BIRDS OF TRINITY

“These are birds, pure and simple, nothing more, their truth the secret of life itself.”

- Derek Mahon
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FOREWORD

There has been a very long and distinguished history of ornithological studies emanating from the students and teachers at Trinity College, Dublin over many centuries. Among the book collections and archives are some of the most precious bird studies undertaken in Ireland whilst the Zoology Dept. holds a rare selection of specimens ‘collected’ in Ireland and abroad including the extinct Passenger Pigeon and Great Auk.

However, little mention is made of the actual live birds that can be found in the wonderful grounds of Trinity College. I am delighted that this book addresses this major gap in such a long and distinguished history.

The college has stood for hundreds of years within a bustling capital city. While building developments have sprung up around the college over the centuries, the tranquil green spaces around Trinity have provided a safe oasis in an ever-expanding concrete and brick jungle.

In summer, Swifts nest in the roofs, soaring overhead as they feed. In winter, the trees are alive with wintering Redwings and Fieldfare far from their northern breeding grounds. During migration seasons in spring and autumn, warblers move through the hedgerows, feeding on the rich biodiversity of insects that the grounds of the college provide. Our many resident city birds, from Wrens to Rooks, also find safe refuge in Trinity. All of these birds are as much part of the heritage of the college as the buildings and the many eminent former students that the college has produced.

It is truly wonderful that all of the birds that use Trinity College for nesting, wintering or on migration, will now be documented in this new book. The authors deserve full credit for the painstaking task of documenting the many records for all of us to enjoy. I have no doubt that future generations will thank them for their work.

This book is a welcome addition to our understanding of our natural heritage and will lay a firm foundation for the continuing study of birds of Trinity College.

Eric Dempsey

AUTHOR’S NOTE

The author and Zoological Society would like to thank Aidan G. Kelly for the inspiration for the book and instrumental help throughout. Without his guiding hand, knowledge on the subject and information on sightings around Trinity this book would never have been written. We would also like to thank all the birders in the many faculties who contributed their sightings and recordings. This book is the second edition of Birds of Trinity, building on the first edition which was published in 1993. Records from that edition have been included here to provide a comprehensive source for records of bird sightings in Trinity.

Thank you to Caroline McKeon for general advice and for drawing the Long-tailed Tit on the cover. Thank you to James Orr for helping design the cover, book and also for general advice. Thank you to Mark Carmody for providing photographs of the birds. Check out Mark’s website: markcarmodyphotography.com or one of his publications for some more great photographs: The Shorebirds of Ireland with Jim Wilson, The Freshwater Birds of Ireland with Jim Wilson, and The Birds of Ireland: A Field Guide with Jim Wilson.

Thank you to Eric Dempsey for writing the introduction and giving a wonderful talk in September 2015.

For more information on bird species visit the Birdwatch Ireland website or pick up a copy of Eric Dempsey’s fantastic and informative Complete Guide to Ireland’s Birds.

For a more challenging birding experience visit North Bull Island, a UNESCO biosphere reserve within the city limits! In autumn thousands of water birds arrive to spend the winter and enjoy the mild Irish climate. Make sure to go to the northern bridge onto the island to find the multitude of birds. A few hours before or after high tide is best. Booterstown Marsh and Sandymount Strand nearby are other excellent birding ground with hundreds of waders, ducks, geese and gull feeding on the rich invertebrate life.

I hope you enjoy using this book as much as I did writing it.

Cian White
**Equipment**

Yourself and five minutes (to a life) of your time. Even a cheap pair of binoculars is great as they serve to bring the birds closer and can easily fit in a pocket. However, a good pair, for those with a couple hundred euro to spare, will reveal the astounding detail of a bird’s plumage and open up a whole new world. And of course this book to help identify any species you might find. Be sure to report any rare sightings to the Zoological Society at zoosoc@csc.tcd.ie.

**Habitats**

Trinity, like many parks and green spaces is an oasis for bird life in Dublin. It is places like the college grounds that allow many species of bird to survive within the city limits. The number of species found on the grounds is limited by the lack of a water body and so passerine species (perching birds) are the most commonly encountered. Even within the grounds there are numerous habitats in which different bird species can be found. Finding the many species in their different habitats on the grounds can be an enjoyable break from the rigours of college life.

