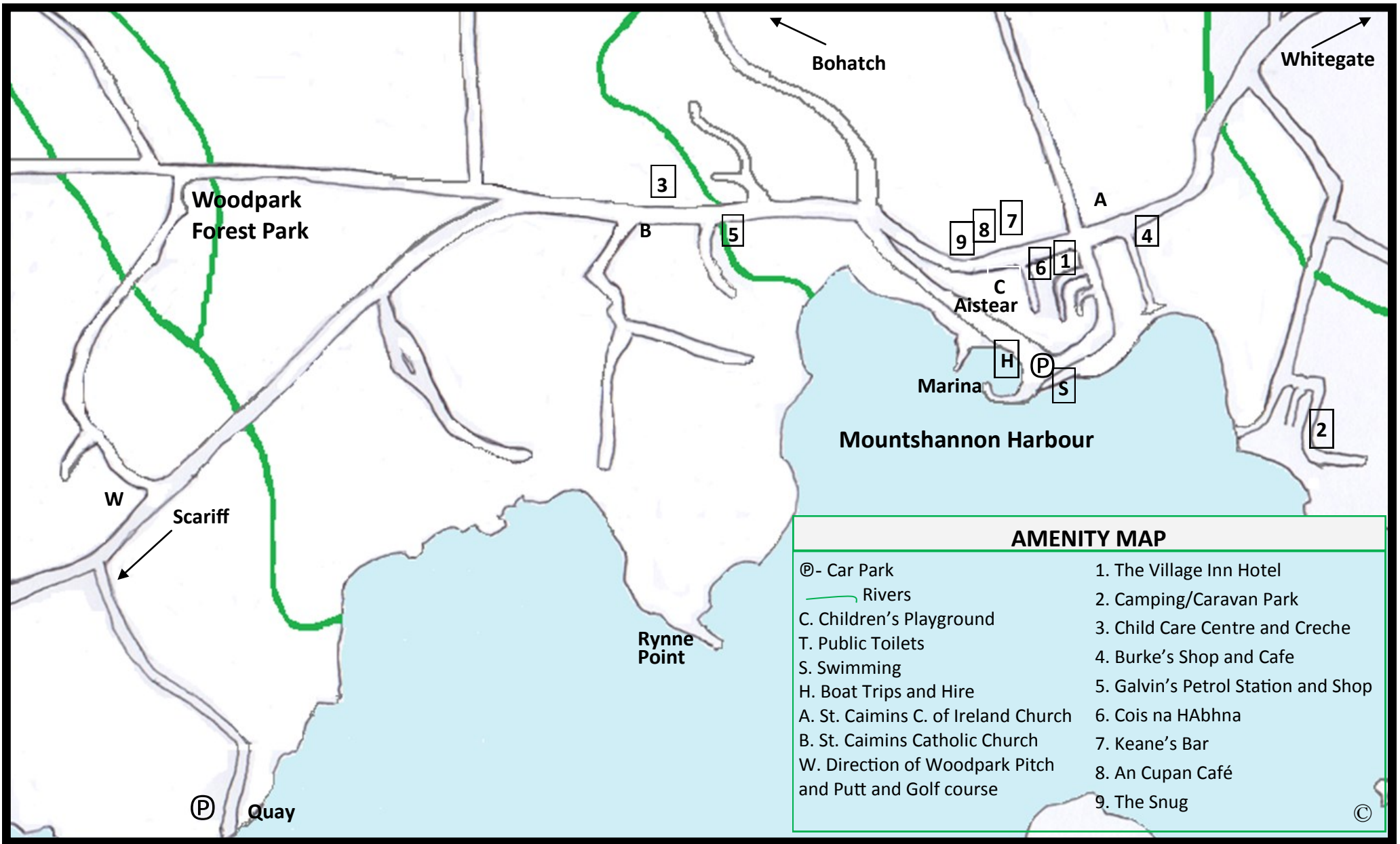


# MOUNTSHANNON



## VISITOR INFORMATION







## Useful Information and Telephone Numbers

### Garda Stations

Scariff - 061 921002 Mon-Sun 10am - 1pm

Killaloe - 061 620540 - 24hr

### Medical

Scariff Medical Centre - 061 921123

Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9.00am - 6pm

Surgery Hours:

Mon to Fri, 9.30am - 1pm & 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Shannon Doc (out of hours) - 1850 212999

Scariff Health Centre - 061 921286

Mon - Fri, 9.30am - 1.00pm & 2.00 - 5.00pm

Pharmacy, O'Meara's, Scariff - 061 921028

In emergencies, phone the above number.

Opening hours:

Mon to Fri, 9.30am - 6.30pm

Sat, 9.30am - 6.00pm

Dental Clinic, Scariff - 061 921286

Ambulance Service - 065 6863100

24hr Search & Rescue - 086 7327787

### Veterinary

Veterinary Clinic Scariff - 061 921226

Out of hours - 086 2577741

Surgery Hours: Mon to Fri 9.30am - 6.00pm

Sat 9.30am - 1.30pm



### ECAT Local Bus Services

061 924375

[www.catconnects.ie](http://www.catconnects.ie)

### Childcare

Childcare Drop off Service at the Childcare Centre  
Creche and summer camp for all ages including babies  
Contact: Veronica: 087-6358518

### Religious Services

St. Caimins Catholic Church Mass Times:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9 am

(First Friday at 7pm, no 9am mass)

Wednesday 7 pm Saturday Evening 7 pm

Sunday Morning 11 am Whitegate

Church of Ireland Services:

First three Sundays of each month in  
Mountshannon 9.30 am

4th Sunday in Tuamgraney 9.30 am

### Library and Internet

Scariff Library - 061 922893 (has Internet)

