

The First Corncrakes (8 May, 2012)

The first Corncrakes of the season have been heard calling at natal sites on the Mullet and Southwest Mayo. Their arrival is later than usual, no doubt due to the prevailing northerlies.

On the Mullet, one at Emlybeg South on the afternoon of 23 April has been joined on the morning of 1 May by one near Glish Tower (in the traditional field near Caislean football pitch, first reported by field-owner Mary Monaghan), and one on the morning of 7 May at Carne Hill (in the largest field opposite the golf course, first reported by Elaine Mangan).

In Southwest Mayo, one has returned to Aghany east crossroads, where it was first heard on the evening of 2 May (by Tony Lyons).

The Corncrake hotline and conservation/farm grant scheme are operating this year as before. If any members hear a Corncrake, all reports are gratefully received, either by phone (095 44941) or email (timogordon@hotmail.com).