

# Citizen Science

Citizen Science at the National  
Biodiversity Data Centre



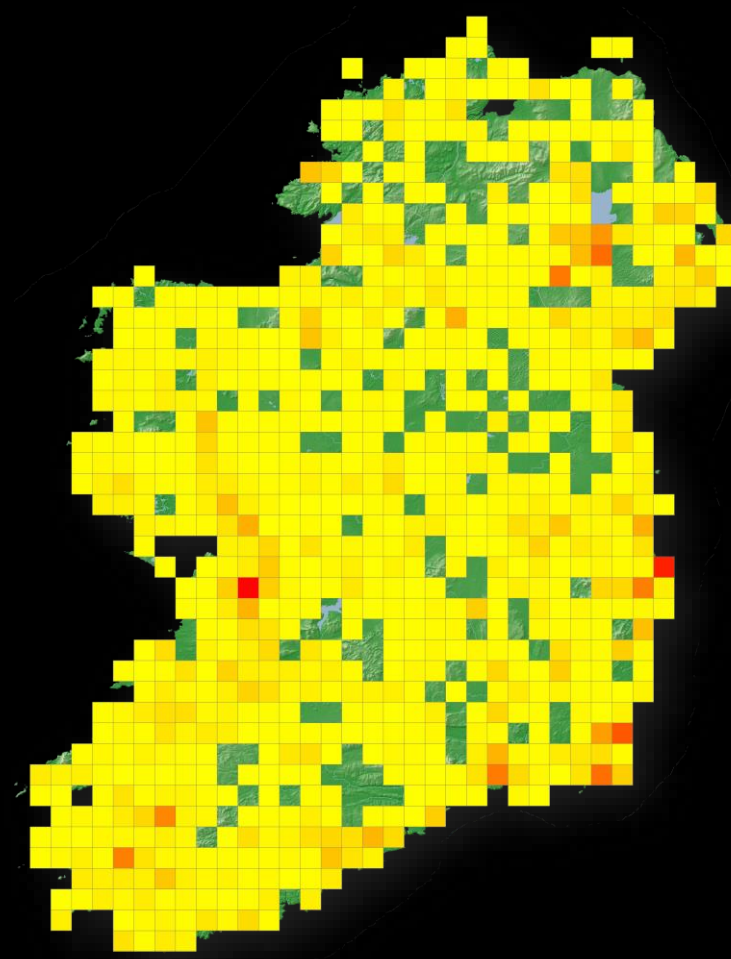
# What is Citizen Science?

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

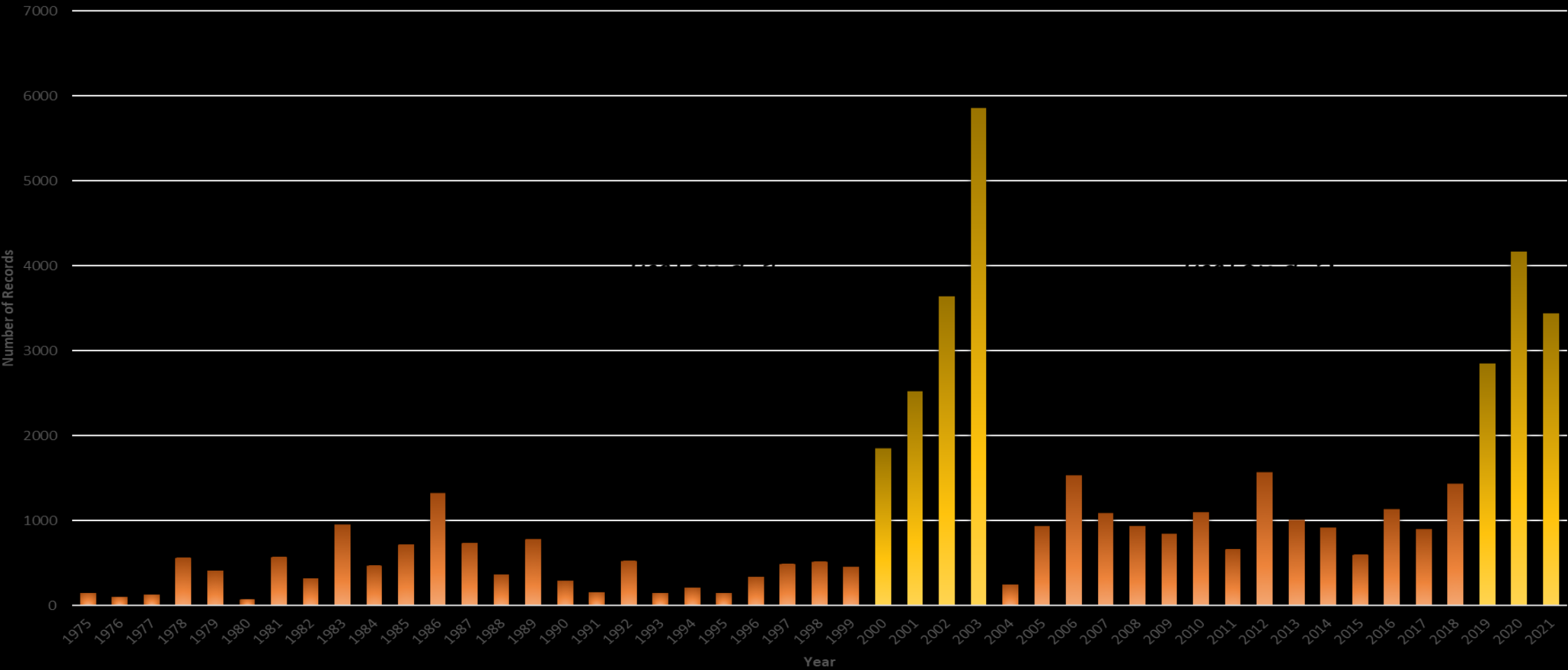


# Why Citizen Science?

- 
- 
- 



# Why Citizen Science?





**BiodiversityIreland.ie**

# The National Biodiversity Data C



The National Biodiversity Data Centre works to make biodiversity data and more freely available in order to better understand and assist the protection of biodiversity.



44849258

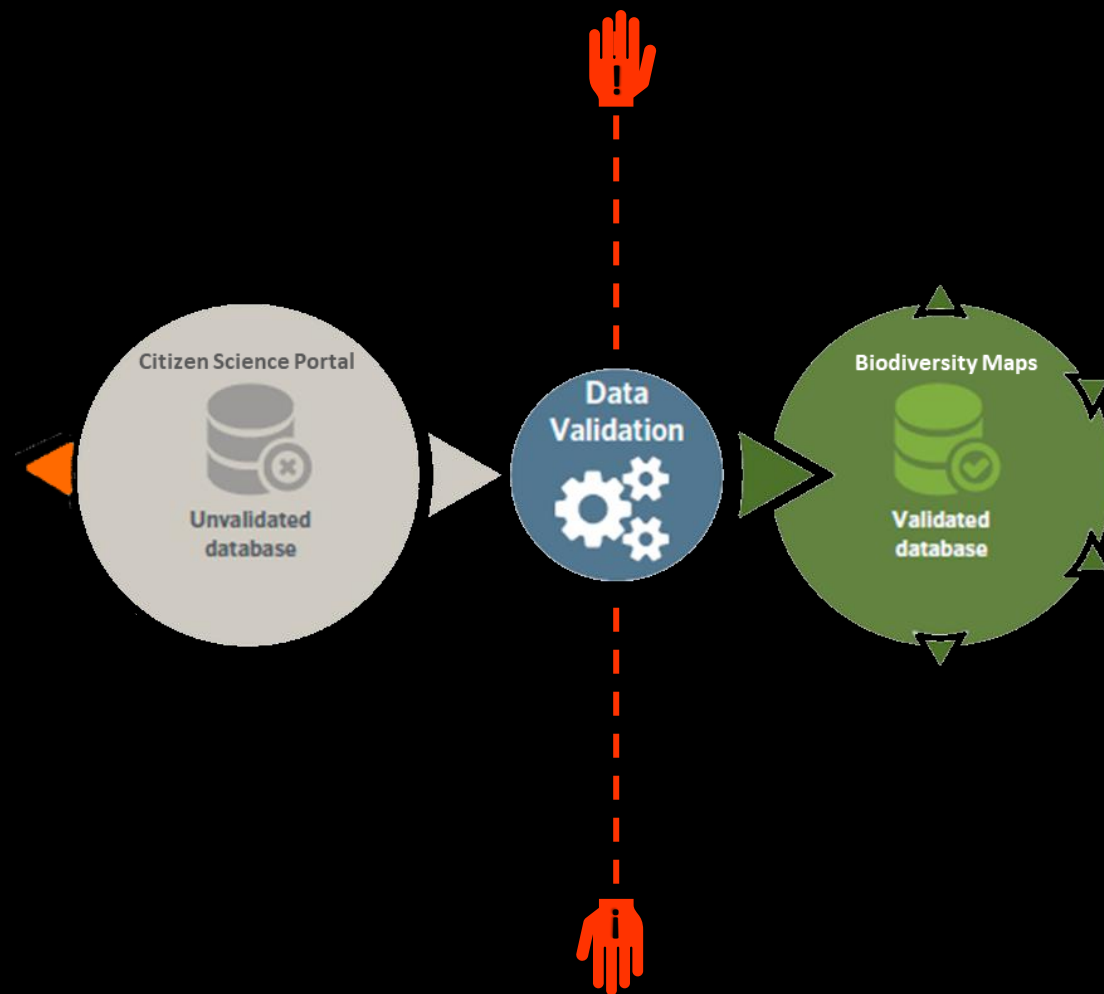
RECORDS



16868

SPECIES









Android App

iPhone App

Latest news



Home

Start Recording

Recorder League

County League

Species Stats

View My Records

Compare Years

Click here to start recording

GO

## Ireland's Citizen Science Portal

This Year

Records: 10,381

Species: 1,400

Record counts  
Species counts

### Total counts

Records: 673,903

Species: 10,160



## Recent records

**Ramalina farinacea**

2021-01-22

Bree

**Eurasian Badger (Meles meles)**

2020-08-15

Rathcoole

**Common Orange Lichen (Xanthoria parietina)**

2021-01-22

Whitechurch, Ballywalter

**Common Eider (Somateria mollissima)**

2021-01-22

Whitechurch, Ballywalter

**Maggie (Pica pica)**

2021-01-22

Whitechurch

**Grey Heron (Ardea cinerea)**

2021-01-22

Whitechurch, Ballywalter

**Curlew (Numenius arquata)**

2021-01-22

Whitechurch, Ballywalter

**Herring Gull (Larus argentatus)**

2021-01-22

Whitechurch, Ballywalter

**Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus)**

2021-01-22

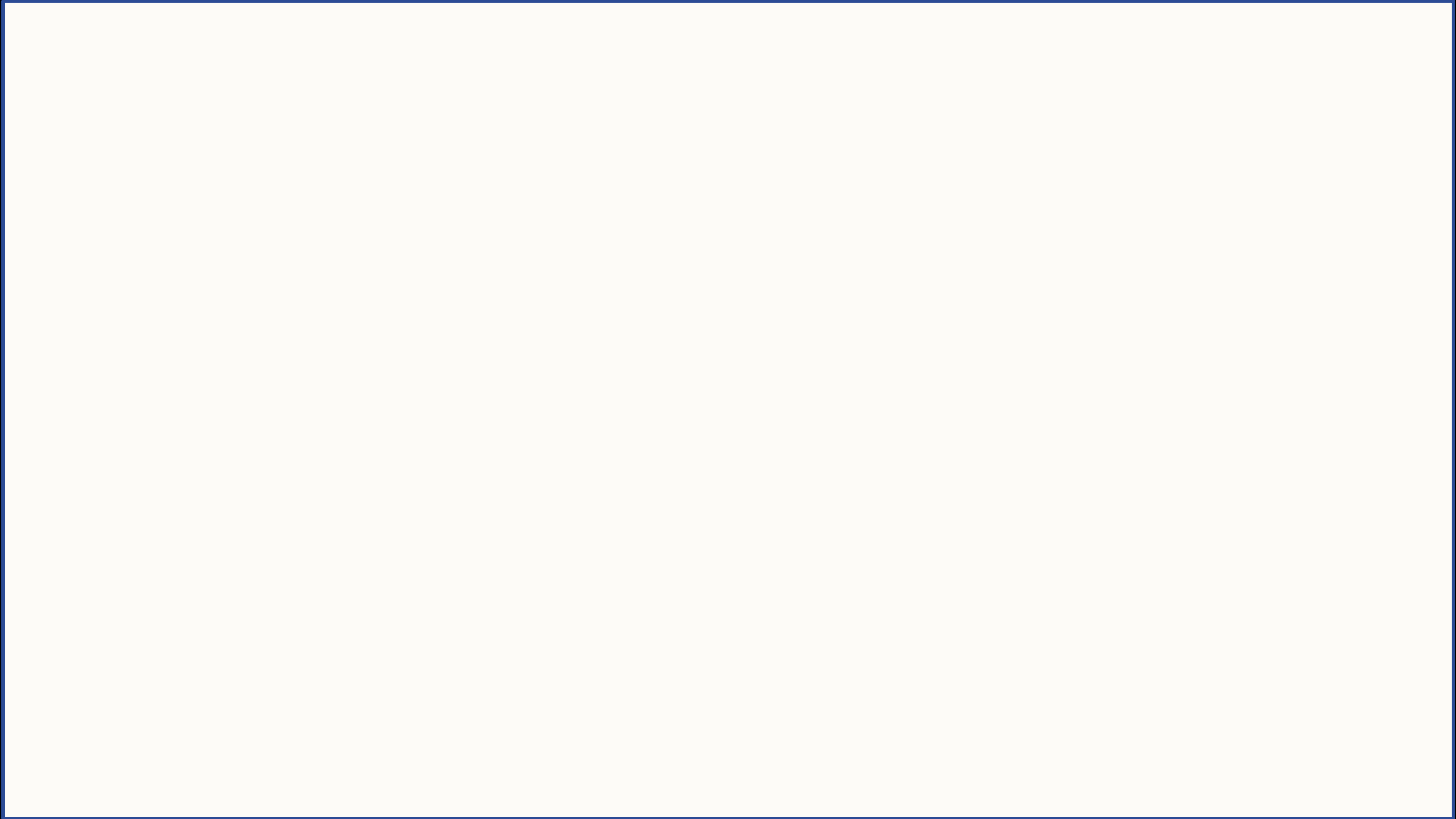
Whitechurch, Ballywalter

**Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)**

2021-01-22

Whitechurch, Ballywalter

**Pinnip (Charadrius)**







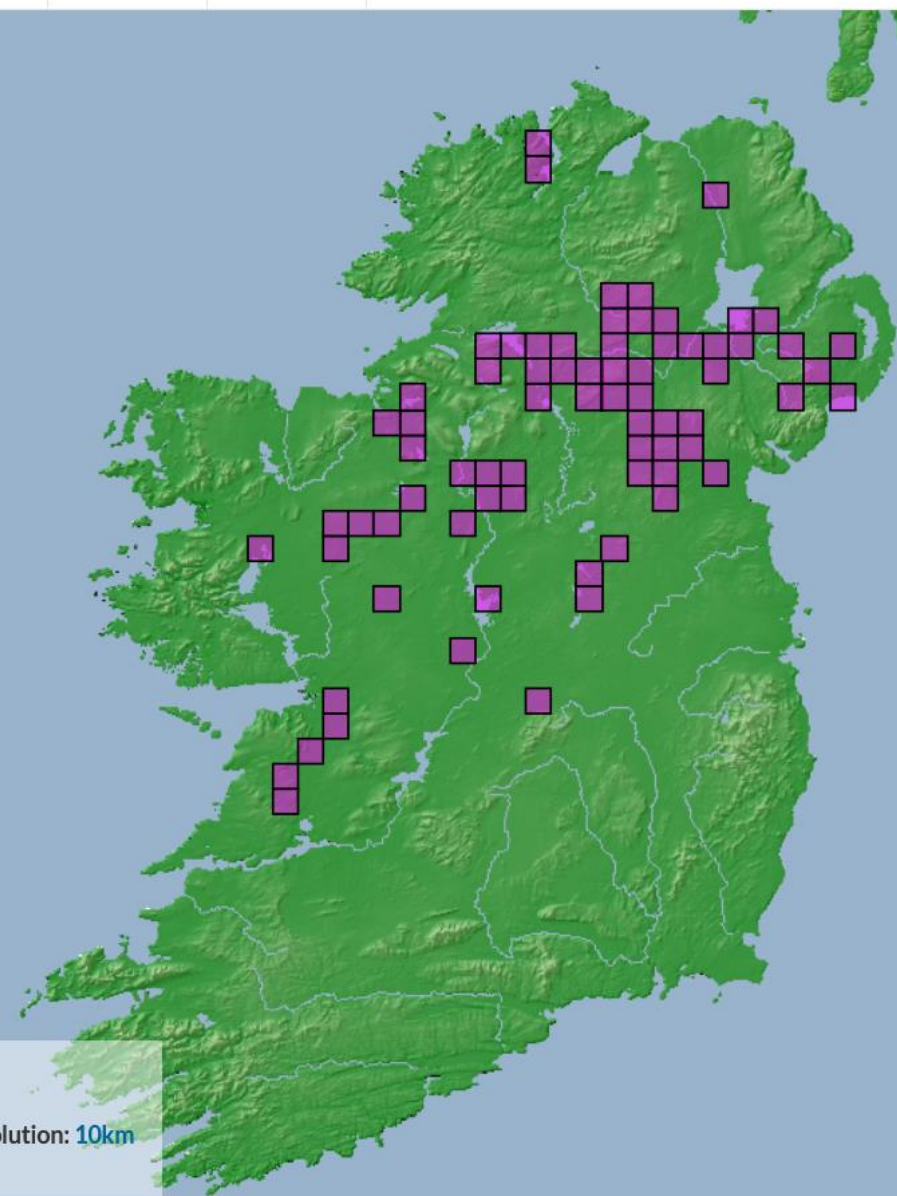


Layers

Active

Legend

Reports

 Add a new species☒ Irish Damselfly (*Coenagrion lunulatum*)    Irish Damselfly (*Coenagrion lunulatum*) Admin Boundaries National Grids Habitats Bat Landscapes Birdwatch Ireland☐ Forestry  Protected Areas Geology  
  
Scale: 1:2500000 - Resolution: 10km  
844740, 512205 Zoom toIrish Damselfly (*Coenagrion lunulatum*) - M438076 

Recorder	Jamie O'Neill
Determiner	
Taxon	Coenagrion lunulatum
Common Name	Irish Damselfly
Date	23/06/2021

Additional Attributes:

Abundance	<10
County	Galway
Life stage	Adult

Available Images:



Find address or place







National  
Biodiversity  
Data Centre  
A Heritage Council Programme

Join the Mailing List

SURVEYS > DRAGONFLIES

Dragonfly Ireland

Dragonfly Ireland 2019 – 2024

Dragonfly Ireland 2019 – 2024 is an all-Ireland Citizen Science survey of dragonflies and damselflies, and their habitats, coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in the Republic of Ireland and by the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording in Northern Ireland. The project is funded by The Environmental Protection Agency as part of a citizen science project examining the potential of aquatic species as bio-indicators of climate change and water quality. **We are looking for volunteers to take part in submitting casual records and conducting site surveys of water bodies and water courses.**

All data collected are available to view and explore on the National Biodiversity Data Centre's Biodiversity Maps system. All Dragonfly Ireland 2019 – 2024 data collected by the National Biodiversity Data Centre is available as Open Access data (CC-BY 4.0) via the Biodiversity



Emperor Dragonfly – Kevin Collins

Privacy & Cookies Policy



## Survey Outputs

- Validated records contributing to 2024 Atlas.
- Exploring value as bio-indicators of freshwater habitat quality & climate change.





## Survey Outputs

- Updated Red List of Irish Dragonflies and Damselflies
- Renewed network of trained and experienced recorders









Dragonfly  
**Ireland** 2019-2024  
*Spotter*

A stylized dragonfly logo with a green body and teal wings, positioned vertically between the words 'Ireland' and '2019-2024'.

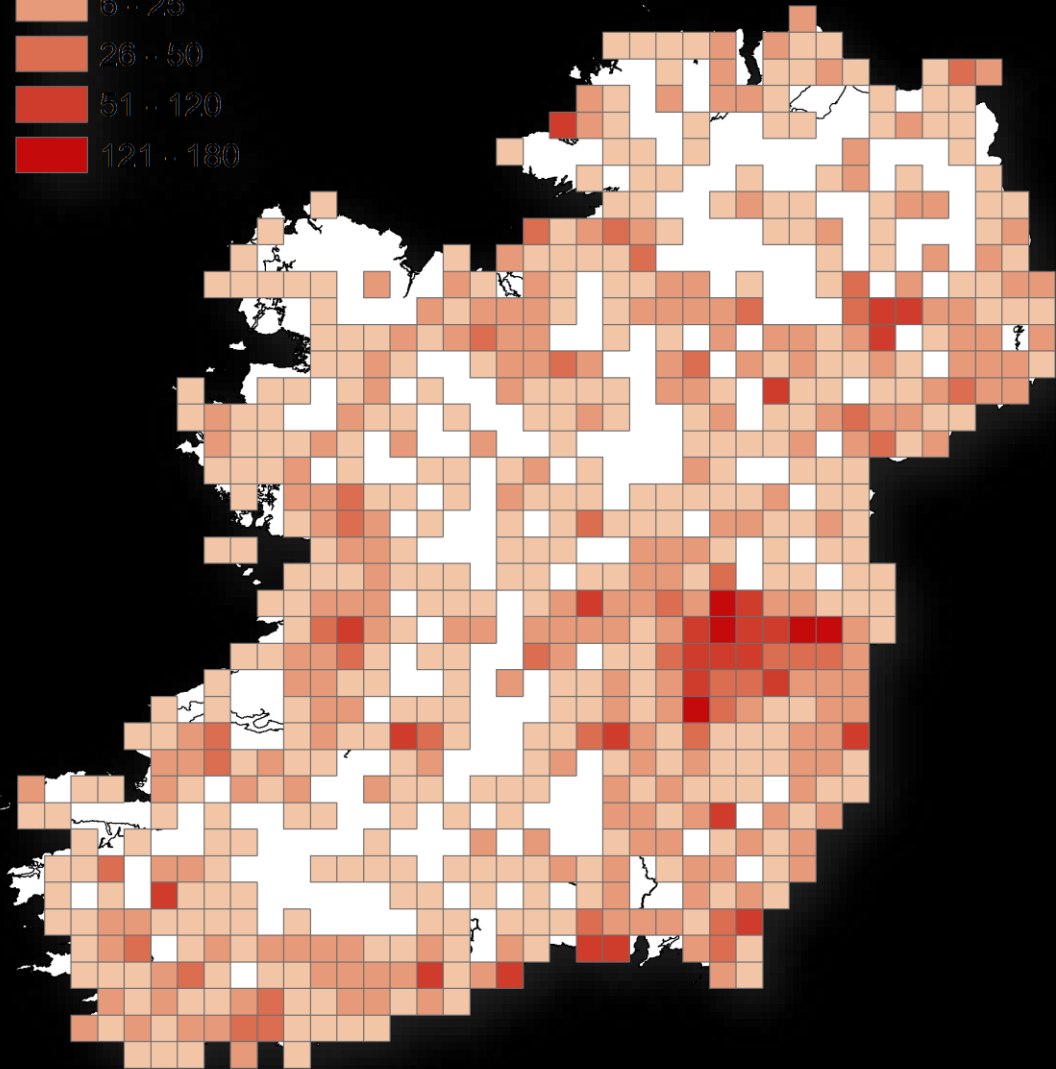
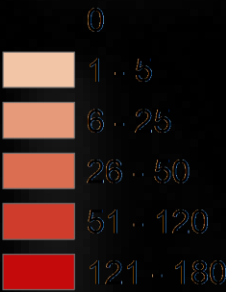
Dragonfly  
**Ireland** 2019-2024  
*Recorder*

A stylized dragonfly logo with a green body and teal wings, positioned vertically between the words 'Ireland' and '2019-2024'.

Dragonfly  
**Ireland** 2019-2024  
*Monitor*

A stylized dragonfly logo with a green body and teal wings, positioned vertically between the words 'Ireland' and '2019-2024'.

Records per 10 km sq





Explore Your Shore! Explore Your Shore Surveys Marine Biodiversity Surveys Data Events Resources Seashore Splash! May 2022

## Explore Your Shore!



### Become a Citizen Scientist!

Click here to access our **Free Online Course** in Marine Biodiversity Citizen Science



Submit a Marine Species Record

(CLICK HERE)

## Ireland's Marine Biodiversity Citizen Science Platform

Our shores are some of the richest habitats we have in terms of biodiversity. Despite this we have little information on the distribution of many, if not most, of our intertidal and coastal marine species. **YOU can help contribute to our knowledge of Ireland's marine wildlife** by getting involved in our marine biodiversity Citizen Science surveys and partner projects. Contribute at any level, from absolute beginner to expert identifier... explore the links below to get started!

### Explore Your Shore! Surveys



Seashore



Rocky Shore



Big Beach

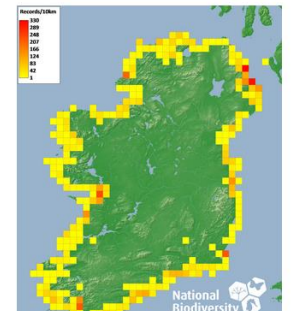


Seashore



An Ebbing

### Validated Records 2019 – 2021





# Project Goals

- Building a baseline dataset
- Explore marine species as bio-indicators of **climate change** and **water quality**.
- Public engagement and awareness.







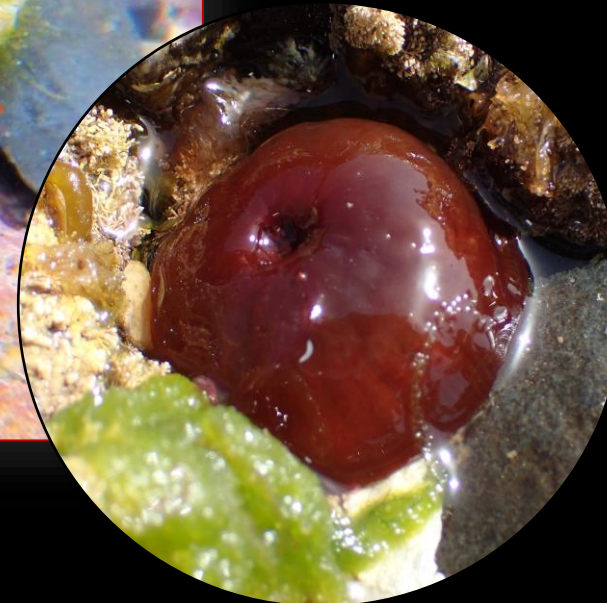


## Shifting Baselines...

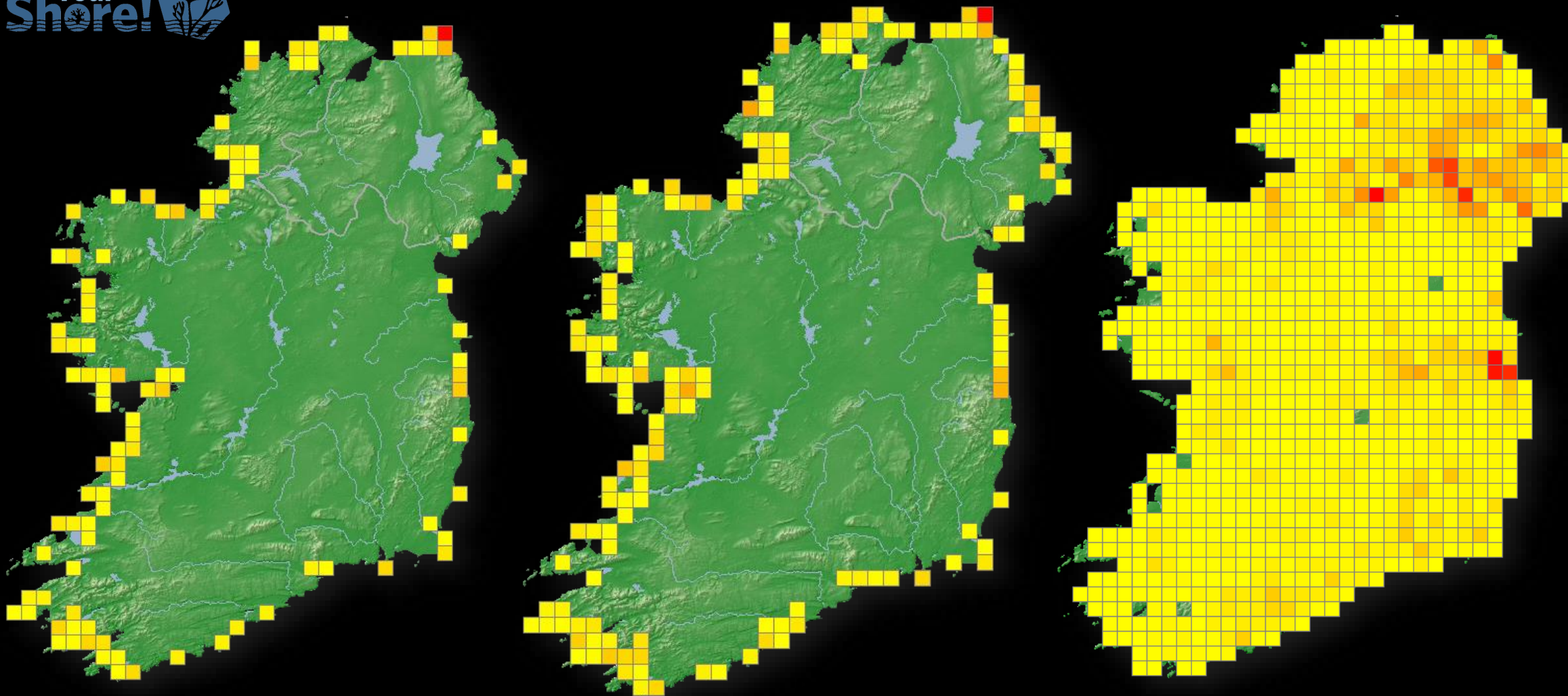


Whole  
Shore

# Anemones



# Beadlet Anemone







## Seashore Spotter

Record marine  
species - even  
mystery species!



## Rocky Shore Safari

Survey plants and  
animals on your  
local rocky shore



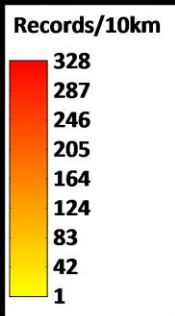
## Big Beach Biodiversity Survey

Survey the marine  
species on your  
local beach

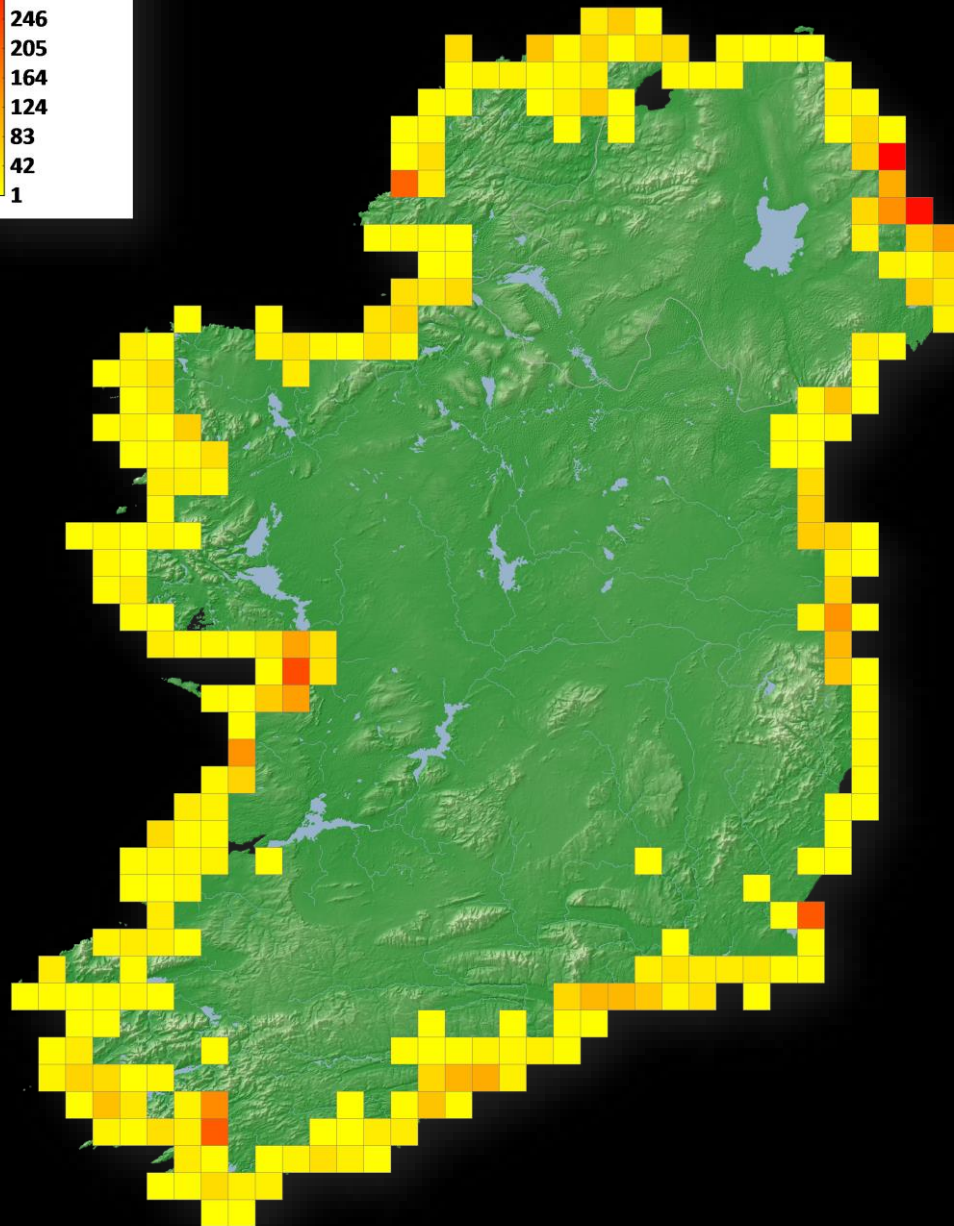


## Seashore Snapshots

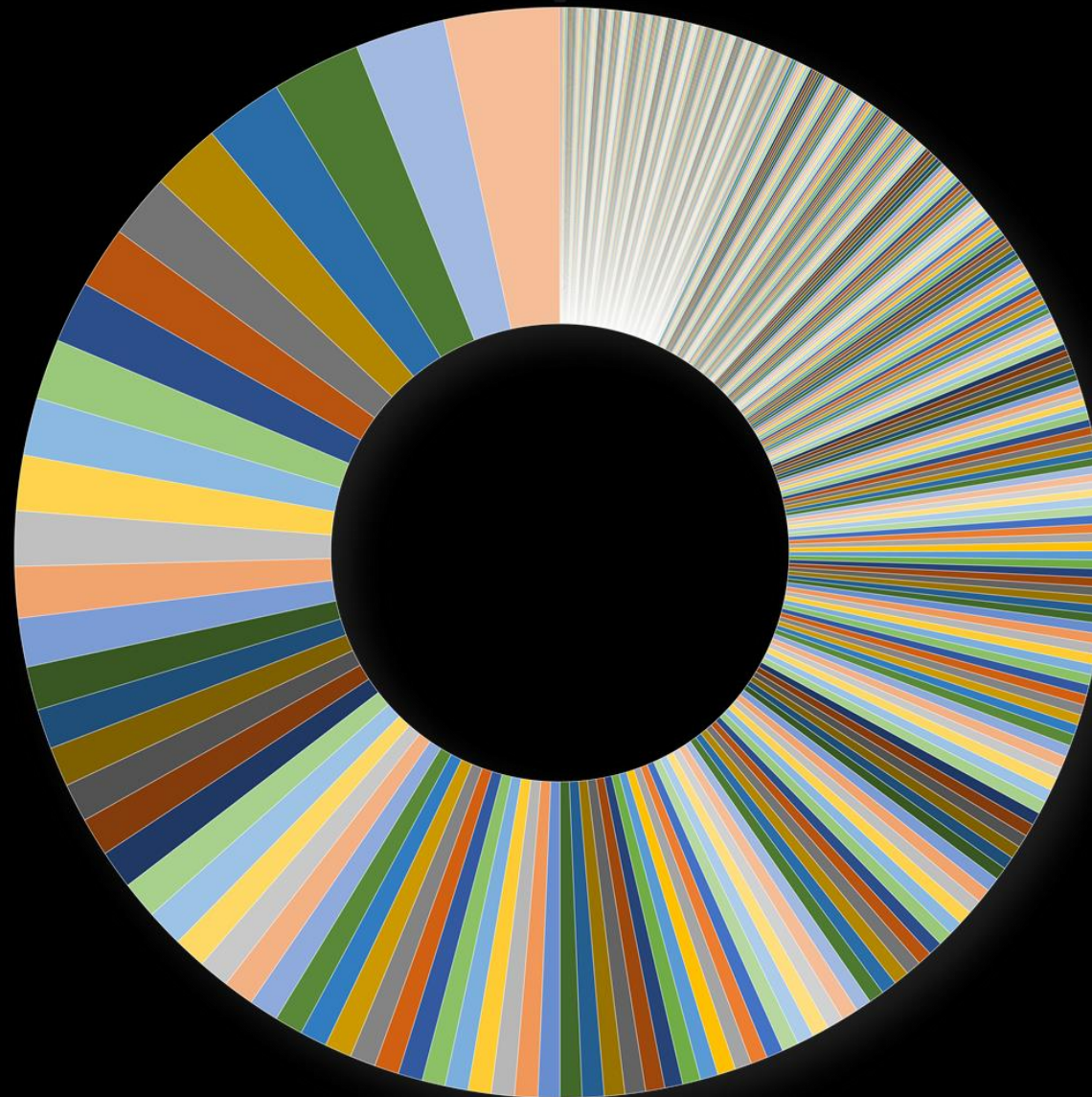
Do Citizen Science  
with just a camera  
or smartphone!



# Records 2019 - 2021







1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

# Irish Marine Biodiversity Citizen Science Projects



## Seasearch Ireland

Diving surveys of  
marine habitats



## Irish Whale and Dolphin Group

Record Sightings  
and Strandings



## Purse Search Ireland

Record Shark,  
Skate & Ray Eggs



## Coastwatch Europe

Do an eco-audit of  
your local shore



## Irish Basking Shark Group

Record basking  
sharks in Ireland



## The Big Jellyfish Hunt

Record Strandings  
& Sightings



## Irish Marine Turtle Records

Record Sightings &  
Strandings



## Irish Marine Recreational Angling Survey

Record Your Sea  
Angling Catches



## King Search

Survey for King  
Ragworm



## KelpRes

Submit records of  
Irish Kelp Beds





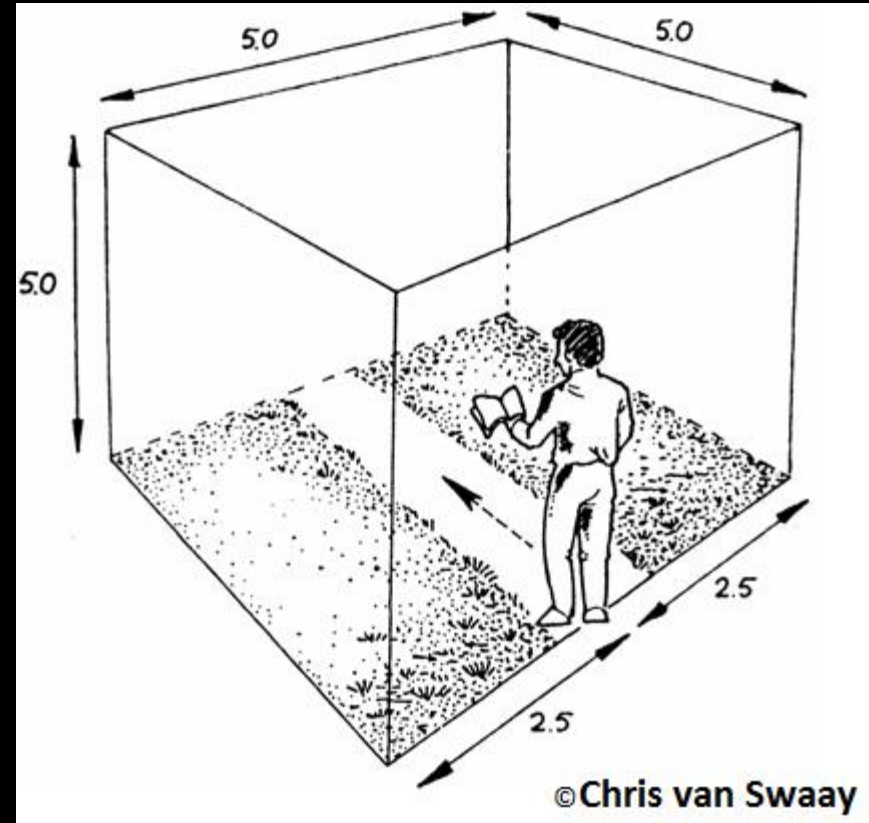
# Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme

## Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme

The Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme is delivered by a network of volunteer recorders who walk a fixed route (transect) on a weekly basis, from 1st April to 30th September each year, generating very detailed information on butterfly populations and flight periods, and how these are impacted upon by land use and climate change.

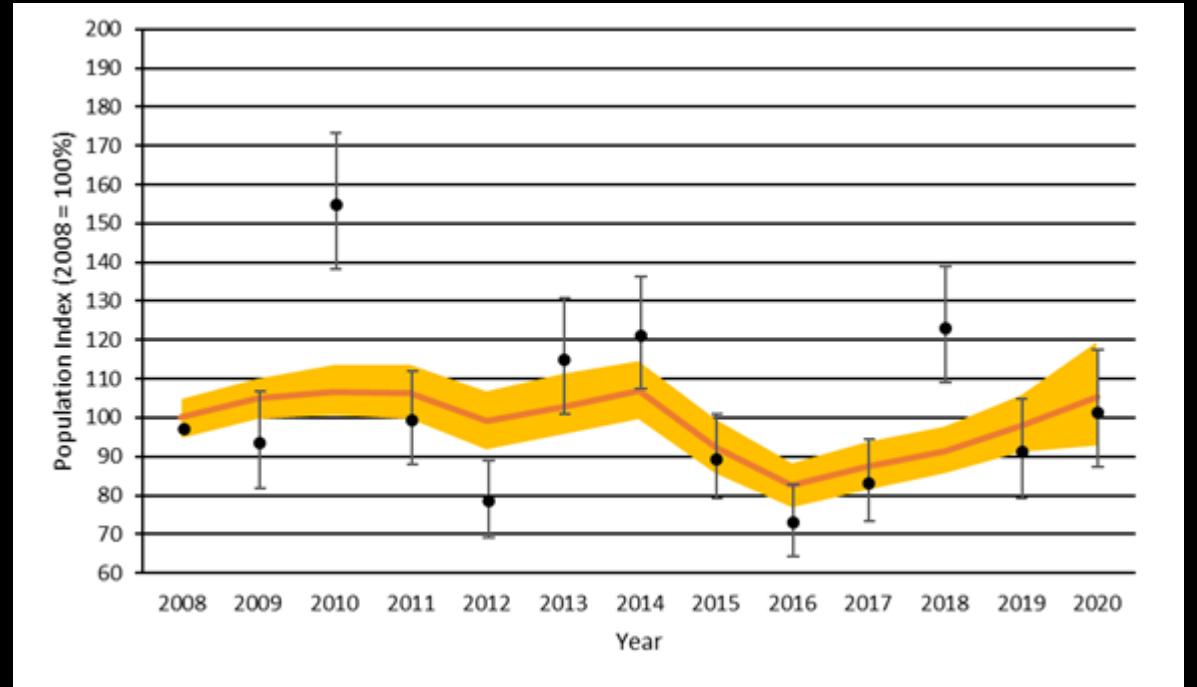
The Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, established by the Data Centre in 2008, is Ireland's longest running citizen science insect monitoring scheme. It tracks the population status of Ireland's widespread butterfly species based on a network of fixed routes (transects) established and walked by volunteer recorders. Each transect is walked on a weekly basis from 1st April to 31st September each year generating very detailed information on butterfly numbers and flight periods (phenology), and butterfly habitat requirements. The scheme is used to generate a multi-species population index, based around the counts of the most widespread species, as a measure of the health of Ireland's butterfly populations. The Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme is one of the monitoring schemes from 22 countries across Europe that contribute to the [European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme](#) from which pan-European trends in butterfly populations are generated.







# Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme







**All-Ireland  
Pollinator Plan**

[About](#)[Blog](#)[Mailing List](#)[Contact Us](#)



[Home](#)[Partners](#)[Record Pollinators](#)[Ideas Hub](#)[Newsletters](#)[Latest News](#)[Media](#)[Videos](#)[Resources](#)[World Bee Day](#)

## All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

One third of our bee species is threatened with extinction from Ireland. This is because we have drastically reduced the amount of food (flowers) and safe nesting sites in our landscapes. The **All-Ireland Pollinator Plan** is about all of us, from farmers to local authorities, to schools, gardeners and businesses, coming together to try to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive. The first Plan covered the period 2015-2020 and a new version has been developed for 2021-2025. To see what can be done by each sector, click on the appropriate link below.



**NEW:** All-Ireland  
Pollinator Plan 2021-2025



Progress: All-Ireland  
Pollinator Plan 2015-2020



Farmland



Don't Mow



Don't Mow



Don't Mow



Top ten actions for pollinators



Add your actions to our map



Flower-Insect Timed (FIT) Count



Pledge your garden for pollinators



**The Buzz**

**The Problem With Wildflower Seed Mixes**

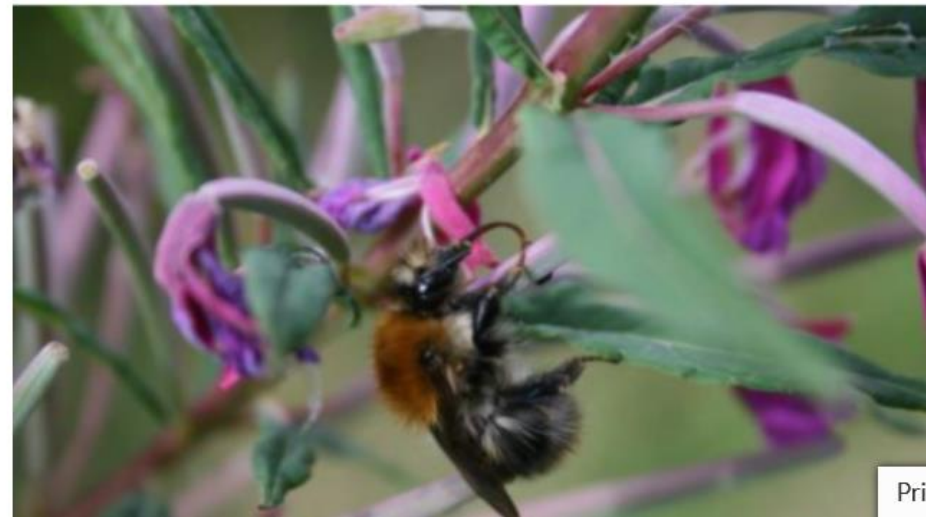
Find out why we don't recommend sowing wildflower seed mixes, and how they can do more harm than good to biodiversity.  
[Details](#)

SURVEYS > POLLINATORS

# Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme

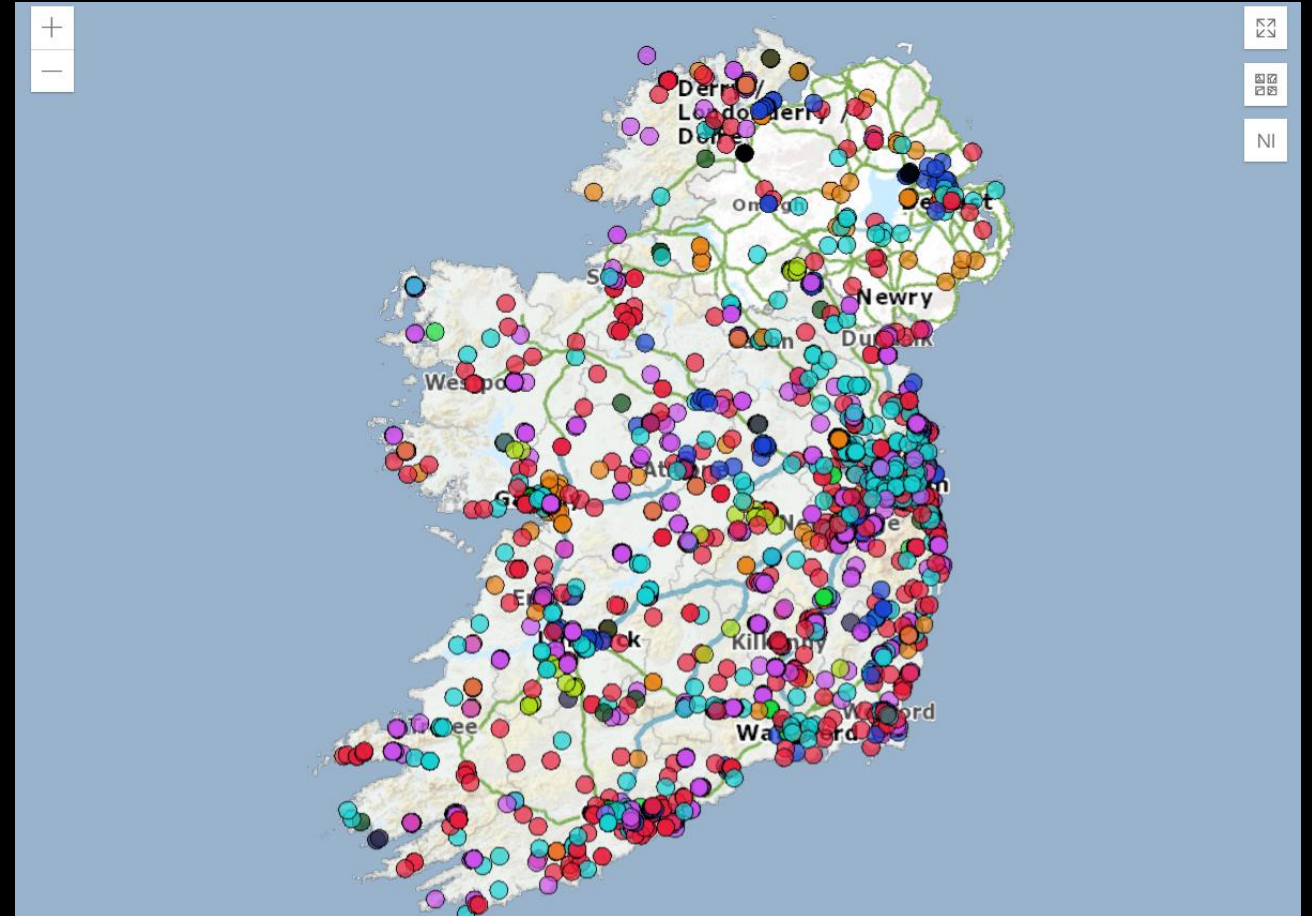
*The All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme monitors bumblebees on a monthly basis from March to October each year, generating detailed information on bumblebee populations and how they are changing.*

The All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme, established by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2012, is one of the first of its kind globally. It tracks Ireland's widespread bumblebee species and uses the status of the 8 commonest species to generate a multi-species population index as a measure of the health of Ireland's bumblebee populations. It provides vital baseline data that will be used to assess the impact of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.



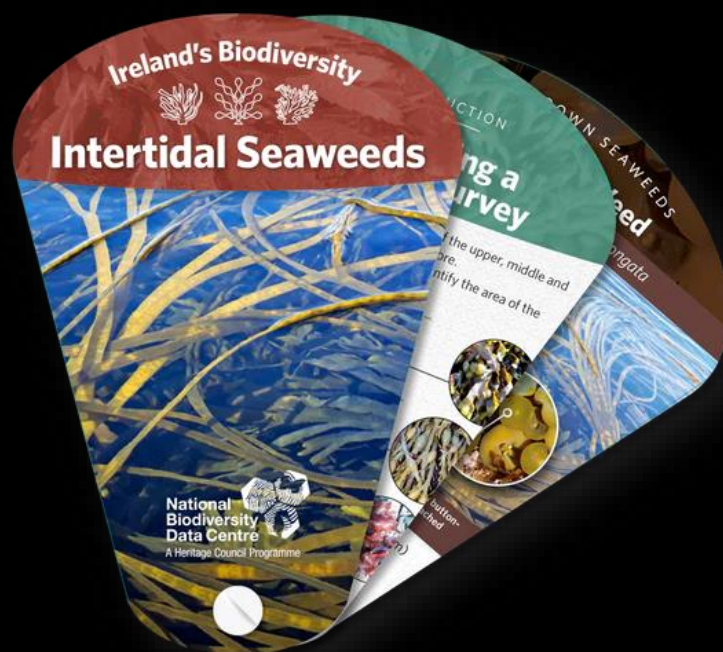


## All-Ireland Pollinator Plan





# Swatches





**Bumblebees of Ireland**

Bumblebees are vital pollinators and a key component of Ireland's biodiversity. There are 21 different species.

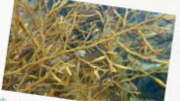
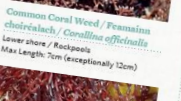
The National Biodiversity Data Centre is mapping their distribution and tracking how populations are changing. Help by recording your sightings at: [records.biodiversityireland.ie](http://records.biodiversityireland.ie)

[www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)

- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus lucorum* (White-tailed bumblebee)

## IRISH SEAWEEDS

There are over 570 seaweed species recorded from Irish waters. In this poster we present some of our more common and readily identified intertidal seaweed species. Our Rocky Shore Safari survey is looking for volunteers like you to spend a fun and enjoyable 60 minutes on your local shore recording seaweeds and intertidal animals. Please visit [ExploreYourShore.ie](http://ExploreYourShore.ie) to take part.





# The National Biodiversity Data C

d.ie



The National Biodiversity Data Centre works to make biodiversity data and more freely available in order to better understand and assist the protection of biodiversity.



44849258

RECORDS



16868

SPECIES







# The role and value of Citizen Science

Damian McFerran, Records Centre Manager.





# CEDaR

Centre for Environmental  
Data and Recording

Recording Northern Ireland's  
Biodiversity



Activities of the Centre include:

- Information Requests
- Online Recording
- Training Courses
- Recording Schemes
- BioBlitz Support
- Publications
- Bat Enquiries
- Project Support
- Collecting Evidence
- Feeding into Analysis



[www.nmni.com/CEDaR](http://www.nmni.com/CEDaR)



**NIEA**

Northern Ireland  
Environment  
Agency

National  
Museums  
Northern  
Ireland  
explore/engage/enjoy



## CEDaR

Centre for Environmental  
Data and Recording

Recording Northern Ireland's  
Biodiversity



## CEDaR

Centre for Environmental  
Data and Recording

Have you seen  
this bird?

Ulster  
Wildlife



YFC

# Recording Northern Ireland's Wildlife

The Story of CEDaR  
(1995–2015)







# EXPLORING NORTHERN IRELAND'S WILDLIFE AND PLACES

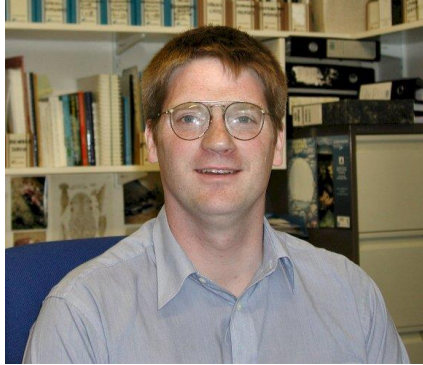
Devil's-bit Scabious  
*Succisa pratensis*

[northernireland.nbnatlas.org](http://northernireland.nbnatlas.org)



© Lorna Somerville









# The Future

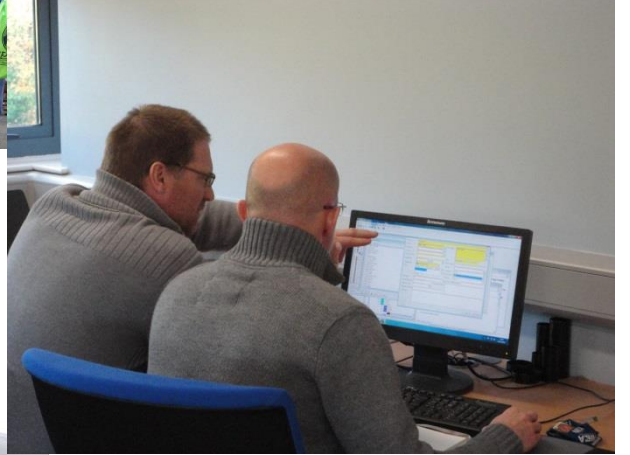
In the future, CEDaR will:

- continue to support the individuals and organisations that constitute the Environmental Recorders' Group (ERG)
- continue to encourage the development of Citizen Science projects and ensure that the opportunity to assist with these is available to a wide audience
- continue to address work areas identified by the *Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy* and assist the work of partner individuals and organisations
- continue and develop the survey and monitoring of priority species and habitats and assist the flow of information on invasive species
- continue and develop the programme of training courses to encourage biological recording skills and nurture the development of the next generation of recorders
- continue and develop the partnership with the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) and explore all opportunities to develop further the suite of websites available through *Habitas*
- continue and develop the flow of information to the NBN Gateway, investigating the application of new technologies to further encourage and facilitate the collection and release of information.

Getting started, studying butterflies and moths in the field © Robert Thompson











# Recording Wildlife Information

The recording of wildlife information (biological records) by CEDaR is required as part of the *Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy*, to inform both policy and decision-making.

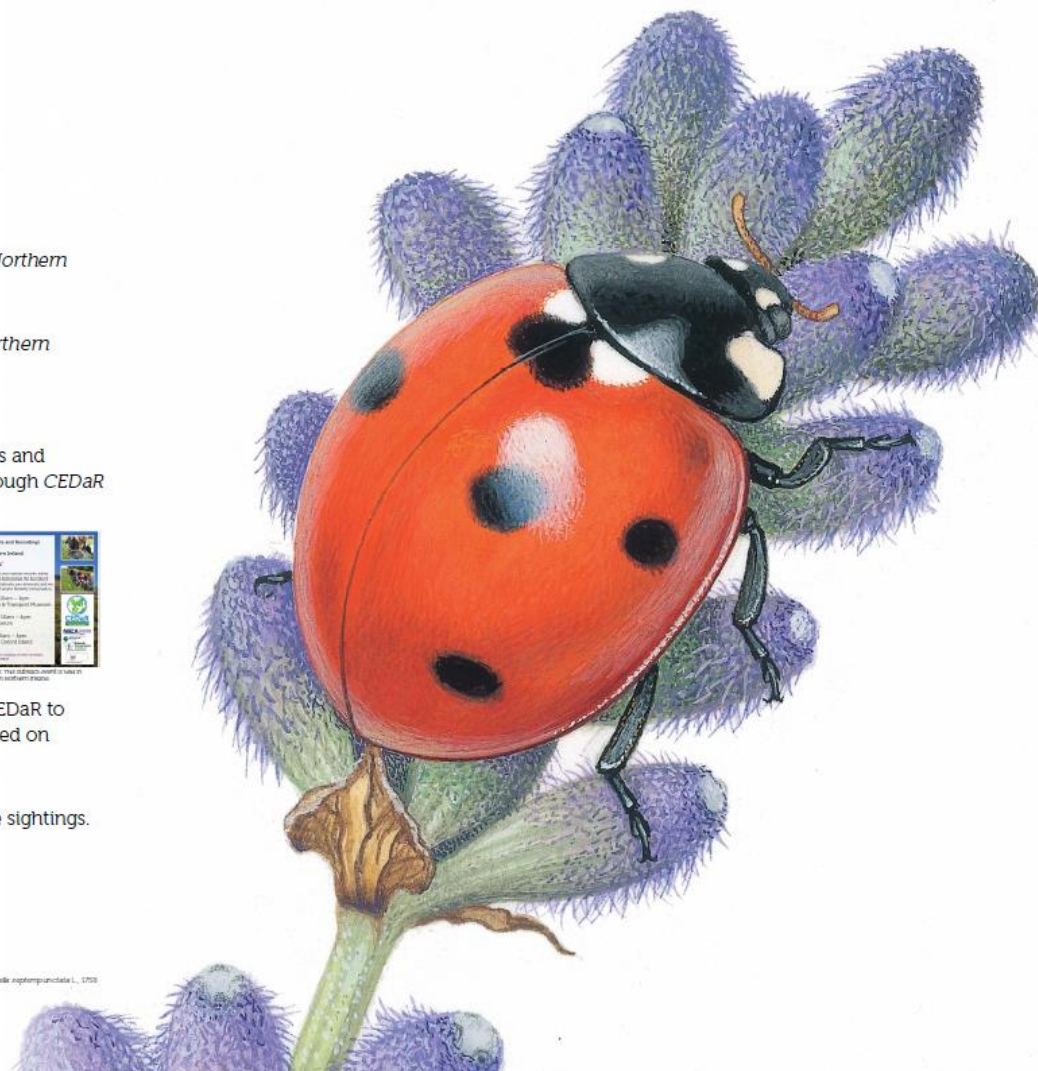
In the early years of CEDaR, the creation of a database known as *Inventory of Datasets for Northern Ireland* allowed staff to document the location of biological records and begin the collation of information.

Information is currently received in a variety of formats, such as paper records, recording cards and database or Excel files. In recent years, there has been an increase in information received through *CEDaR Online Recording*.

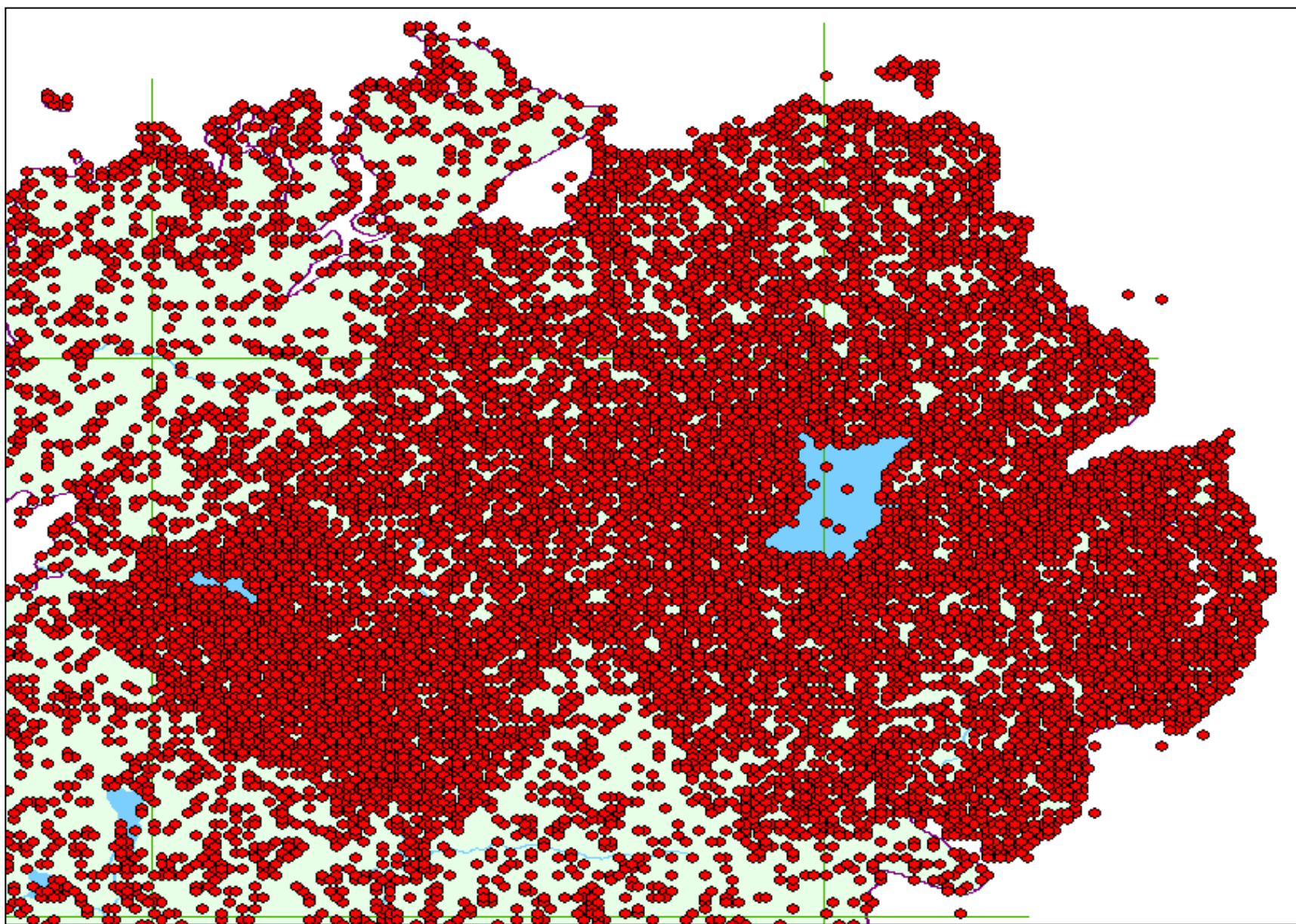


Wildlife information is collated using a number of databases. These databases have allowed CEDaR to store millions of records about our natural history. Terrestrial and freshwater records are collated on *Recorder 6*, and marine and earth science data on *Marine Recorder* and *GD2*.

There is also a network of expert verifiers who assist with the identification of difficult and rare sightings.



The Seven-spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata* L., 1758  
© Richard Lewington





# Partnerships





# What is a biological record?

A biological record is built up of the following key components:

- **Species name**
- **Location** where the species was observed
- **Grid Reference** of the location
- **Date** of the sighting
- **Recorder** of the species

Recorders are encouraged to supply the maximum amount of additional information relating to their sighting, such as the location's habitat, number of individuals and whether the species was observed directly or from a track or sign.

## Why are biological records collected and collated by CEDaR?

Recording the wildlife of Northern Ireland is important as it helps with the monitoring of species and habitats. Biological records allow the impacts of environmental change to be understood and are crucial for the formation of government policy and legislation.

## Submitting your records

You can send your biological records to CEDaR in a variety of formats, including spread-sheets, recording cards, database files or via *CEDaR Online Recording*.

There is a network of local experts who will verify your records and decide if any rare or uncommon sightings are correct.

Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) © Anthony McCann







# Environmental Recorders' Group

The establishment of the Environmental Recorders' Group (ERG) has been crucial to the development of CEDaR.

ERG was established as a forum for individuals and organisations interested in wildlife recording. The setting-up of ERG has encouraged the flow of data to CEDaR and the dissemination of information for a variety of purposes.



The group meets twice a year to share ideas and expertise. Membership is free and any statutory or voluntary organisation, local society or individual interested in biological recording can join.

An ERG grant scheme (ERG Fund) has been set up to encourage biological and geological recording in Northern Ireland. Funding priority is given to projects which support the objectives of the *Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy*.

A registered member is eligible to apply for one grant from the ERG Fund per year. Since 1995, numerous local projects have been funded, from reports and books to recording equipment and species surveys.

Some of Northern Ireland's active lepidopterists (those who study butterflies and moths). Pielands Park, County Antrim, July 2006 © Robert Thompson







# Training, Facebook and CEDaR News

## Training

CEDaR has traditionally assisted with the training of biological recorders for numerous projects, such as *Look out for Mammals* and the dragonfly, lichen and orchid surveys.

Since 2012, CEDaR has organised an annual programme of training courses. These have addressed under-recording in a number of species groups and encouraged the submission of records. The tutors for these courses have been local, national or international experts.

## Facebook and CEDaR News

CEDaR has used a variety of media to highlight its activities, such as television and radio interviews, newspaper articles and peer reviewed papers.

In recent years, the *Habitas* websites and social media have enabled CEDaR to advertise its activities more widely and to generate feedback and comments on current initiatives.

Facebook and CEDaR News are now used to reach a growing number of partner individuals and organisations. These are also used to highlight a number of Citizen Science (recording) projects and outreach events.



Participants on the wetland morning course at Carrigrohane, County Kerry, July 2012





## CEDaR Training Courses 2019



| Course topic      | Delivered by      | Date             | Location                      |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Craneflies        | Pete Boardman     | Sat 4 May        | Lough Neagh Discovery Centre  |
| Bat Ecology       | Karen Healy       | Sat 11 May       | Roe Valley Country Park       |
| Aquatic Plants    | Robert Northridge | Sat 1 June       | Crom Estate                   |
| Rocky Shores      | Julia Sigwort     | Mon 10 June      | QUB Marine Lab, Portaferry    |
| Moth Dissection   | Ken Bond          | Mon 17 June      | Ulster Museum                 |
| Fen Species       | NIEA HST          | Wed 19 June      | Lough Neagh Discovery Centre  |
| Seaweeds          | DAERA Plant Team  | Fri 28 June      | Portrush Coastal Zone         |
| Garden Hoverflies | Ryan Mitchell     | Fri 5 July       | Lagan Classroom, UFTM, Cultra |
| Lake Habitats     | Tony Waterman     | Fri 2 August     | Blessingbourne Estate         |
| Invasive Species  | NIEA NNIS Team    | Wed 21 August    | Cultra Manor, UFTM            |
| Slugs and Snails  | Roy Anderson      | Sat 14 September | Crom Estate                   |
| Woodlice          | Roy Anderson      | Sat 19 October   | Crawfordsburn Country Park    |
| Grassland Fungi   | Mark Wright       | Thur 24 October  | Magilligan Field Centre       |

CEDaR Training courses are open to all and booking is essential  
For more information and to book your place please see [www.nmni.com/Whats-on](http://www.nmni.com/Whats-on)





## The Web

Since the development of the *Flora of Northern Ireland* website in 2000, a suite of CEDaR websites have been developed through *Habitas*.

Most websites focus on species groups, such as dragonflies, moths and ladybirds. In each, expert-written text features alongside distribution maps and species images. The success of recording projects, such as *DragonflyIreland*, also demonstrates the value that content-rich websites can have in nurturing the development of wildlife identification skills.



Recently, *CEDaR Online Recording* has allowed recorders to submit records via the Internet. In this system, the adding of photographs and the pinpointing of the exact location of the record using online mapping, is invaluable to our expert verifiers.

Through the web, CEDaR is providing an opportunity for people to access the information they need in order to enhance their knowledge and enjoyment of the natural world.



www.cedar.org.uk

www.habitas.org.uk

CEDaR on Facebook

Greater Butterfly orchid (Platanthera chlorantha) (Carter) Scholz © Robert Thompson





# Habitas

Plant life/Animal life/Minerals, Rocks & Fossils

Ulster  
Museum

## Plant life

### Wild plants



The Flora of Northern Ireland

The new *County Armagh scarce, Rare and Extinct Vascular Plant Register* has been published!

Orchids of Ireland

European Orchids

### Garden plants



Garden Flora of Northern Ireland

### Lichens



## Animal life

### Insects and invertebrates



DragonflyIreland

Ground Beetles of Ireland

Butterflies and Moths of Northern Ireland

Ladybirds of Ireland

Invertebrate Ireland

MolluscIreland

### Marine life



Encyclopedia of Marine Life of Britain & Ireland

Sponges of Britain and Ireland

Catalogue of the Irish and British Marine Mollusca in the collections of the National Museum of Ireland - Natural History

### Mammals, Amphibians & Reptiles

## CEDaR

Centre for Environmental Data and Recording



CEDaR - Centre for Environmental Data and Recording

**Submit Records Online**

Information Service

CEDaR News

Training and Events

Surveys

BioBlitz

Recording

Recorder 6

Bat enquiries

Environmental Recorders' Group

Publications

Aim & objectives

Contact us

Find us on Facebook 

## Literature

Irish Natural History Literature OnLine

# Flora of Northern Ireland



NIEA  
Northern Ireland  
Environment  
Agency  
Working with Naturalists  
Environment  
explains/engage/entry

© National Museums Northern Ireland, 2010

Contact us Copyright Policy

## Northern Ireland Priority Species

**Carabus clatratus - Carabus clatratus**

**Distribution map**

Click here to view an interactive map of the Northern Ireland dataset as currently collected by CEDaR.  
The map is generated through the NIN Gateway using their Interactive Mapping Tool.

**Carabus clatratus** (Linnaeus, 1758)  
Family: Carabidae

**Description:** Carabus clatratus belongs to a genus of ground beetles (Carabidae) which contains many of the larger and most attractive of Irish and European beetles. The ground beetles or Carabidae in Ireland comprise 111 species of which most are small and seldom seen with the common genus *Pterostichus* comprising the remainder, but not very exciting, 'black chucks' which may enter houses at certain times of year.

**Carabus clatratus** has only seven species in Ireland and all are large, about the length of the first finger joint or longer, and with strongly pronounced elytra and a strong metallic lustre. They are powerful predators feeding mainly on earthworms and small invertebrates but will consume anything of the right size which crosses their path. One or two species like *Carabus* are recorded, which *C. clatratus* can be found occasionally in gardens, but the majority inhabit upland moor or blanket bog. The larval stage of *Carabus* in these places will be a nocturnal larva, emerging from the soil to prey on insects in the evening.

**Carabus clatratus** (Figure 1) is one of the rarer species and is in decline all over western Europe. In general, the distribution, numbers, and range are, increasingly being driven for agriculture or moorland for horticultural uses.

**In brief**

A formerly widespread in Northern Ireland, but now almost confined to bogs or moorland.

# LichenIreland

Home What are lichens? The Project Recording References Glossary Links Species List

Lichens are amongst the most commonplace, yet bizarre, creatures you are likely to come across. The patchworks of colour you see on many weathered rocks and churchyard headstones, the 'fuffy' or 'stringy' growths adorning many tree trunks and branches, and the swaths of 'reindeer moss' spreading across bogs and sand dunes, all are various types of lichen.

Lichens are a uniquely successful partnership between two or three different organisms (a fungus in partnership with an alga and/or a cyanobacterium - blue/green alga). This partnership has allowed them to colonise habitats too hostile for almost any other organism.

© National Museums Northern Ireland, 2010

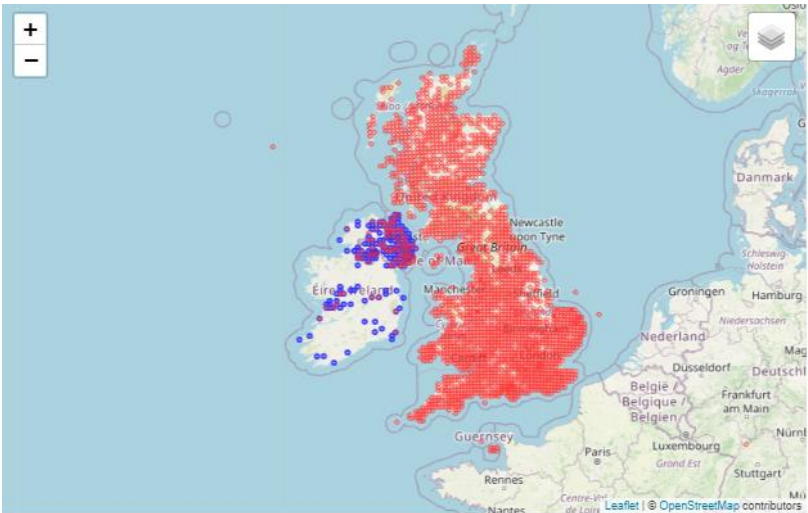
Contact us Copyright Policy

Verification

This is the current version of the verification page. A full guide to its use is available on the [verifiers' resources](#) page.

Search: Context: Dragonflies; Ireland; McFerran, Damian Status: Accepted Photos: -no filter-

| ID       | Src    | Species                         | Common name           | Location        | Map ref. | VC no. | Date       | Recorder          | Determiner | Media | Checks | Last updated     |
|----------|--------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|--------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------|--------|------------------|
| 25711831 | 29/126 | <i>Pyrhosoma nymphula</i>       | Large Red Damselfly   | Corbally Fen    | J452385  | H38    | 07/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👍      | 16/06/2022 11:52 |
| 25711830 | 29/126 | <i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i> | Four-spotted Chaser   | Corbally Fen    | J452385  | H38    | 07/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👎 🌐    | 16/06/2022 11:52 |
| 25711829 | 29/126 | <i>Ischnura elegans</i>         | Blue-tailed Damselfly | Corbally Fen    | J452385  | H38    | 07/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👍      | 16/06/2022 11:52 |
| 25711828 | 29/126 | <i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>    | Variable Damselfly    | Corbally Fen    | J452385  | H38    | 07/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👎 🌐    | 16/06/2022 11:57 |
| 25711827 | 29/126 | <i>Coenagrion puella</i>        | Azure Damselfly       | Corbally Fen    | J452385  | H38    | 07/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👎 🌐    | 16/06/2022 11:57 |
| 25711826 | 29/126 | <i>Coenagrion lunulatum</i>     | Irish Damselfly       | Corbally Fen    | J452385  | H38    | 07/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👎 🌐    | 16/06/2022 12:12 |
| 25711690 | 29/126 | <i>Pyrhosoma nymphula</i>       | Large Red Damselfly   | Cullentra Lough | H475474  | H36    | 05/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👍      | 16/06/2022 11:53 |
| 25711689 | 29/126 | <i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i> | Four-spotted Chaser   | Cullentra Lough | H475474  | H36    | 05/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👎 🌐    | 16/06/2022 11:53 |
| 25711688 | 29/126 | <i>Ischnura elegans</i>         | Blue-tailed Damselfly | Cullentra Lough | H475474  | H36    | 05/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👎 🌐    | 16/06/2022 11:53 |
| 25711687 | 29/126 | <i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>    | Common Blue Damselfly | Cullentra Lough | H475474  | H36    | 05/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👎 🌐    | 16/06/2022 11:53 |
| 25711686 | 29/126 | <i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>    | Variable Damselfly    | Cullentra Lough | H475474  | H36    | 05/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👎 🌐    | 16/06/2022 12:07 |
| 25711684 | 29/126 | <i>Coenagrion puella</i>        | Azure Damselfly       | Cullentra Lough | H475474  | H36    | 05/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👎 🌐    | 16/06/2022 12:08 |
| 25711586 | 29/126 | <i>Pyrhosoma nymphula</i>       | Large Red Damselfly   | Round Lough     | H443483  | H36    | 05/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👍      | 16/06/2022 11:53 |
| 25711585 | 29/126 | <i>Ischnura elegans</i>         | Blue-tailed Damselfly | Round Lough     | H443483  | H36    | 05/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👎 🌐    | 16/06/2022 11:53 |
| 25711584 | 29/126 | <i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>    | Common Blue Damselfly | Round Lough     | H443483  | H36    | 05/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👎 🌐    | 16/06/2022 11:53 |
| 25711583 | 29/126 | <i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>    | Variable Damselfly    | Round Lough     | H443483  | H36    | 05/06/2022 | McFarlane, Claire |            |       | 👎 🌐    | 16/06/2022 12:13 |



Actions:

Details

Comments

Recorder experience

ID|status|checks

25711831 | |

Accepted name (as entered)

*Pyrhosoma nymphula* (Sulzer, 1776)

Common name

Large Red Damselfly

Location

Corbally Fen

Vice County

Down

Grid ref

J452385

Date seen

07/06/2022

Recorder

McFarlane, Claire

Determiner

-

Dataset

CEDaR Recording :: Dragonflies

Sample comment

-

Occurrence comment

-

Additional occurrence attributes

Submitted on

10/06/2022 15:51

Last updated on

16/06/2022 11:52

Certainty

Certain

Abundance

10

Additional sample attributes

CMS Username

Claire McFarlane

Recorder attributes





# BioBlitzes

In partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre in Waterford, CEDaR has assisted with the annual *BioBlitzIreland* competition.

The aim of this event is to record as many species as possible from particular sites over 24 hours. The site where the greatest number of species is recorded becomes *BioBlitzIreland* Champion.

Crawfordsburn Country Park, County Down (2012), Colebrooke Estate, County Fermanagh (2013) and Glenarm Estate, County Antrim (2014) were selected as the Northern Ireland sites.

During these competitions, the greatest number of species were recorded from each of these three sites and they were all crowned champions.

In 2013, CEDaR organised the week-long marine BioBlitz, *Blitz the Lough! 2013*, in Strangford Lough, County Down. A mini-BioBlitz was also undertaken at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Cultra, County Down.

In 2014, CEDaR managed the *Garden BioBlitz* project throughout Ireland.

CEDaR is grateful to the broad network of individuals and organisations that helped to make every BioBlitz such a success.



Some of the BioBlitz teams from Crawfordsburn Country Park, County Down in 2012



# GARVAGH FORESTS 1ST COMMUNITY BIOBLITZ

Meet Creepy  
Crawlies and  
Cool Critters

**SATURDAY 25TH JUNE**  
**11.00 AM – 1.00 PM**

Wildlife  
Missions

Followed by a Community Picnic with Live  
Music so don't forget your picnic!

Orienteering  
with a  
Difference

Guided Forest  
Expeditions

Learn how  
to be  
citizen  
scientist



There will be parking available at St Paul's Church of Ireland Carpark. From there, please follow the arrows to our Base Camp outside the Forest Service Offices. For further information please contact Karin on 07966 202184





# Publications

Since its establishment, CEDaR has managed the production of numerous publications.

The list of materials published includes annual reports, books, conference proceedings, catalogues, rare-plant registers and scientific papers.

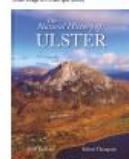
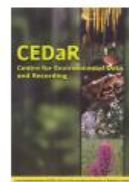
These publications have only been made possible through the development of excellent working relationships with amateur and professional naturalists and numerous natural history photographers.

Events throughout Ireland have been organised to formally launch several publications and these have occasionally been attended by Government representatives.

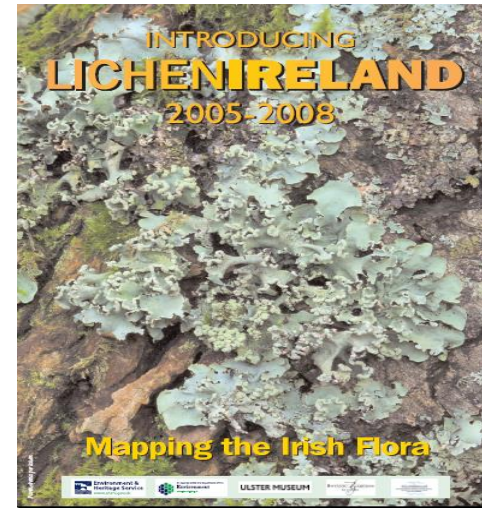
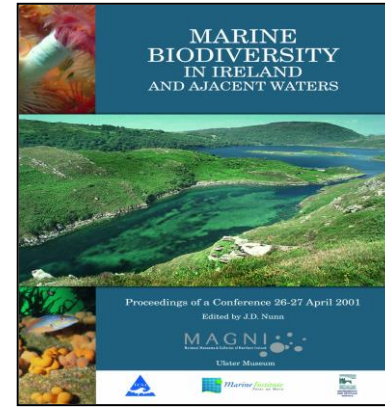
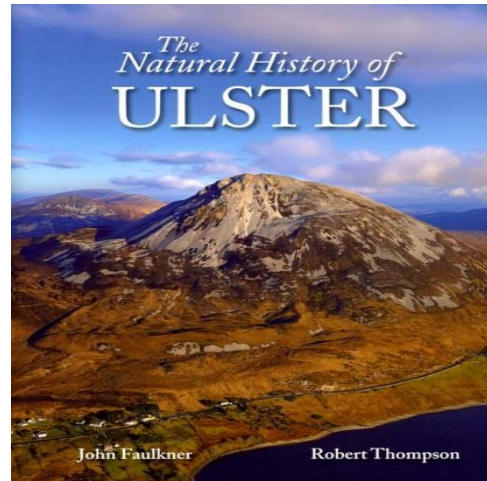
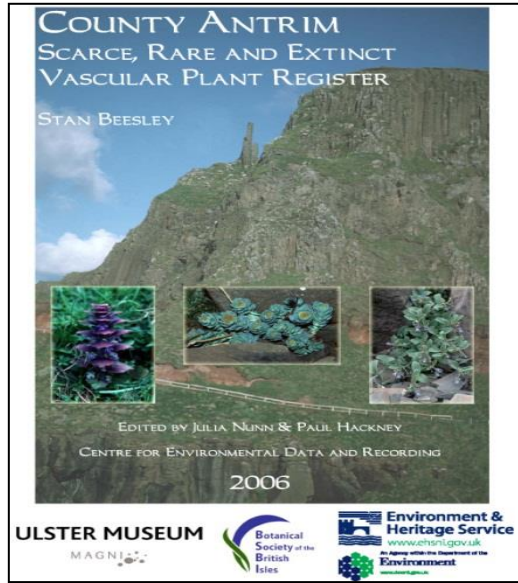
Increasingly, recording cards, postcards and flyers have been produced to encourage recording and to advertise the growing number of partnership events. There have also been several revisions of a flyer that is used at outreach events and to advertise the role of CEDaR.

CEDaR also manages a number of websites which forms part of *Habitas*.

These websites include information on species surveys, literature, geology and Northern Ireland's Priority Species. They are an important tool in the dissemination of information about CEDaR and the projects that it manages.









# Bat Calls and Information Requests



## Bat Calls

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 gives full protection to bats and their roosts.

CEDaR provides a point of contact for bat enquiries.

Enquiries (bat calls) range from general interest, requests for talks, advice on species and their roosts to dealing with the fear of bats.

Bat calls are logged and referred to licensed members of the Northern Ireland Bat Group or staff of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). Licensed bat experts will offer advice and collect sick and injured bats.

## Information Requests

CEDaR provides access to information on the wildlife of Northern Ireland and its coastal waters.

Whilst ensuring the confidentiality of sensitive biological records, information is released through the Information Request Form. Information is made available for a variety of purposes, such as research, conservation, education, planning and commercial enquiries.

If the enquiry is commercial, a charge may be made. This charge is based on the time required to process the request. The income generated through information requests is made available to the Environmental Recorders' Group (ERG) Fund.

Daubenton's bat: Alamy/daubenton (2015), 2017, © James C. Powell. Photograph: Batmuseum courtesy John Scovell




## Are you Batty about Bats?

### Do you want to learn about Bats and how to help them?

#### Young Bat Workers Club

Come along and learn about the fascinating world of Bats. You will be able to take part in loads of activities and even meet some of our bats!

We meet at Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Cultra on the 8<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, between October and May  
(Starting Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm).  
7.00pm – 8.30pm

All girls and boys of Primary School age are welcome.

