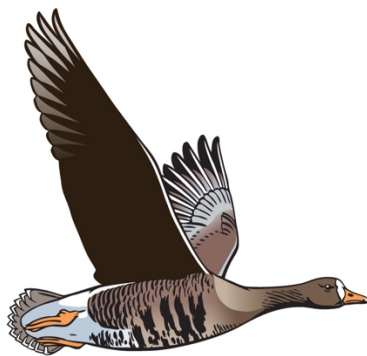


Branch Reports submitted to BirdWatch Ireland's 2023 AGM



BirdWatchIreland
protecting birds and biodiversity

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Cavan Birdwatch AGM 2023

The AGM for the Cavan branch was held on Wednesday 22nd March in the Bridge Street Centre in Cavan town (Eircode H12 WC52). The fee for room rental was €35.

1/ Introduction and welcome by chairperson Michael McKiernan

Attendance: Thomas Broe, Michael McKiernan, Simone Martelloni, Bridie Connolly, Elizabeth McKenna, Martin Connolly, Heather Bothwell, John Grogan, Seán O'Callaghan, Suzanne Kelly, Caroline Cassidy, Derek Belton, Síle Reilly

2/ Apologies: Ashley Wynne, Joan D'arcy

3/ Minutes from the previous AGM held on Thursday 25th November 2021 were read and they were adopted by Seán O'Callaghan and seconded by Heather Bothwell

4/ Matters Arising – Resolution passed that the account for the branch (#7549) will be maintained with Link Credit Union Ltd and that the Authorised Signatory Mandate would be completed before the end of March 2023.

5/ Account has a balance of €482.31 as of 22nd of March 2023.

6/ Outings and events since the last AGM

2022

9 th January	Milltown Lake, Drumlane (well attended)
13 th March	Dundalk Bay
24 th April	Annagh Woods, Ballyconnell (well attended)
8 th May	Dawn Chorus Walk in Bailieborough (well attended)
15 th May	Dawn Chorus Walk in Belturbet.
18 th September	Woodland Walk Killlykeen (well attended)
6 th October	Dundalk Bay
4 th December	Sligo Bay (poorly attended) in conjunction with Sligo Branch

2023

12 th January	Milltown Lake, Drumlane (well attended)
12 th March	Dundalk Bay

Election of Officers for 2023/2024

Chairperson:	Michael McKiernan	Vice-Chairperson:	Heather Bothwell
Secretary:	Thomas Broe	Vice-Secretary:	Derek Belton
Treasurer:	Seán O'Callaghan	Vice-Treasurer:	Elizabeth McKenna

Committee Members: Simone Martelloni, Bridie Connolly, Martin Connolly, John Grogan, Suzanne Kelly, Caroline Cassidy, Síle Reilly, Ashley Wynne

Items for discussion:

- Update of Friends of Castle Lake

Death of family of swans in the space of a week led to the establishment of Friends of Castle Lake committee. Elizabeth spoke of the great work done by www.irishwildlifematters.ie. Agreed we would signpost people to the website through social media. Also contact Oonagh Duggan to discuss the continued absence of an NPWS ranger for Cavan. Ben Malone was also praised for the great work he does.

- Lough Oughter Catchment Association

Heather spoke of the concerns raised by anglers over waterweed clogging boats along the waterways and of the importance of forging links with other outdoor enthusiasts like fishermen and gun clubs as occasionally our interests will overlap.

- Swift monitoring with particular regard to Belturbet

Caroline and Derek surveyed the town for swift nesting sites a couple of years ago and they would like to update their records this summer. It was suggested that they could contribute an article at the end of May on how they went about surveying in order to encourage groups in other towns to undertake similar surveys.

- Involvement in public consultations that the Council issue

Heather stressed the need for the branch to contribute to any consultations the Council have that might have an impact on the environment and wildlife. She stressed the importance of the Public Participation Network in having committees that liaise with the Council and they need for branch members to be involved.

- Winter waterbird numbers on lakes and shooting legal & illegal.

Michael raised concerns about the lack of waterbirds on lakes like Lough Sheelin and the affect that shooting is having. It was decided that we would contact Oonagh Duggan for a clarification of what is allowed during open season and aim to publish an article next September in conjunction with the start of shooting season.

- Update on Killyconny Bog Project

Didn't discuss in any great detail.

- Presence on social media, Timing of sending email and notice being printed in Celt.

Didn't discuss.

- Length of outings and locations

Tom queried how outings are advertised and how long they go on for. Martin said it could be intimidating and that there was a need to maybe work from a low baseline when imparting knowledge to people. The importance of an introduction at the start of each outing was also noted.

Items for discussion continued:

- Avian flu

Any sick wild bird may have avian flu. This is a consideration when contacting irishwildlifematters.

- Buzzards and misconceptions – consider letter to the Anglo-Celt (contact Eimear Rooney)

Suzanne volunteered to write an article for blog/paper.

- Anything else

Heather mentioned the sighting of a field vole near Killeshandra and the impact this may have on local barn owl populations as it an important food source for barn owls.

- Anything else

Martin asked if the North-South Interconnector would have an impact on wildlife. Michael spoke of mitigation measures that can be taken to prevent birds being electrocuted.

- Anything else

John produced a poster of garden birds in Irish which was used during Seachtain na Gaeilge and it was thought it could be useful to put on Facebook.

Close of Meeting

Clare Branch Report for BirdWatch Ireland AGM 2023

Officers

Chairperson: Stan Nugent

Secretary: Tom Lynch

Treasurer: Austin Cooney

PRO: Finbar MacGabhann

Committee: Nuala Lynch, Richard Collins, John N. Murphy, Páidí Cullinan, Ray Glynn, and Mary Collins.

The Clare Branch holds monthly outings to various locations within the county and beyond. We have close links with the Limerick Branch of BirdWatch Ireland and we host joint outings. We also help out with Burren Beo events, walks, Dusk Chorus, etc.

Some of our activities are reported on in the Clare Champion and on RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta. A documentary on Clare FM in March featured a number of Clare Branch members. It focused on birds and birdwatching in north Clare.

Our website www.clarebirdwatching.com is updated regularly. Its most active section features regular reports and photos of scarce and rare Birds in Clare and Limerick. We often send reports and photos to the Branching Out section of Wings magazine. We also offer advice on birds and nature to Clare Education Centre and a number of primary schools.

We have over €10,000 in our Bank of Ireland account.

Tom Lynch

Secretary

Clare Branch of BirdWatch Ireland

BirdWatch Ireland Cork Branch

Branch Activity Report from 15/06/2022 to 14/06/2023

With Covid restrictions lifted and hopefully now, a historical event, Cork Branch resumed our indoor activities in the last 12 months as well as undertaking a number of outdoor events and a few new projects

Events undertaken for the year as follows :

October 26th

“ The Bird That sleeps Flying” A swift presentation by Cork Branch member Noel Linehan which attracted 30 attendees

November 23rd

Authors Pat Smiddy and Mark Shorten addressed the branch about their new book “ The Birds of Cork” The culmination of 20 years of observations and scientific research it was well received and attended

December 13th

Jim Wilson. Our annual Christmas presentation by Jim was fully booked and he recounted stories and pictures from his travels as a wildlife guide in both hemispheres

December 26th

Annual Christmas walk with Tony Nagle and Branch members along the Douglas estuary

January 15th

Outing to Kilcolman Nature Reserve near Doneraile. This outdoor event attracted 50 attendees. All sorts of wildfowl on view and a few passing Raptors

February 19th

Harpers Island was the venue and what a bumper crowd turned up on a glorious day. 100 people in attendance. Tide was low so birding not great but got better as the evening wore on. Lots of new faces and quite a few from a local heritage group



March 12th

Ballynamona Strand, Ballycotton. A walk with Paul Moore and Branch members. 25 in attendance

April 2nd

Dungarvan Estuary and the Gold Coast with Waterford Birder John A. Power. All day event that was enthusiastically supported. Female Black Redstart and breeding plumage Slavonian Grebe the stars of the show

May 7th

Dawn Chorus with Branch members at Ballincollig Regional Park. About 20 turned up for the 4.15am start which was led by branch officers Tom O Driscoll and Kieran Dwane. Allan Farrell, another branch member contributed to Derek Mooney's national Dawn Chorus radio broadcast simultaneously.



Branch member Kieran Dwane also hosted a local primary school at Harpers Island as part of National Bio diversity week (Pictured)



June 10th

“ The Mangala “. Ballybrack Woods Douglas with Fresh Water Ecologist Letizia Cocchiglia. Kick sampling for invertebrates vital to the presence of Dipper and Grey Wagtail as well as a host of other species. Water quality grading demonstration. Well attended and an eye opener for sure as to the aquatic invertebrate life present at this location. A similar event took place for national bio-diversity week with Eanna Ni Lamhna amd branch members Kieran Dwane and Letizia Cocchiglia (Pictured)



Sunday May 15th Dawn Chorus at Ballincollig Regional Park (17 Attendees)

A second nest box for Sand Martin is planned for the coming 12 months following a second successive “ fully booked” season at Harpers Island. We were also involved in the erection of a Sand Martin nest box at Cuskinny nature Reserve but the Martins have not taken to it this year and we will have to wait for next year to see if it will attract more birds



Swift conservation work continued in Cobh where branch members are involved with local groups in the monitoring of artificial nest boxes on several sites in the historic town. We also embarked on a new Swift Project in conjunction with St. George’s Arts & Heritage Centre in Mitchelstown. Nest boxes were installed at St. George’s church through sponsorship co-ordinated by the branch. It is hoped to conduct a thorough study of the town’s Swift population this year with the help of local activists.

