

## Wexford Naturalists' Field Club



### WNFC Newsletter

Issue Number 14, June 2009

WNFC, c/o Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North Slob, Wexford.

Website: [www.wexfordnaturalists.com](http://www.wexfordnaturalists.com).

Email: [info@wexfordnaturalists.com](mailto:info@wexfordnaturalists.com). Telephone: (053) 912 3129.

### Coming WNFC attractions

Unless otherwise stated, two club events are held each month

- a lecture at 8pm on the **first Thursday** of each month in the Pump House at the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve (T 076 239) at Ardavan, Wexford, telephone (053) 912 3129. There is ample free parking and non-members of the club are very welcome to attend lectures. Admission for non-members is €5 and that modest sum includes light refreshments afterwards with the opportunity to meet and chat with like-minded people.
- a field trip on the **second Saturday** of each month at the times and locations detailed below. For insurance purposes, attendance at club outings is confined to club members.

Since events may change due to unforeseen circumstances please check for updates on the club website at [www.wexfordnaturalists.com](http://www.wexfordnaturalists.com).

**July. Thursday 2nd:** Lecture "Bats" by Dr Ruth Carden, Ecologist, followed by light refreshments and a bat walk (weather permitting). **Saturday 11th:** Nature walk around the pilgrimage route at Lady's Island with Jim Hurley. Meet at 2pm in the car park (T 106 074) behind the ruined castle on Lady's Island.



**August. Thursday 6th:** Lecture "Whales and Dolphins in Irish waters – myth or fact?" by Kevin McCormick, Irish Whale and Dolphin Group.

**Saturday 8th:** Field trip to the Wexford County Council nature trail at Curraclloe with Lucy Ellis, Trail Guide. Meet at the information sign in the main car park at White Gap (T 113 275), Curraclloe, at 2pm.

**September. Thursday 3rd:** Lecture "An Taisce's role in nature conservation" by Anja Murray, Natural Environment Officer, An Taisce. **Saturday 12th:** Farm and reed bed visit with Will Warham. Meet at Will's farm at Jamestown (S 983 312), Oylegate, at 2pm. **Weekend 11-13th:** visit to Wales. For further information contact Chris Wilson, (086) 190 0550, trip organiser and leader.

### News items .....

**Deceased members.** It was with great shock and



sadness that members learned of the untimely deaths of both Martin Tobin (left) and Séamus Burke (right). Martin served on the club committee for four years and Séamus was an active member. May they



rest in peace. Votes of sympathy were extended to both families on the occasion of their great losses.

**New members.** A special welcome to the following seven new members who joined our ranks since the last issue of this newsletter was posted to you: Agnes and Tom Anslow, Wexford; Frances Furlong, Wexford; Paul Kehoe, Enniscorthy; Josephine Lawlor, Longraigue; Michael Maguire, Kilmore Quay; and Sue Rogers-Tobin, Clonard.

**Subscriptions.** Very many thanks to the many members who have renewed their subscription for 2009. A final reminder is enclosed for those who have not renewed yet.

**Art Competition.** Our Art Competition was a great success and was widely reported in the local press. Renewed thanks to all involved.

**Lepidoptera Guide.** The club's guide to the butterflies and moths of County Wexford by Michael O'Donnell and Chris Wilson is with the printers and will be launched at the end of the month. Your invitation to the launch is enclosed and the authors and committee hope you will be able to attend to join in the celebration of an important milestone in the history of our club. Due to generous sponsorship received, the 184-page book in full colour will sell for the extremely reasonable price of €10 to non-members and €7 to club members. The extremely attractive price means that an extra copy or two for family, friends or other interested parties is very affordable.

#### Raffle results

Congratulations to Mick O'Connor, Coolcotts, who won first prize of an original Don Conroy painting of a Comma butterfly kindly presented to the club by the artist to raise funds for the publication of the Lepidoptera guide. Two runner-up prizes of nature books were won by Will Warham, Oilgate, and Chris Wilson, Curraclloe. Thanks to all who supported and to Brian O'Connor, Luke O'Connell, and Larry Doyle for drawing the winning tickets.