Monday 10am - 1pm, 2pm - 5.30pm

Tue & Thu 10am - 8pm

Wed & Fri 10am - 5.30pm,

Sat 10am - 2pm

### Post Offices

Scariff - 061 921001,

Whitegate - 061 927001

Mon-Fri 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 5.30pm

Saturday 9am - 1pm

### Rubbish and Recycling

Scariff Recycling Centre - 061 921735

Mon: 2pm—6pm Tue: 9am—1pm

Wed: CLOSED Thu: 2pm—6pm

Fri: 2pm—8pm Sat: 12pm—6pm

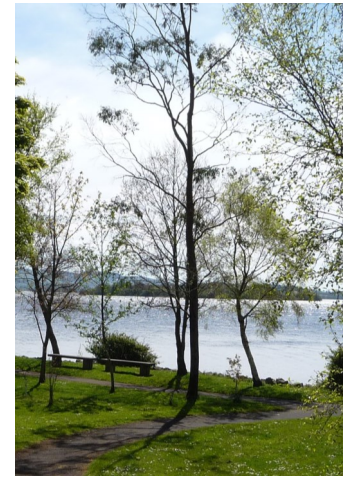
## **MOUNTSHANNON—IN AND AROUND THE AREA**

Mountshannon is a traditional estate village overlooking Lough Derg, and its many islands including Holy Island (Iniscealtra). With tree lined roads and historic buildings situated at the foot of the Slieve Aughty Mountains, the village is truly a unique and mystical place steeped in History and Legend and has won many national Tidy Towns Awards.

In the centre of the village is the community park “the Aistear”, a great amenity area for families. Further west, in the Scariff direction is “Woodpark Forest Park”, that is an excellent public park suitable for picnics and walking. Surrounding the village are many small lanes and roads with good scenic views including some with access points to the lake.

Mountshannon is also an excellent place for sailing and angling and is an ideal base for fishermen as the East Clare Lakelands area boasts almost 40 lakes with good stocks of Trout, Perch, Bream, Tench, Rudd and Roach.

Mountshannon also has a sailing club that welcomes visitors and a pitch and putt and nine hole golf course situated 2kms from the village near Woodpark.



### **THE AISTEAR— Inis Cealtra**

A community park, situated in the centre of the village, links directly to Mountshannon Harbour and Lough Derg. It includes an up to date children’s playground, a picnic and recreation area and a labyrinth. A Maze, depicts a pilgrimage through time, measured by the history of spirituality in Ireland over 9,000 years.

### **Woodpark Forest Park**



A Woodland area, of approximately 72 acres that is within walking distance of Mountshannon. Easily accessible from the main road and crisscrossed with different paths. It was officially opened by Mr Sean Hillery, Chairman of Clare County Council, on 28th May 2000. It is approximately 1 mile (1.6 km) from Mountshannon and has two main entrance points with boards detailing walking maps and Wildlife Map while it has 3 Car Parks , one on the Scariff Road and two in the park accessible from the Middleline road.

It contains a huge number of wildflowers, shrubs and trees that makes up its woodland habitat including many fine examples of oak ash and beech. Plus smaller trees such as birch, holly and sycamore hazel and rowan.

Early Wildflowers and plants include lesser celandine, wood sorrel, Violet, wood anemone, wild strawberry,

cuckoo pint, bluebells, wild garlic, foxglove and honeysuckle. While later in the summer can be seen meadowsweet, blackberries, sloes, elderberry, yellow gorse and cherry laurel.





## Where Past and Present Meet

**INISCEALTRA or HOLY ISLAND** - situated 2 kms. from the village, is where St Caimin founded a monastic settlement in the 7th century. During the 9th and 10th centuries it suffered at the hands of the Scandinavian Invaders, but the settlement was then restored by King Brian Boru who later became High King of Ireland. It contains some well preserved remains including 5 churches and a round tower.



### Places to Eat

The Snug  
The Village Inn Hotel  
An Cupan Café  
Burke's Coffee Shop and Café

## Facilities Available in the Area

### Hotel, B and B's

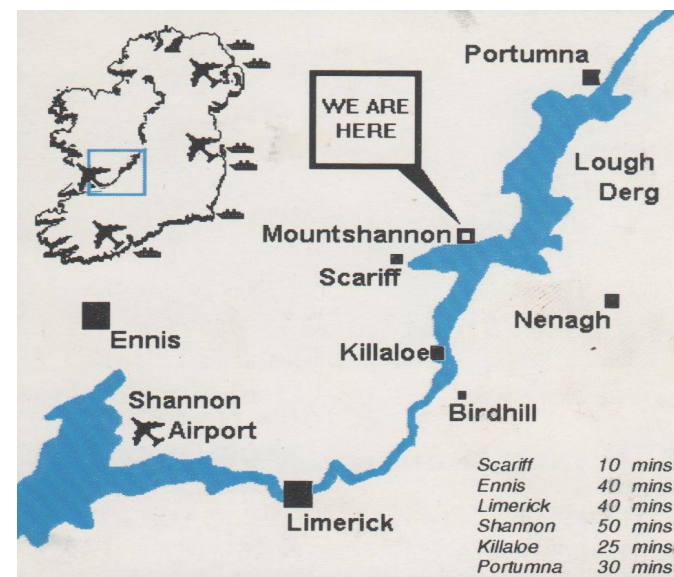
Self Catering Apartments and Houses  
Camp and Caravan Park and Mobile-Home Hire  
Pubs, Wine Bar, Café  
Petrol Service Station and Shops  
Fishing Bait (Tackle available in Scariff)  
Post Office in Whitegate Village  
Taxi Service  
Drop in Creche and Child Care Centre

### Harbour Facilities

Information Map and Board  
Toilet Block  
Pump-Out for Boats  
Fresh Water tap  
Slipway and Boat Moorings in Marina  
Electric Power Points  
Car Park  
Picnic and Swimming areas

### Activities Available

Pitch and Putt, Boating  
Fishing, Sailing  
Boat Trips to Holy Island  
Summer Camps at the Child Care Centre  
Horse Riding



## FURTHER ATTRACTIONS WITHIN EASY REACH

East Clare Heritage Centre, Tuamgraney  
Portumna Castle and Park  
Portumna Work House  
Dartfield Horse Museum, Loughrea  
Craggaunowen Heritage Park  
Quin Abbey  
Knappogue Castle  
Ennis Abbey and Clare County Museum  
Bunratty Castle and Folk Park  
The Hunt Museum, Limerick  
Ailwee Caves and the Burren Heritage Centre  
Cliffs of Moher

## History And Built Heritage

Mountshannon is over 200 years old. Built on lands originally owned by the Earls of Cork and Ossory, it was developed by Alexander Woods, a Limerick linen manufacturer in 1738 who rented the old medieval parish of Inis Cealtra originally for a peppercorn rent, on condition that he built 50 houses, a church, school and market house with 20 acres of parkland for protestant families while also enabling them to own a living. By 1751 he had created a spinning school, and ensured employment for several weavers, shoemakers, carpenters and blacksmiths working in the village.

