

CORK BIRD REPORT

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CORK BIRD REPORT

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(from whom copies are available)

Introduction

The Report for 1965 reflects the result of a very successful year's bird-watching in Co. Cork, and a number of interesting and valuable records has been submitted by members. Some of these which seemed important enough to deserve a wider circulation have been sent to the Editor of The Irish Bird Report for his consideration.

Swallows, Swifts and Martins were some ten to fourteen days later than usual in arriving in Cork due, possibly, to the adverse weather conditions prevailing in late Spring. A big invasion of Hoopoes occurred on the Cork coast (as well as in other parts of the country) during the period March 29th to April 11th, and no fewer than 26 reports were received from observers in Co. Cork.

In May a Tree Sparrow colony was discovered in Co. Cork, the first breeding record of this species on the ~~Irish~~^{CORK} coast, and shortly afterwards a second site was located nearby. An Alpine Swift was observed in Ballycotton in August, the ninth recorded occurrence in Ireland of this species.

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CLASSIFIED LIST.

Black-throated Diver. *Gavia arctica.*
Single bird in The Lough, Cork from Dec. 26th 1965 to Jan. 5th 1966. Disappeared on latter date but seen again on Jan. 12th, and remained until the evening of 14th, when it finally left.
The bird was watched over long periods by a number of observers some of whom are familiar with the Great Northern and Red-throated Divers. It was agreed un-animously and independently that this bird was indeed a Black-throated Diver. Size - roughly that of Herring Gull, many of which were in The Lough at the time. Crown of head, nape of neck and the back were an even shade of very dark brown, so dark that it appeared a sooty black in all but good light. Throat, front of neck, breast, and underparts were a clear white. A slight shading was noted where brown and white met. Bill was dark and slender, tapering evenly to the tip, with no upward tilt. Dived occasionally, remaining submerged for approx. 10-15 secs. on an average. In diving it submerged quietly with no spring or effort. Mobbed at times by gulls, usually submerging when this occurred. Did not travel far under water. When swimming on surface, it carried its head with the bill tilted very slightly above the horizontal, particularly when disturbed.
(C.D.H., W.J. O'F., P.O'F., T.C.O'K.)

Great Northern Diver. *Gavia immer.*
Single bird in summer plumage at Carrig-adda Bay (Rocky Bay), near Robert's Cove on June 19th. Observer attracted by its unusual call which, when imitated, induced it to come from about quarter of

6.
a mile distance to within 100 yards of the shore. Noted were its large size and strong large bill. Black head and neck. Spotted black and white upperparts. White breast. (T.C.O'K.)

Red-throated Diver. *Gavia stellata*.
Single bird off Harbour View, Courtmacsherry Way, Jan. 3rd. Pale grey upper parts. Dark irregular marking on front of neck. Bill appeared to be tilted slightly towards tip. (W.J.O'F.)
Two at Oysterhaven, Jan. 24. Single bird at Redstrand, Clonakilty, April 19th in intermediate plumage. (C.P.K.P.)
Ten birds off Old Head of Kinsale, Feb. 27th (M.A.H., T.C.O'K.)

Great Crested Grebe. *Podiceps cristatus*.
Wintered in small numbers off north shore of Cobh Island. Up to eight seen at various times in December off Hop Island, Rochestown. (C.P.K.P.)

Spoonbill. *Platalea leucorodia*.
For the third successive winter a single bird of this species has wintered at Ballymacoda, previously two wintered for two successive years: seen Oct. 23rd, (J.L.J.), Nov. 22nd (W.J.O'F.) Single bird off Shanagarry Strand Feb. 13th (T.C.O'K.). Single bird on rocks at Ballycotton Island on Feb. 15th (M.Lane-Galsh per P.O'F.) These two latter reports are probably of the same bird, which is very likely the bird that winters in Ballymacoda, as this has been observed on several occasions to fly in the direction of Ballycotton.

7.
Mallard. *Anas platyrhynchos*.
c. 350 birds on the Inniscarra reservoir on Jan. 2nd. (T.C.O'K) This is an unusually large number.

Gadwall. *Anas strepera*.
Five birds, two male and three female, at Ballycotton Bog on Feb. 6th (P.O'F., T.C.O'K.). Pair at Ballymons, Dec. 28th (R.A.H.)