For and on behalf of the Cork Branch Committee

Conor O Keefe Paul Moore Allan Farrell

Kieran Dwane Tom O Driscoll Donal Sheehan Niall Leahy

BWI Cork Branch I & E 01/06/2022 to 31/05/2023

Opening Balance 01/06/2022 € 3,610.44

Income

Cork county Council Harpers Works Invoice # 3	€ 690.00
donations received	€ 210.00
Cork county Council Harpers Works Invoice # 4	€ 1,300.00
Calendar Sales	€ 160.00

€ 2,360.00

Expenditure

Zoom Rental (C O Keeffe)	€ 100.00
BWI Shop (Calendars)	€ 142.00
Materials Harpers Island # 3	€ 550.00
Materials Harpers Island # 4	€ 720.00
Room Rental SMA Hall	€ 150.00
Barn Owl Conservation Donation	€ 400.00

Closing Balance 31/05/2023

€ 2,062.00 € 298.00

€ 3,908.44

Donegal Branch Report for BirdWatch Ireland AGM 2023

MEETINGS DURING THE YEAR

August 13th: Blanket Nook
September 17th: Donegal Bay
October 15th: Inch Lake
November 12th: Dunfanaghy
December 10th: Fanad
January 14th: Magheroarty/Falcarragh
February 11th: Inishfree Bay
March 18th: Donegal Bay
April 15th: Blanket Nook
May 13th: Ards Country Park
June 10th: Inishbofin Island

Our local members have been regularly involved in the long term I-Webs surveys at Lough Swilly, Donegal Bay and Dunfanaghy New Lake. A member is also involved in the survey counts of Corncrake in the county.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tony Gallagher (chairperson)
Chris Ingram (secretary)
Patricia Kerr (treasurer)
Boyd Brice
John Cromie
Dennis Hawke
Ralph Sheppard

FINANCES

We have no funds at present. All our meetings are free and ferries, where practicable, are paid individually by our members. Letterkenny County Museum makes no charge for any indoor meetings.

Chris Ingram
Branch Secretary
10th June 2023

Birdwatch Ireland Fingal Branch Report

April 2022 – March 2023

Organisational Structure and Summary of Activities

1. BWI Fingal Branch Organisational Structure

Branch Committee:

Hon. Chairman	Paul Lynch	087 6319209	paulllynch@gmail.com
Hon. Treasurer	James English	01-849 0513	james.english046@gmail.com
Hon. Secretary/PRO	Frank Prendergast	087 1319884	frank.prendergast@dit.ie
Minutes Secretary	Paul Denny		
Webmaster/ Turvey Hide Warden Coordinator	Paul Lynch		
Committee members	Barney Johnson, Cathal Copeland, Linda Mellon		

Sub-Committee:

Rogerstown Working group –Barney Johnson, James English

Little Tern Project – Current Committee and Thomas Kavanagh.

Tidy Towns sub-committees, Glen Balbriggan (C. Copeland, B. Johnston, Balbriggan Tidy Towns), Shenick Island (C. Copeland, F. Prendergast, P. Denny, Skerries Tidy Towns).

2. Meetings and Reporting

- Fingal Branch AGM April 2022
Venue: The Yacht Bar, Loughshinny
- Fingal Branch Monthly Committee Meetings Sept – May
Held first Monday of each Month. Venue: The Yacht Bar, Loughshinny
- Regular support/reporting provided to BWI HQ Ongoing
On hand to answer queries e.g. SPA designations/extensions, land management, reserves, I-WeBS, surveys, etc.
- Meetings with Fingal County Council Ongoing
The branch continues to maintain regular contact to discuss local issues, answer queries and provide advice and support. We liaised with Fingal County Council on the Portrane Little Tern Project in 2022 and completed a survey of the birds of Ardgillan Castle and Demesne for Fingal County Council.
- We attended LAWPRO Bracken River Community Visioning Workshop and follow up meeting on behalf of the branch. Participation is ongoing.

3. Raising Awareness, Promotion and Recruitment

Annual Public events

- Rogerstown Estuary – hide at Turvey wardened every weekend between September and March.

- Programme of Public talks, Joe May's Bar Skerries

Date	Speaker	Title
June '22	Hans Visser	Fingal Biodiversity Plan 2022-2030
October '22	Paul Lynch	A Birdwatchers Tour of Cuba - The search for Caribbean Endemics
November '22	Sean Pierce	A seabird, sailing and kayaking adventure from the Falklands to South Georgia
February '23	Nigel Monaghan	The Ice Age Animals of Ireland
March '23	Jesmond Harding	The Complete Talk on Ireland's Butterflies

- We held two bird walks at Turvey Nature Park and in conjunction with local tidy towns two walks at each Skerries and Rush.
- We held two walks to Broadmeadows estuary with the pupils of St Columille's Boys National School in Swords.
- Evening Chorus Walk at Ardgillan Demesne May '22
- Dawn Chorus Walk at Turvey Nature Park May '22
- Field outing to Dundalk with Tolka Branch February '23

4. Annual maintenance of reserve infrastructure

- The Branch manages two hides at Rogerstown.
- With the support of HQ (in particular Dave Suddaby), Jim Keogan and a branch sub-committee we submitted an application for the retention of the Ger McGann hide and this was successful.
- Following the successful planning application, we can now proceed with plans to develop the access to the hide, and we have recently received permission from the NPWS to install the new walkway to the hide within the SPA/SAC.
- We have started revamping the hides, updating posters and notices.
- With the lapse of the management agreement with the owners of Shenick Island a sub-committee was formed and met with local groups to investigate a possible conservation plan for the site. Meetings are ongoing.

5. Research, monitoring and habitat improvement.

- I-WeBS – seven dates completed.
- CBS annual survey.
- Surveys carried out parklands and wild areas for Tidy Towns in Rush and Skerries with 5 reports written.
- Supporting Tidy Towns with Swift box installations in Skerries and Balbriggan.
- The Portrane Little Tern Project went ahead with the support of Fingal Co Co, the NPWS and many volunteers. Only 6 chicks fledged from over 30 following predation by a fox.
- Rogerstown breeding Lapwing Survey. A survey was carried out again on the breeding Lapwings in the inner estuary and despite several pairs holding territory on the estuary no breeding was confirmed.

6. Main fundraising activities

- In conjunction with BWI HQ, we completed a wild bird survey of Ardgillan Castle and Demesne for Fingal County Council.
- Following the return of the Least Tern to Protrane during the summer of 2022, a donation bucket was again circulated among visiting birders to raise funds for the project.

Fingal Branch Committee 2023

At our AGM held on 3rd April 2023, the following names were re-elected to Branch Committee:

INCOMING COMMITTEE

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
CHAIR	Paul Lynch	paullynch@gmail.com
HON TREASURER	Jim English	james.english046@gmail.com
HON SECRETARY	Frank Prendergast	frank.prendergast@tudublin.ie
COMMITTEE	Cathal Copeland	copeycal@gmail.com
COMMITTEE	Barney Johntson	benmar20@gmail.com
COMMITTEE	Linda Mellon	lindamellonswords@gmail.com

We noted with regret the retirement of Paul Denny after many years of dedicated service to the Branch.

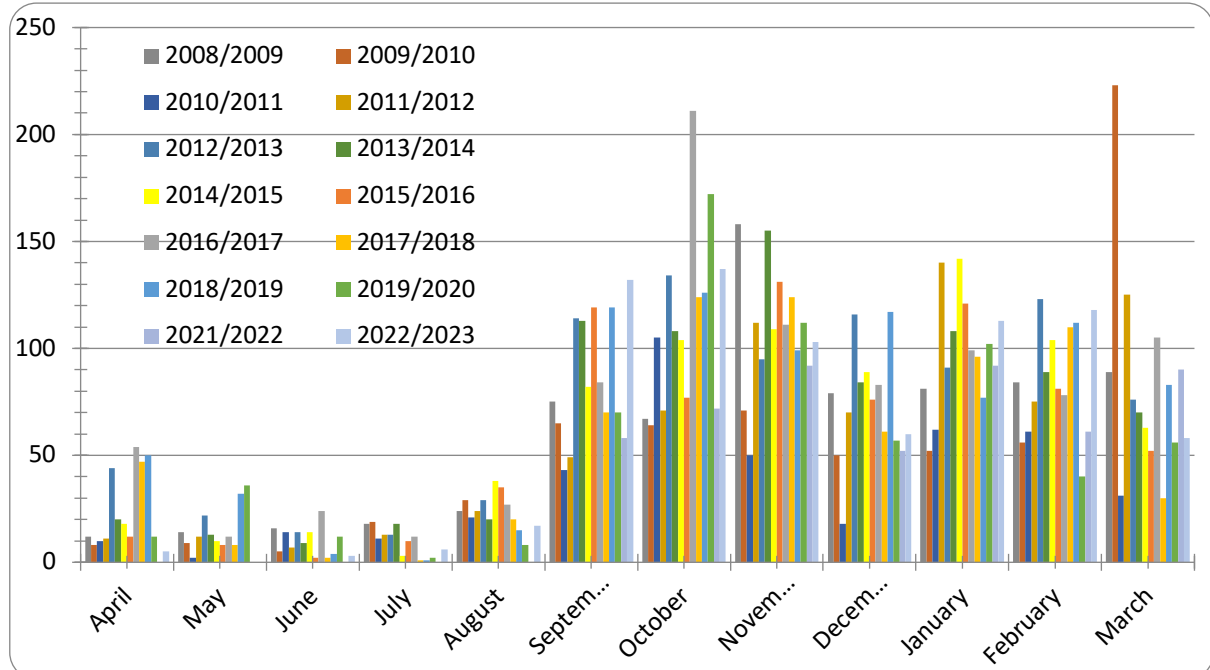
Kind regards
Frank Prendergast
Hon Sec Fingal Branch

Rogerstown Hide Report 2022/2023

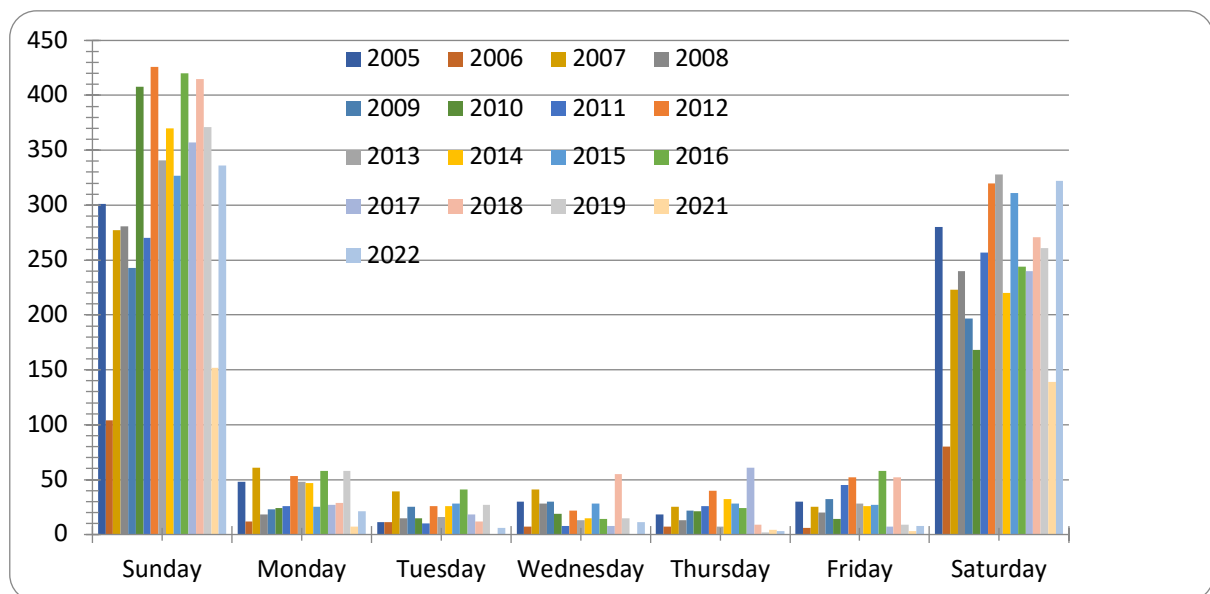
Roster

The 2022/23 season consisted of 58 days where the hide was open. It was wardened by 17 volunteers. There was just one day where we had no scheduled warden. There were several last-minute cancellations, which we were able to get cover for.

