

MAYO CORNCRAKE UPDATE 30 June 2010

As the calling season for Corncrakes nears its end for another year, an unusually large number of birds remain vocal and easy to hear, including, on the Erris peninsula, five at Carne Hill, and now also five at Corclogh West, plus one very noisy one near the football pitch at Glosh, and in SWMayo at Doughmakeon and Aghany East.

A number of Corncrake fields were mown in June, at Aghany, in Sligo and in Erris. At Binghamstown, behind the national school, one chick of just one-to-five days-old was reported seen by the contractor escaping Corncrake-friendly mowing on June 15, and an adult was also seen at the end of mowing. Nothing was seen during the four hours it took to mow one large field at Drum, where at least one calling Corncrake was heard prior to mowing. One juvenile of two to three weeks was reported seen escaping Corncrake-friendly mowing at Tonamace, Erris, on June 28, but unfortunately a dead chick of just a few days old was then found in the swart after the same moing.

Corncrake reports even late in the season are still sought after. Late calling Corncrakes can turn-up in entirely new spots as late as mid July, and where they call consistently, we have to assume they are making a late nesting attempt, in which case measures will be taken to protect the likely nest site. If you hear one, please report it.

Corncrake Hotline 095-44941

Tim Gordon