

BIRDS OF DURSEY ISLAND, CO. CORK : 2013

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

Derek A. Scott



Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla* : 18-21 September 2013

Photo: Steve Gantlett

Days on which there was some coverage by David Cooke, Connor Finch, Kieran Finch, Kieran Grace, Tony Lancaster, Paul Rowe, Joanna Scott and/or the author.

Month	Days with some coverage	Total
January	1 – 19	19
February	9 – 10	2
March	1 – 3, 13 – 31	22
April	1 – 6, 13 – 14, 19 – 21	11
May	3 – 6, 10 – 31	26
June	1 – 11, 21 – 23, 29 – 30	16
July	10 – 13, 17 – 31	19

August	2 – 4, 9 – 11, 16 – 18, 30 – 31	11
September	1, 5 – 30	27
October	1 – 20, 22 – 23, 25, 31	24
November	1 – 3, 13 – 30	21
December	1 – 3, 29 – 31	6
Total		204

With a total of 204 days with some birding activity on the island, coverage in 2013 was again rather poor. This was particularly the case in February (two days), April (11 days), August (11 days) and December (six days), and doubtless goes some way to accounting for the low number of species recorded in the year. The author was present on the island on a total of 148 days as follows: 1 to 17 January; 13 March to 6 April; 10 May to 11 June; 17 to 31 July; 5 September to 8 October; 13 November to 3 December; and 29 to 31 December. David Cooke visited the island almost every other weekend and spent a total of 75 days on the island, while Paul Rowe made 11 trips to the island for a total of 29 days. Kieran Finch visited the island on five occasions for a total of 12 days, and on three of these occasions he was accompanied by Connor Finch. Kieran Grace and Tony Lancaster made their annual pilgrimage to West Beara in the autumn and visited the island on 28 dates between 17 September and 25 October, reaching the Tip on all but eight of these occasions.

2013 was an extraordinary year for birds on Dursey. The overall total of 128 species was the worst since 2009, largely because of the absence of some of the regular scarcer migrants, such as Northern Lapwing, Grey Phalarope, Short-eared Owl, Whinchat, Mistle Thrush, Garden Warbler and Rook. However, the year produced some great rarities, notably the first Wilson's Warbler for Ireland and no less than five new species for the Dursey Island list: a Red Kite on 4 June; an Arctic Warbler on 13 September, the Wilson's Warbler from 18 to 21 September, a Fea's Petrel on 23 September and a Thrush Nightingale on 22 October. These five additions bring the total number of species recorded since September 1977 to 236. Other highlights of the year included a Hawfinch from 30 March to 3 April, a Golden Oriole on 4 June, a Red-backed Shrike and an Ortolan Bunting on 2 October, a Grey-cheeked Thrush on 3 October, a Common Rosefinch from 10 to 12 October, a Wryneck on 11 October, a Red-breasted Flycatcher on 18 October, another Red-breasted Flycatcher on 19 October, an American Golden Plover on 22 October, and another Wryneck from 1 to 3 November. The only island rarities were the second record of a White-tailed Eagle on 4 April, the sixth record of a Long-tailed Skua on 15 September, the first record of genuine Rock Doves on the island since 1997, and the first record of a Little Gull since 2003. Six Seatrack sea-watches in late summer and autumn were unexciting, producing only one decent count of Sooty Shearwaters (135 on 7 September) and a single Balearic Shearwater (also on 7 September; see Table 1), but over 500 Sooty Shearwaters were seen sitting in large rafts on a calm sea off the south coast on 13 September. The breeding season was also unexceptional. A pair of Blue Tits again nested in Kilmichael and a pair of Peregrines returned to the cliffs below Tilickafinna, although it seems that they did not breed. Three pairs of Pied Wagtails, two pairs of Great Tits, four pairs of Common Starlings and two or three pairs of Greenfinches bred on the island, and there were probably three pairs of Song Thrushes, after none in 2011 and only one in 2012. A pair of Reed Buntings was present throughout the spring and a Sedge Warbler was seen in display flight in the boggy fields below

Kilmichael, but whether or not either of these bred is not known. Very few Lesser Redpolls were seen in spring and they obviously did not breed.

As usual, the year began with a 'Big Day' on 1 January. A good contingent of observers (seven in all) produced a very respectable total of 42 species despite there being no indications of any hard weather movements. Birds of note included 11 Red-throated Divers, six Manx Shearwaters, a Merlin, five Purple Sandpipers, a Woodcock, four Ruddy Turnstones, a Black Redstart, 31 Redwing and a Fieldfare. A Goldfinch appeared the next day; a Hen Harrier and a Sparrowhawk put in unusual mid-winter appearances on 8th, and another Fieldfare was seen on 9th. The first Great Northern Diver, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Greenfinches of the year appeared on 13th, along with a Redshank, two more Fieldfares and 20 Redwings. A Woodcock was found on 16th; there was yet another Fieldfare on 18th, and a Greenshank and three Ruddy Turnstones were seen on 19th. Coverage was then interrupted until 9 February, when a two-day visit produced a Great Northern Diver and a Eurasian Curlew (on 9th).

A three-day visit at the beginning of March produced a Merlin, a Woodcock, five Redwings and a Siskin on 2nd and a Water Rail on 3rd. Prolonged coverage was resumed on 13 March, when the first Chiffchaff of the year was found. Five Manx Shearwaters were seen off the Tip and two Wood Pigeons (the first of many) were found in Ballynacallagh on 15th. The first Goldcrest of the spring appeared on 16th, and there was a Red-throated Diver in the Sound on 16th and 17th. The first Northern Wheatear arrived on 18th, when there was also a Sparrowhawk. The wind swung round to the southeast on 20 March, and remained in the southeast, east or northeast until at least 6 April. These 'favourable' winds produced very little at first, other than a Merlin on 20th, another Merlin, the first Blackcap and three Chiffchaffs on 22nd, another Wood Pigeon on 24th, another Blackcap on 25th, two Merlins, two Wood Pigeons, yet another Blackcap and two Goldcrest on 26th, and a Sandwich Tern on 27th. Things only began to pick up on 29th, when three Bramblings appeared along with the first Barn Swallow of the year, 11 Fieldfares, two Blackcaps and nine Chaffinches. There were at least 13 Bramblings on the island on 30th, along with a Hawfinch, four Wood Pigeons, at least 25 'Scandinavian' Song Thrushes and three Chiffchaffs. Most of these birds, including the Hawfinch, were still around the next day, but there were no further arrivals.

April began as March had ended, with the Hawfinch, 13 Bramblings, at least 20 'Scandinavian' Song Thrushes and four Wood Pigeons remaining until 3rd. Blackcap numbers had increased to five by 3rd, but the only other new arrival in the first three days of the month appears to have been a Goldcrest. Only four Bramblings were left on 4th and the Hawfinch had gone, but a White-tailed Eagle was watched flying from the Tip towards Crow Head, a Sand Martin was seen in Kilmichael, and there were now five Wood Pigeons and five Goldcrests on the island. A female Sparrowhawk and the first Willow Warbler were new arrivals on 5th, but most of the Song Thrushes and all of the Brambling had gone, and there was now only one Wood Pigeon. A male Sparrowhawk and the first Collared Dove of the season were seen on 6th, and the Wood Pigeon was still around. Coverage was then interrupted until 13 April, when a two-day visit produced little other than three Blackcaps, two Willow Warblers, three Chiffchaffs and a Goldcrest. Another brief visit from 19 to 21 April produced a Merlin, a Whimbrel, a Ruddy Turnstone and eight Barn Swallows on 19th, a Willow Warbler and four Goldfinches on 20th and three Willow Warblers on 21st. Coverage was then interrupted again until early May.

A short visit in the first week of May produced a Curlew and two Willow Warblers on 4th, a Great Skua, two Sandwich Terns, the first Puffin of the season and a Wood Pigeon on 5th, and a Whimbrel on 6th. Prolonged coverage was resumed on 10 May, but apart from the odd

Chiffchaff, there was little of note until 16th, when the first House Martin appeared. Arrivals on 17th included the first of two Cuckoos, two House Martins, a Sedge Warbler and a Lesser Redpoll, while at sea there were two Red-throated Divers and a Great Skua. The only Western Jackdaw of the year appeared on 18th, along with a Whimbrel, an Arctic Skua, a Collared Dove, a Blackcap and a Chaffinch. The next day produced two Great Northern Divers, a Golden Plover, two Whimbrels, another Arctic Skua, another Great Skua, a late Glaucous Gull, another Sedge Warbler and two Willow Warblers. There was little on 20th except for a party of five Whimbrels. The wind swung round to the north-west on 20th and remained so for the rest of the month. The only birds of note in this period were another Collared Dove and two Goldfinches on 27th and a Turtle Dove on 31st.

The first ten days of June usually produce a rarity on Dursey, and June 2013 was no exception. The month began with 21 Great Northern Divers, two Red-throated Divers and a probable Black-throated Diver passing by at sea and the Turtle Dove of 31 May, which was to remain until 7 June. A 'Northern' Golden Plover, a Collared Dove and four House Martins appeared on 2nd, and there were three more Great Northern Divers at sea. Six more Great Northern Divers were seen on 3rd as well as the first Common Swift of the year and the only Grasshopper Warbler. The next day, a fine sunny day with light south-easterly winds, produced two great birds in Tilickafinna – a Golden Oriole in mid-afternoon and a Red Kite in the evening. Other birds of note on 4th included a Ringed Plover, a Wood Pigeon, a Collared Dove, three Common Swifts and six House Martins. There were at least 12 Common Swifts and eight House Martins on 5th, along with a Whimbrel, a Blackcap and another Lesser Redpoll. The only new birds of note on 6th were a Collared Dove and another probable Black-throated Diver, but 7th produced three Ringed Plovers, a second Turtle Dove, two Common Swifts, a House Martin, two Yellow Wagtails and two Sedge Warblers. Another Cuckoo, another Wood Pigeon, the only Spotted Flycatcher of the spring and a Siskin appeared on 8th, along with five House Martins and a Goldfinch, while an Arctic Skua passed by at sea and the 'Northern' Golden Plover was seen for the last time. A White Wagtail was seen on 9th, as well as a Great Northern Diver, three House Martins and a Lesser Redpoll. A new Turtle Dove arrived on 10th along with a Blackcap, but coverage was then interrupted until 22 June, when a two-day visit produced three Common Sandpipers, a Turtle Dove, a Sedge Warbler, a Chiffchaff and a Goldfinch on 22nd, and two Common Sandpipers and the Turtle Dove on 23rd. The island was visited again on 29 and 30 June, but nothing of note was recorded.

Coverage in July began with a four-day visit from 10th to 13th. A Whimbrel, a Common Sandpiper, an early Common Gull and a Wood Pigeon were seen on 10th, and 15 Common Scoters, two Curlews, two Common Sandpipers and the Wood Pigeon were seen on 11th. A party of six House Sparrows visited Cooke's garden in Kilmichael on 13th; the two Common Sandpipers and the Wood Pigeon were still present, and there was also an early Merlin. Coverage was resumed on 17 July and was continuous to the end of the month. The first two Sooty Shearwaters of the year, a Great Skua and a House Martin were seen on 18th, and a Reed Warbler and a Chiffchaff were found on 20th. Over 7,600 Manx Shearwaters were counted flying south off the Tip along with a Sooty Shearwater on 21st, while a Greenshank and a Great Skua flew north and six Common Swifts came in off the sea. The rest of the month, however, was very quiet, with little other than a Sooty Shearwater on 23rd, a Collared Dove on 29th and another Sooty Shearwater on 30th.

Coverage in August was fragmented, with visits from 2nd to 4th, 9th to 11th, 16th to 18th, and 30th to 31st. The only birds of note were a Curlew on 2nd, a Grey Heron, a Whimbrel, a Great

Skua and a Willow Warbler on 4th, a Sooty Shearwater and another Curlew on 9th, a Ruddy Turnstone on 10th, a Willow Warbler on 16th and 17th, a Grey Heron, a Curlew and a Ruddy Turnstone on 30th, and a Grey Heron, a Whimbrel and a Willow Warbler on 31st.