However, by 1766, Alexander Woods, had died, followed closely by his only son, and then his grandson in 1790. Shortly after this Linen prices collapsed and this led to the village falling into decline in the late 1700s. At this point two bankers (Reade and Tandy), took over the village and divided it between them at Logan's Bridge near the old school. And for the next 130 years their families were to play the dominant role in the social and political life of the parish.

From 1820 the population grew, but the Famine and its effects reduced the population from 2,510 in 1841 to 1,457 in 1851. However the second half of the 19th century saw a period of relative prosperity and huge tracts of land were brought into production. In 1898 the parish, along with the neighbouring parish of Clonrush, (Whitegate), was removed from County Galway and added to County Clare. By the 1920s the Reade and Tandy names had died out and the Irish Land Commission had taken over and divided their estates.

The location of Mountshannon, with its uniform architecture and tree lined streets, helped it to win the award for Ireland's Tidiest Town in 1981.

Recent developments in the Village, include The Aistear Inis Cealtra, community park, with a children's playground, picnic tables, Maze and Labyrinth, that opened on the 21st of June 2000 and a new Childcare Centre, providing a crèche and childcare facility for the local area that opened in 2009.



**The Market House**, one of the earliest buildings in Mountshannon was built to satisfy the lease agreement that Alexander Woods took out in 1738. It is a unique structure due to the quality of its stonework, arches and pedimented front which would have also housed a clock in the front gable. The ground floor, (before being filled in with stone and windows), was once an open arcade that was used for market trading; while the upstairs room that runs the whole length of the building, was once used for public events and court sittings.



**The RIC Barracks**—Established as an RIC police barracks in 1834, it was used by the Garda Síochána (Civic Guards) from 1922 until early 2013.

**The Forge** has been in existence since the 1850s and is still in use. It has some original mill stones standing outside that were made in 1949 for a tuck linen mill, (Flax fibre cleansing).

**Winters' Cottage** one of the cottages that Alexander Woods undertook to build in 1742, for one of the first inhabitants of the village is the only one that has remained relatively intact and was used as a weavers' residence.

**The Old National School**, built in 1846 on land owned by Philip Reade, was originally built as two separate schools (boys and girls) each with separate entrances. It was later added to with a teacher's residence that linked the two together and remained as a school until 1957 when a new school was built. More recently it has been used as a private residence. Notable features include a fine cut stone ogee arch over the centre doorway.

**Bugler's Mill** is a disused corn mill that also housed a tuck mill or fulling mill (used for cleaning grease and grime from wool). It was later converted to a corn mill and was used until the 1920s.

**Ivy House**, next to the former Methodist Church, was originally two buildings joined by a covered archway with an overhead loft. Former residence of William Bayle, the land steward for the Tandy Estate, it later became a garage, shop and more recently a pottery. To the side is a porch, built as the entrance to a dispensary established after the "Medical Charities (Dispensary) Act" of 1851 for the distribution of free medicines to the poor. Constructed of rubble stone and cut masonry, it later became an entrance for the local medical clinic and registration office when it was situated there.





**Mountshannon House**, a Georgian residence, built by Alexander Woods and later occupied by the Tandy family, was used as an An Óige Youth Hostel from 1956 to 1988.

**The Parochial House** completed in 1932 was built with many of the stones from the local “Tuck Mill”, and was first occupied by Father Vaughan until 1939.

**The Rectory** near to Mountshannon harbour, is unusual for having a red brick façade. It was built in 1905 and replaced Glebe House as the residence for the Church of Ireland rector.

**The Old Stone Harbour** was built in 1846 and extended in the 1970s, while floating pontoons were added in the early 1990s and again in 2005.



**Keane's Bar**, owned by the same family for over 200 years, it was initially in use as a private malt house in 1809. And was once a shop selling household goods.

**Cois na hAbhna** is the location of the first public house in Mountshannon established by Alexander Woods in 1759.

**The Hotel** is made from a combination of 5 houses. Reconstructed several times it once had a post office on the corner.

**Post Office** – A postal service was first operated in Mountshannon in 1844 and was the last place in the country to join the automatic network on 28th May 1987 when Mountshannon was switched on to the network. A plaque commemorating this event can be seen on the wall near the hotel.

**Tandy's Lodge** was once part of the Tandy's estate and is a single storey building near to the harbour with a pair of decorative original gates. While situated close to Woodpark are the Woods and Flannery's Lodges, built by Philip Reade and now privately owned.

**The former Methodist Church** is on an adjoining site to St Caimin's (C.of.I.) Church. Completed in 1820, it is a simple single cell building with Gothic style windows and doors, renovated in 1886. Between 1914 to 1932 it was used as a Protestant school, while in recent years it has been used as a residence.



## EARLY HISTORY

**Dolmen** – This tomb in the town land of Bohatch is reputed to be over 5,000 years old.

**Chieftains Grave**—large standing stone that can be found in the town land of Sellernaun East. Cist Grave at Bohatch lies sixty metres north of the Dolmen. Not completely visible, but the outline can be seen.

**Iniscealtra, Holy Island** has been recognized as an early centre of learning and enlightenment. Many ancient artefacts have been found, while it is a significant site containing a round tower, the ruins of six churches, Ballaun stones, a Holy Well and High Crosses. One building “the Church of the Wounded Men”, (Teampall na bhfear ngonta), is believed to date back to Scandinavian times. Gormfhlaith, the wife of Munster King Turlough O'Brien was buried there in 1077. Her beautifully engraved grave slab can now be found clamped to the north wall of St. Caimin's' Catholic church.

**Red Island** is a small island close to Holy Island with ring forts, that was believed to have had a settled community over 1000 years ago.