Pintail. *Anas acuta*.
Eleven birds, five drakes & six ducks, at Weir Island, Fota Jan 16th. (W.J.O'F.)

Shoveler. *Spatula clypeata*.
Three females in pond in marsh at Ardnahinch, Garryvoe, Sept. 1st (W.J.O'F.)

Scaup. *Aythya marila*.
Four females at Douglas from Dec. 26th to 31st. (C.D.H.) Four females at Rochestown Br. Jan 2nd 1966 (S.A.O'L) Probably the same birds. Described as "Dark brown coot-shaped duck, with bold white patch at base of bill. Light brown patches on sides. Underparts white. Larger than Tufted Duck which were some distance from them."

Tufted Duck. *Aythya fuligula*.
One drake, three ducks at Douglas Dec. 26th-31st. (C.D.H.) Fourteen drakes, fifteen ducks on R. Lee at Carrigrohane, below Mental Hospital. (C.D.H.). This species frequents this spot each winter; an excellent place to study them at relatively close range. (Ed.)

8.

Pochard. *Aythya ferina.*
 Off north shore of Cobh Island, Jan. 5th
 Five birds. (C.D.H.). Loughaderra,
 Castlemartyr, Dec. 29th 4 birds (C.D.H.)
 Dec. 30th Thirty-four birds at The Lough
 Bird Sanctuary. (C.D.H.). c.50 birds
 winter in The Lough Bird Sanctuary. Some
 of these fly out each morning and return
 at dusk. About half remain and become
 quite tame. Pochard arrive in Nov. and
 depart in March. In the first winter in
 which records were kept, about 20 birds
 wintered. This has now increased to some
 50 birds. (Denis Twomey per W.J.O'F.)

Goldeneye. *Bucephala clangula.*
 Pair on channel on north side of Cobh
 Island, Jan. 5th. (C.D.H.) and (C.P.K.P.)

Common Scoter. *Melanitta nigra.*
 Pair seen off north shore of Great Island
 Cobh on Jan. 5th. (C.D.H.: C.P.K.P.)
 Description (C.D.H.) as follows:- Drake,
 hunched rounded body; diving in company
 of Tufted Ducks and Pochard. Head
 seemed to protrude in front of the body
 and appeared large in comparison with the
 body. The tail was near or under the
 surface of the water. The colour was
 very dark brown or black and there was a
 distinct knob on the bill. Duck was a
 small squat dark brown bird. Colour
 lighter in tone near the "water line",
 and darkest on the mantle. Light neck
 patches on either side. Tail out of
 water.

Greylag Goose. *Anser anser.*
 6 birds upstream of Crompaun Br. Ballymacoda
 on 24th Oct. (J.L.J.) 1 bird wintered
 with farmyard geese at Crompaun Br.
 First seen on Nov. 21st. (R.A.H.)
 Seen on Dec. 5th by W.J.O'F who was able
 to approach to within 20 yards of the geese
 while these were in the farm haggard where
 they spent each night. At this range the
 pale grey breast was seen to be spotted
 irregularly, suggesting that the bird was
 not immature. Seen again by C.D.H. on Dec.
 29th. Full description submitted.
 Eight birds seen on the Inniscarra Reser-
 voir near Dripsey on Nov. 21st (R.A.H.)
 Two adult birds on Ballycotton bog, Nov. 6th
 & 9th (C.L.)

Mute Swan. *Cygnus olor*
 91 adults and 4 immature on Kilkerran Lake
 Clonakilty on Aug. 8th. (W.J.O'F)

Whooper Swan. *Cygnus cygnus*
 40 on Ballinacarriga Lake, S.E. of Dunman-
 way on Mar. 19th, (G.A.W.) Five birds on
 Lee near Anglers' Rest, Carrigrohane on Jan,
 6th (C.P.K.P.) 11 on L. Gullane, Clonakilty
 on Feb. 7th. Pair with 2 young on large
 pond west of Ballincollig on Mar. 4th. 4
 on The Gearegh on Mar. 14th (M.G.B.) Nine
 on pond near Ballincollig on Dec. 25th, 1
 immature, (C.D.H.). Four adults and 1
 immature, Inniscarra, Nov. 21st. (R.A.H.)

Pewick's Swan. *Cygnus bewickii.*
 Solitary bird at Minane Br., Carrigaline, on
 Feb. 27th. Good view of bill ruled out
 possibility of Whooper. Seen again in same
 spot a week later. (W.J.O'F.) 4 birds on
 Inniscarra Reservoir on Nov. 21st. (R.A.H.)