September began with a Grey Heron on 1st, but there was then a short gap in coverage until 5th. A Sparrowhawk, two Curlews, a Willow Warbler and a Pied Flycatcher were seen on 6th. A Seatrack seawatch on 7th was very rewarding, producing 130 Sooty Shearwaters, a Balearic Shearwater, two Common Scoters, three Arctic Skuas, three Great Skuas, a Black-headed Gull, a Sandwich Tern, 42 Arctic Terns, three Common Terns and 91 unidentified terns, while elsewhere on the island there was a Grey Heron, a Sparrowhawk, a Merlin, another Ruddy Turnstone and the first Grey Wagtail of the year, along with the Pied Flycatcher of the previous day. The first Hen Harrier and Goldfinch of the autumn appeared on 8th; the Black-headed Gull was seen again, and another Grey Wagtail was found. The next four days produced little other than a Chiffchaff and the first Goldcrest of the autumn on 11th, but 13th produced a new bird for Dursey in the form of an Arctic Warbler, which spent most of the day in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna. Rather strangely, the only other birds of note on 13th were at least 500 Sooty Shearwaters sitting on the sea off Tilickafinna. A hundred Sooty Shearwaters and a Pomarine Skua were seen off Tilickafinna on 14th, while birds on land included a Sparrowhawk, four House Martins, another Grey Wagtail, three Willow Warblers, three Goldcrests, the first Chaffinch of the autumn and a Lesser Redpoll. At least 500 Sooty Shearwaters were seen off Tilickafinna on 15th, while a Long-tailed Skua and a Great Skua were seen off the Tip. The only birds of note in the next two days were 80 Sooty Shearwaters and an Arctic Tern on 16th, and three Sooty Shearwaters, a Ruddy Turnstone and three Arctic Terns on 17th. The next day, 18th, produced nothing except half a dozen Sooty Shearwaters until the evening when a parulid warbler was seen going to roost in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna. Much of 19th was devoted to relocating this bird and little else was seen other than a Grey Heron and two Chiffchaffs. The parulid was seen briefly in the early afternoon and was tentatively identified as a male Wilson's Warbler. However, the bird remained elusive, and it was not until just after mid-day on 20th that it was finally seen well. The only other birds of note on 20th were three Grey Wagtails, a Willow Warbler and five Goldfinches. The Wilson's Warbler showed well for much of the day on 21st, when there was also a Glaucous Gull at the Tip, a Sandwich Tern in the Sound, and another Grey Wagtail. The Wilson's Warbler was nowhere to be found the next day, and the only birds of note were a Sparrowhawk and another Sandwich Tern. However, the island's first Fea's Petrel was seen off the Tip on 23rd, along with another three Arctic Terns, and the first Common Whitethroat of the year appeared. There was little except a Grey Heron on 24th, but a Merlin, six Chiffchaffs, four Goldcrests, two Chaffinches and eight Siskins appeared on 25th, followed by a Yellow Wagtail on 26th. A flock of hirundines at the Tip on 28th included a Sand Martin and a House Martin; a Lesser Whitethroat was found on the Western Hill, and Goldcrest numbers increased to seven. The only Common Redstart of the year appeared on 29th, along with the first two Spotted Flycatchers of the autumn. There was an influx of Eurasian Skylarks (30) and Northern Wheatears (30) on the 30th, along with a Sedge Warbler, another Common Whitethroat, the first Blackcap of the autumn and a third Spotted Flycatcher, and the Lesser Whitethroat was seen again.

Coverage in October was good until 25th, with gaps only on 21st and 24th, but no observations were made in the last six days of the month. The first was a day of intermittent rain and thick mist, and little was seen except a Barn Swallow and a Goldcrest. However, the wind was from the southeast, and this produced a Red-backed Shrike, a Lapland Bunting and an

Ortolan Bunting on 2nd. Numbers of Northern Wheatears had increased to 50; the Common Whitethroat of 30 September was relocated, and there was still one Spotted Flycatcher about, along with a Grey Heron, a Merlin, a Grey Wagtail and 15 Goldfinches. Dursey Island's second Grey-cheeked Thrush was found in Tilickafinna on 3rd, another day of thick mist, but little else was seen other than a Whimbrel, three Curlews and a Ruddy Turnstone. The fourth was a much brighter day, but the wind was back in the northwest and the only birds of note were a Grey Heron, a Sparrowhawk, a Dunlin, a Grey Wagtail, 35 Goldfinches and two Lapland Buntings. A Seatrack seawatch from the Tip on 5th produced a Great Northern Diver, two Mallard, an Arctic Skua, a Great Skua, and three Sandwich Terns. Four genuine Rock Doves flew over the Tip and a Siskin flew in off the sea, while elsewhere on the island there were two Grey Herons, a Glaucous Gull, at least 40 Northern Wheatears, six Chiffchaffs, four Goldcrests and 100 Goldfinches. The sixth was yet another day of thick mist and nothing of note was seen. Over 180 Sooty Shearwaters passed by off Tilickafinna on 7th, along with a Pomarine Skua, and a Puffin was seen off the Tip, but the only other bird of note was a Lesser Redpoll. Nothing of note was seen on 8th, another day of mist, but things began to improve on 9th, when seven Barnacle Geese were seen flying south over the Tip, and a Hen Harrier, a Reed Warbler and a Willow Warbler were found on the island. The improvement continued on 10th, with two Yellow-browed Warblers, a Coal Tit, a House Sparrow and a Common Rosefinch, along with the Hen Harrier again, a Merlin, a Barn Swallow and two Blackcaps. Highlights on 11th included a Wryneck, a Ring Ouzel, another Yellow-browed Warbler, two more Lapland Buntings and the first Snow Bunting of the year, while other birds of note included the Hen Harrier, a Sparrowhawk, five Fieldfares, 14 Redwings, eight Blackcaps, eight Chiffchaffs, seven Goldcrests and at least 13 Magpies. The Hen Harrier, Ring Ouzel, Common Rosefinch and Snow Bunting were seen again on 12th, as well as two Grey Herons, a Jack Snipe, a Fieldfare, 20 Redwings and a Willow Warbler. Little was seen on 13th, except for a Grey Heron, the Hen Harrier and a few Redwings, but another Yellow-browed Warbler was found on 14th, along with a Sparrowhawk, a Grey Wagtail, at least 25 Blackbirds, eight Chiffchaffs, at least 100 Goldfinches and seven Siskins. A fifth Yellow-browed Warbler was found on 15th, but the only other birds of note were nine immature Common Gulls in the Sound, the highest count of the year.

The second half of October began with a Great Northern Diver, a Hen Harrier, a Sparrowhawk, a Great Skua, an Iceland Gull, six Redwings and a Willow Warbler on 16th. Over 30 Sooty Shearwaters and three Manx Shearwaters were seen off the Tip on 17th, while birds on the island included a Sparrowhawk, a second Jack Snipe, a Grey Wagtail, four Redwings and ten Blue Tits. A Red-breasted Flycatcher was found in Tilickafinna on 18th, but there was little else of note except for another Grey Wagtail, two Blackcaps and five Chiffchaffs. Another Red-breasted Flycatcher was found near the Tip on 19th, when two Sooty Shearwaters, two Manx Shearwaters and three Great Skuas were seen offshore and Goldfinch numbers reached their peak at about 120. The last Northern Wheatear of the year was seen on 20th, but the only other birds of note were a Blackcap and seven Chiffchaffs. Sadly there was no coverage on 21st, as 22nd proved to be an exceptional day, producing the first Thrush Nightingale for Dursey Island (in Tilickafinna), the second American Golden Plover for the island (on the North Cliffs) and the first Little Gull for ten years (off the Tip). Other birds of note included two European Golden Plovers, over 260 Kittiwakes, a Fieldfare, a Blackcap and three Snow Buntings. A Firecrest was found in Tilickafinna on 23rd, while a seawatch from the Tip produced two Manx Shearwaters, a Pomarine Skua, an Arctic Skua, 530 Kittiwakes and over 700 auks. There was no coverage on

24th, and the only birds of note on 25th were a Merlin, a Redwing, a Blackcap, a Chiffchaff and a Goldcrest.

The first three days of November produced a good selection of birds including a Hen Harrier, a Merlin, a Wryneck, three Redwings, two Blackcaps, a late Willow Warbler, four Goldcrests, five Chaffinches, 15 Goldfinches and two Siskins on 1st, four Sooty Shearwaters, three Manx Shearwaters, two unidentified storm petrels, a Merlin, a Water Rail, five Ruddy Turnstones and a Snow Bunting on 2nd, and four Sooty Shearwaters, a Merlin, two Purple Sandpipers, a Woodcock, the Wryneck again and a Black Redstart on 3rd. There was then a gap in coverage of 10 days, and when observations were resumed on 13th, there was little about other than the odd Goldcrest and Chaffinch. The only bird of note on 14th was a Merlin, but 15th produced five Curlews (the highest count of the year), a Woodcock, a Ruddy Turnstone, a Black Redstart and a Chiffchaff. The Merlin was seen again on 16th, along with a Redwing, and there was another Chiffchaff on 17th. A very late Barn Swallow appeared on 18th, along with a Blackcap and yet another Chiffchaff. The next three days were quiet, but 22nd produced two Woodcocks, another Blackcap and a Snow Bunting. A Hen Harrier appeared on 23rd, along with another Chiffchaff, and a Woodcock, a Fieldfare, two Redwings and three Blackcaps were seen on 24th. A Grey Wagtail on 25th was of interest, as were two Black-headed Gulls on 26th and 27th, another Woodcock on 27th and the Hen Harrier again on 28th. A Jack Snipe was found on 29th, along with the last Grey Heron and Curlew of the year, a Ruddy Turnstone and the last Chiffchaff. The month ended with the Hen Harrier, two Woodcocks, another Black-headed Gull, a Grey Wagtail, two Redwings, four Goldcrests, two Chaffinches and a Goldfinch on 30th.

Coverage in December was very poor, with observations only from 1st to 3rd and from 29th to 31st. Birds of note in the first three days of the month included two Great Northern Divers, a Woodcock and five Redwings on 1st, two Fieldfares and three Redwings on 2nd, and two Goldcrests on all three days. The last three days of December were very quiet, with little other than a Ruddy Turnstone and a Chaffinch on 30th and a Glaucous Gull on 31st.

2013 was quite a good year for mammals on Dursey Island. At least one Common Pipistrelle roosted under the eaves of Scott's house in Tilickafinna for the fourth year in succession, while others were recorded with a bat detector in Kilmichael and Ballynacallagh. There were four sightings of Common Otter, including one of a group of four, and Grey Seals were recorded in every month except February. However, the only records of Pygmy Shrews were of dead individuals, and there were relatively few Brown Rats about. It was a good year for Common Dolphins and Risso's Dolphins, with sightings on 21 dates and 17 dates respectively, and numbers of Harbour Porpoises were somewhat higher than in 2012, but it was a very poor year for Minke Whales, with sightings on only five dates. The highlight of the cetacean year was a Fin Whale in late November, the first since 1997, but the only other unusual sighting was of a small school of Bottle-nosed Dolphins in October. There were only three sightings of Basking Sharks all year and no Ocean Sunfishes were reported, but a Leatherback Turtle was seen off the Tip in mid-September.

The first butterflies of the year were a Green-veined White on 3 May and a Red Admiral the next day. Most of the resident butterflies seem to have done reasonably well, but it was a poor year for Common Blues and Wall Browns. The first brood of Common Blues, in particular, seems to have fared badly. There was only a single record of Peacock and no reports of Small White, Orange-tip or Speckled Wood. It was a slightly better year than 2012 for immigrant butterflies and moths, although there was only one sizeable arrival of Silver Ys in early June, only one of Red Admirals in the second week of October and only one of Painted

Ladys in the third week of October. Scarcer migrants included four Humming-bird Hawk-moths and a Clouded Yellow. Moth-trapping in Ballynacallagh on the night of 9/10 August produced a total of 160 moths of 26 species, including six that were new for the island. Only four dragonflies were recorded and three of these were not identified to species, but the fourth, a Moorland Hawker found near the east end of the island in early August, was a new species for Dursey Island. The last butterfly of the year was a very late Red Admiral on 30 November.