## CHURCHES

**St Caimin's Church (C.of.I.)** was built in 1789 by mason John Boyle. The square tower (1831) interior balcony and lean-to vestry, and a bell tower in 1847. Typically it has Gothic style pointed lancet arched windows and doors, common features of churches in the 18th century. Outside the graveyard contains graves that go back to the 19th century, including the Reade Vault and the elaborately decorated Tandy Vault which has been recently restored.



**St Caimin's R.C. Church** is a simple, Gothic style building, designed and built by Fr. Patrick O'Mealy in 1838, from local red sandstone. It replaced an earlier building and was originally thatched. In 1845 it was raised about five feet and slated. Interesting features include a belfry, corner buttresses and an ancient sandstone holy water font (in the front porch), plus a sapper's mark in the shape of a bird's foot which denotes that this spot is 40.13 metres (140ft) above sea level.





# MOUNTSHANNON WALKS

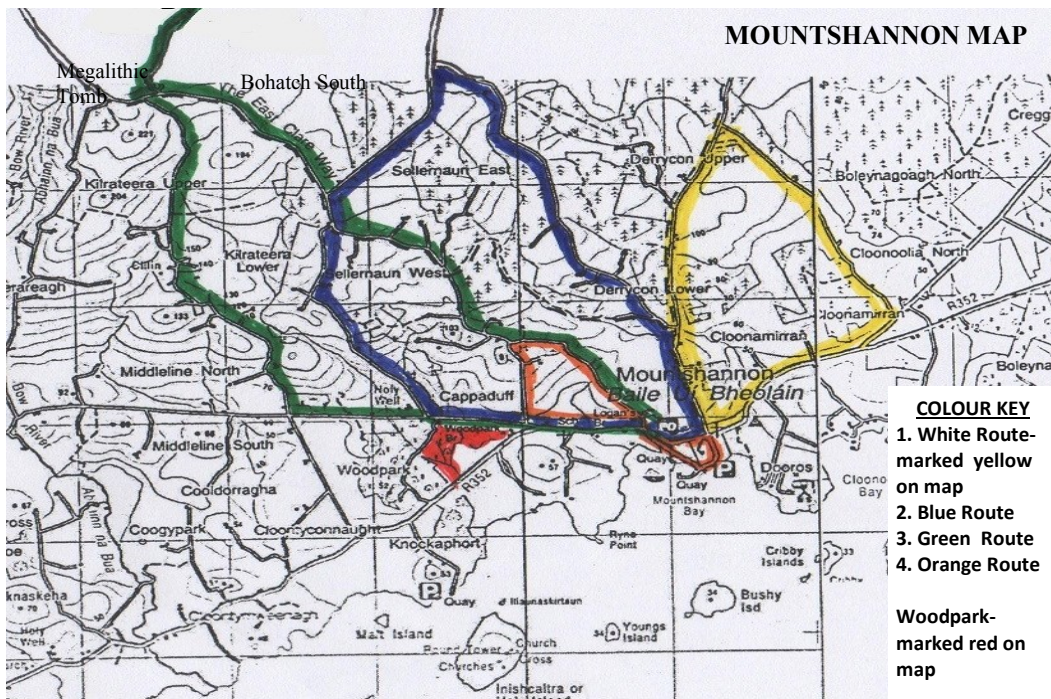
## BEFORE YOU START

For the longer walks, prepare well and wear or carry warm clothes, water/windproof jacket, over-trousers and sturdy waterproof boots  
Take snacks, fluids and a mobile phone with you and tell someone where you are going

## BE SAFE. BE SEEN. WEAR A REFLECTIVE JACKET

## COUNTRYSIDE GUIDELINES

1. Respect farmland and the rural environment
2. Take care when walking - Be visible!
3. Don't light fires, especially near forests
4. Keep children under close control and supervision
5. Do not enter farmland if you have dogs with you
6. Take all your litter home
7. Protect and respect wildlife, plants and trees
8. Don't block gateways by parking cars in front of them



The publishers of this leaflet disclaim all liability in respect of accidents or incidents occurring to people on these walks.  
Thanks to Clare Walks for their help/assistance. Plus East Clare Walking Festival for the use of the walking photograph.

### 1. Derrycon Upper Loop Walk

Time: 1hr 40mins.

Distance: 6.5km

Starting Point: Mountshannon Hotel

As you leave Mountshannon and travel East on the Whitegate Road, you will see on your right, an old 18th century Market House, while on your left attached to an old ivy covered house, is an old chapel, next to St Caimins C.of.I church with its newly restored graveyard. Two hundred metres further on, down the hill on your right, grows one of Ireland's widest and largest oak trees (Val Howe's yard). Continue for approx. 2km along the main road before turning left at the Y junction down "the Cregg road". Walk this for approx. 100 metres before crossing a small stone bridge and turn left down. The hilly road climbs past areas of cut forest and open fields before passing through an area of mature forestry. After approx. 2 km you will reach a T-junction. At this point turn left. This high road passes a good wildlife area and forestry (where Red squirrels and Deer are often seen) and eventually descends steeply back towards Mountshannon where it comes out opposite the Mountshannon Hotel.

### 2. Derrycon—Sellernaun Walk

Distance: 12 km

Time : Approx. 3.5 hrs. Starting Point: Mountshannon Hotel

Leave the starting point and head north west up the road beside the old Garda Barracks, past the Mountshannon community Hall. Walk for approximately 2 km until you reach Derrycon bridge where the road forks. Continue left and pass a "Fairy Hill", so called because many locals believed that fairies could be seen here. Further on the walk will take you through an area of mature forestry where wildlife, such as deer can be seen. It is a quiet area with a poorly maintained road, with many remnants of old houses everywhere. Eventually you will reach a tarmacked road where you turn left before continuing for another 2km. Turn left again and walk for approx. 500 metres before going right. Here the walk goes downhill and gives outstanding panoramic views over Lough Derg. Continue along this road to the next junction and turn left onto the Middleline road, which joins the main road at a fork. Turn left here and it will take you back to the village past the Church and school and back to your starting point.



