seen on three dates: one taking flight from the road near Ciaran Danny Mike's on 9th September; another flushed from trees in Pat Con's driveway on 13th October. The last, also seen near Ciaran Danny Mike's, was on 27th October.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

(Ceann Cait)

Scarce. The island had its first breeding record, with a fledgling photographed in the Mass Track pines on 21st June. An adult was flushed from alongside the youngster. Many pellets were collected from the area and are being dissected and analysed for their contents.

**Common Swift** *Apus apus*

(Gabhlán Gaoithe)

Scarce. The first record was of two birds on 18th June and 10 were present the following day. Only six more were seen, with the last recorded on 10th September.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

(Cruidín, Rí lascaire)

Very rare. A single bird was flushed from ropes in North Harbour on 4th September.

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

(Húpú)

Rare. A single bird was seen flying across the Low Road on 12th April. It stayed in the general area until 20th April, being surprisingly elusive.

**Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

(Cam-mhuin)

Rare. A singleton, found on 11th September near the lake, stayed until the following day. Presumably the same bird on 16th September had relocated to the Olly Gully.

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

(Pocaire Gaoithe)

Common. A single bird stayed around the High Road for six days in mid-April; there wasn't another record until 9th July. Seen almost daily from then until 30th October, with a high count of four on 15th September.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

(Meirliún)

Scarce. A single spring record on 3rd May was followed by two on 28th August, two on 29th September and then singles up to 29th October.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

(Fabhcún Gorm)

Scarce but breeds. One pair successfully fledged two chicks.

**Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica*

(Snag Breac)

Common and breeds. Present in good numbers.

**Red-billed Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

(Cág Cosdearg)

Common and breeds. Seen daily throughout the year, with the island population remaining stable at around 18 birds. We are visited by other local populations, with daily totals increasing to the early 30s on occasion.

**Western Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

(Cág)

Common and breeds. The island population remains stable.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

(Rúcach)

Scarce. A record of one on 26th June was a very rare summer visitor. More usual were the autumn birds from 13th September until 24th October, with a high count of 30 on 8th October, an unusually high figure for Cape.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*

(Caróg Liath)

Common and breeds. A stable population, with an obvious increase seen during October.

**Northern Raven** *Corvus corax*

(Fiach Dubh)

Common and breeds. At least four pairs successfully bred this year. A small passage on 11th and 12th October saw as many as 38 birds on the island.

**Eurasian Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

(Meantán Gorm)

Common and breeds. The population appears to be stable, with the expected increase every autumn.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

(Meantán Mór)

Common and breeds. As with Blue Tit, the island population remains stable, with the usual increase seen during the autumn months.



Radde's Warbler near the Post Office, 14th October 2022 (Tom Shevlin)

**Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*  
(Fuiseog)

Common and breeds. Ballyieragh and the Red Route remain the best places to see and hear this species. Large numbers moved through during October, with counts of 60 on 8th, 31 on 10th and a peak of 110 on 19th.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*  
(Gabhlán Gainimh)

Common. Spring passage lasted from 11th April until 2nd May, with a high count of 12 on 26th April. Two on 4th September heralded the start of the return passage, which ended on 15th October. The highest count was 30 on 8th October.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*  
(Fáinleog)

Common and breeds. First recorded on 11th April and seen daily until the last were recorded on 23rd October. The spring high count was 120+ on 28th April, while the autumn high was 150+ on 11th August.

**Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*  
(Gabhlán Binne)

Common and breeds. No noticeable change in status. It is nice to see that they are still cliff-nesting near the outfall of the lake; they are also prospecting the cliffs near the old lighthouse.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*  
(Meantán Earrfhada)

A single record of a lone bird on 11th October was a most unusual record for a normally gregarious species.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*  
(Ceolaire Coille)

Very rare. A cracking individual was present around Mary Mac's from 18th to 21st August.

**Yellow-browed Warbler**  
*Phylloscopus inornatus*

(Ceolaire Buímhalach)  
Rare. The first record was of three on 4th October, and the last, also of three birds, was on 30th October, with a high count of five on the 22nd.

**Radde's Warbler** *Phylloscopus schwarzi*  
(Ceolaire Radde)

Vagrant. One found near the Post Office gate on 14th October was only the seventh Cape record; it stayed around the area until the 23rd. It or a second bird (possibly an eight Cape record) was seen briefly in the hedge between the campsite and Bríd's garden on 4th November.

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus*  
(Ceolaire Breacdhórcha)

Vagrant. One very elusive individual was found in the Youth Hostel Garden on 29th October – only the fifth Cape record.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*  
(Ceolaire Sailí)

Common and breeds. Spring passage began on 3rd April, with a spring high count of 40 on 11th April. The last record was of a very late individual on 28th October. The autumn high count was of 14 on 11th August.

**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*  
(Tiuf-teaf)

Common. Spring passage started on 24th March, with records almost daily until mid-June and a spring high of 20 on 11th April. The autumn passage began on 2nd August, with the last record on 30th October and a high of 40 on 10th October.

**'Tristis' Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus c. tristis*

One Chiffchaff of the *tristis* subspecies was seen in Michael Vincent's garden on 17th and 18th April. Another was seen in Cotter's Garden on 21st October and stayed in the area until the 25th.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*  
(Ceolaire Cíbe)

Common and breeds. The first of the year appeared on 18th April, with the last leaving on 24th September. The spring high count was 24 on 24th May, while the autumn high was 12 on 11th August.

**Eurasian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*  
(Ceolaire Giolcaí)

Scarce. Two long-staying individuals were recorded this year. One stayed in the Nordy Wood from 12th to 23rd September, while the second moved between Mary Cadogan's garden and the Trawkieran bushes from 19th to 30th October.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*  
(Ceolaire Casarnaí)

Scarce and has bred. Only two records this year, both of single birds: one was present on 1st May in the Nordy Wood; the second was seen there on 2nd August.

**Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*  
(Caipín Dubh)

Common and breeds. The spring migration started around the beginning of March and petered out in the middle of June; the spring high count was nine on 13th April. The autumn passage started in mid-September, the autumn high count was 51 on 19th October, and the last record was on 30th October.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*  
(Ceolaire Garraí)

Scarce. A single bird was seen in Cotter's Garden on 22nd June, staying for only one day. The next record was on 12th September, with that bird staying until joined by a second on 20th. The last record was of a very late bird on 30th October.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*  
(Gilphíb Bheag)

Rare. All records fell between the 9th and 19th October, with a high count of five on the 14th.

**Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*  
(Gilphíb)

Common and breeds. Spring passage started with two on 21st April. There were good numbers throughout the summer, with up to 35 on 30th May. The last record was of one on 10th October.

**Western Subalpine Warbler** *Curruca iberiae*  
(Ceolaire Fo-Alpach)

Rare visitor. An adult male was found in Michael Vincent's on 15th April.

**Common Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*  
(Lasairchíor)

Scarce. All records fell between the 9th and 23rd October, with an amazing high count of 12 on the 10th.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*  
(Cíorbhuí)

Common and breeds in small numbers. Very few spring records, with a high count of only four on several dates. The autumn passage started on 4th September and continued until recording finished on 30th October, with a high count of 51 on 1st October.

**Eurasian Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*  
(Dreoilín)

Common and breeds. Seen throughout the year.



Common Firecrest, Cumar (The Waist), October 2022 (Tom Shevlin)

**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*  
(Druid)

Common and breeds. Seen in every month, with a large increase in numbers in the autumn.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*  
(Lon Creige)

Scarce. A male was seen briefly in Mary Cadogan's garden on 10th April, with a flyover on 28th, above the High Road. One was also seen flying over the High Road on 8th October, while two birds were at different locations along the Lighthouse Road on 20th October.

**Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*  
(Lon Dubh)

Common and breeds. No noticeable change in breeding status. A big fall of thrushes in the middle of October included 150+ Blackbirds on the 21st.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*  
(Sacán)

Common. The first record of an incredible autumn fall came on 20th October, with an estimated 800+ birds counted on the island. The following four days had 900, 600+, 1,000+ and then 350+ as numbers fell. It has been a long time since Cape experienced such numbers.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*  
(Deargán Sneachta)

Common. Also involved in the big fall of thrushes, the first record was on 18th October, when six were seen, with a high count of 80 on 20th. Still present in small numbers at the end of the month.

**'Coburnii' Redwing** *Turdus iliacus coburnii*

Three Redwings of the Icelandic *coburnii* subspecies were seen near the fish farm on 28th October.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*  
(Smólach Ceoil)

Common and breeds. Seen throughout the year, with a spring high count of 18 noted on 28th May. A high count of 30 on 8th October was the best in the autumn.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*  
(Smólach Mór)

Scarce. A single bird on 10th October and three on 27th October were the only records.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*  
(Cuilire Liath)

Common. The first of the year was on 10th May, while the last were two on 30th October, with a high count of 13 on 12th October.

**European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*  
(Spideog)

Common and breeds. Present throughout the year, with a marked increase observed during the autumn. The high count of 200+ on 19th September was probably a vast underestimate.