10.

Buzzard. *Buteo buteo*

One near Belgooly, April 3rd. Large, dark brown raptor hovering at distance of 50-75 yards; rounded, barred tail, spread. Broad wings, fingered wing-tips upcurved. Soaring and wheeling at low altitudes. (M.A.H., T.C.O'K)
One at Inchadoney, Clonakilty on May 30th. Large brown bird of prey with pale underparts flew over the hill at low height pursued by Herring Gulls. Short dark fan shaped tail. No terminal band on tail noted, separated primaries in flight noted. Blotchy underparts. Flew a short distance out to sea, then commenced to soar in large circles, gaining height rapidly and quickly outdistancing the gulls. Drifted away to the west at a great height. (W.J.O'F). Single bird at Earley Cove on July 10th. (C.P.K.P.)
Notes include large hawk-like bird. Body dark brown with irregular white marking on lower parts. Dark brown barring on tail, which was large and rounded with a dark terminal band. Wings large and rounded, very broad in proportion to length, with primaries dark and visible separately in flight, legs a bright yellow seen when bird landed on a rock. No feathering on legs. (C.P.K.P.)
All the observers are familiar with Hen Harriers and the possibility of confusion with this species may be disregarded. (Ed.)

Sparrow Hawk *Accipiter nisus*.

Reports from different areas seem to indicate that this species, though scarce, is not as near extinction as was feared a year or two ago. (M.G.B.,

11.

C.D.H., R.A.H., J.L.J., C.P.K.P., W.J.O'F)

Hen Harrier. *Circus Cyaneus*.

A number of vagrant birds reported during winter months. (M.G.B., C.D.H., R.A.H., J.L.J., C.P.K.P., P.O'F., W.J.O'F.)

Merlin. *Falco columbarius*.

Seen occasionally in Co. Cork. More plentiful in S. Kerry in July. (W.J.O'F.)

Red Grouse. *Lagopus L. Hibernicus*.

A small number of birds seen on moors in N. Cork in Spring. (W.J.O'F.)

Water Rail. *Rallus aquaticus*.

Seen on four separate occasions, during cold spell in February, in small marsh east of Cork city. Maximum number together - four birds. (W.J.O'F.)

Corncrake. *Crex crex*.

Number of times bird heard. 1. (M.G.B.)
4. (R.A.H.), 6. (W.J.O'F). Bird flushed from long grass at Ballincollig on C.O.S. outing on May 5th. Bird summered near The Glen, Dillons Cross, Cork. (W.J.O'F.)

Oystercatcher. *Haematopus ostralegus*.

Small flocks of 50-100 birds along coast and for some miles inland during the winter months. Huge gatherings in evening, especially at high tide at Tivoli Flats. e.g. Aug. 30th. c. 1000; Oct. 10th c. 2500; Oct. 23rd c. 1800. (W.J.O'F.)

Grey Plover. *Charadrius squatarola*.

Three birds in summer plumage on Aug. 15th at Ballymona Strand, Shanagarry. (W.J.O'F.)
Flock of 36 birds Ballymona, Oct. 10th. (T.C.O'K.)

12.

Wimbrel. *Numenius phaeopus.*
At least two birds wintered again at Fota Island. Seen and heard at various times throughout winter. (W.J.O'F., S.A.O L.) Thirty four in a flock, calling continuously in flight at Belvelly, Fota, on April 16th. (C.D.H., C.P.K.P.)

Black Tailed Godwit. *Limosa limosa.*
Large flock to be seen in Autumn and winter at dusk on Tivoli Flats. (W.J.O'F)

Bar tailed Godwit. *Limosa lapponica.*
Winters in Co. Cork in smaller numbers than Black-tailed. c. 150 at Ballymona Strand on Oct. 10th. (T.C.O'K.)

Green Sandpiper. *Tringa ochropus.*
S.A. O L. considers that the birds which used to frequent the ditches near the sewage farm at Douglas, Cork, have left this area and moved down towards the mouth of the river where it flows into the Lee. He suggests that there are 3 resident birds in the Douglas marsh in 1965. C.P.K.P. has seen two in every month except May & June in this area. C.D.H. Found two birds present during the latter half of July.