**3. Bohatch – Kilrateera**  
**Time: 3.5 hrs**

**Distance 12.5 km**  
**Starting point: Mountshannon Park (The Aistear)**

Starting from the main entrance of the park, turn left towards Scariff. When you have passed the forge, take the first turn right and walk uphill for approximately 5 km. After 4 km you will pass a well preserved Ring Fort which is not sign-posted on your right. 1 km further on you will reach the town land of Bohatch (“Botu Ait” – the strange or unusual hut) and a sign for the Portal Dolmen on your right side. Walk along this for approximately 1 km and you will see the Dolmen on your left, which is said to have been a burial place for local chieftains over 3000 years ago.

From here if you walk to the top of the hill “Ard Aoibhinnon”, on a clear day, you may see Galway Bay, the Twelve Pins, the Burren, the Keeper Hill and the Silver-mines mountains.

Retrace your steps 1km back along the track to re-join the original trail. Once back at the road, turn right and then shortly after turn left down a rough laneway. Descending down the hill, it gives distant views over the Shannon and the “patchwork quilt” countryside and turns back into a metalled road.

About 1 km further down on the right is a Kyle or children’s burial ground, where unbaptized children and many famine victims were buried. 150 metres further, on the left, you will also see a lime kiln which is the site of an old mill.

Travel further on down the winding road for approx. 4 km until it reaches a four-crossroads and turn left. The road then passes beside a well called Tobar na nOig, the well of the wretched, believed to have been “used to cure stomach ailments and sore throats in bygone days”.

From here walk for approx. 1 km past Woodpark Forest Park, which is also a good place to walk and explore, then left at the fork, back along the main road in the direction of the village for another

**4. Millpool – Morgan’s Lane Distance 4km Time: 1hr Starting Point: Mountshannon Park (The Aistear)**

Starting at the top entrance to the park turn left towards Scariff and walk for a short distance. On your right you will see the village forge, which is a good example of a structured and traditional building owned by the Lyons family. On your left you will see a weavers’ cottage.

A hundred metres further on, turn right off the main road. This road “The Millpool”, was so called because a mill was once fed by a pool on the side of the road. Here the road goes uphill through an area of mature trees, including Oak, Ash, Beech, Willow, Alder and Elder, a good habitat for wildlife and animals including squirrels, hares and foxes. While in the summer a variety of different plants can be seen including the Devils Bit Scabious and Ragged Robin.

Take the next turn left down Morgan’s Lane, where you will have an excellent view of Holy Island and good views of the Shannon, Dromineer, Garrykenny and the Tipperary Hills in the distance. Then take the next left turn onto the Middleline road main road back to the village or alternatively turn right towards Woodpark to explore its wooded walks. Walk back towards Mountshannon on the main road. You will soon pass St Caimin’s Catholic Church on your right

built in 1836. Originally a thatched building it was later reroofed with slate in 1845. Further along on your left you will pass the new school building, built in 1957 with later additions, next to the new child care centre opened in October 2009. Next to it, can be seen the old national school (1844) still with its ‘male’ entrance on one side and the ‘female’ on the other. From here it is a short walk back to your starting point. You can alternatively take the walk down to the harbour and go back through the park where you can enjoy a gentle stroll through the maze before returning back to your starting point.

## WOODPARK FOREST WALKS

**The Curragh River Walk (Purple)** - Average time: 10-15 mins.— is a pleasant leisurely walk beside the Curragh river. There are also picnic tables along its route. It is wheelchair accessible; at one end next to the river bridge, as it has a sandy surface and is easily accessible for all. It is also a good habitat for wildlife including many different species of bird with snow drops, blue bells and wild garlic being in abundance in the spring-time, and a footbridge at one point crosses over the river to a picnic table. This walk is also accessible from the main Scariff road, but is not wheelchair accessible at that point.

**The Long Walk (Red)** - Average time: 20-30 mins., starts near the first car park off of the Middleline Road. It contains many mature oak, beech, hazel and fir trees while also being a good habitat for birds and wildlife especially in the summer, as it has thick undergrowth in places. This walk takes you further up along the side of the Curragh river and passes beside a small waterfall. It also crosses a couple of streams and winds its way through the woods until it reaches a fork. If you turn right you will reach the Middleline Road, while left takes you back through the woods beside the river to your starting point.

**The Oak Walk (Orange)** - Average time: 30-40 mins., is a hilly walk that loops its way through many mature oak and beech trees. It is a good area for bird watchers because of the thick tree cover in places that becomes quite dense in the summer months and begins after the walker approaches the main pathway (The Cow Walk) and crosses over the Curragh river bridge. It also goes up past an old wall, the remains of the Woodpark Estate’s original walled garden, which has views of the lake at one end, before re-joining the Main Path where it then winds back through a thickly wooded area beside the river.





## MOUNTSHANNON ANGLING - A Local Guide



### Zebra Mussel

Usually about the size of a fingernail, these Mussels get their name from the striped pattern commonly seen on D-shaped shell, though not all shells bear this pattern. They attach with 'strings', (byssal threads) to most substrates, even sand and silt. Often other Mussel species are the most stable objects in silty substrates, and Zebra Mussels can attach to, and kill these Mussels. They have already eliminated two freshwater Mussels from lakes along the Shannon. They can enrich the lake floor food supplies as they filter pollution out of the water; however, they can also cause an imbalance to fish communities, as they remove much of the plankton, juvenile fish depend upon.



### Eel

Snake-like body ideally suited to life spent among silt and debris at the bottom of ponds, lakes and canals. Spawns in the Sargasso Sea after which, young larvae drift across the Atlantic with the Gulf Stream for about three years. On reaching Irish shores elvers (juvenile eels) migrate up rivers and up to a decade later, become yellow-bodied eels. Mature, silvery eels migrate to the sea and are occasionally found in estuaries as they await their cross ocean journeys.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

No licence or permit is needed for Coarse Angling but there is a statutory limit on killing Pike. Only one pike per person per day can be taken, maximum size 3 kgs (6.6 lbs).

In the interest of conservation, anglers are requested to return all fish live to the waters.