**European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*  
(Cuilire Alabhreac)

Scarce. The first of the year was found in Cotter's Garden on 14th August, where it remained until 18th. Three were present on 11th September (two in Michael Vincent's garden and one in Cotter's), then singles on six dates up to 22nd September.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parve*  
(Cuilire Broinnrua)

Rare visitor. One found at Mary Mac's on 27th October.



Black Redstart, Graveyard, North Harbour, 1st November 2022  
(Steve Wing)

**Black Redstart**

*Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*  
(Earrdheargán Dubh)

Scarce. The first of the spring was a female in Michael Vincent's garden on 21st March; two more were seen in Lissamona on 27th. Two different birds were along the Lighthouse Road on 28th and 29th, while yet another was around the Observatory on 31st March and 1st April. Autumn passage started on 18th October and was still ongoing on 30th October, with high counts of five on both 19th and 29th.

**Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

(Earrdheargán)

Scarce. Two were present in Michael Vincent's garden on 11th September, with another there on the 20th. One was seen briefly near the Master's House on 11th October. The last record was of one near the lake on 22nd and 23rd October.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*  
(Caislín Aitinn)

Scarce. One near the lake on 14th May was the only spring record. The autumn passage had two in the West Bog paddocks on 2nd September, with one still there the following day. A single bird was seen feeding along hedgerows close to Paddy Timsey's on 13th September, and two more were recorded on 17th September. One was around the Observatory from 10th to 12th October and the last record was on 22nd October.

**European Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*  
(Caislín Cloch)

Common and breeds. It was recorded in good numbers throughout the year, with a big increase during the autumn and a high count of 100+ on 13th October.

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*  
(Clochrán)

Common and breeds. Two males on 14th March were the first of the spring. Seen in good numbers throughout the year until 12th October, with a high count of 18 on 19th June.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*  
(Gealbhan Binne)

Common and breeds. Numbers appear to be fairly constant.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*  
(Gealbhan Crainn)

Rare. The only record was of two birds trapped and ringed during a CES session on 27th May – the first ever ringed on Cape.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*  
(Donnóg)

Common and breeds. Seen throughout the year, with a high count of 100+ on 10th October.



Citrine Wagtail, Central Bog, 6th September 2022 (Steve Wing)

**Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*  
(Glasóg Bhuí)

Rare. The first record was on 4th September, when two flew over the Post Office. There were three seen on the 9th September and one on the 16th.

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*  
(Glasóg Chiotrónach)

Vagrant. One was found at the bottom of Central Bog on 6th September – the first Cape record! It stayed on the island until the 12th.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*  
(Glasóg Liath)

Common. Seen in small numbers irregularly throughout the year.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrellii*  
(Glasóg Shráide)

Common and breeds. Seen throughout the year. The highest count was of 46 on 1st October.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*  
(Riabhóg Mhóna)

Common and breeds. Seen in every month in good numbers, with a high count of 350+ on 8th October.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*  
(Riabhóg Choille)

Rare. One calling over Ballyieragh on 10th April. Another reported by a visiting birder on 29th August.

**Eurasian Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*  
(Riabhóg Chladaigh)

Common and breeds. Present throughout the year and much more obvious during and after big storms, when they are forced up onto the top of the island. It would be fascinating to see what a comprehensive breeding survey of this species on Cape might reveal.

**Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*  
(Rí Rua)

Common. The first spring record was on 14th March (6) and the last on 22nd May (1). The autumn passage, always busier, started on 19th September (2) and continued until the end of the recording season, with a high count of 500+ on 20th and 21st October, when all the thrushes arrived.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*  
(Breacán)

Scarce. A spell of cold weather in early March brought a small influx to Mary Cadogan's feeders, with a high count of 15 on 21st. The only autumn record within the recording period was of one on 30th September.



Snow Bunting, Lough Errul, 17th October 2022 (Steve Wing)

**Eurasian Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*  
(Corcrán Coille)

Scarce. A single record of two birds on 9th October.

**European Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*  
(Glasán Darach)

Common and breeds. Present in small numbers throughout the year, with a high count of 18 noted on 13th April.

**Common Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*  
(Gleoiseach)

Common and breeds. Seen throughout the year, but with an obvious increase during autumn: a high count of 200+ was noted on 10th September.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea cabaret*  
(Deargéadan)

Scarce. A single bird was present on 17th and 18th September, and a flock of 15 appeared on 8th October. The last record, of two birds, was on 19th October.

**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*  
(Crosghob)

Rare. The only record was of a singleton over the High Road on 8th October.

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*  
(Lasair Choille)

Common and breeds. Present throughout the year with an obvious peak in numbers in the autumn. The highest count of 200+ on 21st October coincided with the previously noted fall of thrush and finch species.

**Eurasian Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*  
(Siscín)

Common. Present in small numbers in spring, but essentially an autumn visitor. The autumn high count was of 200+ on 19th October.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*  
(Gealóg Shneachta)

Rare. One was present at Mary Mac's garden from 16th to 21st October. Another was found at the crossroads, feeding on newly scattered grass seed, on 30th October.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*  
(Gealóg Bheag)

Vagrant. A single bird was found on 22nd October, feeding near Mary Mac's. It stayed until the 25th, flitting between there and Michael Vincent's land.

**Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*  
(Gealóg Thuathúil)

Vagrant. One was found in a potato patch on the Lighthouse Road, along with hundreds of finches, on 21st October. It stayed there until the following day.

**Common Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*  
(Gealóg Ghiolcaí)

Common and breeds. Seen in small numbers throughout the year.



# BIRD RINGING

Having spent the previous two years enduring Covid restrictions, we were looking forward to unlimited ringing activities in 2022. Sadly, the bird flu and a general lack of migrants in the ringing areas made that either impossible for the seabirds or not worthwhile opening the nets for the land migrants. We had planned to target European Storm-petrels in particular this year, but that will now have to wait until next year.

**Table 6.** Ringing totals for 2022, including the Constant Effort Site (CES) totals. **Note:** N = new birds ringed; S = birds subsequently recaptured; Unknown = birds of an unknown age. (This is for certain species, such as House Sparrow and Willow Warbler, where both adults and juveniles have a complete moult in the autumn, making ageing impossible. It is accepted that if you are not certain of the age, you put it down as unknown.)

Species	Adult N	Adult S	Juvenile N	Juvenile S	Pullus N	Unknown S	Total
Blackbird	7	9	15	3		1	35
Blackcap	8		41	1			50
Blue Tit	1	25	31	28			85
Chaffinch	3		3				6
Chiffchaff	30	3	9	1			43
Dunnock	4	22	32	13			71
Goldcrest	1		17	6			24
Goldfinch	20	4	17	1			42
Great Tit	3	6	14	10			33
Greenfinch	3		6				9
Grey Wagtail			1				1
Herring Gull		1			2		3
House Sparrow	12	6	5				23
Lesser Black-backed Gull		33		3	213	1	250
Linnet	5		4				9
Magpie	1						1
Meadow Pipit	3		4				7
Pied/White Wagtail			1				1
Redwing	1		1				2
Reed Bunting			1				1
Reed Warbler			1	2			3
Robin	5	21	55	24			105
Rock Dove	50	105	23	26		1	205
Sedge Warbler	12	60	27	5	1		105
Song Thrush	4	2	6			1	13
Spotted Flycatcher	1		3				4
Stonechat	3	3	24	1			31
European Storm-petrel	6						6
Swallow	4		6				10
Tree Sparrow	2						2
Wheatear			1				1
Whitethroat	6	1	5				12
Willow Warbler	10	2	17	1			30
Wren	12	25	48	12			97
Yellow-browed Warbler			1				1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1321</b>

# CES RINGING REPORT

The CES (Constant Effort Site) season went reasonably well, but fewer adult birds were trapped than normal. This was reflected in other CES sites around the BTO ringing network, but was hopefully just a blip and not a downward trend.

The East Bog was exceptionally dry this year, with so little rainfall; this could have been a factor in the reduced numbers ringed. I was able to walk around the nets in walking boots for the last few visits, when I would normally have to wear wellies. Table 7, below, shows the species trapped, with a breakdown of their age classes.

**Table 7.** Species trapped in 2022 CES ringing season, showing the numbers ringed and their age class

Species	Age Class	Number
Blackbird	Adult	5
Blackbird	Juvenile	5
Blue Tit	Adult	3
Blue Tit	Juvenile	8
Dunnock	Adult	2
Dunnock	Juvenile	3
Goldfinch	Adult	4
Goldfinch	Juvenile	7
Great Tit	Adult	2
Great Tit	Juvenile	7
Linnet	Adult	1
Linnet	Juvenile	3
Meadow Pipit	Adult	2
Reed Bunting	Juvenile	1
Robin	Adult	1
Robin	Juvenile	18
Sedge Warbler	Adult	54
Sedge Warbler	Juvenile	28
Sedge Warbler	Pullus	1
Song Thrush	Adult	1
Song Thrush	Juvenile	3
Stonechat	Adult	6
Stonechat	Juvenile	22
Swallow	Adult	2
Swallow	Juvenile	6
Tree Sparrow	Adult	2
Wheatear	Juvenile	1
Whitethroat	Adult	2
Whitethroat	Juvenile	1
Willow Warbler	Adult	1
Willow Warbler	Juvenile	4
Wren	Adult	10
Wren	Juvenile	26
<b>Total</b>		<b>242</b>

Table 8 shows the number of adults ringed in the CES each year from 2019 to 2022, highlighting the drop in numbers for most species.