Bookings open now at  
<http://nmni.com/ufm/What-s-on/Events/Young-Batworkers-Club>

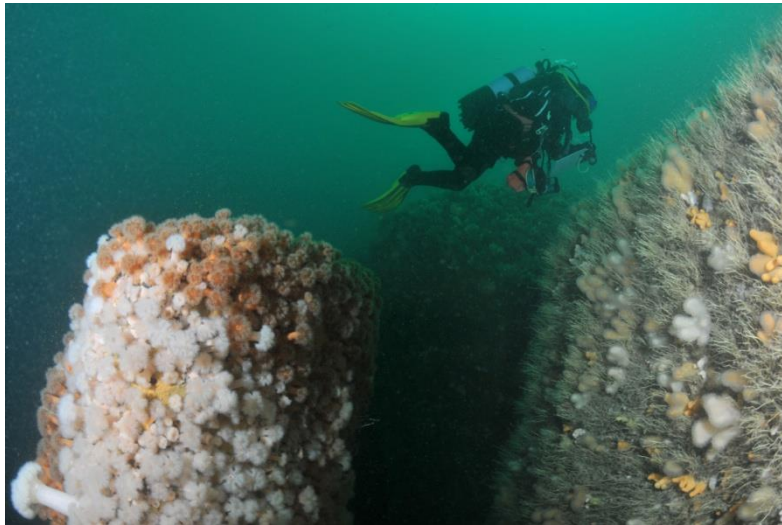
For more information call:  
Robin- 07972196066 or Donna- 07902929868













## Rapid assessment of marinas for invasive alien species in Northern Ireland



Research and Development Series 13/06

A report commissioned by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency

## Rapid assessment of marinas for invasive alien species in Northern Ireland

Authors - Dan Minchin & Julia Nunn

Contractor – Dr Dan Minchin, *Marine Organism Investigations*, 3 Marina Village, Ballina, Killaloe, Co. Clare

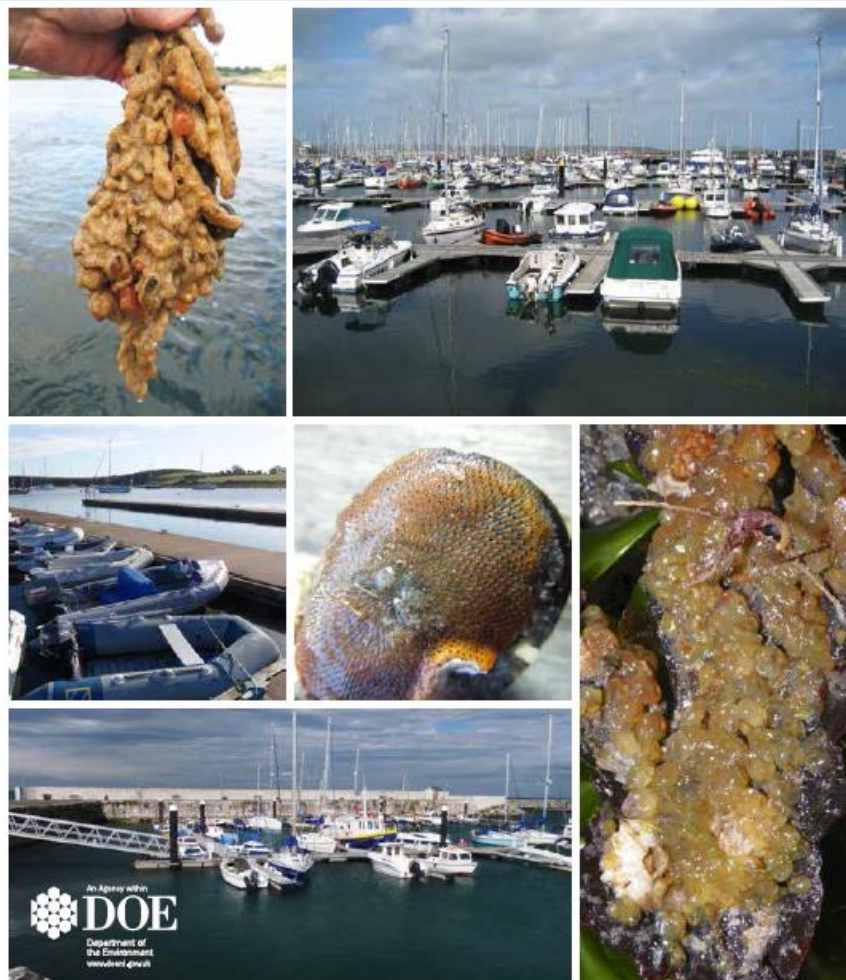
Associate – Dr Julia Nunn, *Centre for Environmental Data and Recording*, National Museums Northern Ireland, 153 Bangor Road, Cultra Holywood, Co. Down

NIEA Client Officer-John Early, Northern Ireland Environment Agency

This report should be cited as follows -

Minchin, D.M and Nunn, J.D. (2013) *Rapid assessment of marinas for invasive alien species in Northern Ireland*. Northern Ireland Environment Agency Research and Development Series No. 13/06

The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the current opinion or policy of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency











## Projects

CEDaR has assisted the collection of records for many local, national and international recording projects. CEDaR particularly encourages involvement with Citizen Science projects.

Citizen Science projects, such as the *Cuckoo Recording Scheme*, encourage everyone to make a contribution to biological recording by adding their records to our knowledge of the status and distribution of species.

Some of the earliest projects included, *The Northern Ireland Mammal Recording Scheme*, *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* and *The Millennium Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland*.

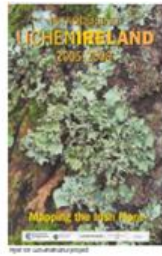


Image by Mollie O'Sullivan



Image by Eoin W. O'Sullivan



Image by Ian McNeill



Image by CEDaR

CEDaR has also managed a number of all-Ireland recording projects: *Dragonfly Ireland*, *Lichen Ireland* and *Orchid Ireland*. CEDaR is currently assisting recording for the *Atlas of Mammals of Ireland*.

Through the CEDaR Initiative programme, a number of projects have also been managed, such as the Cuckoo, Marsh Fritillary, Scarce Crimson & Gold and Micro-moth surveys.

CEDaR has also assisted with *The Shore Thing*, *The Big Seaweed Search* and the contract for *Rapid assessment of marinas for invasive alien species in Northern Ireland*.



The Golden-eye Lichen (Lecanora chrysothelma) Th. Fr. (1802) © Richard Laverington

# Cuculus canorus Linnaeus, 1758

JSON

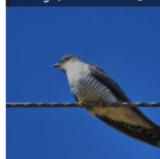
## CUCKOO

species Accepted Name authority: UKSI Establishment means: Native Northern Ireland Priority Species

Overview Gallery Names Classification Records Literature Sequences Data Partners



Photographer: Tatiana Bulyonkova



### Common cuckoo

The **common cuckoo** (*Cuculus canorus*) is a member of the cuckoo order of birds, *Cuculiformes*, which includes the roadrunners, the anis and the coucals.

This species is a widespread summer migrant to Europe and Asia, and winters in Africa. It is a brood parasite, which means it lays eggs in the nests of other bird species, particularly of dunnocks, meadow pipits, and reed warblers. Although its eggs are larger than those of its hosts, the eggs in each type of host nest resemble the host's eggs. The adult too is a mimic, in its case of the sparrowhawk; since that species is a predator, the mimicry gives the female time to lay her eggs without being seen to do so.

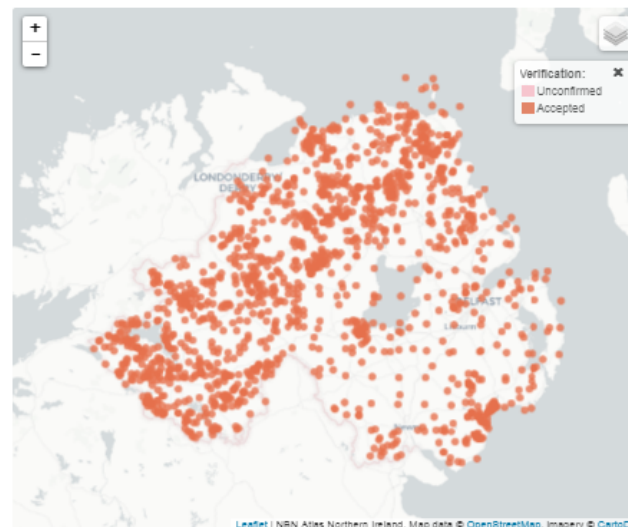
Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Common\\_cuckoo&oldid=859097634](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Common_cuckoo&oldid=859097634)  
Rights holder: Wikipedia authors and editors  
Provided by: Encyclopedia of Life

### Online Resources

- NI Priority Species 
- JSON
- Biodiversity Heritage Library
- PESI

2,920 records (2,920 in total)

This map contains both point- and grid-based occurrences at different resolutions



Analyse data

Interactive map

View records

 Receive alerts when new records are added

### Datasets

7 datasets have provided data to the NBN Atlas Northern Ireland for this species.

Browse the list of datasets and find organisations you can join if you are interested in participating in a survey for species like *Cuculus canorus* Linnaeus, 1758

► Northern Ireland Priority Species

► Scottish Rural Development Programme

► Scottish Biodiversity List

SPECIES ▼

LOCATIONS ▼

Species search

Priority Species

Invasive Species

Sensitive Species

All species lists





# nmni.com/CEDaR/Recording



[Register](#) [Login](#)

## CEDaR Online Recording

Centre for Environmental Data and Recording

[Home](#) [Submit Sightings](#) [Distribution Maps](#) [Garden Bioblitz 2014](#)

### CEDaR Online Recording

**Important notice:** CEDaR Online Recording will be offline tomorrow (Friday 7th November) between 9am and 4pm for essential and unavoidable maintenance. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Please use this website to submit wildlife records for Northern Ireland. You can upload an image with your record if one is available and this will help with the verification process that each record goes through.

If you intend to use this site regularly, it is recommended that you register with the site. This will mean you don't need to add your details each time you add a record and you will have access to some of the reporting tools available for viewing and editing your records.

[Register now](#) or [Login](#)

Submit Single  
Record

Submit List of  
Records





# New technologies

## Designing for different media

- mobile phones
- HD TVs / larger screens
- Tablets



## Constant development

- apps
- new languages
- new design techniques




Habitas

Plant life/Animal life/Minerals, Rocks & Fossils

NATIONAL MUSEUMS NI

Plant life

Flowering plants



The Flora of Northern Ireland


Scarce, Rare and Extinct Vascular Plant Registers

European Orchids

Garden Flora of Northern Ireland

Animal life

Insects and invertebrates



DragonflyIreland


Ground Beetles of Ireland

Butterflies and Moths of Northern Ireland

Ladybirds of Ireland

CEDaR


Centre for Environmental Data and Recording



CEDaR - Centre for Environmental Data and Recording, Training, Events, Information, Enquiries, etc. all now on National Museums NI website


Submit Records Online

Lichens



LichenIreland

Marine life




Encyclopedia of Marine Life of Britain & Ireland

Sponges of Britain and Ireland

Catalogue of the Irish and British Marine Mollusca in the collections of the National Museum of Ireland - Natural History

Minerals, Rocks and Fossils




Earth Science Conservation Review

The Jurassic at Lame

Holey Rocks!


Rocks and Fossils of Northern Ireland

Mammals, Amphibians & Reptiles




Mammals, Amphibians & Reptiles of Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Priority Species



Northern Ireland Priority Species

Invasive species




Invasive Alien Species in Northern Ireland


Literature

Irish Natural History Literature OnLine

Northern Ireland

environment link





News

EU Matters May 2019

EU Matters April 2019

GFA, Brexit & Environment Report

Events

A beach near Strangford, Co Down – Beachwatch

Brackagh Moss Nature Reserve, near Portadown – Scrub Control

Inishoven, County Donegal

Jun 2019

01 02

03 04 05 06 07 08 09

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

← 2019 →

Calendar View

List

Submit event

Select Category

Show all events

Multiple events

Members Only

Conferences

Days Out

Skills & Training

Talks & Lectures

HLF Catalyst

EU Hub

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Search


Social media

Subscribe

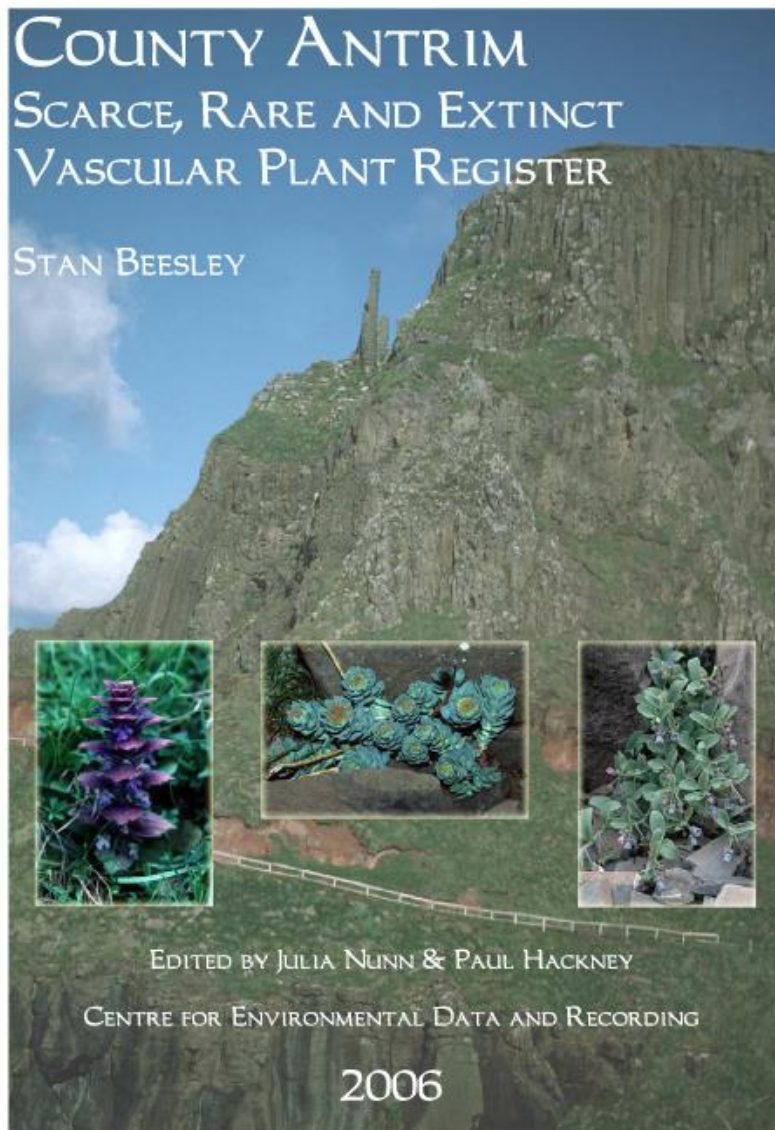
Recording Schemes

Taking part in a recording scheme or survey is a way for you to become more involved with biological recording.

By becoming a 'Citizen Scientist' you will be asked to follow certain methodology to collect data in a standardised format to enable more robust analysis. Surveys can be on a local, national, all-Ireland or international scale. For information on active recording schemes and surveys in Northern Ireland please see CEDaR's developing webpages or contact us for more information.







ULSTER MUSEUM  
MAGNI





## EYE ON NATURE

Recently a short-eared owl settled on a fence post 40m from me and then on the ground close to the shore. The last remembered local sighting, in The Rosses, was accidentally shot in 1944.

Martina Sweeney, Maghery, Co. Donegal

I watched a group of six crossbills (both male and female) feed on the cones in Scots pines close to our house in the Glens of Antrim. How rare are they?

Brian Scott, Cushendall, Co. Antrim

There are several local populations on this island, one in north Antrim.

I encountered a massive wasp-type insect flying near my house. It was yellow and black with yellow eyes, long yellow antennae and trailing its hind legs behind it.

Iain O'Donoghue, Bun Beg, Co. Donegal  
It was a female wood wasp, also called a horntail, a sawfly with a trailing ovipositor. She lays her eggs in tree trunks where they take two or three years to mature before they emerge.

I discovered that my nasturtiums were covered with tiny green and yellow caterpillars. They ate their way through most of the leaves then disappeared.

Maryjo Sullivan, Drogheda, Co. Louth  
They were the caterpillars of small white butterflies.

Michael Viney welcomes observations at Thallabawn, Carrmiskerry PD, Westport, Co. Mayo. E-mail: viney@anu.ie. Include a postal address.

# Flowering of orchids is notoriously unpredictable



MICHAEL VINEY

## ANOTHER LIFE

**A**SPECTACULAR orchid summer! From unknown football fields in Dublin suburbs, grassy plots in Kerry villages, coastal dunes all round the island, come woodstruck reports of the flowers in huge numbers - stocking-pink pyramids, marsh orchids in royal purple, other spotted-leaved sorts in every iridescent shade between. Down the burreen, on a river bank, cluster greater butterfly orchids, intricate in every...

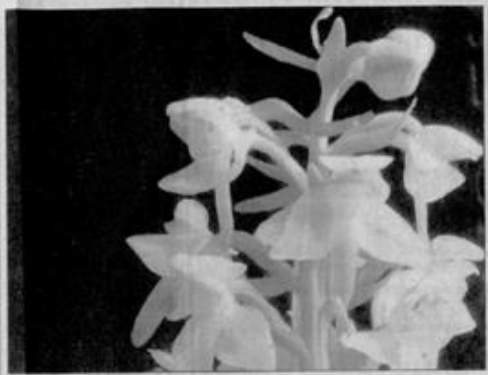
Such an obliging show of most - indeed, possibly all, by the time the season ends - of this island's species, sub-species and varieties could not have been better arranged for the Orchid Ireland survey, run from the Ulster Museum.

And its recorders, amateur and professional, however well briefed in workshops, will be pleased to have handy *The Orchids of Ireland*, the new book that offers the last word (at least for now) on their notorious variation.

The spotted orchids, particularly - dactyl-

orchids, as they're known - are so prone to shades of difference in size, flower colour and leaf-marking that the number of their species is still not agreed and experts grow vehement in discussion. A misfortune was the failure of the late, great painter of the island's orchids, Raymond Piper of Belfast, to publish the work of some 40 years because, in his study and portraiture of individual flowers, he could never find an end.

For all his fieldwork, his scrupulous peering through a magnifying glass at every detail of orchid engineering, every nuance of *labellum*, *retrorseum* or *gynobolus*, Piper was not a professional botanist, nor had the scientist's necessary cool. Dr Tom Curtis, on the other hand, author of the new orchid book, brings a certain resignation to his own liding passion for the plants. "Within the species found in Ireland," he writes, "it has to be accepted that some individual plants in any one population may never be assigned with certainty and even experts may be unable to give a definite name to certain specimens." His own list of Irish orchids runs to 44 species, subspecies and varieties, and getting on for half with *Dactylorhiza* in their name. The marsh orchids alone show dramatic differences, their lacious flower colours precisely rendered in Robert Thompson's photographs. As for the leaves of dactylorchids, it is "spots like those of a leopard or merging fields of dark pigmentation," says Curtis, that most often point to the hybrid plant. Sorting them out can make the specimens of a sunny coastal dune-duck "dactylorchid heaven or hell, depending on your point of view". His book is backed by more



than 35 years of fieldwork, many as chief research botanist with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. But while this gives its pages a sober authority, it is also intended for the amateur orchid enthusiast, with helpful maps and splendid habitat photographs as guides to where species can be found.

Most of them like calcareous or neutral ground, with very few in the acid habitats of bogs or mountains. And while one might expect ancient refuges to provide the most excitement, the disturbed ground of quarries, road embankments and motorway margins can show dazzling thousands of

blooms spikes - some compensation, as Curtis notes, for destruction of ancient, lime-rich eskers in excavation of sand and gravel.

The most exotic-looking orchids are not always the rarest. The tall and beautiful marsh

hellbore

frequent

sometimes

small orchids

lady's

miniature

leaves.

Along

prapping

of many

orchid in

low for

blooms

beats (St

Curtis re

species is

usually p

Orchid

storage (

for testi

and the g

summer

carry fa

After r

research,

orchids

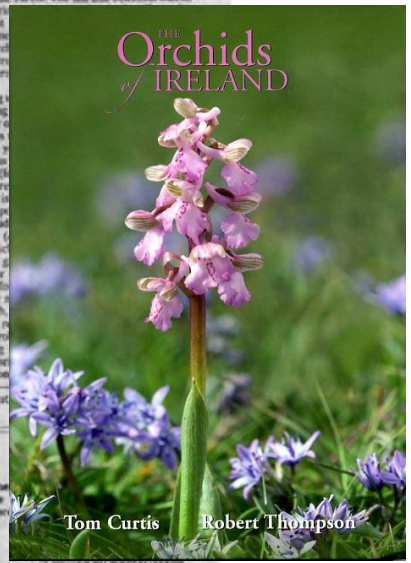
quite pro

growing

more use

moves on

Details at



Tom Curtis Robert Thompson

## HORIZONS SYLVIA THOMPSON

### CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

More than 300 representatives from heritage trust organisations around the world will attend the 13th International Conference of National Trusts in Dublin in September. The theme of the conference is Conservation in a Changing Climate.

"We need policy changes that encourage building re-use over new builds and a mindset change - championed by our leaders - which encourages citizens to play their part in

of John of An Ireland, See

### FROGS AND BOGS

The Bog of Allen Nature Centre in Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, will celebrate International Bog Day on Sunday, July 26th from 2pm to 5pm. Activities will include a guided walk across the bog and pond dipping, nature crafts and frog searches for younger children. The centre, which is run by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council, will also hold nature summer camps for seven- to 12-year-olds from Monday, August 10th to Friday, August 14th, from 10am to 1pm each day. Camp activities will include an



### BROADLEAF APPEAL

The planting of broadleaf trees is on the increase, according to Joe Barry in the current issue of *Green* magazine. "There is a common misconception that the afforestation schemes promote the planting of monocultures of conifers only," he writes.

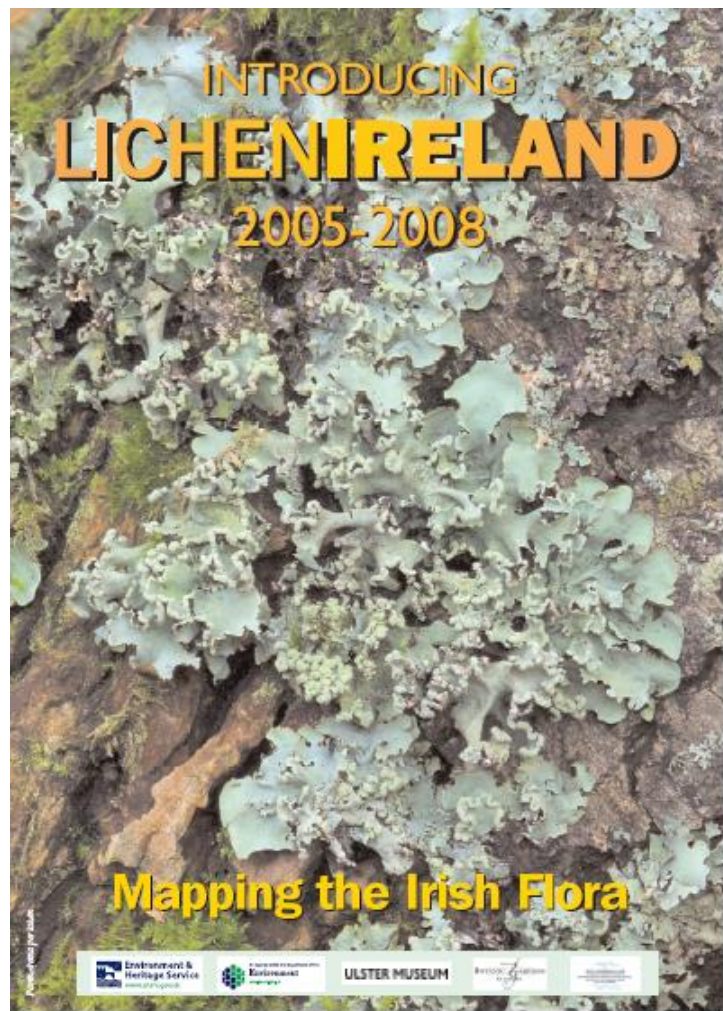
Barry gives examples of how almost 40 per cent of trees planted in Co. Leitrim and 48 per cent of trees planted in the Mid-Western Forestry scheme were broadleaf. "It is increasingly evident that more and more landowners also wish to plant lasting and sustainable woodland that gives them more than just a

in the mountains of Co. Wicklow or Co. Kerry. Plenty of testimonials and photos to whet your appetite.

Irish Times 18 Jul 2009







## lichen ireland

### 2005-2008

[www.habitas.org.uk](http://www.habitas.org.uk)

This project is initially a four-year study to determine the status and distribution of lichen species throughout the island of Ireland. Lichen Ireland is supported by National Parks and Wildlife Service; National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin; Environment and Heritage Service and the Ulster Museum.



In order to raise the profile of the group, this project will:

- engage new and existing lichen recorders (training, where appropriate, will be given)
- collate the existing lichen data set on the Recorder database
- undertake field recording from sites and habitats throughout Ireland
- provide a website to disseminate information on the project and species.

Other possible publication formats will be discussed as the project evolves.

**If you would like to participate in LICHEN IRELAND contact:**

Dr Damian McFadden, Project Manager, CSO 48, Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast BT9 5AB  
Telephone: +44 (0)28 9028 3154 or [damian.mcfadden@imgt.org.uk](mailto:damian.mcfadden@imgt.org.uk)

Mr Howard Fox, Lichenologist, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin  
Telephone: +353 (0)1 6040336 or [howard.fox@bpw.ie](mailto:howard.fox@bpw.ie)

Design and page layout copyright Robert Thompson

# LichenIreland

- Web-site of Irish lichens
- Training of rangers
- Distribution of saxicolous and epiphytic lichens throughout the island of Ireland
- Published products – ‘Lichenlite’ card...



Dúchas The Heritage Service

An Roinn Comhshaoil agus Rialtais Áitiúil  
Department of the Environment  
and Local Government

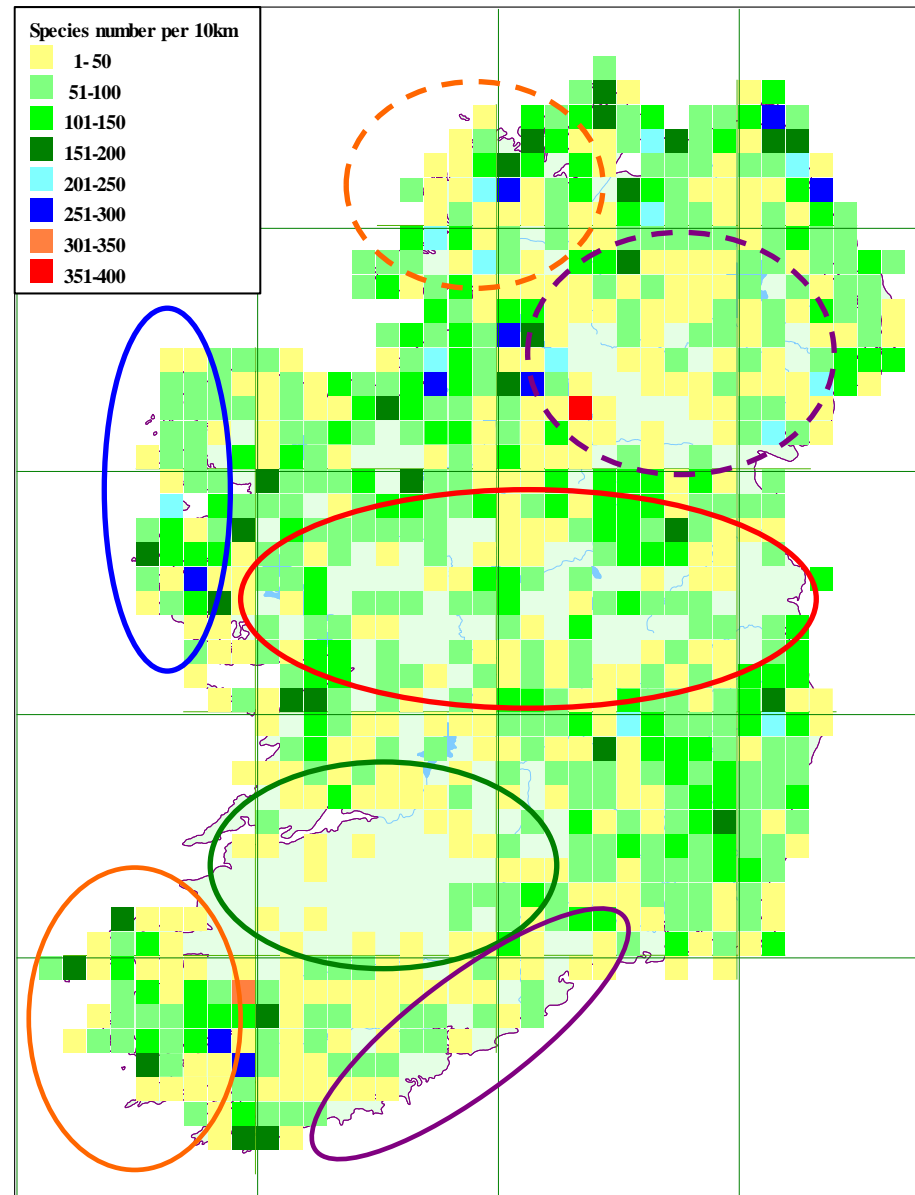


Environment &  
Heritage Service  
[www.ehsni.gov.uk](http://www.ehsni.gov.uk)


ULSTER MUSEUM  
Museums & Galleries of Northern Ireland







10km distribution of Lichen taxa, with 2007/08 fieldwork areas.



**Lichen Ireland**

Home What are lichens? The Project Recording References Glossary Links Species List

## References

Many more papers relating to the natural history of Ireland (terrestrial and marine) may be found at the Irish Natural History Literature website: [www.habitas.org.uk/literature/](http://www.habitas.org.uk/literature/)

Adams, J. 1909 The distribution of lichens in Ireland. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* **27B**: 193-234

Adams, J. 1911 Additions to Irish algae, lichens and fungi to the end of the year 1910. *Irish Naturalist* **20**: 67-68

Adams, J. 1911 A census of Irish cryptogams. *Irish Naturalist* **20**: 87-92

Ahti, T. 1961 Taxonomic studies on reindeer lichens (*Cladonia*, subgenus *Cladina*). *Suomal. eläin-ja kasvit. Seur. van kasvit. Julk* (Series 2) **32**: 1-160

Ahti, T. 1965 Some notes on British Cladoniae. *Lichenologist* **3**: 84-88

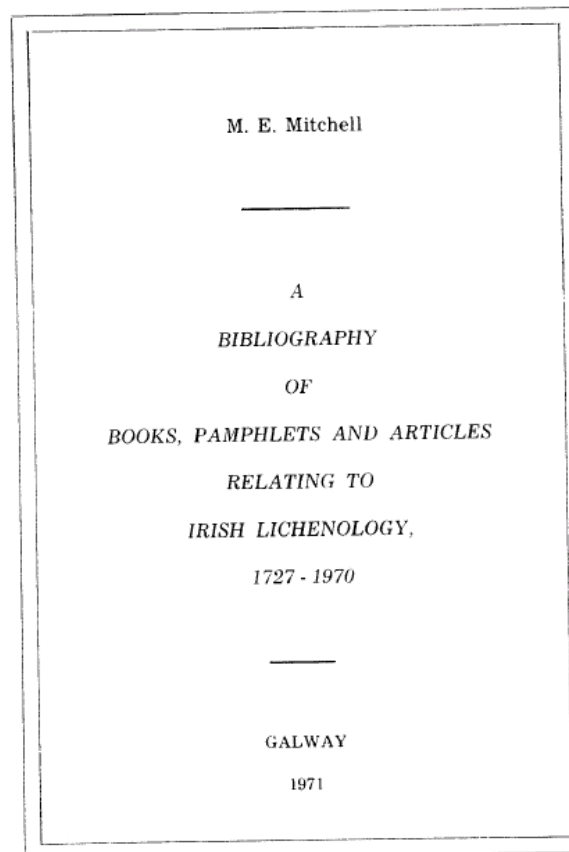
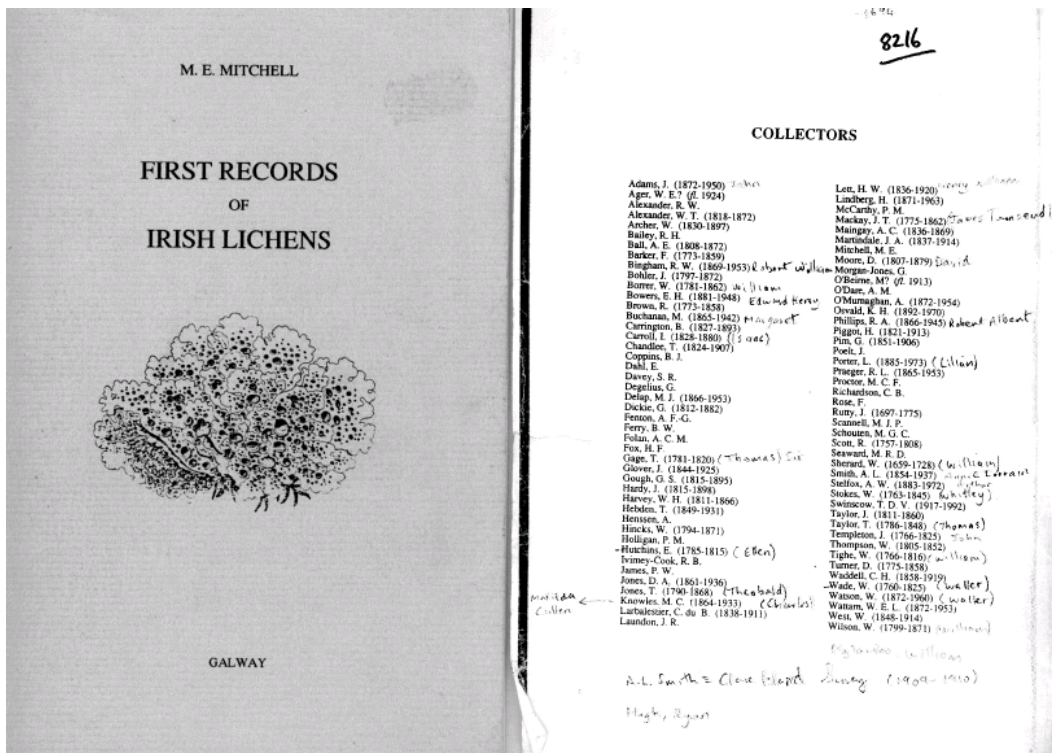
Ahti, T. 1966 Correlation of the chemical and morphological characters in *Cladonia chlorophaea* and allied lichens. *Annales Botanici Fennici* **3**: 380-390

Ahti, T. 1973 Taxonomic notes on some species of *Cladonia*, subsect. *Unciales*. *Annales Botanici Fennici* **10**: 163-184

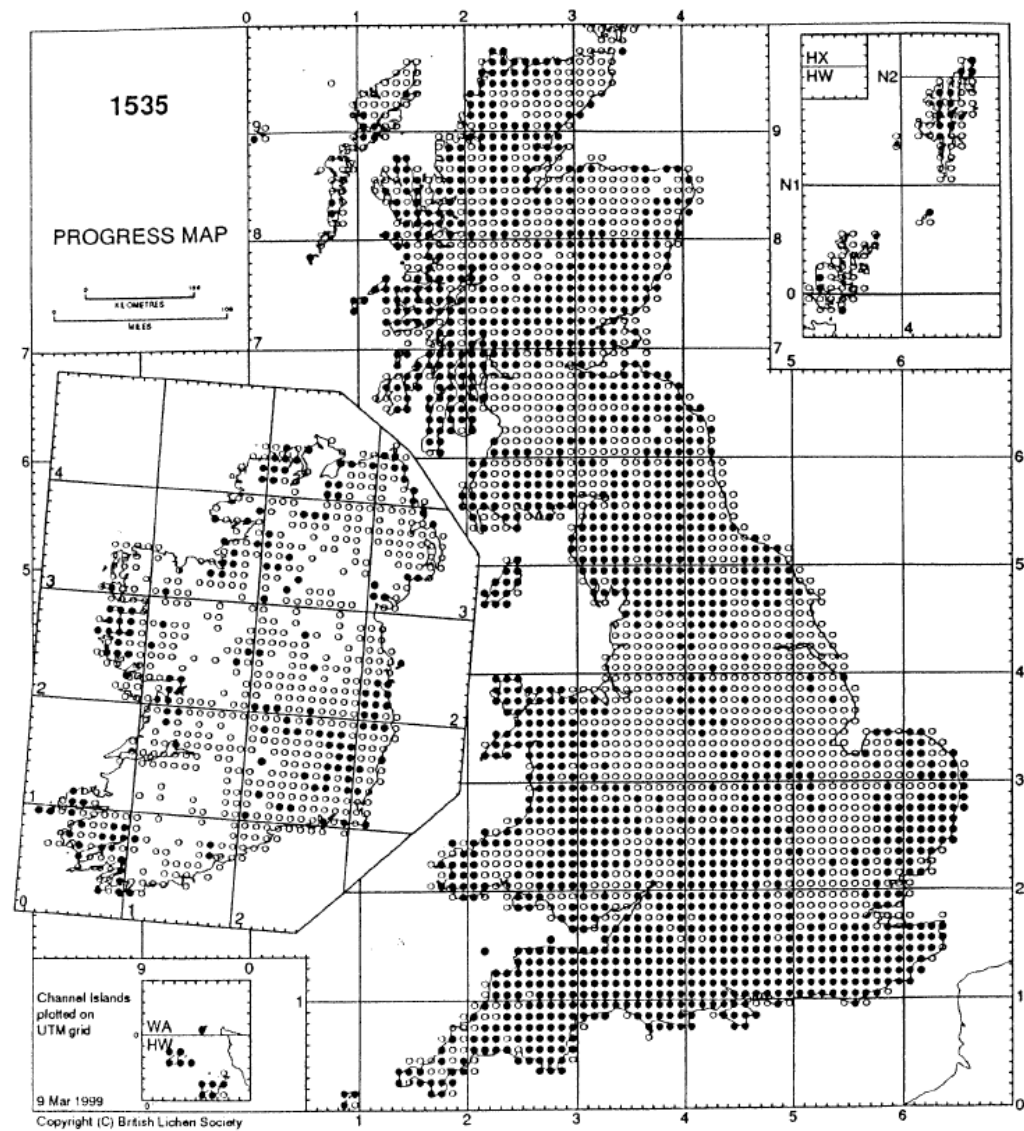
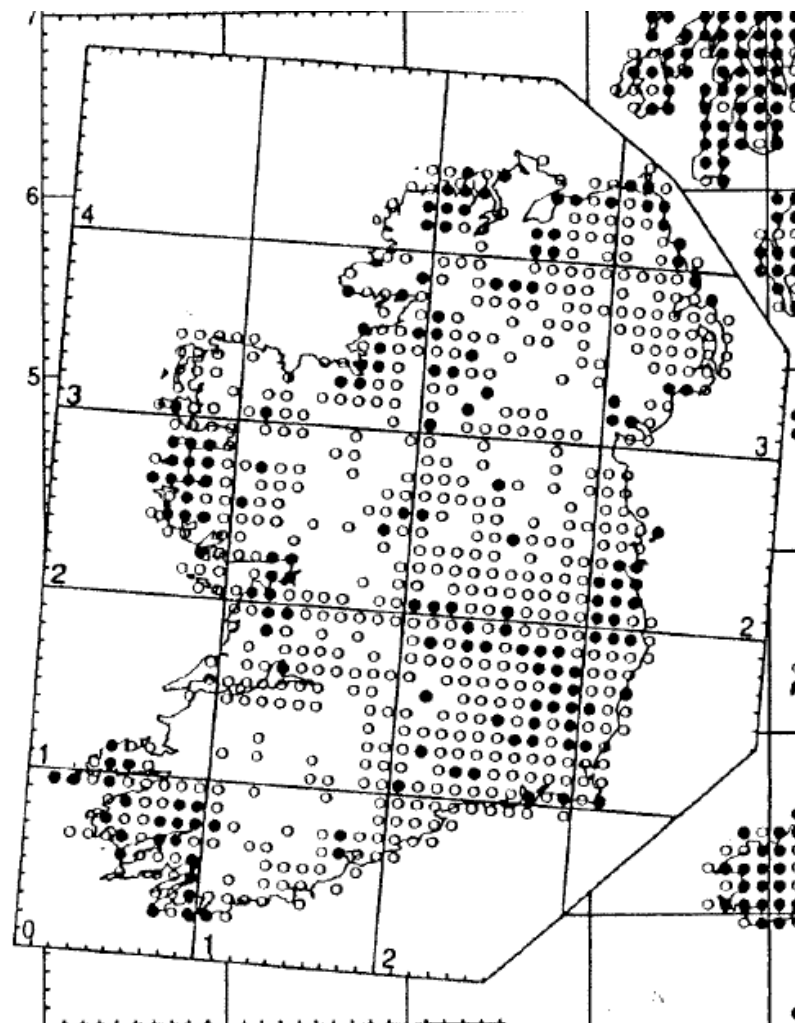
Alexander, R.W., Caxon, P. & Thom, R.H. 1986 A bog flow at Straduff townland, County Sligo. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* **86B**: 107-119

Alexander, R.W., Richardson, D.H.S., Cotton, D. & Seaward, M.R.D. 1989 Field meeting to Sligo and Connemara National Park. *Lichenologist* **21**: 159-168

<http://www.habitas.org.uk/literature/>







# Raiders of the lost lichen strike gold

**I**t was seven feet up in an old, gnarled and very prickly white-thorn in a winter-flooded pasture in south Cork. In summer the leaves would have hidden it, but on a bare winter branch the golden-eye lichen, *Teloschistes chrysophthalmus*, positively glowed – fluttering its eyelashes, one might almost say, at a thoroughly gobsmacked English lichenologist.

I wrote here a couple of weeks ago on the progress of LichenIreland, the intensive, 26-county survey of a somewhat neglected legion of our flora. But it is worth coming back to the subject to celebrate something as beautiful – and exceedingly rare – as the golden-eye, and to thank Vince Giavarini, from Dorset, for finding it, and Robert Thompson, Ulster's gifted nature photographer, for sticking his stepladder deep in the mud to climb to sprays of thall (fruits), the size of bright sovereigns. They have added the 1,208th species to the island's lichen database.

Golden-eye, as Giavarini says, is not only one of the world's most attractive species, but "the Holy Grail of the lichen world for which bottles of single malt whiskey have been offered as an enticement to searchers". It has also not been seen in Ireland for 150 years. By extraordinary coincidence, last year produced two similar discoveries – one in an orchard in



## Another Life Michael Viney

Herefordshire and the other on Guernsey, in the Channel Islands – both, significantly, after a similar sort of absence.

The Cork lichens are perhaps three or four years old, and it is well worth visiting the website of Guernsey's natural history society – [www.societe.org.gg/press/20071203\\_lichen.html](http://www.societe.org.gg/press/20071203_lichen.html) – to see the golden-eye in its fully developed glory. The president of the society spotted it on a bush during a walk on the island's cliffs.

While the scientists aren't swearing to it, the fact that the species is more at home in the Mediterranean makes the finds a clear candidate as a sign of global warming. But the lifestyle of a lichen makes its dispersal a



distinctly chancy affair.

A lichen is not a plant but a symbiotic partnership of a fungus with a colony of algae or cyanobacteria (sometimes both). It reproduces in two ways – by windblown spores from the fungus that meet up by chance with the right algal or bacterial partner, or, more reliably, by ejecting particles in which cells of both partners are bonded, called soredia, that also fly on the wind.

That Irish lichens can be brilliant-

ly coloured, as well as subtle and exquisite shades of grey, we know from the blazing oranges and reds of *Xanthoria* and *Caloplaca* on seaside rocks (especially glorious where fertilised by perching seabirds). But some colours can still amaze. A photograph came from a reader, Mark Shorten, whose dog had brought him a stick near the shore at Mizen, Co Cork. It was a long-fallen branch of furze, coated with lobes of a brilliant blue lichen that neither he nor I had

**The golden-eye lichen, found at Inchy Bridge, Co Cork by Vince Giavarini. Photograph: Robert Thompson**

ever seen.