Following the easing of COVID restrictions the hide was open for the full season and this was reflected in the increase of visitor numbers (752 as opposed to 517)

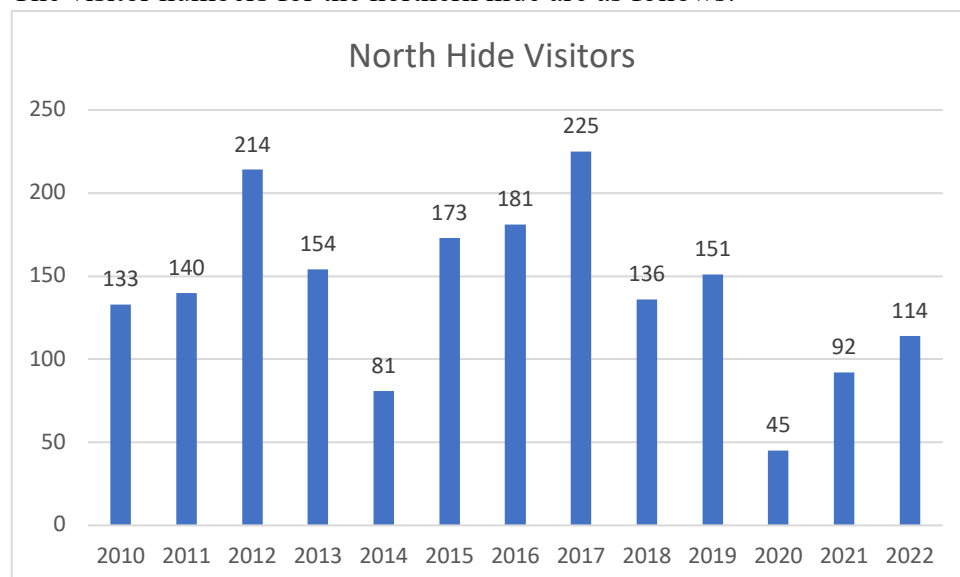


Note: The figures above are for the period from April 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023.



Sunday continues to be the favourite attendance day. Calendar year 2022.

The visitor numbers for the northern hide are as follows:



Important Bird Sightings

A ringtail Hen Harrier was probably the highlight of the winter being regularly seen on both sides of the estuary as well as in Portrane. All the other usual raptors and 2 Owl species were reported. There were also several Red Kite sightings.

Gadwall probably bred again in the pond, but this was not confirmed. Mallard, Moorhen, Coot, Little Grebe and Mute Swan all bred. The newest pond is attracting a mix of wildfowl and a pair or two of Shoveler have lingered into early summer in the last two years so fingers crossed we will have another breeding species in the near future.

A glossy Ibis gave great views at the ponds in March. At least 8 Green Sandpiper were seen in various locations during the autumn and usual passage of Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper and Little Stint seen. 2 Pectoral Sandpiper were seen in September, but they didn't hang around. There were 2 Spotted Redshank in August, and another seen on the last wardened day in March. At least 1 Jack Snipe overwintered on the inner estuary as well as a Whimbrel on the outer estuary.

There were no reports of scarce or rare geese and an American Green-winged Teal only made an appearance in late March. Up to 4 Pintail spent the winter which is unusual for Rogerstown in recent years and over 20 Shoveler seen at times. A Cattle Egret flew past the hide in mid-November.

A single Carrion Crow was seen with other corvids on several occasions as well as 7 Jay in October. There was a very late juvenile Arctic Tern fishing in front of the hide in November and it later joined a Sandwich Tern in the outer estuary. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was reported in December.

There was a major influx of Alpine Swift in Ireland in March 2023 and one lucky observer saw 3 near the car park.

Monitoring of Unauthorised Activities

There was one report of a kayaker entering the inner estuary causing a lot of disturbance.

There were several reports of probable poachers in Turvey nature park and this was passed onto the Council and NPWS.

Some people including dog walkers and photographers continue to enter the salt marsh via the side of the south hide causing disturbance. There were also a couple of instances where a

few members of scout 'parties' crossed the ditch onto the estuary. This was brought to the attention of the Owls group.

There were several reports of loose dogs on the north side of the estuary and these were reported to the dog warden who followed up with one of the owners.

In Turvey Nature Park Dogs are supposed to be kept on a lead at all times however most owners ignore the signs and there were several reports of dogs causing disturbance on the estuary.

Park bylaws 4.7 (e) Every person in charge of a dog in the park shall prevent it from causing annoyance to any person using the park or worrying, chasing, injuring, or disturbing any animals, birds or other creatures in the park. Any issues concerning dogs can be reported to the dog warden at 01 838 3236.

If you witness an incident of dog fouling and are prepared to be a witness in any possible court proceedings, please contact the Dog Fouling HOTLINE TELEPHONE NUMBER 1800 251 500.

There were several reports of athletes training with discus and hammer throwing beside the sacrificial field and disturbing hunting birds of prey.

Wardens and visitors are encouraged to log all activities to gain a better picture of the level of disturbance.

Maintainance

Little maintenance was required on the hides after being painted in 2021.

The planning retention submission for the Ger McGann Hide was successful and we now have approval from the NPWS to develop the walkway up to the hide. This will be carried out over the next couple of summers years.

Conclusions

The visitor numbers were up on last year, due to the relaxing of Covid-19 restrictions. It's good to see groups such as the Scouts and walking groups as well as other Birdwatch branches visiting the hide. As usual a big thanks is due to our wardens for giving up their time and knowledge in helping educate the visitors.

As stated in previous years we could do with more signs informing the public that the estuary is a SPA and SAC and of its importance for wintering birds and warning canoeists of the disturbance they are causing by entering the inner estuary. Restricting access to the salt marsh would also help reduce disturbance. More regular visits from the dog warden are needed but all incidents need to be reported so that they are aware of the issues.

Paul Lynch
April, 2023

BIRDWATCH IRELAND FINGAL BRANCH
Financial report 31/03/2022 to 31/03/2023

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Events		Events exs	
Sean P	€125		
N M	€90		
Paul L	€110		
J H	€80		€30
Little Tern Project		LT Exes	
Donations	€292		€983
Tom K	€100	Badges,printing.posts	
Linda M	€50	Rogerstown reserve	
School	€50	McCutcheon/Halley	
			€230.87
Ardgillan survey			
	€1,250	Irish Domains	
			€214.58
Bank interest		Bank charges	
	0		€26.43
Total income		Total expenditure	
	€2,147		€1,484.88
Income over expenditure			€662.12
	€2,147		€2,147
Opening balance 31/03/2022			
AIB Deposit		AIB Current	
	€1,037.21		€10,059.00
Closing Balance 31/03/2023			
AIB Deposit		AIB Current	
	€1,037.21		€10,721.12

James English. Hon. Treasurer Fingal Branch BWI 31/03/2023

Birdwatch Ireland Kildare Branch

Annual report 2022

Authors: Neil J Bourke Chairman, & Brendan Murphy Secretary

2022 Events:



THU, DEC 8, 2022
The complete talk on Butterflies
Naas Library · Naas
Event by BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch



THU, NOV 10, 2022
Protecting our breeding lapwing sites
Naas Community Library · Naas
Event by BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch



SAT, OCT 15, 2022
Outing to Harpers Island Wetlands, Cork
Harper's Island Wetlands · Cork
Event by BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch



THU, OCT 13, 2022
Let's get together again
Naas Community Library · Naas
Event by BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch



SAT, SEP 10, 2022
Kilcoole Marshes outing to observe birds
Kilcoole railway station · Greystones
Event by BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch



SAT, JUL 2, 2022
Outing to Terryglas to see White tailed eagles
Naas Retail Park · Naas
Event by BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch



SAT, JUN 11, 2022
Outing to Howth
East Pier Howth · Howth
Event by BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch



WED, MAY 18, 2022
Dusk chorus, NUIM Maynooth
NUIM Library · Naas
Event by BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch



TUE, MAY 17, 2022
Birds of Castletown House parklands
Castletown House · Naas
Event by BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch



SAT, MAY 14, 2022
Dawn Chorus 2022 Castletown House Estate
Castletown House & Parklands · Naas
Event by BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch



SAT, DEC 10, 2022
Outing to Rogerstown estuary and hide
Turvey Nature Reserve · Donabate
Event by BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch




SAT, APR 16, 2022
Outing to Lough Boora Discovery park, County Offa
Lough Boora Discovery Park · Tullamore
Event by BirdWatch Ireland Kildare Branch


Birdwatch Ireland Kildare Branch
Walk event – Outing to observe terns and waders

What: Great South Wall Walk, (Poolbeg Lighthouse walk) Outing to observe terns and waders
When: Wednesday 17th August 2022 at 19:00h
Meeting point: Meet at Irishtown Nature park, Dublin

This is the walk that takes you out into Dublin Bay along Sandymount strand, to see the little red lighthouse that you can see when you fly into County Dublin. You'll find Poolbeg Lighthouse on the Great South Wall (the South Bull Wall) where it has been since way back in 1768. It's around a 20-minute drive from the centre of Dublin City. The construction of the Great South Wall started back in 1716. The wall, which was then known as 'The Piles', was completed around 1729. It was, at the time, the world's longest sea wall. The now-iconic Poolbeg Lighthouse was built in 1768 and initially operated on candlepower. <http://www.tourismireland.ie/poolbeg-lighthouse-walk/>





Admission: Free.
Car parking: available.