**Table 8.** Numbers of adults of each species ringed in the East Bog CES from 2019 to 2022

Species / Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Blackbird	10	1	3	5
Blue Tit	3	3	2	2
Chiffchaff	2		2	
Duncock	6	1	2	2
Goldfinch		2	2	4
Great Tit	2	1	2	2
Greenfinch		1		
Lesser Redpoll		2	1	
Linnet			2	1
Meadow Pipit		1	1	2
Reed Bunting	1	2	3	
Robin	2		1	1
Sedge Warbler	34	23	34	25
Snipe			1	
Song Thrush	5			1
Stonechat	2	1	2	4
Swallow	3	3		2
Tree Sparrow				2
Whitethroat	3	1	5	5
Willow Warbler	2	1		1
Wren	5	5	7	7



CES ringing site in East Bog reedbed. You can just make out the cross line of the mist net running from left to right (*Steve Wing*)



Common Dolphin at sea off Cape Clear, 18th September 2022 (Steve Wing)

## Mammals

### **Atlantic Grey Seal** *Halichoerus grypus*

Seen throughout the year in similar numbers to previous years. The arrival of small numbers of pups on the beaches in the autumn indicated they were still breeding around the island.

### **Harbour Porpoise** *Phocoena phocoena*

Seen regularly throughout the season, with no apparent change from previous years.

### **Orca (Killer Whale)** *Orcinus orca*

One possible individual (putatively identified from photographs) was seen on a pelagic boat trip that went 12 miles (19 km) south of Cape Clear on 18th September.

### **Bottlenose Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus*

Recorded on two dates: 19th September (1) and 3rd October (5).

### **Common Dolphin** *Delphinus delphis*

The first record was on 2nd April and the last on 6th October. The highest count was of 200+ on 15th September.

### **Fin Whale** *Balaenoptera physalus*

Recorded on four dates: 3rd May (1), 29th May (1), 25th September (1) and 14th October (8+).

### **Humpback Whale** *Megaptera novaeangliae*

A single animal was recorded passing South Harbour on 3rd April.

### **Minke Whale** *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

Seen regularly throughout the season. The first was seen on 8th April and the last on 17th October. Sightings were mainly of single animals, though two were seen both on 29th April and 23rd June.

### **Long-finned Pilot Whale**

*Globicephala melas*

Sadly, the only record of this species this season was of a decomposed specimen washed ashore in South Harbour on 30th October. The head was intact, but the rest of the body had been eaten or washed clean, leaving only the vertebrae.



Dolphin species, possibly Orca, at sea off Cape Clear, 18th September 2022, with Cory's Shearwater in foreground (Steve Wing)

**Otter** *Lutra lutra*

Recorded on two dates only – 2nd April and 21st August – highlighting the species' secretive nature, as they are known to occur on Cape all year round.

**European Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Present in very high numbers. There has been a marked increase in the rabbit population over the last few years and they are beginning to cause significant soil erosion around the lake and the paddocks near West Bog.

**Brown Rat** *Rattus norvegicus*

Present throughout the year and widespread around the island.

**Bats** *Pipistrellus* species

All three nationally occurring pipistrelle species – Common, Soprano and Nathusius's – were recorded at various times during the season, with Common and Soprano being the more common.

# Butterflies

It was a good summer for butterflies, with plenty of sunshine and calm days. We recorded 19 species, as shown below with monthly totals.

## Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

A small flurry in April, with 20 on the 14th and then regularly from early August until 30th October. The highest count was 60+ on 2nd September.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
0	23	0	4	0	44	225	7	303

## Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Seen regularly throughout the season. The first record was on 26th March and the last was on 28th October. Highest count: 500+ on 19th September.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
3	53	11	12	61	321	1862	288	2611



Clouded Yellow near Lough Errul, 22nd September 2022 (Steve Wing)

## Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus*

A very scarce this year, being recorded on six days only, the records involving only five individuals (not six as shown).

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	6

## Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*

The first record was on 5th August and the last on 20th October. Highest count: 50+ on 11th August.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
0	0	0	0	0	150	99	6	255

### Peacock *Inachis io*

The first record was on 25th March and the last on 23rd October. Highest count: 25 on 11th August.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
8	17	23	0	6	54	12	25	145

### Large White *Pieris brassicae*

The first record was on 1st May and the last on 18th September. Highest count: 20 on 6th August.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
0	0	38	24	37	57	23	0	179

### Small White *Pieris rapae*

The first record was on 13th April and the last on 16th September. Highest count: 30 on 27th May.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
0	13	73	11	22	48	6	0	173

### Green-veined White *Pieris napi*

Easily confused with Small White without close examination, so the figures given for both may contain errors.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
0	2	0	0	7	0	0	0	9

### Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

The first record was on 13th April and the last on 28th May. Highest count: 12 on 26th April.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
0	20	19	0	0	0	0	0	39

### Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

One of the more commonly seen species. The first was seen on 13th April and the last on 13th October. Highest counts: 100+ on 26th and 31st August.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
0	20	70	89	70	555	162	45	1011

### Wall *Lasiommata megera*

The first record was on 13th April and the last on 23rd October. Highest count: 60+ on 16th August.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
0	2	14	0	30	256	22	22	346

### Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

A single spring record on 18th April and then records from 11th August to 17th October. Highest counts: five on 18th August and 17th September.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
0	1	0	0	0	17	15	12	45

### Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

The first record was on 19th May and the last on 5th October. Highest counts: 100+ on 17th and 18th August.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
0	0	32	14	5	289	7	1	348



Small Tortoiseshell, Cotter's Garden, 16th August 2022 (Steve Wing)

**Holly Blue** *Celastrina argiolus*

Four were recorded on 25th July and singles on 29th August and 29th September.

**Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina*

The first record was on 19th June and the last on 17th September. Highest counts: 100+ on two days in both July and August.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
0	0	0	20	540	459	1	0	1020

**Gatekeeper** *Pyronia tithonus*

Recorded on three dates: 17th July (3), 18th July (15) and 21st July (3)

**Ringlet** *Aphantopus hyperantus*

The first record was on 27th June and the last on 23rd July. Highest count: 12 on 15th July.

MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
0	0	0	1	51	0	0	0	52

**Grayling** *Hipparchia semele*

The first record was on 18th July and the last on 29th August. Highest count: 25 on 19th July.

**Dark-green Fritillary** *Speyeria aglaja*

The first record was on 4th July and the last on 9th August. High count: six on 9th July.



# Moths

Tables 9 and 10 below display the moth species caught this year.

**Table 9.** Moth species trapped, and numbers of individuals recorded, on Cape Clear Island in 2022

Taxon	Vernacular	Records	Individuals
<i>Amphipoea oculea</i> agg.	Ear Moth agg.	2	2
<i>Mesapamea secalis</i> agg.	Common Rustic agg.	18	100
<i>Oegoconia</i> sp.	An <i>Oegoconia</i> species	1	2
<i>Oligia strigilis</i> agg.	Marbled Minor agg.	1	1
<i>Micropterix aruncella</i>		1	1
<i>Micropterix calthella</i>		1	1
<i>Korscheltellus fusconebulosa</i>	Map-winged Swift	4	13
<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	Ghost Moth	1	1
<i>Heliozela resplendella</i>		1	0
<i>Psyche casta</i>		1	5
<i>Caloptilia elongella</i>		1	0
<i>Calybites phasianipennella</i>		1	1
<i>Phyllonorycter quinqueguttella</i>		1	0
<i>Ypsolopha dentella</i>	Honeysuckle Moth	2	2
<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	Diamond-back Moth	2	9
<i>Batia lambdella</i>		1	1
<i>Pleurota bicostella</i>		1	1
<i>Agonopterix liturosa</i>		2	2
<i>Neofaculta ericetella</i>		1	1
<i>Helcystogramma rufescens</i>		1	1
<i>Bryotropha senectella</i>		1	1
<i>Monochroa cytisella</i>		2	2
<i>Oxypteryx atrella</i>		1	1
<i>Coleophora saxicolella</i>		1	1
<i>Elachista canapennella</i>		2	2
<i>Mompha propinquella</i>		1	1
<i>Blastobasis adustella</i>		1	1
<i>Alucita hexadactyla</i>	Many-plumed Moth	8	9
<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>	Common Plume	2	3
<i>Zelotherses paleana</i>	Timothy Tortrix	1	1
<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>	Light Brown Apple Moth	1	1
<i>Acleris variegana</i>	Garden Rose Tortrix	1	1
<i>Acleris aspersana</i>		1	3
<i>Aethes cnicana</i>		1	1
<i>Cochylichroa atricapitana</i>		1	1
<i>Celypha lacunana</i>		3	3