Acknowledgements

The Systematic List that follows incorporates the observations of David Cooke (DC), Connor Finch (CF), Kieran Finch (KF), Kieran Grace (KG), Tony Lancaster (AL), Fionn Moore (FiM), Forrest Moore (FoM), Mike O'Sullivan (MO), Paul Rowe (PR), Joanna Scott (JS) and James Wolstencroft (JW). The author wishes to express his appreciation to these observers for providing details of their observations. He would also like to thank Steve Gantlett for permission to use his photograph of the Wilson's Warbler on the cover of this report.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

No less than 11 flew north off the Tip on 1 January – the highest count ever from the island (DS, JS, PR). There was an adult in summer plumage in the Sound on 16 and 17 March (DC, PR). Two flew west off Tilickafinna on 17 May (DS), and one flew north off the Tip on 1 June (JW). There were no records in the latter part of the year.

[Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*]

A diver seen flying north off the Tip at around noon on 1 June was probably this species, as was a diver seen flying north through the Sound at 09:30 on 6 June (JW).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

One flew west off Tilickafinna on 13 January (DS), and there was one in the Sound on 9 February (DC). There was a good spring passage this year, beginning with two off Tilickafinna on 19 May. A total of 21 were recorded on 1 June: 17 flying west off Tilickafinna and a party of four on the sea off the Tip (DS, JW). Three flew west off Tilickafinna on 2 June; six were seen off Tilickafinna on 3 June; one flew north off the Tip on 4 June, and one flew west off Tilickafinna on 9 June (DS, JW). The first of the autumn was a bird flying south off the Tip on 5 October (DS). Another flew south off the Tip on 16 October (KG, AL), and there were two in the Sound on 1 December (DC, PR).

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Present throughout the year and a common breeding bird. Many birds were already prospecting the cliffs on 12 January. Numbers remained high until the end of the third week in September, but very few were recorded in late September and the first three weeks of October. By 23 October, some birds had returned to the cliffs. Numbers then fluctuated widely depending on the weather, with big numbers occurring offshore during storms.

Fea's Petrel *Pterodroma feae*

A bird flew south off the Tip at around mid-day on 23 September (AL). This was the first record of a Fea's-type petrel off Dursey Island. The possibility that it was one of the much rarer sibling species (Desertas Petrel or Zino's Petrel) could not be ruled out.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

2013 was a good year for Sooty Shearwaters off Dursey Island. One on the sea with Manx Shearwaters and one flying west off Tilickafinna on 18 July were the first of the year. One flew south off the Tip on 21 July, and there were single birds with flocks of Manx Shearwaters off Tilickafinna on 23 July and 30 July. One flew north off the Tip on 9 August. Large numbers of birds were present in the first half of September. There were about 130 in a feeding flock off the Tip on 7th, several rafts totalling at least 500 birds on the sea off Tilickafinna on 13th, at least 100 feeding with large numbers of Manx Shearwaters off Tilickafinna on 14th and at least 500 flying west off Tilickafinna and north off the Tip on 15th. Eighty flew west off Tilickafinna on 16 September; three flew south off the Tip on 17th; six flew west off Tilickafinna on 18th; and there were two off Tilickafinna on 23rd. On 7 October, 185 flew west off Tilickafinna, the vast majority in a single flock, while one flew south off the Tip. There were at least 30 off the Tip on 17 October; two flew south off the Tip on 19 October; four flew north off the Tip on 2 November, and four flew north off the Tip on 3 November.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Six were seen flying north off the Tip on 1 January (FiM, FoM, PR). The next were not until 15 March, when five flew north off the Tip. These were followed by at least 16 flying west off Tilickafinna on 16 March. Thereafter common offshore throughout the spring and summer. Many thousands of birds were observed off Tilickafinna in May, June and July, mostly flying west in the evening. In a three-hour seawatch in the early morning of 21 July, over 7,600 were counted moving south off the Tip. Huge feeding flocks totalling many thousands were seen off Tilickafinna on 30 July. There was a feeding flock of at least 300 birds off Tilickafinna on 14 September, but only 17 were seen off Tilickafinna on 15th, only seven on 16th and only two on 18th. Thereafter the only records were of small numbers of birds off the Tip, mostly flying south: one on 2 October, one on 5 October, three on 17 October, two on 19 October, two on 23 October, and three (flying north) on 2 November.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

A fairly dark individual flew north off the Tip at 09:05 on 7 September (DS).

Storm petrel sp.

Two unidentified storm petrels flew north off the Tip on 2 November (KF). [A European Storm Petrel was found on the ground near the Cable Car station on the mainland at 08:50 on 4 October (KG, AL). The bird appeared to be unharmed and was presumably a recently-fledged juvenile, disoriented by the lights].

Northern Gannet *Sula bassana*

Common to abundant offshore throughout the year.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Present throughout the year in small numbers. Most were seen 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. Counts of 15 were recorded on many dates in the Sound, but no higher counts were recorded. Three pairs again nested on the High Cliffs.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

After a series of poor years, 2013 proved to be a good year for this species on Dursey, with sightings on 18 dates between 4 August and 29 November. A single bird, probably the same juvenile throughout, was seen at the east end of the island or in Kilmichael Valley on 4, 30 and 31 August, 1, 7, 19, 23 and 24 September, and 2, 5, 7 and 10 October. There was an adult below Ivy Gully in Tilickafinna on 4 October, and presumably the same adult was seen flying out to the Cow from the Northwest Tip on 5 October. An adult in the Sound on 11 October may have been the same bird. There were two juveniles in the Sound on 12 October, one in the Sound on 13th and one in Kilmichael Valley on 22nd. The last of the year was one in Kilmichael Valley on 29 November.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

A flock of seven flew south over the Tip at 13:00 on 9 October (KG, AL).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Two females flew southwest close inshore off the Tip at 11:15 on 5 October (DS, JS). This was only the fifth record of this species on Dursey since 1979.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

2013 was the worst year on record for this species off Dursey Island, with only two

records: a flock of 15 flew north off the Tip on 11 July (DC), and two males flew north off the Tip on 7 September (DS, JS).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

One was seen circling high over Tilickafinna and drifting off to the northeast at 18:25 on 4 June (JW, DS, JS). This was the first record of a Red Kite on Dursey Island.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

A sub-adult was watched being mobbed by gulls and Ravens as it flew from the Tip east-southeast towards Crow Head at 12:15 on 4 April (Maria and Anthony Murphy). This was only the second record for Dursey, the first being an immature that was seen on several occasions in late September and early October 2010.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

A 'ring-tail', probably a first-year male, was seen flying west across the Sound and quartering the eastern hill at 14:30 on 8 January (DS, JS). This was the first record of a Hen Harrier on the island in mid-winter. There was none in spring, but the first of the autumn was unusually early: a 'ring-tail', probably a first-year male, flying west over Tilickafinna at 09:00 on 8 September (DS). A first-year male was seen at various places around the island on 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16 October (DC, KG, AL), and what was thought to be the same individual was seen in Tilickafinna on 1 November (DC). Probably the same first-year male was seen again in Tilickafinna on 23, 28 and 30 November (DS, DC, PR). It is possible that only one individual was involved in this series of autumn records.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

A female over the jetty area and eastern hill in the morning of 8 January was unusual (DS). There were only three records in spring: a male in Tilickafinna on 18 March, a female in Tilickafinna on 5 April, and a male in Tilickafinna on 6 April. The first of the autumn was a female in Tilickafinna on 6 and 7 September. Single individuals were then recorded near the east end of the island on 14 September, in Ballynacallagh on 22 September (a female), in Tilickafinna on 4 October, and at various places around the island on 11, 14, 16 and 17 October.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

The only records in the first six months of the year were of single birds in Tilickafinna on 13 January and 4 April. One was seen in Tilickafinna on 18 July, and there were two there on 24 July. Thereafter, one or two birds were recorded on many dates to the beginning of October; three were recorded on several dates between 5 and 17 October, and at least four were present on 11 October. Two were still present on 3 November, but the only later records were of a female in Tilickafinna and Kilmichael on 23, 24 and 30 November and an immature male in Tilickafinna on 31 December.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

One was seen at The Waters on 1 January, and there was one near the jetty on 2 March. A female was seen chasing Meadow Pipits over the Sound on 20 March and flying west over Tilickafinna on 22 March. On 26 March, an immature male and a female were seen displaying over Kilmichael village, and the female was later seen flying west in Tilickafinna. The only other spring record was of a bird on 19 April. The first of the autumn was unusually early: a bird in Tilickafinna on 13 July. There was a female at the Tip on 7 September, and then single birds at various locations around the island on 21 September, 25 September, 2 October and 7 October. One or two birds were recorded on

most dates from 10 to 25 October, and there was one bird on 1, 2 and 3 November. The last of the year was a female in Tilickafinna on 14 and 16 November.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

For the third year running, a pair of Peregrines defended a territory on the cliffs in Tilickafinna but it is unlikely that they bred successfully, as no young birds were seen in late summer or autumn. One or both adults were seen on a total of 22 dates between 1 January and 8 June, and on 36 dates between 4 August and 29 December. The birds were often heard calling throughout the year, but were particularly noisy in May and early June. On 2 June, the female was seen sitting on an old Raven's nest on the cliffs below Tilickafinna.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

One was flushed near Gerald's Pond below Kilmichael on 3 March (DC), and one was flushed in John Michael's Bog below Kilmichael on 2 November (DC).

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

The small resident population of Oystercatchers in the Dursey area seems to be stable, judging by counts at the high tide roost near the jetty. High counts included 19 on 1 January, 18 on three dates in March, 28 on 14 April, 22 on 17 October, 16 on 15 November and 20 on 29 November. There was a pair with two large chicks near the Northwest Tip on 9 June; another pair bred on the Lower North Slope, and there were two or three pairs along the south coast between Illanebeg and Kilmichael Point.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

2013 was yet another poor year for this species on Dursey, the only records being of a single bird on the greensward near the Northwest Tip on 4 June and three birds in the same area on 7 June (JS, JW).

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

2013 was an exceptionally poor year for this species, with only four individuals recorded. There was one on the North Slope on 19 May (DC); a very dark-faced (northern) bird frequented the western end of the island from 2 to 8 June (DS, JW), and two birds were seen with an American Golden Plover above the North Cliffs near the west end on 22 October (KG, AL).

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

A moulting adult was found with two European Golden Plovers in heather above the North Cliffs near the west end of the island on 22 October (KG, AL). This was only the second record of an American Golden Plover on Dursey Island, the first having been on 15 and 16 October 2011.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

There were three at the usual roost site on Lower North Slope and two on Illanebeg on 1 January (KF, JS), and two at the usual site on Lower North Slope on 3 November (CF, KF).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

A first-year bird was seen by the stream near the West Wall on 4 October (KG, AL) and was still present until 08:10 the next morning, when it was last seen flying off to the north (DS).

Jack Snipe *Limnocryptes minimus*

One was seen beside the stream in Kilmichael Valley on 12 October (KG); there was one

in Tilickafinna on 17 October (KG, AL), and one was flushed from a boggy area in Kilmichael Valley on 29 November (PR).

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Numbers of snipe were relatively low in the early part of the year, with the highest counts being eight on 1 January, eight on 12 January and five on 15 March. The only spring records after the end of March were of one near the Cable Car on 1 April and one in Tilickafinna on 13 April. The first of the autumn was a bird heard flying over Tilickafinna at 20:50 on 6 September. Single birds were recorded in Tilickafinna on 11 and 19 September, and there were two on the North Slope on 20 September. Thereafter, small numbers of snipe were recorded on many dates to the end of the year, with the highest counts being seven on 5 October, six on 12 October, seven on 2 November, seven on 16 November, nine on 30 November and six on 31 December.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

There were three records in the early part of the year: one at The Waters on 1 January (KF), one in Tilickafinna on 16 January (JS), and one in Tilickafinna on 2 March (DC). The first of the autumn was a bird in Tilickafinna on 3 November (DC, KF), and this was followed by one in Kilmichael Valley on 15 November (DC). There were two in Tilickafinna after dark on 23 November (DS, JS), one in Kilmichael Valley on 24 November (DS), one in Tilickafinna on 27 November (JS), one on the North Slope and one in Tilickafinna on 30 November (DC, PR), and one in Tilickafinna on 1 December (DS, JS).

