

BIRDS OF DURSEY ISLAND, CO. CORK : 2010

with notes on mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, moths and dragonflies

Derek A. Scott



Buff-breasted Sandpipers *Tryngites subruficollis* : 8 September 2010

Photo: Derek Scott

Days on which there was some coverage by the author, David Cooke, Brendan Finch, Kieran Finch, Kieran Grace and/or Tony Lancaster.

Month	Days with some coverage	Total
January	1 - 3, 8 - 10, 15 - 17, 23, 30	11
February	5 - 7, 11 - 21	14
March	1, 5 - 7, 17, 19 - 21	8
April	2 - 6, 8 - 9, 11, 16 - 18, 23 - 30	19
May	1 - 16, 22 - 23, 28 - 31	22
June	1 - 20, 27	21
July	3 - 4, 16 - 18, 30 - 31	7
August	1 - 31	31

September	1 - 30	30
October	1 - 12, 14 - 18, 20 - 24	22
November	5 - 7, 18 - 21, 24, 27	9
December	7, 9 - 12, 28 - 31	9
Total		203

With a total of only 203 days with some birding activity on the island, coverage in 2010 was the worst since 2003 and way below the best coverage of 302 days achieved in 2005. Coverage was particularly poor in March, July, November and December, but there were also significant gaps in the second half of May, late June and late October. The author and his wife were away for long periods in the first four months of the year and again in the last two and a half months, and for reasons of health, Brendan Finch was unable to visit the island as often as he has done in the past. However, David Cooke spent more time than ever on Dursey, visiting the island almost every other weekend, while Kieran Finch was able to visit the island about once a month. The author was present on the island on a total of 130 days as follows: 11 to 20 February; 23 April to 16 May; 28 May to 17 June; 30 July to 11 October; and 31 December. David Cooke was present on the island on 90 days, Brendan Finch on 58 days, and Kieran Finch on 33 days. Once again, Kieran Grace and Tony Lancaster made their annual pilgrimage to West Beara in the autumn, and visited the island on 19 dates between 27 September and 23 October, reaching the Tip on all but five of these visits.

Despite the poor coverage, 2010 was much the best year ever for birds on Dursey Island, producing a total of 145 species (excluding White-tailed Eagle and feral pigeon) and three new species for the island, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Woodchat Shrike and Yellow-breasted Bunting, bringing the total number of species recorded since September 1977 to 227. Several factors contributed to the year's success. Exceptional hard-weather movements in January and again in December produced a number of species that are rare on the island; both the spring and the autumn migration seasons were better than average, producing a number of rarities and semi-rarities; and a long series of four-hour sea-watches from the Tip between late August and early November (carried out for the Irish Seatrack Project) produced a better than average selection of sea-birds and some unusual ducks and waders. The highlights of the year included: a Woodchat Shrike, a Golden Oriole and an Arctic Redpoll in May, a Common Rosefinch in June, two Buff-breasted Sandpipers, four Long-tailed Skuas, at least four Wrynecks, a Blyth's Reed Warbler, a Melodious Warbler, a Barred Warbler and another Common Rosefinch in September, and a Eurasian Dotterel, two more Buff-breasted Sandpipers, at least four more Wrynecks, a Red-throated Pipit, a Red-eyed Vireo and a Yellow-breasted Bunting in October. Island rarities included the second records of Northern Pintail and Common Pheasant, the fourth record of Eurasian Bullfinch, the fourth, fifth and sixth records of Little Egret, the fifth records of Common Quail, Corncrake and Red Knot, the fifth and sixth records of Common Teal, and a series of records of Common Redshank and Common Greenshank, both of which had been recorded on only two previous occasions. One other bird especially worthy of mention was a juvenile White-tailed Eagle from the re-introduction programme in Kerry that paid a visit to the island in late September and early October and caused considerable excitement. Sedge Warbler,

Great Tit, Greenfinch and Reed Bunting again bred on the island, and a pair of Ringed Plovers attempted to breed, but there was no evidence of breeding by Peregrine or Common Kestrel, and there were only two breeding pairs of Common Starlings.

As usual, the year began with a 'Big Day' on 1 January. This produced a record total of 45 species including seven Great Northern Divers, 10 Manx Shearwaters, a Balearic Shearwater, a Grey Heron, a Purple Sandpiper, a Woodcock, two Grey Wagtails, a Black Redstart, 28 Fieldfare, 100 Redwing and a Eurasian Bullfinch. Redwing numbers had increased to 400 on 2nd, when a flock of 13-14 Twite was found roosting in Tilickafinna. Heavy snowfalls and extremely low temperatures throughout in Britain and Ireland in the first week of January triggered off exceptional hard-weather movements, and large numbers of birds were found on the island on 8-10 January, including up to 48 Golden Plover, 173 Northern Lapwing, 900 Common Snipe, 37 Woodcock, 150 Fieldfare and 500 Redwing, as well as four Common Teal and at least three Jack Snipe. Most of these birds soon moved on, and by 16 January there were only five Golden Plover, 10 Northern Lapwing, 80 Common Snipe, 21 Woodcock, nine Fieldfare and 58 Redwing. Other interesting finds in January included a Grey Heron on 8th, a Glaucous Gull on 8th and 16th, a Mistle Thrush and a House Sparrow on 16th, and a Balearic Shearwater, two Greenshanks and three Mistle Thrushes on 17th. Small numbers of Blue Tits, Great Tits, Chaffinches and Greenfinches frequented the bird-feeders in the gardens in Ballynacallagh, Kilmichael and Tilickafinna, along with the occasional Goldfinch and Reed Bunting.

February began well with a Great Northern Diver, a Merlin, a Jack Snipe, a Purple Sandpiper, a Eurasian Curlew, a Greenshank and a Mistle Thrush on 6th. The small flock of Twite was still present in Tilickafinna and was watched going to roost every evening from 11th to 20th. Two Grey Herons and three Siskins on 13th were unusual for this time of year, and a Merlin and a Woodcock were of note on 20th.

There was little of note in early March, other than a Merlin on 5th and the 'resident' Twite flock. The first Chiffchaffs of the spring appeared on 17th, along with another Greenshank. An unusually early Barn Swallow arrived in Tilickafinna on 18th only to be taken by a falcon, and the first Northern Wheatears were seen on 20th, but coverage was then interrupted until early April.

There was little in the first week of April other than a Golden Plover, a Whimbrel and a late Redwing on 4th, a Merlin on 5th, a Redwing again on 6th and a few Chiffchaffs. Two Lesser Redpolls appeared on 8th, followed by a Wood Pigeon, a Sand Martin, another Barn Swallow and the first Willow Warbler on 9th. The Twites were last seen on 11th. The first two Collared Doves and a Blackcap appeared on 16th; there was another Wood Pigeon on 17th, along with seven Willow Warblers; and a Merlin, six Whimbrels and a Ring Ouzel were seen on 18th. A Siskin flew over on 23rd, and the first House Martin and Common Whitethroat were found on 25th. The month ended quietly with a Lesser Redpoll on 29th and a late Chaffinch on 30th.

May, however, got off to an excellent start with an Arctic Redpoll on 1st (the second island record) and a Woodchat Shrike on 2nd (the first island record). The Arctic Redpoll was seen again on 2nd, and the Woodchat Shrike stayed until 3rd. Other birds of note in the first week of May included a few Great Northern Divers passing at sea, up to three Golden Plovers, the first Common Swift and Grasshopper Warbler of the year on 2nd, a late Merlin on 3rd, and the first Sedge Warbler on 7th. An influx of migrants on 8 May included a Common Cuckoo, two more Common Swifts, a male '*flava*' wagtail showing characteristics of *iberiae*, a Whinchat, another Grasshopper Warbler, 18 Sedge Warblers, four Common Whitethroats, six Blackcaps

and three Spotted Flycatchers. Another Wood Pigeon and a male Yellow Wagtail were seen the next day, along with 10 Whimbrels and another House Martin, and there was a Garden Warbler on 10th. A total of 19 Great Northern Divers flew west off Tilickafinna during the period 11-15 May, and on the latter date there were also two Pomarine Skuas, the first Great Skua of the year and two 'commic' terns. Another arrival of migrants occurred on 22nd, including a Greenshank, another Wood Pigeon, two Turtle Doves, a Common Swift, another Sand Martin, seven House Martins and three Spotted Flycatchers. Only one Turtle Dove was seen the next day, but Spotted Flycatcher numbers had increased to 11 and there was a Golden Oriole in Kilmichael Valley. Coverage was poor in the last week of May, but another Wood Pigeon was seen on 28th, and there was a Lesser Whitethroat on 30th.

The first two weeks of June were rather quiet, with little other than several Collared Doves and a few House Martins, a late Golden Plover on 1st, the first small flock of Common Scoters and a Common Whitethroat on 8th, and an early Grey Heron, three Common Swifts and a Spotted Flycatcher on 10th. An adult male Common Rosefinch was found singing from a clump of willows in Tilickafinna on 15 June, when there was also another Common Swift. A Common Whitethroat on 17 June and a Collared Dove on 19 June rounded off the spring migration.

Coverage was very poor in late June and July, and the only birds of note were a Storm Petrel and a Grey Heron on 3 July, a Common Sandpiper on 17th and 18th, two Mistle Thrushes and the first Willow Warbler of the autumn on 30th, and the first Great Skua on 31st. Most of the interest during the first half of August was at sea, with small numbers of Sooty Shearwaters, Storm Petrels, Common Scoters and Great Skuas passing on several dates, single Arctic Skuas on 6th and 7th, four Sandwich Terns on 6th, and a Dunlin and the first Black-headed Gulls and Arctic Tern of the year on 14th. On land, the two Mistle Thrushes found at the end of July remained until 9th; two juvenile Lesser Redpolls found on 1st remained until 6th, and there was a Sand Martin on 8th and the first Sparrowhawk of the autumn on 9th. Seven House Martins and a Spotted Flycatcher appeared on 15th, and a Grasshopper Warbler was found on 17th. Eurasian Curlews were present throughout the period, with numbers peaking at 15 on 13 August. A good sea-watch on 21st produced four Common Teal, eight Dunlins, 11 Grey Phalaropes and a Mediterranean Gull. A House Sparrow put in a brief appearance on 22nd; the first of the autumn's Pied Flycatchers arrived on 25th, and there was an early Hen Harrier on 27th. Another four-hour sea-watch from the Tip on 28th was rewarded with a flock of eight Light-bellied Brent Geese passing north and at least six Lapland Buntings flying in off the sea. The month ended with another five Grey Phalaropes off the Tip on 30th, and a Yellow Wagtail, seven Mistle Thrushes, a Common Whitethroat and a Spotted Flycatcher on 31st.

September turned out to be a great month, with several periods of south-easterly winds. Regular sea-watches from the Tip produced a succession of notable birds including three Balearic Shearwaters, a Sabine's Gull and 12 Common Terns on 4th, 12 Grey Phalaropes and four Long-tailed Skuas on 11th, a Northern Pintail on 15th, a Little Egret, a Red Knot and another Grey Phalarope on 18th, and 35 Sooty Shearwaters on 25th. On land, there was a steady trickle of migrants with arrivals in the first week including a Whinchat, a Reed Warbler and a Pied Flycatcher on 1st; a Hen Harrier and another Whinchat on 2nd; five White Wagtails, two more Reed Warblers and another Pied Flycatcher on 3rd; three Wrynecks, three Yellow Wagtails, another two Whinchats, a Spotted Flycatcher and another Pied Flycatcher on 4th, and two more Whinchats, at least three more Reed Warblers, a Garden Warbler and a Lapland Bunting on 6th. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found at the Tip

on 8th, along with another Lapland Bunting, and there were four more Lapland Buntings on 11th and two more on 12th. A Melodious Warbler was found in Ballynacallagh on 12th, but this had probably been around for over a week. The next few days were quiet, but another Lapland Bunting arrived on 16th, followed by at least ten on 17th. Other interesting birds on 17th included a Hen Harrier, a Sand Martin, a Tree Pipit, another Whinchat, a Garden Warbler and the first Siskin of the autumn. The Hen Harrier reappeared on 18th and 19th, and another Reed Warbler arrived on 23rd, followed by two more Lapland Buntings on 24th. The 25th marked the start of a very interesting period, with a male Common Redstart, six Blackcaps, nine Chiffchaffs, two Willow Warblers and four Lapland Buntings arriving on 25th, followed by a Yellow Wagtail, the island's first Blyth's Reed Warbler, a House Sparrow and a Common Rosefinch on 26th. The Blyth's Reed Warbler was seen briefly the next day; a Tree Pipit and a Lesser Whitethroat were news finds, and a juvenile White-tailed Eagle from the Kerry reintroduction programme put in its first of several appearances. A Barred Warbler arrived on 28th, and the Common Rosefinch was still around. A new Wryneck was seen on 29th, along with the Barred Warbler, the Common Rosefinch, 21 Siskins and two more Lapland Buntings. The month ended quietly with little but the Barred Warbler and the Common Rosefinch on 30th.

October began as September had ended, but things soon livened up with a Hen Harrier, a Corncrake (unfortunately dead), six Grey Phalaropes, a Pomarine Skua and two Snow Buntings on 2nd, along with the long-staying Barred Warbler. The juvenile White-tailed Eagle put in another appearance on 3rd (also on 4th and 5th), the Barred Warbler was last seen, and a new Lapland Bunting appeared. A Dunlin and another Snow Bunting were seen at the Tip on 4th, and there was a good passage of 95 Sooty Shearwaters and 70 Grey Phalaropes on 5th. Seven more Grey Phalaropes were seen on 7th, along with 47 Sooty Shearwaters, and there were 97 Sooty Shearwaters, a Bar-tailed Godwit and a Grey Phalarope off the Tip on 8th. Other birds of note on 8th included a Common Redstart and a Firecrest. A sea-watch on 9th produced at least 400 Sooty Shearwaters, a Balearic Shearwater and a Long-eared Owl (coming in off the sea), while on land there was a Wryneck, a Yellow Wagtail, another Common Redstart, two Reed Warblers, a Yellow-browed Warbler, at least 16 Chiffchaffs, five Pied Flycatchers, a Snow Bunting, and the island's first Yellow-breasted Bunting. Sadly the Yellow-breasted Bunting did not stay around long, but a thorough search of the island the next day (10th) produced a Eurasian Dotterel, two more Buff-breasted Sandpipers, a Red-throated Pipit, a Black Redstart, four Common Redstarts, four Whinchats, five Pied Flycatchers and another Lapland Bunting. The 11th was another great day, with highlights including a Common Quail at the Tip, the two Buff-breasted Sandpipers, four Wrynecks, a Yellow Wagtail, seven Whinchats, a Ring Ouzel, four Reed Warblers, 32 Chiffchaffs, another Yellow-browed Warbler, the only Coal Tit of the year, and a House Sparrow. The run of good birds continued on 12th with the finding of the island's second Red-eyed Vireo, along with a Short-eared Owl, two Pied Flycatchers, 75 Jackdaws, 15 Rooks, 11 House Sparrows and yet another Lapland Bunting. Unfortunately, there was no coverage on 13th, and the only birds of note on 14th were a few Golden Plovers, but interesting finds on 15th included a Jack Snipe, a Reed Warbler and a Pied Flycatcher. The 16th produced an excellent crop of birds including two Barnacle Geese, a new Hen Harrier, another Bar-tailed Godwit, a Wryneck, a Reed Warbler, two Yellow-browed Warblers, two Pied Flycatchers, 380 Jackdaws and 100 Rooks. The first Brambling of the autumn appeared on 17th, and there was still a Wryneck, a Yellow-browed Warbler and a Pied Flycatcher on the island on 18th, as well as two more Lapland

Buntings. There was another gap in coverage on 19th, and the only birds of note on 20th were two Bramblings, but a Pomarine Skua, a Short-eared Owl and a Yellow-browed Warbler were seen on 21st. An early Woodcock appeared on 23rd, along with a Common Redshank (that was to stay around until the end of the year) and the last Grey Phalarope. Two Yellow-browed Warblers and a Brambling were seen on 24th, when there was also another influx of Jackdaws (190) and Rooks (8). Unfortunately, there was no further coverage until 5 November, when the only bird of note was a Merlin.