Taxon	Vernacular	Records	Individuals
<i>Eucosma cana</i>		1	4
<i>Eucosma campoliliana</i>		2	2
<i>Epiblema scutulana</i>		1	1
<i>Notocelia uddmanniana</i>	Bramble Shoot Moth	1	3
<i>Cydia ulicetana</i>		2	11
<i>Sesia bembeciformis</i>	Lunar Hornet Moth	1	1
<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	Six-spot Burnet	15	274
<i>Aphomia sociella</i>	Bee Moth	2	2
<i>Phycitodes saxicola</i>		1	1
<i>Pyrausta despicata</i>		1	1
<i>Anania hortulata</i>	Small Magpie	3	3
<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	Rusty-dot Pearl	6	8
<i>Udea lutealis</i>		1	1
<i>Udea prunalis</i>		2	2
<i>Patania ruralis</i>	Mother of Pearl	1	1
<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	Rush Veneer	12	119
<i>Evergestis pallidata</i>		1	2
<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	Garden Grass-veneer	2	10
<i>Crambus perlella</i>		1	2
<i>Agriphila straminella</i>		2	1001
<i>Catoptria pinella</i>		2	2
<i>Thyatira batis</i>	Peach Blossom	4	5
<i>Habrosyne pyritoides</i>	Buff Arches	2	6
<i>Lasiocampa quercus</i>	Oak Eggar	1	1
<i>Macrothylacia rubi</i>	Fox Moth	5	60
<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>	Emperor Moth	3	4
<i>Laothoe populi</i>	Poplar Hawk-moth	5	5
<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Hummingbird Hawk-moth	34	95
<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	Elephant Hawk-moth	8	18
<i>Idaea dimidiata</i>	Single-dotted Wave	1	1
<i>Idaea biselata</i>	Small Fan-footed Wave	12	36
<i>Idaea aversata</i>	Riband Wave	2	4
<i>Scopula marginepunctata</i>	Mullein Wave	4	5
<i>Scopula immutata</i>	Lesser Cream Wave	1	1
<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	Shaded Broad-bar	1	1
<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i>	Garden Carpet	3	4
<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	15	33
<i>Xanthorhoe montanata</i>	Silver-ground Carpet	1	3
<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	Common Carpet	2	2
<i>Mesoleuca albicillata</i>	Beautiful Carpet	1	1
<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>	July Highflyer	4	4
<i>Cosmorhoe ocellata</i>	Purple Bar	4	5
<i>Eulithis prunata</i>	Phoenix	1	1
<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Small Phoenix	2	2
<i>Dysstroma truncata</i>	Common Marbled Carpet	9	25
<i>Lampropteryx suffumata</i>	Water Carpet	1	1
<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	Double-striped Pug	1	1
<i>Chloroclystis v-ata</i>	V-Pug	1	2
<i>Eupithecia nanata</i>	Narrow-winged Pug	1	1
<i>Eupithecia centaureata</i>	Lime-speck Pug	3	3
<i>Eupithecia assimilata</i>	Currant Pug	2	2
<i>Eupithecia exiguata</i>	Mottled Pug	1	3
<i>Eupithecia subfuscata</i>	Grey Pug	1	1
<i>Trichopteryx carpinata</i>	Early Tooth-striped	1	1
<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	Clouded Border	1	1



Peach Blossom, Geoff's garden, 19th August (*Chick McNally*)



Spectacle, Observatory moth trap, 8th July 2022 (*Steve Wing*)



Mullein Wave, Geoff's garden, 16th August (*Chick McNally*)



Oak Eggar, Geoff's garden, 22nd August (*Chick McNally*)



Bordered Grey, Geoff's garden, 14th August 2022 (*Chick McNally*)



Honeysuckle, Geoff's garden, 16th August (*Chick McNally*)

Taxon	Vernacular	Records	Individuals
<i>Petrophora chlorosata</i>	Brown Silver-line	6	20
<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth	9	35
<i>Epione repandaria</i>	Bordered Beauty	1	1
<i>Ennomos alniaria</i>	Canary-shouldered Thorn	1	3
<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	Early Thorn	15	26
<i>Odontopera bidentata</i>	Scalloped Hazel	1	5
<i>Crocallis elinguaris</i>	Scalloped Oak	4	4
<i>Ourapteryx sambucaria</i>	Swallow-tailed Moth	1	1
<i>Biston betularia</i>	Peppered Moth	2	3
<i>Agriopsis marginaria</i>	Dotted Border	1	2
<i>Selidosema brunnearia</i>	Bordered Grey	1	1
<i>Alcis repandata</i>	Mottled Beauty	4	8
<i>Cabera pusaria</i>	Common White Wave	2	2
<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	Common Wave	11	20
<i>Pseudoterpna pruinata</i>	Grass Emerald	1	1
<i>Cerura vinula</i>	Puss Moth	2	2
<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>	Pebble Prominent	3	3
<i>Phalera bucephala</i>	Buff-tip	1	2
<i>Clostera pigra</i>	Small Chocolate-tip	1	1
<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>	Herald	2	2
<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>	Snout	2	2
<i>Calliteara pudibunda</i>	Pale Tussock	2	9
<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	Buff Ermine	12	141
<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	White Ermine	7	47
<i>Diaphora mendica</i>	Muslin Moth	2	2
<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	Ruby Tiger	2	2
<i>Arctia caja</i>	Garden Tiger	8	12
<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	49	309
<i>Eilema complana</i>	Scarce Footman	9	24
<i>Herminia grisealis</i>	Small Fan-foot	1	1
<i>Schrankia costaestrigalis</i>	Pinion-streaked Snout	3	6
<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>	Spectacle	1	3
<i>Abrostola triplasia</i>	Dark Spectacle	6	11
<i>Diachrysis chrysitis</i>	Burnished Brass	1	1
<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Silver Y	4	4
<i>Protodeltote pygarga</i>	Marbled White Spot	1	1
<i>Acronicta cinerea</i>	Sweet Gale Moth	2	2
<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Knot Grass	4	14
<i>Stilbia anomala</i>	Anomalous	2	3
<i>Xylocampa areola</i>	Early Grey	3	8
<i>Bryopsis muralis</i>	Marbled Green	3	4
<i>Hoplodrina octogenaria</i>	Uncertain	2	8
<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Rustic	4	8
<i>Rusina ferruginea</i>	Brown Rustic	1	3
<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>	Angle Shades	11	14
<i>Euplexia lucipara</i>	Small Angle Shades	8	10
<i>Gortyna flavago</i>	Frosted Orange	1	1
<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Rosy Rustic	18	70
<i>Luperina testacea</i>	Flounced Rustic	18	169
<i>Denticucullus pygmina</i>	Small Wainscot	10	22
<i>Apamea remissa</i>	Dusky Brocade	1	8



Black Rustic, Old Lighthouse, 8th October (*Dara Fitzpatrick*)



Six-striped Rustic, Geoff's garden, 7th August (*Chick McNally*)



Crescent Dart, Geoff's garden, 19th August (*Chick McNally*)



Pebble Prominent, Geoff's garden, 11th August (*Chick McNally*)



Marbled Green, Geoff's garden, 16th August (*Chick McNally*)



Dark Sword-grass, Geoff's garden, 14th August (*Chick McNally*)

Taxon	Vernacular	Records	Individuals
<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	Dark Arches	25	120
<i>Apamea lithoxylaea</i>	Light Arches	3	3
<i>Litoligia literosa</i>	Rosy Minor	9	21
<i>Mesoligia furuncula</i>	Cloaked Minor	2	2
<i>Oligia fasciuncula</i>	Middle-barred Minor	3	10
<i>Lithophane socia</i>	Pale Pinion	1	2
<i>Aporophyla nigra</i>	Black Rustic	1	1
<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>	Common Quaker	1	1
<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	Hebrew Character	2	2
<i>Cerapteryx graminis</i>	Antler Moth	6	10
<i>Lacanobia contigua</i>	Beautiful Brocade	1	1
<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>	Bright-line Brown-eye	13	43
<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	Dot Moth	2	2
<i>Ceramica pisi</i>	Broom Moth	6	10
<i>Hada nana</i>	Shears	1	1
<i>Sideridis rivularis</i>	Campion	11	16
<i>Sideridis reticulata</i>	Bordered Gothic	5	8
<i>Sideridis reticulata hibernica</i>	Bordered Gothic	2	2
<i>Conisania andalusica</i>	Barrett's Marbled Coronet	1	1
<i>Hadena bicruris</i>	Lychnis	6	21
<i>Hadena caesia</i>	Grey	2	2
<i>Hadena perplexa</i>	Tawny Shears	11	36
<i>Hadena perplexa perplexa</i>	Tawny Shears	1	1
<i>Mythimna pallens</i>	Common Wainscot	1	2
<i>Mythimna impura</i>	Smoky Wainscot	10	24
<i>Mythimna ferrago</i>	Clay	10	18
<i>Leucania comma</i>	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	1	1
<i>Peridroma saucia</i>	Pearly Underwing	1	1
<i>Euxoa tritici</i>	White-line Dart	2	4
<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	Heart and Dart	11	122
<i>Agrotis segetum</i>	Turnip Moth	4	7
<i>Agrotis trux</i>	Crescent Dart	3	5
<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	Dark Sword-grass	6	13
<i>Axylia putris</i>	Flame	9	49
<i>Ochroleura plecta</i>	Flame Shoulder	27	201
<i>Diarsia brunnea</i>	Purple Clay	1	1
<i>Diarsia mendica</i>	Ingrailed Clay	3	3
<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Small Square-spot	18	62
<i>Cerastis rubricosa</i>	Red Chestnut	3	4
<i>Lycophotia porphyrea</i>	True Lover's Knot	27	190
<i>Standfussiana lucerneae</i>	Northern Rustic	4	8
<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	17	54
<i>Noctua comes</i>	Lesser Yellow Underwing	12	73
<i>Noctua interjecta</i>	Least Yellow Underwing	4	20
<i>Noctua janthe</i>	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	17	171
<i>Xestia baja</i>	Dotted Clay	4	4
<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	Square-spot Rustic	12	146
<i>Xestia sexstrigata</i>	Six-striped Rustic	2	4
<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	Setaceous Hebrew Character	7	19
<i>Xestia triangulum</i>	Double Square-spot	1	1
<i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	Autumnal Rustic	1	1