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

The spring passage was very poor, with only single birds on 19 April, 6 May and 18 May, two birds on 19 May, a party of five flying north through the Sound on 20 May, and one flying east over Tilickafinna and another flying west off the Tip on 5 June. The only records in autumn were of single birds on 10 July, 4 August, 31 August and 3 October.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

The only records in the first half of the year were of single birds on Illanebeg on 9 February and 4 May. There were sightings of curlews on 15 dates between 11 July and 29 November, mostly at the east end of the island, but occasionally in Tilickafinna and at the Tip. In ten cases, only single birds were involved, but there were two on Illanebeg on 11 July, two in Tilickafinna on 6 September, three at the Tip on 15 September, three on Illanebeg on 3 October, and five near the jetty on 15 November. The last of the year was a bird on Illanebeg on 29 November.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

One was seen leaving Illanebeg and flying south across the Sound at 12:15 on 13 January (DS).

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

One was seen on the south coast near Illanebeg on 19 January (DC), and one flew north close inshore off the Tip at 06:50 on 21 July (DS).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

All six records were of birds on Illanebeg: three on 22 June, two on 23 June, one on 10 July, and two on 11, 12 and 13 July (DC).

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

2013 was a poor year for this species on Dursey, with no more than five individuals

being recorded in a day. The only records in the early part of the year were of four on Illanebeg on 1 January, three on 19 January and one on 19 April. The first of the autumn was a bird on Illanebeg on 10 August and again on 30 August. One flew out to the Calf on 7 September, and there was another bird at the Tip on 17 September. A single bird was seen near the jetty on 3 October; there were five on the rocks near the Cable Car on 2 November, and single birds were seen near the jetty or on Illanebeg on 15 November, 29 November and 30 December.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

An immature was watched chasing Kittiwakes off Tilickafinna at 18:35 on 14 September (DS); another immature flew west close inshore off Tilickafinna at 09:45 on 7 October (DS), and an adult light-phase bird flew south off the Tip on 23 October (KG, AL).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

2013 was another poor year for this species, with only six records. Single birds flew west off Tilickafinna on 18 May, 19 May and 8 June (DS). Three flew north off the Tip on 7 September, one flew north off the Tip on 5 October (DS, JS), and one flew south off the Tip on 23 October (KG, AL).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

An adult flew north off the Tip in the early afternoon of 15 September (MO). This was the sixth record of this species off Dursey Island.

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*

2013 was another poor year for this species off Dursey, with no counts exceeding three. The only records in the first half of the year were of single birds off the Tip on 5 May and flying west off Tilickafinna on 17 May and 19 May. Single birds flew west off Tilickafinna on 18 July and north off the Tip on 21 July and 4 August. Three flew north off the Tip on 7 September, one flew north off the Tip on 15 September, and single birds flew south off the Tip on 5 and 16 October. On 19 October, two flew south and one flew north off the Tip.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

A first-year bird was seen flying south off the Tip on 22 October (KG, AL). This was the first record of a Little Gull off Dursey Island since October 2003.

Blackheaded Gull *Larus ridibundus*

2013 was yet another poor year for this species, with only five records, probably involving no more than four individuals. A first-year bird was seen feeding off the Tip on 7 September and flying west off Tilickafinna on 8 September (DS, JS). Two adults were seen feeding off Tilickafinna on 26 November and flying north through the Sound on 27 November, and a first-year bird was seen flying west off Tilickafinna on 30 November (DS).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Up to three individuals were seen in the Sound or off the Tip on nine dates in January, February and early March, the last of the spring being three on 16 March (two in the Sound and one off Tilickafinna). The first of the autumn was a bird in the Sound on 10 July. This was followed by a first-year bird flying south off the Tip on 21 July, but the next record was not until 7 September, when two first-year birds flew north off the Tip. Small numbers were recorded on many dates from 27 September to late October, with up to three being seen in the Sound and up to four off the Tip. On 15 October, there were

nine first-year birds in the Sound. Up to four birds were seen in the Sound on nine dates in the second half of November, and single birds were seen in the Sound on 3, 29 and 30 December.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

The first of the year was an adult flying west below Tilickafinna on 13 January. There were six adults circling over the cliffs below Tilickafinna on 13 March and 10 at the west end on 24 March. Thereafter, present around the breeding sites throughout the spring and summer. The highest count was 30+ on 21 July, including 16 adults at the gull roost on Lower North Slope. Most of the breeding population had departed by early September, and the only birds after 7 September were two off Tilickafinna on 16 September, seven at the Tip on 17 September, and an immature at the Tip on 30 September.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Common throughout the year and nesting at the usual sites. There were an estimated 150 birds on the island on 1 January.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

An adult flew east along the south coast below Kilmichael on 14 October (KG).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

A second-year bird came up from the rocks below Cromwell Cliffs and flew off to the north on 19 May (DC). A pale immature, probably a second-year bird, was seen flying south off the Tip on 21 September (JS) and circling over Tilickafinna on 5 October (DS). A bird in similar plumage was seen flying west off Tilickafinna on 31 December (DS).

Great Blackbacked Gull *Larus marinus*

Common throughout the year, but not known to nest on the island. At least 200 were present at the gull roost on Lower North Slope on 21 July.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Present offshore throughout the year. Fifty were recorded off the Tip on 1 January, but numbers then never exceeded 30 in a day until early September. A hundred were seen off the Tip on 7 September, but there were very few about in the second half of September and early October. Numbers increased rapidly in mid-October, and 264 were seen passing south in an hour off the Tip on 22 October. Five hundred and thirty were counted passing south off the Tip in 30 minutes on 23 October (KG, AL), and 100 were seen feeding off the Tip on 30 November, but from then until the end of the year, no more than 40 were recorded in a day.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

An adult flew south through the Sound at 14:35 on 27 March (DS), and there were two sitting on the rocks near the jetty on 5 May (DC, PR). One flew north off the Tip on 7 September (DS, JS); birds were heard calling (in thick mist) in the Sound on 21 September (DS) and off Tilickafinna on 22 September (DC), and there was one off the Tip on 30 September (AL). Finally, three flew south off the Tip on 5 October (DS, JS).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

At least three flew north off the Tip with large numbers of other terns on 7 September (DS, JS).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

At least 42 flew north off the Tip on 7 September, including one flock of 30. Another 91 unidentified terns (including a flock of 37) also seen flying north on 7th were probably

mostly this species (DS, JS). One Arctic Tern flew west off Tilickafinna on 16 September (DS); three flew south off the Tip on 17 September (AL), and three flew south off the Tip on 23 September (AL). Unidentified terns (Common or Arctic) were seen flying west off Tilickafinna on 8 September, flying north off the Tip on 15 September (two), and flying west off Tilickafinna on 16 September.

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Present offshore throughout the year. High counts of unidentified auks (mostly this species) included 200 off the Tip on 1 January, 200 flying west off Tilickafinna on 17 May, 300 flying west off Tilickafinna on 3 June, 584 flying south and 87 flying north off the Tip on 21 July, 750+ on the sea off Tilickafinna on 13 September, 300+ off Tilickafinna on 14 September, 886 flying south and 40 flying north off the Tip on 5 October, 511 flying south and 20 flying north off the Tip on 19 October, 730 flying south off the Tip in 30 minutes on 23 October, and 300+ feeding and flying west off Tilickafinna on 18 November. On 19 October, a completely brown individual was seen flying south off the Tip (KG, AL).

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Present offshore in small numbers throughout the year.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Recorded in very small numbers on 24 dates from 1 January to 22 July, mostly in the Sound but also occasionally off Tilickafinna and the Tip. The only counts of over two were on 18 May (three in the Sound), 1 June (three at the Tip) and 2 June (four in the Sound and one below Tilickafinna). The only records in the latter part of the year were of single birds in the Sound on 1 November, 27 November, 30 November and 1 December.

Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

The first of the year was one off the Tip on 5 May (DC, PR). Small numbers were then recorded off Tilickafinna and the Tip on 10 dates between 17 May and 30 July, the highest count being five on 1 June. The only other record was of one flying north off the Tip on 7 October (KG, AL).

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

A party of four apparently genuine Rock Doves flew up North Gully and south-west towards to the Old Lighthouse at 11:55 on 5 October (KG, DS). These were the first true Rock Doves on Dursey Island since May 1997, although a small number continue to survive on the nearby mainland. As usual, there were a few racing pigeons in summer. One was seen flying over the High Cliffs on 19 May, and three were seen on 9 June, one at the Tip, one along the North Cliffs and one in Tilickafinna. The latter remained in Scott's garden until at least 11 June.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

2013 was an exceptional year for Wood Pigeons on Dursey Island, with records on 20 dates in March, April, May, June and July. The first were two at Zuma in Ballynacallagh on 15 March. One was flushed from the cliffs at Gull-bathing Area on 24 March, and there were two at Zuma and two in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 26 March. Up to four were recorded daily from 29 March to 3 April, and there were five on 4 April: three in Scott's garden, one in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael, and one at Zuma. One remained in Scott's garden on 5 and 6 April. There was one in Scott's garden on 5 May, and one was seen flying over Kilmichael Valley on 6 May. One flew east over the Tip at midday

on 4 June; one appeared briefly in Scott's garden on 8 June, and there was one around the Old Lighthouse on 9 June. Finally, there was one again in Scott's garden on 10, 11 and 13 July.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

2013 was a rather poor year for this species on Dursey, with records on only 10 dates between 6 April and 29 July, involving perhaps as few as eight individuals. The first was a bird in Scott's garden on 6 April. There was another bird in Scott's garden on 18 and 19 May, and this was followed by one on 27 May and one on 2 June. A bird in Scott's garden in the morning of 4 June was probably the same bird as that seen in Ballynacallagh that afternoon. Another bird appeared in Tilickafinna on 6 June and possibly the same bird was seen in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael on 7 June. A bird flew into Scott's garden from the west on 8 June and spent the rest of the day there. Finally, a bird appeared briefly in Scott's garden in the evening of 29 July.

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

One was present in and around Scott's garden in Tilickafinna from 09:40 on 31 May to 16:00 on 7 June (DS, JS, JW). Also on 7 June, a second bird was seen below Cooke's garden in Kilmichael (DS). A third bird appeared briefly in Scott's garden in the evening of 10 June (JW), and a fourth was present in the same garden on 22 and 23 June (DC).

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

A bird thought to be a female was seen near the pumping station in Kilmichael Valley on 17 May (DC), and another bird, assumed to be a female, spent much of 8 June (from 07:00 to 18:00) apparently prospecting for a potential host in Tilickafinna (JW, DS, JS).

Common Swift *Apus apus*

One flew east along the North Slope at 18:55 on 3 June; two flew west at the Tip and one flew east over Tilickafinna on 4 June; at least 12 moved back and forth over Tilickafinna and the Tip on 5 June, including one flock of nine; and two flew west over Tilickafinna and out over the Tip on 7 June (DS, JW). A party of six flew in off the sea at the Tip at 08:20 on 21 July (DS, JS).