**Fields and Lawns**

The biggest expanse of grass is College Park (the Cricket Pitch) and the Rugby Pitch, but there are many other smaller lawns on the grounds. Large numbers of Herring Gull and Black-headed Gull can be seen on College Park, joined by Mistle Thrush, Magpie, Feral and Wood Pigeon. It is a good place to start your bird watching career with many of the species found there being easy to identify.

**Trees**

The many species of tree on the grounds of Trinity serve as a refuge for the great variety of birds. Around the field and lawns Magpie, Starling, Feral Pigeon, Wood Pigeon, Mistle Thrush and Song Thrush perch to keep an eye out. They also act as corridors for the smaller species with Tits, Robin and Finches flitting through the branches. In spring, look to the trees for birds claiming territories and marking their borders. In winter, flocks of Tits and Finches can be seen roaming through the bare branches.

**Shrubbery**

The smaller bushes and undergrowth provide a habitat for many of the more reclusive species. Dunnock and Wren can be found among the foliage, which also provides a rich food source for ground feeding birds such as the Robin. Not a lot of shrubbery exists on the college grounds, though the western end of New Square, the green area in front of the Zoology building and the Scholars’ Garden provide a few examples.

**Buildings**

The high roofs of the many buildings in college are the domain of the gulls and pigeons. Herring Gull and Feral Pigeon have historically nested on the rooftops, but in recent years have been joined by Lesser Black-backed Gull. The eaves of some buildings provide nest sites for Starling and Swift, although the numbers of nesting Swift have fallen quite dramatically since the last edition of this book. A similar decline has been observed in the House Sparrow, probably as a result of a loss of nesting crevices. Chimney stacks, parapets and roofs provide the ideal lookout place for Magpie, Hooded Crow, Jackdaw, Pied Wagtail and many other species. The flat roofs of the Arts Block and the labs behind the Zoology building are frequented by Grey and Pied Wagtail.

**Provost’s Garden**

An oasis within an oasis. This secluded green space is home to the more reclusive species on campus. Dunnock and Robin, Finches, Mistle and Song Thrush and many other smaller passerine birds can be found here. Although private, reasonable views of parts of the garden may be obtained from behind the Reading Room but make sure to come along to Zoosoc’s birdwalk to get exclusive access to this special part of the campus.

**Conservation**

Trinity is known as place of learning, culture and history. With the publication of ‘Birds of Trinity’, a comprehensive overview of just one type of animal, it becomes clear that Trinity is also a place of nature. Since the publication of the first edition, the population of Swift and House Sparrow has dropped dramatically, reflecting a country wide trend. Both of these species nest in and around buildings but as the old buildings around Trinity are renovated and the facades cleaned, nest sites are disturbed and populations drop. There is now good reason for some active conservation to be implemented on college grounds and this year the Zoological Society will, with the proceeds of this book, implement a Swift nest box scheme to attract these iconic birds back. Hopefully, over future years, a similar scheme will be implemented for House Sparrows.
Residents of Trinity

Black-headed Gull | *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* | S léibhín | Length: 35-38cm

Commonly seen on College Park this small gull, as its name suggests, sports a dark brown head in spring which looks black from afar. Loses this plumage over the winter and just retains a black spot behind the eye which aids in identification. The underparts are white while the upper are pale grey. The beak and legs are a dull red colour and wing tips are black.

Lesser Black-backed Gull | *Larus fuscus* | Droimneach beag | Length: 53-56cm

This large gull has recently nested on the roofs of some college buildings. Has dark grey upperwings with black tips. The rest of the body is white while the bill and legs are yellow with an orange spot on the lower bill’s tip. Can be told apart from the Herring Gull by the much darker upperwings and yellow legs as opposed to the flesh pink legs of Herring Gull.

Herring Gull | *Larus argentatus* | Faoileán scadán | Length: 56-66cm

More numerous than noted in the previous edition; the bane of many lunchers, performing acrobatic swoops to scare hapless students and make off with their food. The adults have yellow beak with a spot of orange at the tip, pink legs, grey upperparts with wingtips dipped in black ink. Juveniles are brown and white streaked and take four years to reach adult plumage. Pairs breed on the roofs of some college buildings. Watch for birds ‘dancing’ on the greens, imitating rain drops to bring earthworms to the surface.