Wood Sandpiper. *Tringa glareola.*
Single bird at Douglas, Nov. 1st, Flew out of drain about seven feet from observer and over a dyke. Alarm note "chip-chip chip". Brief glimpse showed tail clearly barred, wing blackish on upper side, size - that of Green sandpiper with which bird the observer is very familiar. White rump, and underparts white. (C.D.H.)

Single bird at Inchadoney, on Oct. 16th. Typical sandpiper behaviour, bobbing of head and tail. Legs long and yellow. Size - smaller than Redshank. Bill shorter than Redshank. Upperparts a dark brown, spotted white. Underparts white. Legs projected beyond tail in flight. Rump white. Call unlike Green Sandpipers. White underwing. (T.C.O'K.)

Spotted Redshank. *Tringa erythropus.*
One bird at Ballymona Strand on Jan. 11th: Single bird at Douglas on Sept. 5th and 7th and again on Dec. 23rd. (C.D.H.) Single bird on mudflats near Raffeen, Monkstown on Dec. 26th (S.A. O L.). Single bird at Inchadoney on Oct. 16th (T.C.O'K.).

Knot. *Calidris canutus.*
One albino bird among flock of c. 250 at Ballinacurra on Mar. 7th. Pure white bird except for head which was of a dirty-yellow colour. Dark legs and bill. (C.D.H.). Flock of c. 1000 at Douglas on Dec. 4th. (T.C.O'K.). Flock of c. 600 at Lakelands, just upstream of Rly. Br. on Jan. 12th. On Jan. 28th - 100 and on Feb. 7th only 50 remained. (C.P.K.P.)

Sanderling. *Crocethia alba.*
Two feeding together in shallow water at Douglas on Jan. 12th. (C.P.K.P.). Three in summer plumage on May 19th at Shanagarry, and eight similarly garbed at Ring Strand, Ballymacoda on June 7th. (W.J.O'F.).

Ruff. *philomachus pugnax.*
At Shanagarry Marsh (east pool) on May 16th a male in full breeding plumage seen in company of four Reeves. Black head and shoulders, scaly back. Tiny patch of white on either side of neck where black and grey-brown of back met. Dark edge to folded

14. wings. Light coloured underparts. Legs and bill a greenish-yellow. Feeding very actively. Watched for about half an hour. Upright stance when alerted. Did not puff out ruff however and eventually flew off with Reeves when disturbed. (W.J.O'F.)
 Other records:- Shanagarry;- Aug. 16th, eight Reeves or Immature birds, Sept. 1st two birds, separately; Oct. 25rd one Reeve. Gurraneveen Strand, Kilbrittan, Nov. 28th, One Ruff, winter dress. Tivoli Flats. Dec. 30th two birds. (W.J.O'F.).
 Oval patches at sides of tail noted
 Single Bird in autumn plumage at Rosscarberry on Sept. 3rd (R.F.R., A.R.J.).

Avocet. *Recurvirostra avosetta.*
 Solitary bird in marsh near Ballycotton, Jan. 8th (C.L.) Jan. 9th (P.O'F., C.L.) Still in this area on March 13th (R.A.H.) probably the same bird that M.A.H. had seen at Ballymona on Dec. 1st 1964.
 See '64 report. During the winter 1965-66 no Avocet has been reported from Co. Cork, the first blank winter for nine years.

Common Gull. *Larus Canus.*
 This species continues to winter on the Cork coast in appreciable numbers.
 Records for Ballinacurra, Middleton:- Jan. 24th, c. 50, Sept. 26th, 88, Oct. 9th, c. 60, Oct. 17th, 45. Ballymona Strand Shanagarry, Oct. 30th 200. (C.D.H.)
 200 - 250 wintering at Ballymona. (W.J.O'F.)

Black-headed Gull. *Larus ridibundus.*
 One immature bird found on one of the islands in the Douglas estuary on July 23rd. Report continues:- "It covered in the grass and I caught it easily, but it broke free from my hands

and was able to make its way across the mud slithering along and making short flights about 6 inches above the ground. I searched the area for a nest but found none. There were two other immature birds about, but these flew strongly. (C.D.H.)
 Nesting colony of between 30 and 50 pairs seen at Kilcolman Bog near Doneraile on May 2nd. (W.J.O'F.) An estimated 20 pairs nesting or attempting to, at The Gearagh, Macroom on May 12th. Due to the varying level of the lake, part of the Lee Hydro-electric scheme, it is doubtful if many young were brought off. (W.J.O'F.)