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One was found above Kilmichael on 11 October (KG, AL). A second bird was found in Ovenbird Hedge in Tilickafinna on 1 November (DC, PR) and seen again near O'Leary's house on 3 November (KF). There have now been at least 45 Wrynecks on Dursey Island since 1977.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

The first of the year were not seen until 15 March, when there were four birds on the Western Hill, but coverage in late February and early March was very poor. As usual Skylarks were common and conspicuous throughout the spring and early summer, but generally inconspicuous in late summer and autumn. A count of 17 on 11 July was unusually high for that time of year. There was some evidence of passage in the second half of September and early October, with counts of 20 on 14 September, 30 on 30 September, 20+ on 2 October and 16+ on 5 October, but numbers then dwindled rapidly to 8+ on 10 October, five on 11th, four on 12th and two on 13th – the last of the year.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

There were only two records, one in spring and one in autumn. A bird flew northeast

over Kilmichael village at 16:15 on 4 April (DS), and one was seen with a mixed flock of hirundines near the Tip on 28 September (AL).

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

The first of the year was a bird flying east over Tilickafinna at 10:50 on 29 March (DS). The next were not until 19 April, by which time the local breeding birds had arrived. The only evidence of spring passage was in early June, when small numbers of birds were seen flying west at the Tip (three on 4 June and seven on 5 June). As usual, about six pairs bred on the island. There was some increase in numbers in late July and August as the young began to fledge, and a flock of 22, mostly juveniles, appeared in Tilickafinna on 18 July. Totals of 20 were recorded on several dates in the first half of September, but numbers then dwindled to 10 on 28 September and six on 30 September. The only records in October were of one on 1st, two on 2nd, one on 5th and one (in Ballynacallagh) on 10th. A very late bird was seen flying west over Tilickafinna at 08:15 on 18 November (DS).

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

2013 was another better than average year for House Martins, with records on ten dates between 16 May and 9 June and on three dates in autumn. The first was a bird around Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 16 May. This was followed by two in Tilickafinna on 17 May and two in Tilickafinna on 18 May. From 2 to 9 June, House Martins were recorded almost daily flying east or west over Tilickafinna or at the Tip: four on 2nd, one on 3rd, six on 4th, eight on 5th, one on 7th, five on 8th and three on 9th. One joined a flock of Barn Swallows in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 18 July; a party of four flew east over Tilickafinna on 14 September, and there was one with a mixed flock of hirundines near the Tip on 28 September.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Present throughout the year and the commonest breeding passerine on the island. At least 12 birds remained on the island throughout the winter of 2012/2013. There were signs of passage in the second half of March, when flocks of up to 30 were seen in Tilickafinna. The species was very common throughout the spring, summer and autumn. A noticeable influx occurred in the second half of September, with 400+ being recorded on 23rd (AL). Numbers remained high into early October, but then dwindled rapidly. Probably no more than 30 remained on the island in December.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

A fairly common resident around the coastline, occasionally coming into the interior of the island, especially during gales. Up to 25 were recorded in a day.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Two birds, a male *flavissima* and a female, were seen on the greensward near the West Wall in the early afternoon of 7 June (JW), and one was seen near the east end of the island on 26 September (Paul Troake).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

2013 was yet another poor year for Grey Wagtails on Dursey, with only 12 records, all but one of which involved single birds. The first was a bird at the Tip on 7 September. This was followed by single birds flying west over Tilickafinna on 8 September and 14 September. Three flew west over Tilickafinna on 20 September, and there was a bird in Kilmichael on 21 September and 2 October. There was another bird in Tilickafinna on 4 October, one in Kilmichael on 14 October, and one in Kilmichael Valley on 17 and 18

October. One was seen in Tilickafinna on 25 November, and possibly the same bird was seen in Kilmichael Valley on 30 November.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Present throughout the year, but still in lower numbers than before the harsh winters of a few years ago. Up to five birds were recorded in the early part of the year, and three pairs were present in spring: a pair in Tilickafinna, a pair in Kilmichael and a pair ranging between Ballynacallagh and the jetty. The pair in Tilickafinna is known to have raised at least three young to fledging, with the first two juveniles appearing in Scott's garden on 26 May. By 20 September, there were at least 12 birds on the island and numbers remained at this level until about 25 October. However, only six were recorded in early November and only three in the second half of November and early December. These three birds were still present at the end of the year. A **White Wagtail** *M. a. alba* was seen near the West Wall on 9 June (JW).

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 only sign of an arrival of immigrants was on 17 October, when 25+ were recorded.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

One was found in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 22 October (KG, AL), but could not be found the next day, despite a thorough search. This was the first record of a Thrush Nightingale on Dursey Island and only the fourth record for Ireland.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

2013 was a very poor year for this species, with only three records: a bird on the south side of Moil Mor near the Old Lighthouse on 1 January (FiM, FoM), a bird moving between Stapleton's garden and the school in Kilmichael on 3 November (DC, KF, PR), and a bird on the track at the High Cliffs on 15 November (DC, JS).

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The only record was of bird above the Sheehan house in Ballynacallagh on 29 September (PR).

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Present throughout the year, but rather scarce until the middle of March (with no more than 12 being recorded in a day), and reduced in numbers again in November and December, although there were still perhaps as many as 20 on the island at the end of the year. The birds seem to have had another good breeding season, and large numbers of juveniles were observed in late summer and early autumn.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The first of the year was a male near the east end of the island on 18 March (DC). There was a male in Tilickafinna on 19 March, another male there on 22 March and four males at the west end on 24 March, but the first big influx did not occur until 30 March, when 18 were recorded. Thereafter common throughout the spring and summer. Most of the island's breeding population had departed by early September, and very few were recorded in the second half of September. However, there was a big arrival of migrants on 30 September, when 30 were recorded, after which numbers increased to 50 on 2

October and 50+ on 4 October. Numbers then decreased to 40+ on 5 October, 20+ on 9th, 10th and 11th, four on 12th, two on 16th and only one on 17th and 18th. The last was a bird at The Waters on 20 October (KF).

Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*

A very tired bird was found by the track above Scott's garden in Tilickafinna at 16:20 on 3 October and was watched in thick mist until 17:25, when it was left in peace (DS, JS). Despite a thorough search, the bird could not be found the next day. This was the second record of a Grey-cheeked Thrush on Dursey Island, the first having been on 14 and 15 October 2011.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

The only record was of a female in Kilmichael on 11 and 12 October (KG, AL).

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

A fairly common resident. There were about 20 on the island at the beginning of the year. At least four pairs bred in Tilickafinna, including three in Scott's garden. There were several small influxes of migrants in autumn, notably on 5 October, 14 October and 24 November, but counts never exceeded 25 in a day. Only about a dozen remained at the end of the year.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

The early part of the year produced more records than usual, but the autumn was very poor. The year began with one above Ballynacallagh on 1 January, one in Kilmichael on 9 January, two in Kilmichael on 13 January, and one in Kilmichael on 18 January. A flock of 10 was seen in upper Kilmichael Valley on 29 March, when there was also a bird in Tilickafinna. The first of the autumn were five in the Kilmichael area on 11 October and one there the next day. Single birds were seen on 22 and 23 October; there was one in Tilickafinna on 24 November, and there were two in Tilickafinna on 2 December.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Numbers in the early part of the year were relatively high, with counts of 20 on 1 January and 17 on 9 January, and two birds were heard in song as early as 7 January. The wintering birds had departed by mid-March, and no more than two were recorded until 29 March, when the arrival of an obvious migrant at O'Leary's house in Tilickafinna marked the beginning of a big arrival of Scandinavian birds. At least 25 were recorded on 30 March, scattered widely along the island. Most of these birds stayed around for several days, and there were still at least 18 on 4 April, including eight roosting in Scott's garden. However, by 6 April, only the local birds remained. Three males were heard in song on many occasions in spring: one in Scott's garden, one in Kilmichael and one in Kilmichael Valley, and it is likely that three pairs bred. A nest was found in Stapleton's garden in Kilmichael on 26 May, and two fledged juveniles were seen nearby on 6 June. As usual, Song Thrushes became very inconspicuous in late summer and early autumn, and no more than two were recorded in a day in late June, July, August and September. There were some signs of a small arrival in the second week of October, as four were seen on 11th, but numbers remained low until late November, when there was another small influx. Four were seen in Tilickafinna on 22 November; there were six in Tilickafinna and three in Kilmichael on 24 November, and seven were seen in Tilickafinna on 1 December. At least 14 were present on 30 December.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Redwings were commoner than usual in the first three weeks of January, with counts of 31 on 1st, 17 on 9th, 20 on 13th and 18 on 19th, but none was recorded in February. Five were seen 2 March, and there were three on 15 March. The last week of March produced a flurry of records, with one on 24th, two on 26th, one on 28th, three on 29th and one on 30th, but these were the last of the spring. The first arrivals in autumn appeared on 11 October, when 14 were recorded. Twenty were counted the next day, but these quickly moved off, and the only counts of more than four in a day in the rest of October were six on 16th and nine on 23rd. Three were seen on 1 November, and up to three individuals were recorded on nine dates in the second half of November. There were five in Tilickafinna and three in Kilmichael on 1 December, and three in Tilickafinna on 2 December, but none could be found during the last few days of the year.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

One was heard in song in rough fields below Stapleton's garden in Kilmichael at 08:00 on 3 June (PR) and was seen well in response to playback in the same area at 19:45 that evening (DS).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A pair of Sedge Warblers may have bred in the boggy fields below Kilmichael, as a male was seen in song at the usual site on 19 May, 7 June and 22 June (DC, DS), but once again proof of breeding was lacking. The only other records were of single birds in Scott's garden on 17 May and 7 June (DS) and in Kilmichael Valley on 30 September (AL).

European Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A bird in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna at 18:35-18:50 on 20 July gave a brief burst of song in response to 'pishing' (DS). The only other record was of one in Kilmichael on 9 October (KG, AL).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

A bird found in the bracken on the Western Hill on 28 September was seen again in the same area on 30 September (AL).

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

2013 was a very poor year for Common Whitethroats on Dursey, with none in spring and only two in autumn: a male at the Tip on 23 September (AL) and a male on the Western Hill on 30 September and 2 October (AL).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Both the spring and the autumn passage were reasonably good. A male in Tilickafinna on 22 March, a female in Tilickafinna on 25 March and a male in Kilmichael on 26 March were the first. Blackcaps were recorded almost daily from 29 March to 6 April, with two on 29th, one on 30th, one on 1st, three on 2nd, five on 3rd, four on 4th, one on 5th and one on 6th. At least nine individuals were involved: two males and two females in Scott's garden and three males and two females in Cooke's garden. There were two in Scott's garden and one in Kilmichael Valley on 13 April and one in Cooke's garden on 14 April. A female appeared in Scott's garden on 18 May; there was a male in song in Scott's garden on 5 June and another male in this garden on 10 June. The first of the autumn was a female on 30 September, but the next were not until 10 October, when two arrived. There were eight on 11 October and six on 12 October, then up to five almost daily until 25 October. Two were seen on 1 November; single males appeared in Scott's garden on 18 and 22 November, and there were three (a male and two females)

in this garden on 24 November.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Five individuals were recorded in the period 10-15 October: one in Kilmichael and one in Tilickafinna on 10th, one in Ballynacallagh on 11th, one in Tilickafinna on 14th, and one in Kilmichael Valley on 15th (KG, AL).