Vince Giavarini, consulted, knew it as cobalt crust, or *Pulcherricium caeruleum*, a lichen that colonises the underside of fallen trees such as hazel and ash – "a shy species", as he said, that will happily grow in the dark. It is the most intensely blue of all lichens (nearer indigo than cobalt, depending on its moistness) and its beauty is expressed in its Latin name – think of "pulchritude".

LichenIreland (find it at [www.habitas.org.uk](http://www.habitas.org.uk)) is funded from north and south but co-ordinated at the Ulster Museum, where Dr Damian McPerran runs the already-extensive Cedar nature database. He enlisted lichenologists from the UK to help Irish fieldworkers record the distribution of perhaps 50 to 100 species in each of the island's 10km squares.

Even after three years and some 17,000 records, there are still more than 200 squares without any lichens on the database. There are particular gaps on the coasts and uplands, and the woodlands are still waiting for a systematic search. It may take another two years, but Ireland's richness in lichens, born of rare clean air and moist winds, is worth the effort.

**MARCH WILL BRING** National Tree Week and a whole programme of events to get families out under the

**Irish Times article, 26 January 2008 on the rediscovery of *Teloschistes chrysophthalmus*.**





Species Dossiers for Ireland:  
***TELOSCHISTES CHRYSOPHTHALMUS* (L.) Th. Fr.**  
 Golden-Eye Lichen



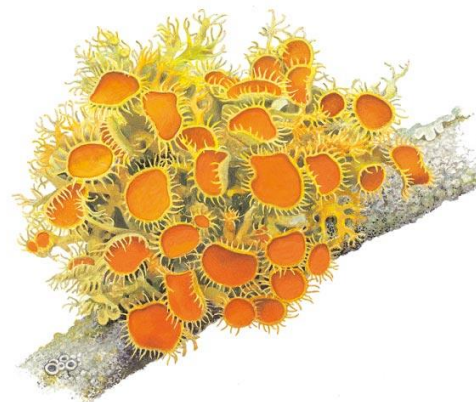
**REPORT FOR MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES OF  
 NORTHERN IRELAND**

VINCE GIAVARINI  
 Ecologist  
 Poole BH15 2QG

March 2008



*Teloschistes chrysophthalmus*, Cork.



Richard Lewington '08

## *Parmotrema perlatum* (Huds.) M.Choisy

Click on the thumbnails to enlarge the images  
(these will open in a new window)



© Robert Thompson



© Robert Thompson



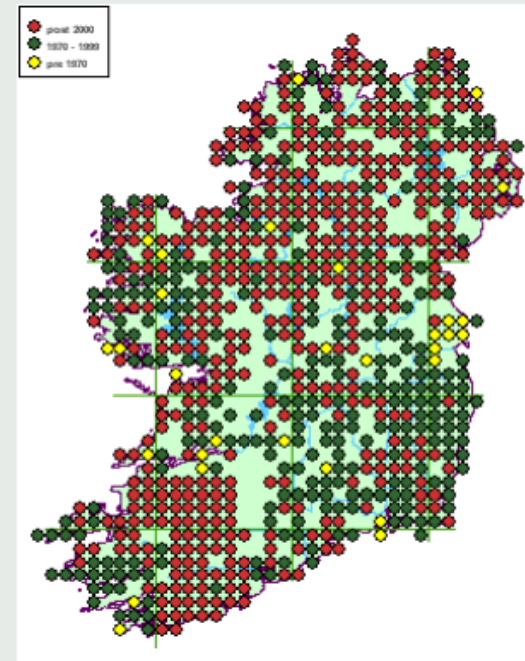
© Robert Thompson



© Robert Thompson



© Robert Thompson



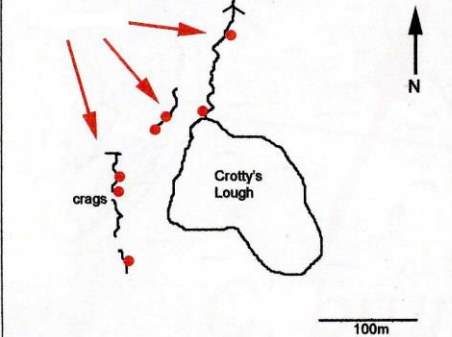
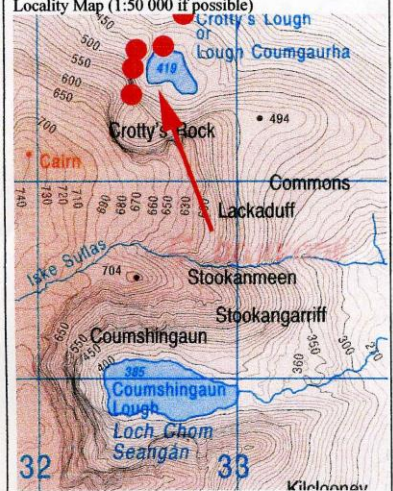

Click on map to open large map in new window  
(Maps updated: October 2008)

A strongly foliose lichen, smooth and blue-grey on top, dark and ciliate ('hairy') underneath, and often with powdery soralia on the undulating edges. Common on trees and bushes in rural habitats, and also common on well-lit acid and intermediate rocks especially in coastal habitats.

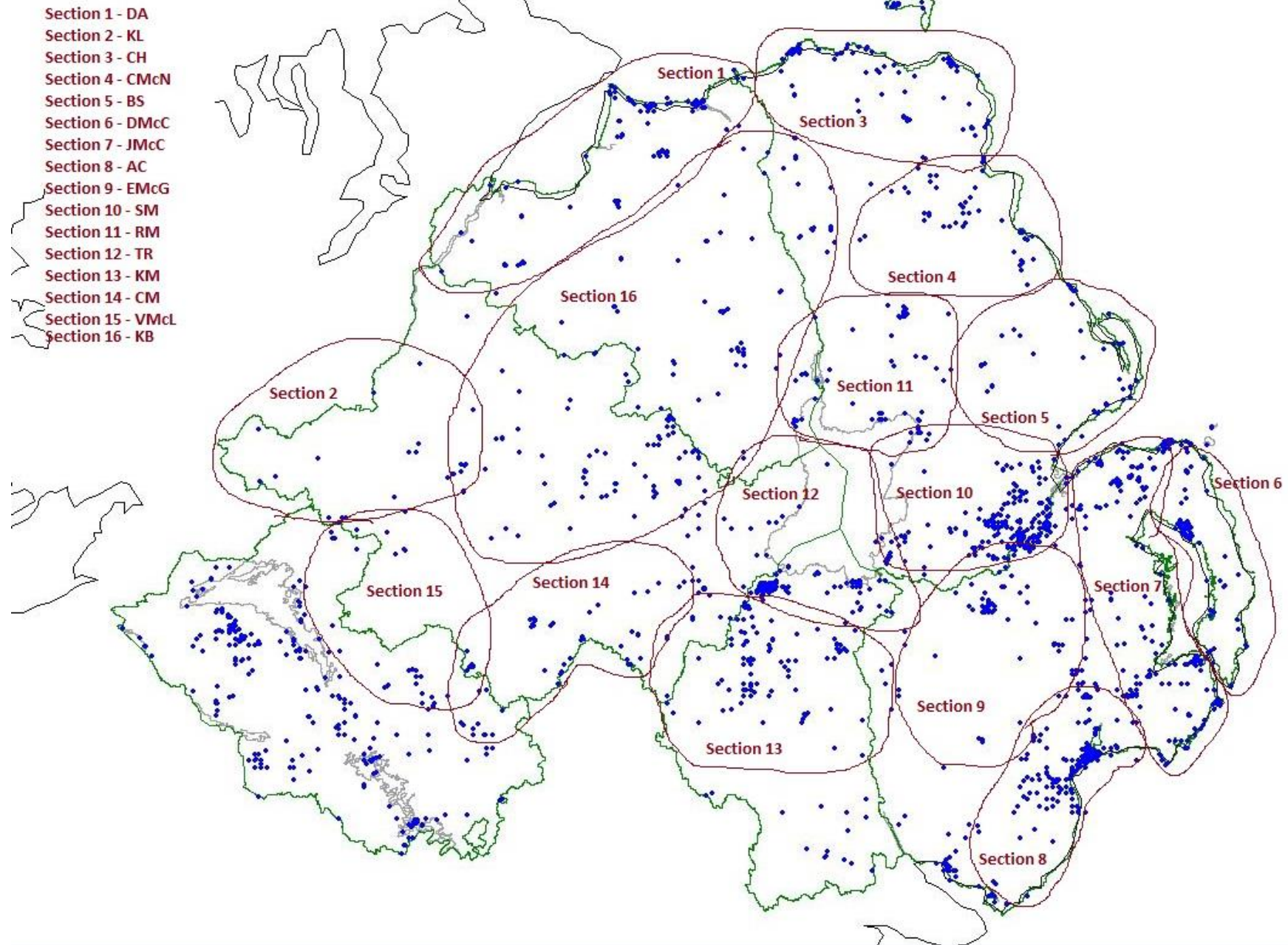
### Key characteristics

- Smooth blue-grey colour with marginal soralia.
- Dark ciliate underside.



|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Species   | Vice-county number  | Vice-county   |
|   | H6  | Waterford   |
| Locality  | Land Owner/Occupier   | SAC/pNHA?   |
| Comeragh Mountains, Crotty's Lough  |   | yes - SAC & pNHA 001952, Comeragh Mountains   |
| Grid Ref. GPS? Yes<br>S32681290 S32601274<br>S32401252<br>S32471277<br>S32561264    | alt. (m)<br>380 - 430   | Date d/m/y<br>9/6/2008  |
| Recorder  |   |   |
| Sketch Map of site showing Location of Species:<br>indicate North (arrow) and scale |   | Describe substrate(s), e.g.<br>rock/soil/tree type;<br>wet/moist/dry, sunny/shaded<br>habitat features e.g. aspect, slope,<br>vegetation cover/height |
|   |   | Big conglomerate boulders on slopes below corrie and on rock faces above lough.   |
| Size of population<br>Hundreds of cushions.   |   | Sporophytes present (stage)<br>Yes (mature).  |
| Locality Map (1:50 000 if possible)   |   | Associated species  |
|  |   |    |
| Photographs<br>Yes  | Threats and proposed Conservation Measures<br>Site immediately threatened: No   |   |
| New record at this site/older record refound<br>new record                          | No immediate threats identified. It is not known whether a<br>proposed hotel complex below the lough is likely to have any<br>effect on the site. |   |
| Voucher specimen no.  |   |   |

Micro-moth Fieldwork 2014







# Planning



## Concept development

- Nature in built-up areas
- Working with communities in Urban Villages (Derry-Londonderry)
- Aimed at a new audience
- Museum visit, using sites and collections to **explore** a particular species group
- **Engaging** and informative
- **Enjoyable** experience to encourage future visits

... Discover Birds



Image © Karl Hamilton





# Ulster Museum visit

- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016
- 35 mostly older children (and 3 leaders)
- Looking at different feathers through microscope
- Gallery talk
- Discover Nature with binoculars and scopes (RSPB)
- Goody bags:-

Bird identification guide  
notebook and pen  
complimentary family ticket





# Ulster American Folk Park visit



Image © Karl Hamilton



- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016
- 44 Younger children (and 6 leaders)
- Split into smaller groups
- Mantella Environmental Education – live birds
- Binoculars and spotting scope
- Goody bags:-

Bird sticker book  
notebook and pen  
complimentary family ticket



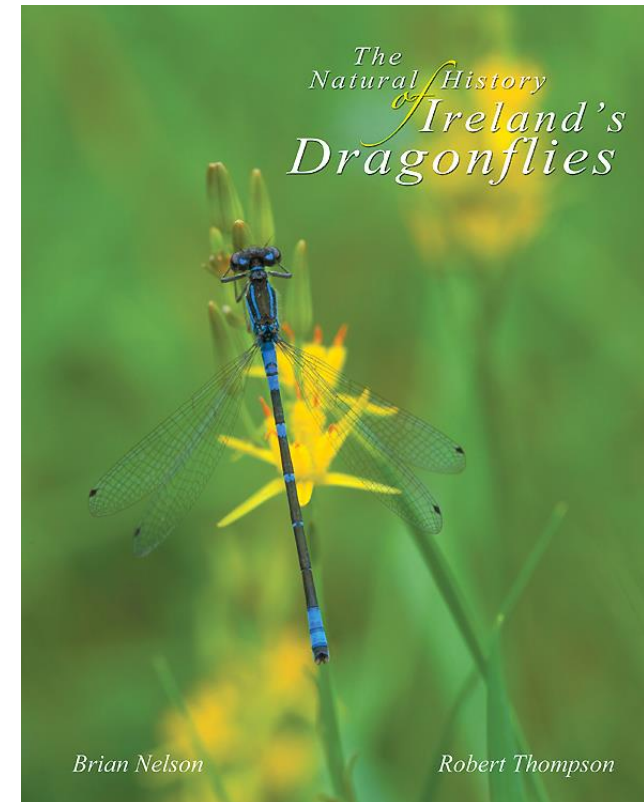


# *Ladybirds in Ireland and the Harlequin threat*

*(N. Ireland ladybird survey 2005)*

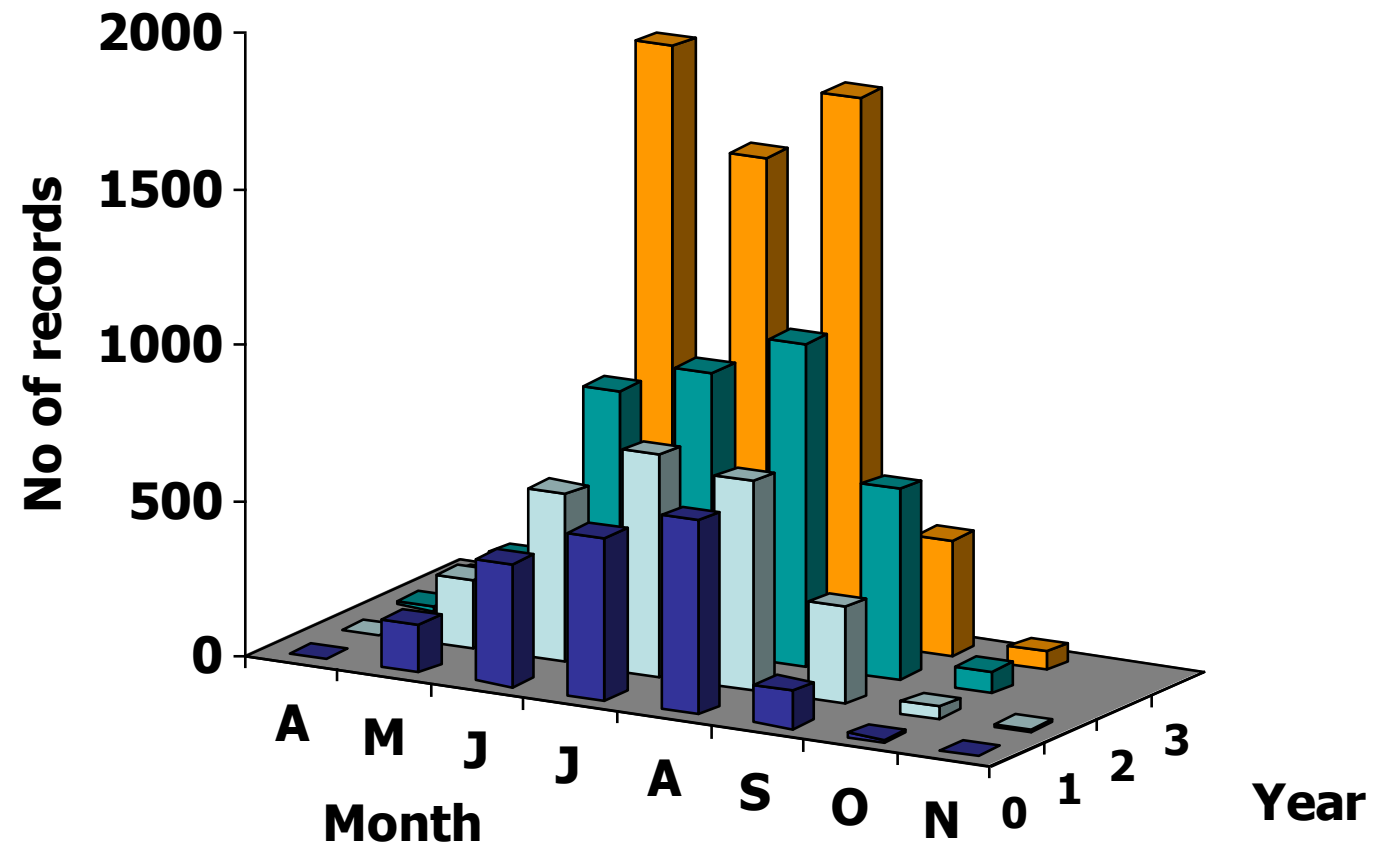


**Roy Anderson**  
*Agricultural & Environmental Science*  
*Queen's University*





# Recording effort

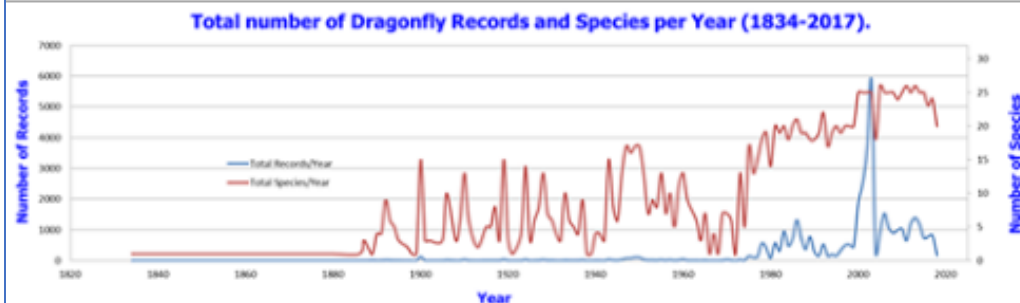




## DragonflyIreland

Published by Damian McFerran [?] · October 3, 2018 · 🌐

I am currently working my way through the Dragonfly records that I've collated and come up with a few interesting representations of current knowledge. See attached example, others to follow.



478

People Reached

43

Engagements

Boost Post



Chris Kelly, Declan Coney and 5 others

1 Share



Like



Comment



Share



Write a comment...



## DragonflyIreland

Published by Damian McFerran [?] · July 6, 2018 · 🌐

Thought it might be useful to catch up on the distribution of the Black Darter. Please do keep sending through your records. Thanks, D.

### WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR FROM MID-JULY

#### Black Darter *Sympetrum danacae*

##### Description

The smallest Irish dragonfly. Males are dark with a waisted abdomen and all black legs. Immature males are bright yellow above and black beneath and gradually the yellow is replaced by black. Females are similar to young males apart from the shape of the abdomen.

##### Habitat

A typical dragonfly found lowland raised bogs but is also occurs on small lakes in blanket bogs.

10km map



1km map



Mature female

Total Number of records 777

Total number of 10km squares 391

Total number of 1km squares 718

Send records to: <https://www2.habitas.org.uk/records/dragonflies>

2,566

People Reached

137

Engagements

Boost Post



# EUROPEAN CONGRESS ON ODONATOLOGY (ECOO)

WELCOME TO THE 6TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS ON DAMSELFLIES AND  
DRAGONFLIES IN SLOVENIA 2022

 Search



[HOME](#)

[REGISTRATION](#)

[PROGRAM](#)

[LOCATION](#)

[ODONATOLOGICAL FAIR](#)

[FAQ](#)

[ORGANISATION](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[SPONSORS](#)

[DRAGONFLIES IN SLOVENIA](#)

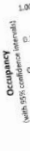
# BDS State of Dragonflies

## Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*



Male Black-tailed Skimmer © Ouwensik, Flickr

This species has spread significantly in both England and Wales since the late 1980s, but was only recorded for the first time in Scotland in 2006. There were 11 Scottish records in that year, 10 of which came from Berwickshire and the other from Fife. It was re-found twice in Berwickshire in 2010 and just once in 2015 (NBN Atlas Scotland), with further spread in 2020. Although its increase in England and Wales has been primarily driven by the creation of new wetland areas and more ponds must also have assisted its spread. It appears to have slowed in its current move northwards, hence the erratic Scottish records. In Ireland, there is evidence for recent spread along the south and east coasts and it has also appeared at additional base-rich lakes in the limestone region. The species was recorded for the first time from three sites in the north of Ireland in 2012, although there were just two records from County Antrim in the following year and apparently none since (NBN Atlas NI, CEDaR dataset).



## Hectad maps of dragonfly diversity (showing the recent increases in species richness)



All records up to and including 1990

All records up to and including 2000

All records up to and including 2010

All records up to and including 2019



Our versions of the maps are available to view on the British Dragonfly Society website.  
State of Dragonflies 2021

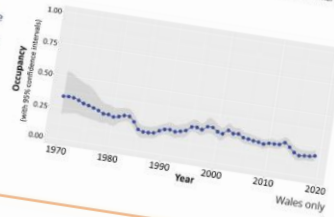
## Black Darter *Sympetrum danae*

Black Darter is a species typical of acidic bogs, pools and lakes in moorland or heathland. It is capable of thriving in upland areas over the past 50 years, particularly in northern and western parts of Britain and Ireland. It has seen a general and significant decline in Ireland. Interestingly an initial decline in England and Northern Wales appear to be on the eastern side of the country around the English borders. Although not significant in these analyses, this pattern of decline from the early 2000s in Wales is matched in both Scotland and Republic of Ireland (ROI).

Climate change is one possible reason for the decline, particularly in south-east England. Larval competition from Common Darter has also been suggested by some observers, although this is perhaps most likely in the lower parts of the uplands. Although this is perhaps through succession and the fragmentation of heathland sites in the lowlands (Rose *et al.*, 2000) has also probably contributed to the decline of this species in England, with the main threat today being a lack of heathland management leading to scrub encroachment. In more upland areas, catchment-scale artificial drainage, afforestation and increased acidification as a result of scrub encroachment, management for game birds, have all led to lower species diversity (D. Glaves, 2020 pers. comm.). The desiccation of blanket bog due to climate change is a further potential threat both now and for the future.



Male Black Darter © Volkmar Becker



Species trends

State of Dragonflies 2021

## State of Dragonflies in Britain and Ireland 2021

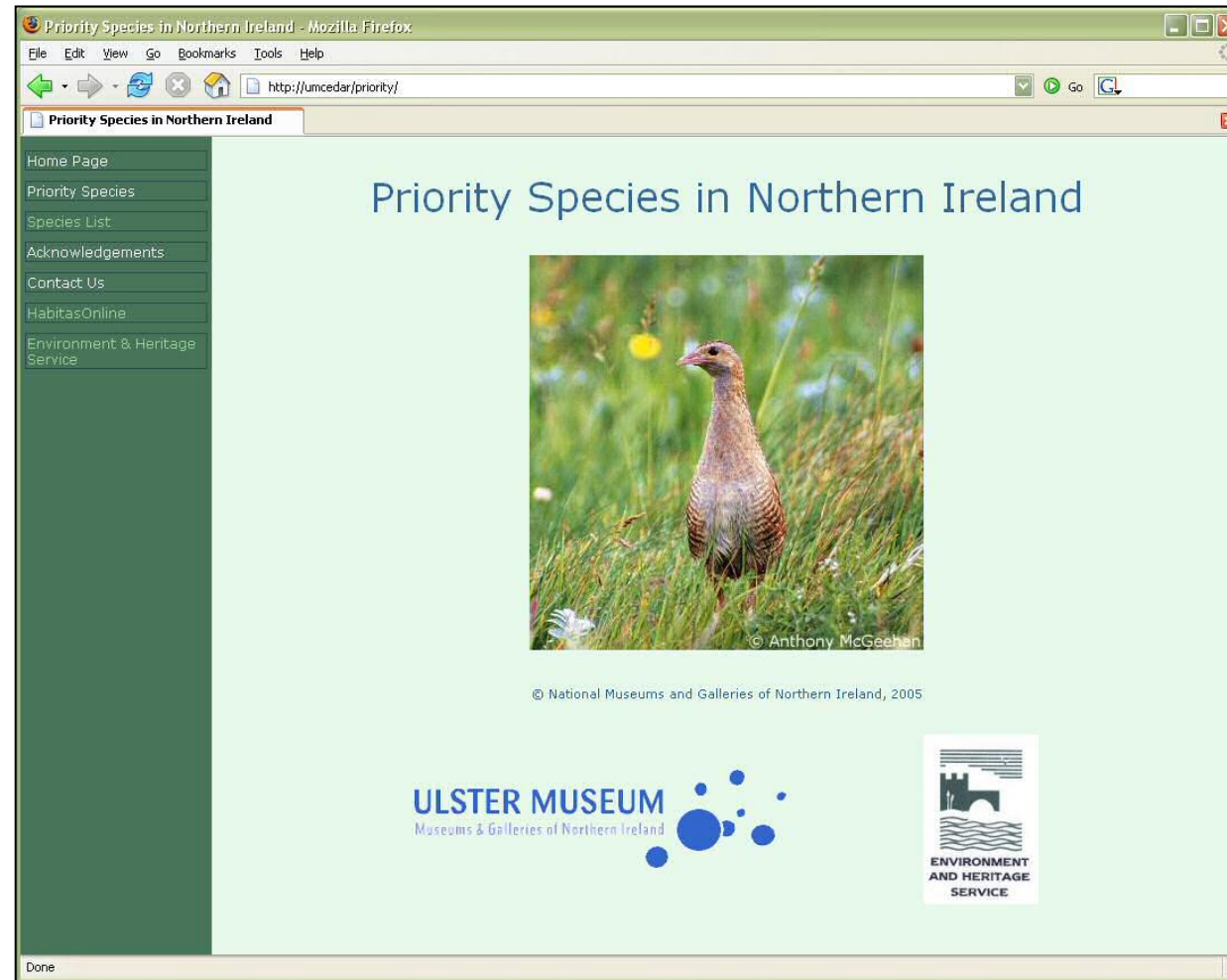


British  
Dragonfly  
Society

CEDaR  
Centre for Environmental  
Data and Recording

BRC  
Biological  
Recording  
Centre





# Northern Ireland's Priority Species & Species of Conservation Concern

[Home](#)[Introduction](#)[Species List](#)[Selection Criteria](#)

In ***Biodiversity in Northern Ireland: Recommendations to Government for a Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy***, the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group recognised the need to develop lists of Northern Ireland priority species (which require conservation action) and species of conservation concern (which require monitoring because they may need conservation action in the future).

Draft lists of Northern Ireland priority species and Northern Ireland species of conservation concern (SOCC) were published in *Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy Proposals* in 1999.

In 2004 these lists were reviewed by:

- collating proposals and supporting information supplied by experts on species groups
- refining and applying the selection criteria

The current list comprises 457 Northern Ireland SOCC species, 271 of which have been selected as Northern Ireland priority species because they are considered to be under particular threat and require particular conservation action. The remaining species of conservation concern (186) require monitoring because they may need conservation action in the future.

## Brief introduction to Priority Species

In Northern Ireland there are a number of plants and animals that are under threat and require conservation action. These species have been identified as Priority Species and the list stands at 271. Criteria have been developed to ensure that Priority Species have been chosen using a scientific basis.

The availability of a list of named species assists those involved in the conservation of biodiversity to concentrate efforts, by guiding decisions on where to target action and invest resources.

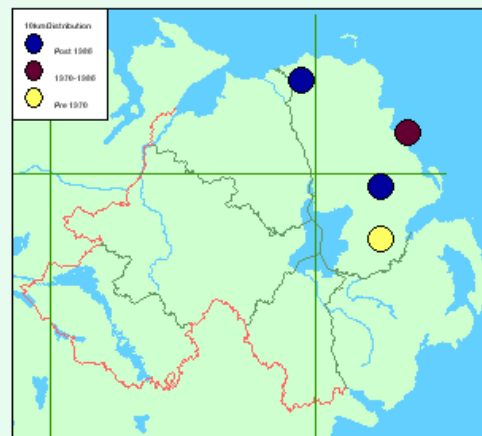
The following web pages provide an introduction to some of the Priority Species in Northern Ireland.

## Brief introduction to Species of Conservation Concern

All 457 species listed are considered to be species of conservation concern (SOCC species). However, a number (271) of these species have been identified as Priority Species and detailed information on these species can be found elsewhere on this web site.



## *Collema dichotomum* – River jelly lichen



Click on map to enlarge

*Collema dichotomum* (With.) Coppins & Laundon

**Family:** Lecanorales

*Collema dichotomum* looks more like a seaweed than a lichen. It is known only from one site in Northern Ireland – Glenarm, County Antrim. The species is described by Duncan (1970) as dark grey-green and deeply lobed. It forms colonies and lives partially submerged in freshwater, on siliceous river rocks.

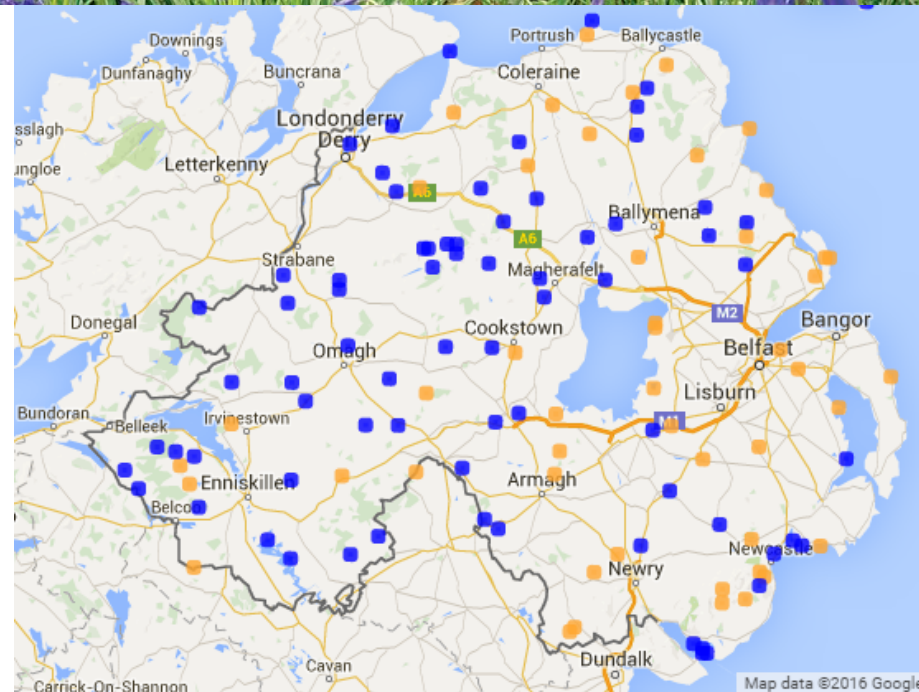
### In brief

- Found on basalt rocks in the Glenarm River at Glenarm Park, County Antrim (Nick Stewart, 1992)
- It prefers a high humidity environment, rocks with liverworts and mosses, and fluviatile environments
- It can be seen all year round. The thallus may be swollen and more obvious after rain. The colonies are likely to be under more water in winter and therefore less easy to find
- It is listed as a UK Priority Species
- Its main threats are changes in water levels or general environmental deterioration (for example, silage effluent, slurry or other domestic pollution in the water).

### Species description

The foliose thallus of a *Collema* is swollen when wet. The upper surface of the lichen is generally olive-green when wet and brown-black and opaque when dry. The upper cortex and lower cortex are tissue boundaries, composed of cells that are practically impossible to distinguish from subcortical cells (Howard Fox pers. comm.). In the Genus *Leptogium*, both cortices have more solid networks of cell walls when observed by microscope. The lichen attaches to rocks beneath by hapters (aerial organs of attachment from the lower surface) or white rhizines. Isidia are frequent. Apothecia are pale, reddish or dark brown with

# National Plant Monitoring Scheme





# What can YOU do on World Bee Day to help save the Bees?

**MAY 20**

One-third of Ireland's 94 bee species are at risk of extinction. By making small changes to how we manage our land, we can all help to reverse these declines.

- 1 Check out the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to see how you can help**  
Plan to see how you can help. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a blueprint for action to help bees and other pollinators. It includes a list of actions for different land uses and a checklist for individuals.
- 2 Look around your garden and park today and see what you can do to help bees and other pollinators**  
Create a garden or park that is friendly to bees and other pollinators. This includes planting native plants, avoiding pesticides, and providing nesting sites.
- 3 Plant bee-friendly flowers, fruits, herbs or trees**  
The most bee-friendly plants are those that are in bloom from May to September. These include wildflowers, clover, and many native plants. You can also plant trees that provide food for bees.
- 4 Make nesting sites for solitary bees**  
Solitary bees are important pollinators. They need nesting sites to lay their eggs. You can provide nesting sites by installing bee hotels or by leaving old bricks or pots in your garden.
- 5 Do an insect count**  
Count the number of bees and other pollinators that visit your garden or park. This can help you to see if your actions are making a difference. You can also share your results with the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

**www.pollinators.ie**

**National Biodiversity Data Centre**



## POMS

UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme

Pollinating insects play a vital role in our environment, ensuring that many of our crops and wild plants are able to set seed and produce fruit. We need to know how pollinator populations are changing, and with your help we are gathering data on a wide range of flower-visiting insects.

Help gather evidence on changes in insect populations

- 1. FIT Count Surveys can now start if the temperature is over 13°C on a sunny day or over 15°C on a cloudy day. Download the app to carry out a survey <https://ukpoms.org.uk/fit-count-app>**
- 2. 1km square monitoring will begin at the start of May (if above temperatures are met). For information on how to volunteer contact [Pauline.campbell@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Pauline.campbell@daera-ni.gov.uk)**



**1** The ten minute count...

Spend ten minutes counting pollinators to contribute a **Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count)**

Send in your results via the **FIT Count recording form** or **FIT Count app**



**2** ...or something bigger

Adopt a 1 km square and help us carry out a systematic survey of insects and flowers

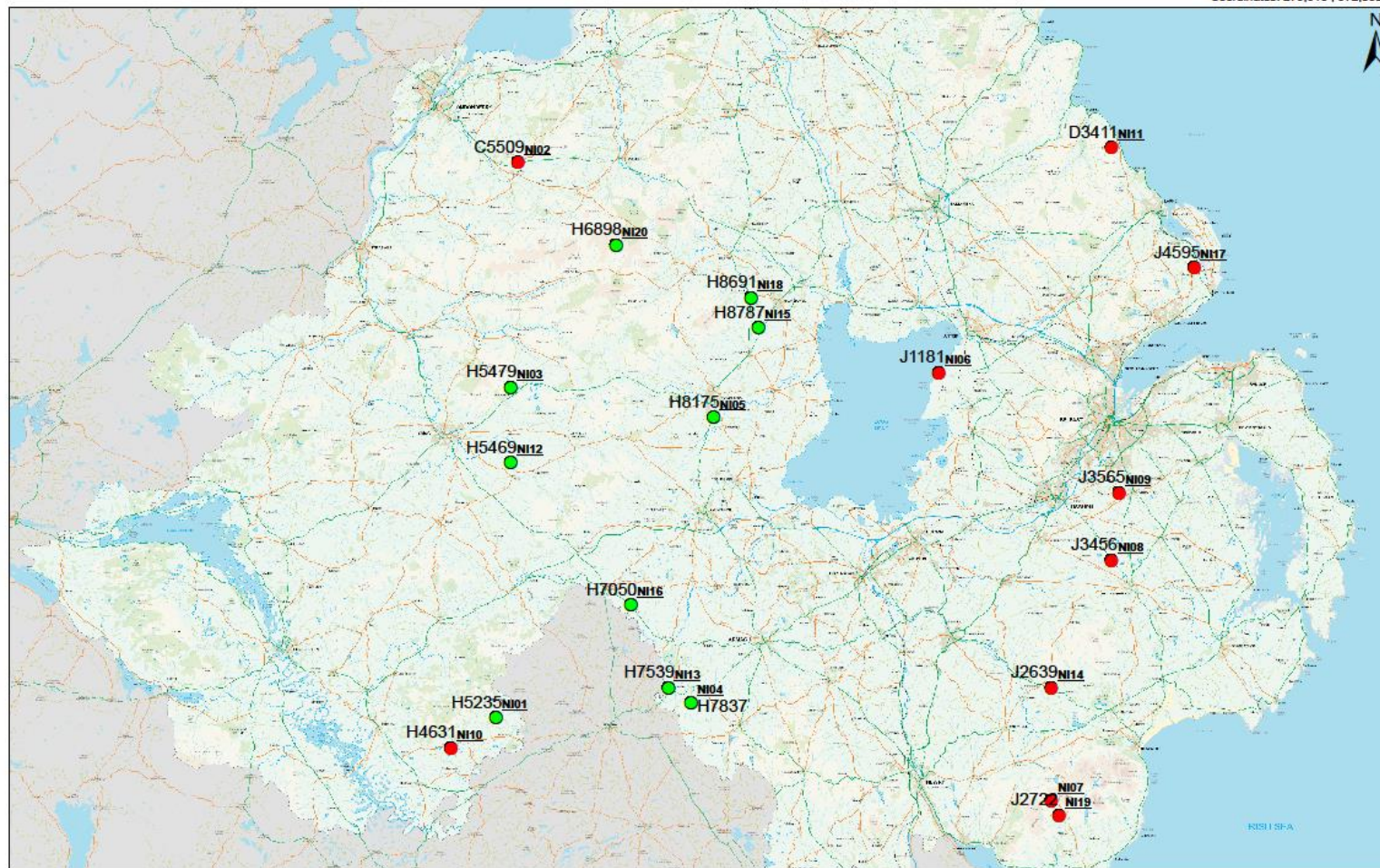
PoMS is the only scheme in the world generating systematic data on the abundance of bees, hoverflies and other flower-visiting insects at a national scale. Together with long-term occurrence records collated by the Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society and Hoverfly Recording Scheme, these data will form an invaluable resource from which to measure trends in pollinator populations and target conservation efforts.

<https://ukpoms.org.uk/>





Coordinates: 279,815 , 372,050



**Title:** PoMS 1km square monitoring 2022  
**Scale:** 1:463,030  
**Drawn by:** daera-mcaleenana  
**Date:** 12 May 2022

**Description:**  
 Red unavailable; Green available.

Reproduced with the permission of Land & Property Services under delegated authority from the Keeper of Public Records. © Crown copyright and database right MOU877.2 (2021). Unauthorised reproduction infringes © Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.



NBN Atlas Northern Ireland will revolutionise the use of biodiversity data in Northern Ireland, enabling it to be shared, analysed and researched

Search the NBN Atlas of Northern Ireland

SEEN SOMETHING?

Where to record a sighting



HELP WITH USING THE NBN ATLAS  
NORTHERN IRELAND?