The last 'Seatrack' seawatch of the season on 6 November produced three Red-throated Divers, about 50 Sooty Shearwaters and a Great Skua, while birds of note on land included a Jack Snipe, two very late Sand Martins, a Lesser Redpoll and a Snow Bunting. Coverage in the rest of November and first three weeks of December was fragmentary, but nevertheless a number of interesting birds were recorded including a Little Egret, a male Common Pheasant, a Greenshank and a Carrion Crow on 19 November, a Short-eared Owl, a Blackcap and a Brambling on 20 November, a late Barn Swallow on 21 November, three Northern Lapwings on 7 December, three Woodcocks on 9 December, the male Common Pheasant, another Northern Lapwing, 11 Woodcocks and the Greenshank again on 10 December, and two very late Blackcaps on 11 December. There were no birders on the island during the heavy snowfall just before Christmas, but there were still big numbers of Common Snipe and Woodcock on the island when coverage was resumed on 28th, along with large numbers of dead Redwing. Twenty-two Woodcocks were counted on 28th, and no less than 36 were seen on 29th, when there were also two Merlins, 180 Common Snipe, 10 Fieldfare, 28 Redwing and, unusually, 40 Linnets. The 30th produced a nice assortment of waders, including a Ringed Plover, a Jack Snipe, 12 Woodcocks, a Common Redshank and a Greenshank, and the 31st produced yet another Little Egret as well as a Great Northern Diver, three Golden Plovers and 14 Woodcocks.

As regards other creatures, 2010 was another poor year for Common Otters, with only three sightings of single individuals (in September, October and November). Grey Seals were recorded in every month as usual, but a count of 25 in early January was exceptional. Fortunately, there were no sightings of American Mink this year, and numbers of Brown Rats were, if anything, lower than normal. However, 2010 was a good year for bats on Dursey, with sightings on 30 dates between 30 April and 16 October. All those identified were Common Pipistrelles. There were only four reports of Pygmy Shrews, and sadly all of these were of dead animals. No unusual species of cetacean were recorded, and there was only one sighting of a school of Bottle-nosed Dolphins (in May), but 2010 was one of the best years ever for Common Dolphin (sightings on 35 dates), Risso's Dolphin (24 dates) and Minke Whale (35 dates). It was also a good year for Basking Sharks, with sightings of up to six individuals on ten dates in spring. A single Ocean Sunfish was seen in September.

Most resident butterflies appear to have done well in 2010. A small colony of Large Whites was established in Tilickafinna; Green Hairstreak, Small Copper and Grayling did particularly well, and Speckled Woods were recorded on the island for the first time. However, it was a rather poor year for immigrant butterflies and moths, producing only four influxes of Red Admirals (in August, September and October), one influx of Silver Ys (in October), and no more than 17 Painted Ladys and five Humming-bird Hawk-moths all year. The biggest arrival of immigrants occurred during a period of fine weather with light easterly winds in the second week of October, and involved at least seven Clouded Yellows, 60 Red Admirals, 15 Small Tortoiseshells, 150 Silver Ys and a Humming-bird Hawk-moth. There were no very

early butterflies, the first of the season being four Painted Ladys on 20 March, and there were no unusually late records.

2010 was somewhat better than usual for dragonflies, with sightings of hawkers on nine dates between 7 August and 11 October, and a big influx of darters in mid-October. All those identified were either Common Hawker or Common Darter.

Note: The Systematic List that follows incorporates the observations of David Cooke (DC), Brendan Finch (BF), Connor Finch (CF), Kieran Finch (KF), Kieran Grace (KG), Tony Lancaster (AL), Fionn Moore (FiM), Forrest Moore (FoM), Paul Rowe (PR) and Joanna Scott (JS). The author wishes to express his appreciation to these observers for providing details of their observations.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Singles flew north off the Tip on 11 and 18 September, and south off the Tip on 2 October (DS, JS). Three flew south off the Tip on 6 November (KF, PR).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Four off the Tip and three in the Sound on 1 January, and one off the Tip and two in the Sound on 2 January (DC, BF, KF, PR). One in the Sound on 23 January (BF), and one off Illanebeg on 6 February (DC, BF). Recorded flying west off Tilickafinna on eight dates between 4 and 15 May, with singles on 4th, 6th and 7th, two on 11th, four on 12th, one on 13th, two on 14th (when there were also two resting on the sea), and three on 15th. Also on 15th, five flew north off the Tip. An adult in breeding plumage flew north off the Tip on 6 June (DS). The first of the autumn was unusually early: one flying north off the Tip at 07:40 on 4 September (DS, JS). One flying south off the Tip and two in the Sound on 6 November (DC, KF, PR). Two in the Sound on 20 November (DC), and one in the Sound on 31 December (DC, KF).

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Present throughout the year and a common breeding bird, but very scarce during calm periods in early January and again in early October. None was recorded during a 2.5 hour sea-watch from the Tip on 9 October, but some birds were already prospecting the cliffs by 21 October.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

2010 was a good year for this species, with records on 21 dates between 4 August and 6 November, and an unusually high count of at least 400 on 9 October. The first of the year were six flying north off the Tip on 4 August, followed by seven on 5th, five on 6th and seven on 7th (DC, PR). Up to seven were recorded off Tilickafinna or the Tip on nine dates to 21 September; 35 flew north off the Tip on 25 September; five flew south off the Tip on 2 October; and 26 flew south off the Tip on 4 October. On 5 October, 91 flew south off the Tip and four flew west off Tilickafinna, while on 7 October, 38 flew north and nine flew south off the Tip in 25 minutes. Eighty-seven flew north and 10 flew south off the Tip on 8 October, and at least 400 (including one flock of 140) flew south off the Tip on 9 October. The last Seatrack sea-watch of the season on 6 November produced totals of 42 flying south and 13 flying north off the Tip. (See Table 1).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Ten off the Tip on 1 January (PR) and two off the Tip on 17 January (BF) were unusual but not entirely unexpected as there had been up to a 12 feeding off the Tip and north-west coast in mid-December 2010. There were no further records until early April, when small numbers were recorded off the Tip. Then common to abundant offshore throughout the spring and summer until early September. Over 2,700 were counted during a four-hour sea-watch on 21 August, mainly heading south, and over 830 were recorded on 11 September. Numbers then decreased rapidly to only 40 on 18 September, 58 on 21 September and single figures in late September and early October. The last in October were five flying south off the Tip on 9th, However, 21 flew north off the Tip on 6 November (KF, PR). These were the last of the year. (See Table 1).

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Single individuals were seen off the Tip on 1 January (PR) and 17 January (BF). These followed on from an unprecedented influx of this species into the waters around Dursey Island in the second week of December 2009, when up to six were recorded feeding off the Tip and north-west coast. The 11 dedicated sea-watches for the Seatrack Project in autumn produced only four individuals: three flying south off the Tip on 4 September (DS, JS), and one flying south off the Tip on 9 October (DS).

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

One was seen off the Tip on 3 July (BF, KF). Twelve flew north off the Tip on 4 August, followed by five on 5th and 12 on 6th (DC, PR). Three flew west far out off Tilickafinna in the evening of 24 August (DS). Surprisingly, none was recorded during the 11 Seatrack sea-watches in autumn.

Northern Gannet *Sula bassana*

Common to abundant offshore throughout the year.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Present throughout the year in small numbers. Up to 17 were recorded in a day, mostly in the Sound or flying along the south and north coasts to and from the breeding colony on the Cow.

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Present throughout the year, nesting at several localities around the island. The only counts exceeding 25 were 30 on 25 April, 50 on 8 May, 30 on 9 May, 35 on 30 May, 35 on 5 June and 35 on 25 September. All high counts were of feeding or roosting flocks in the Sound.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

One was seen flying north low over the sea from the Tip to the Cow at 08:30 on 18 September (DS, JS). The bird landed at the base of the cliffs, but was soon chased off by gulls. One was seen flying west over Kilmichael on 19 November (DC). One flew across the Sound to Illanebeg in the early afternoon of 31 December (DC, KF). These were the fourth, fifth and sixth records of this species on Dursey Island, the first being as recently as September 2009.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Another good year for this species, with a total of 23 records. Unusually, there were three records in the early part of the year: a bird in Kilmichael on 1 January (DC), possibly the same bird near the jetty on 8 January (BF), and two immature birds together near the jetty on 13 February (DS). One flying west high over Tilickafinna at 20:25 on

10 June was also unusual (DS). One was seen on Illanebeg on 3 July (DC) and again on 1 August (DC). Thereafter, single individuals were recorded on 13 dates to 24 October, and as many as three birds were present on 8 August and 9 October. Most were immature birds and were seen between the jetty and Illanebeg, but there was one below Cromwell Cliffs on 24 September, one on the coast below The Waters on 2 October, and one in the gully north of the Cable Car on 17 October. The last of the year were single birds on Illanebeg on 27 November and near the jetty on 9 December.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Two flew south through the Sound towards Crow Head at 09:00 on 16 October (KG, AL).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

A flock of eight Light-bellied Brent Geese (*B. b. hrota*) flew north close inshore off the Tip at 08:55 on 28 August (DS, JS). This was only the sixth record of this species on Dursey Island, and much the earliest in autumn.

Common Teal *Anas crecca*

A male was flushed from the stream in Kilmichael Valley and there were two males and a female at Gerald's Pond below Kilmichael on 10 January (BF). A party of four flew south low over the sea off the Tip at 09:45 on 21 August (DS, JS). These constitute the fifth and sixth records of this species on Dursey Island.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

A female flew north low over the sea off the Tip at 10:55 on 15 September (DS, JS). This was only the second record of this species on Dursey Island.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

The first of the year were eight flying west off Tilickafinna at 20:00 on 8 June. Coverage during the main passage season in late June and July was poor, and no large flocks were recorded. However, there were still a few birds passing west off Tilickafinna or north off the Tip in August (eight on 1st, two on 5th, nine on 6th, three on 7th, five on 8th, two on 11th, three on 14th, and singles on 21st and 28th), September (four on 15th, 12 on 18th and six on 25th), and early October (one on 2nd, six on 4th and eight on 8th). The great majority were males.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

A first-year bird with satellite transmitter and blue and white wing tags appeared on the island on four dates in late September and early October. The bird was first located by KG near Bernie's Gully on the north side of Tilickafinna in the early afternoon of 27 September. The bird eventually flew off east along the south side of the island. It was seen again over Tilickafinna on several occasions on 3 October, in the morning and again in the afternoon of 4 October, and around mid-day on 5 October (DC, KG, AL, DS, JS). The bird had apparently been released into the wild in Killarney in August. This was the first time that one of the Kerry White-tailed Eagles had been seen on Dursey.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

2010 was another fairly good year for this species, with a total of ten records involving probably four individuals, all of which were thought to be first-winter females. One was seen hunting over the Western Hill at 10:40 on 27 August (DS), and almost certainly the same individual was seen flying east over Tilickafinna at 09:50 on 2 September (DS). One was seen over the Western Hill at 08:05 on 17 September (DS), flying east over Tilickafinna and then Kilmichael at 17:25-17:35 on 18 September (BF, DS), and in East

Fields in the morning of 19 September (KF). One was seen in Tilickafinna and Kilmichael in the afternoon of 2 October (KG, AL, DS), in Kilmichael at 15:00 on 6 October (KG, AL), and in Kilmichael in the morning of 12 October (KG, AL). One was seen in Tilickafinna and over the Main Bog on 16 October (KF, KG, AL), and flying past the High Cliffs on 17 October (DC, KF).

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

The only record in spring was of an immature male flying east over Tilickafinna on 2 May (DS). The first of the autumn was a female in Tilickafinna on 9 August. Another female, probably a different individual, was seen on several occasions in Tilickafinna and Kilmichael on 14 August. An immature male was recorded almost daily from 20 August to 29 September, mostly in and around Scott's garden (where it roosted), but also at the Tip and in the Kilmichael area. A female appeared in Ballynacallagh on 27 September and possibly the same female was seen in Scott's garden on 30 September and 2 October. Two birds were recorded on 3 October; an immature male was seen in Kilmichael on 6 October; single birds were recorded in Scott's garden on 16 and 17 October; and the last of the year was seen on 23 October.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Recorded throughout the year, but once again very scarce in the early part of the year, with no evidence of breeding on the island. Single birds were observed on 8 January and 14 and 17 February. There were two birds near the jetty on 17 March and one at The Waters on 18 April. Single birds were recorded on 2, 7, 9 and 28 May, and there were two (a male and a female) on 3 May. A single bird was seen on eight dates between 4 and 20 June, and there was a bird near the Tip on 3 July. Recorded almost daily from the end of July to late October, with at least three birds present on many dates from 8 August to 24 October, counts of four on six dates from 31 August to 17 October, and five birds present on 1 September, 6 October and 10 October. Two were still present on 6 and 7 November, but the only other records were of single birds on 24 and 27 November, 11 December (found dead) and 31 December.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

The only records in the first three months of the year were of single birds on 6 February, 20 February and 5 March. Single birds were recorded on seven dates in spring: on 5, 9, 18 and 25 April, and 1, 2 and 3 May, but it is possibly that only two birds were involved, a female in April and a young male in May. The autumn passage began with a bird in Kilmichael Valley on 17 September and two near the Cable Car the next day. Thereafter, single birds were recorded on nine dates to 24 October; two were present on 11 and 16 October, and three were present on 21 October. One bird was still present on 5 November, and probably this individual (a female) was then recorded on a further five dates in November and on 10 December. Two were recorded on 29 December and one remained on 31 December.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Scarce in the first half of the year and obviously not breeding on the island, but recorded more frequently than usual in autumn and early winter. There were only seven records in the first seven months of the year: single adults on 2, 3 and 17 January, a pair of adults on 25 April and again on 14 May, a very brown young bird on 14 June, and a single bird on 17 July. An immature male and an adult female were seen in Tilickafinna on 1 August; an adult appeared in Tilickafinna on 21 August, and a pair of adults and an

immature were seen at the Tip on 28 August. After a gap of three weeks, an adult male reappeared on 18 September, and thereafter one or two adults (a pair) were recorded on 24 dates to the end of the year. The birds were heard calling and flying down to the cliffs below Tilickafinna on several occasions in late September and early October, as if prospecting for a nest site.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

One was flushed from the old stone wall near the Tip around midday on 11 October (KG, AL). This was the fifth record of a Common Quail on Dursey Island, and the first in autumn.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

A male was flushed from John-Michael's Bog on 19 November, and presumably the same male was flushed from the rough fields below Stapleton's house in Kilmichael on 10 December (DC). This is only the second record of a Common Pheasant on Dursey Island, the first being in October and November 2008.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

One was found dead in Bernie's Gully on the north side of Tilickafinna on 2 October (KF). The bird had obviously been dead a few days, and had probably arrived with the influx of migrants on 25/26 September. This was only the fifth record of a Corncrake on Dursey Island since records began in the 1970s, and the first since October 2000.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

After a marked decline in the early 2000s, the tiny breeding population of Oystercatchers on Dursey Island now seems to have stabilised at three or four pairs. Recorded in all months, mainly on the south-east coast from the jetty and Illanebeg west to Kilmichael Point and on the north-west coast from the North-west Tip to Lower North Slope. The highest monthly counts were as follows: five in January, eight in February, 11 in March, 10 in April, 17 in May, seven in June, 15 in July, seven in August, eight in September, nine in October, eight in November, and two in December. A pair bred successfully on the Lower North Slope and reared at least one young to fledging.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

A pair was present on the greensward near the North-west Tip from 18 April until at least 13 June, and obviously attempted to breed. On 6 June, the birds were exhibiting agitated behaviour when approached and presumably had eggs or small chicks, but on 13 June they showed no interest in intruders, and only one bird could be found on 3 July. This was the first breeding attempt on Dursey Island since 2005, when a pair bred on Illanebeg. There were two records in autumn: a bird circling the Tip and flying off to the north-east on 28 August, and a bird flying out to sea off the Tip on 9 August (DS, JS). A single bird was seen on the rocks near the jetty on 10, 30 and 31 December (DC).