Birdwatch Ireland Kildare Branch
Biodiversity week event
Walk event – Evening bird walk in Sallins

What: A walk along the grand canal to listen to the evening bird song
When: Thursday the 19th of May 2022 meet at 18.50h, start 19.00h
Meeting point: Canal boat services area, Sallins

A Canal Guide
 The main line of the Grand Canal is 82 miles length from Dublin to the Shannon of which twenty-five lie within Co. Kildare. There is also the 28 mile Barrow branch from Leixowen in mid-Kildare to Athy and the Naas Branch and Milltown Fender.

A Brief History
 Work began on the Grand Canal in 1756. Engineering difficulties and mistakes by the builders in the early stages meant that progress was slow - by 1763 only ten miles and three locks had been built. The tempo picked up during the last twenty years of the 18th century. The canal company managed to make the link with the Shannon in 1803. The important branch to the river Barrow had been completed a decade earlier. Passenger boats used the waterway until the 1850s and cargo boats until 1960. <https://www.kildare.accommunitydetails.asp?SCID=23>



Birds of the Grand canal Sallins
 Birdwatch Ireland Kildare branch and Sallins Biodiversity group join forces this National Biodiversity week and invite you to an outdoor bird talk / walk along the Grand canal starting from the boat services area at the canal bridge in Sallins. Since 2015 37 complete lists of birds have been counted from the Grand canal at Sallins to the Leinster aqueduct, and a total of 64 bird species have been observed. Birds associated with the water are kingfisher, dipper, grey wagtail, little grebe, moorhen, mallard, and mute swan.




Birdwatch Ireland Kildare Branch
Heritage week event
Walk event – Outing to Pollardstown fen

What: A walk at Pollardstown Fen, and ringing of hirundines (Midlands ringing group)
When: Wednesday 17th August 2022 at 20:00h
Meeting point: Meet at the car park Pollardstown fen

Pollardstown Fen SAC (special area of conservation) Coordinates: Latitude: 53.1898 Longitude: -6.84838. Pollardstown Fen is situated on the northern margin of the Curragh of Kildare, approximately 3 km north-west of Newbridge. It lies in a shallow depression, running in a north-west/south-east direction. About 40 springs provide a continuous supply of water to the Fen. The vegetation is quite varied and species-rich, with numerous well-defined plant communities and several rare or scarce species. These include Narrow-leaved Marsh-orchid and Fly Orchid. The Fen has ornithological importance for both breeding and wintering birds: Little Grebe, Coot, Moorhen, Teal, Mallard, Mute Swan, Water Rail, Snipe, Sedge Warbler, grasshopper warbler and Reed Bunting all breed annually within the Fen vegetation. <https://www.epic.ie/pollardstown-fen/000396>

Weather permitting hirundines (swallows and martins) will be ringed on this evening, and attendees will be able to see first hand the conservation efforts of the Midlands ringing group.

Admission: Free.
Suitable for children under 12.
Wheelchair Accessible.
Free car parking available.

<https://www.facebook.com/bwkildare>
<http://www.birdwatchkildare.com/>
birdwatchkildare@gmail.com






Birdwatch Ireland Kildare Branch

Walk event – Visit to Lough Boora Discovery Park



What: A walk round Lough Boora Discovery park, Boora, Co Offaly

When: Saturday the 16th of April at 09.00h

Meeting point: The car park Newhall Retail Park (opposite B&Q shop), Naas

Lough Boora Discovery Park
 Lough Boora, a unique landscape - perfect for photographers, walkers, outdoor enthusiasts - at the heart of Ireland <http://Facebook.com/LoughBooraParklands>
 Step into the wilderness
 Transformed from its previous incarnation as a commercial bog where peat was harvested to heat homes around the country, today Lough Boora Discovery Park is home to countless species of birds and wildlife, fish-filled lakes and a permanent exhibition of huge outdoor sculptures. These sculptures give the park an other-worldly feel, created using the old industrial materials of the bog such as locomotives, rail-line and timber, all crafted into magnificent works of art. <https://www.loughboora.com/visit-your-visit-information/>
 Lough Boora Visitors Notice for Covid-19 guidelines Lough Boora walkways remain open. Lough Boora Discovery Park is open on a limited basis. Please adhere to signage and the one-way system when on site. Thanks for your co-operation. <https://www.loughboora.com/visit-your-visit-information/>



Whooper swans



Grey Partridge
 The premier place in the country to see the Grey Partridge
 Adjacent to the Lough Boora Discovery Park is the Grey Partridge sanctuary, an ecological oasis developed by wildlife enthusiasts to save one of Ireland's rarest birds. This is the premier place in the country to see grey partridge. The sanctuary contains elements of traditional farming practices that allow all kinds of other wildlife to flourish too. Fields of wild flowers and crops attract a vast array of butterflies, mammals and birds. Bird watching is accessible via trails of the Discovery Park that run the perimeter of the grey partridge conservation area. The sanctuary is managed by the B&Q and the Irish Grey Partridge Conservation Trust.



Grey partridge





BIRD TALK & WALK WITH BIRDWATCH IRELAND (KILDARE)

SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER - 10:00AM

NAAS LIBRARY, HARBOUR VIEW, NAAS



Kildare Public Participation Network Climate Action Weekend

SEP
10

Birdwatching in Kildare

by Kildare Public Participation Network

58 followers [Follow](#)

Free

Projects:


Breeding lapwing in North Kildare ([Giving Lilywhite Lapwings a helping hand | Mooney Goes Wild - RTÉ Radio 1 \(rte.ie\)](#))

RTÉ RADIO 1Home Stations Shows Podcasts Search

Giving Lilywhite Lapwings a helping hand

CLIP • 8 MINS • 12 JUN • MOONEY GOES WILD

Our Roving Reporter, Terry Flanagan spoke to Keith Earls, a Farmer based in north Co. Kildare about how he with the help of Bird Watch Ireland erected a fence to protect Lapwings in his land from predators.



00:00

-15

▶

+30

08:56

Share

**Terry Flanagan**
@mybroadcasts

The Lapwing is the National Bird of Ireland. Sadly however, their numbers here are low. However that's changing. Tonight on "Mooney Goes Wild" (RTÉ Radio One at 10.00) I chat with two people who are actively working to increase their numbers by fencing off dedicated nesting areas



6:15 PM • Jun 12, 2023 • 5,029 Views

9 Retweets

2 Quotes

68 Likes

Weekly bird species list:

Sample of the weekly bird species list

	Bird family	Kildare WE2022_0116	
1	Corvids	Rook	y
2	Corvids	Jackdaw	y
3	Corvids	Maggie	y
4	Corvids	Raven	y
5	Corvids	Hooded crow	y
6	Corvids	Jay	y
7	Thrushes	Blackbird	y
8	Thrushes	Song Thrush	y
9	Thrushes	Mistle Thrush	y
10	Thrushes	Redwing	y
11	Thrushes	Fieldfare	y
12	Finches	Goldfinch	y
13	Finches	Chaffinch	y
14	Finches	Bullfinch	y
15	Finches	Lesser redpoll	y
16	Finches	Siskin	y
17	Finches	Greenfinch	y
18	Finches	Linnet	y
19	Certhiidae	Tree creeper	y
20	Tits	Blue tit	y
21	Tits	Great tit	y
22	Tits	Long-tailed tit	y
23	Tits	Coal tit	y
24	Gulls	Herring gull	y
25	Gulls	Black-headed gull	y
26	Gulls	Lesser-black backed gull	y
27	Gulls	Great black backed gull	y
28	Gulls	Common Gull	y
29	Duck sp.	Mallard	y
30	Duck sp.	Tufted duck	y
31	Duck sp.	Teal	y
32	Duck sp.	Wigeon	y
33	Duck sp.	Pochard	y
34	Waders	Lapwing	y
35	Waders	Common snipe	y
36	Waders	Jack snipe	y
37	Waders	Golden plover	y
38	Waders	Moorhen	y
39	Waders	Coot	y
40	Waders	Black-tailed Godwit	y
41	Waders	Woodcock	y
42	Waders	Water rail	y
43	Waders	Redshank	y
44	Raptors	Buzzard	y
45	Raptors	Kestrel	y
46	Raptors	Peregrine Falcon	y
47	Raptors	Long eared owl	y
48	Swans	Mute swan	y
49	Grebes	Little grebe	y
50	Pigeons doves	Woodpigeon	y
51	Pigeons doves	Feral pigeon	y
52	Pigeons doves	Collard dove	y
53	Pigeons doves	Stock dove	y
54	Game birds	Pheasant	y
55	Cormorants and shags	Cormorant	y
56	Hérons Egrets	Grey heron	y
57	Hérons Egrets	Little egret	y
58	Warblers	Siberian Chiffchaff	y
59	Larks and pipits	Meadow pipit	y
60	Larks and pipits	Skylark	y
61	Wrens	Wren	y
62	Kinglets	Goldcrest	y
63	Robins and chats	Robin	y
64	Robins and chats	Stonechat	y
65	Sparrows	House sparrow	y
66	Accentors	Duncock	y
67	Wagtails	Pied wagtail	y
68	Wagtails	Grey wagtail	y
69	Buntings	Reed bunting	y
70	Coraciiformes.	Kingfisher	y
71	Scolopacidae	Starling	y

DRAFT
BIRDWATCH IRELAND - KILDARE BRANCH

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022

		€	€
<u>Grants</u>			
Kildare County Council - Lapwing Fencing		6,000	
Bord Na Mona		<u>15,750</u>	
		21,750	
Less Expenditure	Contractor	(21,224)	
	Other	<u>(526)</u>	
		<u>(21,750)</u>	0
Kildare County Council Grants		2,185	
Contribution from Land Owners		<u>880</u>	
		3,065	
Less Expenditure on Swift and Barn Owl Boxes etc. and Duck Floats		<u>(1,175)</u>	1,890
<u>Less Expenses</u>			
Planning Information		(20)	
Room Rental, Speakers etc.		0	
Sundry Expenses		0	
Thermal Imaging Scope		(1,100)	
Bank Charges		<u>(25)</u>	<u>(1,145)</u>
Surplus for the year			<u><u>745</u></u>

Birdwatch Ireland Kildare Branch Committee members

Birdwatch Ireland Kildare Branch

Committee from 2021_1216 onwards:

Neil J Bourke - Chairman
Brendan Murphy – Secretary,
John Greely -Treasurer
Brendan Kavanagh - Projects
Tom McCormack - Barn Owl nest boxes
Seán Kingston – Projects (ringing specialist)
Seán Walsh - Project
Margaret Martin - Projects
Anthony Mooney - Projects (Curlew)
Ed Gilligan - Projects



