

THE SWANSEA to CORK FERRY

A SUMMARY OF THE WILDLIFE THAT HAS BEEN SEEN FROM 1987 TO 1995

INTRODUCTION

For several years the ferry crossing from Swansea to and from Cork has given birdwatchers a daily opportunity of seeing “pelagic” seabirds and cetaceans. Several trips have been undertaken annually and following a request for records of the sightings on these trips it has been possible to compile this modest report.

It is hoped that this report will represent a starting point for the recording of this area which represents a corridor of sea 200 miles long and approximately 2 miles wide on each crossing.

Further editions of this report will hopefully include the records of previous reports which have not yet come to light and also the reports of observers on future crossings. Those observers who have contributed to this first edition have enabled it to be produced and are warmly thanked for their time and support.

RECORDS

The records submitted to date are quite narrowly grouped in the late summer. The reason for this is quite simply that most observers wish their crossings to coincide with the “best” dates for the more uncommon species such as Great and Cory’s Shearwater and Wilson’s Petrel. These dates are known from land based observations in Eire from places such as Cape Clear, to the west of Cork. In theory, at the time when these species, and others, appear off the south-west of Eire there could possibly be some dispersal up the coast toward Cork. It is in the hope of such a movement that many birdwatchers make the trip. It is probably prudent to mention at this point that Wilson’s Petrel has only been seen once and its position was very much further east. This illustrates the fundamental unpredictability of seawatching. There is almost no limit to the possibilities presented by a sea crossing both for birds and also for whales and dolphins. It is now quite clear that several whale and dolphin species are seen on the crossing on a regular basis. In fact one can confidently expect to see three species of whale and three species of dolphin on any trip from June through August.!

WEATHER AND OTHER TIPS

The Celtic Sea has a reputation for rough weather as it is open to south-westerly gales coming in from the Atlantic Ocean. Rough weather can occur at any time but the late summer is often blessed with calm seas and light winds. Crossings undertaken in these conditions are ideal for observation as the ship is steady enough to use a telescope mounted on a tripod." Glass-like" sea conditions are superb for cetaceans and shark watching as these are only noted when they break the surface to breathe, in the case of the whales and dolphins or when the dorsal fin appears above the water in the case of sharks and sun-fish. When the sea is calm and the wind light, many of the seabirds sit in "rafts" on the surface. Often the ship will go through a raft or a raft will disperse before the ship arrives. At these times there may be thousands of birds in the air at once. Most will be Manx Shearwaters.

Winds above force 4 can make the crossing very uncomfortable for observers, especially when from the east, as there is a lot of spray. Ideally the sea should be calm and winds light. It has been the practice to try to follow a southwesterly blow, however it has not usually been possible to organise a "team" at short notice. Teams usually consist of up to 20 observers and a minimum of 4 would be advised as it is surprising how much is missed if there are insufficient eyes watching.

It may be warm and sunny on land but at sea it is invariably cool so, warm, wind proof clothing with a tight hat are essential. Also, unless you want to look like a tomato, I would recommend a high factor sun-block for the exposed parts especially forehead, nose, ears and cheeks.

WHERE AND WHEN TO WATCH

Most birders buy non-landing tickets at Swansea, cross to Cork in the night and return the next day to Swansea. The ten hour return trip is in daylight all the way.

The ship leaves Swansea on the outward journey at 21:00 and unless it is a particularly bright evening no more than a few Storm Petrels are likely to be seen off Mumbles Head on the Gower peninsular before it becomes too dark to see anything at all.

Most observers of my acquaintance retire immediately to the bar where the offerings are enjoyed to the extent that tongues are loosened and the prospects for the return journey are discussed at length. The hoped for species list becomes increasingly more fanciful as the night wears on until eventually we all descend into a fitful sleep. Ah! if only the birds of the night before were guaranteed to be seen next day.

First light is approx. 05:00

Keen types are on the aft deck at first light though it is usually some time later that birds become identifiable. Between 05:00 and 06:30 is a good time to see the coastal birds on the Irish side. This certainly includes Cory's Shearwater, several of which have been seen on the last hour before the ship enters the harbour. The run up to the berth is not usually eventful and much the same can be seen on the way out.