Get help from NBN Atlas Documentation Portal



EXPLORE YOUR AREA

Search the NBN Atlas for information about a place



ANALYSE DATA

Undertake your own analyses of NBN Atlas data



# Rathlin

## OCCURRENCE RECORDS (27,038)

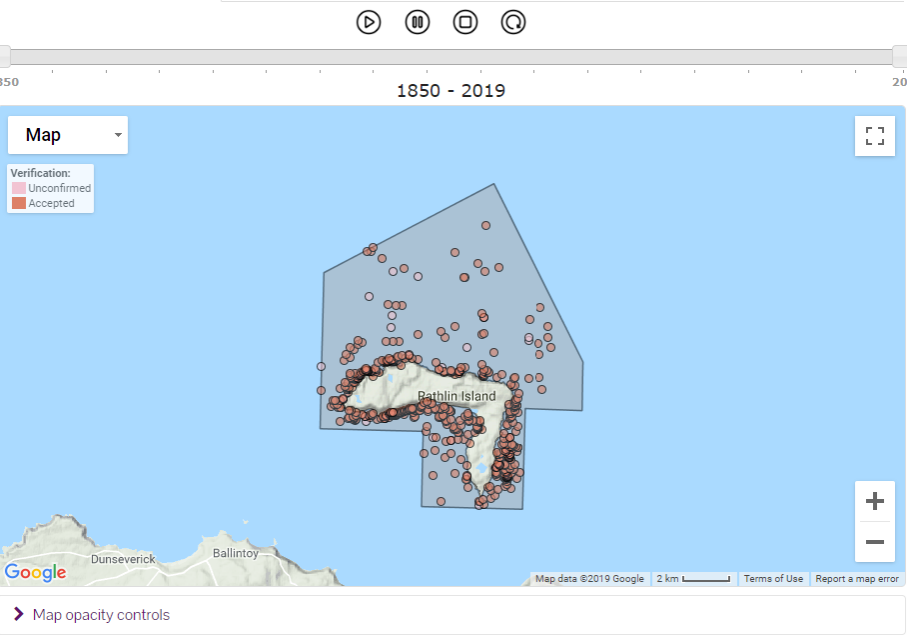
Explore by species   Explore by taxonomy

| Group                | Species  | Records |
|----------------------|--|---------|
| ▼ All Species        | 1. Abietinaria abietina                        | 86      |
| > Mammals            | 2. Abraxas grossulariata : Magpie              | 4       |
| > Birds              | 3. Abrostola tripartita : Spectacle            | 2       |
| > Insects            | 4. Abrostola triplasia : Dark Spectacle        | 1       |
| > Amphibians         | 5. Acanthiclepis asperima                      | 1       |
| > Reptiles           | 6. Acanthis cabaret : Lesser Redpoll           | 37      |
| > Fishes             | 7. Acanthis flammea : Redpoll                  | 1       |
| > Molluscs           | 8. Acanthochitona crinita                      | 1       |
| > Crustaceans        | 9. Acanthodoris pilosa                         | 22      |
| > Myriapods          | 10. Acarospora fuscata                         | 5       |
| > Spiders and allies | 11. Accipiter nisus : Sparrowhawk              | 16      |
| > Worms              | 12. Achillea millefolium : Yarrow              | 1       |
| > Fungi              | 13. Acrocephalus schoenobaenus : Sedge Warbler | 39      |
| > Plants             | 14. Acrochaetium alariae                       | 1       |
|                      | 15. Acrochaetium microscopium                  | 2       |
|                      | 16. Acrochaetium parvulum                      | 2       |
|                      | 17. Acrochaetium secundatum                    | 8       |
|                      | 18. Acrochaetium virgatulum                    | 1       |
|                      | 19. Acrochaetium                               | 1       |
|                      | 20. Acrocrida brachiata                        | 8       |
|                      | 21. Acronicta psi : Grey Dagger                | 1       |
|                      | 22. Acronicta rumicis : Knotgrass              | 3       |
|                      | 23. Acrosiphonia arcta                         | 2       |
|                      | 24. Acrosorium ciliolatum                      | 66      |

View records

Download records

Time Controls and Map





# Belshaws Quarry

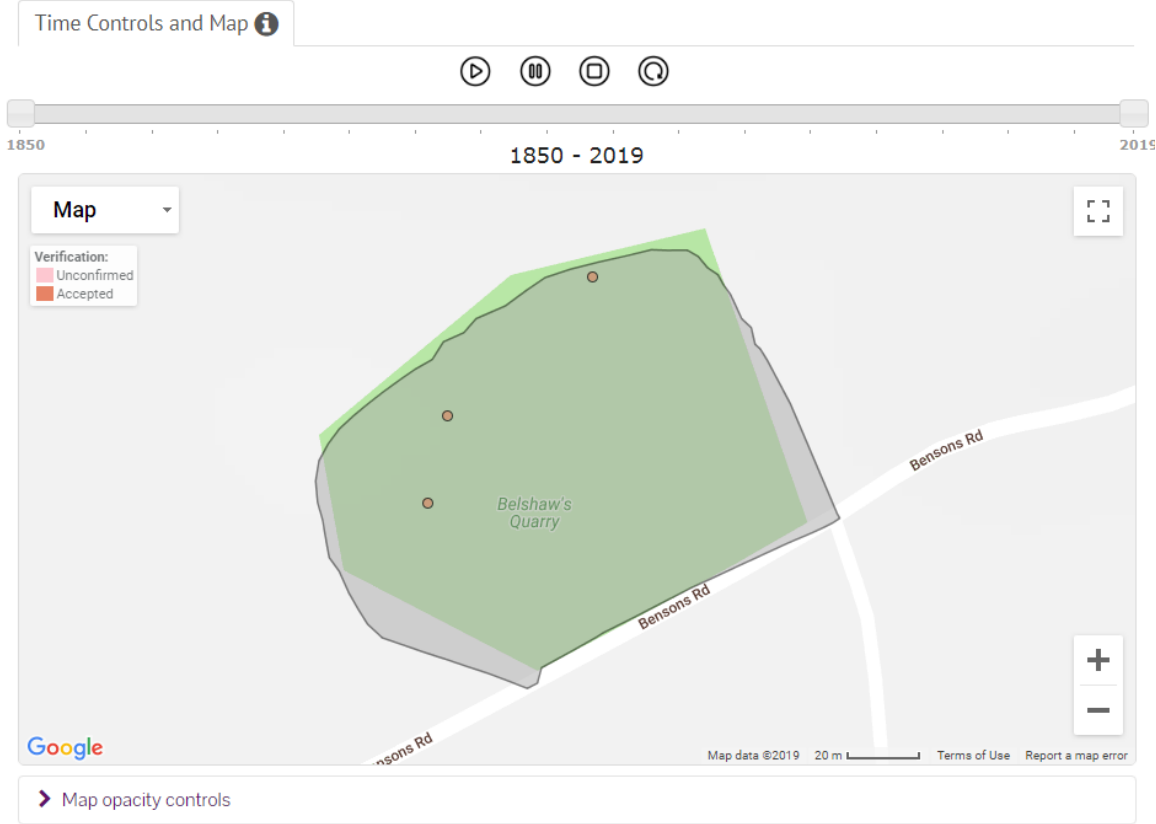
## OCCURRENCE RECORDS (17)

Explore by speciesExplore by taxonomy

| Group                | Species   | Records |
|----------------------|---|---------|
| ▼ All Species        | 1. Aglais io : Peacock                            | 1       |
| ➤ Mammals            | 2. Agriphila straminella : Straw Grass-veneer     | 1       |
| ➤ Birds              | 3. Bombus pascuorum : Common Carder Bee           | 1       |
| ➤ Insects            | 4. Cepaea (Cepaea) nemoralis : Brown-lipped Snail | 1       |
| ➤ Amphibians         | 5. Columba palumbus : Woodpigeon                  | 1       |
| ➤ Reptiles           | 6. Erithacus rubecula : Robin                     | 1       |
| ➤ Fishes             | 7. Fringilla coelebs : Chaffinch                  | 1       |
| ➤ Molluscs           | 8. Motacilla cinerea : Grey Wagtail               | 1       |
| ➤ Crustaceans        | 9. Palomena prasina : Green Shieldbug             | 1       |
| ➤ Myriapods          | 10. Pararge aegeria : Speckled Wood               | 1       |
| ➤ Spiders and allies | 11. Parus major : Great Tit                       | 1       |
| ➤ Worms              | 12. Pieris brassicae : Large White                | 1       |
| ➤ Fungi              | 13. Sciurus carolinensis : Eastern Grey Squirrel  | 2       |
| ➤ Plants             | 14. Troglodytes troglodytes : Wren                | 1       |
|                      | 15. Turdus merula : Blackbird                     | 1       |
|                      | 16. Vanessa atalanta : Red Admiral                | 1       |

View records

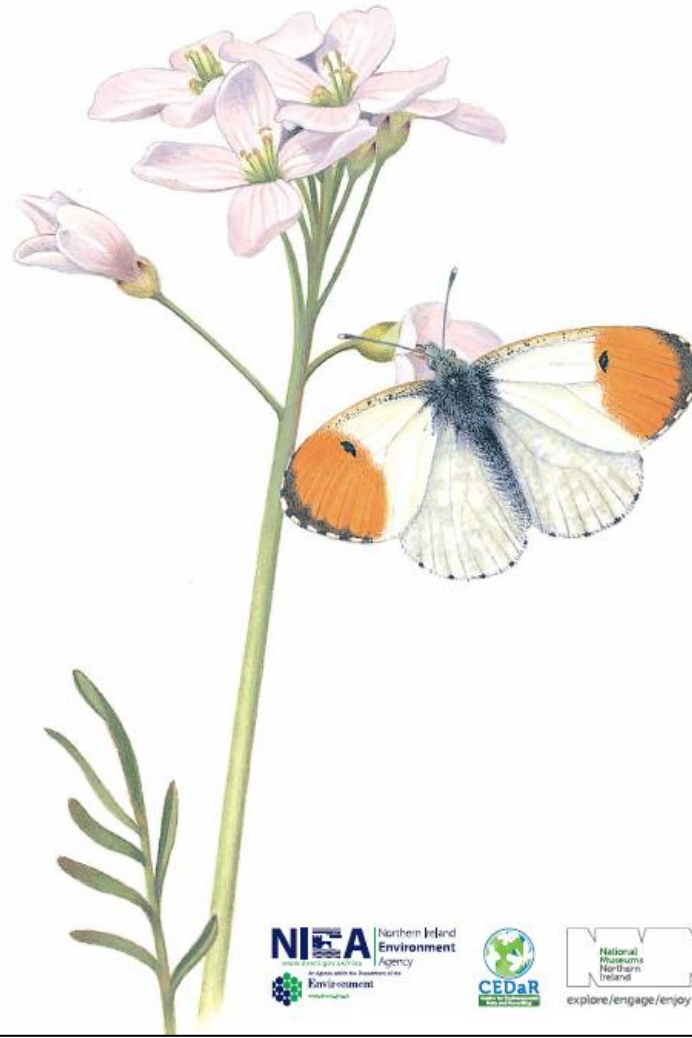
Download records





# Recording Northern Ireland's Wildlife

The Story of CEDaR  
(1995–2015)



The Orange Tip butterfly, *Gonepteryx rhamni* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
© CEDaR, 2015. All rights reserved. CEDaR is a registered charity. CEDaR is a registered charity.







# Intro to the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and the Countryside Bird Survey

By Niamh Fitzgerald



An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta  
agus Fiadhúlra  
National Parks and Wildlife Service



# Agenda

1. Welcome, background to bird monitoring in Ireland.
2. The Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS) – background, methods.
3. The Countryside Bird Survey (CBS) – background, methods.
4. Data uses.



# Why monitor birds (I)

- To identify sites of importance for designation, nationally and internationally – EU Bird's Directive.
- Ireland's obligations to monitor and report under the EU Birds Directive (Article 12)
- Long-term monitoring – trends in abundance and distribution, informs species and site protection; assess effectiveness of conservation measures.

# Why monitor birds (II)

- Birds are effective bioindicators – they reflect the health of our habitats and ecosystems.
- Relatively visible and easy to survey, wide ranging, upper trophic level consumers... Indicators of environmental change – e.g. climate change, fish stocks...
- Birds are conspicuous, ‘aesthetically pleasing’, a good ad for promoting biodiversity among the public.



# Background to bird monitoring in Ireland

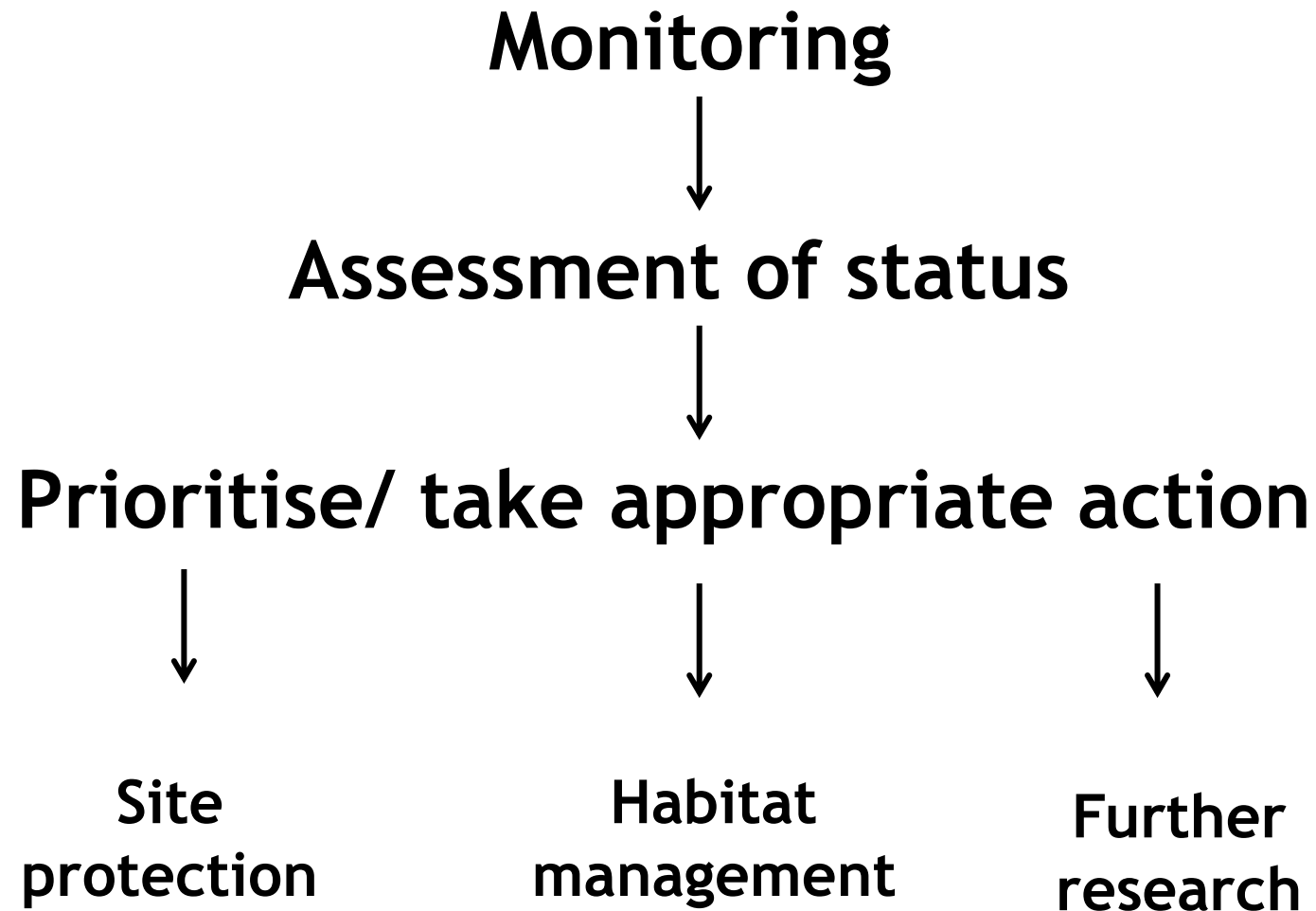




# How much hunting is sustainable?



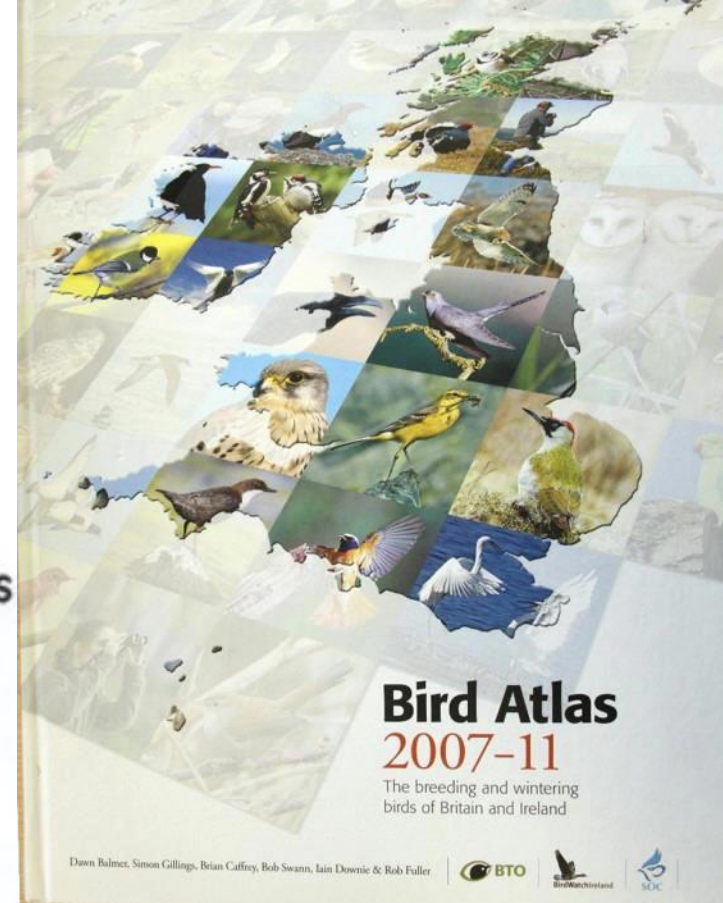






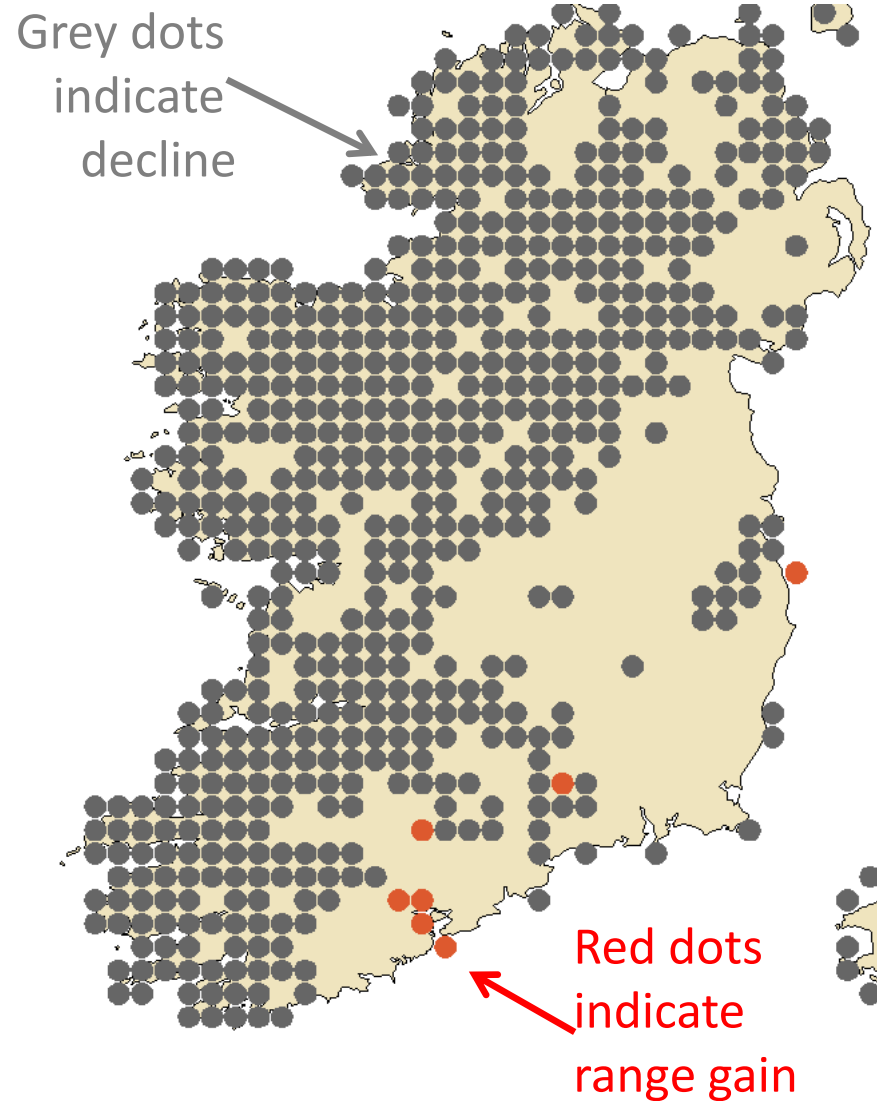
1968-72

Atlas  
Snapshots at  
20-year  
intervals

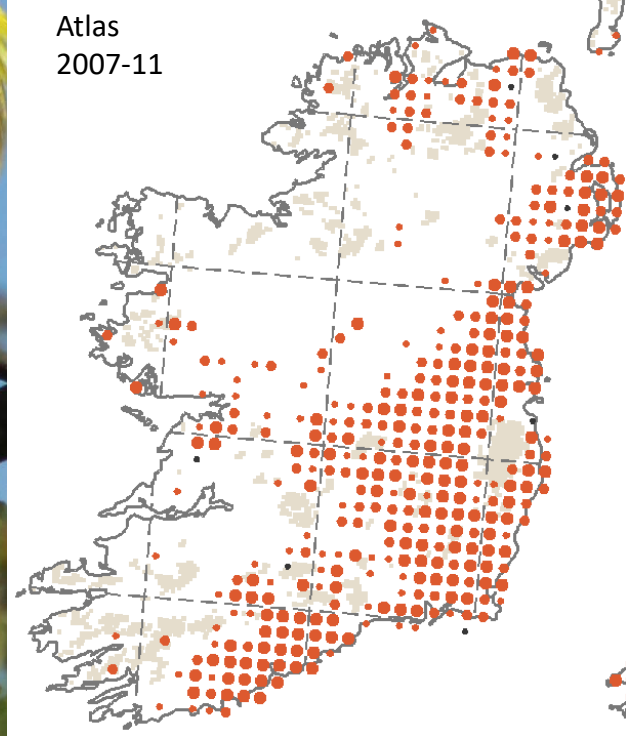
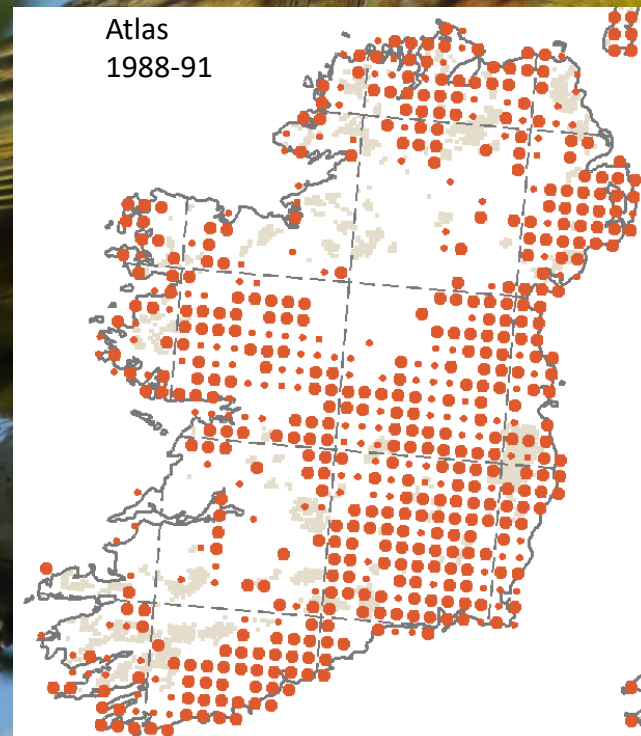
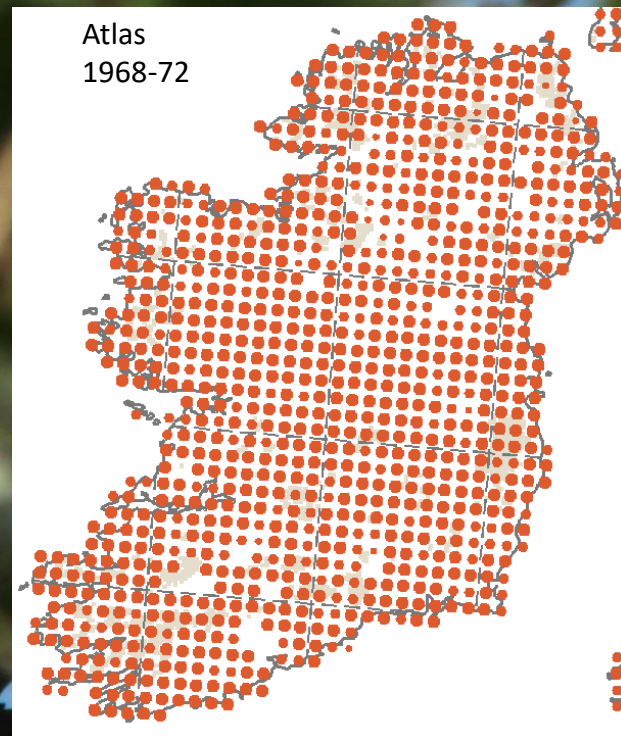




# Large-scale declines, many species, especially since 1970s...

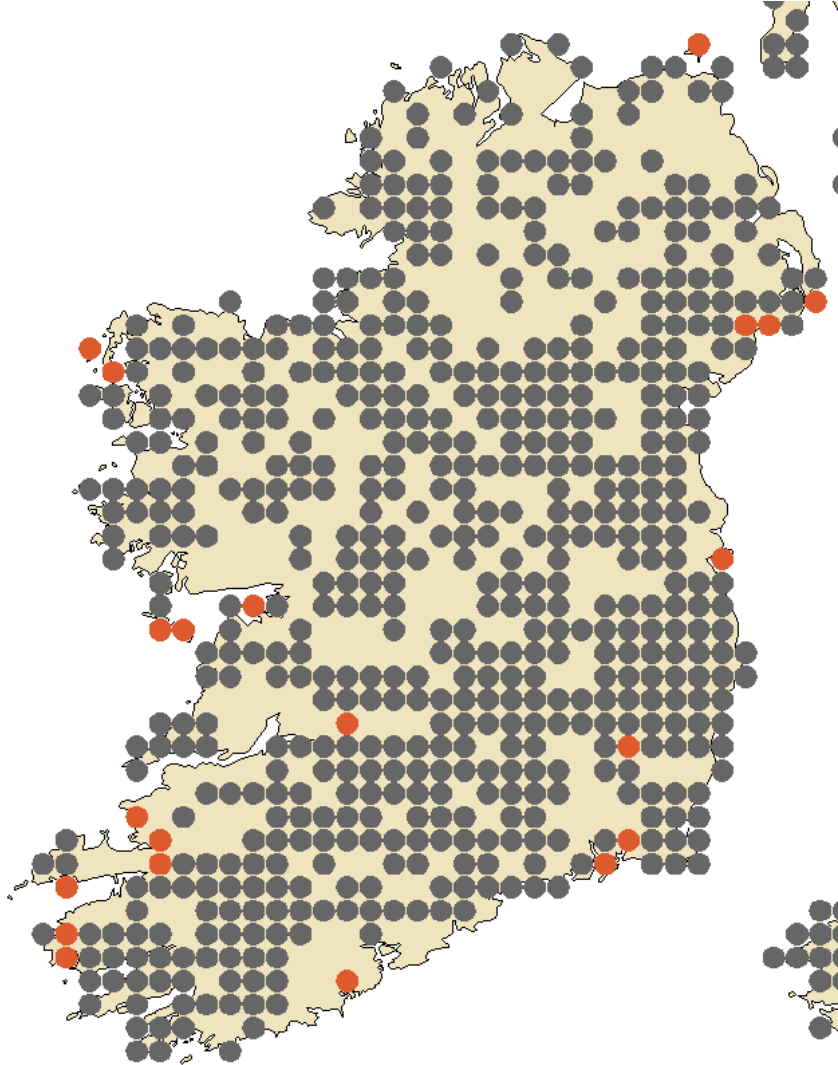


## Range contraction

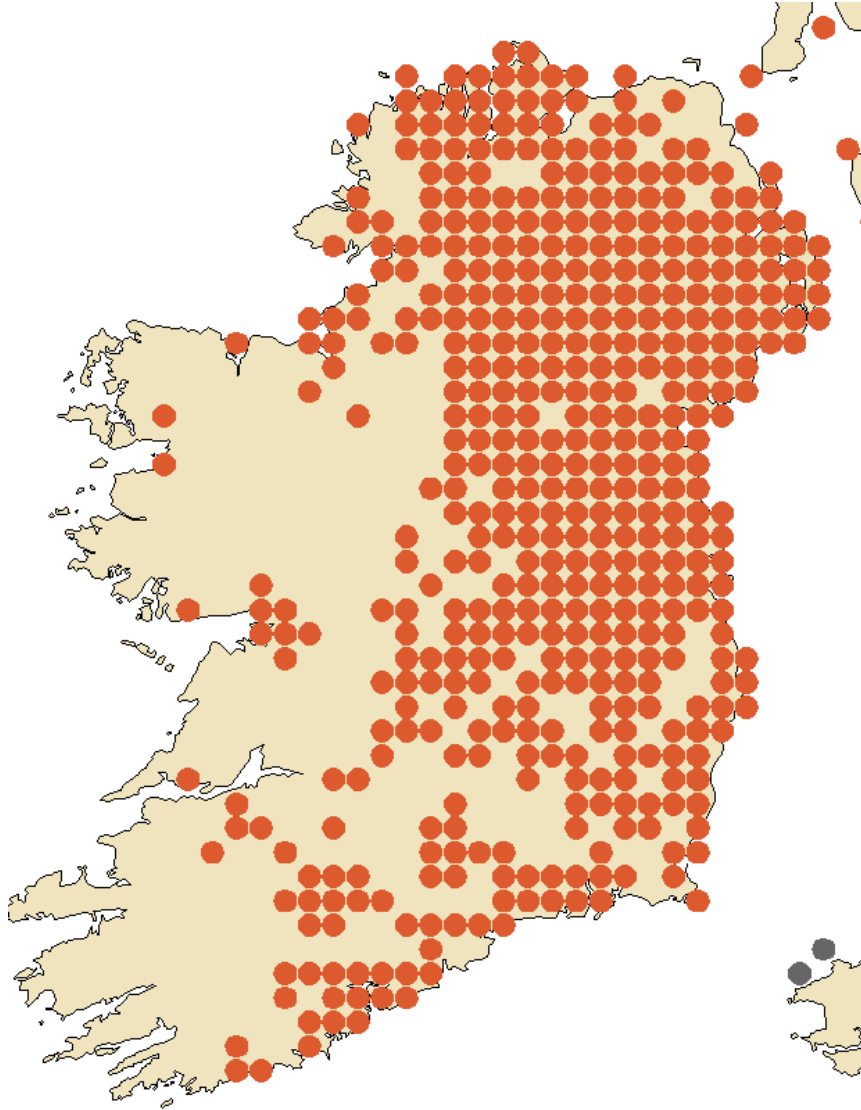




# Curlew

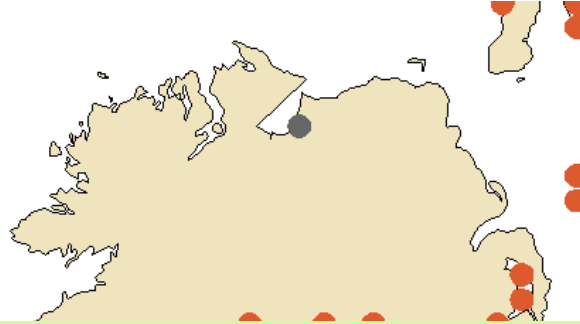


# Common Buzzard

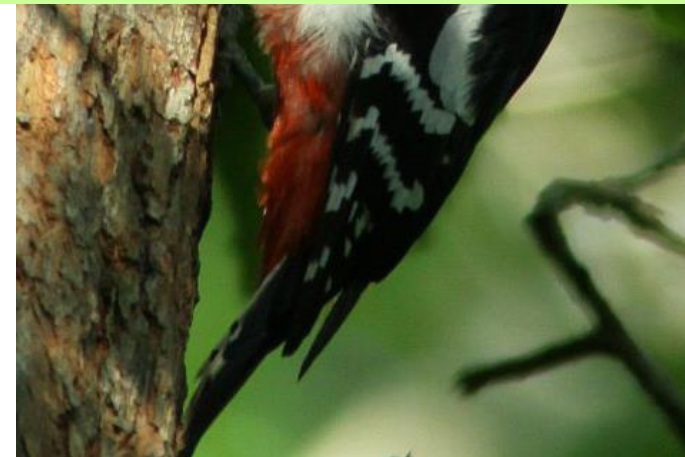
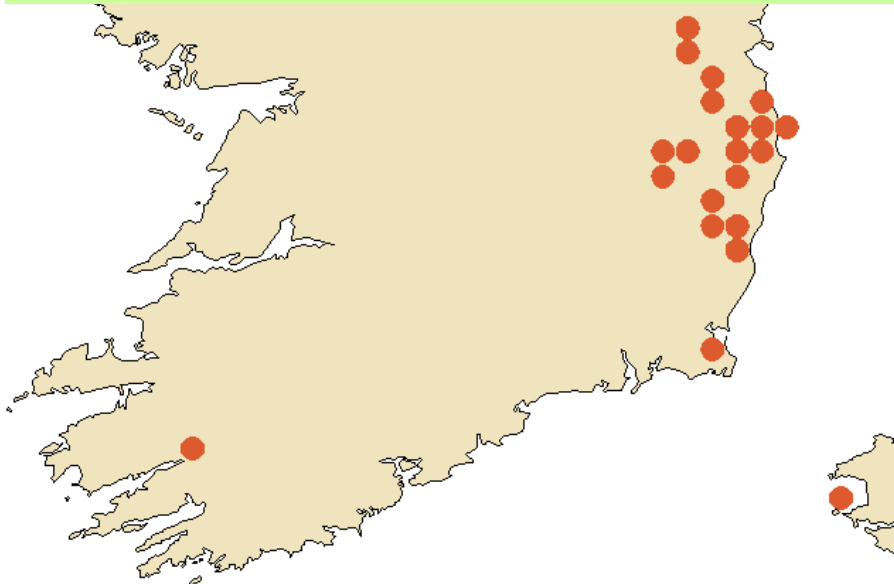




# Great Spotted Woodpecker



All change – birds are constantly on the move...  
Important that we keep up!



# Ongoing permanent monitoring...





# Survey participants







# Survey Coordinators



Niamh Fitzgerald



Dick Coombes







# CBS and I-WeBS team



Lesley Lewis  
*Project Manager*

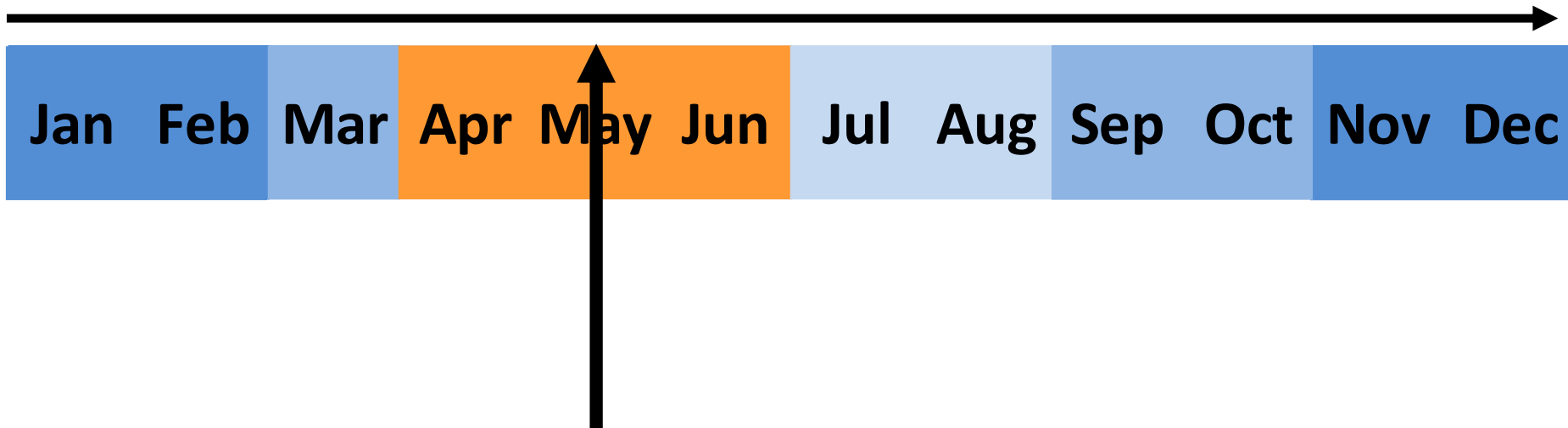


Brian Burke  
*Scientific Officer*



John Kennedy  
*Scientific Officer*

# Timeline...



Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec





# I-WeBS



## The Irish Wetland Bird Survey



An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta  
agus Fiadhúlra  
National Parks and Wildlife Service







# I-WeBS - Objectives

1. Determine the size of waterbird populations
2. Identify important sites for waterbirds
3. Assess trends in their numbers and distribution
4. Informed decision-making regarding developments near wetlands





# I-WeBS - Objectives

1. Determine the size of **waterbird** populations

- **Wildfowl** - swans, geese, ducks
- **Wildfowl allies** - grebes, rails, cormorants, herons, divers
- **Waders**
- **Gulls**



# I-WeBS - Objectives

1. Determine the size of waterbird populations
2. Identify important sites for waterbirds
3. Assess trends in their numbers and distribution
4. Informed decision-making regarding developments near wetlands



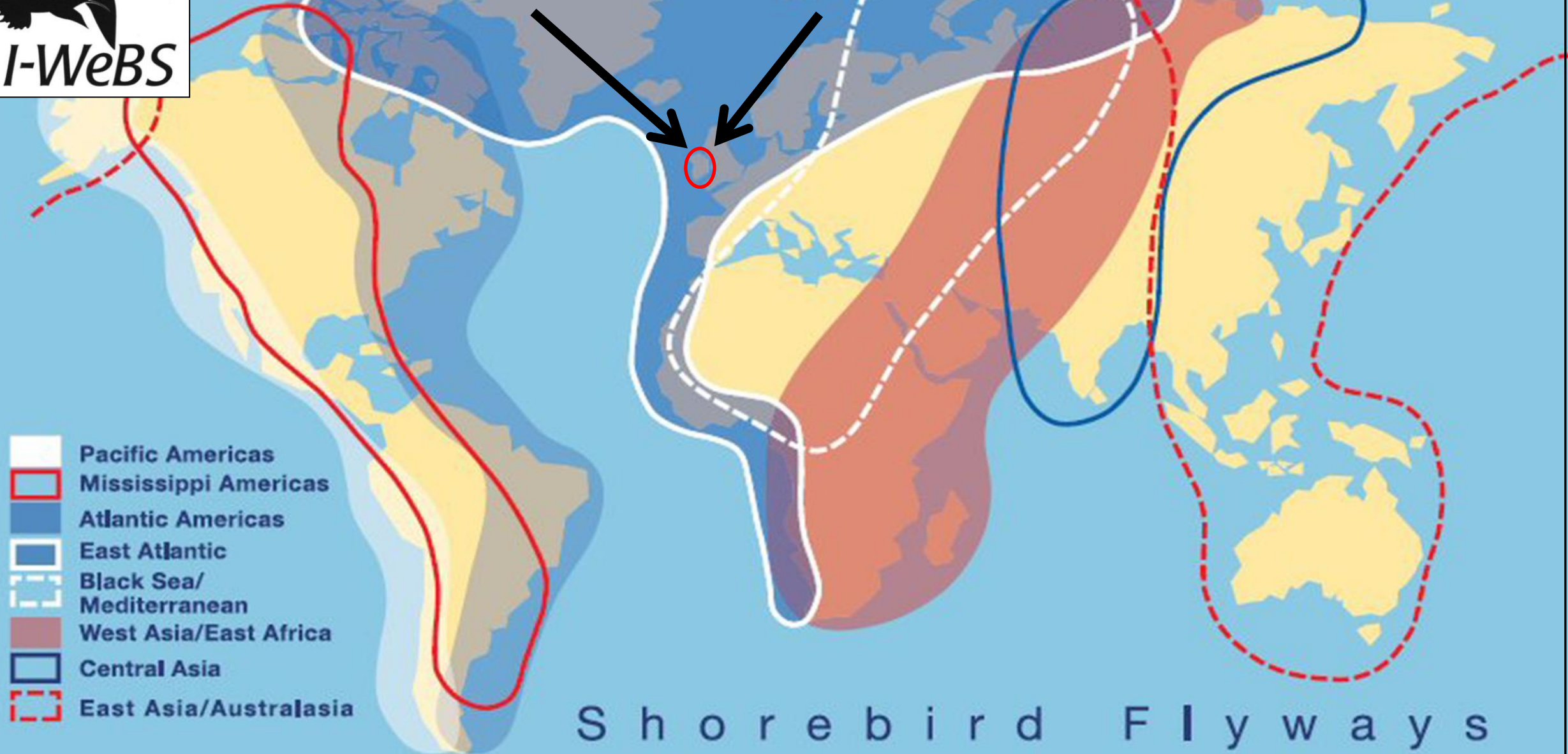


# **Why is Ireland so important for waterbirds?**

1. Location along flyway of arctic-nesting species
2. Mild climate, Ice-free feeding opportunities
3. Abundance of wetlands

**Hundreds of thousands of waterbirds come to Ireland every winter!**





S h o r e b i r d F l y w a y s





# Methods

- Look-see method within predefined boundaries
- Once per month, Sep – **Jan** – Mar
- Pre-selected dates – coordinated counts
- Teams to cover large sites
- Tidal sites at/near high tide (high end of rising)
- All counts within 3 hours (to minimise x2 counting)

# I-WeBS Online

## Wildfowl Species Counts

Swans, geese and ducks

### Wildfowl

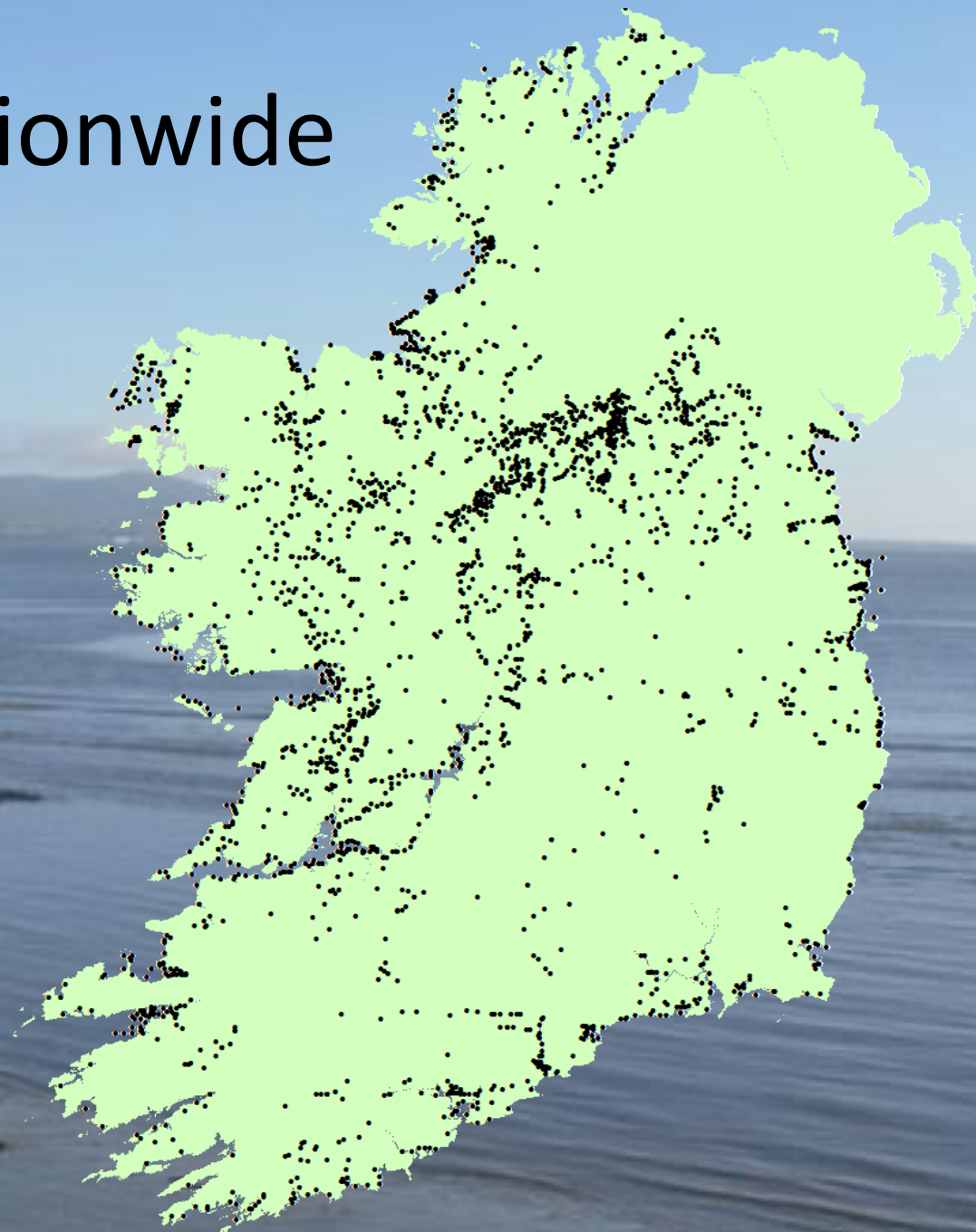
|                                    | Count | Count Quality       |
|------------------------------------|-------|---------------------|
| Mute Swan - MS                     | 12    | Okay                |
| Bewick's Swan - BS                 |       |                     |
| Whooper Swan - WS                  | 72    | Estimate            |
| Pink-footed Goose - PG             |       |                     |
| Greenland White-fronted Goose - NW | 40    | Known underestimate |
| Greylag Goose - GJ                 |       |                     |





# Sites nationwide

- 300 sites, including all key wetlands (e.g. SPAs)
- Split into 800 subsites
- **Wetlands of all types, shapes and sizes** (shallow coast to wet grasslands)
- c. 485 observers annually





# I-WeBS Counters

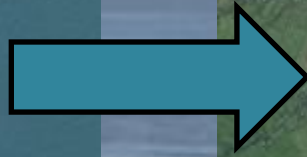
**NPWS/BirdWatch staff: 55**

**Skilled volunteers: 430**





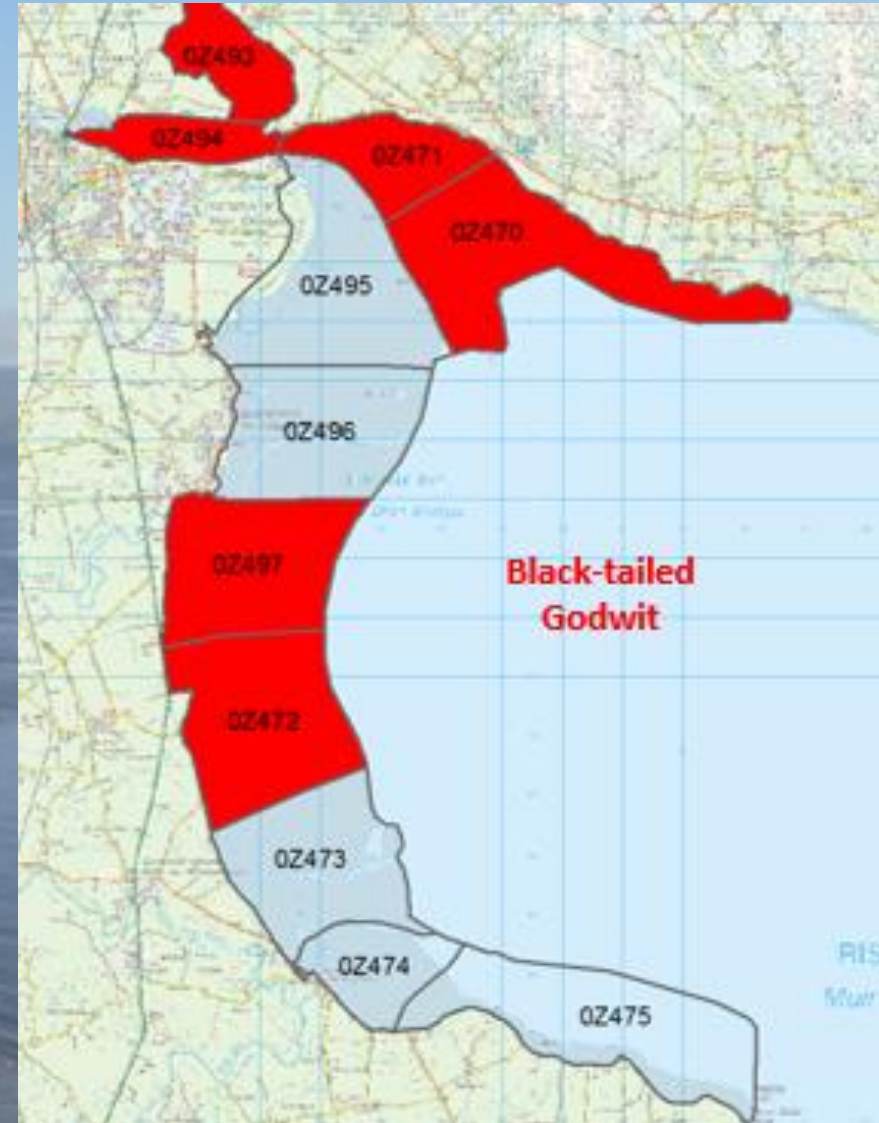
# Sites to Subsites: e.g. Dungarvan Harbour