Branch Report 2022/2023

Activities and events of the year:

- Barn Owls:** Members accompanied John Lusby checking boxes for chicks in June visiting approx 30 sites and a number of owlets were ringed. Members also accompanied BWI staff installing new nest boxes under cover in September.
- Swifts:** We had a workshop by Ricky Whelan of Birdwatch Ireland on Swifts in July and went to Kilkenny Castle to observe swifts in flight as dusk approached.
- Swift nest boxes were installed at the Kilkenny Education centre on the Callan Road.
In August, Pat Durkin gave a talk on Sustaining Swifts talk at the Medieval Mile Museum for Heritage Week 2022..
- Dawn Chorus** There was a big turnout at Jenkinstown Wood for the Dawn Chorus on May 15th. We also had a dawn chorus outing in Callan on May 22nd.
- Dusk Chorus** We visited Kilkenny Castle park for the Dusk Chorus on May 19th.
- Meetings:** In October, local photographer Dan Ryan gave a photographic presentation of both native birds and birds of Thailand.
- In November, Brian Burke of BWI gave a talk on the annual Garden Bird Survey to a good attendance in the Club House Hotel.
- Outings:** In November, we had an outing to Tramore Eco Park and had great views of wading birds from the new hide overlooking the Backstrand.
- In January, we visited the Galmoy Area and Cabragh Wetlands near Thurles to see wintering wildfowl.
- In February, a large group visited Newpark Marsh to mark World Wetlands Day.
- In March, we visited Wexford Wildfowl Reserve and despite the poor visibility we saw numerous species.
- Just last week members went to the East Coast Nature Reserve outside Newcastle Co Wicklow.
- Other** Pat Durkin appears regularly on both KCLR and on Kilkenny City Community Radio talking about wildlife in general and birds in particular.

Members were involved in rescues of injured birds among them a Gannet that was well off course..

Members also gave talks and led walks to various groups.

Following a report by the Charities Regulator which was critical of some aspects of BWI's operations we attended an online meeting with the new CEO of BWI and following that we responded to a survey on BWI giving our thoughts on current matters and future direction of the organisation.

The Clomantagh area of Co Kilkenny saw spectacular murmurations of starlings over several days from late February to early March.

We sold BWI calendars and Christmas cards.

Officers for the year:

Chairperson: Ian McCullagh

Secretary: Richard Dwyer

Treasurer: Mary Rice

Committee: Mary Durkin, Máire Ní Mhoráin, Linda Williams, Yvonne Jenkinson

Birdwatch Ireland Kilkenny branch					
Income and Expenditure Account to 31 Dec 2022					
Income			Expenditure		
06-Apr-22	Donations AGM	15.00	06-Apr-22	Room Hire AGM	45.00
11-Oct-22	Donations Dan Ryan photo event	70.00	11-Oct-22	Speaker - Dan Ryan	50.00
16-Nov-22	Donations Brian Bourke talk	44.65		Room Hire	50.00
22-Dec-22	Income from calendars & cards	290.00	16-Nov-22	Speaker Brian Bouke	50.00
				Room Hire	50.00
			22-Dec-22	Payment to HO for calendars and cards	289.00
			22-Dec-22	Charge for payment to HO	1.00
	Deficit for year	115.35			
		535.00			535.00

Position at 31 Dec 2022			
Cash	15.00	Surplus carried forward	604.90
Credit Union	474.55	Deficit for year	-115.35
	<u>489.55</u>		<u>489.55</u>



BirdWatchIreland
birdwatchireland.ie
protecting birds and biodiversity

Financial Report for Year ending Dec'2022

There was incoming balance from 2019 of	€ 1575.84
Total other income for 2020 (Jan & Feb)	€ 130
Total expenditure for 2020 (A Power €100)	€200.00
Balance at 31 Dec 2020	€1505.84
Balance on 31 Dec 2021	€1505.84
Incoming balance from 2021	€1505.84
Total income 2022 (Oct and Nov)	€170
Total Expenditure	€100

The principal branch income for the year 2022 consisted of the following.

- 1 Voluntary contributions made by attendees at branch meetings.

The principal branch expenditure for 2022 consisted of payments with regard to the hire of room for monthly meetings.

1. Branch Meetings.

Two Meetings were held indoor in 2022 at Portlaoise parish Centre.

The total income from voluntary subscriptions at meetings were €170

The total cost of the hire of a room in the Portlaoise Parish centre was €100

Cost of Speakers €0

Net profit from meetings €70

3. Other Income

€0

Total Profit €70

4. Other Costs:

Other Costs

Nil

Outgoing balance for Dec 31st 2022

€1575.84

This balance consisted of: Cash in Bank

€1505.84

Cash in hand

€70

See attached income/ expenditure sheet for details.

Richard Duff Treasurer

Laois Branch of BirdWatchIreland

2022 Balance Sheet

Date	Details	€ Withdrawn	€ Paid In	€ Balance
31-Dec-21	Brought Forward			1505.84
25-Oct-22	Subs meeting		80	1585.84
25-Oct	Hire Room	50		1535.84
29-Nov	Subs meeting		90	1625.84
29-Nov-22	Hire Room	50		1575.84
31-Dec-22	Bank balance			1505.84
	cash on hand			70
	Total balance			1575.84

Laois Branch of BirdWatchIreland

2020 Balance Sheet

Date	Details	€ Withdrawn	€ Paid In	€ Balance
01-Jan-20	Brought Forward			1575.84
28-Jan-20	Subs meeting		80	1655.84
28-Jan	Hire Room	50		1605.84
28-Jan	Speaker Exspences Andrew Power	100		1505.84
25-Feb-20	Subs meeting		50	1555.84
25-Feb	Hire Room	50		1505.84



Birdwatch Ireland (Laois Branch) report for September 2022 to January 2023.

BirdWatch Ireland Laois <birdwatchlaois@gmail.com>

To: BirdWatch Ireland Laois <birdwatchlaois@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 8:41 PM

As was hoped after the considerable Covid restrictions we were able to restart our Branch activities in September 2022 with a very enjoyable visit to Oakvale (Oughaval) Woods near Stradbally on Sunday 25th. About 15 people had a relaxed ramble on a lovely morning through the woodland via the Mass Rock. Afterwards we travelled to Kellyville Lake near Ballintubert where despite very low water levels there were about 85 Mallard present along with a female Teal, 2 Grey Herons and 6 Moorhen.

On Tuesday 25th October we had our first indoor talk in nearly 2 years when Ficky Whelan gave a very popular presentation on "The secret lives of Crows" to a packed room of about 30 people in the Parish Centre Portlaoise.

We continued our indoor events on Tuesday 29th November with another very well attended presentation by Richard Duff on "Wildlife seen at his Photographic Hides in Laois". His absorbing talk showed visits by multiple species including Great Spotted Woodpecker, Cuckoo, Long-eared Owl, Jay, Yellowhammer, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Pine Martin, Red Squirrel, Stoat and Badger.

In late January on the 31st we welcomed Dick Coombes who had just retired from BWI to give a very well received presentation on Cape Clear Ireland's Birding Mecca. Again a sizeable audience enjoyed Dick's vast knowledge and experience of bird sightings over many years on this beautiful island.

I-WeBS counts have continued each month throughout the September-February period on the River Erkina floodplain with very variable results depending on the level of flooding. There were huge floods for the January visit but many species were at the Goul rather than the Erkina including huge numbers of duck.

Des Finnamore.

Feb'23

90161

Annual Report of Limerick Branch of BWI 2022-2023

Monthly Outings: We organise outings on a monthly basis to different areas in Limerick City, County, Clare and Tipperary.

Publicising BWI

Face book. Include any information from BWI which would be of interest and promote participation in events

Email list

Keeps Branch members informed of all outings and other wildlife related activities.

Encourage all attendees at outings and talks to join BWI.

Co-ordinate outings with other branches

Some of the outings are done in coordination with other branches eg Clare and Tipperary, Tidy towns Committees all of which promote BWI. E.g. Shannon River Walk, Westfield's Wetlands, Cabragh Wetlands, Loop Head

County Recorder Tom Tarpey records and keeps the Website updated regularly with rare and scarce sightings. Some members also partake in the Countryside Bird Survey and IWEBS. Members are encouraged to report sightings to BWI and National Biodiversity Centre.

Projects –

Owl Boxes Branch arranged the erection of 4 Owl Boxes around the County and will monitor these for occupation.

Swift Survey Co-ordinated a Swift Survey with Limerick Council 2022 and 2033 and monitor 5 swift boxes erected at sites in Limerick City.

Miscellaneous Work

Deal with queries from Branch or Public. Eg how to deal with injured birds, report breaches of Wildlife acts, Disturbance of birds on farms etc., and request for bird sites in limerick.

Committee members have given talks, presentations and manned stalls at various venues to highlight the work of the Branch and the wider BWI work-always promoting the positives of protecting nature.

Report breaches of S40 Heritage Bill to Council and Wildlife/Conservation Ranger.

The Branch engages with the Council relating to upgrading Westfield's Wetlands, Coonagh Reserve, Kilcolman Fen, Co Cork, among many other areas of biodiversity.

Financial Affairs: 2022-2023 Affairs to date are €1,700 approx.

Chairperson: Clodagh Glasgow

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Gearoid Jackson

County Recorder: Tom Tarpey

Committee Members: Jane Griffin, Ger Griffin, Kevin Kiely, Maura Turner

AGM Birdwatch Ireland Louth Branch

13th December 2022 7pm.
Spirit Store, Dundalk

Present

Peter Phillips
Gerard Murray
Peter Rooney
Derek Watters

Apologies

Breffni Martin
Gerry O'Neill
Brendan Mc Sherry

Welcome

Talks

2022

8th February Beginning birdwatching by Breffni Martin an illustrated talk.

8th March. Tales of a tormented Twitcher. By Brian McCloskey an illustrated talk.

10th May. Birds of Sleabh Beigh by John Cusack

13th September. Birds In an age of extinction by Breffni Martin.

24th September. Swifts, walk and talk at the Bog Cafe Ardee. Peter Phillips

11th October. Little Terns at Baltray by Frank Le Moenner

8th November. 'Finding the one' by Peter Phillips

13th December. Merlin in Ireland by John Lusby.