The ship berths at 07:00.

At the berth there are a few interesting species that may be seen including Hooded Crows, terns and waders.

The ship leaves the berth for the return leg at 09:00 but does not exit the harbour until around 09:30. The Common Terns, Cormorants and gulls are regulars and occasionally Risso's Dolphins are seen at the seaward, southern end.

Once the pilot departs the ship goes through the harbour entrance and for the next couple of hours the inshore species including the auks, gulls and terns should be seen. This is also the time to separate the large shearwaters from the many Manx Shearwaters.

The better viewing is to be found as near to the bow of the ship as possible. Obviously the bow deck is not open to the public though on several occasions, given good weather and with prior notice the Captain's have granted permission for a small number of adult observers to watch from the bow deck. We are extremely grateful to the Captains who have allowed this concession. In the early trips on the "Celtic Pride" there was a forward facing "balcony" beneath the bridge where we used to operate from, much to the annoyance of the other passengers I'm sure.

Normally at some time after 11:00 there is a definite lull in activity which can last for an hour or two. Some trawlers may be seen with birds around them at this time but usually at some distance. Great Skuas are often seen flying between the trawlers or tormenting the gulls around them. The midday lull occurs as the ship passes just west of the deepest water and in spite of the relative inaction, some of the best sightings have been at this time, including the only Wilson's Petrel.

Slowly life begins to return and usually by the time that The Smalls lighthouse is seen there is plenty of activity. This is now the Welsh side and the numbers of Gannet and Manx Shearwaters are substantially higher. The rafts often include Sooty Shearwaters in small numbers which rise with the Manx. They are all dark and noticeably larger. Storm Petrels, several of which will probably have been flying parallel to the ship at 50 to 100 metres distance for some time, will also begin to increase in numbers and by the time that Caldy Island comes into view there have been as many as a dozen or more in view at once and occasionally flying under the bows.

The area immediately south of Caldy, which used to be adjacent to the St. Gowan lightship, has been particularly productive for cetaceans. Fin and Minke Whales have been seen here regularly in addition to several of the dolphin species. South from here several sightings of small groups of Killer Whales were reported until recently and the species has been seen near the lightship also. Probably the shoals and upwellings create good feeding conditions for cetaceans in this area.

The change in the water, which is quite noticeable, will indicate the start of the run up the Severn Estuary to Swansea. This is an anticlimax following the bustle of the south west Pembrokeshire area, however there remains plenty of opportunity for cetaceans and Storm Petrels as they are easier to see in the calmer estuarial conditions. The area off Worm's Head can be particularly productive. As the ship's speed has reduced the last couple of hours tend to drag and little is seen once Mumbles Head has been passed.

The ship berths at Swansea at 19:00.

Cobh is positioned at 51 50 N, 08 18W and Swansea is at 51 37N, 03 57W. The **approximate** positions of the ship following a 09:00 departure from Cobh are as follows:-

time	longitude	latitude
10:20	51 47N,	08 00W
12:20	51 40N,	07 00W
14:20	51 30N,	06 00W
16:20	51 30N,	05 00W

Incidentally the position of the Wilson's Petrel was given as 51 36N, 06 27W which is on the midway point and just west of the Celtic Deep.

When the ship leaves Cobh it swings east towards Wales on a heading of just a few degrees south of due east.

The coast of Eire is normally out of sight a short while after 11:30 and this usually begins an hour or so of very minor activity on the sea, if any. At this time it is easy to become discouraged or even bored stiff, however it does pass and by 13:00 the ship begins to cross over the 100m deep Celtic Deep trench which marks the midpoint and the divide between Irish and Welsh water.

This trench probably produces upwellings which are food rich for birds and mammals alike. The sea bed rises again at about 14:30 and at 16:00 the sea is only 50m deep and the ship enters the area south of the St. Gowan shoals which is typically the best for cetaceans.

The Smalls lighthouse is normally visible to the north-west at about 14:20, this more or less equates in time to the eastern edge of the Celtic Deep and hence greater activity can be expected. A short while later, at 15:00 the huge Grassholm Gannetry can be seen to the east of the lighthouse as a rather obvious half white island. From here on in to 17:50 when the ship is about due south of Worm's Head there is always quite a lot of activity involving the breeding birds of the Pembrokeshire colonies that includes Guillemots, Razorbills, Puffins, Gannets, Storm Petrels and of course Manx Shearwaters.