Eurasian Dotterel *Eudromias morinellus*

One was seen flying west over Kilmichael by a group of visiting birders in the morning of 10 October (H Hussey *et al.*). This was the seventh record of a Eurasian Dotterel on Dursey Island.

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

2010 was a better than average year for this species on Dursey. One was heard calling over Kilmichael on 1 and 2 January (DC). An influx occurred during the hard weather in the second week of January, when nine were seen on 8th, 48 on 9th and 17 on 10th, scattered all over the island (BF). However, only five remained on 16th and only one on

17th (BF). There was then a gap until 4 April, when a bird was heard calling over Kilmichael (DC). Another was heard on the hill above The Waters on 2 May (KF), and there were three birds in breeding plumage on the Western Hill on 3 and 4 May (CF, KF, JS). Single birds were seen or heard flying high over Tilickafinna on 7, 9 and 14 May and 1 June (DS), and there were two birds on the hill above East Fields on 12 June (CF). The first of the autumn was a bird flying west over Tilickafinna on 6 September (DS). Single birds were recorded in Tilickafinna on 9 October and above East Fields on 12 October (KG, AL). There were four on the hill above East Fields on 14 and 15 October, six above Kilmichael on 16 October, and one on the Western Hill on 18 October (KG, AL). The year ended with three flying over Kilmichael on 31 December (KF).

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

A substantial influx occurred during the hard weather in the second week of January. Twelve were found on 8th, increasing to 60 on 9th and at least 173 on 10th (BF). The birds were scattered over the whole island, the count of 173 on 10th including 31 on Illanebeg, six in Ballynacallagh, 24 in Kilmichael Valley, 32 at Kilmichael Point, 12 in Kilmichael village, three on the High Cliffs, 12 in Tilickafinna and a flock of 53 flying west over Kilmichael. Most of the birds had departed by 16th, when only 10 were located (five in Ballynacallagh, one in Kilmichael Valley, three at Gerald's Pond and one near the Tip), and only three were seen the next day (singles near the jetty, in Ballynacallagh and in Kilmichael), although there were numerous corpses about (BF). The unusually hard weather in November and early December also produced a handful: three were seen on 7 December (BF), and there was a single bird near the jetty on 10 December (DC).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

A first-winter bird flew south off the Tip at 08:40 on 18 September (DS). This was only the fifth record of a Red Knot on Dursey Island.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

After several very good years for this species, 2010 was very poor, with only two records: a single bird at Kilmichael Point on 1 January (DC), and a single bird on the Lower North Slope on 6 February (BF). It seems that the small wintering flock that frequented Lower North Slope has moved elsewhere, as the site was checked on many occasions in the early months of the year and again in November and December.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

One flew out to sea off the Tip at 07:30 on 14 August (DS, JS); a flock of eight flew south off the Tip at 07:10 on 21 August (DS, JS); and one was seen off the Tip on 4 October (KG, AL).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

Two very tame birds were found at the North-west Tip at 09:50 on 8 September, and were observed at close range for almost an hour (DS, JS). Another two very tame birds were found at the summit of the Western Hill at 15:15 on 10 October (DS, JS), and were seen again in this area on 11 October (KG, AL). All four were first-winter birds. These were the eighth and ninth records of Buff-breasted Sandpipers on Dursey Island.

Jack Snipe *Limnocryptes minimus*

The hard weather in early January produced at least four birds: one on the High Cliffs and two in Tilickafinna on 9th and one in Kilmichael on 10th (BF). Another was seen at the west end on 6 February (BF). Single birds were recorded in a marshy field in upper Kilmichael Valley on three occasions in the latter part of the year: on 15 October, 6

November and 30 December (DC).

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

2010 was an exceptional year for Common Snipe on Dursey Island, with big influxes during the periods of hard weather in January and December. Good coverage on 1 and 2 January produced totals of 56 and 45 respectively, only a little higher than normal, but a week later the island was covered in Common Snipe. BF alone counted 382 on 9 January and 896 on 10th, including a single flock of 38 in Kilmichael. Most birds did not stay long; only 80 were found on 16 January and only 12 on 17th. Thereafter, no more than 10 were recorded in a day to the end of February, and no more than six in a day in March. Three on 20 March were the last of the wintering birds. However, there were several records in spring: a single individual in Kilmichael Valley on 17 and 18 April, a single bird near the Martello Tower on 2 May, and one in the Main Bog and three on the Western Hill on 3 May. The first of the autumn were unusually early: a single bird below Gerald's Pond on 13 August, two in Kilmichael on 22 August, and one at The Waters on 27 August. There was then a gap until 17 September, when three appeared in Tilickafinna, followed by single birds on five dates in late September and early October. Only small numbers (maximum six) were recorded from 15 October to late November, but numbers then increased to 15 on 27 November and 52 on 10 December. Another big influx occurred following the exceptional snowfall just before Christmas, and over 90 were recorded on 28 December, 180 on 29th and 105 on 31st.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

As for the Common Snipe, 2010 was an exceptional year for Woodcocks on Dursey, with big influxes during the periods of hard weather in January and December. Despite good coverage, only a single bird was found on 1 January, in Kilmichael (DC, BF). However, BF alone found three on 8th, 11 on 9th and no less than 37 on 10th, with birds scattered all over the island from Illanebeg to Tilickafinna. There were still at least 21 on 16 January (DC), but only one was seen on 17th. The only other record in the early part of the year was of one on 20 February (DC). An early autumn migrant was found in Tilickafinna on 23 October (KG, AL), but the next were not until December, when hard weather brought a second big influx to the island. DC found three in Scott's garden on 9 December and a total of 11 on the island on 10th, and good coverage in the last few days of the year produced counts of 22 on 28th, 36 on 29th, 12 on 30th and 14 on 31st (DC, BF, KF). Again, birds were scattered all over the island, although the largest numbers were in the Kilmichael and Ballynacallagh areas.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

One flew south off the Tip at 09:45 on 8 October (DS, JS), and one was found at Kilmichael Point on 16 October (KF). These were the first records of this species on Dursey Island since 2003.

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

2010 was another poor year for this species, with no large flocks being recorded. The only records in spring were of single birds at Kilmichael Point on 4 and 17 April (DC), a party of six near the jetty on 18 April (BF), four at Kilmichael Point on 2 May (KF), and parties of five on Illanebeg and five in a field in Ballynacallagh on 9 May (BF, DS). The first of the autumn was a single bird flying south-west over Tilickafinna on 16 August (DS). Three flew south off the Tip on 21 August, and there were three at the Tip on 28 August (DS, JS). A single bird was seen at the Tip on 3 and 4 September, and on the

latter date, two other birds flew south off the Tip (KG, DS, JS). One was seen near the jetty on 6 September; two were seen at the Tip on 8 September, and two flew south off the Tip on 18 September (DS, JS). The last of the year was one in Dursey Sound on 20 September (AL).

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

After a very poor year in 2009, with only five records of single birds, 2010 was the best year for Eurasian Curlews on Dursey Island for over a decade, with records on a total of 27 dates and a maximum count of 15 in August. The first of the year was a single bird on 6 February. The next was not until 3 July, when a bird was found on Illanebeg. One flew south off the Tip and two were seen on Illanebeg on 1 August; three were seen at the Tip on 4 August, and there were three in the Sound on 5 August. A flock of seven flew west over Tilickafinna on 8 August, when there were also two on Illanebeg, and six flew west over Tilickafinna on 9 August. A flock of 15 flew east along the south side of the island on 13 August, and there were at least eight scattered around the island on 14 August. Five were seen at the Tip on 15 August, and then up to three were recorded at various points around the island on eight dates to 20 September. A party of four was seen in the Sound on 25 and 26 September, and single birds were recorded on 20 and 24 October. The last of the year was a single bird over Kilmichael on 10 and 11 December.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

One was seen near the jetty on 23 October (DC). Presumably this individual was seen at various places between the jetty and Kilmichael Point on 6 November and 11, 29, 30 and 31 December (DC, KF). This was only the third record of a Common Redshank on Dursey Island.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Two were seen near the jetty on 17 January, and one was seen on Illanebeg on 6 February and at Kilmichael Point on 17 March (DC, BF). One was seen near the Cable Car on 22 May (FiM, FoM). One was seen near the jetty on 19 November, and there was one on Illanebeg on 10 and 30 December (DC). Prior to this series of records, there had been only two records of Common Greenshanks on Dursey Island, the last being as long ago as 1995.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

One was seen on the rocks to the east of Kilmichael Point on 17 and 18 July (DC).

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

2010 was another very poor for this species on Dursey Island, with only seven records and no more than four birds in a day. Two were seen near the jetty on 16 January and on Illanebeg on 1 and 17 March (BF). There was a single bird at the Tip on 4 September, and two flew north-east past the Tip on 2 October (DS, JS). Probably the same two birds were seen on the Lower North Slope on 4 October (KF). A party of four was seen near the jetty on 23 October (DC).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

After a year without a single record, 2010 was a good year for this species, with records on nine dates between 21 August and 23 October, and a maximum count of 70. The first were 11 flying south off the Tip on 21 August (DS, JS). Five flew south off the Tip on 30 August, and seven flew south and five flew north off the Tip on 11 September (DS, JS). A first winter bird was watched at close quarters on the sea below the North-west Tip at 10:40-10:50 on 18 September (DS, JS). Six flew south-west off the Tip on 2 October

(DS, JS). Fifty-five flew south off the Tip and 15 flew south-west off Tilickafinna on 5 October (KG, AL, DS). Seven flew south off the Tip on 7 October (KG, AL); one flew south off the Tip on 8 October (DS, JS), and there was one off the Tip on 23 October (KG, AL).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

A dark-phase adult flew north off the Tip and a light-phase adult flew west off Tilickafinna on 15 May (PR, DS). An immature was watched chasing Kittiwakes far out off the Tip on 2 October (DS), and one was seen off the Tip on 21 October (KG, AL).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

2010 was a slightly better year for this species than 2007, 2008 or 2009, but given the amount of sea-watching carried out in autumn, the total numbers were unimpressive. There were no records in spring. The first of the autumn were single birds flying north off the Tip on 6 August (PR), and south off the Tip the next day (DS). One flew south off the Tip on 28 August, three flew south on 4 September, one flew south on 13 September, one flew north on 18 September, and two flew north and one flew south on 25 September. One flew west off Tilickafinna on 3 October, and one was seen off the Tip on 4 October. (See Table 1).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A party of three adults and an immature flew south close inshore off the Tip at 08:15 on 11 September (DS). This was only the third record of this species off Dursey Island, the last being in June 2000.

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*

The spring passage was very poor with only four records of single birds: flying west off Tilickafinna on 7 May, north off the Tip on 15 May, west off Tilickafinna on 8 June, and north off the Tip on 14 June. The first of the autumn was one flying west off Tilickafinna on 31 July. Thereafter, recorded on 20 dates to 18 October, mostly flying north or south off the Tip or west past Tilickafinna. High counts included five north and six south on 4 September, 12 north and two south on 11 September, six north and two south on 25 September, three north and five south on 2 October, three north and six south on 8 October, and three north and 10 south on 9 October. The total number of birds involved was probably much lower than these counts might suggest, as it seemed that at least half a dozen birds were semi-resident off the Tip throughout September and early October. A late individual was seen flying north off the Tip on 6 November (KF, PR). (See Table 1).

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

A first-winter bird flew north close inshore off the Tip at 09:30 on 21 August (DS, JS). This was only the sixth record of this species off Dursey Island.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

An adult still with a dark hood flew west out to sea between the North-west Tip and the Cow at 08:50 on 4 September (DS).

Blackheaded Gull *Larus ridibundus*

A better than average year for this species, with eight records between 14 August and 21 October. Three immature birds flew north off the Tip on 14 August; an adult and two immatures flew north on 21 August, and three adults flew north on 28 August (DS, JS). One flew east off Tilickafinna on 30 August (DS). Eleven, mostly immature birds, flew north off the Tip on 25 September (DS, JS). There was an adult off the Tip on 18 October; an adult and an immature in the Sound on 20 October, and an adult off the Tip

again on 21 October (KG, AL).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Up to three individuals were seen in the Sound on eight dates between 1 January and 18 February. The only other records in the first half of the year were of a first-summer bird off Tilickafinna on 3 May and in the Sound on 5 May (DS). The first of the autumn was a first-winter bird flying north off the Tip on 28 August (DS). Single adults were seen in the Sound on 25 September, off the Tip on 29 September and in the Sound on 10 October. Thereafter up to four individuals were recorded on seven dates to the end of the year, mostly in the Sound.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Two adults at the west end of the island on 6 February were the first of the year. There were three in Tilickafinna on 11 and 13 February and eight on 16 February. Then recorded in small numbers to the end of March and commonly from early April, with peak counts of 35 on 14 June and 30 on 30 July. At least 15 pairs nested on the cliffs below Tilickafinna and along the north-west coast. The main departure occurred during the first half of August. Ten flew west off Tilickafinna in the evening of 20 August, three flew north off the Tip on 28 August, and one flew west off Tilickafinna on 30 August. The only later records were of an immature bird off the Tip on 15 September, a party of six immatures flying west off Tilickafinna on 18 September, an adult off the Tip on 21 September, and an immature off the Tip on 27 September.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Common throughout the year and nesting at the usual sites. Sixteen occupied nests were located on the south coast of Tilickafinna, at the Tip and along the North Cliffs on 14 June.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

A first-winter bird was seen near the jetty on 8 January and at the Tip on 16 January (BF).