### USEFUL CONTACTS:

<http://www.visitclare.net/angling>

Treacy's Service Station & Fishing Tackle Shop,  
Drewsboro, Scarriff, Co. Clare

Information about local Boat Hire and Gillies can be obtained from the above website, and from the local Hotel, Pubs and noticeboards.

There is also a ferry service to Holy Island from Mountshannon Harbour that operates in the summer. Details can be obtained from the harbour.

### OTHER LESS COMMON SPECIES

**Tench**—is often found in clay or muddy substrate with abundant vegetation. Rare in clear water across stony ground and absent from fast-flowing streams. It tolerates water with a low oxygen concentration.

**Rudd, Rudd and Bream Hybrids**, is similar to Roach but with an upturned mouth. Feeds on insects and prefers clear waters rich in plants. But will also be found in nutrient-poor waters.

**Gillaroo** is a variety of trout, now rare





### **Irish Pollan**

An endangered species, Pollan is a freshwater whitefish found in five lakes in Ireland (L. Derg, L. Neagh, L. Ree, L. Erne & L. Allen) and is one of the few Irish species rarely found anywhere else throughout Europe. It also occurs in the Arctic around Alaska, Northern Canada and Siberia.



### **Brown Trout**

The brown trout is a medium-sized fish; that can reach up to 20kg, but in smaller rivers usually grows to 1kg or less. Widespread and common both in fast flowing, unpolluted rivers and streams, and in stream-fed lakes, the brown trout spends its entire life in fresh water and feeds mainly on invertebrates.



### **Gudgeon**

Bottom-dwelling fish, usually smaller than 12cm, rarely over 15cm long, found in all kinds of lake and river habitats. It has barbels which help detect invertebrate prey in sand and gravel. It spawns over the spring-summer season.



### **Pike**

Widespread throughout Ireland, this superb predator has a streamlined shape, lightning speed and numerous sharp teeth. Most often olive green in colour; with shading from yellow to white along its belly, its flank is marked with short, light bar-like spots with a few, usually dark spots on its fins, that are sometimes reddish. It favours weedy lowland lakes



### **Perch**

A distinctive fish of lakes and rivers throughout Ireland, it has a greenish body with vertical dark stripes, two separate dorsal fins - the first extremely sharp, with others red in colour. It stays in shoals when small and spawns late April or early May often depositing the eggs on water plants, or submerged branches of trees or shrubs.

### **Salmon**

Once common on Lough Derg, Salmon is now a rarity and can only be fished under licence. The reduction in numbers was partly caused by the dam built across the lower Shannon as part of the hydro-electric power scheme in the 1920s, which hindered the migration of salmon.



### **Roach**

A recent introduction to Lough Derg, typically a small fish, which favours lakes and rivers, it has a silvery appearance with a white belly and reddish fins. Juvenile has a slender build, acquiring a higher and broader body shape as it gets older. It can often be recognized by the big red spot in the iris above



### **Bream**

A popular sport fish, Bream are widely found in weedy lakes and slow-flowing rivers. An extremely deep-bodied, laterally flattened member of the Carp family, it has a hump-backed appearance and a slightly undershot mouth. It is a silvery grey colour with greyish to black fins.



### **Lamprey**

There are three species of Lamprey; Brook, River and Sea, all of which can be found in Lough Derg. Also called the Lamprey Eel, it is jawless fish and characterized by a toothed, funnel-like sucking mouth, no scales and two fins on the back which are often continuous with a long tail fin.



# MOUNTSHANNON ANIMALS — A local Nature Guide

## BATS

Nine out of the ten bat species in Ireland, can be found in County Clare. The ones you are most likely to see are in this area are:

**Soprano Pipistrelle:** Europe's smallest bat that can often be seen in large breeding colonies in the lofts of houses where the females rear their young. Commonly seen in woodland, farmland along quiet roads and around the village.

**Daubenton's bats:** over the water especially along a stream in Woodpark

**Natterer's bat :** along a woodland ride on Woodpark.

**Less common species in this area include:**

**The Brown Long Eared bat:** A large bat, that often roosts in caves.

**The Whiskered, Leisler's, Natterer's and Lesser Horseshoe**

**RISKS TO SPECIES:** Include the destruction of, and blocking of roosting sites; wood preservatives and chemicals such as chlorinated hydrocarbons; agricultural disturbance, loss of hedgerows and woodland and disturbance from humans and cats.



## AMPHIBIANS

The only amphibians that can be found in this area are the common "European Brown Frog" that can be a greenish brown or olive-buff and the "Smooth Newt". The female newt is plain brown in colour while the male has an orange belly and pale throat .



## OTHER ANIMALS IN THE AREA

**Badger**  
**Red Fox**  
**Fallow Deer, Red and Sika**  
**Bank Vole**

**House Mouse**  
**Pygmy Shrew**  
**Rabbit**  
**Wood Mouse**

## USEFUL CONTACTS AND WEBSITES:

NPWS WILDLIFE RANGER for Mountshannon area:  
 sinead.biggame@ahg.gov.ie

National Parks and Wildlife Service—www.npws.ie  
 Email: natureconservation@environ.ie

www.conserveireland.com  
 www.clarebirdwatching.com  
 www.woodlandleague.org

www.biology.ie  
 www.clarelibrary.ie  
 http://celtnet.org

## RED SQUIRREL

Latin name: *Sciurus vulgaris*

Irish name: Iora rua

**LIKELY LOCATION:** Woodpark Forest Park

**SIZE:** Head and body length up to a length of 25 to 30 cm. Tail the length of the head and body combined. Weight 400–800g.

**COLOUR:** Reddish brown that changes to a dull grey in winter with a white underside.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** Predominant ear tufts that grow between August and November. Bushy tail that helps it to balance and keep it warm in winter. Strong claws and powerful back legs.

