

Seawatching Sightings at Kilcummin and Killala

August to November 2008

20th November - Kilcummin Head

Total for 0900-1600 hrs

51 Grey Phalarope, 1 Little Auk, 6 Twite, 6 Common Scoter, 7 Great Northern Diver, 6 Red-throated Diver

Small passage of common auks, gulls and Gannets

(S Feeney)

27th October - Kilcummin Head

2 Manx Shearwater, 2 Great Skuas, 4 Grey Phalaropes, 26 Great Northern Divers, 1 Red-throated Diver

16 Snow Buntings (including a flock of 12), 1 Leach's Petrel, 6 Storm Petrel, 1 juvenile Arctic Tern, 1 Pink-footed Goose

Other birds seen include Rock Dove, Raven, Merlin, Common Scoter, Barnacle and Light-bellied Brent Geese

A couple of thousand kittiwakes, and good numbers of auks and small numbers of Gannets

(S Feeney, M Bell)

26th October - Kilcummin Head

Total for 0700-1630 hrs

2 Sooty Shearwater, 8 Manx Shearwater, 4 Storm Petrel, 1 Great Skua, 2 Pomarine Skuas, 1 Sabine's Gull

1 Red-throated Diver, 31 Great-northern Diver, 8 Grey Phalarope, Bunting (including a flock of eleven)

There was a light but steady passage of auks all day, but no Little Auk, good numbers of Gannets and Kittiwake also.

(S Feeney, J Donaldson)

19th October - Kilcummin Head & Killala Harbour

Total for 1245 - 1600 hrs Kilcummin Head

4 Great Skuas, 6 Grey Phalaropes, 1 Sooty Shearwater, 1 Manx Shearwater, 8 Great Northern Divers

The wind was light to fresh, mostly westerly, just a touch of south, far from ideal.

Two Little Egrets were in Killala Harbour opposite the pier at Green Island

(S Feeney)

16th October - Kilcummin Head

Totals for 0900-1500 hrs

86 Pomerine Skuas including one group of 66 birds, 20 Grey Phalarope in groups of 3 to 5,

7 Great Skua, 2 Arctic Skua, 1 Sabine's Gull, 1 Sooty Shearwater, 8 Great Northern Diver and 3 Red-throated Divers

A good passage of Kittiwake and reasonable numbers of Gannets

(S Feeney)

2nd October - Lacken Strand

7 Pink-footed Geese, c250 Golden Plover, one American Golden Plover, 1 Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Little Stints

(J Donaldson via S Feeney)

2nd October - Kilcummin Head

Quieter day at Kilcummin today, strong NW wind

Totals from early morning to 1500 hrs

70 Great Skua, 5 Pomerine Skua, 15 Arctic Skua, 1 Long-tailed Skua

1 Balearic Shearwater, 1 Sooty Shearwater, 13 Manx Shearwater

1 Little Gull, 2 Sabine's Gull, 3 Great Northern Diver, 6 Red-throated Diver

3 Red-breasted Merganser, 12 Grey Phalarope, 20 Arctic Tern

4 Common Scoter, 1 Wigeon

(S Feeney)

1st October - Kilcummin Head

Seawatching at Kilcummin in good conditions produced exceptional numbers of a very diverse range of species in great conditions.

4 Red-throated Divers, 6 Great Northern Divers, 200+ Manx Shearwaters, 43 Sooty Shearwaters

8 Storm Petrels, 74 Leach's Petrels, 2 Pink-footed Geese, 70 Barnacle Geese

3 Gadwall, 2 Wigeon, 3 Teal, 6 Common Scoter, 1 Red-breasted Merganser, 1 Peregrine Falcon

417 Grey Phalaropes, 181 Great Skua, 148 Pomarine Skua, 34 Arctic Skua

1 Little Gull, 7 Sabine's Gull, 77 Arctic Terns

On land 1 Snow Bunting

(S Feeney, J Donaldson)

30th September - Kilcummin Head

Remarkable numbers of Skuas on passage with relatively few shearwaters.