Black Tern. *Chlidonias niger.*
 Lone bird hawking flies over marsh pool at Ballymona West on Oct. 23rd. In Autumn plumage. Black bill. Head white, except for odd-looking black patch over the crown. Wings and back were a dark grey so that the white nape gave the appearance of a collar. Breast white, but belly was a mottled brown. Under tail coverts white. Colour of legs not clearly seen but were dark. While the bird was resting, a dark mark forward of the wing was noted. Tail not noticeably forked. When wings were extended in the curious fluttering flight, the feathers at the rear or trailing edges appeared more light coloured than the rest of the wing. Kept about the one pool, except when chivvied by a Hoodie. Watched for about 20 mins. (W.J.O'F.)

Common Tern. *Sterna hirundo.*
 About 20 pairs nesting on the rocks in the vicinity of Galley Cove, Crookhaven. (C.P.K.F.)
 Shanagarry marsh, June 7th. Nest with three eggs. (W.J.O'F.)
 Ballymona marsh, June 7th, 8 pairs nesting on inaccessible island in marsh. (W.J.O'F.)

16.

Little Tern. *Sterna albifrons.*
Pair at extreme tip of sand bar across es-
tuary at Ballymacoda on June 7th. Stayed
around, but no sign of nesting. Ballymona
strand, June 7th. 8-10 pairs nesting.
(W.J. O'F.)

Sandwich Tern. *Sterna sandvicensis.*
Two pairs, possibly three, at Ballymona
Strand on July 20th. Adult birds feeding
immatures. (C.D.H.) No birds of this
species seen at Ballymona on June 7th.
(W.J. O'F.) Early arrivals. Four birds on
shingle bank at Oysterhaven on March 31st.
(W.J. O'F.)

Guillemot. *Uria aalge.*
500 + birds at breeding station on Old Head
of Kinsale on July 18th. (C.P.K.P.)

Black Guillemot. *Uria grylle.*
Single bird in winter plumage at Oysterhaven
on Jan. 1st. Small duck-like bird. General
appearance - white with black marking. Large
white streak on either side of body. Short
stubby bill. Back of head and top a light
grey. Eye dark. Tail - black above,
white below. Speckled white underparts.
Red legs seen clearly when diving. When
diving upends first, then dives. These
birds are seen usually singly along the
coast and estuaries during the winter.
(W.J. O'F.).

Collared Dove. *Streptopelia decaocto.*
New colonies. At grain silo near railway
station at Middleton, 8 birds. (C.D.H.)
One at Monchen Road, Cork, July 27th-Aug. 3rd.
One on telegraph wire at Old Head of Kinsale,
Aug. 8th. (C.P.K.P.) Two on Boggy Road,
Ballintemple, Cork, Aug. 17th. (G.A.W.)
Boggy Rd, Ballintemple, Cork, Single bird on
July 27th & 29th. Pair on Sep. 3rd. Single

Bird, Blackrock July 29th. (C.D.H.) Pair at
Westbourne, Cobh, on Jan. 29th. (J.J. Wilson
per W.J. O'F.) Small colony on Mardyke, Cork
behind Erinville Hospital, (Dr. J.B. Kearney,
per W.J. O'F.)

Barn Owl. *Tyto Alba.*
Heard screeching twice on Oct. 16th at
Castle Mary, Cloyne. (C.L.)

Short-eared Owl. *Asio flammeus.*
At Croompaun Bridge, Clonpriest, Ballymacoda,
on Dec. 5th, a wounded bird was found and
dispatched. Had been shot with shot gun.
Mounted by S.A.O.L. and now in his possession.
(W.J. O'F.) Single bird, Ballycotton
Bog, Dec. 26th. Observer familiar with
this species in Norfolk. (C.L.)

Nightjar. *Caprimulgus europaeus.*
Pair over the river at Middleton, on Aug.
12th. Flew upstream, returning a few min-
utes later. One bird had white spots on
the wings and tail. The wings were long
and flat tipped. Overall plumage appeared
grey, but as it was dusk, details could not
be clearly seen. Both birds made a sound
like an old sewing machine. (C.P.K.P.)