Great Blackbacked Gull *Larus marinus*

Common throughout the year. There were about 130, mostly adults, at the day roost on the North Slope east of Gull Bathing Area on 15 September, and at least 100 in this area on 8 October.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Present offshore throughout the year, but very scarce in the early part of the year and uncommon during the summer months, with maximum counts of only 15 in April, 12 in May, 20 in June and 30 in July. Numbers increased steadily in August to 150 on 28th, and over 300 were recorded moving south off the Tip on 4 September, but the only other counts of over 100 in September and October were 116 on 11 September, 110 on 2 October, 180 on 4 October and 125 on 5 October. There was a major passage off the Tip on 6 November, when 2,150 were counted flying south in four hours. (See Table 1).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

The regular sea-watches from the Tip during August, September and October, often during relatively calm conditions, produced a series of records and suggest that this species does indeed pass off Dursey Island in significant numbers but is usually overlooked. The first were four flying north on 6 August, followed by three flying south on 21st and 10 flying north on 28th. In September, 12 flew south on 4th, two flew south and seven flew north on 11th, and four flew south on 18th, while in October, two flew

south of 5th and three flew north on 9th. (See Table 1). Three unidentified terns flying north off the Tip on 4 August were probably this species.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Twelve flew south off the Tip in small groups on 4 September, along with 34 unidentified terns many of which were thought to be this species. Other unidentified terns which were either this species or the next were recorded off the Tip as follows: two flying north on 15 May, four flying north on 7 August, six flying north on 21 August, and one flying north on 11 September.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

The regular sea-watches in autumn produced a good crop of records, beginning with one flying north off the Tip on 14 August. Two birds were seen feeding off Tilickafinna on 24 August, and there were three off Tilickafinna on 27th. Five flew north off the Tip on 28 August. All other records were of birds flying south off the Tip: at least 20 on 4 September, three on 13 September, two on 18 September, one on 2 October, three on 5 October, and five on 9 October. (See Table 1)

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Present offshore throughout the year. The highest counts of unidentified auks (mostly this species) were off the Tip during the sea-watches in autumn: 880 on 11 September and 800 on 6 November. (See Table 1).

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Present offshore in small numbers throughout the year. Two adults were seen at the presumed breeding site on the North Cliffs on 14 June.

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*

Recorded in small numbers on 36 dates from 1 January to 27 June, mostly in the Sound but also regularly off the Tip and once off Tilickafinna (one on 15 May). The maximum counts were three in January, four in February, two on March, four in April, four in May, and two in June. An adult in breeding plumage flying north off the Tip on 14 August was unusual. The only record in the latter part of the year was of one in the Sound on 20 November.

Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

The first of the year was a bird off the Tip on 9 April (BF). Small numbers were seen flying west far out off Tilickafinna and off the Tip on nine dates between 3 May and 14 August, the highest counts being seven off Tilickafinna on 5 June and 13 off the Tip on 7 August. A juvenile was seen on the sea off the Tip on 18 September (DS, JS).

[Rock Dove *Columba livia*]

The only records were of racing pigeons. One flew east over Tilickafinna on 8 May; one was seen circling over the sea below Tilickafinna on 15 August; and an exhausted individual was present on the track near The Waters on 19 and 20 August.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

At least six individuals were recorded between 9 April and 28 May. One was seen in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 9 April (BF); another individual was present in Scott's garden on 17 and 18 April (DC, BF), and a third individual was present in Scott's garden from 07:15 to 20:15 on 9 May, when there was also a bird in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael (DS). One was seen in Scott's garden on 22 and 23 May (FiM, FoM, JS), and possibly the same individual was seen in Kilmichael Valley on 23rd (BF). One appeared in Scott's garden in the evening of 28 May (DS).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

After a rather poor year in 2009, 2010 was another good year for this species, with records on 22 dates between 16 April and 19 June, involving perhaps as many as 17 individuals. The first of the year were two in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 16 April (DC), followed by one in Ballynacallagh on 17 April (DC, KF). There was one in Scott's garden on 3 May, another on 8 and 9 May, and a third on 15 May. Two birds were present in this garden on 17 May, and one of these remained until to 26th. Single birds appeared in Scott's garden on 2, 5, 8 and 10 June, and two arrived in the garden at 20:20 on 11 June. Single birds were also recorded in Ballynacallagh on 23 May and 5 June. The last of the year was a bird in Scott's garden on 19 June (BF).

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Two were found on 22 May: one on the hillside above Scott's garden in Tilickafinna and the other in Kilmichael Valley (FiM, FoM). The latter was seen again in Kilmichael Valley the next day (BF).

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

A very shy female was seen in and around Scott's garden in Tilickafinna from 14:00 to 18:30 on 8 May (DS, JS).

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

One flew in off the sea at the North-west Tip and disappeared around the cliffs at 09:15 on 9 October (DS, JS). This was the tenth record of a Long-eared Owl on Dursey Island.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Three individuals were recorded in autumn: one on the Western Hill on 12 October (KG, AL); one in the Main Bog on the North Slope on 21 October (KG, AL); and one near Gull-bathing Area on the North Cliffs on 20 November (DC).

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Two flew west over The Waters in the evening of 2 May (KF). Two were seen hawking over Tilickafinna in the evening of 8 May (DS). One was seen over Kilmichael on 22 May (FiM, FoM). Three were seen hawking over Tilickafinna in the evening of 10 June (DS, JS). One flew in off the sea and east over Tilickafinna on 15 June (DS).

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

2010 was a very good year for this species, with records on 10 dates involving at least eight individuals. Three were found in Tilickafinna on 4 September: two in Scott's garden and one in O'Leary's garden (DS, JS). One of the birds in Scott's garden remained until 9 September, but the other presumably moved to O'Leary's garden where there were two on 6th and again on 8th (DS, JS). A bird was seen in the fields below Kilmichael on 29 September (KG). Two were found on 9 October, one in Ballynacallagh and one in Kilmichael Valley (KG), and there were no less than four individuals on the island on 11 October: one in East Fields, one in Ballynacallagh, one in Kilmichael and one at The Waters (KG, AL). The bird in East Fields was seen again on 12 and 16 October (KF, KG, AL).

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

The first of the year were single birds on the Western Hill on 18 and 20 February (DC). Common from early March throughout the spring and summer, but becoming inconspicuous after the middle of August. Generally fewer than 10 in a day in September and early October, but 14 on 25 September, 30 on 27 September and 20 on 11 October. Thereafter recorded in very small numbers to early November, with two on 6th and one

on 7th being the last except for a very late individual on 27 November.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

There were four records of single birds in spring: at the Tip on 9 April (BF); flying west over Tilickafinna on 12 May (DS); at the Tip on 22 May (FiM, FoM); and at the Tip on 23 May (BF). The first of the autumn was one flying west over Tilickafinna on 8 August. Single birds were recorded in Tilickafinna on 27 and 30 August, over the Western Hill on 17 September, and over Tilickafinna on 24 September. Two birds at the Old Lighthouse on 6 November were exceptionally late (DC).

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

A very early spring migrant appeared in Tilickafinna on 18 March, but unfortunately was taken by a falcon (B. O'Leary). The next was not until 9 April, when a bird appeared in Kilmichael (BF). This was followed by one on Illanebeg on 11 April. There was little evidence of any through passage in spring, with numbers exceeding a dozen in a day only on 4 May (15), 8 May (15) and 6 June (20). About six pairs bred on the island, and the first fledged juveniles were seen on 12 June. Numbers began to build up in the first half of August, with at least 28 present on 1st, 32 on 12th and 35 on 15th. There was a substantial movement in the last two weeks of August, with 55 on 21st, 100 on 22nd, 50 on 26th and 75 on 28th, and numbers remained fairly high in early September, with 60 still present on 4th and 30 on 6th, but numbers then fell rapidly to under 10 until 17 September, when about 40 birds flew west over Tilickafinna in the morning. Five were seen on 18th and three on 19th, but the only other record in September was of a single bird in Tilickafinna on 24 September. Late individuals were seen in Ballynacallagh on 10 October (DS) and in Kilmichael on 21 November (DC).

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

The first of the spring was a bird in Tilickafinna on 25 April (DS). One was seen in Ballynacallagh on 9 May; there were two in Tilickafinna on 10 May, and one in Tilickafinna on 15 May. Eight were recorded on 22 and 23 May, including six at the Tip. Two or three were recorded almost daily from 2 to 9 June, with four present on 4th. The first of the autumn were seven moving east through Tilickafinna on 15 August. Single individuals were then recorded in Tilickafinna or Kilmichael on 21, 22, 27 and 28 August, and 4 and 17 September.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

One in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna at 08:05-08:25 on 17 September eventually flew off east (DS). One was seen with a flock of Skylarks at the summit of the Western Hill on 27 September (KG, AL).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Present throughout the year, and the commonest breeding passerine on the island. Only small numbers remained on the island throughout the winter of 2009/2010, but very common throughout the spring, summer and autumn, with obvious signs of autumn passage on many dates in September and early October, the highest counts being 150 on 12 and 17 September. At least 100 were present on 10 October, but numbers then decreased rapidly and only small numbers remained in November and December.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

One was seen near the old school in Kilmichael in the morning of 10 October (H. Hussey *et al.*). This was the sixth record of Red-throated Pipit on Dursey Island.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

A common resident around the coastline, occasionally coming into the interior of the island, especially during gales. Up to 20 were recorded in a day.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

2010 was a good year for this species, with two individuals in spring and at least seven individuals in autumn. The first was found amongst cattle in Tilickafinna in the morning of 8 May (DS). This bird had a pale blue crown, nape and cheeks, a white supercilium and a white chin, throat and upper breast, and thus showed some of the characters of a male Iberian Yellow Wagtail *M. f. iberiae*, although it is perhaps more likely to have been a hybrid between Blue-headed (*flava*) and Yellow (*flavissima*). The same individual was seen again the next day in Kilmichael Valley, along with a typical male Yellow Wagtail *M. f. flavissima* (BF, DS). The first of the autumn was a bird in flight over Kilmichael Valley on 31 August and again on 1 September (DS). Three birds were found near the Tip on 4 September (DS, JS). One was seen in Kilmichael Valley and Ballynacallagh on 26 September (DS), and probably the same individual was seen in John Michael's Bog below Kilmichael on 27 September (KG). One was seen in Tilickafinna fields on 9 October (KG, AL, DS); there was one at the Tip on 11 October (KG, AL), and possibly this bird was seen in Tilickafinna fields on 12 October (KG, AL).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Two in Ballynacallagh on 1 January were the only ones in the first half of the year (BF). The autumn passage began with one in Tilickafinna on 1 September, followed by two on 2nd, one on 3rd and one on 6th. One was seen at the Tip on 8 September, and there were two at the Tip, one in Ballynacallagh and one near the jetty on 12 September. Thereafter, one or two individuals were recorded on 11 dates to 21 October, mostly in Kilmichael Valley.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Present throughout the year, but scarce in January when there were no more than five individuals on the island. Probably only three pairs bred on the island, as numbers never exceeded six in a day until the end of May, when the first fledged young appeared (on 30th). Then up to 12 in a day in late summer and autumn. Numbers decreased somewhat in November, and no more than six or seven were present at the end of the year. Five **White Wagtails** *M. a. alba* were seen near the Tip on 3 September (KG), and at least two were still present the next day (DS).

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

A common resident, widespread over the entire island.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

A fairly common resident, largely confined to the village areas.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

A common resident, particularly in the village areas. The first fledged juveniles were recorded on 28 May. A major influx occurred in the second week of October, with numbers increasing from 12 on 8th to 80 on 9th and 90 on 10th. About 70 were still present on 12th, but numbers then returned to normal.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

2010 was a very poor year for this species, with only two records. A bird seen in Ballynacallagh on 1 January (KF) had probably lingered on from the small influx in mid-December 2009. A female/immature male was seen on the track in Tilickafinna on

10 October (DS).

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Another good year for this species, with five records involving at least six individuals. There was one record in spring: an adult male in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 8 May (DS). The first of the autumn was an adult male at the North-west Tip on 8 October (DS, JS). A female/immature was seen near Stapleton's garden on 9 October, and four individuals were seen on 10 October: an adult male in Scott's garden, a female/immature in Ovenbird Hedge, a female/immature in Cooke's garden and a female/immature in the fields below Kilmichael (H. Hussey, DS *et al.*). A female/immature found in East Fields on 11 October (KG, AL) was probably one of these birds.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

2010 was a good year for Whinchats, with one record in spring and 13 records in autumn. A female was seen at The Waters on 8 May (DS). The first of the autumn were a bird at The Waters on 1 September and two in the same area on 2 September. One was seen on the Lower North Slope on 3 and 4 September, and there were two in Kilmichael Valley on the latter date. Five were present on 6 September, including two in Tilickafinna, two at The Waters and one in Kilmichael Valley. The two birds in Tilickafinna were seen again on 8 September. There was then a gap of nine days until the next: a bird in Kilmichael on 17 September. This was followed by a bird in East Fields on 19 September, a bird in Kilmichael on 20 September, and a bird in Tilickafinna on 23 September. A third arrival occurred in the second week of October. Four were found on 10th, including a bird in the Main Bog, two in Kilmichael Valley and one in Ballynacallagh. Seven birds were found the next day, and three were seen on 12th, but these were the last.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Present throughout the year, but very scarce until the middle of March (no more than four in a day) and after the middle of November (no more than seven in a day). However, 2010 was another good breeding season, and the species was common in late summer and autumn, with counts of up to 20 in a day.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The first of the year were two on 20 March (DC, BF). Numbers built up slowly in April, and there were no obvious signs of spring passage. Common throughout late spring and summer, with the first fledged juveniles appearing on 30 May. Most of the island's breeding population had departed by the middle of August, and no more than 10 were recorded in a day until 6 September, when 30 were recorded, mostly on the Western Hill. Numbers declined rapidly, but another small influx of migrants occurred on 29 September, when 11 were recorded. Three were still present on 3 October, and two remained until 8th, but the only records thereafter were of single birds on 10, 16 and 18 October.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

One was found near Bernie O'Leary's house in Tilickafinna on 18 April (DC), and one was seen flying over Ballynacallagh on 11 October (KG, AL).

