

Kildare Birds

The Kildare Branch of BirdWatch Ireland was founded in 2010, and since then has been a very active organization within the county.

We hold monthly talks on the second Thursday of every month at 8pm in The Town House Hotel, Naas. These talks are based not only on birds but also on general conservation topics from BirdWatch Ireland members of staff and other national experts.

On the Saturday following the talk we have outings, these alternate between events within Kildare and surrounding counties. The outings are aimed at a mixture of levels with everyone from beginners to experienced birders catered for.

Details of upcoming events are available on our website and Facebook page. We are always keen to meet new members and volunteers.

The branch is also involved in many different educational and conservation projects throughout the county. At the moment we are currently involved in a number of Nest Box Schemes (NBS). We have a NBS in Donadea Forest Park which is aimed at small songbirds, and a similar one in NUI Maynooth. In 2015 we expanded our remit to include a Swift Tower in Athy, which is the first of its kind in the Republic of Ireland. Following on from the success of these various schemes we are now hoping to concentrate on Kestrels and Barn Owls and are embarking on NBS for these iconic species.

Our group is also involved in such local events as Biodiversity Week, Heritage Week and Culture Night. We have strong links with Tidy Towns Groups and other local organizations. The branch has also been involved in a number of Green School Schemes.

More information is available from:

web: www.birdwatchkildare.com
facebook: www.facebook.com/bwikildare
email: birdwatchkildare@gmail.com.

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BirdWatch Ireland
Kildare Branch



Little Egret

Little Egrets are somewhat scarce in the midlands, but are unmistakable once seen. Feeds on a wide variety of animals including small fish, frogs, snails and insects. Often alone but may be encountered in small groups.



Sparrowhawk

A small bird of prey with broad wings, blunt wing tips and a long tail. Probably the most common bird of prey in Ireland. Usually eats small birds which are taken when perched or in flight, sometimes after a long chase.

Buzzard

Buzzards are a medium sized bird of prey and have been more common in the county in recent years, often seen perched beside motorways. They eat a wide variety of prey items including small mammals, birds, rabbits, insects, earthworms and amphibians.



Lapwing

Present all year round. Feed on of a variety of invertebrates.

Dipper

Slightly smaller but similar to a blackbird, these are widespread throughout the county. Mainly found along stretches of fast flowing water. Feeds on a diet of aquatic invertebrates, such as larvae of caddisflies and mayflies which they catch by searching along the bottom of the stream or river.



Jay

The jay is a member of the Crow family and is one of the most striking and colourful birds breeding in Ireland. No other Crow species looks like it. Lives in broadleaf woodland throughout the county. It's an omnivore and feeds on seeds, insects, and less frequently on young birds and eggs.



Curlew

Ireland's largest wader, the Curlew is a red-listed species and is in decline all over the country. They can still be found in Kildare and some pairs do breed where there is suitable habitat, mainly the bogs around the county. They feed mostly on invertebrates, particularly ragworms, crabs and molluscs.



This leaflet shows some of the less common birds that are to be found in County Kildare. Some birds, such as the Curlew and Quail are in decline, while others such as the Buzzard and Little Egret are expanding their territories and can now be more commonly seen in Kildare.

The Kildare branch of BirdWatch Ireland has events every month. You are welcome to come along and learn about the great diversity of bird life that Kildare has to offer. See the back for details.



Yellowhammer

Mainly resident in eastern and southern counties, including Kildare. Diet consists of grains of grasses and cereals, with young being fed insects. In decline and is red-listed, mainly thought to be linked to cereal cultivation.



Quail

A very small and stocky ground bird. Difficult to see in its breeding grounds where it remains in dense cover. Diet consists of seeds and invertebrates. Red listed in Ireland due to its small and localized breeding population.

Peregrine Falcon

A powerfully built species of falcon, and the fastest animal on the planet reaching speeds of up to 240 km/h as it dives to catch its prey, consisting mainly of birds. Breeds in Kildare often in quarries, or on ledges of tall constructions, such as church steeples.



Kestrel

A small bird of prey with long, relatively narrow wings and tail. Can often be seen hovering with a fanned tail as it scans for its prey. Diet consists of small mammals, but will also eat insects, invertebrates and sometimes birds. Has been in decline in recent years.