For many, the whales and dolphins that are seen on the crossings are now the prime reason for going and the birdwatching that began it all is of a secondary importance and relatively less rewarding.

FIN WHALE (*Balaenoptera physalus*)

The records indicate that Fin Whales should be more regular in these waters than Minke Whale. They were first reported, tentatively, on 29/08/87 when from descriptions of sightings it was subsequently agreed that 3 had been seen. Later crossings concentrated on the possibility of seeing Fins and they were reported as single whales on 20/08/94, 06/08/95 but the most impressive sight was on 21/08/93 when a pod of at least 6 individuals cruised past the ship, heading west at a distance of less than 50m.

Fin Whales are very large when adult and cannot realistically be confused with the equally likely Minke Whale. Length can be 20+ m and the animal can weigh up to about 60 tons making it second only to the Blue Whale. They are sleek and fast, and are known as the “Greyhounds of the sea” in New England. Typically, depending upon whether the whale is feeding or cruising, the first sign of a Fin Whale is a tall, vertical spout not unlike the splash caused by a plunge diving Gannet only bigger. For a moment or two there will be nothing. Then slowly a large grey “mound” will appear rising out of the sea, then a fin will break the surface, quite small in comparison with the body. When the fin is at its peak it will be positioned approx. two thirds of the way back on the exposed body. This breathing process takes about 6 seconds to complete following the first glimpse of the body. The asymmetrical colouration of the right jaw is unlikely to be seen from the ship.

MINKE WHALE (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)

These whales were first reported shortly after the crossings began and not all records are documented. Suffice to say that most crossings that have had a cetacean bias have recorded Minke Whales. On an average trip, it seems, two should be seen and they are usually on the Welsh side to the south of Pembrokeshire.

Minkes are considerably larger than Dolphins but are not greater than 9m in length i.e. only half the size of Fin Whale at the most. They rarely produce a visible spout and their breathing process takes only a few seconds to complete so observers need to be quick to see them. Typically the fin is sickle shaped and very prominent and at peak height above the water is half way along the exposed body - c.f. Fin Whale.

Minke Whale can also breach (come out of the water). When exercising this manoeuvre it first appears as a huge, cigar shaped mass with a pointed “nose” rising vertically out of the sea reminiscent of a Polaris missile. Just when it seems that the tail is about to come out too, the whale topples over and crashes into the water in an enormous splash. This all takes about 4-5 seconds. The only other whale likely to do this on this crossing is the uncommon Pilot Whale, which does not have a pointed nose. Minkes are white beneath and also have white “arm bands” on their flippers.

(LONG -FINNED) PILOT WHALE (*Globicephala melaena*)

Early sightings of these beautiful “blackfish” (including an immense, full, vertical breach by one individual right alongside the ship on 29/08/87) have proved to have been rare events indeed as it seems there have been no further sightings save possibly for one in 1995. They are typically found in groups like large, black, bull-headed dolphins. The dorsal fins are frequently long and typically appear to be drooped horizontally over the back. They have more in common with the agile dolphins than the previous two species.

RISSE’S DOLPHIN (GRAMPUS) (*Grampus griseus*)

The large, tall finned Risso’s is a regular sighting on crossings occurring close to the shores on both sides. Though usually seen alone or in pairs there were three groups seen on 26/08/90 of 7, 3 and 3 comprising 9 adults and 5 young. Risso’s are slow moving and occasionally have been seen “spy-hopping”, an exercise which consists of rising nose first out of the water and holding the position, presumably to get a better look at what is going on !

A pair has been observed inside Cobh harbour entrance on two crossings. The skin of older Risso’s becomes paler, even white, especially forward of the dorsal fin which remains dark which makes them very distinctive. With good views it is possible to see the random “pencil” lines like scars on the skin which are unique to this species.

KILLER WHALE (*Orcinus orca*)

This species has been seen on several trips prior to and including 08/08/92 when 2 were seen, where they had been formerly, south of the ship between the St. Gowan shoals and Lundy Island. The local population of seals is possibly the reason why this species appears to favour this area. They have not however been seen on subsequent crossings despite searching.