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

A very active bird appeared in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna at 11:30 on 13 September and was still present until at least 18:25 (DS, JS). It could not be found the next day, despite a thorough search. This was the first record of an Arctic Warbler on Dursey Island.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

The first of the spring was a bird in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna from 13 to 18 March (DS). Another bird appeared on 21 March, and three were recorded on 22 March. Then up to three were recorded almost daily until 6 April. Three were seen on 14 April. There was a bird in song in Scott's garden from 11 to 19 May, and presumably a different individual in song from 1 to 11 June. This was joined by a bird showing the characters of *abietinus* on 3 and 4 June and a typical *collybita* from 5th to 10th. There was also a bird in Ballynacallagh on 7 June. One was seen on 22 June, and there was one in Scott's garden on 20 and 21 July. The first of the autumn were single birds in Tilickafinna on 11 and 14 September and two in Kilmichael Valley on 19 September. Two on 24 September were followed by six on 25th, and then up to six were recorded almost daily to 25 October, the only higher counts being eight on 11 October, eight on 14 October and seven on 20 October. Three were seen on 1 November. There was one in Kilmichael Valley on 15 November and one in Tilickafinna on 17 November. The latter was joined by another bird showing the characters of *abietinus* on 18th and this remained until 19th. A typical *collybita* in Tilickafinna on 23 November and another in Kilmichael Valley on 29 November were the last of the year.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The spring passage was very poor, with no significant falls. The first was a bird in song in Tilickafinna on 5 April. This was followed by two on 13 April, one on 20 April, three on 21 April, two on 4 May, one on 5 and 6 May, and two on 19 May. The autumn passage was better than usual, with records on 19 dates between 4 August and 1 November. Single birds were recorded on 4 August, 16-17 August and 31 August. A bird remained in Scott's garden from 6 to 11 September, and there were three in this garden on 14 September. Single birds were seen in Scott's garden on 20 September and from 28 to 30 September, and there was one in Kilmichael Valley on 29 September. Single birds were seen on 9, 12 and 16 October, and a very late individual was found in Kilmichael Valley on 1 November (DC, PR).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Goldcrest numbers now appear to be back to normal after the crash in the hard winter of 2009/2010. The first of the year were single birds in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 16-17 March, 19 March and 23-26 March. There was also a bird in Kilmichael Valley on 26 March, and another bird in Scott's garden on 2 and 3 April. Five were seen on 4 April, two at Zuma and three in Scott's garden, and one of the latter remained until 6th. A bird at Zuma on 13 April was the last of the spring. The first of the autumn was a bird in Scott's garden on 11 and 13 September. There were three here on 14 September, two

on 15th and one on 16th. There was then a gap until 25 September, when four appeared. Four were still present on 27th, and numbers then increased to seven on 28th and 29th. Up to four were then recorded almost daily to 25 October, with seven on 11th, six on 12th and five on 14th. Four were recorded in the first few days of November, and when coverage was resumed on 13 November, there were still four birds on the island, two in Kilmichael Valley and two in Scott's garden. The two in Kilmichael Valley were last seen on 30 November, while the two in Scott's garden were still present on 3 December, when coverage was interrupted.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

One was seen by visiting birders in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 23 October.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

2013 was an exceptionally poor year for this species on Dursey. The only record in spring was of a bird near the west end of Tilickafinna fields on 8 June. Two birds appeared on 29 September, one in Kilmichael Valley and one at Zuma. There were two in Kilmichael Valley and one at the Tip on 30th, and one was seen in Kilmichael on 2 October.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

One was seen in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 18 October (John Lynch & Tony Nagle), and a first-year bird was seen on the North Cliffs east of the West Wall on 19 October (KG, AL, KF). The latter was thought to be a new arrival, and there can be little doubt that two birds were involved. These were the twelfth and thirteenth records of Red-breasted Flycatcher on Dursey Island.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

A first-year bird was seen in Scott's garden on 6 and 7 September (DS).

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

One was seen in Scott's garden on 10 October (KG, AL).

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

A pair of Blue Tits bred successfully in Kilmichael for the third year in a row. Four birds were present on the island from the beginning of January to mid-April, but only two were seen after 19 April. This pair nested in the gable end of a tractor shed in Kilmichael and apparently reared at least three young to fledging, as five birds were seen on 11 and 13 July. Four were still present in early August, but no more than three were seen in the second half of August and first half of September, and only two remained in the second half of September. There was a small influx in early October, beginning with two birds in Tilickafinna on 4 October. As many as six were seen on several dates between 9 and 25 October, and there were eight on 10 October and ten on 17 October. There were still four birds on the island on 30 November, but only two remained until the end of the year.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Five birds were present on the island from the beginning of January to early April, and a sixth bird was around from mid-April to at least 19 May. One pair nested in a wall in Kilmichael village, and it is likely that another pair bred somewhere on the island, although the nest was never found. Nesting success seems to have been low, as no more than six birds were recorded in summer and early autumn. Two juveniles that appeared briefly in Tilickafinna on 20 July were presumably locally-bred birds. A bird took up residence in Scott's garden on 14 September and was joined by two more on 28

September. There were four in the garden on 1 October and seven on 4 October, but only two on 5 October, and these two (apparently a pair) remained in the garden to the end of the year. There do not appear to have been any other arrivals in autumn, and no more than six were recorded in a day after 4 October. There were still six birds on the island at the end of the year, including the two in Scott's garden.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

A female or immature male flew into Scott's garden in Tilickafinna from the south at 16:00 on 4 June and was last seen disappearing into some tall Olearias in the garden at 18:30 (JW, DS, JS). This was the seventh record of Golden Oriole on Dursey Island.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

A first-year bird was found near the pumping station in Kilmichael Valley at 14:00 on 2 October and was still present two hours later (KG, AL, DS). This was the eleventh record of Red-backed Shrike on Dursey Island.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*

No more than two birds were recorded in a day until the beginning of August, and it seems that only one pair was resident on the island, with the birds ranging widely from Ballynacallagh to Tilickafinna. The pair appears to have bred successfully, as there were six birds on 2 and 3 August. As many as six birds were then seen on a number of occasions in September and October. The only higher counts were of seven on 10 October and at least 13 on 11 October, obviously involving 'commuters' coming across from the mainland for the day. Only five birds were recorded in early November, but there were still five birds on the island at the end of the year.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Present throughout the year, with some eight to ten pairs breeding on the island. The breeding season seems to have been poor, as no large post-breeding flocks were recorded in late summer and autumn. The highest counts were 22 in July, 36 in August, 35 in September and 25 in October.

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

A bird in Kilmichael in the morning of 18 May was last seen flying off to the east (DC).

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Present throughout the year, but somewhat scarcer than usual. No more than three or four pairs frequented the island, and some of these were probably just commuters from the mainland. The only unusual counts in spring were a flock of 10 in Ballynacallagh on 28 March and a flock of 18 in Ballynacallagh on 3 April. Numbers increased slightly in August, and up to a dozen were recorded on several dates in October and early November, but only four or five remained on the island in late November and December.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

Present throughout the year. A pair nested on the cliffs in Tilickafinna and reared two young, while another pair frequented the east end of the island, but whether or not they bred is unknown. Numbers did not exceed six in a day until September, and then the only higher counts were of seven on 7 September, 20 on 4 October, 10 on 10 October, 15+ on 14 October and 12 on 1 November. Only two pairs remained on the island in late November and December.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

The tiny breeding population on Dursey now seems to be holding its own, with four pairs breeding in 2013. No more than 12 were recorded in the first three months of the year, except on 9 and 10 February, when there were visiting flocks of 57 and 21, respectively. By late April, only four pairs remained. Two pairs bred in Ballynacallagh, one pair in the pumping station in Kilmichael Valley and one pair in Kilmichael village. The first four fledged young were seen on 2 June, and by 22 June there were at least 14 adults and juveniles on the island. Numbers had increased to 23 by 11 July, but for the first time since records began, there was no big influx of juveniles from the mainland in late summer, and numbers never exceeded 25 in July and August. There was some increase in numbers in the second half of September, with flocks of 35 on 14th, 65 on 20th, 60 on 22nd, 127 on 25th and 46 on 26th. Numbers fluctuated widely from day to day in October and early November, but only exceeded 30 on 11 October (35), 12 October (50), 14 October (40) and 1 November (45). Up to 27 were recorded in the second half of November and early December, and 18 were still present on 30 and 31 December.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

A party of six visited the bird feeders in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael in the morning of 13 July (DC), and a female was seen in Cooke's garden on 10 October (KG, AL).

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Only four birds were recorded on 1 January, but there were six in Tilickafinna on 8 January and three in Kilmichael and six in Tilickafinna on 13 January. Three were still present in late January and February, and two of these lingered on until at least 26 March. An influx in late March produced a total of nine on 29th and 30th, increasing to ten by 3 April, but numbers then dropped to seven on 4th, four on 5th and two on 6th. Single birds were recorded on 13 April and 19 April. The last of the spring was a female in Tilickafinna from 16 to 20 May. The first of the autumn was a female in Tilickafinna on 14 September. This was followed by two in Kilmichael on 25 September and one in Tilickafinna from 28 to 30 September. Numbers in October were much lower than usual, the only records being of three in Kilmichael on 5th and up to six daily from 10th to 20th. Five were seen on 1 November, and there were still four around on 16 November, but only two females remained on 1 December, and only one of these (in Scott's garden) stayed until the end of the year.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

2013 was a very unusual year for Bramblings on Dursey, with an unprecedented arrival of at least 13 birds in spring, but none in autumn. The arrival in spring began on 29 March, when a male and two females appeared in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael (DC, PR). On 30 March, there were five males and three females in Cooke's garden, a female at Zuma in Ballynacallagh, and a male and two females in Scott's garden and a female in O'Leary's garden in Tilickafinna. There were eight in Cooke's garden and three in Scott's garden on 31 March, nine in Cooke's garden and three in Scott's garden on 1 April, and seven in Cooke's garden and three in Scott's garden on 2 April. All 13 birds were seen again on 3 April (two in Scott's garden, five in Cooke's garden and six at Zuma), but only four remained on 4th, one in Cooke's garden and three at Zuma, and these were the last. The only previous spring record of a Brambling on Dursey Island was in 2011, when a single bird was seen on 28 March. The highest total of Bramblings previously recorded was 12 on 20 October 1999.

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

As in 2011 and 2012, no Greenfinches were present on the island at the start of the year. However the first of the year appeared as early as 13 January, when there were eight in the Kilmichael area. The only other record in January was of two on 19th. Four were present on 10 February, and up to seven were recorded on many dates in March and April. Up to eight were seen in May, and then up to 12 in June, July, August and September. Two or three pairs presumably nested in the Ballynacallagh and Kilmichael areas, but nesting success seems to have been low as relatively few juveniles were observed. There was a small influx in October, with numbers increasing to 15 in the second week, but the highest count was only 18 on 22nd. Ten were seen in early November and again on 24th, but after eight on 29 November, the only records were of two on 30 November and a single juvenile on 1 and 2 December.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

The only records in the early part of the year were of single birds on 1, 3, 9 and 12 January. A pair appeared in Scott's garden on several dates between 27 March and 5 April, and the male was often heard in song. There was also a bird in Kilmichael Valley on 29 March. Up to four were seen in the Kilmichael area from 19 to 21 April, and there was pair in Scott's garden on 27 May and a pair in Kilmichael on 1 June. The last of the spring was a bird in Tilickafinna on 8 June. The first of the autumn was a single bird in Scott's garden on 8 and 9 September. This was followed by two in Tilickafinna on 14 September and five in Kilmichael on 20 September. There was a big influx in early October, with numbers increasing from 15 on 2nd to 35 on 4th and 100+ on 5th. From then until 25 October, between 10 and 40 were recorded on most days, although there were 100+ on 14 October and 120+ on 19 October. Fifteen were seen on 1 November, but the only records in the second half of November were of one or two birds in Scott's garden on seven dates, four in Scott's garden on 26 November, and one in Kilmichael on 29 November. The last of the year was a bird in Scott's garden on 30 November.

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

2013 was a poor year for this species, with only six records. Two of these were in spring: a male visiting the bird feeders in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael on 2 and 3 March (DC), and a female in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna in the early morning of 8 June (JW). The first of the autumn were eight birds that stopped briefly in Scott's garden on 25 September (DS). A single bird flew in off the sea at the Tip on 5 October (DS), and there were seven in Kilmichael on 14 October (KG, AL) and two in Kilmichael on 1 November (DC).