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

A fairly common resident. Four or five pairs again nested in Tilickafinna. There was a noticeable influx of migrants in the second week of October, with counts of 20+ on 9th and 10th and 40+ on 11th. Numbers remain relatively high throughout the late autumn,

and there was another influx during the hard weather in the third week of December, with many birds staying until the end of the year.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Commoner than usual in the early part of the year, but scarce in autumn. Twenty-eight were counted on 1 January and 20 on 2nd. An influx occurred during the hard weather in the second week of January. Numbers increased from 22 on 8th to 150 on 9th and 106 on 10th, but only nine remained by 16th, and no more than three were recorded in a day to the end of the month. Twelve were seen on 6 February, but the only other records in February were of two on 7th, two on 11th and one on 12th. The only other record in the first half of the year was of a bird in Tilickafinna on 6 March (BF). The only records in autumn were of three in Ballynacallagh on 16 October and three in Tilickafinna on 20 October. A small influx occurred during the hard weather in December: 22 were seen on 10th and there were still 10 on 29th and nine on 30th, but only two were seen on the last day of the year.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Present throughout the year, with numbers swelled by wintering birds in the early part of the year and again at the end of the year, and a noticeable influx during the period of hard weather in January. Thirty-four were recorded on 1 January, followed by 40 on 2nd and 8th and at least 50 on 9th. Most had left again by 16 January, and thereafter no more than 10 were recorded in a day until the second week of October, when counts of 10+ on 11th and 12+ on 16th indicated that an arrival had taken place. Numbers then remained relatively high to the end of the year. As usual, several pairs bred on the island and were conspicuous in song in early spring (first heard on 20 February), but the birds were then remarkably inconspicuous throughout late spring and summer. A pair nested in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna and produced several young to fledging.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Commoner than usual in the early part of the year, with a big influx during the hard weather in January, but not particularly numerous in the latter part of the year. Counts in January included 100 on 1st, 400 on 2nd, 500 on 9th, 423 on 10th, 58 on 16th and 24 on 23rd. There were still 25 on 6 February, 32 on 14th and 20 on 18th, but no more than six in the first week on March. The only later spring record was of a single bird on 4 and 6 April (DC). The first of the autumn were single birds in Tilickafinna and Ballynacallagh on 10 October, followed by seven on 16 October, two on 17th, eight on 20th and one on 21st. Present in reasonable numbers throughout November and December, with high counts of 15 on 6 November, 17 on 20 November, 36 on 10 December, 28 on 29 December, 26 on 30 December and 25 on 31 December.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

2010 was an exceptional year for this normally very scarce species on Dursey Island, with records on 17 dates in six months of the year. Two were seen in Tilickafinna on 16 and 17 January, and there was another bird near the jetty on 17th (DC, BF). One was seen in Kilmichael Valley on 6 February (BF). Two juveniles were found in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 30 July (DC), and these two birds were seen at various locations in Tilickafinna on 1, 2, 8 and 9 August (DC, DS, JS). A flock of seven was found in Kilmichael Valley on 31 August (DS). At least four were still present on 4 September, and at least three on 6 and 12 September (DS). These birds were seen going to roost in the garden at Zuma in Ballynacallagh. A single bird appeared in Tilickafinna on 18 and

19 September (KF, DS); there was one on the High Cliffs on 8 October (DS); and one was seen in Kilmichael on 11 October (KG, AL). The last of the year were three birds near the jetty on 16 October (DC).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

One was heard in song in a rough field below Gerald's gate, west of Kilmichael, in the late evening of 2 May (DC). This bird was subsequently heard in song on 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 14 May, and seen well on several occasions (DC, BF, PR, DS). On 7 May, it was heard singing well after dark at 23:00-23:30 hours, and on 9 May, two birds were present and behaving as though they were a pair. However, there were no signs of the birds after 14 May, and it is doubtful if breeding was attempted. The only other record in spring was of a single bird in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 8 May. Unusually, the species was also recorded in autumn: a single bird in Scott's garden on 17 August (DS).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Sedge Warblers again bred successfully on Dursey Island, and this year it seems likely that there were two pairs. A pair was found back at the breeding site in John-Michael's Bog below Kilmichael on 11 May, one day later than in 2009. This pair was seen and heard on a number of occasions until 14 August, and a bird was seen carrying food to its nest on 7 August (KF). Another individual was seen in song by Gerald's Pond on 30 May, 5 and 6 June and 3 July, and may have nested. A third bird was heard in song in rough fields near Gerald's gate on 30 May and 1 and 6 June, but then disappeared. Breeding was first proven on Dursey Island in 2005; it was suspected in 2007 and 2008, and proven again in 2009. The only evidence of spring passage in 2010 was during the period 4 – 12 May and on 22 May. The first migrant was a bird in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 4 May. There were six in this garden on 7 May, and at least 18 on the island on 8 May, including 13 in Tilickafinna, one in Kilmichael and four in Kilmichael Valley. Seven were seen the next day (9th), and four remained on 11th, but only one was seen on 12th, in Scott's garden. Two birds in Kilmichael Valley on 22 May were presumably also passage migrants (BF). The only records in autumn were of one in Ballynacallagh and one in Kilmichael Valley on 3 September, one at the stream near the Tip on 9 October, one in Ovenbird Hedge on 10 October, and one at the stream near the Tip on 15 October.

European Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

2010 was a very good year for this species on Dursey Island, with records on 15 dates between 1 September and 16 October, involving at least 13 individuals. The first was a bird in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 1 and 2 September (DS). This was joined by a second on 3 September, when there was also a bird in Kilmichael Valley (DS). Two more arrived in Scott's garden on 6th, bringing the total to four, and a bird was still present in Kilmichael Valley (DS). Two birds remained in Scott's garden until 8th (DS). Another individual appeared in Scott's garden on 23 September, but stayed only one day (DS). Two were found in Kilmichael Valley on 9 October, and one of these remained until 12th (KG, AL). Three birds were found in Tilickafinna on 11th: one in Ivy Gully and two in Scott's garden, one of which remained until 16th (KG, AL, DS). Other individuals were found on the North Cliffs on 12 October (KG, AL) and in Ovenbird Hedge on 16th (KF).

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

One in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 26 and 27 September (DS, KG). The bird was

first seen at 08:30 on 26th, but did not show well until 18:45. A thorough search of the garden the next morning produced only one fleeting view, and the bird was not seen again. This was the first record of this species on Dursey Island and, if accepted, the fifth record for Ireland.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

A first-winter bird was seen in the garden at Zuma in Ballynacallagh on 12 September (DS). The bird was remarkably elusive, and may well have been the mystery warbler that had been glimpsed in the same area on 3 September. This was the sixth record of a Melodious Warbler on Dursey Island.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

A first-winter bird appeared in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna at 16:00 on 28 September and remained until at least mid-afternoon on 3 October (DS *et al.*). The bird was unusually obliging and showed well to many observers. This was the ninth record of a Barred Warbler on Dursey Island.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

There were two records, one in spring and one in autumn. A very grey-and-white individual was seen in the garden at Zuma in Ballynacallagh on 30 May (BF, DS), and one was seen at Zuma in the early morning of 27 September (Neil Warnock).

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

After a very poor year in 2009, 2010 produced a good series of records in spring and autumn, although there were no large falls. The first of the spring was a bird in Kilmichael on 25 April. Two appeared in Tilickafinna on 7 May, and there were three in Tilickafinna and one at The Waters on 8th. Another bird was found in Ballynacallagh on 9th, while in Tilickafinna there were two on 9th and 10th, five on 11th and one on 12th. A male sang vigorously in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna for much of the day on 8 June, and a female appeared in Scott's garden on 17 June. The first of the autumn was a bird in Scott's garden on 31 August and 1 September. Four individuals were found during the period 3-12 September: one in the bracken on the North Slope from 3rd to 8th; one in Scott's garden from 4th to 7th; one in O'Leary's garden in Tilickafinna from 6th to 8th, and one in Kilmichael Valley from 6th to 12th. At least three birds appeared during the second week of October: one in the Main Bog on 10th; one in East Fields on 11th and 12th, and one in Kilmichael on 11th and 15th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Another poor year, with only four records, one in spring and three in autumn. A bird spent all day in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 10 May, and sang on many occasions (DS). One was found in Kilmichael Valley on 4 September (DS); there was one in Mike's Bog in Tilickafinna on 6 September (DS); and one was in Scott's garden on 17 September (DS).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Both the spring and the autumn passages were unexceptional, with no more than six birds being recorded in a day in spring and no more than nine in autumn. The first of the spring was a single bird on 16 April (DC). This was followed by five on 17th, four on 18th, and two on 25th. A male appeared in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 7 May and gave frequent bursts of song. Six birds were seen on the island the next day, and five on 9th, including the male in song in Scott's garden. Only a single female remained in Tilickafinna on 10th and this was last seen on 12th. The first of the autumn were two

in Scott's garden on 17 September, one of which remained until 19th. At least six appeared in Scott's garden on 25 September, but only two remained the next day, when there was also a bird in Kilmichael Valley. Another bird was found in Kilmichael on 27th, and at least one of the birds in Scott's garden remained until 29th. There was then a gap in records until 9 October, when two were found in Tilickafinna and two in Kilmichael Valley. Three were seen on 11th, and at least nine were present on 12th, but numbers then fell to five on 15th, three on 16th and 17th, and one on 18th. There was another small influx a few days later, with two on 22 October, five on 23rd and five on 24th, but coverage was then interrupted until early November, when none was recorded. There was a late individual in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael on 20 November (DC), and two exceptionally late individuals in Cooke's garden on 11 December (DC).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

2010 was the fourth good year in a row for this species on Dursey Island, with records on seven dates between 9 and 24 October, involving at least six individuals. Single birds were seen in Kilmichael Valley on 9 October (KG, AL, DS) and in East Fields on 11 October (KG, AL). There were two birds in Kilmichael Valley on 16 October, one of which was seen again on 17th (DC, CF, KF). Another bird was seen in Kilmichael Valley on 21 and 22 October (DC, KG, AL), and there were two in this valley on 24 October (DC).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

The first of the spring were one at Zuma and one in Kilmichael Valley on 17 March (BF, KF). Six were found in Kilmichael Valley on 20 March, and there were two on 21 and 22 March. Singletons were seen on 4 and 8 April, and there were three on 9 April and 12 on 11 April. One to four were recorded on all further visits in April, and then one or two individuals were recorded daily until the middle of June. One of these was a male that arrived in Scott's garden on 23 April, took up territory and sang regularly throughout the spring. It was last seen on 16 June, when coverage was interrupted. Other birds during this period included second birds in Scott's garden on 4, 7 and 9 May and 12 June, and a single bird at Zuma on 5 June. The first of the autumn was a single bird in Scott's garden on 16 and 17 August. The next were two from 30 August to 2 September, four on 3 September, seven on 4 September and six on 6 September, with one of these lingering until 12 September. Another small arrival occurred in the third week of September, with one on 17th, two on 18th and five on 19th, and there was a third arrival in the last week, with nine appearing on 25th, six on 27th and three remaining until 29th. Only single individuals were recorded in the first week of October, but a big influx occurred in the second week, with numbers increasing from four on 8th, 16 on 9th and 14 on 10th to at least 32 on 11th. Numbers then fell to 26 on 12th, eight on 16th, four on 17th and two on 18th. Singletons on 23 and 24 October were the last of the year.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The spring passage was unexceptional, with no big falls, but the species was much commoner than usual in autumn, with some birds present almost daily from the end of July to mid-October. The first of the spring were three in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna and two near the Tip on 9 April (KF). There was a small influx in the third week of April, with two on 16th, seven on 17th and seven on 18th, but the next were not until the beginning of May. One or two individuals were recorded almost daily from 1st to 10th, and there were four on 11th, including one in song in Scott's garden. Single birds were

present in Scott's garden on 13, 22, 28 and 29 May and in Kilmichael Valley on 22 and 23 May. A bird sang frequently in Scott's garden on 4, 5 and 6 June, and a very pale bird, presumably of northern origin, was seen in Ovenbird Hedge on 12 June. The autumn migration began with a young bird in Scott's garden on 30 July, one in Kilmichael Valley from 1 to 6 August, another bird in Scott's garden on 3 and 4 August, and a second bird in Kilmichael Valley on 6th. There was a small influx on 8 August, when eight were recorded, but only one remained the next day. Up to three individuals were then recorded in Scott's garden almost daily until 2 September, and there were two in Kilmichael Valley on 14 August. There was another small influx in early September, with four on 3rd, seven on 4th and six on 6th, and a further arrival in the third week of September, with three on 17th, five on 18th and two on 19th. A single bird was present in Scott's garden from 24 September to 3 October, and other individuals were seen in Kilmichael on 25 and 29 September, in Ovenbird Hedge on 29 September, and in Ballynacallagh on 3 October. One was found on the north side of Tilickafinna on 8 October (DS); there were two in Kilmichael Valley on 16 October (KF), and one was seen in Cooke's garden on 17 October (DC).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

2010 was an exceptionally poor year for this species on Dursey Island, with no records in spring and only four individuals in autumn. The first of the year was a bird at Zuma in Ballynacallagh on 17 September (DS). One was seen in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 2 October (AL), and there was another individual in this garden on 10 and 11 October (DS). One was seen in Kilmichael Valley on 24 October (DC).

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

A bird appeared in the garden at Zuma in Ballynacallagh on 8 October, and was seen again in this garden on 9th, 10th and 12th (DS *et al.*). This was the first record of a Firecrest on Dursey Island since October 2007.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Another rather poor year, with records on only four dates in spring and six dates in autumn. One in Scott's garden, one in Kilmichael Valley and one at Zuma on 8 May were the first. There were three in Kilmichael Valley on 22 May, and a total of 11 on the island on 23 May (five in Scott's garden, five in Kilmichael Valley and one at Zuma). The only other record in spring was of a single bird in Scott's garden on 10 June. The first of the autumn was a bird in Scott's garden on 15 August. A bird appeared in the garden at Zuma on 31 August and was still present the next day, when there was also a bird in Scott's garden. Two were found on 3 September: one in the bracken on the North Slope and one in Kilmichael Valley. The latter stayed until 6th, when it was joined by a second bird. There was also a bird in Cooke's garden on 6th. Surprisingly, these were the last of the year.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

2010 was a good year for this species on Dursey Island, with records on 12 dates between 25 August and 16 October. The first was a bird in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 25 August. A male appeared in Scott's garden on 1 September and was joined by a second individual on 4th. The male then disappeared but the other bird remained until 6th. Another individual was seen in Kilmichael Valley on 3 and 4 September. At least five arrived on the island on 9 October (two in Scott's garden, one in Tilickafinna fields, one near the Martello Tower and one at The Waters), and five

were seen the next day (one on the Western Hill, one in Scott's garden, one in Kilmichael Valley, one at Zuma and one in East Fields). Two were seen on 12 October (in Tilickafinna and Ballynacallagh), one was seen on 15th (in Tilickafinna), and two were seen on 16th (in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna). It would seem that at least ten and possibly as many as 14 individuals were involved.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

A single bird was seen in the gully above Scott's garden in Tilickafinna at 10:00 on 11 October (DS). This was the first record of a Coal Tit on Dursey Island since the big influx in the autumn of 2008.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Three birds that had been around since September 2009 were still present until 23 January, but only two were recorded on 30 January and in the first three weeks of February, and these were last seen on 21st. The birds spent most of their time moving back and forth between the feeders at Zuma in Ballynacallagh and in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael, but one was seen in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 23 January. The first of the autumn was a single bird which appeared in Scott's garden on 30 July and remained until 17 September. A bird reappeared in Scott's garden on 25 September, when there was also a bird in Kilmichael Valley. Three birds were present on 26th (one in Scott's garden and two in Cooke's garden) and two were seen on 27th, but the next were not until 3 October, when five birds appeared: two in Scott's garden and three in Cooke's garden. Thereafter, up to five were recorded almost daily until 24 October. Four were still present until at least 24 November, and at least three remained until the end of the year.

Great Tit *Parus major*

The Great Tit has now become a permanent resident on Dursey Island, and this year two pairs bred successfully, although most of the young disappeared in the autumn. Three, or possibly four, individuals were present in January, but no more than three were recorded in February and March. However, two pairs were found nesting in spring: a pair in Ballynacallagh and a pair in Kilmichael. The former pair was seen carrying food to a nest in a hole in a wall in East Fields on 9 May, and the latter pair was seen carrying food in the fields below Kilmichael on 30 May and 6 June. A party of four recently fledged juveniles appeared in Kilmichael on 31 July, and there was a party of eight juveniles in Ballynacallagh on 1 August. One juvenile travelled out as far as Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 15 August. Up to six birds, mostly juveniles, were seen on many occasions in late August and early September, and 13 birds were recorded on 17 September, including a restless party of 12 which spent much of the morning in Scott's garden, making repeated forays out to the west. Thereafter, up to seven individuals were recorded in late September and October, and up to six individuals in November and December (a pair in Ballynacallagh, a pair in Kilmichael and a pair in Tilickafinna).