**Table 10.** Moth species and totals for 2020 and 2021

Taxon	Vernacular	2020	2021
<i>Acleris ferrugana/notana</i>			
<i>Acleris laterana/comariana</i>			
<i>Amphipoea oculea</i> agg.	Ear Moth agg.		
<i>Mesapamea secalis</i> agg.	Common Rustic agg.	63	1
<i>Oegoconia</i> sp.	An <i>Oegoconia</i> species		
<i>Oligia strigilis</i> agg.	Marbled Minor agg	1	4
<i>Micropterix aruncella</i>			
<i>Micropterix calthella</i>			2
<i>Korscheltellus lupulina</i>	Common Swift		
<i>Korscheltellus fusconebulosa</i>	Map-winged Swift		7
<i>Phymatopus hecta</i>	Gold Swift		
<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	Ghost Moth		2
<i>Stigmella salicis</i>			1
<i>Stigmella aurella</i>			
<i>Bohemannia pulverosella</i>			
<i>Heliozela resplendella</i>			
<i>Cauchas rufimitrella</i>		1	
<i>Incurvaria oehlmanniella</i>			
<i>Incurvaria praelatella</i>			1
<i>Psyche casta</i>			4
<i>Tinea pellionella</i>	Case-bearing Clothes Moth		
<i>Tinea pallescentella</i>	Large Pale Clothes Moth		
<i>Monopis laevigella</i>	Skin Moth		
<i>Monopis crocicapitella</i>			
<i>Psychoides filicivora</i>			
<i>Caloptilia elongella</i>			
<i>Aspilapteryx tringipennella</i>		1	
<i>Calybites phasianipennella</i>			
<i>Phyllonorycter rajella</i>			
<i>Phyllonorycter quinqueguttella</i>			
<i>Phyllonorycter trifasciella</i>			
<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i>	Bird-cherry Ermine		
<i>Ypsolopha dentella</i>	Honeysuckle Moth		
<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	Diamondback Moth	1	9
<i>Glyphipterix thrasonella</i>			
<i>Glyphipterix simpliciella</i>	Cocksfoot Moth		1
<i>Glyphipterix schoenicolella</i>			
<i>Argyresthia pygmaeella</i>			1
<i>Argyresthia conjugella</i>	Apple Fruit Moth		
<i>Argyresthia pruniella</i>	Cherry Fruit Moth		
<i>Argyresthia albistria</i>			
<i>Endrosis sarcitrella</i>	White-shouldered House-moth		
<i>Hofmannophila pseudospretella</i>	Brown House-moth		
<i>Borkhausenia fuscescens</i>			
<i>Batia lambdella</i>			6
<i>Pleurota bicostella</i>		1	
<i>Agonopterix liturosa</i>			
<i>Agonopterix heracliana</i>			
<i>Agonopterix umbellana</i>			
<i>Agonopterix nervosa</i>			
<i>Agonopterix yeatiana</i>			
<i>Depressaria radiella</i>	Parsnip Moth	2	
<i>Cosmopterix orichalcea</i>			

Taxon	Vernacular	2020	2021
<i>Aproaerema anthyllidella</i>			
<i>Neofaculta ericetella</i>			1
<i>Anarsia spartiella</i>			
<i>Helcystogramma rufescens</i>		2	
<i>Chrysoesthia sexguttella</i>			
<i>Bryotropha senectella</i>			
<i>Monochroa cytisella</i>			4
<i>Oxypteryx atrella</i>			
<i>Mirificarma mulinella</i>			1
<i>Scrobipalpa obsoletella</i>			
<i>Caryocolum vicinella</i>			
<i>Teleiopsis diffinis</i>			1
<i>Coleophora deauratella</i>			
<i>Coleophora mayrella</i>			1
<i>Coleophora albicosta</i>			
<i>Coleophora lassella</i>			1
<i>Coleophora saxicolella</i>			
<i>Elachista argentella</i>			3
<i>Elachista atricomella</i>		17	2
<i>Elachista canapennella</i>			3
<i>Mompha propinquella</i>			
<i>Blastobasis adustella</i>		16	1
<i>Blastobasis lacticolella</i>			
<i>Alucita hexadactyla</i>	Many-plumed Moth	1	
<i>Platyptilia gonodactyla</i>	Triangle Plume		
<i>Amblyptilia acanthadactyla</i>	Beautiful Plume		
<i>Pterophorus pentadactyla</i>	White Plume		
<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>	Common Plume		3
<i>Schreckensteinia festaliella</i>			
<i>Epermenia chaerophyllella</i>			
<i>Anthophila fabriciana</i>			
<i>Archips rosana</i>	Rose Tortrix		1
<i>Pandemis cerasana</i>	Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix		1
<i>Pandemis heparana</i>	Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix		
<i>Syndemis musculana</i>			
<i>Lozotaenia forsterana</i>			2
<i>Zelotherses paleana</i>	Timothy Tortrix		
<i>Aphelia viburnana</i>	Bilberry Tortrix		
<i>Clepsis consimilana</i>			
<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>	Light Brown Apple Moth		1
<i>Eana penziana</i>			3
<i>Cnephasia incertana</i>	Light Grey Tortrix		1
<i>Acleris laterana</i>			2
<i>Acleris rhombana</i>	Rhomboid Tortrix		
<i>Acleris variegana</i>	Garden Rose Tortrix		
<i>Acleris aspersana</i>			
<i>Acleris hastiana</i>			
<i>Acleris hyemana</i>			
<i>Hysterophora maculosana</i>			
<i>Agapeta hamana</i>			
<i>Eupoecilia angustana</i>			



Taxon	Vernacular	2020	2021
<i>Aethes francillana</i>			
<i>Aethes cnicana</i>			
<i>Aethes rubigana</i>			1
<i>Neocoehylis dubitana</i>			
<i>Cochylichroa atricapitana</i>		13	
<i>Orthotaenia undulana</i>			
<i>Hedya nubiferana</i>	Marbled Orchard Tortrix		1
<i>Hedya pruniana</i>	Plum Tortrix		
<i>Celypha cespitana</i>		2	9
<i>Lobesia littoralis</i>			2
<i>Endothenia marginana</i>			
<i>Endothenia quadrimaculana</i>			
<i>Bactra lancealana</i>		1	3
<i>Ancylis badiana</i>		4	2
<i>Spilonota ocellana</i>	Bud Moth		
<i>Epinotia trigonella</i>			
<i>Epinotia immundana</i>			
<i>Crociosema plebejana</i>			
<i>Eucosma cana</i>			6
<i>Eucosma campoliliana</i>			3
<i>Epiblema scutulana</i>			2
<i>Notocelia cynosbatella</i>			
<i>Notocelia uddmanniana</i>	Bramble Shoot Moth	1	7
<i>Cydia ulicetana</i>		5	1
<i>Lathronympha strigana</i>			1
<i>Pammene populana</i>			
<i>Pammene gallicana</i>			
<i>Sesia bembeciformis</i>	Lunar Hornet Moth		
<i>Pyropteron muscaeformis</i>	Thrift Clearwing		
<i>Adscita statices</i>	Forester		
<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	Six-spot Burnet		
<i>Aphomia sociella</i>	Bee Moth	4	1
<i>Matilella fusca</i>			
<i>Delplanqueia dilutella</i>		1	2
<i>Myelois circumvoluta</i>	Thistle Ermine	1	
<i>Phycitodes binaevella</i>			
<i>Phycitodes saxicola</i>			
<i>Loxostege sticticalis</i>		1	
<i>Pyrausta despicata</i>			
<i>Uresiphita gilvata</i>			
<i>Anania fuscalis</i>			
<i>Anania hortulata</i>	Small Magpie	7	4
<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	Rusty-dot Pearl	4	21
<i>Udea lutealis</i>		2	
<i>Udea prunalis</i>		6	
<i>Patania ruralis</i>	Mother of Pearl	1	
<i>Spoladea recurvalis</i>			
<i>Palpita vitrealis</i>			2
<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	Rush Veneer	1	3
<i>Evergestis forficalis</i>	Garden Pebble		1