Totals for the day - 142 Great Skua, 419 Pomarine Skua, 29 Arctic Skua,

6 Sooty Shearwater, 65 Manx Shearwater, 139 Arctic Tern

As well as the high numbers, some very large flocks and groups were noted

(S Feeney)

See breakdown below

30th September 2008	Great Skua	Pomarine Skua	Arctic Skua	Sooty Shearwater	Manx Shearwater	Arctic Tern
0800-0900	6	13 (13)	2	1	3	2
0900-1000	9	7 (7)	4	0	4	0
1000-1100	22	65 (43, 11)	6	0	1	2
1100-1200	3	81 (4, 4, 30, 5, 8, 6, 13)	3	0	7	3
1200-1300	6	57 (8,13,5,5)	7	3	3	0
1300-1400	9	3	0	1	6	0
1400-1500	23	17	1	1	13	63(13, 14, 4, 7)
1500-1600	24	55 (31)	1	0	13	7 (7)
1600-1700	15	59 (27,8,6)	5	0	8	38(8, 7, 4, 7)
1700-1800	25	62 (54, 4)	0	0	7	24(11, 7, 6)
Total for Day	142	419	29	6	65	139

Note:

Left hand numbers in each column are hourly totals, numbers in brackets are groups > 3 birds.

Number of birds in groups plus odd birds make up total for hour.

11th September - Kilcummin Head

A slow day with only 74 Manx Shearwater, 14 Sooty Shearwater, 14 Great Skuas and 2 Sandwich Terns seen on passage.

1 Peregrine Falcon seen on the landward side

(J Donaldson, S Feeney)

6th September - Kilcummin Head

Cumulative totals for the day

2 Sabine's Gulls, 1 Balearic Shearwater, 3 Sooty Shearwater, 1 Leach's Petrel

2 Arctic Skua, 20 Great Skua, 1 Grey Phalarope, 51 Sandwich Terns, 3 Red-throated Divers, 2 Common Scoter

Also steady but small numbers of Manx Shearwaters, Fulmars, Gannets and Kittiwakes.

The wind started north-north-east and went to the north, with most of these birds seen after 9am

(S Feeney, M Bell, D Suddaby, P Doherty)

24th August - Kilcummin Head

Total for 1045 -1800 hrs

Less than ideal conditions. Wind south west until 1230 hrs then more westerly.

849 Manx Shearwater, 1 Balearic Shearwater, 24 Sooty Shearwater

5 Great Skuas, 1 Arctic Skua, 2 Pomarine Skuas and 3 Storm Petrel

(S Feeney)

21st August - Kilcummin Head

Seabird passage quite slow, totals from a 10 hours seawatch

4 Sooty Shearwater, 7 Storm Petrels, 1 Puffin, 1 Balearic Shearwater

3 Great Skuas, 3 Arctic Skuas, c200 Manx Shearwater, 28 Sandwich Terns

(S Feeney)

20th August - Kilcummin Head

Total for 0800 - 1800 hrs

154 Sooty Shearwater, 15 Great Skuas, 5 Arctic Skuas

Large numbers of Manx Shearwaters and good numbers of Storm Petrels

(S Feeney)

13th August - Kilcummin Head

During the period early morning to mid-afternoon the following were counted passing Kilcummin Head:

22 Great Skuas, 8 Arctic Skuas, 284 Manx Shearwater, 2 Sooty Shearwater,

70 Sandwich Terns, 3 Arctic Terns, 1 Puffin, 1 Storm Petrel

(S Feeney)

12th August - Kilcummin Head

During a 5 hour seawatch, the following was seen passing the headland

8 Great Skuas, 3 Arctic Skuas, 1 Puffin, 1 Balearic Shearwater, 600 Manx Shearwater and 3 Sooty Shearwater

(S Feeney)

7th August - Lenadoon Point, Kilcummin Head & Cathedral Pool, Ballina

Lenadoon Point (Co Sligo) - 1 1/2 hour seawatch

50 Manx Shearwater, 3 Great Skuas and probably 2 Arctic Skuas

(M Bell)

On the other side of Killala Bay at Kilcummin Head, a 5 hour seawatch produced

9 Great Skua, 1 Arctic Skua, 1 Sooty Shearwater, c45 Manx Shearwater, 2 Common Scoter & 1 Storm Petrel

(S Feeney)

Cathedral Pool on the River Moy in Ballina

First summer Red-throated Diver was seen

(M Davis)