HARBOUR (COMMON) PORPOISE (*Phocoena phocoena*)

The small common porpoise is seen on every crossing, with the highest counts being 20 on 29/08/87, 16 on 20/08/94, 10 on 25/08/91 and 8 on 07/08/88. It is often mis-identified as a dolphin and vice versa by inexperienced observers. It usually appears to be blackish in tone and is most often seen as a small-finned dolphin trying its best to put as much clear water between it and the ship as full speed ahead will allow. Porpoises do not like ships. At less than 2m in length they look very small in comparison with the Common Dolphins and they are almost always alone or occasionally in pairs. The pale underside of the animal is rarely seen unless an individual requires a burst of speed but even then they hardly break surface.

BOTTLE-NOSED DOLPHIN (*Tursiops truncatus*)

This species is rather uncommon in this area which is quite surprising as a small colony exists to the north of the crossing in Cardigan Bay. A suggestion has been made that perhaps the waters are warmer there and that sightings from the ferry will only occur when the sea temperature is right. This theory perhaps needs to be put to the test. In total there have been only six sightings of 19 individuals, one of these having been identified from a photograph amongst a group of common dolphins! There were 10 on 29/08/87, 2 off the Gower peninsular on 07/08/88, 2 on 20/08/94 and 3 on 06/08/95, when the sea must have been as warm as it can be.

ATLANTIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*)

This species is found regularly north of the British Isles and has been seen on only two occasions. On each sighting two were seen together. The dates were 26/08/90 and 06/08/95.

COMMON DOLPHIN (*Delphinus delphis*)

These are, without doubt the stars of the crossing for most people. It is difficult to miss them especially if they feel inclined to ride the bow wave as they frequently have done. Numbers vary on crossings but an average crossing should yield a total of at least 50 though several hundred have been claimed. The total of 170 seen on 26/08/90 is the highest total in one day and 50-100 would be normal.

Common Dolphins of all ages appear to enjoy interaction with ships, especially slow moving ones. Occasionally they have been seen to fail to catch the ferry as, presumably it travels too fast. However when they can they will ride the bow-wave well and adults with young have even been seen enjoying the fun.

SPECIES	NUMBER	DATE	POSITION
FIN WHALE	2	29/08/87	midway
	2	26/08/90	
	6+	21/08/93	
	1	20/08/94	
	1	06/08/95	
MINKE WHALE	2	26/08/90	18:25-19:00 Welsh side
	3	18/07/94	
	2	20/08/94	
	2	06/08/95	
PILOT WHALE	1	29/08/87	
	4	26/08/90	
RISSO'S DOLPHIN	4	29/08/87	Cobh, midway, Gower
	9 ads + 2 juv.	26/08/90	
	1	21/08/93	
	4	20/08/94	
	2	06/08/95	
KILLER WHALE	1 female	26/08/90	11:45 a.m midway
	2	08/08/92	
	1	28/08/92	
COMMON PORPOISE	20	29/08/87	14:15 p.m.
	8	07/08/88	
	10	26/08/90	
	5	27/07/91	
	10	25/08/91	
	6	08/08/92	
	5	21/08/93	
	4	18/07/94	
	16	20/08/94	
	10	02/09/94	
BOTTLE-NOSED DOLPHIN	10	29/08/87	
	2	07/08/88	
	1	21/08/93	
	2	20/08/94	
	3	06/08/95	
	1	27/08/95	
ATLANTIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN	2	26/08/90	
	2	06/08/95	
COMMON DOLPHIN	150	29/08/87	
	18	07/08/88	

170	26/08/90
27	27/07/91
94	25/08/91
3	08/08/92
18	28/08/92
70	21/08/93
30	18/07/94
55	20/08/94
70	06/08/95

FISH AND TURTLES

The remaining reported events concern fish and turtles. In addition to the large Sunfish which are regularly seen, max.3 on 27/07/91, the other fish are all sharks. Of these, only the occasionally enormous, plankton eating Basking Sharks and the Blue Shark have been confidently identified. However several other species are suspected to be present. The greatest number of Basking Sharks to be seen in one day was 4 on 20/08/94. Blue Sharks are only seen when they are almost run over by the ship and this is true also of turtles. Leatherback Turtles have been seen on 25/08/91 and 22/08/93 but only by a few lucky observers on each day.