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

A dull-coloured female or immature male was found in Kilmichael Valley at 15:30 on 23 May (BF). This was the eighth record of Golden Oriole on Dursey Island.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

A second calendar-year male of the nominate form or *rutilans* was found at The Waters at 11:30 on 2 May (KF). It was subsequently seen well by several observers, and

remained in the area until at least 17:25 on 3 May (BF, CF, DS, JS). It could not be located the following evening and had presumably moved on. This was the first record of a Woodchat Shrike on Dursey Island.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*

No more than two were recorded in a day in January and February (one in the Ballynacallagh and Kilmichael area and one in Tilickafinna), but three were present on several occasions in March and two pairs were found nesting in April, a pair in the garden at Zuma in Ballynacallagh and a pair in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna. Neither pair was successful, and one of the adults seems to have disappeared in June, as no more than three individuals were recorded in July, August and September. However, unusually large numbers appeared on the island in October and November. The first influx occurred on 6 October, when a flock of 10 was seen flying across the Sound onto the island at 10:15. A party of five reached Tilickafinna on 11 October, and there were at least seven birds on the island on 12 and 16 October. A major invasion occurred on 20 October, when at least 27 were recorded, and 30 were counted the next day (KG, AL). Numbers then remained unusually high until the third week of November, with high counts of 18 on 24 October, 16 on 7 November and 19 on 19 November (DC). Only six remained by 21 November, and no more than four were recorded in December, except on 29th, when eight appeared (DC). Only three birds could be located on the last day of the year.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Present throughout the year, with some eight to ten pairs breeding on the island. The maximum counts in each month were as follows: eight in January; 13 in February; 20 in March; 12 in April; 12 in May; 20 in June; 15 in July; 25 in August; 20 in September; 20 in October; 15 in November; and 11 in December. As in 2009, there were no observations of large flocks in late summer and autumn and no indications of big communal roosts on the island.

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

The only records were of large flocks flying over from the mainland on three fine days in October: a flock of 75 was seen in Kilmichael on 12 October (KG, AL); several flocks totalling 380 were recorded on 16 October (DC, KF, KG, AL); and there was a single flock of 190 in Tilickafinna on 24 October (DC).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

The only records were of birds flying over from the mainland with Jackdaws on fine days in October: 15 were seen in Kilmichael on 12 October (KG, AL); several flocks totalling about 100 were recorded on 16 October (DC, KF, KG, AL); and eight were seen on 24 October (DC).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

One was seen in the fields at Ballynacallagh on 19 November (DC). This was the tenth record of a Carrion Crow on Dursey Island, and the latest by two days.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Present throughout the year. Several pairs bred on the island, including a pair in the large conifer in Kilmichael Valley. Breeding success seems to have been quite good, with counts of 15 in a day on several occasions in August, September and the first half of October. Thirty were recorded on 26 September, including a flock of 20 in Kilmichael Valley, and there were at least 25 on 7 October, including a single flock of 21 in East

Fields. After a count of 18 on 16 October, no more than 11 were recorded in a day to the end of the year.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

Present throughout the year. Up to five were present on the island in the first three months. A pair again bred in Tilickafinna and reared three young, and there was another pair at the east end of the island, but there was no evidence that they attempted to breed, as no more than six birds were recorded in a day until early August. Small influxes of birds from the mainland occurred on fine days in autumn, but the only counts of 10 or more were 13 on 29 September, 15 on 30 September, 10 on 12 October and 18 on 16 October. No more than five were recorded in a day in November and December.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

The decline in the breeding population of Common Starlings on Dursey Island continues. Only two pairs bred in 2010: a pair in Finch's house in Ballynacallagh and a pair in Dennehy's house in Kilmichael. There were usually no more than six individuals on the island in the first three months of the year, although flocks occasionally came over from the mainland for the day, e.g. 40 on 1 January, 33 on 2 January, 28 on 16 January and 110 on 6 February. Three pairs were present in March and April, but only two of these nested. The first four juveniles appeared on 30 May, and by 4 June there were seven juveniles on the wing. Up to a dozen birds were recorded in June, July and early August. The first influx of young birds from the mainland occurred on 15 August, when a flock of 22 reached Tilickafinna. Numbers increased considerably in the last week of August, with counts of 196 on 22nd, 120 on 27th and 200 on 29th, but most of these soon moved off and the highest counts in early September were 57 on 4th and 43 on 12th. No more than 16 were recorded in the second half of September and early October, but numbers then increased again in the second week on October to 45-50 from 11th to 17th and 34 on 24th. A big influx occurred in early November, with counts of 300 on 5th, 350 on 6th and 300 on 7th, and numbers remained high until at least 21st, with counts of 200 on 18th, 250 on 19th, 300 on 20th and 260 on 21st. However, only about 40 were seen on 10 and 11 December, and thereafter no more than six were recorded in a day. Only three birds could be found on the last day of the year.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

A male at Zuma in Ballynacallagh on 16 January was unusual (BF). A juvenile male appeared by the pump in Kilmichael on 22 August (DS), and there was a female in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael on 26 and 27 September (DC, DS). A female appeared in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna at 09:25 on 30 September but stayed only minutes before flying off high to the west (DS). Another female was seen in Kilmichael on 11 October, and 11 birds were found the next day: two in Kilmichael and a party of nine in Scott's garden (KG, AL). It is now over 15 years since House Sparrows last bred on Dursey Island.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

One was flushed from a stand of bracken on the north slope of the Western Hill on 12 October (KG). The bird disappeared around the hillside and was not relocated. This was only the second record of a Red-eyed Vireo on Dursey Island, the first being as long ago as September 1990.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Three birds were recorded on many dates from 1 January to 19 February: a pair in

Scott's garden in Tilickafinna and a female in Kilmichael. The two females remained until 19 March, and one of these lingered until 5 April, but then disappeared. The only other records in spring were of a bird in Kilmichael on 18 April, and a bird in Scott's garden on 8 May. The first of the autumn were two females in Scott's garden on 24 and 26 September. Eight appeared in Scott's garden on 29 September, but no more than four were seen in the first week of October. An influx occurred in the second week of October, with numbers increasing from seven on 9th to 35 on 11th and 40 on 12th, but numbers had fallen to 15 by 15th, and no more than eight were recorded in the second half of October. Numbers increased again in November, with counts of 20 on 6th, 18 on 7th, 15 on 19th, 32 on 20th and 18 on 21st, but only four were left on 24th. These four birds remained until the end of the year, spending most of their time in and around Cooke's garden in Kilmichael.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

After two years without a single record, 2010 saw a welcome return to form with records on four dates in autumn, involving five individuals. The first was a bird in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 17 October (DC). Two were seen on 20 October: one in East Fields and one at the Tip (KG, AL). One was seen in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael on 24 October (DC), and an unusually late individual was seen in Scott's garden on 20 November (DC).

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Greenfinches again overwintered on the island and bred successfully, although this year the birds disappeared at the end of November. Up to 12 were seen in January and there were still at least 11 on 6 February, but no more than seven were seen in late February and March. Up to eight or nine birds were present in April and May, and at least two pairs nested: a pair in Kilmichael Valley and a pair in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna. The latter reared two broods, the first two fledglings appearing on 28 May. The pair in Kilmichael Valley had four recently fledged young on 12 June. A third pair may have nested in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael. By early August, there were as many as 17 birds on the island, but many of these disappeared in the second half of August and no more than seven were recorded in the first half of September. Numbers increased again in late September to 15 on 30th. Eighteen were recorded on 3 October, and then 12 to 14 almost daily to 17 October. There were still 11 on 6 November and eight on 7 November, but only one or two were seen in the second half of November, and a bird in Scott's garden on 27 November was the last of the year.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

The year began with three on 1 January, four on 2nd, one or two on several dates to 9 January, and two in Tilickafinna on 17 January, but these were the last of the winter. There was a typical scattering of spring records, beginning with one in Ballynacallagh on 17 and 18 April. A bird was present in Scott's garden from 25 April to 9 May and sang a great deal, but was unable to attract a mate. Other birds included one in Kilmichael on 25 April, one in Ballynacallagh on 28 April, three in Tilickafinna on 2 May, and two in Tilickafinna on 3 and 8 May. The first of the autumn were four in Tilickafinna on 17 September, followed by two in Kilmichael on 20 September. Thereafter, Goldfinches were recorded on most dates to late October, with substantial movements occurring on many dates in late September and early October. High counts

included 100 on 29 September, 60 on 30 September, 30 on 2 October, 240 on 3 October, 50 on 4 October, 40 on 6 October, 40 on 11 October, 50 on 12 October, and 25 on 13, 14 and 15 October. Seven were recorded on 17 October, and up to six on five dates to 21 November, but the only ones thereafter were single birds on 24 and 27 November and again on 9 and 10 December.

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Three in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 13 February were unusual (DS). There was one record in spring: a bird flying east over Kilmichael Valley on 23 April. The first of the autumn was a bird flying east over the Western Hill on 17 September. At least 21 flew west over Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 29 September, followed by nine on 3 October, 10 on 6 October, eight on 10 October and five on 11 October. Single individuals were seen on 16 and 17 October; there were five birds in Kilmichael Valley on 17 October, and another single bird was seen on 20 October. The last of the year were three in Scott's garden on 24 October (DC).

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Up to 10 were found roosting in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna during the period 11-19 February. The only record in the first half of March was of six on 5th, but 11 were seen on 19th, and thereafter the species was common throughout the spring and summer. The Linnets seem to have had another good breeding season and were already gathering in flocks of up to 100 individuals by late July. Numbers remained high throughout August and September, with counts of 200 on several dates, 300 on 6 September, and 250 on 12 and 26 September. There were still at least 200 on 3 October, but numbers then decreased to 100 on 10th, 50 on 11th and 25 on 18th, 20th and 21st. The only records in November were of a single bird on 6th and two on 7th, and none was recorded in the first half of December. However, at least 40 were seen going to roost in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 30 December (DC), and 45 roosted there on the night of 31st (DS).

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

A flock of 13 or 14 was found in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna in the late afternoon of 2 January, and at least five were seen there the next day (KF). These birds were still present on 11 February and were watched going to roost in the garden on every evening from 11th to 20th (DS, JS, DC). The birds usually arrived between 17:15 and 17:45, and left again at around 08:00. From their direction of flight, it appeared that they were feeding in the rough fields below Bernie O'Leary's house, but they were never seen during the middle of the day. An accurate count was never possible, but there were thought to be between 12 and 14 birds. The birds continued to roost in Scott's garden until at least 11 April. Six were seen on 1 March (BF, KF), 13 on 5 March (DC), at least eight on 17 March (KF), 10-12 on 20 March (DC, BF, KF), six on 9 April (KF) and three on 11 April (BF), when one was also found in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael (BF). Prior to this series of records, the only records of Twite on Dursey Island since 1993 had been of single birds in October 2003 and October 2005.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis (flammea) cabaret*

2010 was another good year for this species on Dursey, with two records in spring and a very protracted passage in autumn. Two birds appeared at Zuma in Ballynacallagh on 8 April (BF, KF), and there was a male in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 29 April (DS). Two juveniles were found in Kilmichael Valley on 1 August (DS), and presumably these two birds were seen below Kilmichael on 5 and 6 August (DC). Single birds were seen

in Scott's garden on 10 August, 25 August, 6 September and 8 September, and there were two there on 12 September. A bird took up residence in Scott's garden on 17 September and remained until 29th. Other birds recorded during this period included a single bird on 17th, a flock of four on 23rd, a single bird on 24th and another flock of four on 29th. Up to four were recorded on nine dates in the first three weeks of October, and five were seen on 11th. However, the only record after 21 October was of a single bird in Tilickafinna on 6 and 7 November (DC).

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

A very tame individual of the large nominate form was found near the shed by the Cable Car at 10:45 on 1 May (DS, JS). The bird was watched for about five minutes and then left alone. However, when DS, JS and DC returned to the site only 15 minutes later, the bird had disappeared. Further searches that afternoon failed to find the bird, but at 07:40 the next morning, it was discovered by the track only about 50 metres from the Cable Car (CF, KF). It eventually flew off up the hill, and could not be relocated despite a thorough search of the eastern end of the island. This was the second record of an Arctic Redpoll on Dursey Island and, if accepted, the fourth or fifth record for Ireland.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

An adult male in pink plumage appeared in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna at 11:30 on 15 June (DS, JS). It was first discovered singing loudly from the interior of a willow thicket, and subsequently sang from a variety of perches around the garden. It was last seen at 14:30. A dull immature bird arrived in Scott's garden at 10:00 on 26 September, but stayed only briefly (DS). Presumably the same individual was present in and around the garden from 08:25 to 13:00 on 28 September and again at 10:40 on 29 September (DS). It then flew off towards Ovenbird Hedge, where it was seen between 14:00 and 14:30 (KG, AL). It was last recorded in Scott's garden at 08:20-08:25 on 30 September (DS). These were the 15th and 16th records of Common Rosefinch on Dursey Island.

Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

A female was seen in Kilmichael Valley on 1 January (DC). This was only the fourth record of a Eurasian Bullfinch on Dursey, the three previous records all being in 2005.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

2010 was a very good year for this species, with records on 14 dates between 28 August and 18 October, and an exceptional total of 10 birds on 17 September. Six birds were seen flying in off the sea at the Tip between 06:55 and 09:40 on 28 August, and single birds were seen later that day at North Pond, over Bernie's Gully and over Tilickafinna (DS, JS). One flew north-east over Tilickafinna at 09:30 on 6 September, and one was seen at the North-west Tip on 8 September (DS). Four were found foraging with a flock of Meadow Pipits near the Tip on 11 September (DS, JS). One flew east over Ballynacallagh at 10:35 and another flew east over Kilmichael Valley at 12:00 on 12 September (DS). One was heard passing over Tilickafinna at 18:15 on 16 September (DS). On 17 September, two flew east over the Western Hill at 10:35; a party of five came up off the North Slope and flew off east at 10:45; and a party of three flew east over Scott's garden at 10:55 (DS, JS). Two flew north-east over Scott's garden at 08:50 on 24 September; four flew in off the sea at the North-west Tip between 08:05 and 10:10 on 25 September; and two flew east over Tilickafinna at 11:10 on 29 September (DS, JS). One was heard calling over Tilickafinna at 08:15 on 3 October (DS). One flew east over the Western Hill with a flock of Meadow Pipits at 11:20 on 10 October (DS),

and possibly the same bird was heard by visiting birders in Kilmichael later that morning. A single bird was seen in Tilickafinna on 12 October (KG, AL), and finally there were two on the Western Hill on 18 October (KG, AL).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

2010 was a poor year for this species, with only five records in autumn. Two birds arrived in off the sea at the North-west Tip at 11:55 on 2 October and gave close views on the cliff tops (DS, JS, KF *et al.*). There was another bird at the North-west Tip on 4 October (KG, AL), and a party of five on the North Cliffs on 5 October (KG, AL). Yet another bird was found at the North-west Tip at 08:30 on 9 October (DS, JS), and there was a bird at the Old Lighthouse on 6 November (KF).