Great Black-backed Gull | *Larus marinus* | Droimneach mór | Length: 64-79cm

Another large gull, this species can be identified as it has much darker upperparts than either the Lesser Black-backed or Herring Gull. Quite a bulky bird when seen in flight, has a black back with a thick white margin. The bill is heavy and yellow while the legs are a pale pink. The rest of the bird is white. Not seen as regularly as other gulls around the college.

Feral Pigeon | *Columba livia f. domestica* | Colm aille | Length: 33cm

Plumage lacks any real definitive features and can vary extensively. Is recognised by blue gray upperparts and the iridescent feathers on the neck. Seen all around the college especially around places where people eat their food. Feet are commonly disfigured, thought to be as a result of wire and line that gets wrapped around the foot, tightening and cutting off the blood supply.

Wood Pigeon | *Columba palumbus* | Colm coille | Length: 41cm

The larger pigeon, this bird can be seen year round. A relatively heavy bird, they fly very straight and fast and don’t seem all that comfortable in the air, taking off with a large amount of flapping and noise. In autumn it can be seen taking berries from the trees in Front Square and beside the Museum building. Apart from its size, this bird can be distinguished from the other pigeons by the white collar on its nape. Classic “whoooo who huhu” call.
Magpie | *Pica pica* | Snag breac | Length: 46cm

An unmistakable bird known to almost everyone due to the superstitions regarding it. A very vocal bird, magpies are rarely seen by themselves. A group of this species is called a parliament, owing to their stately colouration and raucous calling. This bird has a strikingly long tail (making up half the length) that bobs up and down when it struts around on the ground. They are common around the college and can be seen at any time of year, regularly nest on the grounds.

Jackdaw | *Corvus monedula* | Cág | Length: 33cm

The smallest of the corvids, this highly curious and social animal is well known to the general public, but usually under the heading “crow”. The crown is a darker black than the surrounding nape and breast, which are a dark slate grey. There can be no confusion with the hooded crow as the jackdaw is much smaller. Given the large population of Jackdaw in Dublin, it is surprising that this bird is not seen on a more regular basis.

Rook | *Corvus frugilegus* | Rúcach | Length: 46cm

A similar sized bird to the Hooded Crow, but uniformly black in colouration. Adults have a large beak and a white patch of bare skin just under the beak which aids in identification. When perched, they appear to be wearing trousers due to the dropping of the belly feathers. Quite a regular visitor to the college in small numbers, especially in winter.

Hooded Crow | *Corvus cornix* | Caróg liath | Length: 47cm

A less gregarious member of the corvids, this new species was once classified as a race of the Carrion Crow found in Britain. The characteristic grey body with black wings and head serve to distinguish it from the Carrion Crow and any other corvid. An acrobatic bird that is commonly seen around the college where it has nested on a couple of occasions over the last twenty years or so.

Goldcrest | *Regulus regulus* | Cíorbhuí | Length: 9cm

Ireland’s smallest bird, it is an occasional visitor being seen mostly in spring and autumn. Superficially tit-like and resembling them in their high activity feeding style, it may be seen foraging in their company. The bird’s distinguishing feature is the gold/yellow stripe on its crown, hence the name. More regular in recent years, especially late in autumn.

Blue Tit | *Cyanistes caeruleus* | Meantán gorm | Length: 12cm

Common resident throughout the year. Easily distinguished, with blue crown, white cheeks and yellowish breast and belly. An active and acrobatic feeder, it travels in small foraging flocks with other Tit species frequenting the birch trees just inside the Front Arch and the holly on Library Square in winter, although can be spotted in any of the green areas on the grounds. Pairs have been noted breeding in a few nestboxes placed around college in recent years.
**Great Tit | Parus major | Meantán mór | Length: 14cm**

The largest member of the Tit family found in Ireland. A brightly coloured bird with black crown, white cheeks and yellow breast punctuated by a central black line running down to the belly (thicker in males than females). Can be seen throughout the year, but particularly in winter.