Taxon	Vernacular	2020	2021
<i>Evergestis pallidata</i>			
<i>Scoparia subfusca</i>			1
<i>Eudonia lacustrata</i>		2	
<i>Eudonia angustea</i>		3	
<i>Eudonia truncicolella</i>			
<i>Eudonia mercurella</i>		7	1
<i>Eudonia pallida</i>		2	
<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	Garden Grass-veneer	3	12
<i>Crambus pascuella</i>			2
<i>Crambus perlella</i>			2
<i>Agriphila tristella</i>		2	
<i>Agriphila inquinatella</i>			1
<i>Agriphila straminella</i>		4	
<i>Agriphila geniculea</i>			
<i>Catoptria pinella</i>		1	
<i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>	Brown China-mark		1
<i>Donacaula forficella</i>			1
<i>Thyatira batis</i>	Peach Blossom	1	4
<i>Habrosyne pyritoides</i>	Buff Arches		13
<i>Lasiocampa quercus</i>	Oak Eggar		
<i>Macrothylacia rubi</i>	Fox Moth	12	1
<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>	Emperor Moth	7	
<i>Smerinthus ocellata</i>	Eyed Hawk-moth	1	
<i>Laothoe populi</i>	Poplar Hawk-moth	6	2
<i>Agrius convolvuli</i>	Convolvulus Hawk-moth		1
<i>Acherontia atropos</i>	Death's-head Hawk-moth		
<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Hummingbird Hawk-moth		1
<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	Elephant Hawk-moth	12	21
<i>Idaea subsericeata</i>	Satin Wave	1	1
<i>Idaea dimidiata</i>	Single-dotted Wave	14	2
<i>Idaea biselata</i>	Small Fan-footed Wave	20	
<i>Idaea aversata</i>	Riband Wave	4	4
<i>Idaea aversata ab. remutata</i>	Riband Wave [non-banded form]		
<i>Scopula marginepunctata</i>	Mullein Wave		2
<i>Scopula immutata</i>	Lesser Cream Wave		
<i>Scopula floslactata</i>	Cream Wave	1	
<i>Cyclophora linearia</i>	Clay Triple-lines		
<i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>	Vestal	1	
<i>Scotopteryx mucronata</i>	Lead Belle		
<i>Scotopteryx luridata</i>	July Belle		2
<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	Shaded Broad-bar		
<i>Orthonama vittata</i>	Oblique Carpet		
<i>Nycterosea obstipata</i>	Gem		5
<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i>	Garden Carpet	8	1
<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	7	
<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>	Flame Carpet		
<i>Xanthorhoe montanata</i>	Silver-ground Carpet	1	
<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>	Yellow Shell		
<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	Common Carpet	2	4
<i>Euphyia biangulata</i>	Cloaked Carpet		
<i>Euphyia unangulata</i>	Sharp-angled Carpet		
<i>Mesoleuca albicillata</i>	Beautiful Carpet		3
<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>	July Highflyer	2	4

Taxon	Vernacular	2020	2021
<i>Hydriomena ruberata</i>	Ruddy Highflyer	2	
<i>Thera britannica</i>	Spruce Carpet		3
<i>Thera obeliscata</i>	Grey Pine Carpet		1
<i>Plemyria rubiginata</i>	Blue-bordered Carpet		
<i>Cosmorhoe ocellata</i>	Purple Bar	3	2
<i>Eulithis prunata</i>	Phoenix		
<i>Eulithis testata</i>	Chevron		
<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Small Phoenix		
<i>Chloroclysta siterata</i>	Red-Green Carpet		
<i>Dysstroma truncata</i>	Common Marbled Carpet	2	14
<i>Dysstroma citrata</i>	Dark Marbled Carpet		1
<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	Green Carpet	1	7
<i>Colostygia multistrigaria</i>	Mottled Grey		
<i>Lampropteryx suffumata</i>	Water Carpet	2	1
<i>Rheumaptera undulata</i>	Scallop Shell		
<i>Perizoma alchemillata</i>	Small Rivulet		
<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	Double-striped Pug	11	1
<i>Chloroclystis v-ata</i>	V-Pug		3
<i>Pasiphila rectangulata</i>	Green Pug		1
<i>Eupithecia tenuiata</i>	Slender Pug		
<i>Eupithecia pulchellata</i>	Foxglove Pug	4	2
<i>Eupithecia venosata</i>	Netted Pug	2	
<i>Eupithecia dodoneata</i>	Oak-tree Pug		
<i>Eupithecia nanata</i>	Narrow-winged Pug	9	
<i>Eupithecia centaureata</i>	Lime-speck Pug	6	
<i>Eupithecia absinthiata</i>	Wormwood Pug		1
<i>Eupithecia assimilata</i>	Currant Pug		
<i>Eupithecia vulgata</i>	Common Pug		
<i>Eupithecia exiguata</i>	Mottled Pug		
<i>Eupithecia subumbrata</i>	Shaded Pug		2
<i>Eupithecia subfuscata</i>	Grey Pug	21	1
<i>Aplocera plagiata</i>	Treble-bar		
<i>Trichopteryx carpinata</i>	Early Tooth-striped	4	
<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>	Magpie Moth		3
<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	Clouded Border	3	4
<i>Macaria liturata</i>	Tawny-barred Angle		
<i>Petrophora chlorosata</i>	Brown Silver-line	111	22
<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth	3	10
<i>Epione repandaria</i>	Bordered Beauty		
<i>Ennomos alniaria</i>	Canary-shouldered Thorn		
<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	Early Thorn	33	5
<i>Odontopera bidentata</i>	Scalloped Hazel	14	
<i>Crocallis elinguariala</i>	Scalloped Oak	2	
<i>Ourapteryx sambucaria</i>	Swallow-tailed Moth	2	3
<i>Alsophila aescularia</i>	March Moth		
<i>Biston betularia</i>	Peppered Moth	3	4
<i>Agriopsis marginaria</i>	Dotted Border	1	1
<i>Selidosema brunnearia</i>	Bordered Grey	1	
<i>Alcis repandata</i>	Mottled Beauty	3	34
<i>Cabera pusaria</i>	Common White Wave		5
<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	Common Wave		1
<i>Lomographa temerata</i>	Clouded Silver		

Taxon	Vernacular	2020	2021
<i>Hylaea fasciaria</i>	Barred Red	1	
<i>Charissa obscurata</i>	Annulet		
<i>Dyscia fagaria</i>	Grey Scalloped Bar		
<i>Pseudoterpna pruinata</i>	Grass Emerald	3	10
<i>Hemithea aestivaria</i>	Common Emerald		6
<i>Cerura vinula</i>	Puss Moth	6	1
<i>Stauropus fagi</i>	Lobster Moth		
<i>Notodonta dromedarius</i>	Iron Prominent		
<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>	Pebble Prominent	8	
<i>Ptilodon capucina</i>	Coxcomb Prominent		1
<i>Phalera bucephala</i>	Buff-tip	8	4
<i>Clostera pigra</i>	Small Chocolate-tip		
<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>	Herald		
<i>Rivula sericealis</i>	Straw Dot		1
<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>	Snout	3	6
<i>Calliteara pudibunda</i>	Pale Tussock	3	
<i>Orgyia antiqua</i>	Vapourer		
<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	Buff Ermine	48	26
<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	White Ermine	29	20
<i>Diaphora mendica</i>	Muslin Moth	128	30
<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	Ruby Tiger	2	
<i>Arctia caja</i>	Garden Tiger	3	8
<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	79	20
<i>Utetheisa pulchella</i>	Crimson Speckled		
<i>Nudaria mundana</i>	Muslin Footman		1
<i>Thumatha senex</i>	Round-winged Muslin		
<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	Common Footman	3	4
<i>Eilema complana</i>	Scarce Footman		
<i>Herminia tarsipennalis</i>	Fan-foot		
<i>Herminia grisealis</i>	Small Fan-foot		2
<i>Schrankia costaestrigalis</i>	Pinion-streaked Snout	2	16
<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>	Spectacle	4	8
<i>Abrostola triplasia</i>	Dark Spectacle	1	4
<i>Diachrysis chrysitis</i>	Burnished Brass	5	9
<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Silver Y	42	17
<i>Autographa pulchrina</i>	Beautiful Golden Y	1	1
<i>Plusia festucae</i>	Gold Spot		
<i>Protodeltote pygarga</i>	Marbled White Spot	11	3
<i>Acronicta cinerea</i>	Sweet Gale Moth	1	
<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Knot Grass	3	1
<i>Subacronicta megacephala</i>	Poplar Grey		
<i>Cucullia umbratica</i>	Shark		2
<i>Cucullia chamomillae</i>	Chamomile Shark	1	
<i>Stilbia anomala</i>	Anomalous	1	2
<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	Mouse Moth		
<i>Xylocampa areola</i>	Early Grey	3	
<i>Heliothis peltigera</i>	Bordered Straw		
<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	Scarce Bordered Straw	1	
<i>Bryopsis muralis</i>	Marbled Green		
<i>Spodoptera exigua</i>	Small Mottled Willow		
<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	Mottled Rustic		