# Subsites = fine-scale data within sites

## Benefits

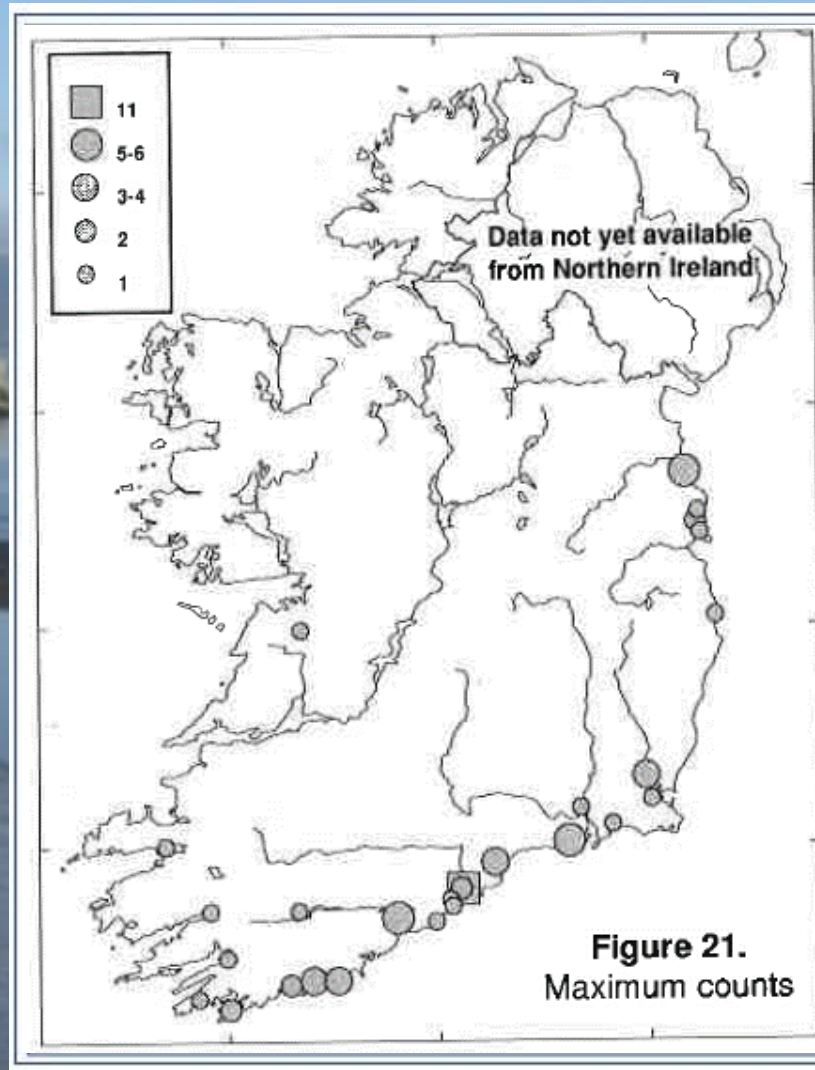
- Subsite boundaries easily recognised
- Easier to do co-ordinated counts
- Finer-scale data e.g. most important areas for different species within a site



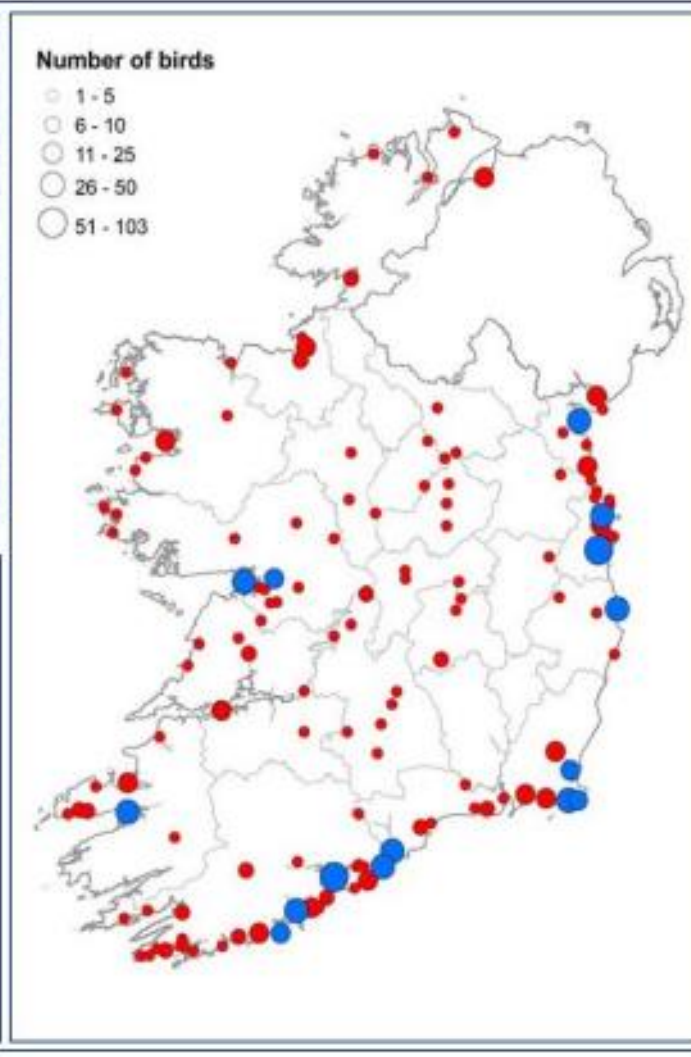


# Small-scale and Large-scale change

1995/96

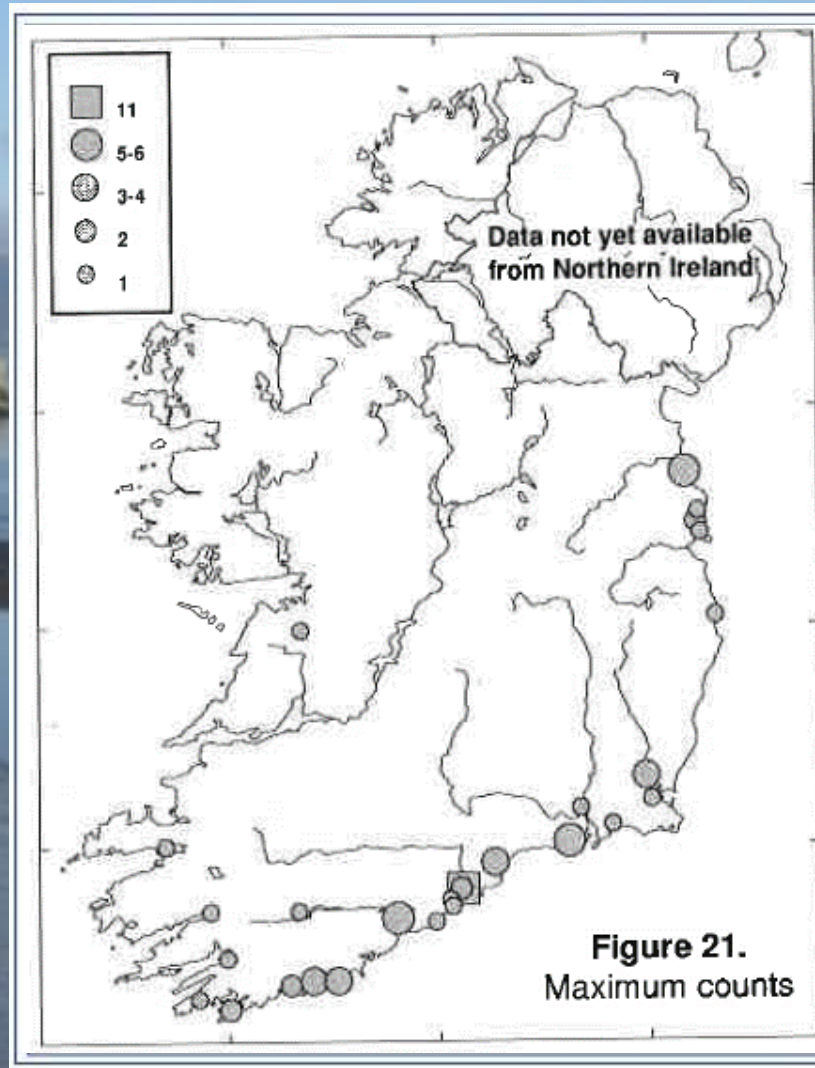


2015/16

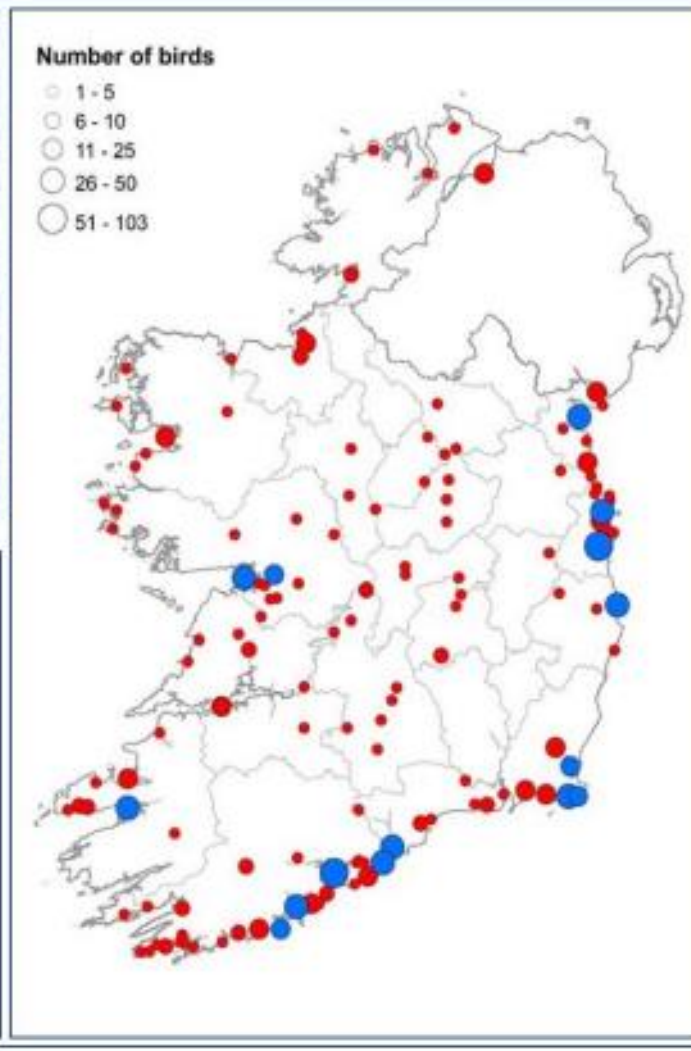


# Can you guess the species?

1995/96

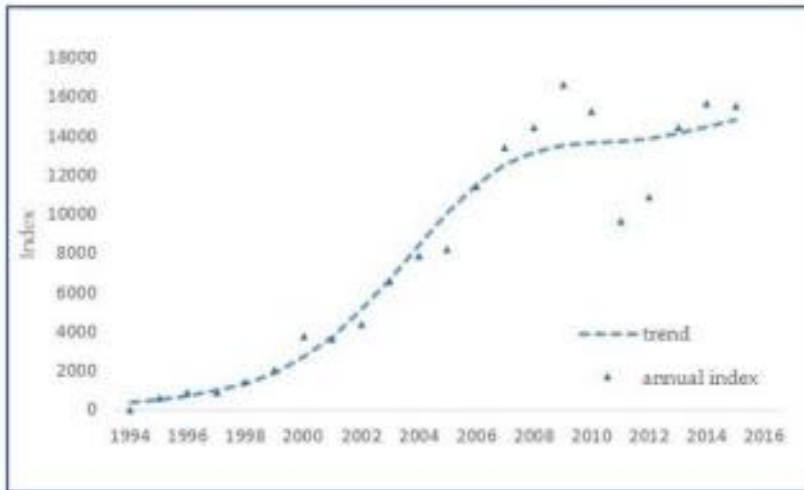


2015/16



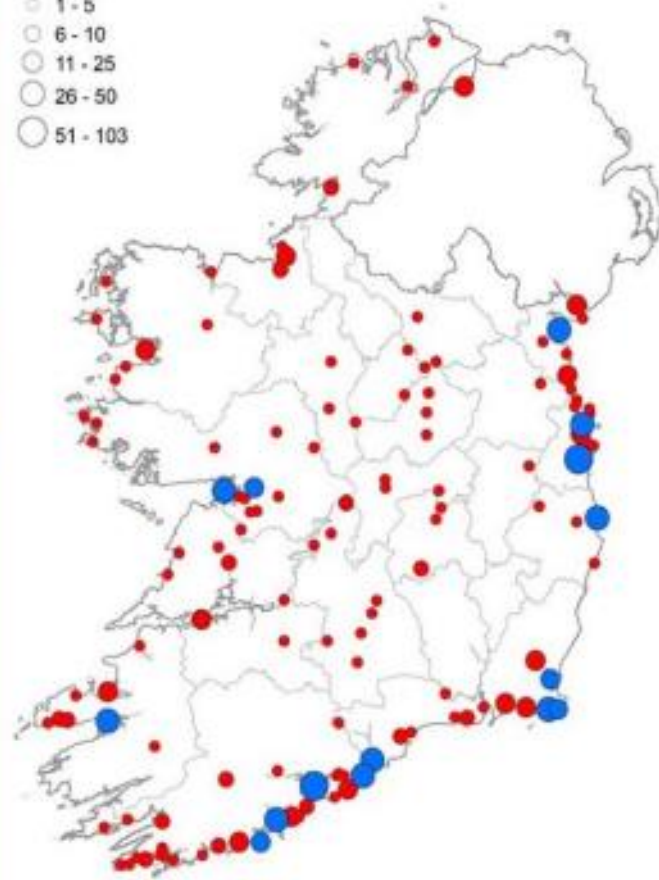


# Can you guess the species?



Number of birds

- 1 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 25
- 26 - 50
- 51 - 103





498,418 waterbirds lost

40% total decline

... in Ireland since 1994/95!



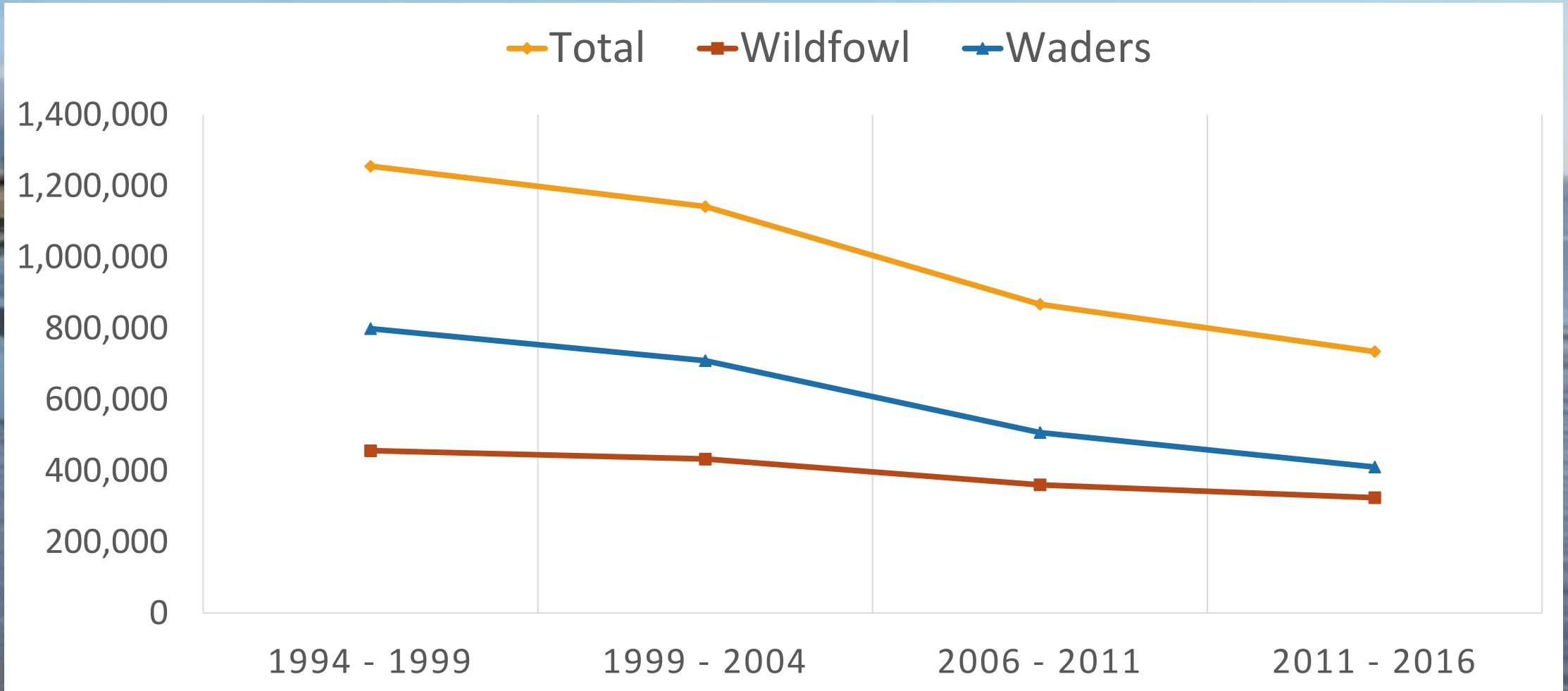


## Some Key Findings

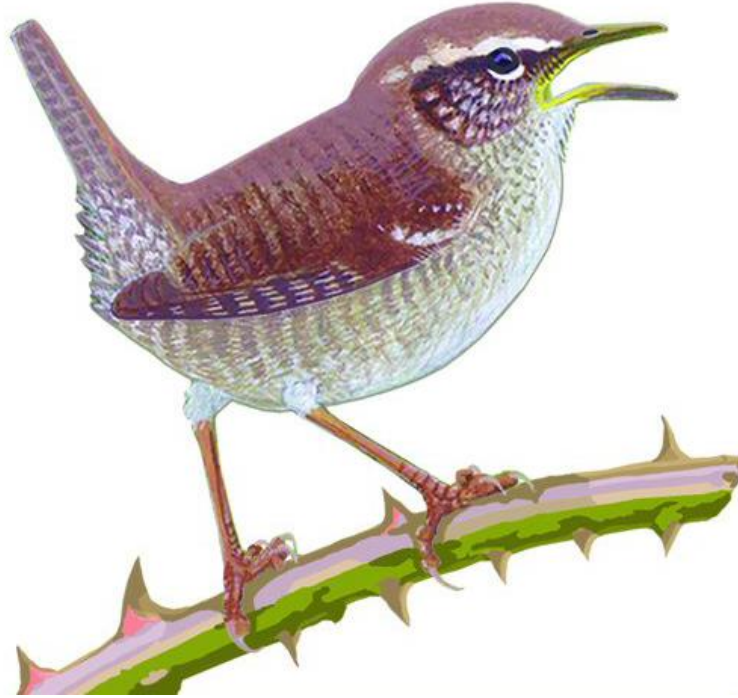
- Total numbers have declined by **139,223** (15.5%) in 5 years
- **Waders** experiencing the largest declines (19.1%) (-100,000)
- Sites supporting 20,000 birds have fallen **from 15**, in 2004/5 **to 5** in the current period
- Increases in: Sanderling (**13.2%**), Greenshank (**16.8%**), Black-tailed Godwit (4.2%) and Bar-tailed Godwit (**8.5%**) over last 5 years



# Population Changes Over Time







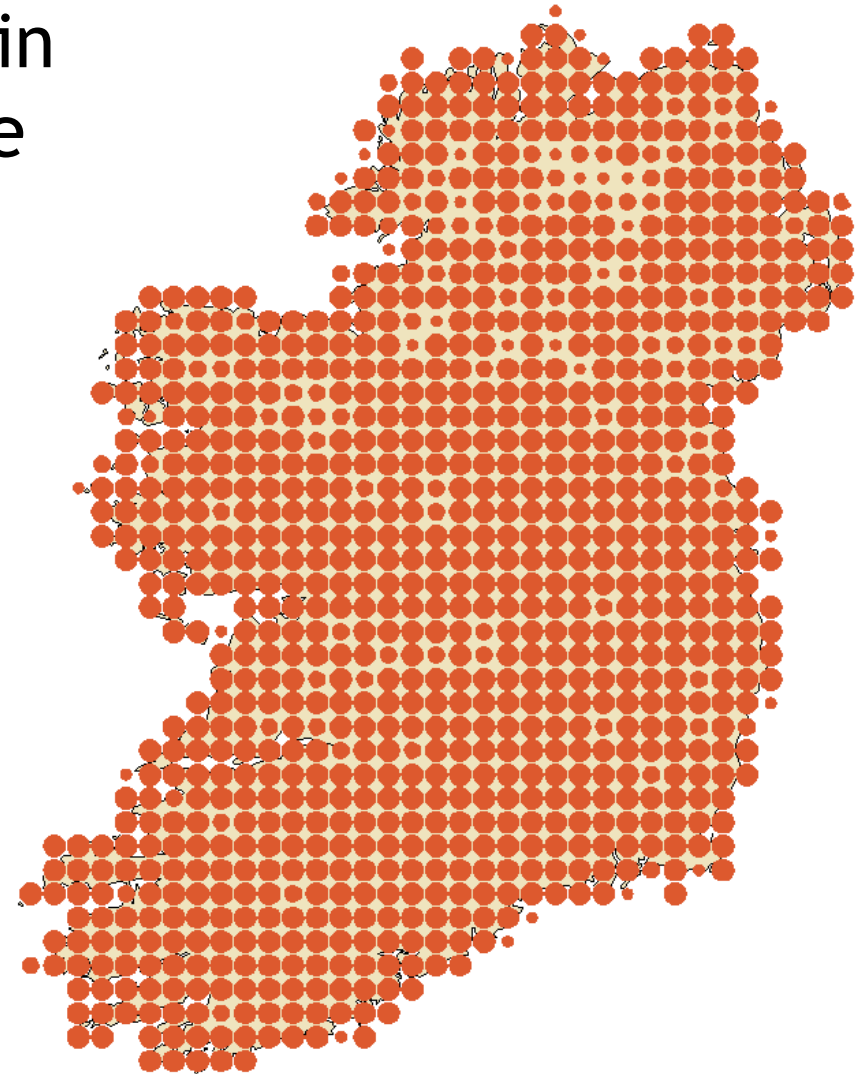
# Countryside Bird Survey



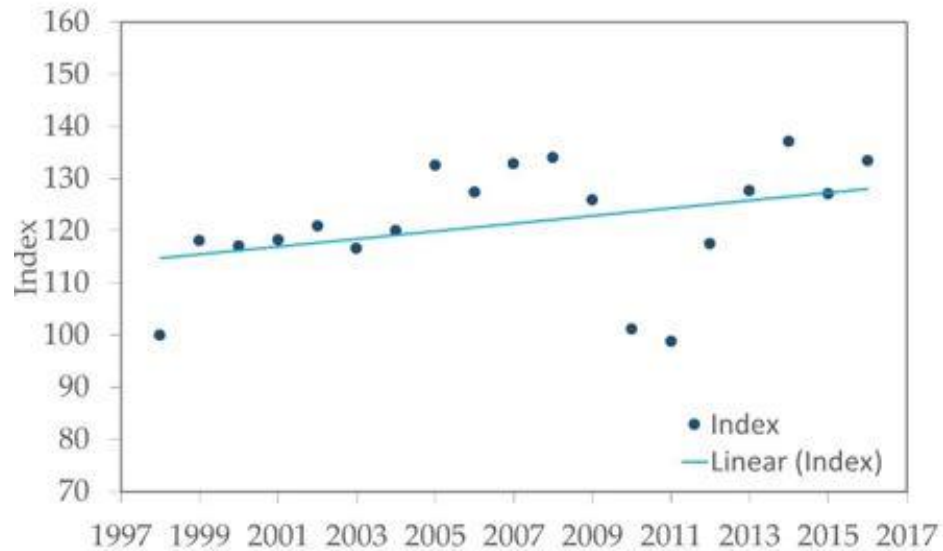
## Wren

Resident present in  
Every 1-km square  
In Ireland

Bird Atlas



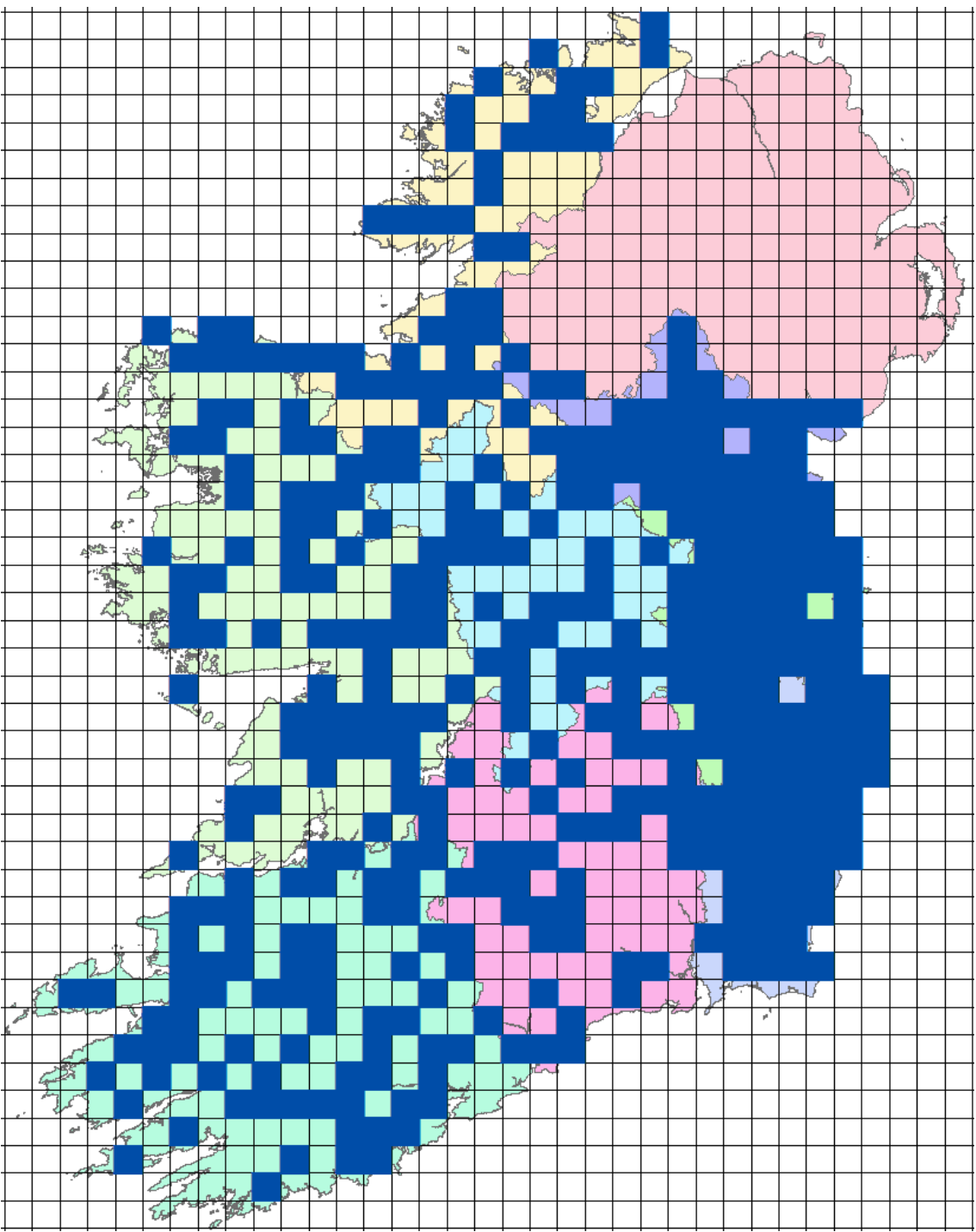
CBS

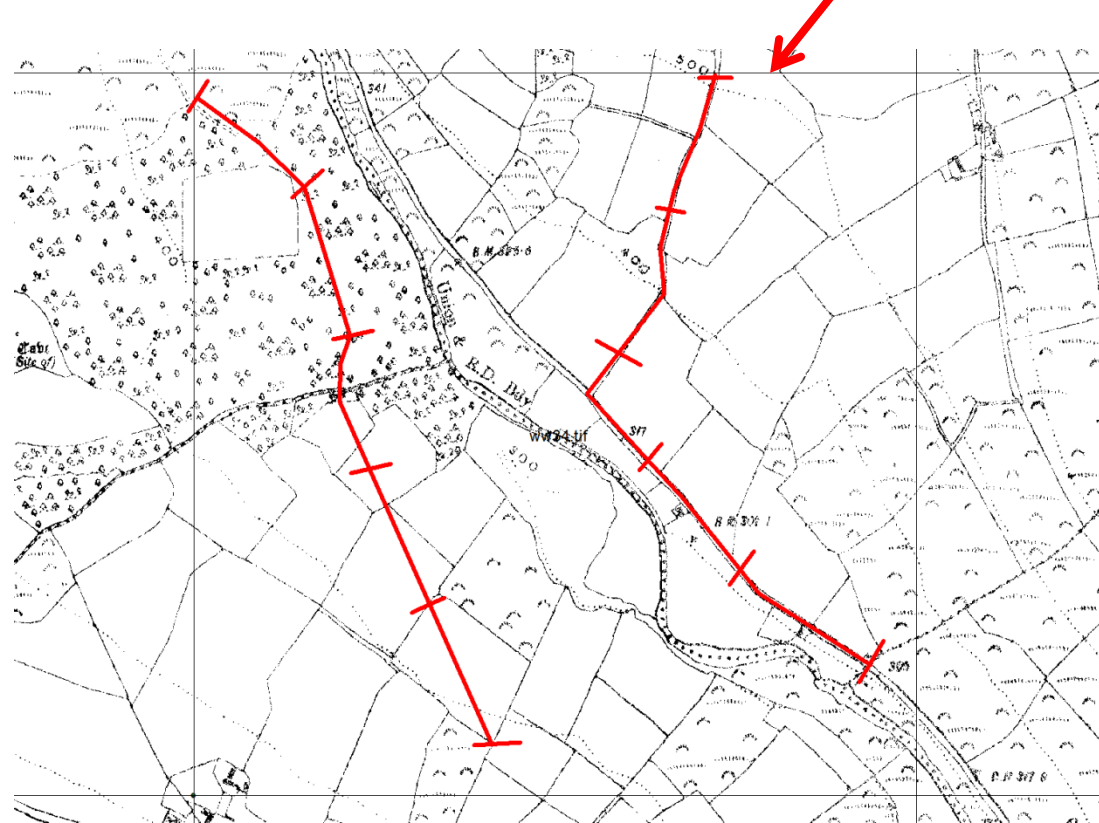
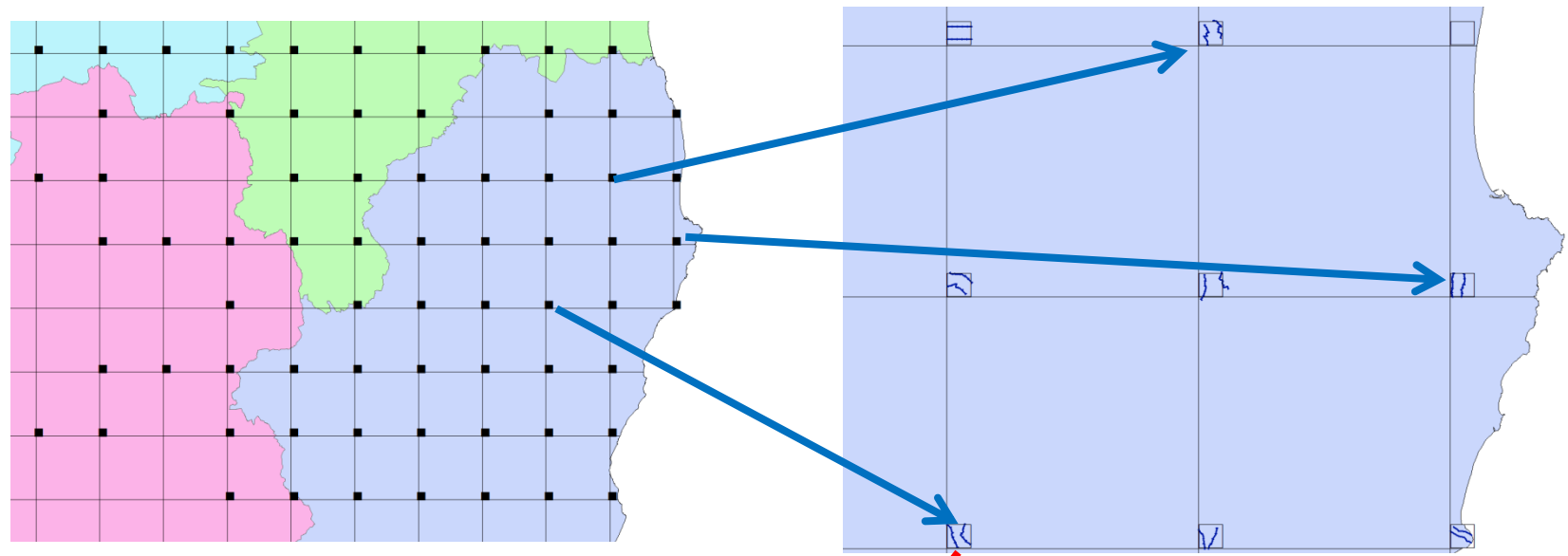




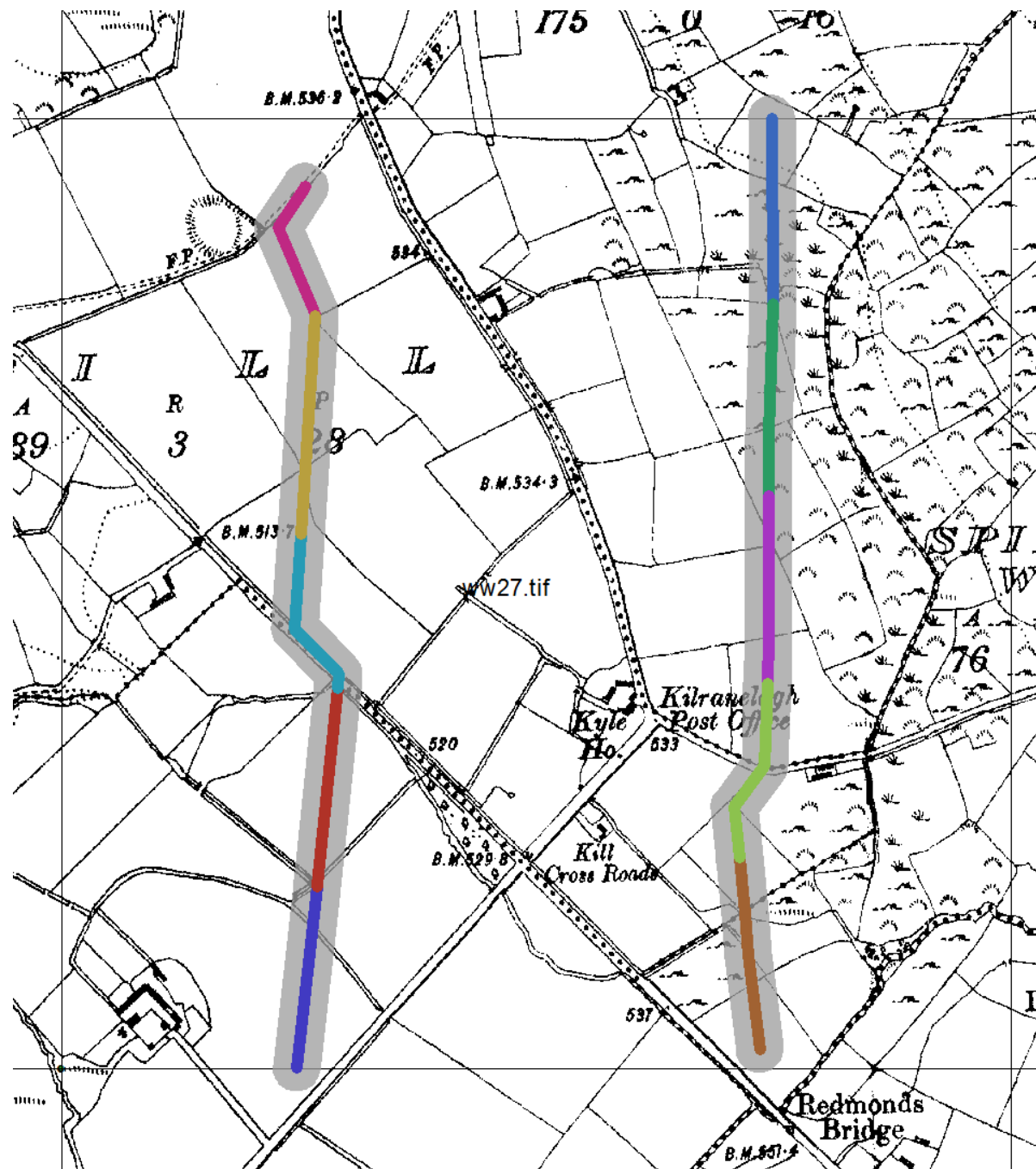


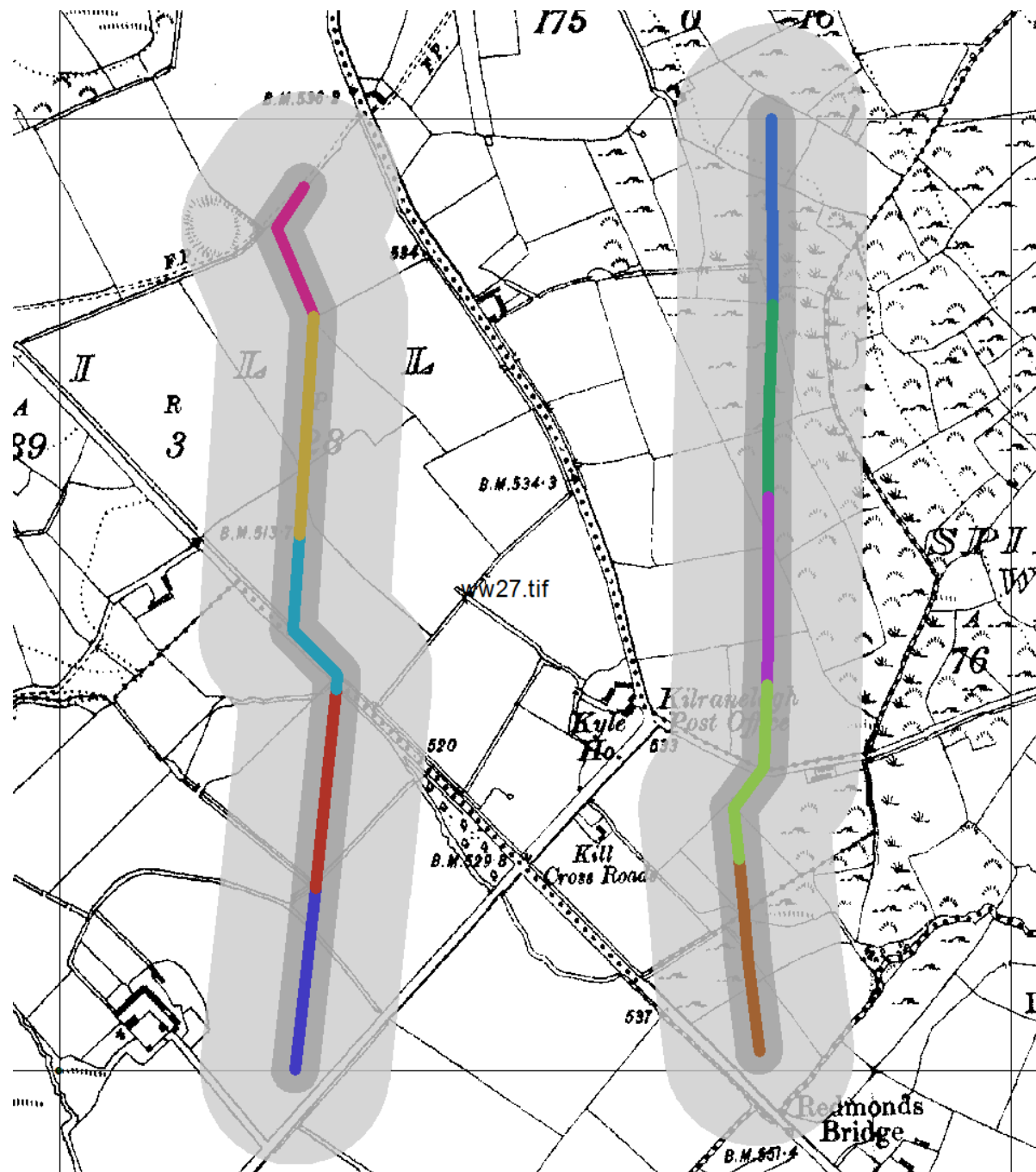
**Countryside  
Bird Survey**



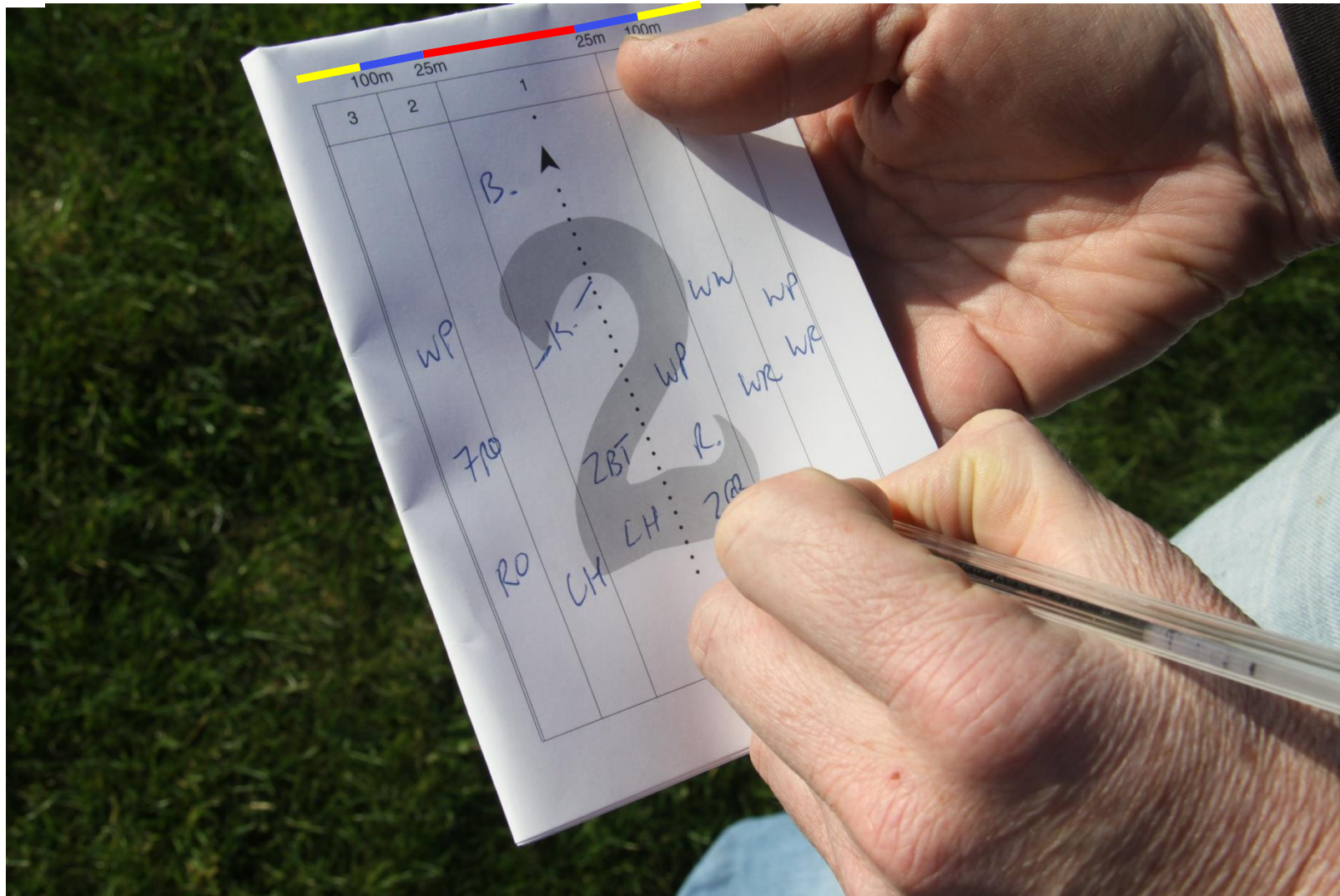












# CBS Online



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

## Countryside Bird Survey

Online Submission Form to record a CBS Visit

A-

A+

Welcome to the online CBS submission form.