**Great Tit**

![Great Tit](image)

**Coal Tit | Periparus ater hibernicus | Meantán dubh | Length: 11-12cm**

The Irish Coal Tit is its own sub species, being distinguishable from the British and European race by the distinctive yellow tinge to its characteristic white cheek patches and nape of neck. It can be seen on the college grounds especially in winter in foraging flocks with other Tit species.

**Coal Tit**

![Coal Tit](image)

**Long-tailed Tit | Aegithalos caudatus | Meantán earrfhada | Length: 14cm**

The Long-tailed Tit is one of Ireland’s smallest birds with the tail accounting for half its length. They have been seen frequently in winter outside the Zoology building. A cheerful species, they are in constant vocal contact with each other while foraging. At close range a pinkish wash to the under parts is visible. More regular now than when the last edition was published in 1993. A pair may even have bred in the Provost’s Garden in 2015. Featured on the cover of the book.

**Long-tailed Tit**

![Long-tailed Tit](image)

**Wren | Troglodytes troglodytes | Dreolín | Length: 9-10cm**

Commonly mistaken as the smallest Irish bird, the Wren is in fact larger than the Goldcrest, though only marginally. A resident of the college, it can be seen anywhere there is enough cover provided by shrubbery. The upright tail and bobbing motion are characteristic although the alarm call is more likely to be heard than the bird is to be seen. Spare a thought for our diminutive feathered friend in winter as populations plummet during prolonged cold spells.

**Wren**

![Wren](image)

**Starling | Sturnus vulgaris | Druid | Length: 22cm**

The great imitator of Ireland, these birds learn the song of other species and proudly mime them, confusing birders. You can tell where a bird hatched and grew up from their song: car alarm - the city, a chainsaw - a forest, the call of seabirds - the coast. There are even reports of starlings imitating the sounds of falling bombs in London during WWII, causing obvious panic. Adult plumage is iridescent in summer, and acquires white spots in winter. Has short, quite triangular wings and is commonly seen in flocks on the cricket pitch.

**Starling**

![Starling](image)

**Blackbird | Turdus merula | Lon dubh | Length: 25cm**

A resident breeding bird commonly found around the college grounds especially on the Dawson street side of the cricket pitch. Can be heard rustling in the undergrowth of shrubbery. The yellow bill, thrush like appearance and completely black body is characteristic of the male. The female, in comparison, is brown with dark motting on the underparts and is sometimes seen in conjunction with the male.

**Blackbird**

![Blackbird](image)
**Song Thrush** | *Turdus philomelos* | Smólach ceoil | Length: 23cm

A small, dainty thrush that can be distinguished from its bigger cousin, the Mistle Thrush, by its warm brown head and upperparts, and its orangy-buff breast spotted with well defined dark marks. Also tends to sing its musical song from the shelter of the tree in between branches. Has nested in previous years and adults have been seen feeding young in front of the Zoology building. Regularly seen in winter on the cricket pitch looking for worms and using stones as anvils to break the shells of snails.

**Mistle Thrush** | *Turdus viscivorus* | Smólach mór | Length: 27cm

A much larger and altogether heavier bird than the Song Thrush. Back and head are grey with a white breast marked with dark spots. Sings proudly from the tops of trees and often sings in rain or dull weather, giving rise to its old name of Stormcock. It is known to vigorously defend berry bearing bushes against all other birds in winter. Check the holly bushes around the college to see if you here the rattling call!

**Robin** | *Erithacus rubecula* | Spideog | Length: 14cm

A very vocal and well known species, the Robin is a familiar resident of the college grounds. Can be seen anywhere there is shrubbery or trees. Females have been known to migrate to Europe in winter leaving the males to defend the territory, and consequently is one of the only species in which the male sings throughout the year.

**Dunnock** | *Prunella modularis* | Donnóg | Length: 14-15cm

A shy, nondescript resident breeder. Can be found in the Provost’s Garden and beside the Museum building where shrubbery offers shelter. Size differentiates it from the Wren and greyish colour to nape and underparts and streaking distinguish it from juvenile Robin.

**House Sparrow** | *Passer domesticus* | Gealbhan binne | Length: 14-15cm

This species has seen a major population decline since the last edition was published and is no longer found in College grounds on a regular basis. Nests in small crevices. Male has a grey crown, white cheeks and black bib with a pale grayish whitish breast and belly. Female rather nondescript bird, but can be identified as is often in the company of males.