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*

A female or first-year bird was found with four Reed Buntings on the track in Kilmichael at 10:50 on 9 October (KG). It was watched for five minutes, but was then flushed by passing walkers and could not be relocated despite a thorough search later that day and on the following day. This was the first record of this species on Dursey and, if accepted, the fifth record for Ireland.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Reed Buntings were probably present on Dursey Island throughout the year and certainly attempted to breed, although it seems unlikely that they were successful. Four individuals were recorded on 8 January, including one in Tilickafinna, but otherwise no more than three (a male and two females) were recorded in a day until October. Most records were from the boggy fields below Kilmichael and Kilmichael Valley. A very agitated pair was seen in John-Michael's Bog below Kilmichael on 30 May and 12 June, and was presumably nesting, but no fledged juveniles were ever seen. The birds became very inconspicuous in late summer, and after a sighting of two on 18 July, there were no further records until a bird appeared in Tilickafinna on 6 September. This bird was seen again on 9th and 12th, and on the latter date there was also a bird in Ballynacallagh. One or two individuals were then recorded on seven dates in late September and early October. Five birds were present on 9 October (four in Kilmichael and one in Tilickafinna), and there were four on 10th and two on 11th, but the only record thereafter was of a single bird at The Waters on 27 November.

MAMMALS

Pygmy Shrew *Sorex 34inutes*

Another poor year for this species, with only four records, all of dead animals. One was found dead on the track in Kilmichael on 16 April (DC); two were killed in a mouse trap in Finch's house in Ballynacallagh on 2 and 5 August (DC); and one was found dead on the track in Ballynacallagh on 27 September (DC).

Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

2010 was an excellent year for bats on Dursey Island, with one or two individuals being recorded on 30 dates between 30 April and 16 October. Most of the records relate to a single individual in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna. This was recorded on 26 occasions between 1 May and 3 October, and seen emerging from its roost under the fascia board on the front of the house on 13 occasions. The time of emergence ranged from 22:40 on 14 and 15 June to 20:50 on 4 and 6 September. The bat was seen going to roost under the fascia board at 05:50 on 7 August and 07:05 on 25 September. It was heard to emit sounds at 50 kHz on 14 August and 17 September. A second individual was present over the garden at dusk on 6 September, but this was not thought to be roosting in the house. Elsewhere, small bats were recorded outside John-Michael's house in Kilmichael on 30 April, around Cooke's house in Kilmichael on 16 July, 31 July, 19 September and 16 October, and in Kilmichael Valley on 14 August (DC). All but the first of these was heard to emit sounds at 50 kHz.

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*

Apparently rather uncommon this year. One was seen in Kilmichael on 4 April. There was one in Scott's garden on 5 and 8 August, another individual on 15, 16 and 19 August, and two very small individuals on 25 August, but these were the only records in Tilickafinna. Two were seen in the fields between Kilmichael and Ballynacallagh on 28 August, and single individuals were recorded in the Kilmichael area on 20, 21, 27 and 29 September, 24 October, 21 and 24 November and 10 December.

Common Otter *Lutra lutra*

One was seen at the bottom of Kilmichael Valley by a visiting birder, Neil Warnock, on 27 September; one was seen in the fields above the stream at Kilmichael on 15 October (AL), and one was seen at the bottom of Kilmichael Valley on 21 November (DC).

Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*

Recorded in every month of the year, but very scarce in spring and summer. The highest single-day counts were 25 on 1 January, 16 on 2 January and 21 on 9 January, but thereafter the highest count was only six on 20 October and 31 December. The monthly distribution of records was as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Days with sightings	4	3	3	3	6	2	1	4	4	10	3	4
Maximum count	25	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	6	5	6

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

2010 was one of the best years ever for this species off Dursey Island. There were two

records in spring, including a school of 200 on 8 June, and 33 records between 31 July and 21 October, including impressive concentrations of 300 on 16 August and 230 on 26 August. Most records were of schools feeding and moving west off Tilickafinna in the early morning, although on three occasions, small schools were seen moving back east off Tilickafinna in the evening. Unusually, on 22 August, a school of about 12 moved eastwards close inshore along the south side of the island into the Sound, almost reaching Illanebeg before turning round and heading back out to sea where they joined up with another dozen or so. When last seen, a few of these dolphins were riding the bow-wave of a fisheries patrol vessel that was heading south-east towards Mizen Head.

Date	Total	Locality	Observers
9 May	10	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 19:15-19:25	DS, JS
8 Jun	200	Feeding and moving west off Tilickafinna at 20:30-20:45	DS, JS
31 Jul	60	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 13:15-13:35	DS, JS
1 Aug	10	Feeding off to the SW of the Tip in the early afternoon	DC
4 Aug	45	Off the Tip in the morning	PR
14 Aug	45	40 & 5 moving north off the Tip at 07:50 & 08:10	DC, DS, JS
15 Aug	45	30 & 15 moving west off Tilickafinna at 07:50 & 10:20	DC, DS, JS
16 Aug	300	Feeding and moving west off Tilickafinna at 09:00-11:05	DC, DS, JS
21 Aug	12	Moving west then east off Tilickafinna at 19:05-19:20	DS, JS
22 Aug	24	Moving east then west off the south coast at 10:25-11:30	BF, DS
24 Aug	60	Feeding and moving SW off Tilickafinna at 17:00-17:15	DS, JS
25 Aug	60	60 moving west far out off Tilickafinna at 08:55-09:05; 60 feeding and moving east off Tilickafinna at 19:10-19:20	DS, JS
26 Aug	230	220 & 10 moving west off Tilickafinna at 08:15 & 08:35	DS, JS
27 Aug	12	Moving west close inshore off Tilickafinna at 08:55	DS, JS
28 Aug	162	50, 70, 30 & 12 moving north off the Tip at 08:30, 09:35, 09:45 & 09:30; also 40-50 off Kilmichael Point at 09:30	DC, DS, JS
29 Aug	30	Feeding and moving west off Tilickafinna at 17:25-19:30	DS, JS
4 Sep	21	6 & 15 moving west off Tilickafinna at 18:35 & 19:15	DS, JS
6 Sep	30	Feeding and moving west off Tilickafinna at 17:45-18:15	DS, JS
7 Sep	110	100 & 10 moving west off Tilickafinna at 08:30 & 08:45	DS, JS
8 Sep	30	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 08:25	DS, JS
9 Sep	10	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 09:15-09:30	DS, JS

12 Sep	30	Feeding and moving west off Tilickafinna at 08:40-08:50	DS, JS
16 Sep	15	Feeding and moving east off Tilickafinna at 19:00-19:10	DS, JS
17 Sep	80	60 feeding and moving west off Tilickafinna at 13:15-13:30 20 feeding and moving west off Tilickafinna at 17:15-17:40	DS, JS
18 Sep	40	30 & 10 moving west off Tilickafinna at 13:20 & 17:30	DS, JS
20 Sep	20	Feeding and moving west then east off Tilickafinna at 08:55	DS, JS
25 Sep	100	Feeding and then moving north off the Tip at 07:45-09:30	DC, DS, JS
28 Sep	15	Feeding and moving east off Tilickafinna at 17:30-18:00	DC, DS, JS
29 Sep	10	Feeding off Tilickafinna from 09:20 to at least 15:00	DC, DS, JS
2 Oct	10	Moving NE then SW off the Tip at 09:05-10:00	DS, JS
3 Oct	6	Feeding and moving west off Tilickafinna at 08:20 & 18:25	DS, JS
4 Oct	6	Feeding and moving west off Tilickafinna at 08:10-08:15	DS, JS
5 Oct	4	Off the Tip	KG, AL
8 Oct	18	15 & 3 moving SW off the Tip at 09:25 and 10:20	DS, JS
21 Oct	80	Feeding off the Tip around midday	KG, AL

Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

A school of about 25 came in from the SSE, moved west about 2.5 km offshore from Tilickafinna, and rounded the Tip heading north at 14:30-14:45 on 15 May (DS, JS).

Risso's Dolphin *Grampus griseus*

After a very poor year in 2009, 2010 was one of the best years on record for this species, with sightings on 24 dates between 9 April and 17 October. As is typical, most records were in spring and early summer (17 dates between 9 April and 19 June), but there were also six records in autumn (between 24 September and 17 October). One individual was seen breaching repeatedly off Tilickafinna on 12 June.

Date	Total	Locality	Observers
9 Apr	1	Off the Tip in the morning	BF, KF
11 Apr	2	Off the north coast north of Tilickafinna	BF
29 Apr	4	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 12:15-12:35 (one small ind.)	DS, JS
2 May	5	Moving west below Cromwell Cliff, Tilickafinna, at 10:30	DC
3 May	8	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 15:15-15:40	DS, JS

4 May	4	Feeding off Tilickafinna and the Tip all day: 07:45-19:15	DS, JS
9 May	4	2 & 2 moving west off Tilickafinna at 16:00 & 16:30	DS, JS
12 May	1	Moving west far out off Tilickafinna at 08:20-08:30	DS, JS
13 May	3	Moving east off Tilickafinna at 16:25-16:35 (one very small)	DS, JS
15 May	2	Off the Tip in the morning	DC, PR
16 May	3	Off Cromwell Cliffs, Tilickafinna	DC
23 May	16	Off the Tip in the morning (five small individuals)	BF
24 May	4	Off Tilickafinna in the morning	JS
1 Jun	12	Moving east off Tilickafinna at 09:25-09:35	DS, JS
6 Jun	6	Moving south off the Tip at 10:20-10:25; moving east off Tilickafinna at 12:25-12:35, then returning west at 13:35	DC, DS, JS
8 Jun	3	1 & 2 moving west off Tilickafinna at 19:50 & 20:10	DS, JS
12 Jun	8	Moving east off Tilickafinna at 12:15-12:40; returning west at 13:05-14:00. Some breaching. Two small individuals.	DS, JS
19 Jun	8	Off the High Cliffs on the south coast	BF
24 Sep	8	Arrived off Tilickafinna from west at 09:35 and remained close inshore until 13:30; all big animals; apparently feeding	DC, DS, JS
28 Sep	4	Moving east off Tilickafinna and Kilmichael at 17:30-19:15	DC, DS, JS
29 Sep	5	Moving east off Tilickafinna and Kilmichael at 15:00	DC, KG, DS
2 Oct	12	Moving south-west off the North-west Tip at 08:35	DS, JS
4 Oct	2	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 07:15	DS
17 Oct	2	Off Cromwell Cliffs, Tilickafinna	DC

Harbour Porpoise *Phocaena phoceana*

Present around the island throughout the year. Most commonly encountered off the Tip and north-west coast, but also seen on many occasions below Tilickafinna and occasionally in the Sound. As is typical, numbers were low in the first six months of the year, increased in July and August to a peak in September (maximum of 40 on 25 September), and then declined slowly to the end of the year. The monthly distribution of records was as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Days with sightings	2	4	2	4	7	8	5	19	17	10	4	3

Maximum count	12	6	4	3	6	6	10	25	40	12	20	8
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Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

2010 was one of the best years ever for this species off Dursey Island, with sightings on two dates in spring and 33 dates between 31 July and 17 October. At least seven individuals were watched feeding off the Tip on 14 August, the largest number ever recorded at one time off the island. A large individual was watched breaching 16 times off Tilickafinna on 17 August. Most of the sightings were off Tilickafinna and the Tip, but single individuals were seen off Kilmichael Point and off the north coast.

Date	Total	Locality	Observers
4 May	1	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 13:30	DS
12 May	1	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 14:40-14:45	DS
31 Jul	1	Moving east off Tilickafinna at 13:05 and west at 13:25	DS, JS
1 Aug	1+	Breaching and moving east off Tilickafinna in the evening	DC, DS, JS
4 Aug	2	Feeding off the Tip in the morning	DC, PR
5 Aug	2	One off the Tip; one moving east off Tilickafinna at 14:50	DC, PR, DS
13 Aug	1	Off Kilmichael Point on the south coast	DC
14 Aug	7	Feeding off the Tip and beyond the Calf, 09:30-11:00	DC, DS, JS
16 Aug	3	Feeding off Tilickafinna, 09:50-10:30	DS, JS
17 Aug	5	Feeding far out off Tilickafinna and breaching, 07:55-08:50	DS
21 Aug	1	Moving north off the Tip at 08:05	JS
22 Aug	1	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 13:00	JS
24 Aug	1+	Moving east off Tilickafinna at 08:30, and possibly the same individual feeding off Tilickafinna at 18:50	DS, JS
26 Aug	1	Moving east off Tilickafinna at 09:20	DS
28 Aug	1+	One moving east round Tip towards Tilickafinna at 06:55, and at least one feeding off Tilickafinna at 18:45-19:00	DC, DS, JS
29 Aug	1	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 10:15	DC, DS
6 Sep	1	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 12:45	DS
8 Sep	1	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 17:15	DS
11 Sep	2	Feeding off the Tip from 09:10 to 11:15	DS, JS
12 Sep	1	Moving west off Tilickafinna at 17:35	DS

15 Sep	1	Feeding off the Tip from 08:05 to 09:45	DS, JS
16 Sep	2	Feeding far out off Tilickafinna at 09:20-09:25	DS, JS
17 Sep	1+	One far out off Tilickafinna at 12:05; one moving east off Tilickafinna at 17:45 and west again at 18:50	DS, JS
20 Sep	1	Off the north coast near the west end in the afternoon	DC
23 Sep	1	Feeding far out off Tilickafinna at 08:50-08:55	DS
24 Sep	1	Feeding far out off Tilickafinna at 09:05-09:10	DS
25 Sep	2+	2 feeding off the Tip at 09:10-10:15 and again at 11:20; two feeding off Tilickafinna at 13:15-13:45 and 17:30-18:00	DS, JS
26 Sep	2	Feeding off Tilickafinna at 08:20	DS
28 Sep	1	Feeding off Tilickafinna at 17:45	DC, DS
29 Sep	3	Feeding off Tilickafinna all day from 09:35 to 16:00	DC, DS, JS
1 Oct	1	Close inshore off Tilickafinna at 18:45	JS
8 Oct	1	Moving south off the Tip at 11:00	DS
11 Oct	1	Off the Tip	KG, AL
16 Oct	1	Off the Tip	DC, KG, AL
17 Oct	1	Off the Tip	DC

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Common Lizard *Lacerta vivipara*

An average year, with records of one or two individuals on nine dates between 5 March and 12 September. One in Tilickafinna on 5 March, one in Ballynacallagh on 6 March and two in Kilmichael on 20 March (DC). One by the track in Kilmichael Valley on 5 and 19 June, and one on the hillside above Stapleton's house in Kilmichael on 13 June (BF, KF). One in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 7 August (DC); a very small individual by the track in Kilmichael Valley on 14 August (DS), and one in the same area on 12 September (BF).

Common Frog *Rana temporaria*

Frog spawn was found in Gerald's Pond below Kilmichael on 19 February (DC), but no frogs were seen during the summer. The species was introduced in this area in 2005.

FISHES OF NOTE

Basking Shark *Cetorhinus maximus*

Another good year for this species, with sightings on ten dates between 16 April and 27

June, and a maximum count of six on 17 April.