Taxon	Vernacular	2020	2021
<i>Hoplodrina octogenaria</i>	Uncertain	4	5
<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Rustic	18	5
<i>Hoplodrina ambigua</i>	Vine's Rustic		
<i>Rusina ferruginea</i>	Brown Rustic		2
<i>Mormo maura</i>	Old Lady		
<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>	Angle Shades	42	29
<i>Euplexia lucipara</i>	Small Angle Shades	1	17
<i>Helotropha leucostigma</i>	Crescent		
<i>Gortyna flavago</i>	Frosted Orange	9	11
<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Rosy Rustic	63	6
<i>Amphipoea lucens</i>	Large Ear		
<i>Amphipoea oculea</i>	Ear Moth		
<i>Luperina testacea</i>	Flounced Rustic	28	15
<i>Rhizedra lutosa</i>	Large Wainscot		19
<i>Coenobia rufa</i>	Small Rufous		1
<i>Denticucullus pygmina</i>	Small Wainscot	38	8
<i>Globia sparganii</i>	Webb's Wainscot	1	
<i>Apamea remissa</i>	Dusky Brocade	5	3
<i>Apamea crenata</i>	Clouded-bordered Brindle	3	2
<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	Dark Arches	113	107
<i>Apamea lithoxyla</i>	Light Arches	6	5
<i>Mesapamea didyma</i>	Lesser Common Rustic		
<i>Litoligia literosa</i>	Rosy Minor	1	
<i>Mesoligia furuncula</i>	Cloaked Minor	4	1
<i>Oligia latruncula</i>	Tawny Marbled Minor		1
<i>Oligia fasciuncula</i>	Middle-barred Minor	2	3
<i>Xanthia togata</i>	Pink-barred Sallow		1
<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>	Beaded Chestnut		
<i>Leptologia lota</i>	Red-line Quaker		7
<i>Sunira circellaris</i>	Brick		
<i>Omphaloscelis lunosa</i>	Lunar Underwing	4	3
<i>Lithophane socia</i>	Pale Pinion		
<i>Xylena vetusta</i>	Red Sword-grass		
<i>Cosmia trapezina</i>	Dun-bar		
<i>Dryobotodes eremita</i>	Brindled Green		1
<i>Aporophyla nigra</i>	Black Rustic	1	37
<i>Polymixis xanthomista</i>	Black-banded		1
<i>Panolis flammea</i>	Pine Beauty	1	
<i>Orthosia incerta</i>	Clouded Drab		
<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>	Common Quaker	1	
<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	Powdered Quaker		
<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	Hebrew Character	9	2
<i>Tholera cespitis</i>	Hedge Rustic		
<i>Cerapteryx graminis</i>	Antler Moth	2	
<i>Anarta trifolii</i>	Nutmeg		
<i>Polia nebulosa</i>	Grey Arches		1
<i>Lacanobia contigua</i>	Beautiful Brocade		
<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>	Bright-line Brown-eye	28	45
<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	Dot Moth	4	4
<i>Ceramica pisi</i>	Broom Moth	21	7

Taxon	Vernacular	2020	2021
<i>Hada plebeja</i>	Shears	1	
<i>Mamestra brassicae</i>	Cabbage Moth		
<i>Sideridis rivularis</i>	Campion	6	8
<i>Sideridis reticulata</i>	Bordered Gothic	6	
<i>Sideridis reticulata hibernica</i>	Bordered Gothic		
<i>Conisania andalusica</i>	Barrett's Marbled Coronet		5
<i>Hadena bicruris</i>	Lychnis	1	
<i>Hadena caesia</i>	Grey	4	7
<i>Hadena perplexa</i>	Tawny Shears	62	19
<i>Hadena perplexa perplexa</i>	Tawny Shears		
<i>Mythimna pudorina</i>	Striped Wainscot		1
<i>Mythimna conigera</i>	Brown-line Bright-eye	1	
<i>Mythimna pallens</i>	Common Wainscot	1	2
<i>Mythimna impura</i>	Smoky Wainscot	5	
<i>Mythimna vitellina</i>	Delicate	1	1
<i>Mythimna unipuncta</i>	American Wainscot or White-speck		2
<i>Mythimna ferrago</i>	Clay	3	9
<i>Mythimna l-album</i>	L-album Wainscot		
<i>Leucania comma</i>	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	4	
<i>Leucania loreyi</i>	Cosmopolitan		
<i>Peridroma saucia</i>	Pearly Underwing		
<i>Euxoa obelisca</i>	Square-spot Dart	1	
<i>Euxoa tritici</i>	White-line Dart		
<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	Heart and Dart	71	68
<i>Agrotis segetum</i>	Turnip Moth	3	
<i>Agrotis trux</i>	Crescent Dart	9	9
<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	Dark Sword-grass	8	16
<i>Axylia putris</i>	Flame	5	56
<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	Flame Shoulder	63	46
<i>Ochropleura leucogaster</i>	Radford's Flame Shoulder		1
<i>Diarsia brunnea</i>	Purple Clay		6
<i>Diarsia mendica</i>	Ingrailed Clay	2	4
<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Small Square-spot	16	4
<i>Cerastis rubricosa</i>	Red Chestnut	15	4
<i>Lycophotia porphyrea</i>	True Lover's Knot	78	119
<i>Rhyacia simulans</i>	Dotted Rustic		
<i>Standfussiana lucerneae</i>	Northern Rustic	1	3
<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	48	41
<i>Noctua comes</i>	Lesser Yellow Underwing	29	2
<i>Noctua interjecta</i>	Least Yellow Underwing	2	
<i>Noctua janthe</i>	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	49	5
<i>Xestia baja</i>	Dotted Clay	1	3
<i>Xestia castanea</i>	Neglected Rustic	1	
<i>Xestia agathina</i>	Heath Rustic	1	2
<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	Square-spot Rustic	49	127
<i>Xestia sexstrigata</i>	Six-striped Rustic		
<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	Setaceous Hebrew Character	5	11
<i>Xestia triangulum</i>	Double Square-spot		7
<i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	Autumnal Rustic	10	13
<i>Naenia typica</i>	Gothic		



Basking Sharks, South Harbour, 29th March 2022 (Steve Wing)

## Other taxa

### Reptiles

#### **Common Lizard** *Zootoca vivipara*

Seen throughout the season, with high counts of 10 on 15th April and 13 on 26th July.

.....

### Fish

#### **Basking Shark** *Cetorhinus maximus*

The first record was on 29th March and the last on 3rd August. There were several days when three were sighted.

#### **Ocean Sunfish** *Mola mola*

Seen on four dates, all single records: 11th and 21st August and 5th and 6th September.

.....

### Jellyfish

#### **Portuguese Man o' War** *Physalia physalis*

Very few recorded this season and certainly not at the levels of recent years.

## Dragonflies

### **Emperor** *Anax imperator*

The first record was on 6th August and the last on 17th September, with a high count of six on both 17th and 18th August.

### **Common Hawker** *Aeshna juncea*

The first record was on 11th August and the last on 3rd October, with a high count of two on 19th September.

### **Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna mixta*

The first record was on 30th August and the last on 14th October, with a high count of four on 13th September.

### **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum*

The first record was on 6th August and the last on 2nd October, with a high count of five on 16th September.

.....



Common Darter, Central Bog, 6th September 2022 (Steve Wing)

## Bees

### **Large Red-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lapidarius*

Recorded on three dates: 7th July (1), 9th August (1) and 10th August (10).

### **Garden Bumblebee** *Bombus hortorum*

Recorded on the same three dates as above: 7th July (1), 9th August (1) and 10th August (10).

### **Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascuorum*

Recorded on the same three dates as above: 7th July (lots), 9th August (30) and 10th August (thousands).

### **White-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lucorum* agg.

Recorded on one date only: 10th August (1).

### **Heath Bumblebee** *Bombus jonellus*

Recorded on one date only: 10th August (2).

### **Large Carder Bee** *Bombus muscorum*

Recorded on one date only: 10th August (2).

.....

## Flies

### **Giant Tachinid Fly** *Tachina grossa*

Three specimens of the species *Tachina Grossa* were recorded on 6th July. More work needs to be done on identifying the flies that live or occur on Cape.



## NOTES

### Avian Influenza outbreak



Sick Guillemot, South Harbour, 22nd September 2022 (Steve Wing)

As stated earlier in the report, we held urgent discussions as to how the Observatory should react to the outbreak of Avian Influenza. The obvious thing to do was to cease all seabird ringing activities and anything that might contribute to spreading the disease.

We were incredibly fortunate not to witness huge numbers of dead or dying birds and I can only imagine, with horror, how wardens of seabird colonies must have been feeling during the year. The weather certainly aided our situation, with a long spell of northerly based

winds keeping most of the corpses offshore.

Many local boat owners reported finding large numbers of dead Gannets and Guillemots just a few miles out. In all, we had less than 20 bodies wash up – mostly Gannets – and that was bad enough.