Outings

19th February. Guided walk with Breffni Martin in Dundalk Bay

13th March. Beginner birdwatching. Outing to St Dominic's Park, Drogheda. Peter Phillips and Gerard Murray

Two school trips to Navvy Bank Dundalk with St Joseph's Primary school in March and October 2021

Conservation

Volunteers continued to help with the Little Tern conservation project at Baltray.

Louth Heritage officer (Brendan McSherry) commissioned a report with recommendations on the status of Swift (*Apus apus*) in county Louth

Projects

Work continues on planning the erection of Osprey platforms in Dundalk Bay to be completed in early 2023.

Financial report:

Balance of 2,405.06 euro

AOB

Hide works: Work is starting in February on a new external fence for the hide and waterworks.

Election of new committee

Peter Phillips stepped down as chairman of the committee. Derek Watter was proposed for Chairman (Peter Phillips) and seconded (Gerard Murray) and duly elected. Peter will continue organising the talks at the monthly talks at the Spirit Store and responsibility for financial matters. Derek will assume all the other Chairman's responsibilities. All other committee members remain as is.

Previous committee

Peter Phillips Chairman

Other members: Breffni Martin, Gerard Murray, Gerry O'Neill, Peter Rooney and Derek Watters.

Annual Report of the Mayo branch of BirdWatch Ireland 2023

Committee

Our AGM and committee meeting was held on 7th December 2022 in the Regional Training Centre, Mayo County Council and on Zoom. 7 people attended in person and 4 on Zoom with just 2 attendees who were not current committee members. Barry Murphy, our chairperson, had notified the committee that he intended to stand down. No one came forward to replace him. All the current committee officers and members had indicated that they were willing to continue and were duly re-elected unopposed.

Officers

Ruth-Ann Leak - joint secretary

Graham Cawdell - joint secretary

Pádraig Kehoe - treasurer

George Keegan - public relations officer

Committee members

Colin Guilfoyle

Colm Madden

Jon Freestone

Kieran Flynn

Marie Comerford

Nathy Gilligan

Nuala O'Malley

Committee meetings

Zoom committee meetings were held on Wednesday 14th September 2022 and 23rd February 2023. Our first face to face meeting was 20th July 2022 in Bar One where we conducted the meeting whilst enjoying a 2 course meal. This was a great way for our new committee to meet for the first time but it was decided that future face to face meetings needed to be held in a quieter venue!

A face to face meeting, apart from our AGM above, was held in the Lough Lannagh Leisure Centre on 23rd April and the same venue will be used for our next meeting on 21st June 2023. These meetings do incur significant cost for the branch but the committee prefer to meet personally. We have decided to move our AGM to April when the evenings are lighter and travel easier. This date will integrate better with BirdWatch Ireland's own AGM so one annual report should suffice.

Social media

With Barry Murphy stepping down, we have lost our social media guru. He has agreed to maintain our website which he so ably created. Gmail is now our principle account and the branch has 67 subscribers. Our experience with Instagram is limited so this may be

withdrawn unless a volunteer comes forward. WhatsApp is now our preferred method of communication for late changes to events or interesting local sightings

Website - Barry, Ruth-Ann & Jon

Facebook - Graham & Ruth-Ann. Number of “Followers” increased by over 50% with 1,834 listed today.

Twitter - Colin & Ruth-Ann

Events

13/08/22	Lough Carra. Led by Kieran Flynn	10 people
4/09/22	Sea watching at Kilcummin Head	7 people
9/10/22	Sea loughs around Louisburgh and grey seal haul out. Led by Barry Murphy. <i>Very poor weather!</i>	6 people
12/11/22	Turloughs of Gleamaddy and Kiltullagh. Led by Barry Murphy. Galway branch included.	10 people
22/01/23	Turloughs of South Mayo. Led by Graham Cawdell.	11 people
12/02/23	Killala and Ross Strand. Led by Graham Cawdell.	19 people
12/03/23	Belmullet Peninsula. Led by Graham Cawdell. <i>Wet windy weather again!</i>	9 people
15/04/23	Lough O’Flynn. Virgin territory for the group with little to be seen. The bog walk was more interesting.	12 people
7/05/23	Dawn Chorus Walk at Enniscoie. Two groups – one led by Nuala O’Malley and Jon Freestone, the other by Graham Cawdell.	30 people
27/5/23	River Walk at Foxford. Led by Pádraig Kehoe and assisted by Colm Madden and Karen Hunt.	13 people

Finances

Our treasurer’s report compiled by Pádraig Keogh is attached. The branch has a surplus of €429.87.

Copies of the minutes of our meetings and summaries of our events are available on request.

MAYO BRANCH OF BIRDWATCH IRELAND

TREASURER'S REPORT

Opening Balance at 1st July 2022

€382.07

Expenditure:

07/12/2022	AGM Room hire	€20.00
08/03/2023	Website Fees	€79.20
12/04/2023	Meeting room hire for committee meeting	€33.00

Income:

Jul-22	Donation received re. Graham Cawdell guided bird watch trip	€100.00
06/05/2023	Donations received from Dawn Chorus Event Enniscoe	€80.00

€132.20	€180.00
---------	---------

Closing Balance at 31st May 2023:

€429.87



E-MAIL: joeshannon54@gmail.com

PH: 0879185593

Committee: Joe Shannon, Gerry Clerkin and John McKenna.

08.6.23

**The Chairman,
BirdWatch Ireland**

Re: Report from Monaghan Branch

This year we held our Dawn Chorus event at Rossmore Forest Park

Branch members participated in I-WeBs and CBS Surveys.

Financial activities: No Funds – members finance outings.

Kind regards,

Joe Shannon

Secretary



Sligo Branch BWI AGM 2023

Location: Riverside Hotel, Sligo

Date: 26th April 2023

Apologies: Mícheál Casey

Agenda:

1. Chairman's Report
2. Secretary's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. I-WeBS update
5. Elections

Minutes

1. Chairman's Report

Michael Bell, Branch Chairman introduced the agenda and thanked all branch committee members, leaders of all field trips from within the branch committee and those from other organisations/ agencies who collaborated with us this year. He thanked all speakers who were responsible for our series of talks throughout the year and all those who attended our events in the past twelve months.

On behalf of the branch he also expressed his appreciation for all those who continue to support the branch in all our activities.

2. Secretary's Report

Thelma Hunter, Secretary shared the following report outlining all branch activities since our last AGM on 21st April 2022

Sligo Branch Outings/ Events May 2022 to June 2023

- 12th May 2022: Branch **Committee Meeting**
- 12th June 2022: Joint outing to **Downpatrick Head** with Mayo Branch.
- Sunday 10th July: Boat Trip to **Tory Island**, Co Donegal. Originally scheduled for 3rd July. Walk led by Anton Meehan, Tory islander & Birder
12 people attended
- 24th July 2022: **Lough Easkey Walk** jointly led by Martina Butler and Gerard Scott. Funded through the Community Water Development Fund operated by the Local Authority Waters Programme
13 people attended
- 7th Aug. 2022: **Ballisodare River Walk** jointly led by Martina Butler and Gerard Scott. Funded through the Community Water Development Fund, operated by the Local Authority Waters Programme
19 people attended
- 14th Aug. 2022: **Duff River Walk** co-hosted by Mícheál Casey and Vicky Veercamp and Karen Kennedy from the Local Authority Water Programme
14 people attended
- 7th Sept. 2022: Sligo Branch **Committee Meeting**
- 25th Sept. 2022: **Streamstown Shore Walk**, Ballisodare, Co Sligo led by Michael Bell
- 16th Oct. 2022: Outing to **Lough Boora Discovery Park**, Boora, Co Offaly. Led by Michael Bell
- 4th Nov 2022: **Committee Meeting** at Riverside Hotel to finalise design of branch banner
- 13th Nov. 2022: Sligo Birdwatch **Stand at the Annual Science Fair** held at ATU Sligo as part of the Sligo Science Festival. The stand was hosted by branch committee members. First outing for our new branch banner
- 18th Nov. 2022: **Dr Don Cotton Memorial Lecture** - Presentation by **Ralph Sheppard** "Birds Bugs and Botany a Lifetime of Discovery" at 8pm at ATU Sligo as part of the Sligo Science Festival. Very well attended.
Approx 35 people

- 4th Dec.2022: Outing to the **Goose Field** at Lissadell and Raghley to see Barnacle Geese and other wintering waterfowl and waders. Led by Michael Bell.
Approx 15 people attended
- 21st Dec.: **Christmas Social Event** with members talks, raffle and refreshments. Postponed from 14th Dec. due to severe weather
Riverside Hotel @ 8pm. Presentation by Argha Banerjee featuring **birds of northern India** and another by Michael Bell.
About 30 people attended
- 16th Jan 2023: Sligo Branch **Committee Meeting** at Riverside Hotel, Sligo
- 24th Jan 2023: Presentation by Ryan Mitchell, Environmental Scientist (Postponed from 18th Jan.2023) Riverside Hotel @ 8pm
"The Fascinating Flies of Union Wood"
Approx 30 people attended
- 26th Feb. 2023: Outing to **Inch Wildfowl Reserve**, Burt, Co. Donegal.
Led by Michael Bell.
13 people attended
- 8th March 2023: Presentation by **Dr Monica Sullivan**, Environmental Scientist
"Antarctica The Frozen Desert" at Sligo ATU. Great attendance
- 16th April 2023: **Woodland Walk** in grounds of Temple House, Ballymote, Co Sligo
Co-hosted by Michael Bell and Serena Perceval from Temple House
18 people attended
- 26th April: **Members Night and Branch AGM** at Riverside Hotel at 8pm.
Trevor Hunter, committee member gave a photo presentation of birds & wildlife from his trip to Australia in 2022
- 7th May: **Dawn Chorus Walk** led by Trevor Hunter at Slish Wood, Co Sligo
- 11th June: **Outing to Gola Island**, Co Donegal. Led by Michael Bell.
20 People attended

3. Treasurer's Report

Gerard Scott, Branch Treasurer gave his report as follows:

Birdwatch Sligo Accounts 2022/2023				
Period : 21/4/22 to 26/4/23				
Date	Activity	Payment out €	Payment In €	Balance €
21/04/2022	Opening Balance			6,169.40
20/04/2022	AGM 2022 Hotel Room	50.00		
24/06/2022	Current Account Fees	7.50		
23/09/2022	Current Account Fees	7.50		
30/12/2022	Current Account Fees	7.50		
25/03/2023	Current Account Fees	7.50		
12/05/2022	Committee Expenses	20.00		
23/07/2022	Tory Island Guide Fee	85.00		
23/07/2022	Lough Easkey Speaker Fee	100.00		
07/08/2022	Ballysadare Speaker Fee	100.00		
13/11/2022	Science Week Stand sales		38.00	
18/11/2022	Science Week Speaker	300.00		
18/11/2022	Purchase of Banner	95.00		
05/12/2022	Science Week Payment		400.00	
21/12/2022	Christmas Event	122.00	180.00	
30/01/2023	Rivers Refund		500.00	
24/02/2023	Union Wood Speaker,Hotel	125.00	60.00	
08/03/2023	Antarctic Speaker IT	75.00		
06/04/2023	Temple House trip donation		20.00	
		Total Out	Total In	
		1,102.00	1,198.00	
			Bank €	6,105.95
			Cash €	96.00
24/04/2023	Prepared by Gerard Scott, Treasurer	Closing Balance	Total €	6,201.95

4. I-WeBS Report

The I-WeBS Report was presented by local I-WeBs Coordinator and branch committee member, Trevor Hunter

5. Sligo Branch Elections

Chairperson: Michael Bell

Proposed: Thelma Hunter

Seconded: Trevor Hunter

Secretary: Thelma Hunter

Proposed: Sandie McCanny

Seconded: Donal Coveney

Treasurer: Gerard Scott

Proposed: Martin Enright

Seconded: Vianney Tully

Committee: Trevor Hunter
Martin Enright
Sandie McCanny
Vianney Tully
Mícheál Casey

South Dublin Branch of BirdWatch Ireland

Chairperson and Hon Sec's Annual Report to the AGM Tuesday 7th March 2023

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are delighted we can hold the 2023 AGM in person and not via Zoom.

- Last year we organised an outing for each month, due to weather conditions in December we had to cancel the outing to Ballbriggan.
- All the other outing were well attended. They were to
 - Cabinteely Pk, Avoca, The Dawn Course on Killiney Hill, Pollardstown Fen, Kilcoole, Turvey, West Pier Dun Laoghaire, Waterstown Pk and more recently Turvey where we arranged to meet at 4.30pm and saw Owls it was a great success.
- The branch also organised 8 talks
 - Dr Clara Dawson - Poetry and Birds Through the Ages
 - Terry Flanagan - Wildlife on the Wireless
 - Brian McCloskey - Birding in the Fast Lane
 - Mark Carmody - tips for local and travel photography 'Wildlife from North to South'
 - Tom Bolger - Biodiversity and Human Well-Being
 - Emma Tiernan - East to West : Terns of the Irish Sea
 - Dick Coombes - Cape Clear, Ireland's migration hotspot
 - Paul Lynch - A birders tour of Cuba - The search for Caribbean endemics.
- January 22nd Gustavo and Des led an outing to Bull Island for the Irish wildlife Trust.

There are so many people to thank

- We want to thank all the members of the South Dublin Branch who continue to support us.
- The Speakers who attend our indoor meetings.
- Those branch members who volunteer who
 - Take part in the - **Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS)**
 - Input data from **The Irish Garden Bird Surveys**
 - help out over Christmas with card sorting and packing at BirdWatch Head Office.
- Thank you to Joe Hobbs who continues to run and maintain the website www.southdublinbirds.com
-
- We also want to thank the Graduate Bar Staff who always look after us setting up the room and looking after us. When we carryout committee meetings they always accommodate us by giving us free access to a room where possible. They have been so good to us.
- Also thank you to the committee members for the support and dedication they give running the branch. From contacting the speakers, responded to numerous emails, compiling and sending out monthly mails, updating Facebook, Twitter and the website. Their commitment is second to none.

Current Committee is as follows:

Chairperson:	Des Higgins
Hon Treasurer:	Niall Hatch
Hon Secretary:	Mary Daly
Branch Meeting Co-Ordinator:	Ronan Browne

Robert Busby, Rachel Hynes, Gustavo Zoladz and Emma Tiernan and Shane Kerr

This is the extent of the branch activity for the 2022/2023 season.
Des Higgins (Chair) and Mary Daly (Secretary)



Accounts for year ending 28th February 2023

Income

Donations:	€1,321.72
Sales:	€1,842.50
Trip fares:	-

Expenditure

Sales goods:	€1,566.28
Trip expenses:	-
Room hire:	€810.00
Speaker fees:	€180.00
Website costs:	€353.87
Zoom licence:	€172.08

Bank accounts and cash

Current a/c:	€5,117.13
Deposit a/c:	€5,098.06
Cash in hand:	€70.00

Boooterstown Marsh Appeal Fund: €4,256.05

Branch equipment

- Data projector valued at €450.00
- Lifejackets (six) valued at €120.00
- Marine radio valued at €40.00
- Public Address System valued at €200.00
- Branded banner valued at €90.00

Report of the Tipperary Branch of BirdWatch Ireland 14.06.2023

Chair- Jane Coman

Secretary – Áine Clancy

Treasurer – Albert Nolan

PRO(s)- Tom Gallagher, Eamonn Brennan, Kevin Collins

Treasurer – no change for the financial report.

Events from 21.06.2022 to 14.06.2023

On Sunday 1st May 2022 Dawn Chorus meeting 5.30am at the green in Holycross. 43 people attended this event hosted by Liz and Philip Quinn and facilitated by Aine Lynch and Tom Gallgher. A good mixture of farmland, river and garden birds were heard and seen. The hosts provided tea and scones to all the early risers.

On Sunday 29th May 2022 at Lough Derryvilla Dusk Chorus 7pm– a cuckoo and lark event. This event was also well attended by some 40 people. The walk was facilitated by branch members Tom Gallagher, Kevin Collins and Aine Lynch.

AGM was held on 28.03.2023 and was proceeded by a talk on Bird Migration by Kevin Collins. This was held at the Cabragh Wetlands and was a well-attended event.

Sunday 30th April 2023 – Dawn Chrous at Lough Derryville. This was awell attended event. The event was led by Tom Gallagher and Aine Clancy.

Sunday 14th May 2023 – Dusk Chorus at Templemore Town Park. This was also well attended and led by Tom Gallagher and Aine Clancy.

Saturday 10th June – Family Wildlife Walk with Albert Nolan. This was at Cahir Castle. It was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Other News.

The Barn Owl group within the branch had a successful year, ringing 50 chicks and 1 adult barn owl in 2022. They produced an article for Wings Magazine. Tom Gallagher has produced a leaflet on Barn Owls and habitat and this is being distributed across Tipperary to encourage landowners to create and maintain suitable Barn Owl foraging habitat. This was funded by the Tipperary Heritage Officer. Liam Crowe has been very busy making boxes. The group have also assisted several landowners erecting boxes on their properties.

Tolka Branch Report for 2023 AGM

Financial Report

Balance from 19th June 2022: €2,665.50

Income from Branch events: €263.65

Expenditure: €243.69

Balance as of 19th June 2022: €2,685.50

Events

In this period from September 2022 to May 2023 we had 5 meetings.

However, attendance at two of them was very low, probably due to insufficient advertisement, as the speakers were only arranged at short notice.

The Botanic Gardens fully opened to being used as a venue again in September 2022 and we thank them for their support.

We found it was more difficult to arrange speakers and topics in this period to give people a choice.

All but two of our scheduled outings were cancelled, one due to weather and the other due to works being carried out at the site (Sliabh Beagh).

Committee

We welcome Neill Molloy to the committee of Tolka Branch.

Committee Members

Chairman: Dermot McCabe

Treasurer: John Hammond

Phillip Clancy

John Fox

Vincent Hall

Anne May

Maire Sinnott

Neil Molloy

*John Hammond,
on behalf of the Tolka Branch of BirdWatch Ireland*

BIRDWATCH IRELAND WEST CORK BRANCH
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
AND
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

Report of the Committee

Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers and Committee Members

At the AGM, held on 30th March 2023, the following Officers were elected:

Chairperson	Jez Simms	chair@birdwatchirelandwestcork.ie
Hon. Secretary	Fiona O'Neill	secretary@birdwatchirelandwestcork.ie
Hon. Treasurer	Nicholas Mitchell	treasurer@birdwatchirelandwestcork.ie

All three Offices are bank signatories, with a minimum of two signatories required under the Bank Mandate.

Other Committee Members are:

Claire Deasy	West Cork Swift Project Co-ordinator
Damaris Lysaght	West Cork I-WeBS Co-ordinator & Events Secretary
David Rees	
Karl Woods	

Contents

Chairperson's Report

Treasurer's Report

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022

List of Events

Fiona O'Neill
Hon. Secretary

17th April 2023

Chairperson's Report

In the absence of Mike Copley at the AGM, it falls to me to report on the year 2022.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Committee Members for their support & most especially to Fiona O'Neill for taking on the role of Secretary at our last AGM.

Fourteen outings were organised last year. We stuttered a bit at first, being unable to hold a full format West Cork Bird Race due to safety concerns over Covid, & then atrocious weather cancelled our next meeting at Goleen Marsh. However, the Bird Race at least covered a fair bit of West Cork with teams at various points along the coast & we were able to get to Goleen Marsh in November.

As well as Goleen Marsh we had a few new outings with our dawn chorus at Myross Woods for the first time, a visit to the Old Head seabird colony in the summer & a farm walk in Ballydehob. We are always looking for new outing ideas so would welcome any ideas from Branch Members.

We have continued our monthly articles in the West Cork People with pieces on Rooks & Jackdaws, the Dunnock, bird migration, Marsh Fritillaries, Spring Birding in West Cork, the Birds of County Cork, National Heritage Week, pelagic birds & volunteer surveys. Once again, thanks to all the contributors.

Finally, the Branch would like to welcome Linda Lennon as the new CEO of BirdWatch Ireland for taking the time to meet representatives of the Committee on Cape Clear in August. As a post year end note, the Committee has since agreed to make a donation of €1,000 to Cape Clear Observatory.

Nicholas Mitchell
Hon. Treasurer

30th March 2023

Treasurer's Report

Gross Surplus from Branch activities

Gross Income decreased overall from €2,475 in 2021 to €844 in 2022. Gross income from core activities included:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
• Boat trips & outdoor events	120	896
• Bird Race	0	0
• Dawn Chorus	0	0
• Conservation projects - grants & sponsorship	0	1,500

Gross Surplus from these events, excluding any income from sweepstakes & donations, was €120 (€44 in 2021).

During the year the Branch also supplemented its gross income through the following activities:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
• Sweepstakes	64	74
• Ad hoc donations	30	7
• Retail sales	0	0

Gross Surplus from these activities was €94 (€44 in 2021).