Swift. *Apus apus.*
First arrivals: St. Luke's Cross, Cork, 2
birds April 30th. (T.C. O'K.) Ballinlough
Rd, May 10th. (R.A.H.) Ballyvolane Rd, May
9th. 2 birds. (W.J. O'F.) Departure:
Ballyvolane Rd. July 30th. c. 50 birds
overhead. Much screaming and excitement.
For the following three days no Swifts were
seen. Then from Aug. 3rd - 6th small num-
bers, which appeared to be young birds,
were noted. Aug. 7th. c. 40 birds seen.
Numbers dropped to c. 12 birds in the days
following. On Aug. 13th, 18 birds counted,
but all had gone by the following day, and

10.
no further birds were seen here in 1963.

Alpine Swift. *Apus melba.*
Single bird at Ballycotton on August 6th.
Bird similar to Swift but larger. Brown
back, white underparts, Dark breast band.
Other swifts about for direct comparison.
(P. O'F.) This is the ninth recorded
occurrence of this species in Ireland.

Kingfisher. *Alcedo atthis.*
Sufficient reports have been received from
all parts of Co. Cork to indicate that
there is no apparent drop in the populat-
ion of this bird.

Hoopoe. *Upupa epops.*
An unusually large number of this species
visited Ireland in late Spring, and a record
number of 26 reports (30 birds) came from
observers in Co. Cork. Distribution, work-
ing from East to West is as follows:-

Shanagarry-Cloyne area	3	reports
Whitegate-Roches Point	9	"
Fota Island	1	"
Cork City (College Road)	1	"
Old Head of Kinsale	1	"
Kilbrittain-Courtmacsherry	4	"
Clonakilty	3	"
West Cork(Myross to Cape Clear)	5	"

(M.A.H., C.D.H., P.O'F., T.C. O'K., C.P.K.P.,
M.Roche per W.J.O'F.; G.Coyningham-Greene,
the late J.E. O'Donovan, J.T. Sharrock per
R.F.R.)

Swallow. *Hirundo rustica*
This species was late in arriving in 1965.
Only record submitted - 6 birds over Butlers-
town Lake, Middleton, on April 25th. (W.J.O'F.)

House Martin. *Delichon urbica.*
35 nests at Power Head, a drop of 15 on 1964
figures. (M. Roche per W.J. O'F.) Six
nests at Frower Head, Kinsale on June 1st.
Four on tower of fish-freezing plant at
Ballycotton - seen on Aug. 7th. (W.J.O'F.)

Sand Martin. *Riparia riparia.*
Early arrival. Seen at sandpit near
Carrigtwohill on Mar. 29th. (R.A.H.) Large
colony in sandpit on bank of Arigideen
River, near Timoleague on May 7th. (M.G.B.)

Carrion Crow. *Corvus corone.*
Single bird at Shanagarry Marsh on Oct. 30th.
Description includes "Call as Hooded Crow,
Large black crow. Bill heavier than in
Rock, and all black with no white patch.
Primaries fingered in flight, which was
slow and ponderous. Tail rounded, not
wedge-shaped as in Raven." (C.D.H.)

Long-Tailed Tit. *Aegithalus Caudatus.*
Reported more frequently than usual from
various parts of the county. (R.A.H.,
C.D.H., W.J.O'F., C.P.K.P.)

Fieldfare. *Turdus pilaris.*
Four birds seen on ash poles on fence near
Banduff Bog on April 8th. Two males and
two females. Indulging in courtship dis-
play. (W.J.O'F.)

Whinchat. *Saxicola rubetra.*
Two at Old Head of Kinsale on Sept. 28th.
Stonechat size, white stripe over eye,
divided white rump, white wing-bar, dark
cheeks. Nearly Stonechats afforded close
comparison. (T.C.O'K.) Though the white
streak below the eye is not mentioned, this
record is considered acceptable.

20.

Redstart. *Phoenicurus phoenicurus.*
Single female at Ballycothran Bog on Sept. 26th. Finch sized bird with a fiery-red tail seen flying into a bush. When followed, the head and mantle were seen to be a grey-brown colour and the breast a rather deep buff. As the bird alighted the darker centre feathers of the red tail could be seen. (W.J. O'F.) Male bird seen at Oysterhaven on Dec. 19th. Rusty-red underparts, black throat, grey head and wings, creamy-white line across the forehead. Rusty-red tail which kept moving constantly in a scissor-like movement. Flew from fence-post across the road to telegraph wire, back and forth several times, catching insects. Watched at relatively close quarters for about 15 mins. (M.G.B.)