#### Butterfly recording

A butterfly recording form is enclosed. Now that these large and colourful insects are on the wing, and armed with a copy of our new Lepidoptera guide, a great opportunity presents itself for you to do a bit of recording in your particular neck of the woods.



Also, if you have notes of dates and numbers of the recent eruption of Painted Ladies please use your form to record that information. The national recording scheme for butterflies is coordinated by our sister organisation the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club and their partners.

### Wild flowers

A copy of a recording form for wild flowers is enclosed.

If you are a beginner then, at first sight, the long lists of



abbreviated Latin names will, undoubtedly, prove totally off-putting! However, do not despair! Say, for example, you want to record the fact that Primroses grow in your locality. Go to the index at the back of your flower book, look up Primrose, go to the relevant page and see that the Latin name for the plant is *Primula vulgaris*. Return to your recording form, run down the alphabetised list and see that 'Primu vul' is the best match for your Primrose. Note that the only related species is 'Primu ver', that is, *Primula veris* the Cowslip. The recording scheme for wild flowers in Britain and Ireland is organised by the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI).

### Wild birds

If you are out and about recording butterflies and/or wild flowers and are not involved in the Bird Atlas, you may wish to use the enclosed Roving Records form to record any breeding birds you may come across. Full details are given on the recording form and all records are welcome. The recording scheme in

Ireland is organised by BirdWatch Ireland.

### Grid references

Grid references may be read from the Ordnance Survey Discovery Series maps available in all larger bookshops. Instruction on how to read a grid reference is given on each map. Note that due to their British origin, both the wild flower recording form and the bird form have spaces for two grid letters. In Ireland we use only one letter so the first space may be left blank. Instead of leaving it blank, some people put an 'I' in the first square to denote the Irish National Grid.

### Tetrads

A tetrad is a 2km x 2km square. There are a 25 tetrads in a 10km square. Each tetrad is identified by one of the letters of the alphabet (excluding O) starting at the bottom left corner of the 10km square and ending at the top right corner as shown in the example.

To identify a tetrad give the grid reference of the 10km square (e.g., X29) and add the tetrad letter as a suffix (e.g., X29Q).

E	J	P	U	Z
D	I	N	T	Y
C	H	M	S	X
B	G	L	R	W
A	F	K	Q	V

### Vice-counties

Vice-counties are subdivisions of Britain and Ireland used largely for the purposes of biological recording and other scientific data-gathering. The scheme was introduced by Hewett Watson in the third volume of his *Cybele Britannica* published in 1852. He refined the system somewhat in later volumes. The vice-county code for Wexford is H12. The system is still popular but is largely being superseded by grid-based reporting.

### Records Officer

Simon Collins is the club's Records Officer and all queries with regard to recording should be referred to him. It would be appreciated if all completed recording forms are

forwarded to him so that he can coordinate with the various national and international agencies the club's contribution to recording the biodiversity of the county. Work is in progress with regard to upgrading the online recording facility on the club's website. Simon may be contacted c/o the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve.

### Identification skills

If you want to improve your identification skills for butterflies, invasive species, micro-moths, slugs, snails, or fungi, check out [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie) for the workshops being offered by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in Waterford.

### Mammal symposium

For details with regard to the first all-Ireland mammal symposium being held in Waterford in November see their website at [www.allirelandmammalsymposium.org/](http://www.allirelandmammalsymposium.org/).



### Shop and save

On production of a current WNFC membership card, members enjoy a 10% discount on goods purchased at Great Outdoors, Chatham Street, Dublin 2. Map and Compass, Cornmarket, Wexford town, offer a 10% discount to club members on cash purchases and 6% on credit card purchases. If you have lost your membership card, talk to Dominic Berridge, WNFC Membership Secretary, c/o the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve.

**Deadline.** This WNFC Newsletter is produced quarterly and is posted to members towards the end of March, June, September, and December. Items for inclusion in the next issue should be submitted to arrive not later than **Friday 11th September**. Items for inclusion may be

- \* posted to Jim Hurley, WNFC Newsletter Editor, Grange, Kilmore, Co Wexford;
- \* e-mailed to him at [swc@eircom.net](mailto:swc@eircom.net);
- \* texted to (086) 163 7199; or
- \* telephoned to (053) 912 9671.



Goldfinch by Edno Delaney