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

A pair in Tilickafinna on 18 March were the first of the spring. Numbers were slow to build up in late March and early April, but by mid-April the breeding population had returned in force. The first fledged juveniles were seen in Tilickafinna on 30 May. The breeding season appears to have been fairly good. Small flocks were beginning to form by the end of July, and a flock of over 100 was seen in Tilickafinna on many occasions from early September to early October. Numbers declined rapidly after 5 October, and from 9 to 25 October, no more than 40 were recorded in a day. By the beginning of November, all of the Linnets had departed.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis (flammea) cabaret*

After two good years for this species on Dursey and successful breeding in 2012, 2013

was a very poor year, with only five records of single birds. There were three in spring, all in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna: one appeared briefly in the morning of 17 May; one appeared briefly in the morning of 5 June, and one frequented the garden from 08:45 to 13:15 on 9 June and sang a lot (DS). The only records in autumn were of a bird flying west over Tilickafinna on 14 September (DS) and one in Kilmichael on 7 October (KG, AL).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

A first-year bird was found in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 10 October, and presumably the same individual was seen in Ivy Gully in Tilickafinna on 12 October (KG, AL). This was the 21st record of Common Rosefinch on Dursey Island.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

A female appeared in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael at 12:50 on 30 March and stayed there until 3 April (DC, PR, DS). It spent much of its time feeding with a flock of Bramblings on bird seed on the lawn and occasionally visited the bird feeders. It was last seen by Maria and Anthony Murphy on 3 April. This was only the 6th record of Hawfinch on Dursey Island.

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*

A parulid warbler was seen by DS going to roost in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna at 19:25 on 18 September. AL obtained brief views of the bird at 13:30 on 19 September and tentatively identified it as a Wilson's Warbler. However, a thorough search of the garden later that day was fruitless, and it was not until just after mid-day on 20th that the bird was relocated and finally gave good views to DS and AL. It was indeed a Wilson's Warbler – a first-year male. News was released late that evening, and at least 65 birders came to see the bird on 21st. It showed well on many occasions until about 18:00 that evening, but could not be found the next day despite a very thorough search. This was the first record of a Wilson's Warbler for Ireland and only the second record for the Western Palearctic.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

2013 was another poor for this species with only three records. One was seen flying along the North Cliffs on 2 October; there were two at the Tip on 4 October, and there were another two at the Tip on 11 October (KG, AL).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

After two good years for this species, 2013 was very poor, with only four records involving a maximum of six birds. The first was a male above the school in Kilmichael on 11 and 12 October (KG, AL). There were two on the North Cliffs and one at the Tip on 22 October (KG, AL), and one was seen near O'Leary's house in Tilickafinna on 2 November (KF). Lastly, a bird was heard calling over Tower Hill at 09:25 on 22 November (DS).

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

A well marked individual flew into Tilickafinna from the east at 08:20 on 2 October and spent the next hour foraging along the track above Scott's garden with a flock of Meadow Pipits and Linnets (DS). It was last seen flying off with Meadow Pipits at 09:25. This was the fourteenth record of Ortolan Bunting on Dursey Island.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Once again, it seems probable that Reed Buntings were present on Dursey Island throughout the year, although there were no records in July and August. Two birds were

seen at The Waters on 1 January, and either a male or a female was seen on ten dates to 15 March. On 16 March, the female was in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael and the male was in song in John Michael's Bog. This pair was then seen in the Kilmichael area on many occasions until 19 May, and it seems likely that they attempted to breed in John Michael's Bog, but the only records in June were of a male in Cooke's garden on 1st and 7th. The next record was not until 18 September, when a bird was seen in Tilickafinna. One or two birds were recorded on nine occasions between 24 September and 25 October, and there were four on 7 October and three on 9 and 17 October. Three birds were seen in John Michael's Bog on 15 November, but the only later records were of single birds on three dates in the second half of November and two birds on 31 December.

MAMMALS

Pygmy Shrew *Sorex 29opulat*

The only records were of individuals found dead in Kilmichael on 9 April (Christian Kostner) and 11 July (DC).

[Brown Long-eared Bat *Plecotus auritus*]

A bat flying around inside a ruined house in Kilmichael after dark on 24 September was emitting sounds at 30 kHz, which suggests that it was a Brown Long-eared Bat (DC). The only confirmed record of this species on Dursey Island is that of an individual caught in a mist-net in Tilickafinna on 23 June 1996.

Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

For the fourth year in succession, a Common Pipistrelle was seen on numerous occasions emerging at dusk from under the eaves of Scott's house in Tilickafinna. This bat was first seen at 22:16 on 31 May and then recorded on five dates in early June, on three dates in the second half of July, and again on 28 September and 4 and 5 October. The latest time of emergence was 22:31 on 7 June; the earliest was 19:45 on 5 October (DS, JS). On 13 September, the bat suddenly appeared at 21:30 flying around inside the house. Only when all the lights had been switched off did the bat find its way out of the front door! Two bats, presumably this species, were seen flying around together over Scott's garden at 20:05 on 24 September (DS, JS). Elsewhere, single Common Pipistrelles were identified with a bat detector (registering 45 kHz) in Kilmichael and Ballynacallagh on 20 September and in Kilmichael on 24 September (DC).

Unidentified bat

A bat which emerged from under the eaves of Scott's house in Tilickafinna at 17:30 on 16 January and flew off to the south-west was too large to have been a pipistrelle (DS). A small bat seen by Erika Rodefild flying around Zuma garden in Ballynacallagh at dusk on 7 September could well have been a pipistrelle.

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*

Brown Rats do not seem to have done very well on Dursey Island in 2013, perhaps because of the cold spring. There were no records in the early part of the year. Single individuals were recorded on a total of 15 occasions between 29 March and 24 September, while two individuals were recorded on 3 August and 9 September. Most of the records were from Cooke's garden in Kilmichael and Scott's garden in Tilickafinna. The only records after the end of September were of one found dead in Kilmichael on 12 October and two in the fields below Kilmichael on 15 November.

Common Otter *Lutra lutra*

One was seen swimming in the sea off Gull-bathing Area on 16 March (DC). There was one near the jetty on 14 April (CF, KF) and again on 19 May (Christian Kostner), and a group of four was seen by several visiting birders in the Sound at 08:00 on 22 September.

Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*

2013 was another poor year for Grey Seals around Dursey Island, with the only reports of more than three in a day being six on 4 April and six on 1 December. The monthly distribution of records was as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Days with sightings	3	0	7	1	2	5	1	1	1	6	4	2
Maximum count	3	0	1	6	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	6

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

2013 was quite a good year for this species off Dursey Island, with records on 21 dates between 16 May and 1 December. Most of the records relate to schools feeding and passing by off Tilickafinna, although there were also several records of schools off the Tip. Three unidentified dolphins off the Tip on 11 August may have been this species.

Date	Total	Locality	Observers
16 May	30-40	Moving west fairly far out off Tilickafinna at 12:05-12:10	DS, JS
02 Jun	15-20	Moving west close inshore off Tilickafinna at 08:30 and feeding off Cromwell Cliff just east of Tip to 09:30	DS
04 Jun	15-20	Arrived off Tilickafinna from SE at 09:50; fed fairly close inshore, then moved off west at 10:00	DS
07 Jun	15-20	Feeding off Tilickafinna (far out to close in) from 06:30 to 09:05, then moving off south-west at 09:15	DS, JS
08 Jun	12	Circling close inshore just SE of Tilickafinna at 17:15-17:20	DS, JS
18 Jul	20	Moving east fairly far out off Tilickafinna at 19:35	DS
20 Jul	20	Moving east far out off Tilickafinna at 08:55-09:00; feeding close inshore at 10:00-10:15; finally moving off east at 10:30	DS, JS
30 Aug	3	Off the Tip	DC
07 Sep	10	Moving north far out off the Tip (beyond the Calf) at 10:10	DS
08 Sep	6	Moving west close inshore off Tilickafinna at 08:30	DS
10 Sep	6	Moving west far out off Tilickafinna at 18:25-18:30	DS
15 Sep	10	Off the Tip in the early afternoon	SB, MO, PR
10 Oct	12	Off Cromwell Cliff on the south coast just east of the Tip	DC
11 Oct	15+	Off the north coast near the Tip	KG, AL
20 Oct	15+	Off the north coast near the Tip	KG, AL
22 Nov	60+	60 in six groups arriving from SW and feeding fairly close inshore off Tilickafinna at 13:00-13:40, then moving off to east. 20 feeding SE of Tilickafinna at 15:30- 15:45	DS, JS

23 Nov	40+	Moving west in small groups off Tilickafinna at 08:55-09:00, then feeding mostly close inshore for most of the day. The last were 20 moving east with a Fin Whale at 15:55	DS, JS
26 Nov	40-50	20 moving west far out off Tilickafinna at 08:50-09:30, then small groups feeding at various distances off Tilickafinna until at least 16:45 (dusk)	DS, JS
28 Nov	15+	12 moving east fairly far out off Tilickafinna at 09:15-09:25, and 3+ moving east far out at 14:20	DS, JS
30 Nov	25+	25 off the Tip in mid-morning, then 20+ feeding far out to SE of Tilickafinna at 11:05-12:00. Also 12 moving west far out off Tilickafinna at 16:00	DC, PR, DS
01 Dec	20	Feeding in small groups at various distances off Tilickafinna from 09:15 to 10:15	DS

Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

A school of six passed south off the Tip between 09:30 and 10:00 on 19 October (KF).

Risso's Dolphin *Grampus griseus*

2013 was a very good year for this species, with a total of 17 sightings between 19 May and 19 October. No more than eight individuals were recorded in a day, except of 7 June when there were at least 25 together off the Tip.

Date	Total	Locality	Observers
19 May	8	All large individuals; 5 (3 + 2) moving west fairly close inshore off Tilickafinna at 13:10-13:30 and 3 moving west at 17:05; then 3 returning east at 18:45	DC, DS, JS
03 Jun	5	Moving north fairly close inshore off Tip in late morning	JS, JAW
07 Jun	25+	6+ moving east, loafing, logging and breaching, then returning west far out off Tilickafinna between 07:05 and 09:05. At least 25 close inshore off NW Tip at 09:40-10:20, with much frolicking and some breaching	DS, JS, JAW
09 Jun	6	Far out to south of Cromwell Cliff just east of Tip at 08:30	DS
18 Jul	3+	Large; moving west fairly far out off Tilickafinna at 19:00	DS
20 Jul	2	Large; moving east fairly close off Tilickafinna at 10:30	DS
11 Aug	4	Off the Tip	KF

06 Sep	2	Large; moving east close inshore off Tilickafinna at 18:30	DS
07 Sep	2	Large; moving east then west close inshore off Tilickafinna at 13:10-13:15	DS, JS
11 Sep	7+	6 adults, one with a small calf, moving west close inshore off Tilickafinna at 09:10; one moving east at 09:15; and two with a small calf moving east close inshore at 16:55	DS, JS
13 Sep	1	Breaching three times and moving west fairly far out off Tilickafinna at 16:20	DS
14 Sep	2	Moving west fairly far out off Tilickafinna at 14:15	DS, JS
28 Sep	3	2 large, 1 small; off the Tip in the middle of the day	AL
05 Oct	1	Large; moving SW far out off NW Tip (near Cow) at 11:55	DS
07 Oct	1	Large; moving east close inshore off Tilickafinna at 09:50	DS
10 Oct	4	Off Cromwell Cliff on the south coast just east of the Tip	DC
19 Oct	1	Moving south off Tip between 09:00 and 09:30	KF

Harbour Porpoise *Phocaena phocaena*

Apparently present around the island throughout the year, and showing some improvement in numbers since 2012. There were very few records in late winter and spring, but numbers increased in summer to a peak of 30 on 4 August and remained fairly high until late October. Most were observed off the Tip, off Tilickafinna or in the Sound. The monthly distribution of records was as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Days with sightings	3	0	2	1	1	6	4	4	10	5	7	1
Maximum count	6	0	2	3	6	21	10	30	12	15	7	2

Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

2013 was another poor year for this species off Dursey Island, with only five sightings, although all sightings related to at least two individuals.