Grasshopper warbler. *Locustella naevia.*
Single bird on Cork-Kerry border near Rathmore, on July 26th. Back streaked, more so than Sedge Warbler. Very obscure eyestripe. Song very loud, like a grasshopper. It moved deeper into willows as it sang, finally stopping altogether. (S.A.O'L.) In the forestry plantations N.W. of Garretstown, bird heard but not seen in patch of furze, May 23rd. Heard again about half an hour later in the same location. Song like the sound of a fishing reel in action. (W.J.O'F.) In forestry plantation near Dungourney on June 27th. Song heard in stand of shoulder-high larches. (W.J. O'F.)

Blackcap. *Sylvia stricapilla.*
Male killed at lighthouse on Old Head of Kinsale on the night of Nov. 20th. (T.C.O'K.)

Chiffchaff. *Phylloscopus collybita.*
Fallinacurra, Middleton; Three birds in a 60 yd. stretch of alders for most of the ~~and Feb~~ 14th to March 10th. On Feb.

21.

14th only 2 birds were seen but by the 23rd there were three present. There could have been three birds on the earlier date also, and indeed it is very likely, as they flitted up and down both sides of the river continuously. All birds were typical *phylloscopus* warblers and were slightly larger than a Blue Tit. Small brownish-olive birds, mainly brown, with a tinge of olive green on rump and shoulders. Bill-small, pointed and dark. Legs dark brown or dark grey. No song heard. Gone on March 21st. (C.D.H.) The absence of song poses a certain difficulty in identifying warblers such as these, but in this case the dark legs indicates that these were Chiffchaffs. The possibility of three dark-legged Willow warblers together is so remote that it may be disregarded. (Ed.)

Wood Warbler. *Phylloscopus sibilatrix.*
One bird in a farmyard at Gneeveguilla, Co. Kerry, on Aug. 2nd. Seen at a distance of 4 - 5 yards for approx. ten mins. Small warbler-like bird. Appeared completely yellow at a distance, and, at close quarters, the yellowish tinge on the back was still very obvious. The yellow breast and throat contrasted sharply and suddenly with the white belly. It had a dark eye-stripe and a very yellow superciliary stripe. Legs a conspicuous light pink. No wing bar or streaks. (S.A.O.L.) Though technically a "Kerry bird" the point at which it was seen being two miles over the boundary of Cork and Kerry, it is included for reasons of interest.

Pied Wagtail. *Motacilla alba.*
Flock of about 60-70 together on road at Monkstown on Nov. 6th. A. Hogg per R.A.H.

Waxwing. *Bombycilla garrulus.*
 Large numbers of these birds "irrupted" into Britain and Ireland during the winter of 1965-66. The first report in Cork came on Nov. 8th when five birds were seen in his garden at The Camp Field, Collins Bks. by Comdt. M. Gill. This party was seen on the 9th by W.J.O'F. and later that day T.C.O'K. saw 6 birds at this location. During the winter many verbal reports and a few in writing were received. Some birds spent the winter in gardens in Ballinlough, Ballintemple, the grounds of the University, Blackrock and Trabolgan. (S.A.O.L., T.C.O'K., C.P.K.P., M.Roche, F. O'Gorman per W.J. O'F.) In an article in "The Field" of March 10th 1966, Christopher O'Connor-Thompson has this to say - "The cause of these irruptions is uncertain, but it probably depends on two related factors, the size of the waxwing population (in Finland and the North Eurasian land-mass) and the success of the rowan crop. Both of these are controlled ultimately by the weather..... The actual force compelling the birds to migrate is probably nervous excitement, caused by the close contact of overcrowding as they converge on the last sources of food. It follows that in the years when the berry crop is sufficient little migration takes place. Hunger itself probably has little to do with the migratory urge, and so the excitement caused by overcrowding acts as a safety valve, encouraging migration while the birds still have the strength. Therefore, the migration begins. Haphazardly searching for food the waxwings start their journey. Their movements guided by the autumnal winds, may lead them either across Russia to the east, or west to Southern Sweden, and ultimately to our shores."