BIRDS

A selection from the latest list of species that have been seen from the ferry at sea appears at the back of the report. In conjunction with that list some further details of selected species are included here.

CORY'S SHEARWATER

This large, pale and lazily flying shearwater has been seen on at least five occasions from 5th Aug. to 2nd Sep., max. 3 on the morning of 25th Aug. 1991. For the unwary it may be confused, at a distance, with the similarly robust Fulmar, which is comparatively common.

All sightings of this species appear to have occurred within sight of the coast either approaching or leaving the entrance to Cork. The main features to look for are larger size when compared with Manx, the lazy flight- flapping three or four times to the beat of "the skater's waltz" followed by a shearing glide or less frequently by a towering glide to 3-4m above the sea. The plumage is rather featureless being coffee or greyish above shading darker brown on the wing tips. Close views may enable the yellow bill and white rump crescent to be seen. Above all they lack the black-capped head of Great Shearwaters.

GREAT SHEARWATER

This species has been seen on four reported occasions from 11th Aug. to 9th Sep. max. c.40 on 9th Sep. 1995, which was the first time that more than two had been seen on a crossing. It is possible that crossings in Sep. have a greater chance of seeing these magnificent shearwaters. All have been seen on the western limits of the crossing. This species is rather less likely to be seen on the Welsh side.

The behaviour of Great Shearwater is more like Manx though it is significantly larger. They have a very pronounced black cap and may appear all dark or stripey brown above but pure white beneath. At the bases of the white underwings there are incomplete dark lines or spots known as "chains" and very close views of the underbelly reveal a dark "dirty" patch and there is also a white crescent at the base of the dark tail.

SOOTY SHEARWATER

Known in the southern hemisphere as the Mutton bird this oceanic species has been recorded from most crossings in Aug. and also on 9th Sep. max. 14 on 25th Aug. 1991. It is likely to be seen throughout the crossing as it does not particularly favour any area of the Celtic sea.

These large dark chocolate coloured shearwaters are capable of great flying speed. Their wings appear to be rotating quickly in a sort of clockwork motion. When seen well or at close range their dark colouration is complete save for a silvery panel along the centre of the underwing. They are often found sitting on the sea with flocks of Manx Shearwaters. As the ship approaches these "rafts" take off and then the much larger Sooty becomes noticeable. They are normally not seen in company with other Sootys.

MANX SHEARWATER

Some days the numbers of this species can be awe inspiring. There are huge breeding colonies on the Welsh coast. They may be seen at any point on the crossings but the larger numbers occur south of the west Pembrokeshire coast where typically thousands cross the bow of the ship as they fly in a northerly direction in the

afternoons. Estimates of numbers seen vary widely but 20,000 on an average trip in Aug. would not be overstating their abundance.

MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER

This species is closely related, and of similar size to, the Manx. They have been seen usually in ones and twos on four crossings from 5th Aug. to 26th Aug., max. 20 between 14:00 and 15:00 on 11th Aug. 1995.

Though these birds can be easily overlooked the records indicate that they are as uncommon as Great Shearwater and may peak some time in the middle two weeks of Aug. Their appearance is rather like a Manx that has an oil or coffee stained underside and to the experienced eye there are differences in the flight also.

LITTLE SHEARWATER

The record which is included in the text has not been submitted to, and therefore has not been accepted by, a records committee judging rarities. These are the only claim for this species from the ferry though the species is known to occur, albeit rarely, on both sides of the Celtic sea and may indeed have bred in Wales.

This serves to highlight the possibilities of these crossings which must include Soft-plumaged Petrel, Bulwer's Petrel and indeed Black-browed Albatross and Magnificent (?) Frigatebird, all of which have been in or around this area in the last few years and seen from shore.

WILSON'S PETREL

Disappointingly for many "regulars" this elusive and enigmatic species has been seen only once at the midway point on 3rd Aug. 1991. There has been much speculation regarding the time when this species would be most likely to be seen in this area or if it occurs on anything like a regular basis at all so far onto the continental shelf.