**Grey Wagtail** | *Motacilla cinerea* | Glasóg liath | Length: 18cm

A scarcer bird than its bulkier cousin the Pied Wagtail. The crown, nape and back are grey, for which it is named, although these are less conspicuous at first sight than its yellow breast, belly, vent and rump. Seen on the flat roof of the lab behind the Zoology building foraging in pools and also on the lawns of Fellows’ Square.
Pied Wagtail | Motacilla alba yarrellii | Glasóg shráide | Length: 18cm

A resident of the college, they can be seen all around Trinity, especially on the flat roofs of the Arts block, lawns of the Fellows’ Square and the back of the Zoology building. Name derives from the pumping of the long tail up and down. Primarily feeds on insects and has a characteristic, bouncing flight.

Chaffinch | Fringilla coelebs | Rí Rua | Length: 15cm

Common resident finch throughout the year with numbers increasing in winter. Male can be distinguished by the chestnut red of the breast, blue grey crown and chestnut back. Breeds regularly on college grounds.

Bullfinch | Pyrrhula pyrrhula | Corcrán coille | Length: 14–16cm

More frequent than estimated in the previous edition, this rare visitor is distinguished by the striking red breast of the male and thick black bill. The female has a brown breast. Commonly in pairs. A few sightings in recent years, including a pair in the Provost’s Garden in April 2015.

Greenfinch | Carduelis chloris | Glasán darach | Length: 14–15cm

A large finch with bright green plumage. It has yellow wing bars in the breeding season, but is an altogether duller green throughout the rest of the year. The bill is large and conical and used for eating seeds. A scarce visitor to the college, more are generally seen in winter.

Goldfinch | Carduelis carduelis | Lasair choille | Length: 12cm

One of Ireland’s most colourful resident birds, the Goldfinch has become a more regular sight in Trinity since the last edition in 1993, with the first pair noted breeding in 1998. The red colour around the beak, white cheeks, black cap and yellow wing bars serve to distinguish this finch. Usually seen in small flocks.
Passers Through: Migrants

Swift | Apus apus | Gabhlán gaoithe | Length: 16-17cm

This summer migrant has undergone substantial decline since the last edition of this book, when they were a main feature of summer on the grounds. At present, only a few are noted each season, occasionally breeding in the Museum building, which was always the main nesting site. The proceeds of this book will go towards implementing a Swift nest box project to encourage more to breed on campus.

Swallow | Hirundo rustica | Fáinleog | Length: 19cm

Another species in decline due to habitat loss. An easy bird to identify; long tail streamers, red throat, glossy black upperparts and contrasting white underside make this bird instantly recognisable. Flight is rapid with lots of flapping and swooping. Swallows are constantly chattering, and produce an alarm call not unlike a WWII plane in combat. Swallows are seasonal migrants but not sighted very often. The first arrivals signify the onset of summer and the first departures telling us that Autumn is well and truly here.

Chiffchaff | Phylloscopus collybita | Tiuf-teaf | Length: 11cm

A spring and autumn visitor to the college, this bird can be quite difficult to identify for those not acquainted with the species. Upperparts are mostly a dull greenish-brown with a paler belly and breast. If viewed close enough, a dark eye stripe and a white eye ring can be observed. Often flicks its tail downwards unlike the Willow Warbler. Very occasionally found in the winter in Ireland with a record for the college on the 10th of January 1996.

Willow Warbler | Phylloscopus trochilus | Ceolaire sailí | Length: 11cm

A more common migrant bird that can be seen every spring and autumn as they pass through the college with the Provost’s Garden being a particularly good spot for them. Very similar to the Chiffchaff, but this species has a darker tweed green of the back and upper wings. Underparts are paler and it also has a dark eye stripe similar to the Chiffchaff, though lacks the white eye ring and so can be distinguished. It also has longer wings and paler legs than the Chiffchaff.