Please note that this form

- can be filled out using a computer, tablet or phone
- can be used to upload a photo or scan of the map (this is optional)
- accepts the relevant data on the Habitat Recording Form (green paper form) and the Field Recording Sheet (white paper form)





- April / May / June
- Two early morning counts
- 300 squares (1km)
- 220 participants
- 55 species





Countryside  
Bird Survey

Carried out in a range of habitats...









Countryside  
Bird Survey

# Happy Habitat recording!

## BTO HABITAT CODING SCHEME

| LEVEL 1   | LEVEL 2                   | LEVEL 3                | LEVEL 4*             | LEVEL 1                           | LEVEL 2               | LEVEL 3            | LEVEL 4                              |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A WOODLAND  | 1 Broadleaved             | 1 Mixed-aged or        | 1 Dense shrub        | E FARMLAND                        | 1 Improved            | 1 Hedgerow         | 1 Ungrazed                           |
|   | 2 Coniferous              | 2 Semi-natural         | 1 layer              |                                   | 2 grassland           | with trees         | 2 Cattle                             |
|   | 3 Mixed                   | 2 Coppice with         | 2 Moderate shrub     |                                   | 2 Unimproved          | 2 Hedgerow         | 3 Sheep                              |
|   | (10% of each)             | standards              | layer                |                                   | grassland             | without trees      | 4 Horses                             |
|   | 4 Broadleaved             | 3 Coppice              | 3 Sparse shrub       |                                   | 3 Mixed grass/        | 3 Tree-line        | 5 Other stock                        |
|   | (water-logged)            | without standards      | layer                |                                   | tiled land            | without hedges     | 6 Bare earth/plough                  |
|   | 5 Coniferous              | 4 Mature               | 4 Dense field layer  |                                   | 4 Tilled land         | 4 Other field      | 6 Autumn cereal                      |
|   | (water-logged)            | plantation, (taller    | 5 Moderate field     |                                   | 5 Orchard             | boundary (wall,    | 8 Spring cereal                      |
|   | 6 Mixed                   | than 10m, with         | layer                |                                   | 6 Other farming       | ditch, etc.)       | 9 Root crops                         |
|   | (water-logged)            | closed canopy)         | 6 Sparse field layer |                                   |                       | 5 Isolated group   | (specify)                            |
|   | 5 Young                   | 7 Grazed               |                      | of trees                          | 10 Other crops        |                    |                                      |
|   | plantation                | (moderate to           |                      | 6 Farmyard                        | (specify)             |                    |                                      |
|   | (5-10m, open              | heavy)                 |                      | 7 Near road                       | 11 Oil-seed rape      |                    |                                      |
|   | canopy)                   | 8 Lightly grazed       |                      | (within 50m)                      | 12 Other brassicas    |                    |                                      |
|   | 6 Parkland                | 9 Dead wood            |                      | 8 No field                        | 13 Stubble (clean)    |                    |                                      |
|   | (scattered trees          | present                |                      | boundary                          | 14 Stubble (weedy)    |                    |                                      |
|   | and grassy areas)         | 10 Dead wood           |                      |                                   | 15 Unsown (fallow)    |                    |                                      |
|   | 7 High-medium             | absent                 |                      |                                   | 16 Recently-cut grass |                    |                                      |
|   | disturbance               |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   | from people               |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   | 8 Low disturbance         |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   | 9 Near road (within 50m)  |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
| B SCRUBLAND<br>(or young<br>woodland<br><5m tall) | 1 Regenerating            | 1 Broadleaved          | 1 Predominantly      | F HUMAN<br>SITES                  | 1 Urban               | 1 Building         | 1 Industrial                         |
|   | natural or                | 2 Coniferous           | 1 tall (3-5m)        |                                   | 2 Suburban            | 2 Gardens          | 2 Residential                        |
|   | semi-natural              | 3 Mixed                | 2 Predominantly      |                                   | 3 Rural               | 3 Municipal parks/ | 3 Well-wooded                        |
|   | woodland                  | (10% of each)          | low (1-3m)           |                                   |                       | mown grass/        | 4 Not well-wooded                    |
|   | <5m tall)                 | 4 Broadleaved          | 3 Dense shrub        |                                   |                       | golf courses/      | 5 Area of large                      |
|   |                           | swamp scrub            | layer                |                                   |                       | recreational areas | gardens                              |
|   | 2 Downland**              | 5 Coniferous           | 4 Moderate shrub     |                                   |                       | 4 Sewage works     | 6 Area of medium                     |
|   | (chalk)                   | swamp scrub            | layer                |                                   |                       | "urban"            | gardens                              |
|   | 3 Heath scrub             | 6 Mixed                | 5 Sparse shrub       |                                   |                       | 5 Near road        | 7 Area of small                      |
|   | 4 Young coppice           | swamp scrub            | layer                |                                   |                       | (within 50m)       | gardens                              |
| 5 New plantation                                  | 7 High-medium             | 6 Extensive            |                      | 6 Near active                     | 8 Many shrubs         |                    |                                      |
| 6 Clear-felled                                    | disturbance               | bracken                |                      | railway line                      | 9 Few shrubs          |                    |                                      |
| woodland with                                     | from people               | 7 Dense field layer    |                      | (within 50m)                      | 10 Disused            |                    |                                      |
| or without new                                    | 8 Low disturbance         | 8 Moderate field       |                      | 7 Other                           |                       |                    |                                      |
| saplings  | 9 Near road               | layer                  |                      | 8 Rubbish tip                     |                       |                    |                                      |
| 7 Other   | (within 50m)              | 9 Sparse field layer   |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   | 10 Grazed                 | (moderate to           |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   | heavy)                    |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
| C SEMI-<br>NATURAL<br>GRASSLAND<br>/MARSH         | 1 Chalk downland**        | 1 Hedgerow             | 1 Ungrazed           | G WATER<br>BODIES<br>(freshwater) | 1 Pond (less          | 1 Undisturbed/     | 1 Eutrophic                          |
|   | 2 Grass moor              | with trees             | 2 Cattle             |                                   | than 50m)             | disused            | (green water)                        |
|   | 3 Grass moor              | 2 Hedgerow             | 3 Sheep              |                                   | 2 Small               | 2 Water sports     | 2 Oligotrophic                       |
|   | (unenclosed)              | without trees          | 4 Horses             |                                   | water-body            | (sailing, etc.)    | (clear water,                        |
|   | 3 Grass moor              | 3 Tree-line            | 5 Rabbits            |                                   | (50-450m)             | 3 Angling          | few weeds)                           |
|   | mixed with                | without hedge          | 6 Deer               |                                   | 3 Lake/unlined        | (coarse or game)   | 3 Dystrophic                         |
|   | heather                   | 4 Other field          | 7 Other grazers      |                                   | reservoir             | 4 Coarse angling   | (black water)                        |
|   | (unenclosed)              | boundary (wall,        | 8 Extensive          |                                   | 4 Lined reservoir     | 5 Game fishing     | 4 Marl (clear                        |
|   | 4 Machair                 | ditch, etc.)           | bracken              |                                   | 5 Gravel pit,         | 6 Industrial       | water, large                         |
|   | 5 Other dry               | 5 Isolated group       | 9 Hay                |                                   | sand pit, etc.        | activity           | water-weeds)                         |
| grassland   | of 1-10 trees             |                        | 6 Stream (less       | 7 Sewage                          | 5 Slow-medium         |                    |                                      |
| 6 Water-  | 6 No field                |                        | than 3m wide)        | processing "rural"                | running               |                    |                                      |
| meadow/<br>grazing marsh                          | 7 Montane                 |                        | 7 River (more        | 8 Other                           | 6 Fast-running        |                    |                                      |
| 7 Reed swamp                                      | 8 High-medium             |                        | than 3m wide)        | 9 Small island                    | 7 Dredged             |                    |                                      |
| 8 Other open                                      | disturbance               |                        | 8 Ditch with         |                                   | 8 Undredged           |                    |                                      |
| marsh   | from people               |                        | water (less          |                                   | 9 Banks cleared       |                    |                                      |
| 9 Saltmarsh                                       | 9 Low disturbance         |                        | than 2m wide)        |                                   | 10 Banks vegetated    |                    |                                      |
|   | 10 Near road (within 50m) |                        | 9 Small canal        |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        | (2-5m wide)          |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        | 10 Large canal (more |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        | than 5m wide)        |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
| D HEATHLAND<br>AND BOGS                           | 1 Dry heath               | 1 Montane              | 1 Ungrazed           | H COASTAL                         | 1 Marine -            | 1 Mud or silt      | 1 Cliff vertical/<br>steeply sloping |
|   | 2 Wet heath               | 2 Raised bog           | 2 Cattle             |                                   | open shore            | 2 Sand             | 2 Dune                               |
|   | 3 Mixed heath             | 3 Valley/<br>basin bog | 3 Sheep              |                                   | 2 Marine shore -      | 3 Shingle          | 3 Fast/gently                        |
|   | 4 Bog                     | 4 Blanket bog          | 4 Horses             |                                   | inlet/cove/loch       | 4 Rocky            | sloping                              |
|   | 5 Breckland**             | 5 Heath mixed          | 5 Rabbits            |                                   | 3 Estuarine           | 5 Fully vegetated  | 4 Small island                       |
|   | 6 Drained bog             | with rough grass       | 6 Deer               |                                   | 4 Brackish lagoon     | 6 Sparse/medium    | 5 Spit                               |
|   | 7 Bare peat               | 7 Heath without        | 7 Other grazers      |                                   | 5 Open sea            | vegetation         | 6 Dune slack                         |
|   |                           | grass                  | 8 Ploughed           |                                   |                       | 7 Inter-tidal      | 7 Sloping ground                     |
|   |                           | Heath with             | 9 Burned             |                                   |                       | 8 Below low-water  | 8 Undisturbed                        |
|   |                           | extensive bracken      | 10 Planted with      |                                   |                       | mark               | 9 Disturbed                          |
|   | 8 Undetermined            | saplings less          |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   | bog                       | than 0.5m tall         |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   | 9 Isolated group          |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   | of 1-10 trees             |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   | 10 High-medium            |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   | disturbance               |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   | from people               |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   | 11 Low disturbance        |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   | 12 Near road (within 50m) |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |
|   |                           |                        |                      |                                   |                       |                    |                                      |

\* Shrub layer comprises woody plants less than 5m tall; Field layer comprises herbaceous, non-woody plants.

\*\* Habitats not found in Ireland.



## MORE PERMANENT HABITAT CHARACTERISTICS

- **A WOODLAND**
- **B SCRUBLAND (or young woodland <5m tall)**
- **C SEMI-NATURAL GRASSLAND/MARSH**
- **D HEATHLAND AND BOGS**
- **E FARMLAND**
- **F HUMAN SITES**
- **G WATER BODIES (freshwater)**
- **H COASTAL**
- **I INLAND ROCK**

## BTO HABITAT CODING SCHEME (MODIFIED)

| LEVEL 1   | LEVEL 2   | LEVEL 3  | LEVEL 4   | LEVEL 1   | LEVEL 2   | LEVEL 3   | LEVEL 4  |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>A WOODLAND</b><br>(dominated by trees >5m tall)                              | 1 Broadleaved<br>2 Coniferous<br>3 Mixed*<br>4 Broadleaved (water-logged)<br>5 Coniferous (water-logged)<br>6 Mixed (water-logged)  | 1 Mixed-aged or semi-natural<br>4 Mature plantation, (taller than 10m, with closed canopy)<br>5 Young plantation (5-10m, open canopy)<br>6 Parkland (scattered trees and grassy areas)<br>7 High-medium disturbance from people<br>8 Low disturbance<br>9 Near road (within 50m)   | 1 Dense shrub layer*<br>3 Sparse shrub layer*<br>4 Dense field layer**<br>6 Sparse field layer**<br>7 Grazed (moderate to heavy)<br>8 Lightly grazed<br>9 Dead wood present<br>10 Dead wood absent                    | <b>E FARMLAND</b><br>(fields that are enclosed by hedges, walls, fences etc.)   | 1 Improved grassland <sup>6</sup><br>2 Unimproved grassland (unfertilised, regularly mown/ grazed)<br>3 Mixed grass/ tilled land <sup>6</sup><br>4 Tilled land<br>5 Orchard<br>6 Other farming  | 1 Hedgerow with trees<br>2 Hedgerow without trees<br>3 Tree-line without hedges<br>4 Other field boundary (wall, ditch, etc.)<br>5 Isolated group of trees<br>6 Farmyard (active)<br>7 Near road (within 50m)<br>8 No field boundary<br>16 Recently-cut grass | 1 Ungrazed<br>2 Cattle<br>3 Sheep<br>4 Horses<br>5 Other stock<br>6 Bare earth/plough<br>7 Autumn cereal <sup>A</sup><br>8 Spring cereal <sup>A</sup><br>9 Root crops (specify)<br>10 Other crops (specify)<br>11 Oil-seed rape<br>12 Other brassicas (specify)<br>13 Stubble<br>15 Unsown (fallow)<br>16 Recently-cut grass |
| <sup>6</sup> >10% conifer in predominantly broadleaf or vice versa              |   |  |   | <sup>6</sup> Treated regularly with fertiliser, distinguished by bright colour, lush growth                               |   |   |  |
|   |   |  |   | <sup>A</sup> By April, autumn cereals tall, bushy, dark green, spring cereals begin emerging, may be at single leaf stage |   |   |  |
| <b>B SCRUBLAND</b><br>(or young woodland <5m tall)                              | 1 Regenerating natural or semi-natural woodland<br>3 Heath scrub <sup>10</sup><br>5 New plantation<br>6 Clear-felled woodland with or without new saplings<br>7 Other <sup>10</sup>                     | 1 Broadleaved<br>2 Coniferous<br>3 Mixed (10% of each)<br>4 Broadleaved swamp scrub<br>5 Coniferous swamp scrub<br>6 Mixed swamp scrub<br>7 High-medium disturbance from people<br>8 Low disturbance<br>9 Near road (within 50m)   | 1 Predominantly tall (3-5m)<br>2 Predominantly low (1-3m)<br>3 Dense shrub layer*<br>5 Sparse shrub layer*<br>6 Extensive bracken<br>7 Dense field layer**<br>9 Sparse field layer**<br>10 Grazed (moderate to heavy) | <b>F HUMAN SITES</b><br>(areas of human habitation)   | 1 Urban<br>2 Suburban<br>3 Rural  | 1 Building<br>2 Gardens<br>3 Municipal parks/ mown grass/ golf courses/ recreational areas<br>4 Sewage works "urban"<br>5 Near road (within 50m)<br>6 Near active railway line (within 50m)<br>7 Other<br>8 Rubbish tip                                       | 1 Industrial<br>2 Residential<br>3 Well-wooded<br>4 Not well-wooded<br>5 Area of large gardens<br>6 Area of medium gardens<br>7 Area of small gardens<br>8 Many shrubs<br>9 Few shrubs<br>10 Disused   |
| <sup>10</sup> Use to indicate gorse habitats                                    |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |
| <b>C SEMI-NATURAL GRASSLAND /MARSH<sup>8</sup></b>                              | 2 Upland grass moor (unenclosed)<br>3 Upland grass moor mixed with heather (unenclosed)<br>4 Machair<br>6 Water-meadow/ grazing marsh<br>7 Reed swamp<br>8 Other open marsh <sup>9</sup><br>9 Saltmarsh | 1 Hedgerow with trees<br>2 Hedgerow without trees<br>3 Tree-line without hedge<br>4 Other field boundary (wall, ditch, etc.)<br>5 Isolated group of 1-10 trees<br>6 No field boundary<br>7 Montane***<br>8 High-medium disturbance from people<br>9 Low disturbance<br>10 Near road (within 50m)                                 | 1 Ungrazed<br>2 Cattle<br>3 Sheep<br>4 Horses<br>5 Rabbits<br>6 Deer<br>7 Other grazers<br>8 Extensive bracken<br>9 Hay   | <b>G WATER BODIES</b><br>(freshwater)   | 1 Pond (less than 50m <sup>2</sup> )<br>2 Small water-body (50-450m <sup>2</sup> )<br>3 Lake/unlined reservoir<br>4 Lined reservoir<br>5 Gravel pit, sand pit, etc.<br>6 Stream (less than 3m wide)<br>7 River (more than 3m wide)<br>8 Ditch with water (less than 2m wide)<br>9 Small canal (2-5m wide)<br>10 Large canal (more than 5m wide) | 1 Undisturbed/ disused<br>2 Water sports (sailing, etc.)<br>3 Angling (coarse or game)<br>4 Coarse angling<br>5 Game fishing<br>6 Industrial activity<br>7 Sewage processing "rural"<br>8 Other<br>9 Small island   | 1 Eutrophic (green water)<br>2 Oligotrophic (clear water, few weeds)<br>3 Dystrophic (black water)<br>4 Marl (clear water, large water-weeds)<br>5 Slow-medium running<br>6 Fast-running<br>7 Dredged<br>8 Undredged<br>9 Banks cleared<br>10 Banks vegetated  |
| <sup>8</sup> Not apparently managed, probably no grasses, rushes, sedges, reeds |   | <sup>9</sup> herbicides or fertilisers, dominated by   |   |   |   |   |  |
| <sup>9</sup> Other open marsh: water-logged marsh/ fen, not grazed              |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |
| <b>D HEATHLAND AND BOGS</b>   | 1 Heath (shallow peat depth <50cm)<br>4 Bog<br>7 Bare peat (harvested)  | 1 Montane***<br>2 Raised bog<br>3 Valley/ basin bog<br>4 Blanket bog<br>5 Heath mixed<br>6 Deer with rough grass<br>6 Heath without grass<br>7 Heath with extensive bracken<br>8 Undetermined bog<br>9 Isolated group of 1-10 trees<br>10 High-medium disturbance from people<br>11 Low disturbance<br>12 Near road (within 50m) | 1 Ungrazed<br>2 Cattle<br>3 Sheep<br>4 Horses<br>5 Rabbits<br>6 Deer<br>7 Other grazers<br>8 Ploughed<br>9 Burned<br>10 Planted with saplings less than 0.5m tall   | <b>H COASTAL</b>  | 1 Marine - open shore<br>2 Marine shore - inlet/cove/loch<br>3 Estuarine<br>4 Brackish lagoon<br>5 Open sea   | 1 Mud or silt<br>2 Sand<br>3 Shingle<br>4 Rocky<br>5 Fully vegetated<br>6 Sparse/medium vegetation<br>7 Inter-tidal<br>8 Below low-water mark   | 1 Cliff vertical/ steeply sloping<br>2 Dune<br>3 Flat/gently sloping<br>4 Small island<br>5 Spit<br>6 Dune slack<br>7 Sloping ground<br>8 Undisturbed<br>9 Disturbed   |
|   |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |
|   |   |  |   | <b>I INLAND ROCK</b>  | 1 Cliff<br>2 Scree/boulder slope<br>3 Limestone pavement<br>4 Other rock<br>5 Quarry<br>6 Mine/spoil/ slag heap<br>7 Cave   | 1 Active<br>2 Disused<br>3 Montane***<br>4 Non-montane<br>5 High disturbance from climbers<br>6 Medium disturbance<br>7 Low disturbance   | 1 Bare rock<br>2 Low vegetation present (mosses, liverworts, etc.)<br>3 Grassland present<br>4 Scrub present   |

\* Shrub layer comprises woody plants less than 5m tall

\*\* Field layer comprises herbaceous, non-woody plants including grass, forbs, herbs, nettles, Bramble

\*\*\* Montane where vegetation consists of ground-hugging plants, with substantial proportions of mosses & lichens, above altitude at which woody scrub can grow

# HABITAT CHARACTERISTICS THAT ARE LIKELY TO CHANGE

- Grassland management
- Disturbance
- Activities

## BTO HABITAT CODING SCHEME (MODIFIED)

| LEVEL 1   | LEVEL 2   | LEVEL 3  | LEVEL 4   | LEVEL 1   | LEVEL 2   | LEVEL 3   | LEVEL 4   |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>A WOODLAND</b><br>(dominated by trees >5m tall)  | 1 Broadleaved<br>2 Coniferous<br>3 Mixed <sup>a</sup><br>4 Broadleaved (water-logged)<br>5 Coniferous (water-logged)<br>6 Mixed (water-logged)  | 1 Mixed-aged or semi-natural<br>4 Mature plantation, (taller than 10m, with closed canopy)<br>5 Young plantation (5-10m, open canopy)<br>6 Parkland (scattered trees and grassy areas)<br>7 High-medium disturbance from people<br>8 Low disturbance<br>9 Near road (within 50m)   | 1 Dense shrub layer *<br>3 Sparse shrub layer *<br>4 Dense field layer**<br>6 Sparse field layer**<br>7 Grazed (moderate to heavy)<br>8 Lightly grazed<br>9 Dead wood present<br>10 Dead wood absent                  | <b>E FARMLAND</b><br>(fields that are enclosed by hedges, walls, fences etc.)   | 1 Improved grassland <sup>b</sup><br>2 Unimproved grassland (unfertilised, regularly mown/ grazed)<br>3 Mixed grass/ tilled land <sup>c</sup><br>4 Tilled land<br>5 Orchard<br>6 Other farming  | 1 Hedgerow with trees<br>2 Hedgerow without trees<br>3 Tree-line without hedges<br>4 Other field boundary (wall, ditch, etc.)<br>5 Isolated group of trees<br>6 Farmyard (active)<br>7 Near road (within 50m)<br>8 No field boundary<br>9 Hedgerow with trees<br>10 Hedgerow without trees<br>11 Tree-line without hedges<br>12 Other field boundary (wall, ditch, etc.)<br>13 Isolated group of trees<br>14 Farmyard (active)<br>15 Near road (within 50m)<br>16 No field boundary | 1 Ungrazed<br>2 Cattle<br>3 Sheep<br>4 Horses<br>5 Other stock<br>6 Bare earth/plough<br>7 Autumn cereal <sup>a</sup><br>8 Spring cereal <sup>a</sup><br>9 Root crops (specify)<br>10 Other crops (specify)<br>11 Oil-seed rape<br>12 Other brassicas (specify)<br>13 Stubble<br>14 Unown (fallow)<br>15 Recently-cut grass |
| <sup>a</sup> >10% conifer in predominantly broad leaf or vice versa   |   |  |   | <sup>b</sup> Treated regularly with fertiliser, distinguished by bright colour, lush growth<br><sup>c</sup> Adjoining fields of tilled grassland<br><sup>a</sup> By April, autumn cereals tall, bushy, dark green, spring cereals begin emerging, may be at single leaf stage |   |   |   |
| <b>B SCRUBLAND</b><br>(or young woodland <5m tall)  | 1 Regenerating natural or semi-natural woodland<br>3 Heath scrub <sup>b</sup><br>5 New plantation<br>6 Clear-felled woodland with or without new saplings<br>7 Other <sup>b</sup>                       | 1 Broadleaved<br>2 Coniferous<br>3 Mixed (10% of each)<br>4 Broadleaved swamp scrub<br>5 Coniferous swamp scrub<br>6 Mixed swamp scrub<br>7 High-medium disturbance from people<br>8 Low disturbance<br>9 Near road (within 50m)   | 1 Predominantly tall (3-5m)<br>2 Predominantly low (1-3m)<br>3 Dense shrub layer*<br>5 Sparse shrub layer*<br>6 Extensive bracken<br>7 Dense field layer**<br>9 Sparse field layer**<br>10 Grazed (moderate to heavy) | <b>F HUMAN SITES</b><br>(areas of human habitation)   | 1 Urban<br>2 Suburban<br>3 Rural  | 1 Building<br>2 Gardens<br>3 Municipal parks/ mown grass/ golf courses/ recreational areas<br>4 Sewage works "urban"<br>5 Near road (within 50m)<br>6 Near active railway line (within 50m)<br>7 Other<br>8 Rubbish tip   | 1 Industrial<br>2 Residential<br>3 Well-wooded<br>4 Not well-wooded<br>5 Area of large gardens<br>6 Area of medium gardens<br>7 Area of small gardens<br>8 Many shrubs<br>9 Few shrubs<br>10 Disused  |
| <sup>b</sup> Use to indicate gorse habitats   |   |  |   | <b>G WATER BODIES</b><br>(freshwater)   | 1 Pond (less than 50m <sup>2</sup> )<br>2 Small water-body (50-450m <sup>2</sup> )<br>3 Lake/unlined reservoir<br>4 Lined reservoir<br>5 Gravel pit, sand pit, etc.<br>6 Stream (less than 3m wide)<br>7 River (more than 3m wide)<br>8 Ditch with water (less than 2m wide)<br>9 Small canal (2-5m wide)<br>10 Large canal (more than 5m wide) | 1 Undisturbed/ disused<br>2 Water sports (sailing, etc.)<br>3 Angling (coarse or game)<br>4 Coarse angling<br>5 Game fishing<br>6 Industrial activity<br>7 Sewage processing "rural"<br>8 Other<br>9 Small island   | 1 Eutrophic (green water)<br>2 Oligotrophic (clear water, few weeds)<br>3 Dystrophic (black water)<br>4 Marl (clear water, large water-weeds)<br>5 Slow-medium running<br>6 Fast-running<br>7 Dredged<br>8 Undredged<br>9 Banks cleared<br>10 Banks vegetated   |
| <sup>b</sup> Not apparently managed, probably no herbicides or fertilisers, dominated by grasses, rushes, sedges, reeds<br><sup>c</sup> Other open marsh: water-logged marsh/ fen, not grazed |   |  |   | <b>H COASTAL</b>  | 1 Marine - open shore<br>2 Marine shore - inlet/cove/loch<br>3 Estuarine<br>4 Brackish lagoon<br>5 Open sea   | 1 Mud or silt<br>2 Sand<br>3 Shingle<br>4 Rocky<br>5 Fully vegetated<br>6 Sparse/medium vegetation<br>7 Inter-tidal<br>8 Below low-water mark   | 1 Cliff vertical/ steeply sloping<br>2 Dune<br>3 Flat/gently sloping<br>4 Small island<br>5 Spit<br>6 Dune slack<br>7 Sloping ground<br>8 Undisturbed<br>9 Disturbed  |
| <b>C SEMI-NATURAL GRASSLAND /MARSH<sup>b</sup></b>  | 2 Upland grass moor (unenclosed)<br>3 Upland grass moor mixed with heather (unenclosed)<br>4 Machair<br>6 Water-meadow/ grazing marsh<br>7 Reed swamp<br>8 Other open marsh <sup>c</sup><br>9 Saltmarsh | 1 Hedgerow with trees<br>2 Hedgerow without trees<br>3 Tree-line without hedge<br>4 Other field boundary (wall, ditch, etc.)<br>5 Isolated group of 1-10 trees<br>6 No field boundary<br>7 Montane***<br>8 High-medium disturbance from people<br>9 Low disturbance<br>10 Near road (within 50m)                                     | 1 Ungrazed<br>2 Cattle<br>3 Sheep<br>4 Horses<br>5 Rabbits<br>6 Deer<br>7 Other grazers<br>8 Extensive bracken<br>9 Hay   | <b>I INLAND ROCK</b>  | 1 Cliff<br>2 Scree/boulder slope<br>3 Limestone pavement<br>4 Other rock<br>5 Quarry<br>6 Mine/spoil/ slag heap<br>7 Cave   | 1 Active<br>2 Disused<br>3 Montane***<br>4 Non-montane<br>5 High disturbance from climbers<br>6 Medium disturbance<br>7 Low disturbance   | 1 Bare rock<br>2 Low vegetation present (mosses, liverworts, etc.)<br>3 Grassland present<br>4 Scrub present  |
| <b>D HEATHLAND AND BOGS</b>   | 1 Heath (shallow peat depth <50cm)<br>4 Bog<br>7 Bare peat (harvested)  | 1 Montane***<br>2 Raised bog<br>3 Valley/ basin bog<br>4 Blanket bog<br>5 Heath mixed<br>6 Deer<br>7 Other grazers<br>8 Heath without grass<br>9 Heath with extensive bracken<br>10 Undetermined bog<br>11 Isolated group of 1-10 trees<br>12 High-medium disturbance from people<br>13 Low disturbance<br>14 Near road (within 50m) | 1 Ungrazed<br>2 Cattle<br>3 Sheep<br>4 Horses<br>5 Rabbits<br>6 Deer<br>7 Other grazers<br>8 Ploughed<br>9 Burned<br>10 Planted with saplings less than 0.5m tall   |   |   |   |   |

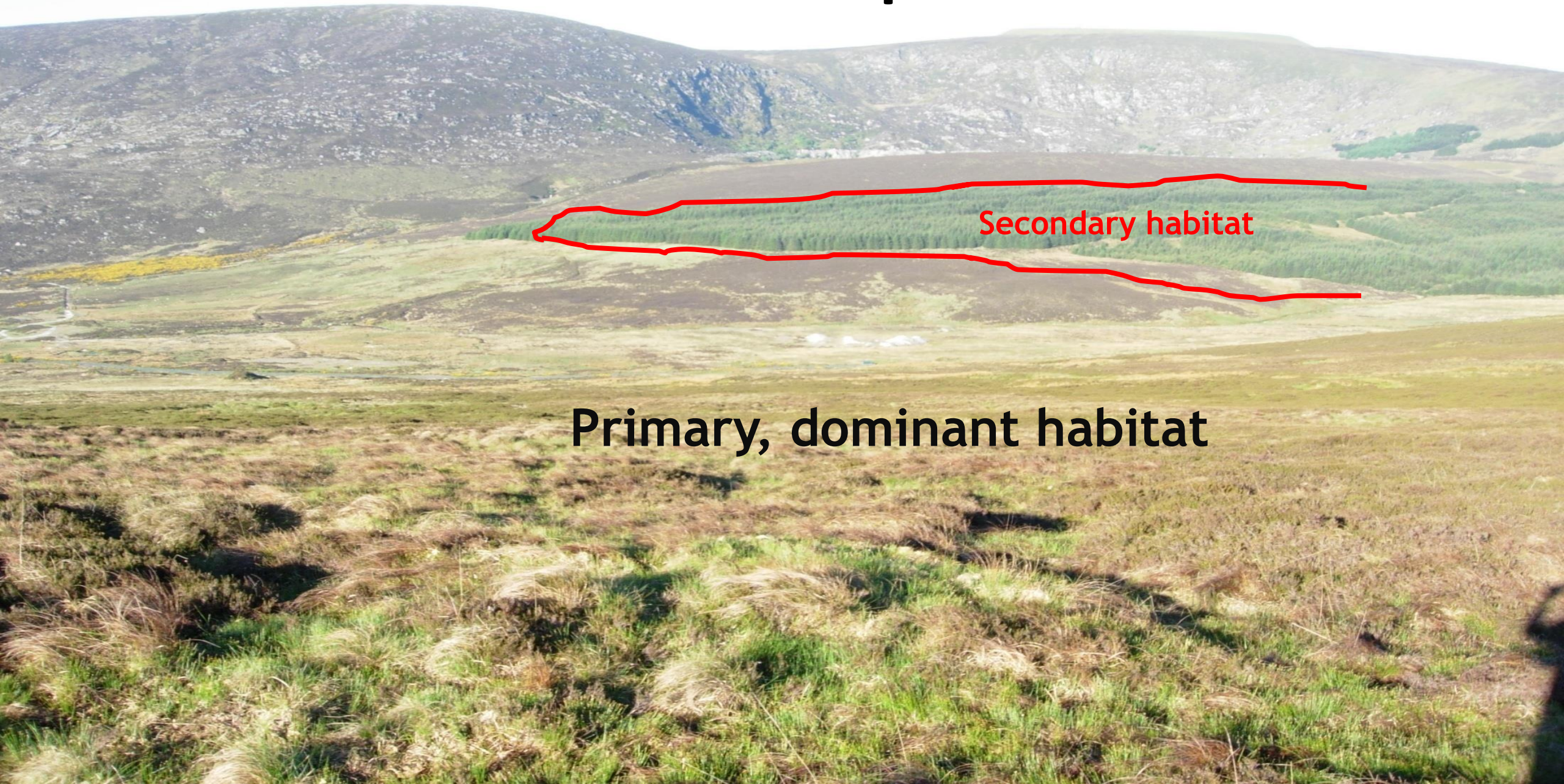
\* Shrub layer comprises woody plants less than 5m tall

\*\* Field layer comprises herbaceous, non-woody plants including grass, forbs, herbs, nettles, Bramble

\*\*\* Montane where vegetation consists of ground-hugging plants, with substantial proportions of mosses & lichens, above altitude at which woody scrub can grow



# Give us the full picture...



Secondary habitat

Primary, dominant habitat



# Data Outputs & Uses



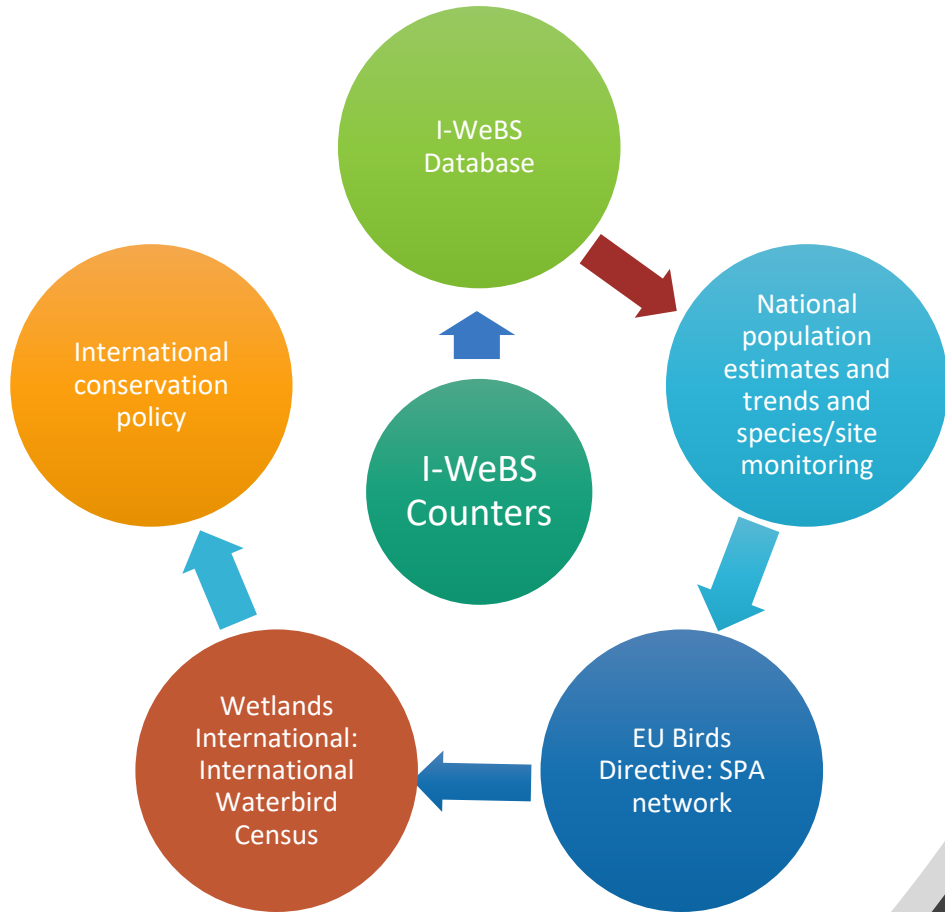




# The I-WeBS Database

- Site and subsite data for **c.300 sites** per winter season.
- 1994/95 – current. **28 seasons of data**.
- Over **170 waterbird species** (77 other species).
- Count data with associated quality (good/poor).
- Accessory data – date, site type (broad habitat), tidal state, survey conditions, disturbance levels....

Complementary datasets – post-breeding terns, Greylag & Pink-foot geese, International Swan Census.



I-WeBS data & importance at local, site, national and international level





## Estimates of waterbird numbers wintering in Ireland, 2011/12 – 2015/16

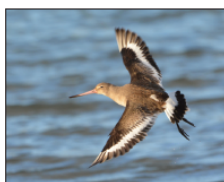
Brian Burke<sup>1</sup>, Lesley J. Lewis<sup>1</sup>, Niamh Fitzgerald<sup>1</sup>, Teresa Frost<sup>2</sup>, Graham Austin<sup>2</sup>, and T. David Tierney<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow.

<sup>2</sup> British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU, UK.

<sup>3</sup> National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht, 90 King Street North, Dublin 7.

Corresponding author: [ljewis@birdwatchireland.ie](mailto:ljewis@birdwatchireland.ie)



**Keywords:** Waterbirds, monitoring, population estimates, 1% thresholds

Annual monitoring of wintering waterbirds is carried out under the I-WeBS and WeBS schemes in the Republic and Northern Ireland respectively. These surveys are carried out from September to March each year, largely by a dedicated volunteer network, and are the principal tools used in the conservation of Ireland's wintering waterbirds and their wetland habitats. This study presents population estimates and 1% thresholds for wintering waterbirds in Ireland for the period 2011/12 to 2015/16 inclusive. Estimates were generated based on annual peak counts with imputation and include the results of more targeted surveys (i.e. goose and swan species censuses, non-estuarine surveys) where these improve the accuracy of estimates for the species in question. Estimates were generated for a total of 44 waterbird species, using data from 684 wetland sites across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The total number of waterbirds estimated was 757,910, comprising 38% wildfowl (21 species), 6% wildfowl allies (8 species) and 57% waders (15 species). Total numbers have declined by 138,160 (15%) since the 2006/07-2010/11 period, with waders experiencing the largest declines; the combined totals of 15 wader species having declined by over 19%. Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* were the most numerous wader species recorded and Wigeon *Mareca penelope* and Teal *Anas crecca* were the most numerous wildfowl. Eight of the 44 species have increased by more than 5% since the previous estimates for 2006/07–2010/11, whereas 29 species declined by 5% over the same period. Many species are undergoing similar declines at flyway level, although the impact of local pressures and threats at Irish wetland sites should not be overlooked. Ireland continues to hold internationally important numbers of several waterbird populations, most notably Icelandic Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, Greenland Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, East Canadian High-Arctic Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, Europe-wintering Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*, North European Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica* and North European/North Russian Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*.

### Introduction

Waterbirds provide a number of important ecosystem services by acting as predators, herbivores, and as vectors of seeds, invertebrates and nutrients. In these roles they help maintain the diversity of other organisms, control pests and serve as

effective bioindicators of the ecological condition of the wetlands they inhabit (Green & Elmer 2013). These wetlands in turn provide hugely valuable services including

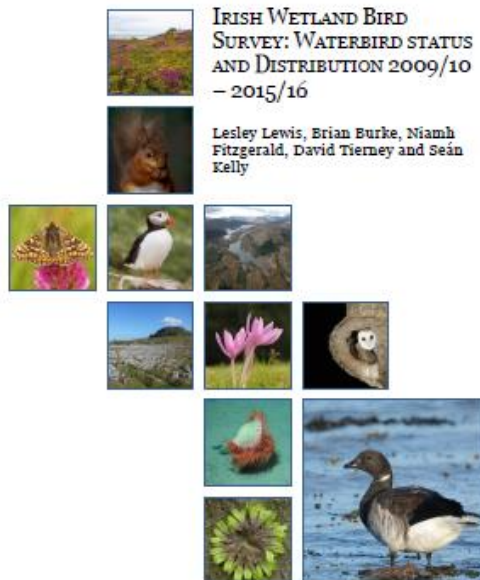
**Plate 1.** Black-tailed Godwit (Richard T. Mills).

ISSN 1363-6670

### NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

#### IRISH WETLAND BIRD SURVEY: WATERBIRD STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION 2009/10 – 2015/16

Lesley Lewis, Brian Burke, Niamh Fitzgerald, David Tierney and Sean Kelly



An Roinn Cultúir,  
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Culture,  
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

### IRISH WILDLIFE MANUALS 106



#### IRISH WETLAND BIRD SURVEY: RESULTS OF WATERBIRD MONITORING IN IRELAND IN 2016/17 AND 2017/18



An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais  
Aitheasc agus Oidhreacht  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

#### Irish Wetland Bird Survey: Waterbird Status and Distribution 2001/02 – 2008/09



Helen Boland & Olivia Crowe





# Nationally Important Sites

National  
population  
estimates  
and site  
monitoring

- A site is **Nationally Important** if it regularly supports **1%** or more of the all-Ireland population of a species



- E.g. If there were an estimated **1,500** Grey Heron wintering in Ireland...
- Any site that regularly holds **15 of more** (1%) is Nationally important for Grey Heron



## Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 4: 2020–2026

Gillian Gilbert<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Stanbury<sup>2</sup> & Lesley Lewis<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> RSPB Northern Ireland, Belvoir Park Forest, Belfast BT8 7QT

<sup>2</sup> RSPB The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG192DL

<sup>3</sup> BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 RW83, Ireland

Corresponding author:  
gillian.gilbert@rspb.org.uk

**Keywords:** Priority, population, decline, Red list, breeding, wintering

This is the fourth review of the status of birds in Ireland. Two hundred and eleven species were assessed and assigned to the Red, Amber or Green list of conservation concern. The criteria mainly follow previous assessments of conservation status at global and European levels; and within Ireland, include historical decline, trends in population and range, rarity, localised distribution and international importance. The availability of more data has allowed us to move closer towards the ideal time windows of existing criteria. Results show 23 species moving onto the Red list and only six leaving it. Twelve species are newly Red-listed due to changed European or global status. Three are Red-listed due to declines within the expanded short-term breeding time period. There is no doubt that having 54 (25.6%) of Ireland's regularly occurring bird species now on the Red list is alarming, with some species having shown dramatic declines and losses on this island. Existing conservation concerns are reinforced, such as the further catastrophic decline of waders with six more wading bird species joining the Red list; and generalist birds of farmland, like Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* now Red-listed. When grouped by habitat, upland (50%) and farmland (35%) have the highest proportions of Red-listed species. Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* is now Red-listed with severe declines in its breeding and wintering populations and Swift *Apus apus* is Red-listed due to a decline in its breeding population. Good news comes from some recovery in the populations of species such as Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* and European Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* which move from Red to Amber.