Storm blown birds have been seen occasionally off Cornwall in particular and very rarely off Pembrokeshire. That they occur 40 - 50 miles south west of The Isles of Scilly is well documented. On the evidence of our single record and the lack of success on the other recorded crossings it is likely that Wilson's Petrel hardly occurs in these waters in Aug. and that those seriously wishing to see this species might do worse than to try crossings in July.

STORM PETREL (BRITISH STORM PETREL)

This small, starling sized, black, bird with a white rump is quite unlikely to be noticed by anyone who is not looking for it, and it usually takes a little time for those who are to "get their eyes in". They are quite numerous and have been seen on every crossing reported. Usually up to 100 are noted but the max. count of around 1000 on 29th Aug. 1987 is probably a regular count when conditions are right. Also they tend to fly

parallel to the ship for long periods and what may be reported as new individuals may in fact be those that were first seen some thirty minutes previously. Distance from the ship varies but generally until the Welsh coast is in view they will be about 100m off the bow on either side. There are normally a few almost all the way across.

In the afternoon when the ship is amongst the Manx flocks it is found that petrel numbers increase and there will be many that will cross under the bow or at the stern to give much closer views.

(NORTHERN) GANNET

There should be no problem in seeing this species which is extremely numerous within sight of land on both sides of the crossing. The Pembrokeshire island of Grassholm is the most southerly and one of the largest colonies of this species. The island can be clearly seen gleaming white with Gannets and guano to the east of The Smalls lighthouse shortly after the Welsh coast becomes visible.

POMARINE SKUA

This is the least common of the three Skua species recorded. The key dates for land based sightings for this species in South Wales is late July and the first week in Aug. There is another burst of migration of this species past Pembrokeshire in Oct. The only records from the ferry belong to the earlier Aug. movements.

ARCTIC SKUA

Reports of this species are rather scarce in the periods to which the list refers. They are seen in approximately one trip in three in Aug. The most seen on record was 3 on 2nd. Sep. 1994 . As the species is fairly plentiful in the Irish Sea after the end of Aug. it may become more likely to be seen from the ferry in Sep. and Oct.

GREAT SKUA

These have been seen on almost every recorded crossing from 18th July to 9th Sep., max., 12 on 29th Aug. 1987 and 7th Aug. 1988. More recently an average of 4 per crossing was seen on the 1995 trips. Though they may appear anywhere along the route they are most frequently found in the areas adjacent to fishing boats, especially those that are surrounded by gulls. The thuggery of these powerful brutes is well known and they are always alert to the possibility of a little mugging at sea.

LIST OF SELECTED BIRD SIGHTINGS

SPECIES	NUMBER	TIME	POSITION	DATE
FULMAR <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	common 1 dark morph		throughout	all 21/08/93
CORY'S SHEARWATER	3	06:00	Irish side	25/08/91

<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	1	10:20	Irish side	07/08/93
	1	10:54	Irish side	02/09/94
	1		Irish side	05/08/95
	1	10:30	Irish side	11/08/95
GREAT SHEARWATER	1		Irish side	25/08/91
<i>Puffinus gravis</i>	2		Irish side	20/08/94
	1	11:15		11/08/95
	c.40	11-12	Irish side	09/09/95
SOOTY SHEARWATER	6		N/A	29/08/87
<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	6			07/08/88
	1			26/08/90
	14			25/08/91
	2			08/08/92
	1			21/08/93
	2			27/08/95
	1	13:40		28/08/95
	1	10:30		09/09/95
MANX SHEARWATER	20,000 max.	all	throughout	all trips
<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>				
MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER.	1			26/08/90
<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	2			25/08/91
	2			05/08/95
	20	14-15		11/08/95
LITTLE SHEARWATER	4	10:30	Irish side	11/08/94
<i>Puffinus assimilis</i>				
WILSON'S PETREL	1		midway	03/08/91
<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>				

STORM PETREL	c.1000			29/08/87
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	100			07/08/88
	60			26/08/90
	55			27/07/91
	100+			20/08/91
	54			25/08/91
	34			08/08/92
	40			07/08/93
	15			21/08/93