House Martin | Delichon urbicum | Gabhlán Binne | Length: 12-13cm

A summer migrant, up to 5 birds have occasionally been noticed flying around College Park and the Rugby Pitch during late summer in recent years. There has been no evidence of breeding however. This relative of the Swallow can be distinguished by the large white rump easily seen in the air, and the flight pattern of gliding on short extended triangular wings. Has a shallow forked tail and the black upperparts contrast dramatically with the pure white underparts.
**Blackcap** | *Sylvia atricapilla* | Caipín dubh | Length: 14cm

Normally a summer migrant but increasingly seen in winter. The few birds that are seen on the grounds of Trinity late in the year are thought to be from Central Europe, spending the winter in the more moderate climate of Ireland. A similar size to the Robin or Dunnock, this bird is named after the distinctive black cap on the males which contrasts with the otherwise pale grey colour. The female has a pale brown cap and so can be distinguished from her male counterpart.

**Fieldfare** | *Turdus pilaris* | Sacán | Length: 25cm

A striking bird when seen up close. This is another member of the thrush genus and can be distinguished by its grey head and nape, buff breast and brown back. The breast and paler white belly have a black mottling to them. A scarce winter visitor that is seen on the college grounds mainly in very cold weather.

**Redwing** | *Turdus iliacus* | Deargán sneachta | Length: 21cm

A member of the *Turdus* genus, this bird is remarkably similar to the Song Thrush, both in size and colouration. The obvious difference is the reddish/orange patch on the underside of the wing, giving rise to this species’ common name. Also has characteristic white supercilium (eye-stripe) which is quite distinctive. A winter migrant usually only in harsher weather. However, this bird is spotted most years on College Park, sometimes in large numbers. Very high count of 450 on 6th January 1997.

**Linnet** | *Linaria cannabina* | Gleoiseach | Length: 13-14cm

A typical finch, Linnets are social birds, mostly seen in small groups, and can be a rare winter visitor to the college. Adult males in summer have a lead grey head and throat, with a red crown. In breeding season, they are easily distinguished by extensive red markings on their breast, which then fade for the rest of the year. The back is brown. The male is similar to the female in winter when mostly seen in College.

**Lesser Redpoll** | *Carduelis flammea cabaret* | Deargéadan | Length: 13-15cm

Another finch, this species resembles the Linnet but can be distinguished by the small black bib below the yellow bill. The male has a red forehead with more red markings on the breast during the summer months. A scarce winter visitor. May be seen singly or in a small flock feeding on the birch or alder trees.

**Siskin** | *Spinus spinus* | Siscín | Length: 12cm

Presence in Trinity fluctuates, but can be common in some winters. Birds sometimes feed on catkins in trees near the Players Theatre or along the Nassau Street side of College Park. This small finch has a characteristically forked tail that is clearly visible in flight. Male has a yellow breast and a paler belly. The upperparts are a darker yellow/green. 50 were reported on 13th February 1996.
**Rare Birds**

**Mute Swan** | *Cygnus olor* | Eala bhalbh
Has been seen flying over college, usually in autumn or winter.

**Brent Goose** | *Branta bernicla hrota* | Cadhan
Occasionally seen in flight over college as they move to inland feeding grounds later in the winter. On one occasion a flock landed in College Park and remained feeding on the grass for some time before being disturbed off.

**Mallard** | *Anas platyrhynchos* | Mallard
Mallard have been spotted on college grounds on a few occasions.

**Tufted Duck** | *Aythya fuligula* | Lacha bhadánach
Three birds flying over College Park on the 11th June 1992 were probably heading for St. Stephen's Green.

**Cormorant** | *Phalacrocorax carbo* | Broigheall
There are several records of birds flying over, usually in winter.

**Squacco Heron** | *Ardeola ralloides*
A juvenile found flying in the college grounds on the 2nd of October 1967 was the twelfth Irish record.

**Little Egret** | *Egretta garzetta* | Éigrit bheag
First record flew east over the Pavilion on the 5th of August 2016.

**Grey Heron** | *Ardea cinerea* | Corr réisc
A bird has sometimes been sitting on the lawn outside the Museum building in recent times, in the early mornings. One bird was spotted in Front Square on the 19th of January this year.

**Sparrowhawk** | *Accipiter nisus* | Spioróg
Occasionally passes through with carcasses of pigeons from a successful hunt sometimes found.

**Buzzard** | *Buteo buteo* | Clamhán
One was seen soaring high over Library Square on 17th April 2015.

**Oystercatcher** | *Haematopus ostralegus* | Roilleach
A number were recorded on Front Square in the hard winter of 2010.