Gross Surplus from all activities increased from €86 in 2021 to €107 in 2022.

Net Surplus

At year end the interest rate on bank deposits €4,885 was 0.2%pa (€3,401 at 0.2% in 2021). Overhead expenses increased from €78 in 2021 to €128 in 2022.

Net Surplus decreased from a Net Surplus €15 in 2021 to a Net Deficit €12 in 2022.

Fixed Assets

The Branch did not purchase any equipment during the year.

Cumulative Fund

The Cumulative Fund decreased from €5,679 at 31st December 2021 to €5,667 at 31st December 2022.

Post Balance Sheet events

The Branch made a donation to BirdWatch Ireland for the Cape Clear Bird Observatory value €1,000

Nicholas Mitchell
Hon. Treasurer

11th February 2022

BirdWatch Ireland West Cork Branch
Income & Expenditure
Year ended 31st December 2022

	2022	2021
Income		
Boat trips and outdoor events	720	895
Ticket sales indoor events	0	0
Raffle sales	0	0
Sweepstakes	94	73
Grants received	0	1,500
Donations & sponsorship	30	7
Sale of Products	0	0
	<u>844</u>	<u>2,475</u>
Less: Direct costs		
Boat hire	550	646
Room hire	70	0
Guide hire & gratuities	87	78
Speakers	0	0
Raffle prizes & giveaways	0	0
Sweepstakes	30	37
Conservation projects	0	1,628
Cost of products	0	0
	<u>737</u>	<u>2,389</u>
Gross surplus / (deficit)	<u>107</u>	<u>86</u>
Other income		
Bank interest and dividends receivable	9	7
	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>
	<u>116</u>	<u>93</u>
Less: Overhead expenses		
Website hosting	56	57
Printing, stationery and postage	0	0
Bank charges and interest payable	0	(2)
General expenses	49	0
Depreciation	23	23
	<u>128</u>	<u>78</u>
Net surplus / (deficit) for the year	€ <u>(12)</u>	€ <u>15</u>

Approved by:

Date: 22nd February 2023

Chairman

BirdWatch Ireland West Cork Branch
Balance Sheet
As at 31st December 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	1	103	126
Current Assets			
Stock	2	282	309
Debtors		66	1,509
Cash at bank and in hand		5,216	3,735
		<u>5,564</u>	<u>5,553</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	3	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		5,564	5,553
		<u>5,564</u>	<u>5,553</u>
Total Net Assets		€ 5,667	€ 5,679
		<u>5,667</u>	<u>5,679</u>
Cumulative Fund			
Opening Balance		5,679	5,664
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		(12)	15
		<u>5,667</u>	<u>5,679</u>
Closing Balance		€ 5,667	€ 5,679
		<u>5,667</u>	<u>5,679</u>

Approved by:

Date: 22nd February 2023

Chairman

BirdWatch Ireland West Cork Branch
Notes to Accounts
Year ended 31st December 2022

1. Tangible Fixed Assets	Optical equipment	General equipment	Total
Cost at 1st January 2022	250	228	478
Additions	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0
Cost at 31st December 2022	<u>250</u>	<u>228</u>	<u>478</u>
Depreciation at 1st January 2022	250	102	352
Charge for year	0	23	23
Disposals	0	0	0
Depreciation at 31st December 2022	<u>250</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>375</u>
Net Book Value at 31st December 2022	€ <u>0</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>103</u>
Net Book Value at 31st December 2021	€ <u>0</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>126</u>
Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis:			
Optical equipment	- over ten years		
General equipment	- over four years		
2. Stock	2022	2021	
Stock of BirdWatch Ireland products & postage stamps	€ <u>282</u>	<u>309</u>	
3. Debtors			
Grants receivable	0	1,500	
Prepayments	66	9	
	€ <u>66</u>	<u>0</u>	
4 Current Liabilities			
Creditors	€ <u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	

List of events held during 2022

1	Sunday 30 th January	Bird Race – Various West Cork locations
2	Sunday 20 th February	Goleen Marsh - cancelled
3	Sunday 13 th March	Bantry – Gulls & divers
4	Thursday 31 st March	AGM
5	Sunday 15 th May	Myross Woods - Dawn Chorus
6	Sunday 12 th June	Old Head of Kinsale – Seabird colony
7	Sunday 3 rd July	Ballydehob – Estuary & farm walk
8	Sunday 14 th August	Pelagic boat trip
9	Saturday 20 th August	Rosscarbery – National Heritage Week
10	Sunday 11 th September	Cape Clear – Cancelled
11	Sunday 9 th October	Mizen Head – Autumn migration
12	Sunday 6 th November	Goleen Marsh
13	Sunday 4 th December	Harper’s Island
14	Wednesday 28 th December	Courtmacsherry – Christmas walk

West Kerry Branch report for 2023 AGM

Activities

We continue with our WhatsApp Group, which is open to all. It's very popular. Just sightings, reports of surveys activity, conservation problems, news. During the height of bird 'flu, a separate WhatsApp was set up. I discourage whiffing on endlessly as it's too irritating. One casualty.

I get routine requests for help with injured birds and events. We still have no events despite their popularity. I can't find anyone to organise them.

IWeBs in our 4 Harbours around Dingle went well as it has for over 2 decades.

We are ready for the national otter survey as we know loads of territories.

Relations with local inland Fisheries are very good, which is excellent. I even had a positive response from an environmental officer in Kerry County Council when I reported high trajectory slurry spreading! That's a first. We had some terrible fires in February, but we are all enjoying not having smoke pollution in June now!

A turn up for the books was a new NPWS Ranger, Jean Hamilton. I became aware of her late last year. She was great and very nice and I hoped this would result in some state support of all the work volunteers have put in over 20 years. I spent many hours emailing her material on data we have collated. Birds, rare flora, butterflies, dragonflies, supportive farmers, special habitats, etc. We worked closely together on bird 'flu as a group on bird deaths, particularly seabirds, logging counts etc. We discussed rare plant monitoring, a lichen survey of Inisvicklane, moth rarities and habitats. She contributed to our WhatsApp group. Took action on illegal fires. Then, after 6 months, her patch was divided up and she chose South Kerry!! So, we are back to square one. A waste of my time.

We have €2,500.

The committee consists of myself, Michael O'Clery and Lucie Hankie.

Jill Crosher

BirdWatch Wicklow Branch Report for BirdWatch Ireland AGM 2023

Committee Update

Branch Committee membership from June 2022 to May 2023 is listed below:

Joe Lennon, Chair
Clodagh Duffy, Hon Secretary
Con Hogan, Committee Member
Jonathan Stanley, Hon. Treasurer
Aoife O'Rourke, Committee Member

An AGM was held on 23rd May 2023 via Zoom at which all the Committee Members named above were proposed and nominated. An additional Committee member, Omer Hughes, was proposed and nominated. The Branch Committee has been approved by BirdWatch Ireland.

Branch Committee Meetings were held on the following dates 13.07.22 (via Zoom), 15.12.22 (via Zoom), 10.01.23 (in person), 07.02.23 (via Zoom), 11.04.23 (in person).

Branch Events May 2022 to May 2023

Branch events are free and open to the public, for indoor events a small voluntary contribution to cover the cost of room hire is requested.

2022

There was a gradual return to branch outdoor events following the easing of the pandemic restrictions.

May 13th, 2022: Dusk Chorus Event at ECNR with BWI and Wicklow County Council.

September 24th, 2022: Outing to Kilcoole to look for Autumn migrants.

November 19, 2022: Outing to Cahore for Whooper/Greylags/Blackwits/Golden Plover.

December 18th: Outing to ECNR for Wintering Waterbirds.

2023

Branch Chair Joe Lennon secured a new venue for indoor talks at Ashford Heritage Centre.

February 14th: Indoor talk - The Dublin and Wicklow Tern Conservation Projects by Dr Steve Newton.

February 25th: Outing to Broadlough for wintering waterbirds.

March 14th: Indoor Talk - Why Birds Sing, a Birdsong Workshop with Joe Lennon.

March 25th: Outing to Rogerstown Estuary, Turvey Nature Reserve.

April 22nd: Outing to Kilcoole with Jason Monaghan from the NPWS to look for breeding waders and to hear about recent conservation work.

May 9th: Indoor Talk: Bats in Wicklow by Enda Mullen from NPWS.

May 14th: Dawn Chorus Day Walk in Avondale Forest Park.

Branch members also participated in other Events and Activities as follows:-

CBS

I-WeBS

Garden Bird Survey

The Dublin Horse Show, RDS – August 2022

East Coast Nature Reserve (every Thursday)

The Branch supported a Barn Owl survey in Wicklow in 2022.

In April 2022, the Branch was approached by BirdWatch Ireland HQ to ask if we would assist Bray Golf Club with some of their biodiversity efforts. Subsequently the Branch Chair met with a Forest and Wildlife volunteers' group from the Club and after carrying out a survey, drafted a report on actions they could take to improve habitat and nesting opportunities for birds. Follow up meetings resulted in a new Habitats Group being established which organised the placement of two Barn Owl boxes, a Kestrel Box, a Woodpecker box, bat boxes and numerous bird boxes (purchased from BWI) for tits, sparrows, robins et al, around the course. The Group is also implementing changes to planting to improve habitat/food sources for birds. Further surveys are being undertaken in Spring 2023 to establish a list of breeding bird species on the course.

The Branch Chair, Joe Lennon, supported by the Branch Secretary, led a bird song walk for the Greystones Brownie Troop in ECNR on May 15th 2023.

Branch Communications

The Branch keeps in touch with branch members via regular group emails, there are more than 350 people on the branch mailing list, e-mail: birdwatchwicklow@gmail.com and via Facebook (@birdwatchwicklow) and Twitter (@WicklowBranch).

Meetings Attended by Committee Members

- Meeting for Branch Committees with BWI CEO (via Zoom).
- LAWPRO Presentation on Status of Wicklow Rivers and SUAS project
- East Wicklow Rivers Trust.

Joe Lennon, Branch Chair & Clodagh Duffy Hon. Branch Secretary
19th June, 2023

Treasurer Update/Statement of Branch Finances

Branch revenue and costs were linked to our indoor Branch events with revenue from voluntary contributions from attendees used to offset the cost of room hire and small token thank you gifts/expenses for speakers etc.

Opening Balance 01.05.22	€252.60
Closing Balance 07.06.22	€190.40

Jonathan Stanley

Honorary Treasurer

12th June, 2023