Greenfinch. *Chloris chloris.*
 On the Boggy Road, Ballintemple, Cork, on Feb. 15th. Six flocks each estimated to contain 40-60 birds grouped at intervals along the road, and each group flying up and away as the observer's car approached. (G.A.W.)

Redpoll. *Carduelis flammea.*
 About 75 together on Douglas estuary on Jan. 28th. (C.P.K.P.)

Chaffinch. *Fringilla coelebs.*
 Sixty-three birds of both sexes counted at Inniscarra Reservoir on Nov. 21st. In one large flock. (R.A.H.) Though not as common as it used to be some years ago, an increased number of this species was seen during the year.

Yellowhammer. *Emberiza citrinella.*
 Extremely scarce in many parts of Co. Cork, and particularly in the eastern part of the county, where up to about two years ago it had been common. (W.J.O'F.) Extract from "The Birds of Ireland" by Kennedy, Rutledge & Scroope, p. 413, shows that a similar unexplained absence has been noted previously. "A marked but local decrease took place in some districts between 1934 and 1937, but by 1945 numbers had again become normal. Districts chiefly affected lay in Cork, Waterford, Dublin and South Mayo."

Tree Sparrow. *Passer montanus.*
 Two breeding sites on the Cork coast near Roches Point were discovered in May, these being within a mile of each other. These are the first breeding colonies to be discovered on the Cork coast. In one site, it is estimated that there were four nests, and in the second, three. (M.R., W.J.O'F.)

SEA WATCH REPORT
 OLD HEAD OF KINSALE.

Observers: M. A. Hartnett
 T. C. O'Keefe.

Period Covered:

Spring: Feb. 7th to April 18th.
 13 hrs. 20 mins.

Autumn: July 19th to Sep. 28th.
 21 hrs.

-oOo-

Manx Shearwater. *Procellaria puffinus.*

Spring - 798 going West, Max. figure 565 -
 West on Mar. 27th.

Autumn - 622 going West,
 55 going East, Max. figure 169 -
 West on Aug. 14th.

Great Shearwater. *Procellaria gravis.*

One going West on August 29th.

Sooty Shearwater. *Procellaria grisea*

3 going west Aug. 14th, 1 going west on
 Sept. 12th.

Fulmar. *Fulmarus glacialis.*

Spring - 111 West, 8 East, Max.fig. - 38
 West, 1 East - Mar. 17th.

Autumn - 399 West, 38 East, Max.fig. - 89
 West, 7 East - Aug. 28th.

Gannet. *Sula bassana* (Adult and Immature)

Spring 222 West, 9 East, Max. - 118 West,
 3 East on Mar. 17th.

Autumn 3289 West, 119 East, Max. - 798 West,
 4 East on Aug. 29th.

Kittiwake. *Rissa tridactyla* (Adult and
 Immature)

Spring 723 West, 332 East, Max. 479 West on
 Mar. 14th. 254 east on Feb. 27th.

Autumn 2270 West, 540 East, Max. 241 West,
 58 East, on Aug. 28th.

Auks spp.

Spring 1639 West, 803 East, Max. 1219 West
 on Mar. 14th. 391 East on Mar. 20th.

Autumn 58 West, 7 East, Max. 24 West on
 Sep. 28th.

Great Skua. *Catharacta skua.*

Spring 1 East on 10th and on 18 April.

Autumn 1 West on Aug. 14th and 18th and on
 Sep. 11th.

Arctic Skua. *Stercorarius parasiticus.*

Spring nil.

Autumn 1 West on Aug. 29th.

Skua. spp.

Autumn 1 West on Aug. 29th.

Divers spp.

Spring 1 West Feb. 27th, 2 West 17th March.
 1 East Mar. 14th & 17th, 1 East
 Apr. 3rd.

26.

Common Scoter. *Melanitta nigra*

Spring 41 West Feb. 27th, 1 West Mar. 17th,
2 West Mar. 20th. 1 East on April
3rd and April 18th.

Autumn 8 West Aug. 14th, 9 West Aug. 22nd,
3 West, 2 East Aug. 28th, 3 West
Sept. 12th, 2 West Sept. 28th.

Velvet Scoter. *Melanitta fusca.*

Autumn 3 West Sept. 28th.

Common/Arctic Terns. *Sterna hirundo/
macrura.*

Autumn 2 West Aug. 14th, 3 West Aug. 28th,
3 West, 1 East Sept. 12th.