**FOOD:** Tree seeds and sap, fungi, nuts, berries and young shoots.

**BED:** A drey, a soft bed lined with moss, leaves, bark and grass that will be found high up in tree branches.

**YOUNG:** Two litters a year, raised by the female only.

**RISKS AND PREDATORS:** Pine marten, fox, cats, dogs, stoat, buzzard and other large birds of prey. **LIFE EXPECTANCY:** 7 years



## HEDGEHOG

Latin name: *Erinaceus europaeus*

Irish name: Gráinneog

**LIKELY LOCATION:** broadleaf woodlands, meadows, gardens and hedgerows.

**SIZE:** Length: 25cm Weight: Female 600g, Male 900g

**COLOUR AND UNIQUE FEATURES:** Blackish brown with 25 mm spines on top of body and soft brown underneath. Has poor eyesight, good hearing and good sense of smell. Hibernates in winter for 3-5 months depending on the temperature. Has many fleas.

**FOOD:** Can travel a few kilometres in search of food and eats slugs and other garden pests mostly at night.

**BED:** A few different sleeping nests in the area where they forage.

**YOUNG:** Three to five young born once a year in early summer.

**RISKS AND PREDATORS:** Risk from cars. Very vulnerable when young as mortality rate is high. High risk from being disturbed in the winter when hibernating, or being offered unsuitable food from humans. **LIFE EXPECTANCY:** 3 years

## IRISH HARE

Latin name: *Lepus timidus hibernicus*

Irish name: Giorria



**LIKELY LOCATION:** Bog, Uplands, Grassland and Farmland

**SIZE:** Length: Up to 54cm, Tail 7cm, Weight: 1.4 to 2kg

**COLOUR:** Reddish brown in summer, grey brown in winter with a pale tail tip.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** One of

Ireland's oldest mammals, a unique subspecies only found in Ireland. It is mostly nocturnal and solitary. The female (Jill) is also larger than the male (Jack) and both have long hind legs, long ears and can run up to 60 miles per hour. Has 360° vision that helps them to spot predators.

**FOOD:** Will travel a vast area in search of food that includes a variety of plants including heather, gorse, herbs and dandelion.

**BED:** Shallow burrows or depressions called "forms".

**YOUNG:** Two or three litters a year, with 1 to 4 leverets a time.

**RISKS AND PREDATORS:** Foxes, stoats, parasites and disease. High mortality rate in the young. **LIFE EXPECTANCY:** 9 years

## EURASIAN OTTER

Latin name: *Lutra lutra*

Irish name: Dobharchú/Madra uisce

**LIKELY LOCATION:** Mountshannon harbour, other harbours, estuaries, lakes, marshes and coastal areas

**SIZE:** Body to tail, Male: 120-130 cm, Female: 110-120 cm, Body weight: 7 to 12 kg

**COLOUR:** Brown above, creamy brown below.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** One of Ireland's oldest mammals, it has a thick layer of fur next to its skin that traps air to keep it dry and warm, while it's also an adaptable underwater hunter with large lungs, a capacity to slow its heart rate to stay under water for longer, a streamlined body, small ears and eyes, stiff whiskers that act as sense organs and webbed feet to aid swimming.

**FOOD:** Mostly fish, small birds, small animals and shellfish.

**BED:** Holt – a burrow in the riverbank – usually more than one.

**YOUNG:** Two to three cubs a year looked after by their mother.

**RISKS TO SPECIES:** Pollution, pesticides, illegal hunting.

**LIFE EXPECTANCY:** 5 years

## IRISH STOAT

Latin name: *Mustela erminea hibernicus* Irish name: Easóg

**LIKELY LOCATION:** Woodland and farmland edges

**SIZE:** Length (nose to tail): Male 31-39cm, Female 24-29cm

**Weight:** Male 200-400g, Female 100-200g

**COLOUR:** Chestnut brown, white throat, belly and black tip.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** One of Ireland's oldest mammals, it is a unique subspecies that is only found in Ireland. It is mostly solitary. Has good smell, hearing and excellent eyesight.

**FOOD:** A territorial hunter that will hunt above and below ground over a large area, it is agile and fast. Diet consists mostly of rabbit, rats, mice, birds, insects, eggs and fish.

**BED:** Several dens within its territory in hollow trees, rabbit burrows and gaps within rocks.

**YOUNG:** One litter a year with 3 to 10 kits at one time.

**RISKS AND PREDATORS:** A protected species at risk from cars, foxes, dogs, pine marten and large birds of prey.

**LIFE EXPECTANCY:** 4 Years



## PINE MARTEN

Latin name: *Martes martes*

Irish name: An cat crainn

**LIKELY LOCATION:** Deciduous/Coniferous woodland and scrub

**SIZE:** Body and tail length: Male 66-73cm, Female 61-66cm

**Weight:** 1.1. to 1.9 kg

**COLOUR:** Dark brown, yellow patch and a reddish belly.

**UNIQUE FEATURES:** One of Ireland's rarest and elusive species more commonly seen in the west. Has strong hunting claws that enable it to climb, a good sense of smell, hearing and eyesight and is mostly nocturnal and territorial.

**FOOD:** Small mammals, invertebrates, birds, amphibians, fruit.

**BED:** In breeding season uses Den sites that can include rock crevices, tree cavities, log piles and buildings. At other times they use refuge sites in tree canopy, including overblown or fallen trees.

**YOUNG:** 2-3 kits a year that stay with females for 12-16 months.

**RISKS TO SPECIES:** Hunting and loss of habitat through the destruction of forests, poisoning and persecution.

**LIFE EXPECTANCY:** 5-10 years



## SUMMER MIGRANTS

**4. Swift**—*Apus apus*—*Gabhlán gaoithe*  
Common summer visitor from May to Sept—similar in size to a swallow, but totally dark, it rarely lands. Nests trees, holes, caves.

**House Martin**—*Delichon urbicum*—*Gabhlán Binne*  
Common summer visitor from mid March to late Sept. Mud nests in or on buildings. Feeds on insects.

**Sand Martin**—*Riparia riparia*—*Gabhlán Gainimh*  
Commonly called a Bank Swallow, it is of conservation concern.

**Swallow**—*Hirundo rustica*—*Fáinleog*  
Common summer visitor from mid March to late Sept. Adults have red face patch. Mud nests usually on ledges. Feeds on insects.