Date	Total	Locality	Observers
16 Apr	1	In the Sound	DC
17 Apr	6	In the Sound	DC, BF, KF
18 Apr	3	Two in the Sound; one off the High Cliffs on south coast	BF, KF
23 Apr	1	In the Sound at 14:00-14:30	DS
2 May	3	Two in the Sound and one off Tilickafinna in the morning	DC, KF
3 May	2	One breaching off the Tip at 09:50, and one moving SSW off Tilickafinna at 15:25	DS
5 May	2	Close inshore below Tilickafinna at 08:30	DS, JS
8 Jun	1	Below the High Cliffs on the south coast	DC
20 Jun	1	Below the High Cliffs on the south coast	BF
27 June	1	In the Sound	BF

Ocean Sunfish *Mola mola*

One small individual moving slowly south off the Old Lighthouse at 10:00 on 15 September (DS, JS).

BUTTERFLIES

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

The first of the year was a fresh female in Scott's garden on 8 June. The next was one in this garden on 30 July followed by two on 1 August. Thereafter, up to six were recorded in the garden almost daily until 15 August. Large numbers of caterpillars were found on cabbages in early September. The only other records were of single individuals in John-Michael's Bog below Kilmichael on 22 August and Kilmichael on 12 October.

Small White *Pieris rapae*

One in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 30 and 31 August and 1 September (DS).

Green-veined White *Pieris napi*

The first of the season were four on 2 April followed by four on 11 April; then up to 35 were recorded on many dates until 15 June. A single on 19 June was probably one of the last of the first brood, while six on 27 June, 27 on 3 July and 62 on 4 July were presumably part of the second brood. Numbers were unusually high in early August, with peak counts of 125 on 1st and 137 on 8th, and there were still at least 45 on 22nd. Up to 17 were recorded on many dates in the first three weeks of September, but the only records after 16 on 24 September were of two on 26th and an exceptionally later individual in John-Michael's bog below Kilmichael on 24 October (DC). The main colonies were in Kilmichael Valley, in the boggy fields below Kilmichael village and at The Waters, west of Kilmichael, but there was also a small colony in the boggy fields in Tilickafinna.

Clouded Yellow *Colius croceus*

There was a small influx during a period of light south-easterly winds in mid-October: four were recorded on 11th (KG, AL), seven on 12th (KG, AL), one on 16th (KF), and one on 18th (KG, AL). All were seen at the western end of the island, in Tilickafinna (near Bernie's house), on the Western Hill and at the Tip.

Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi*

Despite extensive burning in the early part of the year, 2010 seems to have been a very good year for this species. Five on 16 May were the first of the year. Thereafter, recorded on many dates between 23 May and 4 July, with high counts of 35 on 4 June, 35 on 6 June, and 72 on 12 June. There were substantial colonies at the east end of the island north of the Cable Car and on the rough hillside between The Waters and the High Cliffs, but the species was also found in small numbers in East Fields, at several localities in Tilickafinna, and in the Main Bog on the north slope.

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

2010 was a very good year for this species, with records on 20 days (compared with only four days in 2009). The first were single individuals in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 14, 24 and 25 May, and these were followed by one in Kilmichael Valley on 6 June and one at The Waters on 13 June. Up to three individuals were recorded on 15 dates between 5 August and 29 September, with records coming from Ballynacallagh (one), Kilmichael Valley (two), Kilmichael village (six), Kilmichael Point (one), The Waters (one) and Scott's garden in Tilickafinna (four). The last of the year was one in Kilmichael on 29 September.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

Both broods appear to have done fairly well this year. The first of the season, an

individual below Kilmichael on 2 May, was unusually early (KF). The next were 12 on 15 May, one on 22nd and four on 23rd. Up to 15 were recorded on many dates in the first half of June, but numbers then dwindled to four on 20th and one on 27th. Three on 3 July and a singleton on 4 July were presumably late individuals of the first brood, but the provenance of a singleton on 17 July is uncertain. The second brood appeared early with one on 31 July followed by two on 1 August, four on 3 August and no less than 78 on 7 August. Up to 20 were recorded almost daily throughout August, and there were still 15 on 4 September, but thereafter only one or two were recorded in a day until 25 September, when the last of the season was found in Kilmichael.

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

2010 was a rather poor year for this immigrant, with the only significant influxes occurring on 15 August, 26 August, 20 September and 10/11 October. One in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 23 and 24 May was the first of the year. Another appeared in Scott's garden on 4 and 6 June; there was one at The Waters on 3 July and one in Tilickafinna fields the next day. One was found near the Cable Car on 31 July, and there was one in Ballynacallagh and one in Tilickafinna on 4 August. The Tilickafinna individual was seen again on 5, 7, 8 and 11 August. A big arrival occurred at the west end of the island in the late morning and afternoon of 15 August, and by early evening there were at least 100 individuals in Scott's garden. However, only one individual was found further east on the island. The numbers in Scott's garden dwindled rapidly to 20 on 17th, 10 on 18th and only one or two from 19th to 25th, but another influx occurred on 26th, when 35 appeared in the garden. Numbers fell quickly to 30 on 27th, 15 on 28th and two on 29th. Up to five were recorded on many dates in early September, mostly in Tilickafinna, and then there was another influx of about 30 on 20 September. Most had disappeared by the end of the month, and only single individuals were recorded in the first few days of October. The final influx of the year began at the west end of the island in mid-afternoon of 10 October, when 24 were counted moving north-eastwards along the island. At least 60 were recorded the next day, all over the island. There were still at 50 on the island on 12 October, 25 on 16 October and 14 on 24 October, but coverage was then interrupted, and none was recorded when coverage was resumed in early November.

Painted Lady *Cynthia cardui*

2010 was a very poor year for this species on Dursey, with only about 17 individuals being recorded. The first of the season were four in Kilmichael and on the High Cliffs on 20 March (DC). Two were seen in Kilmichael and Tilickafinna on 2 May, and the one in Tilickafinna remained until 3rd. Another was found in Kilmichael Valley on 22 May (Finn & Forrest Moore). There was then a long gap until the next; one in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 27 August. The easterly winds in September produced only a handful of individuals: singletons on 6th, 8th, 17th, 19th, 25th and 28th scattered around the island. One was seen in Ivy Gully, Tilickafinna, on 6 October (AL); one was seen in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 12 October (KG, AL), and one was seen on the High Cliffs on 24 October (DC).

Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*

There were no early records this year, but numbers in late summer were higher than usual. The first of the year were singletons in Tilickafinna and on the High Cliffs on 16, 19 and 20 June. One appeared in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 10 and 11

August, and there was another below Kilmichael on 13 August. At least five were present on 15 August, increasing to seven on 20 August. There was a marked influx in Tilickafinna on 26 August, when 15 appeared in Scott's garden, increasing to 20 the next day. Up to 10 were recorded daily from 28 August to 6 September, and thereafter, one or two on many dates until early October. There was another influx of about 15 on 11 October, but only six were seen the next day. The last of the year were two on 16 October.

Peacock *Inachis io*

2010 was yet another poor year for this species on Dursey, with no more than five being recorded in a day, and most records coming from Scott's garden in Tilickafinna. All records were in the first three weeks of August. The first were singletons in Scott's garden on 1 August and at Zuma, Ballynacallagh, on 2 August. Thereafter, one or two individuals were recorded in Scott's garden on 13 dates to 20 August; four were seen at The Water on 7 and 8 August, and one was seen at Zuma on 8 August.

Dark Green Fritillary *Argynnis aglaja*

The first of the season were two in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 27 June (BF). Ten were seen on 3 July, including one in Ballynacallagh, one in Kilmichael Valley and eight in Tilickafinna, and there were 30 on 4 July, including seven west of Kilmichael, 14 at The Waters and nine in Tilickafinna. Up to three were recorded in Tilickafinna on many dates from the end of July to the middle of August, and there were 16 at The Waters and three on the High Cliffs on 8 August. The last of the season was a very worn individual in Scott's garden on 18 August.

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

A fresh individual, probably a male, was found in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 1 June (JS) and seen again in the same area on 2 and 4 June (DS, JS). Another individual, probably a female, was seen near the old pump in Kilmichael village on 6 June (DC). Yet another was seen in Kilmichael village on 28 August (DC, BF), and finally a very worn individual was seen in Scott's garden on 1 September (DS). These were the first records of this common and widespread species on Dursey Island

Wall Brown *Lasiomata megera*

The first of the season were four by the track between Ballynacallagh and Kilmichael on 17 April (DC), but the next were not until four on 2 May. Thereafter fairly common until early June, with high counts of 20 on 15 May, 21 on 23 May and 16 on 4 June. Two on 13 June and one on 15 June were the last of the first brood. The first of the second brood was one on 2 August. Numbers then increased rapidly to 22 on 7 August and 25 on 8th. Thereafter common until early September, with high counts of 40 on 14 and 22 August. There were still 25 on 4 September, but numbers then declined rapidly to five on 12 September – the last of the second brood. A very late individual in Kilmichael on 16 October (DC) was presumably from a third brood.

Grayling *Hipparchia semele*

2010 was a good year for this species on Dursey. The first of the season were one at the Tip on 20 June and two on the High Cliffs on 27 June (BF). Then fairly common throughout July, August and early September, with high counts of 21 on 4 July, 32 on 7 August, 22 on 8 August, 24 on 13 August, 26 on 15 August and 12 on 4 September. Singletons were recorded on four dates between 5 and 12 September, and the last of the season was seen in Tilickafinna on 18 September.

Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*

The first of the season were ten on 3 July followed by at least 69 the next day. Then very common all over the island until early September, with the highest counts being 104 on 7 August, 80 on 8 August, 42 on 15 August and 40 on 22 August. Twelve were recorded on 6 September, but thereafter no more than three were recorded in a day. The last of the season were singletons in Kilmichael on 24 September and Tilickafinna on 28 September.

MOTHS

The following day-flying moths were recorded.

Six-spot Burnet *Zygaena filipendulae*

Four on 17 July and two on 18 July were the first of the season (DC). Thereafter locally common until the end of August, with the highest counts being 15 on 1 August, 46 on 7 August and 93 on 8 August (KF). The largest concentrations were recorded at The Waters and in the rough fields along the south slope of Tilickafinna. The last of the season was one in Tilickafinna on 6 September.

Northern Eggar *Lasiocampa quercus callunae*

A male was netted at The Waters on 8 August (KF).

Fox Moth *Macrothylacia rubi*

2010 was a very good year for this species on Dursey with records of up to six individuals in a day on 18 dates between 24 April and 16 June. Many of these were males flying through Scott's garden in Tilickafinna in the evening (DS).

Shaded Broad-bar *Scotopteryx chenopodiata*

One netted at The Waters on 8 August (KF).

Hummingbird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*

2010 was a poor year for this species, with only five individuals being recorded. One was seen in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna at 08:30-08:45 hrs on 15 August (DS). One near the pumping station in Kilmichael Valley on 1 September flew off east (DS). One was seen in Kilmichael Valley on 25 September (DC). One appeared in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael on 28 September (DC). One passed eastwards through Scott's garden at 19:05 hrs on 10 October (DS).

Cinnabar *Tyria jacobaeae*

Coverage during the main flying season of this species (late June and July) was poor, and the only records were of eight on 31 July, six on 1 August, four on 2 August and two on 3 August (DC).

Silver Y *Autographa gamma*

2010 was another poor year for this species on Dursey, after an exceptionally good year in 2009. Fewer than 200 individuals were recorded, and the great majority of these appeared along with an influx of Red Admirals, Small Tortoiseshells and Clouded Yellows in mid-October. The first arrival of the season occurred in the evening of 24 May, when a dozen or so individuals appeared in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna, but none was seen the next day. A total of seven were recorded on 4 June, including two in Tilickafinna, four in the Kilmichael area and one near the Sound. Only one was seen the next day. One was seen in Tilickafinna on 12 June. There were two in Kilmichael on 31 July, one in Tilickafinna on 1 August, one at The Waters on 8 August, one on Illanebeg on 22 August, one in Tilickafinna on 28 August, and two near the west end of the island on 4 September. There were no further records until 11 October, when 20 were recorded at the west end of the island. At least 150 were seen the next day, at the west end of the island and especially along the North Cliffs, but these soon disappeared and only two were found on 15 and 16 October, the last of the year.

No attempt was made at light-trapping this year. Nocturnal moths of interest included a

Netted Pug *Eupithecia venosata* found in Scott's house in Tilickafinna on 4 May (DS), and an **Angle Shades** *Phlogophora meticulosa* found in Kilmichael on 4 April (DC). The Netted Pug was a new species for Dursey Island.

DRAGONFLIES

Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*

An unidentified darter, probably this species, flew north-east through Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 26 August (DS). A large influx of darters occurred during south-easterly winds in mid-October. The first were two in Tilickafinna on 11 October. There were about 50 along the north cliffs on 12th and four in this area on 15th. Dozens of darters were seen in bracken patches on the north slope on 16 October, and four were found in the Main Bog on 17th. All those indentified with certainty were this species (KF, KG, AL).

Common Hawker *Aeshna juncea*

A female was seen in Zuma garden in Ballynacallagh on 28 August (DC), and a female was seen and photographed in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 10 October (DS, JS).

Unidentified hawker *Aeshna* sp.

A female hawker was seen at The Waters on 7 August, and a male hawker was found in the same area the next day (KF). A hawker flew quickly through Scott's garden in Tilickafinna at 13:00 hrs on 30 August (DS). There was a hawker in Tilickafinna and another at The Waters on 4 September (DC), and a hawker flew through Scott's garden at 12:05 hrs on 28 September (DS). Single hawkers were seen in Kilmichael and Tilickafinna on 3 October (KG, AL), and there was another hawker in Tilickafinna on 11 October (KG, AL).

Table 1: Seatrack sea-watches from Dursey Tip, August – November 2010

Date	7/8	14/8	21/8	28/8	4/9	11/9	18/9	25/9	2/10	9/10	6/11
Time	0700-1100	0700-1100	0700-1100	0700-1100	0730-1130	0730-1130	0800-1200	0800-1200	0800-1200	0830-1100	0830-1250
Wind	NNW	N	SW	NW	SW	NW	SW	NE	SW	ESE	NW
Force	5	2-3	2-3	3	3	5	3	2	3-4	4-5	3-5
Red-throated Diver						1	1		1		3
Great Northern Diver					1						1
Northern Fulmar	856	439	+	+	+	+	+	+	102		197
Sooty Shearwater	7		4	6	2	1		35	5	400	55
Manx Shearwater	1208	1509	2715	1073	867	830	40	8	9	5	21
Balearic Shearwater					3					1	
Northern Gannet	1963	2395	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Little Egret							1				
Brent Goose				8							
Common Teal			4								
Common Scoter	3	3	1	1			12	6	1		
Ringed Plover				1						1	
Red Knot							1				
Dunlin		1	8								
Eurasian Curlew							1				
Whimbrel			3	3	1		2				
Ruddy Turnstone					1				2		
Grey Phalarope			11			12	1		6		
Small wader sp.			6			2		6			
Pomarine Skua									1		
Arctic Skua	1			1	2		1	3			
Long-tailed Skua						4					
Great Skua		4	2	2	11	13	2	7	8	13	1
Mediterranean Gull			1								
Sabine's Gull					1						
Black-headed Gull		3	3	3				11			
Common Gull				1							

Lesser B-backed Gull	+	+	+	3							
Kittiwake	20	37	81	147	301	116	50	66	110	53	2436
Sandwich Tern			3	10	12	9	4			3	
Common Tern					12						
Arctic Tern		1		5	20		2		1	5	
'Commic' tern	4		6		34	1					
Razorbill/Guillemot	8	9	7	103	43	878	206	339	188	230	801
Black Guillemot		1									
Atlantic Puffin	13	3					1				