**Lapwing** | *Vanellus vanellus* | Pilibin
Has been seen in College Park during cold spells, or flying over.

**Curlew** | *Numenius arquata* | Crotach
There are a few records of birds flying over the college.

**Redshank** | *Tringa tetanus* | Cosdeargán
A number were recorded on Front Square in the hard winter of 2010, along with Oystercatcher.

**Woodcock** | *Scolopax rusticola* | Creabhar
One seen nestled in a tree on the 29th January 1998 and most recently in November 2010 being harassed by crows.

**Little Auk** | *Alle alle* | Auk beag
A bird was picked up exhausted near the Arts Block on 12th November 2007. It was released back out to sea at Dun Laoghaire the next day, but unfortunately became a meal for a Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) soon afterwards.

**Common Gull** | *Larus canus* | Faoileán bán
The Common Gull has been recorded on College Park at least once.

**Ring-billed Gull** | *Larus delawarensis* | Faoileán bandghobach
Has been seen on the college grounds on one occasion.

**Kingfisher** | *Alcedo atthis* | Cruidín
One was seen flying past the ‘Arches’ around fifteen years ago.

**Kestrel** | *Falco tinnunculus* | Pocaire gaoithe
Has been seen flying over the college on a few occasions.
Birds of Trinity

Peregrine | Falco peregrinus | Fabhún gorm
The Peregrine has been seen circling over the college on a few occasions and has been recorded making a kill in College Park.

Raven | Corvus corax | Fiach dubh
One spotted on the 20th and 21st February 1996.

Skylark | Alauda arvensis | Fuiseog
There are several records of birds heard flying over college in autumn and winter. Most likely to occur during cold spells.

Whitethroat | Sylvia communis | Gilphíb
One was seen feeding in a flowering tree outside the Chemistry building on 19th April 2013.

Grasshopper Warbler | Locustella naevia | Ceolaire casarnaí
One spotted on 22nd April 1998.

Sedge Warbler | Acrocephalus schoenobaenus | Ceolaire cibe
At least three records of singing migrants passing through in spring since the first book was published. The latest being on 1st May 2013 and one heard singing in the New Square in early 2015.

Waxwing | Bombycilla garrulus | Siodeiteach
Recorded in 1947, 1968 and early 1980’s. 36 were seen on the 31st of January 1996 with about 100 regularly present throughout February of the same year. A few have been seen in more recent years when this species irrupts into Ireland in cold weather.

Spotted Flycatcher | Muscicapa striata | Cuilire liath
Formerly more regular in college and even bred at one stage. Most recently, one was recorded on the 11th August 2015 and in late autumn of the same year in Scholars Garden. Two stayed in Trinity from the 5th to the 16th September 2013 in New Square, with one remaining until 20th September.

Pied flycatcher | Ficedula hypoleuca | Cuilire alabhreac

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Rare Birds

Wheatear | Oenanthe oenanthe | Clochrán
There are two records of this summer visitor to Ireland, in 1939 and in the late 1980’s.

Yellow Wagtail | Motacilla flava | Glasóg buí
One bird accompanied a small group of Pied Wagtails (Motacilla alba) around Library Square from the 24th to the 28th October 1996.

Meadow Pipit | Anthus pratensis | Riabhóg Mhóna
One record on the 2nd November 1992 in College Park, probably under-recorded.

Brambling | Fringilla montifringilla | Breacán
One male seen on the 3rd February 1995.

Crossbill | Loxia curvirostra | Crosghob
About 12 flew over on 4th July 1997.
## Checklist

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<th>Species</th>
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<td>Black-headed Gull</td>
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<td>Goldcrest</td>
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<td>Wren</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“This book will serve as a basis of ornithological records for years to come.”

- Aidan Kelly, former member of the Rare Birds Committee

“Our cities are becoming more important for wildlife, this book will help us develop a greater appreciation for the animals we share this urban ecosystem with.”

- Yvonne Buckley, Chairperson of Zoology

“A brilliant piece of work, and a testament to the keenness and drive at the heart of the Zoological Society. This is what societies are all about.”

- Fionn Ó Marcaigh, former Chairperson of the Zoological Society