

July 4 2009 - Mayo Corncrake Update

From Tim Gordon – BWI's Corncrake Field Worker in West Connaught

To date, there are at least 22 calling Corncrakes in Erris and nine southwest of Louisburgh, an increase of four on last year's county total.

In Erris, birds have relocated to several new locations, including one in reseeded bog, treated with spent mushroom compost, at Ton Mór (near the mushroom factory). This is interesting as Bord na Mona are looking for suggestions as to what to do with their worked-out bogs around Bellacorrick. Others continue to call at the Wheelchair Association field at Logmore, around Corclogh, and at the Glebe, where five were heard this week, plus one audible from across the bay at Annagh. There is time yet to confirm more than six birds in this area, as suspected, but as they are beginning to go quiet, the minimum count of six now looks more likely. In the parish of Blacksod, the townlands of Glosh, Surgeview and Fallmore continue to host four calling birds.

In the south-west of the county, one at Polglass, latterly reported calling from late May, has been accepted as additional to the seven around Aghany and the one which was at Doughmakeon, but which has now moved to nearby Emlagh. Five are still to be heard calling between Emlagh, Aghany and Polglass.

No further reports have been received from around Castlebar or the north coast. Ruth-Ann checked out around Meelick but drew a blank, and reports from around Westport have similarly so far come up with nothing.

The national census of Corncrakes ends **July 10**, so there's still time to find one or two more. If you want to hear one, don't delay, as most Corncrakes stop calling by mid-July.

Please send Corncrake reports via Mayo Branch BWI's web-site or phone 095 44941