Date	Total	Locality	Observers
01 Jun	2	One moving west close inshore off Tilickafinna at 13:20 and two feeding off Tip at 13:00-14:00	DS, JS, JAW

30 Jul	3+	At least two large and one medium-sized feeding fairly far out off Tilickafinna from 09:15-14:45 with large numbers of shearwaters, Gannets and gulls	DS, JS
13 Sep	2+	At least two feeding far out off Tilickafinna at 09:40-10:00 with large numbers of shearwaters and Gannets	DS, JS
14 Sep	2+	At least two feeding far out off Tilickafinna at 17:55-18:15 with large numbers of shearwaters	DS, JS
16 Sep	2	One large individual and one small (calf) between the Tip and the Calf Rock at 10:30	JS

Fin Whale *Balaenoptera physalis*

One off Tilickafinna on 23 November (DS, JS). The whale was first seen at 14:50 surfacing and blowing amongst a feeding frenzy of Gannets and Common Dolphins far out to the south of Tilickafinna. Almost an hour later, at 15:45, it appeared quite close inshore off Tilickafinna, moving slowly east with about 20 Common Dolphins in attendance. It was last seen at about 15:55 heading in towards Dursey Sound. This is only the second record of a Fin Whale off Dursey Island, the first being on 12 October 1997.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Common Lizard *Lacerta vivipara*

2013 was a fairly good year for lizards, with a total of eight records. The first were two in Kilmichael on 20 April (DC). Four were seen along the track between Kilmichael Valley and Kilmichael on 29 June (DC), and there were singletons near the school in Kilmichael on 20 July (JS) and in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 28 July (DS). There was one in Kilmichael Valley and one on the north slope west of Gull-bathing Area on 9 August, and one on the High Cliffs the next day (KF). Finally, singletons were observed west of Bernie's Well in Tilickafinna on 2 October and near the school in Kilmichael on 5 October (KG).

Leatherback Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*

A large individual was seen moving north close inshore off the Old Lighthouse in the early afternoon of 15 September (Sean Burke, MO & PR). This was only the second record of a Leatherback Turtle off Dursey Island since 2000.

Common Frog *Rana temporaria*

Six adults were seen around Gerald's Pond in Kilmichael on 10 February, and there were many tadpoles in this pond on 2 June (DC). The species was introduced in the area in 2005 and obviously continues to thrive.

FISHES OF NOTE

Basking Shark *Cetorhinus maximus*

2013 was another poor year, with only three or four records. One was seen close inshore off the south coast near the Tip at 11:30 on 1 June (JS, JW); one was seen in the Sound at 14:30 on 21 June (DC); and one was seen passing north close inshore off the Tip at 08:45 on 21 July (JS). Two huge splashes seen far out off Tilickafinna at 12:30 on 16 May were presumably made by a breaching Basking Shark (DS).

BUTTERFLIES

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

One was in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael on 7 June and one was in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 8 June (DS). A total of nine were counted in Ivy Gully in Tilickafinna on 10 August (KF), suggesting that the species bred there. The only other records were of singletons in Kilmichael on 31 August (DC) and 4 and 5 October (KG, AL).

Green-veined White *Pieris napi*

Coverage in April was poor, and the first Green-veined White was not recorded until 3 May. Then recorded on many dates to 9 June, with the highest counts being 13 on 19 May and 30 on 7 June. One was seen on 13 July, and then recorded almost daily from 17 July to the end of August, the maximum counts being 22 on 2 August and 36 on 4 August. Small numbers lingered until the middle of September, the only records thereafter being of singletons on 21 and 22 September, three on 23 September, and a singleton in Kilmichael on 3 and 4 October. As usual, most individuals were recorded in the Kilmichael area and at The Waters, but there was also a small colony in the marshy fields in Tilickafinna.

Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus*

One was seen flying along the north cliffs near the west end of the island on 2 October (KG).

Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi*

2013 was another reasonably good year for this species on Dursey. One in Tilickafinna on 17 May was the first of the season; then recorded in small numbers on many occasions until 9 June, when coverage was interrupted. The highest counts were 11 on 4 June and 11 on 9 June. The only record in July was of one on 13th. As usual, the largest colony was on the rough hillside between The Waters and the High Cliffs, but the species was also recorded from Zuma in Ballynacallagh, the north side below the Martello Tower, Scott's garden in Tilickafinna, the west end of Tilickafinna fields, and the north slope west of Bernie's Gully.

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

One in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 29 May; two in the same area on 4 June, and singletons there on 5 June, 9 June and 10 August. Also, one on the hill near the Old Lighthouse on 9 June, one in Kilmichael Valley on 9 August, and four in Ivy Gully and one near O'Leary's house in Tilickafinna on 10 August.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

2013 seems to have been a very poor year for Common Blues on Dursey Island, especially for the first brood. It was not until early June that the first of the season was recorded: a fresh male in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 3rd and 4th. This was still present on 7 June, when another individual was seen in Kilmichael Valley. There were no further records until one was seen in Tilickafinna on 18 July. Small numbers were recorded on many dates in August and the first week of September, but the highest counts were only four on 9 August and four on 17 August. Two were still present in Scott's garden on 14 September, but the only later record was of one in the same garden on 4 October (DS).

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

2013 was somewhat unusual for Red Admirals in that small numbers were present on the island throughout much of the summer, but there was only one substantial influx, in mid-October. The first of the season were one on 4 May and three on 6th. Singles on 17 and 18 May were followed by three on 19 May, one on 30 May, two on 6 and 7 June, one on 8 June and one on 13 July. At least five individuals were resident in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna from 17 July until at least the middle of August, with two remaining until the end of September. During this period, only the occasional individual was seen elsewhere on the island. October began quietly with only three in Tilickafinna on 2nd and 4th, one in Kilmichael on 5th and one near the west end on 9th. However, there was a big influx on 10 and 11 October, with numbers increasing from at least 40 on 10th to at least 150 on 11th. Most of these moved off quickly, and only 20 were recorded on 14th and only three on 16th. Thereafter, only singletons were recorded on 18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd and 23rd. The only other record was of a very late individual in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 30 November (DC, DS) – the last butterfly of the year.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

2013 was yet another poor year for this species on Dursey, with only one noticeable influx, in mid-October. The first of the year was one on the cliffs near the Old Lighthouse on 7 June. One in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 23 and 25 July was joined by a second individual on 26 July. There was another individual here on 10 August, and singletons were also recorded on 31 August, 11 October and 14 October. One near the Tip on 18 October was followed by nine at the west end and Tilickafinna on 19th and eight (including three in the Kilmichael area) on 20th. Three were still present in Tilickafinna on 23 October, but the only later record was of a singleton on 1 November (DC).

Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*

The only records in the first half of the year were of one in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael on 17 May, and one at Zuma in Ballynacallagh on 17 May, 18 May and 6 June. Twelve were recorded on 31 August, and there were six in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 5 and 6 September. Numbers then dwindled gradually, with three remaining until 14 September; two until 18 September and one until 11 October – the last of the year.

Peacock *Inachis io*

2013 was yet another very poor year for this species on Dursey, with only one record: a single individual was seen on the north cliffs near the west end on 10 October (KG).

Dark Green Fritillary *Argynnis aglaja*

2013 seems to have been an average year for Dark Green Fritillaries on Dursey, but coverage during the main flying season (July and first half of August) was rather poor. There were records of one or two individuals on 14 dates between 18 July and 10 August. Most records were from Tilickafinna fields and Scott's garden, but singletons were also observed at The Waters and on the High Cliffs.

Wall Brown *Lasiomata megera*

2013 was another poor year for this species on Dursey, with both broods faring badly. One in Kilmichael and one in Tilickafinna on 19 May were the first of the season. Small numbers were then recorded almost daily from 31 May to 9 June, but the highest counts were only nine on 1 June and nine on 7 June. Three individuals on 4 August were the first record of the second brood. Thereafter recorded on many dates to 14 September, with the highest counts being 15 on 10 August and 16 on 18 August. The last of the year was one in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 24 September.

Grayling *Hipparchia semele*

Up to seven individuals were recorded on eleven dates between 10 July and 15 September, mostly on the High Cliffs and in Tilickafinna.

Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*

2013 seems to have been a reasonably good year for this species on Dursey. The first of the season were five on 10 July. Thereafter, recorded commonly until 14 September, the highest counts being 40 on 21 July, 60 on 9 August and 58 on 10 August. The last of the year was one in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 23 September.

MOTHS

Six-spot Burnet *Zygaena filipendulae*

One in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 28 July (DS); at least 50 at The Waters and one in Kilmichael Valley on 9 August (KF), and three in Tilickafinna on 10 August (KF).

Fox Moth *Macrothylacia rubi*

One flew through Scott's garden in Tilickafinna in the evening of 19 May (DS). At least 12 flew through this garden on 3 June, and then up to four were recorded almost daily to 9 June (DS). Three were recorded in Kilmichael on 10 July, followed by two on 11th and one on 12th (DC). Two were in Scott's garden at dusk on 19 July (DS).

Emperor *Pavonia pavonia*

A caterpillar was found on the hillside above the Cable Car on 10 August (KF).

Shaded Broad-bar *Scotopteryx chenopodiata*

One at The Waters and one at the High Cliffs on 10 August (KF).

Yellow Shell *Camptogramma bilineata hibernica*

Four between the Cable Car and East Fields on 10 August (KF).

Hummingbird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*

2013 was another poor year for this species on Dursey, with only four individuals being recorded. One was seen in Scott's garden in Tilickafinna on 27 and 29 July, and another individual was present there from 5 to 10 September (DS). There was one in Cooke's garden in Kilmichael on 25 September (DC), and one was seen in Scott's

garden on 7 October (KG).

Silver Y *Autographa gamma*

2013 was yet another poor year for this species on Dursey, with only one significant influx, in early June. The first of the year were at least 50 passing north through Scott's garden in Tilickafinna between 20:25 and 22:30 hrs on 6 June. Sixteen were found in Tilickafinna and at the west end on 7 June, and there were still 12 in this area on 9 June. Thereafter, no more than two were recorded in a day. The only record in July was of one on 13th. One or two were recorded on seven dates between 2 and 18 August and almost daily from 23 to 27 September. The only records in October were of one on 4th, two on 11th and one on 19th.

Light-trapping was carried out on two occasions in 2013: by Connor Finch and Kieran Finch in Ballynacallagh on the night of 9/10 August, and by Sean Burke and Mike O'Sullivan in Kilmichael and at The Waters on the night of 14/15 September. CF and KF trapped a total of 160 moths of 29 species, including six species new for the Dursey Island list: Northern Spinach *Eulithis 37opulate*, Scarce Footman *Eilema complana*, Lesser Yellow Underwing *Noctua comes*, Six-striped Rustic *Xestia sexstrigata*, Common Wainscot *Mythimna pattens* and Rosy Minor *Mesoligia literosa*. Details of the moths trapped by Sean Burke and Mike O'Sullivan are not yet available.

DRAGONFLIES

Unidentified darter *Sympetrum* sp.

One flying along the north cliffs near the west end on 11 October (KG).

Moorland Hawker *Aeshna junca*.

One was seen on Illanebeg on 10 August (KF). This was the first record of this species on Dursey Island.

Unidentified hawk *Aeshna* sp.

One passed through Scott's garden in Tilickafinna at 12:45 on 19 July, and presumably the same individual passed through Scott's garden at 13:05 on 20 July (DS). One was seen flying along the north cliffs near the west end on 11 October (KG).

Table 1: Seatrack sea-watches from Dursey Tip, July – November 2013

Date	21/07	07/09	05/10	19/10	02/11	03/11
Time	06:25-09:30	07:45-11:00	08:30-11:45	09:00-12:00	08:50-09:50	08:40-09:40
Wind	SE	N	SW	SW	NW	NW
Force	4	4	3	5	8-9	5

Observers	DS, JS	DS, JS	DS, JS	KF	CF, KF	KF
Great Northern Diver			1			
Northern Fulmar	+	+	15	+	+	+
Sooty Shearwater	1	130		2	4	4
Manx Shearwater	7,726	22		2	3	
Balearic Shearwater		1				
Storm petrel sp.					2	
Mallard			2			
Common Scoter		2				
Arctic Skua		3	1			
Great Skua	1	3	1	3		
Black-headed Gull		1				
Common Gull	1	2	1			
Kittiwake	14	100	22	64		48
Sandwich Tern		1	3			
Common Tern		3				
Arctic Tern		42				
'Commic' tern		91				
Razorbill/Guillemot	671	200	926	531		107