	63			18/07/94
	2			11/08/94
	65			20/08/94
	28			05/08/95
	32			27/08/95
	2			28/08/95
	42			09/09/95
LEACH'S PETREL	2			29/08/87
Oceanodroma leucorhoa	2			28/08/92
	1	13:30	midway	07/08/93
GANNET	common	all	throughout	all
<i>Morus bassanus</i>				
CORMORANT	1		at sea	08/08/92
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	common		Cobh harbour	all
GREY HERON	several		Irish berth	all
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				
OYSTERCATCHER	several		Irish berth	
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				
RINGED PLOVER	2	18:00	off Gower	21/08/93
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				
DUNLIN	8			07/08/88
<i>Calidris alpina</i>				
RUFF	1			21/08/93
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				
BAR-TAILED GODWIT	1		at sea	08/08/92
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				

COMMON SANDPIPER	occasional		Irish berth	
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				
TURNSTONE	1		migrant	26/08/90
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	1			09/09/95
POMARINE SKUA	1			08/08/92
<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	1			07/08/93
ARCTIC SKUA	1			08/08/92

<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	1			21/08/93
	3			02/09/94
	2		Irish side	05/08/95
	1			27/08/95
LONG-TAILED SKUA <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	5		Mumbles	22/08/93
GREAT SKUA	12			29/08/87
<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	12			07/08/88
	9			26/08/90
	1			27/07/91
	4			25/08/91
	5	12:00		07/08/93
	4			21/08/93
	1			18/07/94
	4			20/08/94
	6			02/09/94
	5			05/08/95
	1	17:00	off Pembs	11/08/95
	6			27/08/95
	2			28/08/95
	7	10:00	Irish side	09/09/95
MEDITERRANEAN GULL <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	1	08:00	Irish berth	11/08/95
	1(2w)	08:00	Irish berth	27/08/95
LITTLE GULL <i>Larus minutus</i>	1	08:00	Irish berth	11/08/95
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL <i>Larus fuscus</i>	400+ common	13:00 -----	midway coastal	05/08/95 -----
HERRING GULL <i>Larus argentatus</i>	common	-----	coastal	-----
15				
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL <i>Larus marinus</i>	frequent near fishing boats	-----	midway typically	-----
KITTIWAKE <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	frequent		throughout	all
SANDWICH TERN <i>Sterna sandvicencis</i>	6			08/08/92
	1	10:00	Irish side	11/08/94
	5	12:55	midway	02/09/94

COMMON TERN <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	regular 5	06-10	Irish coastal	all 08/08/92
ARCTIC TERN <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	1 1			20/08/94 09/09/95
GUILLEMOT <i>Uria aalge</i>	3 c.20 2 3 3 2 3		Welsh coast	29/08/87 07/08/88 25/08/91 08/09/92 21/08/93 20/08/94 05/08/95
BLACK GUILLEMOT <i>Cephus grylle</i>	1		Irish side	29/08/87
PUFFIN <i>Fratercula arctica</i>	3 2 2 2 2 1 1 2			07/08/87 27/07/91 25/08/91 08/08/92 21/08/93 20/08/94 27/08/95 28/08/95
ROCK DOVE (non feral ?) <i>Columba livia</i>			Irish berth	most
SWIFT <i>Apus apus</i>	15 (south)	16:30	migrants	11/08/95
SAND MARTIN <i>Riparia riparia</i>	2		migrants	25/08/91
16				
PIED WAGTAIL <i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	1 1	12:00 11:00	following migrant (E)	21/08/93 02/09/94
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER <i>Locustella naevia</i>	1	13:45	landed	28/0895
GARDEN WARBLER <i>Sylvia borin</i>	1	14:00	landed	09/09/95
HOODED CROW <i>Corvus (corone) cornix</i>	several	07:00	Irish berth	most

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to the Captains of the ships and the staff of Swansea / Cork Ferries both on board and ashore at Swansea. Also to the observers who have contributed to this edition by sending their records to me namely; W. Brewster, Grahame Brind, Phil Bristow, Colin Gittins, Dave Lewis, Dave Palmer, Dave Parmenter, Paul Parsons, Shaun Robson, Rob Taylor, Guen & Ewan Urquhart and the regular members of the “teams” from the Glamorgan Bird Club trips.

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