### Introduction

This is the fourth assessment of Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (BoCCI4) based on an existing prioritisation procedure (e.g. Eaton *et al.* 2015). This assessment covers the island of Ireland, both the Republic of Ireland (RoI) and Northern Ireland (NI). Our objective is to update the list



of priority birds, so that limited resources for their recovery can be targeted in the most effective way. The first such list in Ireland (BoCCI1) (Newton *et al.* 1999) was based on the then relatively new UK system (Avery *et al.* 1995, Gibbons *et al.*

**Plate 1.** Balearic Shearwater (Niall Keogh).

## Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026

### Red-list species (high conservation concern)

#### Breeding

Quail  
Grey Partridge  
Red Grouse  
Black-necked Grebe  
Stock Dove  
Nightjar  
Swift  
Corncrake  
Leach's Storm-petrel  
Woodcock  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Kittiwake  
Puffin  
Razorbill  
Barn Owl  
Golden Eagle  
White-tailed Eagle  
Red Kite  
Kestrel  
Wood Warbler

#### Breeding continued

Ring Ouzel  
Common Redstart  
Whinchat  
Meadow Pipit  
Grey Wagtail  
Twite  
Yellowhammer

#### Passage

Turtle Dove  
Balearic Shearwater  
Curlew Sandpiper

#### Wintering

Bewick's Swan  
Long-tailed Duck  
Velvet Scoter  
Goldeneye  
Scaup  
Slavonian Grebe

#### Wintering continued

Grey Plover  
Bar-tailed Godwit  
Black-tailed Godwit  
Knot  
Purple Sandpiper  
Snowy Owl  
Redwing

#### Breeding and Wintering

Eider  
Common Scoter  
Pochard  
Shoveler  
Oystercatcher  
Golden Plover  
Lapwing  
Curlew  
Dunlin  
Snipe  
Redshank



giving  
nature  
a home



For more information, please see Gilbert G, Stanbury A and Lewis L (2021), "Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020 –2026". Irish Birds 43: 1–22

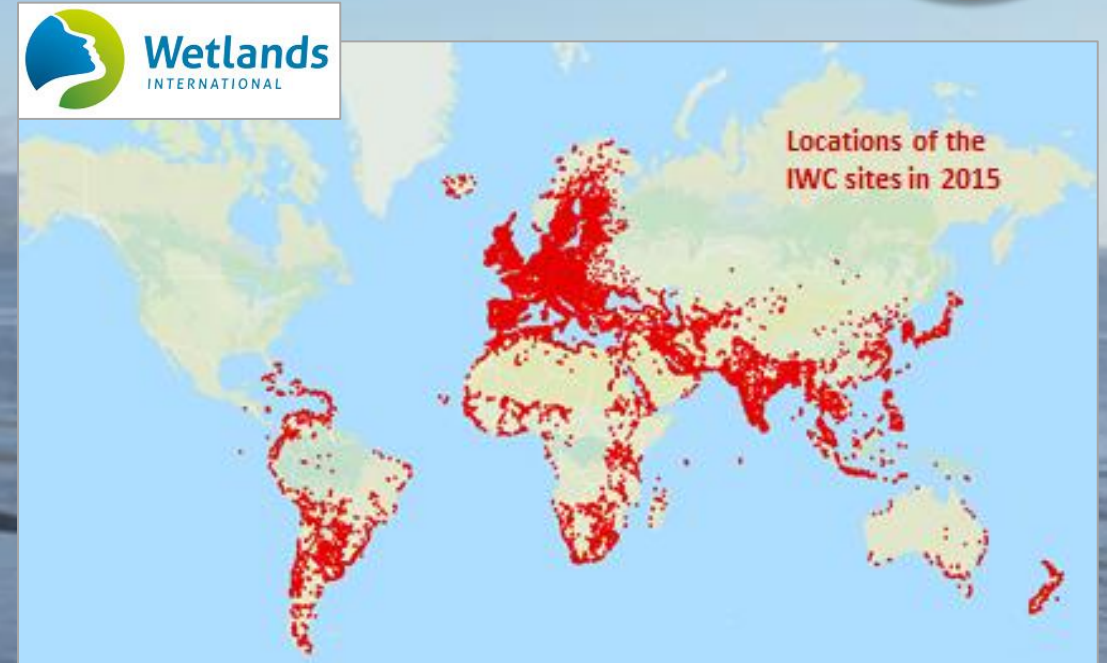
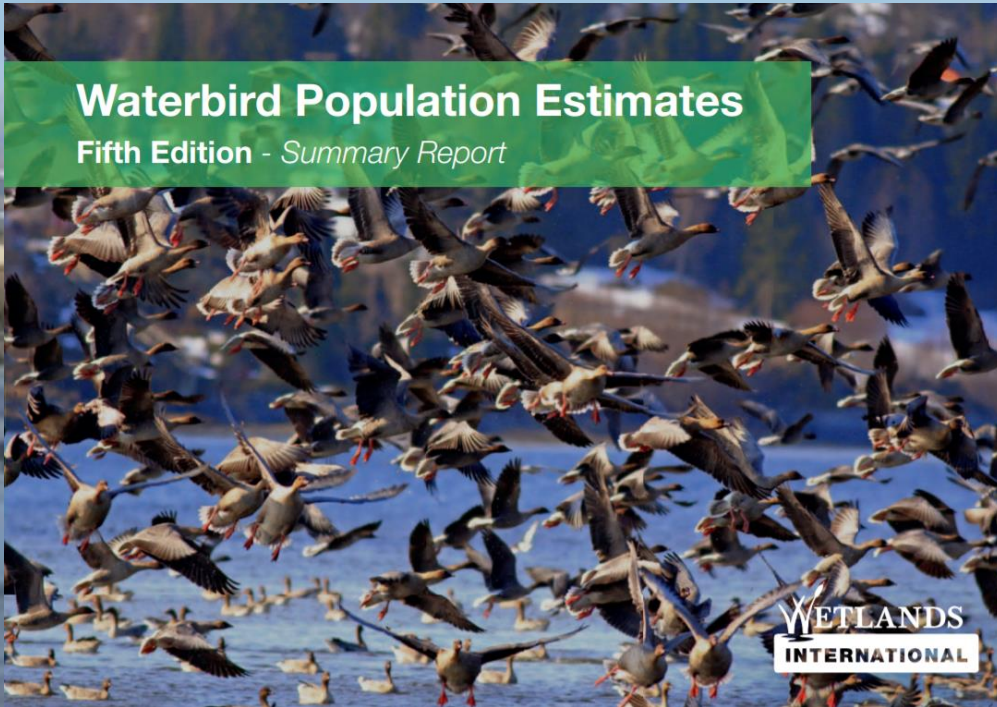
The categorisation of species as breeding, wintering etc. refers to the populations against which BoCCI criteria were applied





# International Waterbirds Census (IWC)

Wetlands  
International



Our trends and estimates also contribute to **conservation policy at an international level**  
e.g. Flyway population estimates, International Red lists..





# International Waterbirds Census (IWC)

Wetlands  
International

I-WeBS data, along with data from other countries, are used for some important analyses as follows:

- Regular AEWA 'Conservation Status Reports' (CSR analysis) and Ramsar 'Waterbird Population Estimates' (WPE) editions.
- IWC population trend analyses.
- EU multispecies indices.
- Critical Site Network tool, which uses combined IWC and IBA (Important Bird Area) data to identify critical waterbird sites in the African-Eurasian flyway.



# Data uses

## National

- Feed into Appropriate Assessment (AA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)..- Planning and policy (e.g. county dev plans),
- Local led studies/biodiversity studies,
- Government departments (e.g. DAFM – avian influenza)

**2 types of request (the data is *free!*)**

**(i) Academic, and**

**(ii) General/commercial**

**I-WeBS Data Requests**  
Request data from the Irish Wetland Bird Survey

Name

First Name Last Name

Email





# National academic research

- **University studies - recent examples include:**
  - (i) **Impact of wastewater treatment on waterbirds.**
  - (ii) **Waterbird site trends in light of intertidal aquaculture.**
  - (iii) **Trends in distribution and abundance of the Bewick's Swan.**
  - (iv) **Waterbirds of Lough Gur, Co. Limerick.**
  - (v) **Ducks of inland waterbodies and climate change.**
- **Marine Institute – Assessments of the interactions between waterbirds and aquaculture (on-going).**



# International Research

- Gaget, E. et al. (2021). **Benefits of protected areas for nonbreeding waterbirds adjusting their distributions under climate warming.** *Conservation Biology* 35(3), 834-845
- Pavon-Jordan, D. et al. (2020). **Positive impacts of important bird and biodiversity areas on wintering waterbirds under changing temperatures throughout Europe and North Africa.** *Biological Conservation* 246, 1085-1089.
- Marchowski, D. et al. (2020) **Effectiveness of the European Natura 2000 network to sustain a specialist wintering waterbird population in the face of climate change.** *Scientific Reports* 10(1), 1-12.
- Pavon-Jordán, D. et al. (2018) **Habitat- and species-mediated short- and long-term distributional changes in waterbird abundance linked to variation in European winter weather.** *Diversity & Distributions* 2(2), 225-239.
- Gaget, E. et al. (2018) **Waterbird communities adjust to climate warming according to conservation policy and species protection status.** *Biological Conservation* 227, 205-212.
- Amano, T. et al. (2018) **Successful conservation of global waterbird populations depends on effective governance.** *Nature* 553, 199–202.
- Guillemain, M, & Hearn, R (2017) **Ready for climate change? Geographic trends in the protection status of critical sites for Western Palearctic ducks.** *Biodiversity and Conservation* 26(10), 2347-2360.





## **Countryside Bird Survey – Data Outputs & Uses**





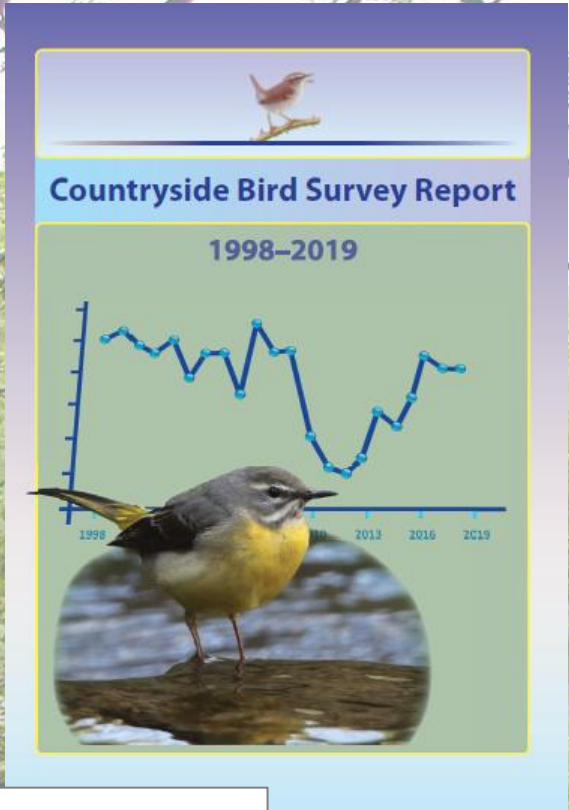
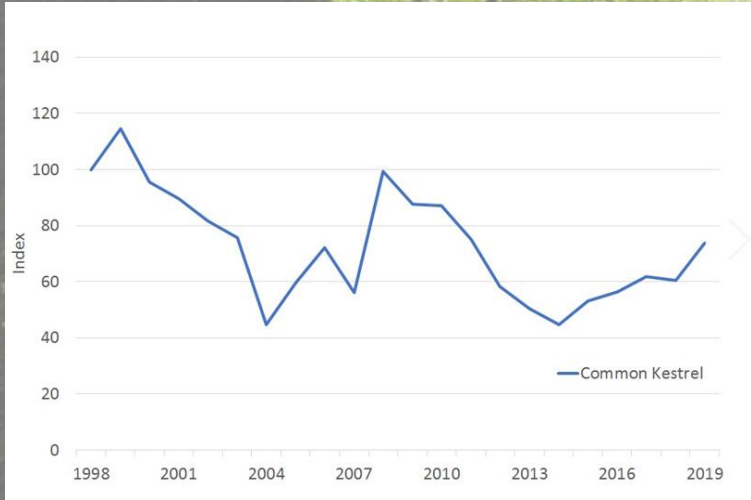
## The CBS Database

- Breeding season count data for **c.300 squares** per year **1998 to current**.
- Detailed count data, 4 distance bands, ten transect sections within each 1km square.
- Two replicate visits per year.
- Data for **172 species**.
- Accessory data – date, survey conditions.
- **Detailed habitat data.**





Countryside Bird Survey



ISSN 1393 - 6670

**NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

**COUNTRYSIDE BIRD SURVEY: STATUS AND TRENDS OF COMMON AND WIDESPREAD BREEDING BIRDS 1998-2016**

Lesley Lewis, Dick Coombes, Brian Burke, John O'Halloran, Alyn Walsh, David Tierney and Sinéad Cummins

An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachtaí  
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

**IRISH WILDLIFE MANUALS 115**

| 3.9 Swift                         | <i>Apus apus</i>   | <i>Gabbián gaoithe</i>                      |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Summer migrant                    |  |   |
| Breeding population:              | Population estimate (2011-2016):<br>min - max population estimate:<br>10-year trend (2006-2016):<br>18-year trend (1998-2016): | 51,728<br>19,154 - 97,976<br>-38.0<br>-57.7 |
| Breeding distribution change (%): | 10-year trend (2006-2016):<br>25-year trend (1991-2016):<br>44-year trend (1972-2016):   | -34.0<br>-43.8<br>-52.8                     |

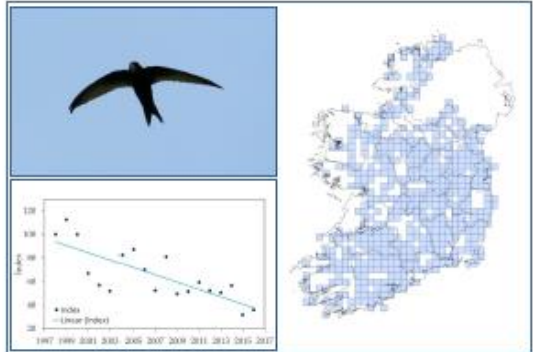
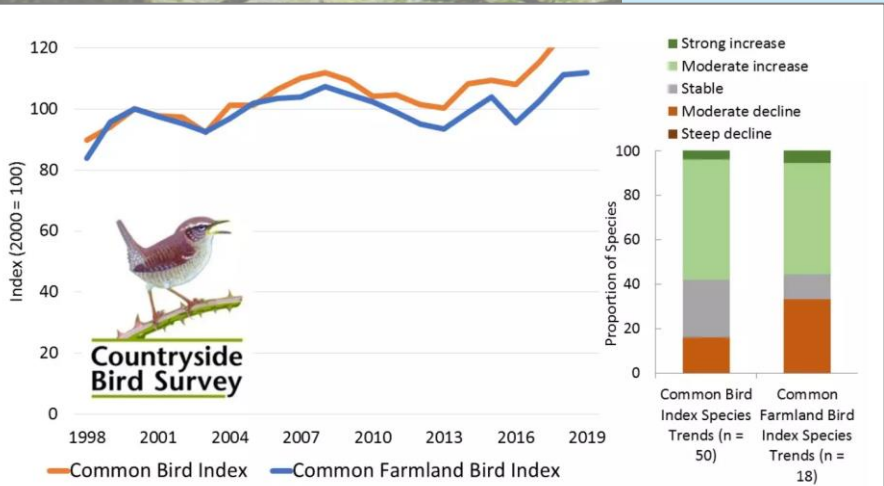


Figure 10 Distribution map and graphed population 18-year trend for Swift. The breeding distribution map is based on the Bird Atlas (2007-2011) (Balmer et al., 2013). The population trend was data from CBS 1998-2016 (Photo: Dick Coombes).



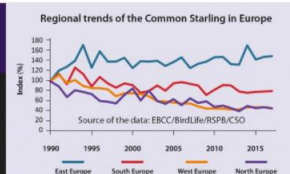
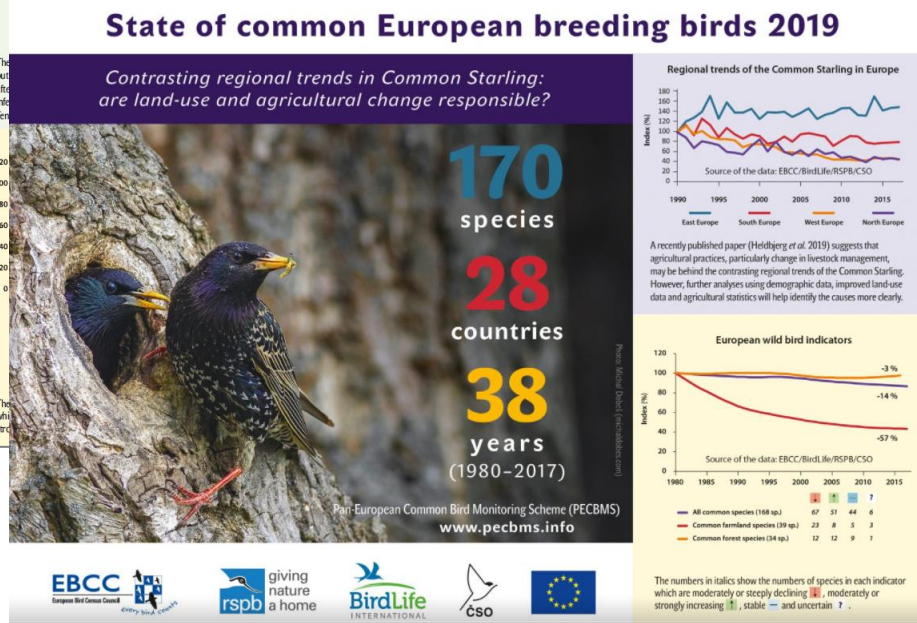
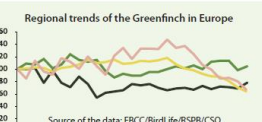
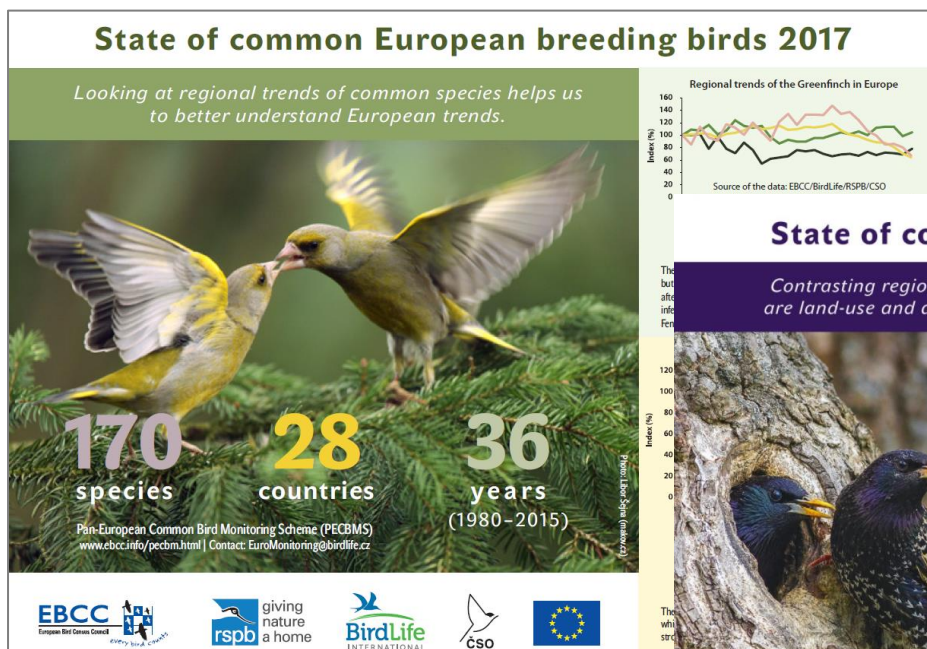
<https://birdwatchireland.ie/our-work/surveys-research/research-surveys/countryside-bird-survey/countryside-bird-population-indicators/>



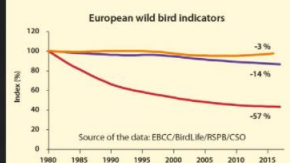
# The CBS in Europe...





## Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Survey (PECBMS)

*‘PECBMS main goal is to use common birds as indicators of the general state of nature using large-scale and long-term monitoring data on changes in breeding populations across Europe’*



A recently published paper (Heldbjerg et al. 2019) suggests that agricultural practices, particularly change in livestock management, may be behind the contrasting regional trends of the Common Starling. However, further analyses using demographic data, improved land-use data and agricultural statistics will help identify the causes more clearly.



The numbers in *italics* show the numbers of species in each indicator which are moderately or steeply declining , moderately or strongly increasing , stable  and uncertain .

| Indicator                        | Declining | Increasing | Stable | Uncertain |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------|--------|-----------|
| All common species (168 sp.)     | 67        | 31         | 44     | 6         |
| Common farmland species (19 sp.) | 23        | 8          | 5      | 3         |
| Common forest species (14 sp.)   | 12        | 12         | 9      | 1         |



pecbms.info/trends-and-indicators/

PanEuropean Common Bird Monitoring Scheme

Home About us Bird monitoring in Europe Trends and Indicators Use of the data

## Trends and Indicators

The main project goal is to use common birds as indicators of the general state of nature using scientific data on changes in breeding populations across Europe.

### Common bird species indices and trends

PECBMS combines national species indices in supra-national indices for individual species for Europe, the EU, and their regions (New and Old EU, and West, South, North, and Central & East Europe). All indices are annually updated, but only European species indices and trends are published – see the latest [2020 update](#).

### Common bird indicators (multi-species composite indices)

PECBMS produces indicators for Europe, the EU, and their regions (New and Old EU, and West, South, North, and Central & East Europe), all common birds. All indicators are annually updated and published – see the latest [2020 update](#).

### National indicators

Many European bird monitoring schemes produce their own national wild bird indicators. Some of them are also used as official indicators of the production of national common bird indicators and their use in Europe.





# Data uses – National research

- **University studies - recent examples include:**

- (i) An Exploration of Yellowhammer Data Distribution, Presence, Relative Abundance and Associated Factors in Ireland (John Kennedy MSc).
- (ii) Drivers of declines in the Kestrel (Kez Armstrong PhD).
- (iii) Crowe, O. et al. (2014) Generating population estimates for common and widespread breeding birds in Ireland. *Bird Study* 61(1), 1-9.
- (iv) Crowe, O. et al. (2010) Population trends of widespread breeding birds in the Republic of Ireland 1998-2008. *Bird Study* 57, 267 -280.

- **Other research - recent examples include:**

- (i) Farmland Bird Hotspot Mapping (Birdwatch Ireland, funded by the Heritage Council + DAFM).
- (ii) Upland bird project - MacGillycuddy Reeks area (Kerry Biosphere funded by National Biodiversity Action Plan/Kerry County Council).



# Data uses – International research

- Brlík, V. et al. (2021) **Long-term and large-scale multispecies dataset tracking population changes of common European breeding birds.** *Sci Data* **8**, 21 (2021).
- Heldbjerg, H. et al. (2019) **Contrasting population trends of Common Starlings across Europe.** *Ornis Fennica* **96**, 153-168.

*In progress, examples:*

- **Breeding bird data for multi-species modelling of complex communities and their response to multiple simultaneous stressors** (University of Sheffield)
- **What drives abundance of House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) across their native and invaded ranges?** Kristin Davis, Ph.D. student, Graduate Degree Program in Ecology, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, Colorado State University, USA.



A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a vast flock of birds, likely gulls or terns, in flight across a bright blue sky. The birds are concentrated in the upper half of the frame, creating a dense pattern of white and grey specks. Below the sky, a layer of white and grey clouds stretches across the horizon. In the foreground, there is a body of water, possibly a lake or a large pond, with some reeds and tall grasses visible on the right side. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

# Scientific Research Network

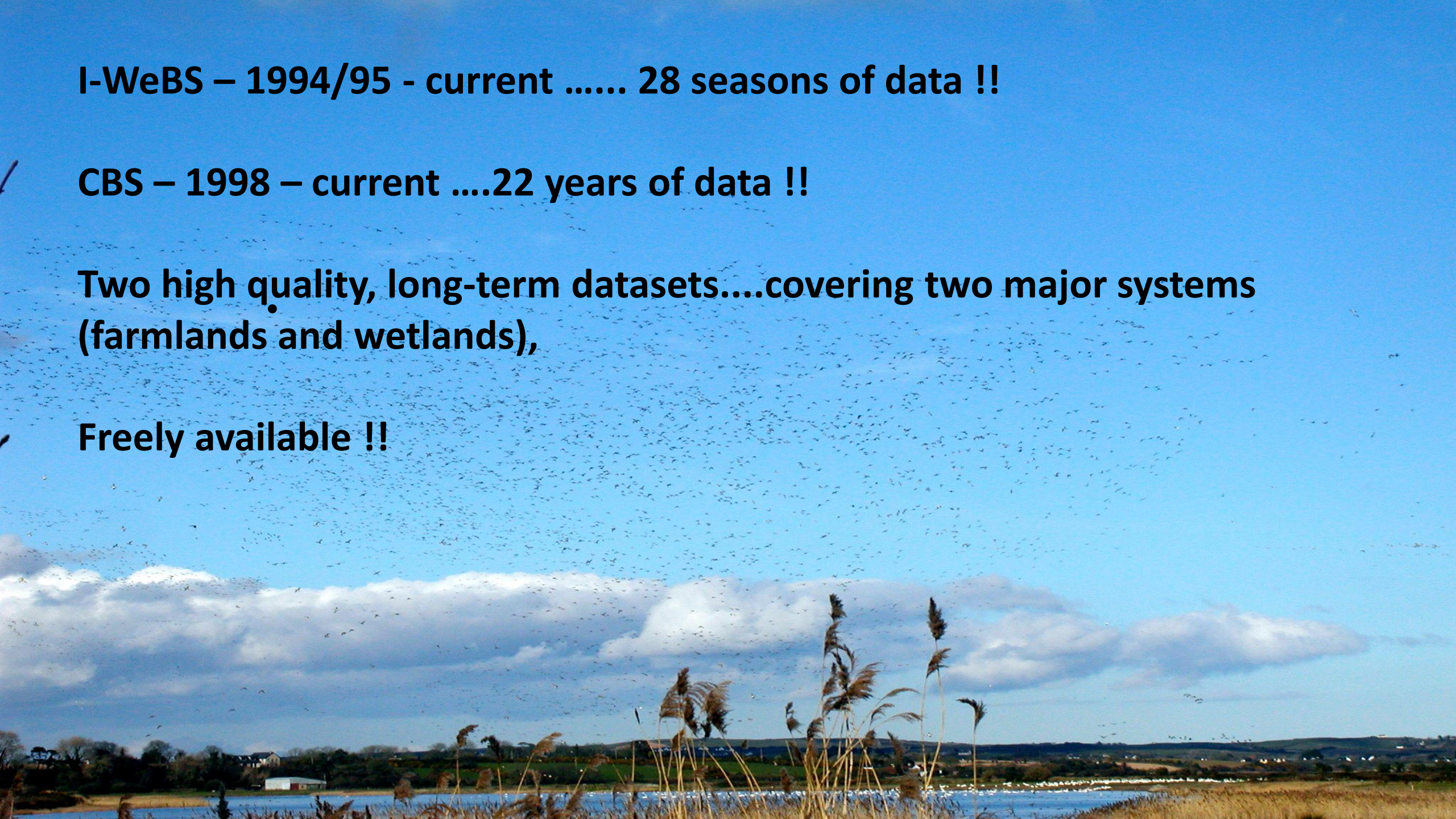


**I-WeBS – 1994/95 - current ..... 28 seasons of data !!**

**CBS – 1998 – current ....22 years of data !!**

**Two high quality, long-term datasets....covering two major systems  
(farmlands and wetlands),**

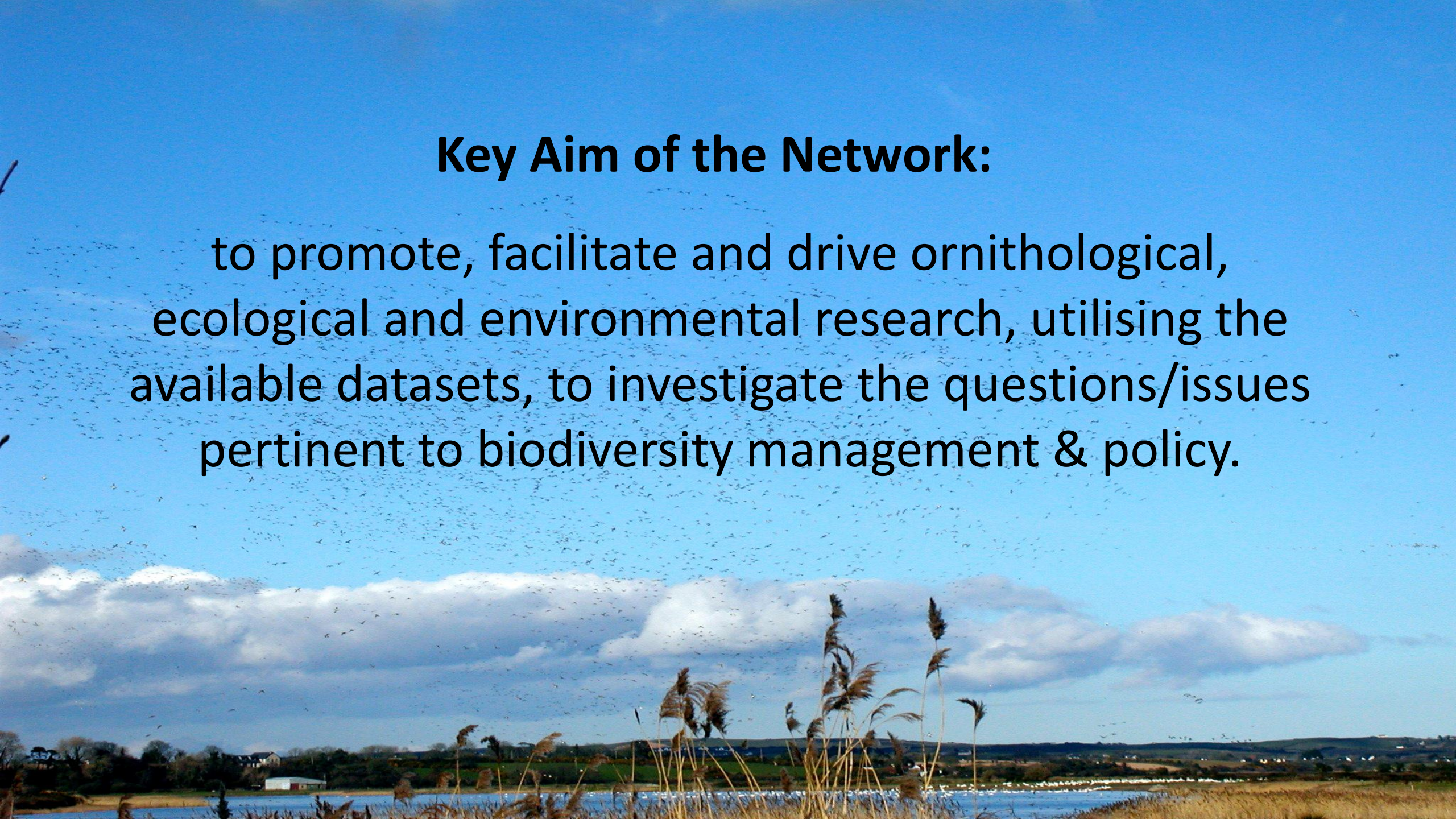
**Freely available !!**





## **Key Aim of the Network:**

to promote, facilitate and drive ornithological, ecological and environmental research, utilising the available datasets, to investigate the questions/issues pertinent to biodiversity management & policy.



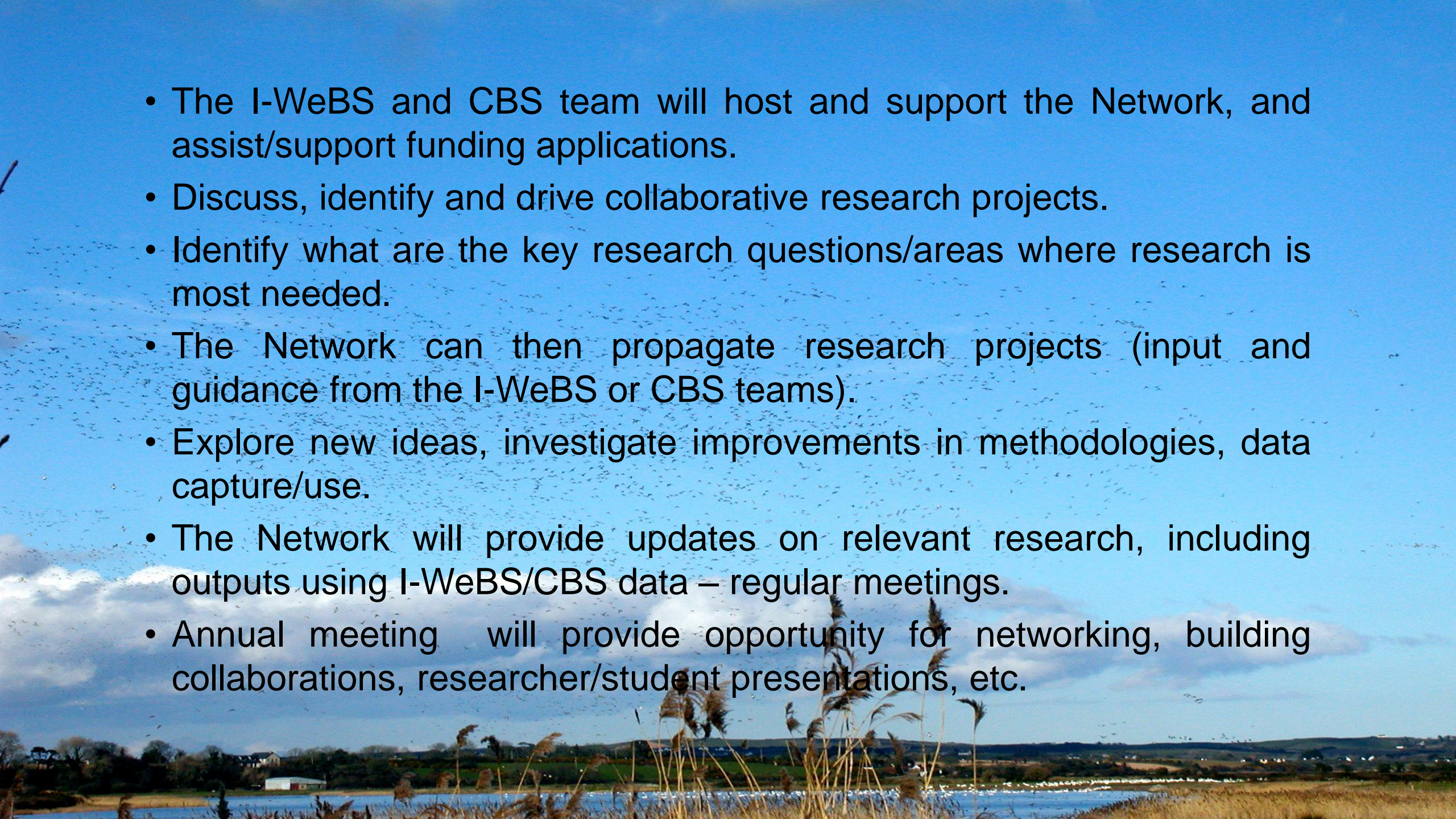


- A network, facilitating collaboration of research teams/individuals.
- Scientists, researchers, ecologists, policy makers and practitioners.
- Specialist input, guidance and support from the I-WeBS and CBS projects team.





- The I-WeBS and CBS team will host and support the Network, and assist/support funding applications.
- Discuss, identify and drive collaborative research projects.
- Identify what are the key research questions/areas where research is most needed.
- The Network can then propagate research projects (input and guidance from the I-WeBS or CBS teams).
- Explore new ideas, investigate improvements in methodologies, data capture/use.
- The Network will provide updates on relevant research, including outputs using I-WeBS/CBS data – regular meetings.
- Annual meeting will provide opportunity for networking, building collaborations, researcher/student presentations, etc.





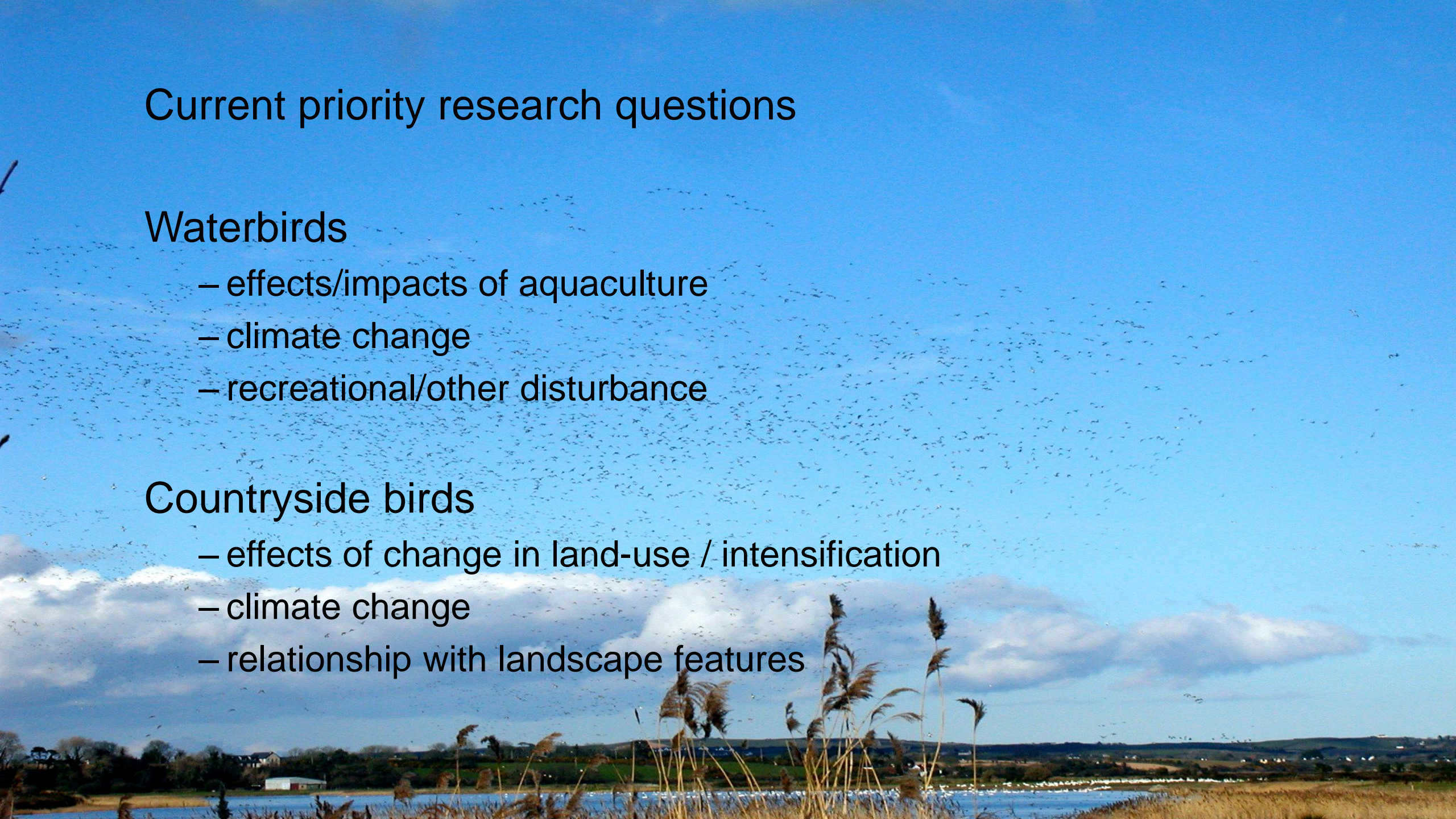
# Current priority research questions

## Waterbirds

- effects/impacts of aquaculture
- climate change
- recreational/other disturbance

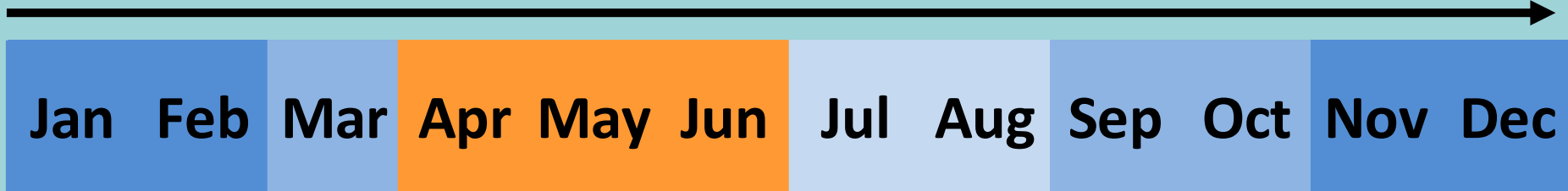
## Countryside birds

- effects of change in land-use / intensification
- climate change
- relationship with landscape features





**CBS is over...**  
**but I-WeBS is around the corner**



## Next Steps... Get in touch!



- Season starts **September 10<sup>th</sup>**
- Workshops in Kerry, Cavan and Athlone
- Late September and early October

[nfitzgerald@birdwatchireland.ie](mailto:nfitzgerald@birdwatchireland.ie)



- Stay tuned until next season
- Workshops in March

[rcoombes@birdwatchireland.ie](mailto:rcoombes@birdwatchireland.ie)





An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta  
agus Fiadhúlra  
National Parks and Wildlife Service

# Thank you for listening

Niamh Fitzgerald  
[nfitzgerald@birdwatchireland.ie](mailto:nfitzgerald@birdwatchireland.ie)

## Photographs courtesy of:

John Fox, Alyn Walsh, Dick Coombes,  
Helen Boland, Kendrew Colhoun, Colum  
Clarke, Billy Clarke, Ken Kinsella, Jerry Cassidy, Clive Timmons, Cormac  
Byrne, Graham Catley, Niall Keogh, Michael Finn, Valerie O'Sullivan, Eric  
Doggett, Ronnie Martin, Gyorgy Szimuly, Tim Edelston, Ralph Sheppard,  
Brian Burke, Valerie O'Sullivan, David Stroud, Eddie Dunne, Peadar  
O'Connell, Colum Clarke, Niall Keogh, Colm Fitzpatrick, Brian Burke,  
Michael Finn, Alyn Walsh, Kendrew Colhoun, Colum Clarke, Billy Clarke,  
Ken Kinsella, Jerry Cassidy, Clive Timmons, Cormac Byrne, Wetlands  
International, Michael Finn, Eric Doggett, Ronnie Martin, Breffni  
Martin, Lesley Lewis.