Of equal concern were the two Mute Swans that were seen flying into Cape, landing in a field near the helipad and then dying. I was informed about this some time after the event and no date could be accurately given, but it would have been in early October. – **Steve Wing**

---

### Pelagic boat trip *18th September 2022*

Getting an opportunity to take new – and old – visitors to Cape out to the Fastnet Lighthouse is always a pleasure, and it was especially so on 18th September! The sea was as flat as I have ever seen it on scores of trips out there, and the eight passengers set off in high spirits.

The journey out to the lighthouse was uneventful, with just a few Fulmars, Gannets, Shags and Guillemots seen. Very few Manx Shearwaters were about, and the more experienced birders were beginning to doubt if it

was going to be a good day. Having circled the tower twice, so that newcomers could take some photographs, we headed eastwards, trying to find some birdlife. We did come across a few small groups of Gannets diving for fish, but not in anything like the numbers previous pelagics from Cape had encountered. They had all been to a spot some 12 miles (19 km) offshore and we were nowhere near that distance, so we decided to have a chat with our skipper.

At first, he seemed a little reluctant to head out that



Fastnet Lighthouse, 18th September 2022 (Steve Wing)

far, despite being very experienced and fully covered to do so. But we persuaded him and we steamed south-east for nearly an hour. As we approached a contour line of 100m, we began to see large rafts of seabirds bobbing about on the surface and, as we got closer to one of them, we could see they were nearly all Great and Sooty Shearwaters! Hundreds and hundreds of them! There were a few Manx Shearwaters in amongst them but really not that many. We moved on to another raft and it was exactly the same: Greats, Sooties and a

few Manxies, hardly any petrels and a passing Bonxie or Arctic Skua. And then the next raft... and the next... and the next! With the boat's engine cut, we could hear the Great Shearwaters calling to each other, something I have never heard before in 23 years of doing these boat trips.

The skipper called me into the wheelhouse and pointed out that under each raft of birds there was a column of fish, as could be seen on his fish finder. The column disappeared from the screen as we left a raft



Raft of Great, Sooty and Manx Shearwaters at sea, 18th September 2022 (Steve Wing)



Great Shearwater at sea, 18th September 2022 (*Steve Wing*)

behind, but then, as we approached another raft, I was called in again and – bingo! – there was another fish column on the screen!

We had several pods of Common Dolphins pay us a visit, some very large Atlantic Grey Seals, as well as at

least three Minke Whales and, not seen until going through the photographs many days later, an Orca surfacing 100 or so metres away from the boat. What an incredible experience it all was. I struggle to think I will ever get one as good again. – **Steve Wing**

---

## BirdWatch Ireland volunteers help out

We organised two weekend events in early spring to carry out some urgent habitat management work in Cotter's Garden and the Nordy Wood. Both areas had become overgrown and, in the case of Cotter's, the scrub was encroaching far too much on the garden.

Volunteers from BirdWatch Ireland's Cork Branch were the first to visit and we cut a huge amount of scrub in the Nordy Wood and tennis court, lopping most of the willows and alders down to about one metre in height.

Rather than leaving the brush in situ, everything was carried out of the wood and stacked, ready for chipping at a later date. It really was an arduous task, yet everyone kept a smile going!



Cotter's Garden, 20th January 2022 (*Steve Wing*)



The Nordy Wood, 12th January 2022 (*Steve Wing*)

While most of us worked away in the Nordy Wood that weekend, two lads went to Cotter's Garden where, armed with trimmers, they cut back the huge bramble patch that had taken over the top half of the garden. An amazing transformation of both areas!

Not to be outdone, the gang from West Cork Branch arrived a few weekends later and tackled both the lower half of Cotter's and the roadside, clearing many of the willows and Fuchsia bushes that had spread far into the garden. A few were sent to the Nordy Wood to continue

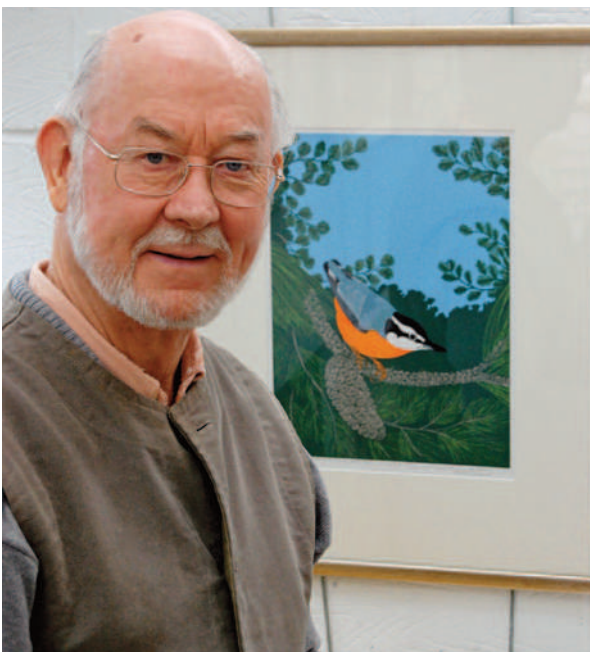
dragging cut timber out and generally tidy up.

All of the cut timber in Cotter's then had to be dragged down to the courtyard, ready for chipping. The woodchipper arrived on the Saturday afternoon and we started chipping on the Sunday morning – a noisy and not easy task!

All in all, a huge amount of work was carried out by everyone and we can't thank you all enough! We are planning to do it all again in the spring of 2023, if anyone is interested! – **Steve Wing**

---

## *In memoriam:* **Robert Gillmor (1936-2022)**



Robert Gillmor in 2010 (*Wikipedia*)

Birders who have stayed at the Obs will be familiar with the evocative Golden Oriole drawing (*pictured opposite*) by Robert Gillmor which hangs in the library where the Daily Log is called. Not all will be aware, however, that Robert, who died in May aged 85, had a long association with Cape Clear Bird Observatory.

Robert Gillmor was one of Britain's most popular and highly regarded wildlife artists and illustrators. He drew the original RSPB Avocet logo, and his vivid illustrations graced the covers of the Collins New Naturalist book series.

At the end of 1959, Robert joined the committee set up to run the newly-established Cape Clear Bird Observatory. He provided illustrations for the observatory's annual reports for many years, and the sale of prints of a Kittiwake picture he specially produced went towards providing a salary for the observatory's first paid warden, Tom Green, who together with his wife Stephanie spent almost a year on the island.

Robert also prepared a stunning set of pen-and-ink drawings for the ground-breaking *The Natural History of Cape Clear Island*, edited by JTR Sharrock and published in 1973. (A follow-up to that book was published in 2020, *The Natural History of Cape Clear 1959-2019* by Steve Wing.)

Robert lived in Cley in North Norfolk from 1998 on, and both he and Tom Green were members of Cley Bird Club. Following Robert's passing last May, Tom wrote a tribute to him on the club's website, the following extract from which describes his involvement in Cape Clear Bird Observatory:

"Perhaps less well-known will be the overall ornithological and conservation impact Robert has had beyond the UK. One significant example was in Ireland in the 1960s during the period of rapid growth in the study and enjoyment of birds. There he played a major role in the founding of Cape Clear Bird Observatory.

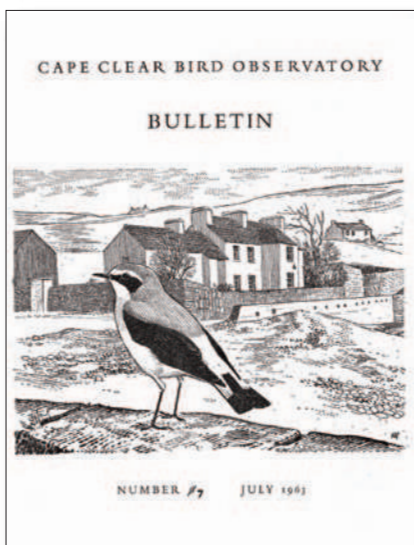
"Having been a teacher and mentor to the first group of boys from Leighton Park School who helped set up the observatory, he generously provided all the artwork for the observatory's promotional material, bulletins and annual reports for more than a decade. These ranged from line drawings to examples of his developing skill with linocuts, produced on his wonderful 1860 Albion upright flatbed platen press. These were much admired and, with his chairmanship of the observatory committee, he played a major part in setting the tone and high standard which underpinned the work of the observatory. Such direct or subliminal influence will be recognised by all who have had contact with Robert across numerous organisations.



This line drawing by Robert Gillmor of a Golden Oriole above the Waist on Cape Clear Island will be familiar to generations of birdwatchers who have stayed in the Obs, where it has graced the library wall since the 1960s (Steve Wing)

"He remembered his visits to Cape Clear in the 1960s with great affection and, as in so many other books, the images of the birds and the island provided a visual feast throughout the early T&AD Poyser classic *The Natural History of Cape Clear Island*, and later in the retrospective book *Echoes from Cape Clear*."

*Robert Allen Fitzwilliam Gillmor, bird artist, born 6th July 1936; died 8th May 2022*



Cover of July 1963 issue of *Cape Clear Bird Observatory Bulletin* with line drawing of Wheatear by Robert Gillmor. He generously provided all the artwork for the observatory's promotional material, bulletins and annual reports for more than a decade.

