

Lough Carra Diary of Past Events

November 2009

12th November - Hen Harrier sighted on a kill at the Partry Estate in the late afternoon.

Following the heavy rainfall in November, the level of the lake was higher than ever seen! The level is now receding but is still very high for the time of year

December 2009

Early December – Hen Harrier and Peregrine Falcon seen in the Moorehall area.

A new book was published entitled "Wild Mayo". The publication was produced by Deirdre Cunningham, Heritage Officer for Mayo County Council. The text is by Michael Viney. The Lough Carra website is mentioned in the acknowledgements. There are two photographs of Lough Carra plus several pictures of Orchid species and a Marsh Fritillary butterfly (all taken around Lough Carra by Lynda Huxley). The book became available in bookshops for around €15.00.

Over the December/January cold spell, the lake was 100% frozen over and people were skating on the lake at Moorehall.

February 2010

5th February - Hen Harrier (ring tail) over reed beds near Kilkeeran.

Around 600 corvids (mainly Jackdaws) in rookery on Glen Eerie Island. They can be seen going into the trees on the island to roost from around 5pm onwards from Burriscarra.

March 2010

9th March – At Moorehall, the Starlings are gathering to perform their communal display before they enter the evening roost in the reedbeds. A sparrowhawk is also there trying to catch an evening meal. If you would like to observe this amazing spectacle, the best time to be there is between 6.30 and 7pm. Best viewing is from the beach area near Carra Boat Hire.

21st March – IWEBS (Irish Wetland Bird Survey) carried out on Lough Carra – 53 Great Crested Grebes recorded around the lake displaying and mating. Full report of the IWEBS carried out in the 09/10 season will appear on the website soon.

23rd March – One Sand Martin was seen at Castle Burke, the first one seen on the lake in 2010.

April 2010

4 April - At 3pm near the Keel Bridge a mixed flock of hirundines, around 200 sand martins and swallows feeding over the reeds. The first swallows seen by us (Chris and Lynda Huxley) on Lough Carra this year.

May 2010

22nd May - Breeding bird count at Doon Peninsula. 9 Blackcap, 3 Chiffchaff.

On both bird counts we have seen a reduced number of resident small birds such as tits, wrens, robins. We'll be able comparing this with the previous years counts and will report back on findings in June.

23rd May - Breeding Bird Count at Partry Estate. Birds of note 1 Spotted Flycatcher and 1 Treecreeper, 2 Long-tailed tits, 2 Chiffchaff, 3 Common Sandpiper. Full list will be put on site in June along with details of other counts. Also Daubenton's bat seen feeding over water near lake shore at 10am also at Partry Estate

June 2010

20th June – Great Crested Grebes nest with 4 eggs in reedbeds near Church Island also Kingfisher seen in same location.

23rd June – John Milroy of Birdwatch Mayo has reported seeing a female Gadwall with 10 ducklings (about 2 to 3 weeks old) at Moorehall as well as around 6 other adult Gadwall.