**Whitethroat**—*Sylvia communis*—*Gilphíb*, a warbler that is a widespread summer visitor from April to Sept.

**Chiffchaff**—*Phylloscopus collybita*—*Tiuf-teaf*, a common and widespread summer visitor similar to a willow warbler.

**Sedge Warbler**—*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*—*Ceolaire cíbe*  
Widespread summer visitor to wetlands—April to Sept

**Willow Warbler**—*Phylloscopustrochilus*—*Ceolaire sailí*, a common summer visitor commonly seen near willows. Like Chiffchaff

**Cuckoo**—*Cuculus canorus*—*Cuach*. Common April to August

## WINTER VISITORS

**Fieldfare**—*Turdus pilaris*—*Sacán*. Widespread in winter

**26. Redwing**—*Turdusiliacus*—*Deargán sneachta*. Widespread winter visitor to this area

**Common Gull**—*Larus canus*—*Faoileán bán*

**Herring Gull**—*Larus argentatus*—*Faoileán scadán*. Common around Irish coasts, but common visitor inland in winter.

**Black-tailed Godwit**—*Limosa limosa*—*Guilbneach*  
Rare winter visitor



# MOUNTSHANNON BIRDS

*This guide gives a brief introduction to the diversity and variety of species that can be found in this area.*

Further information can be obtained from the following websites: [www.birdwatchireland.ie](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie) & [www.clarebirdwatching.com](http://www.clarebirdwatching.com)

## BIRDS OF PREY

**10. Sparrowhawk**—*Accipiter nisus*—*Spioróg*

A small bird, resident all year with some winter visitors—often seen in gardens in hedgerows. Catches small birds & mammals.

**Kestrel**—*Falco tinnunculus*—*Pocaire gaoithe*

A small bird resident all year. Has narrow wings and fanned tails and hovers. Feeds on small mammals, insects and invertebrates

**Peregrine Falcon**—*Falco peregrinus*—*Fabhcún gorm*

Resident all year—Adult blue grey with white underneath—Diet mostly small birds that it catches in the air.

**Hen Harrier**—*Circus cyaneus*—*Cromán na gearc*  
Scarce summer visitor to upland areas and bogs

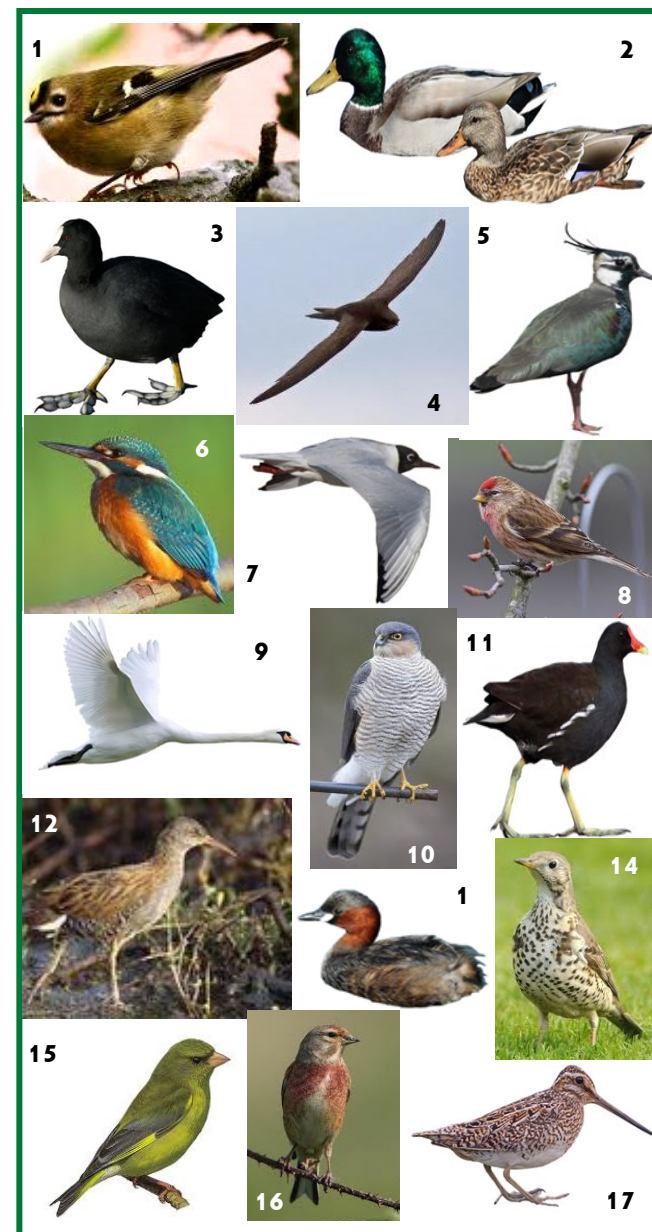
**Merlin**—*Falco columbarius*—*Meirliún*

Local summer visitor to uplands throughout Ireland. It is a small bird of prey that is becoming rare. It is the smallest species of falcon and similar to the peregrine in appearance.

## White-Tailed Sea Eagle

*Haliaeetus albicilla* - *Iolar Mara*

4th largest Eagle in the world with a Wing Span of 7-8 ft. Life Span up to 30 yrs. Pair first seen in Mountshannon in 2011 following separate releases in Kerry. Adult mainly brown except for paler head and neck, blackish flight feathers, distinctive white tail, and yellow bill and legs.  
Diet: Mostly carrion and fish



## 20 WIDESPREAD GARDEN BIRDS

**Blackbird**—*Turdus merula*—Lon dubh

**18. Blackcap** - *Sylvia atricapilla*—Caipín dubh. A warbler, found in hedgerows

**Blue Tit**—*Cyanistes caeruleus*—Meantán gorm

**Chaffinch**—*Fringilla coelebs*—Rí Rua

**Coal Tit**—*Parus ater*—Meantán dubh

**Collared Dove**—*Streptopelia decaocto*—Fearán baicdhubh

**Dunnock**—*Prunella modularis*—Donnóg

**Great Tit**—*Parus major*—Meantán mór

**15. Greenfinch**—*Carduelis chloris*—Glasán darach

**Goldfinch**—*Carduelis carduelis*—Lasair choille

**House Sparrow**—*Passer domesticus*—Gealbhan binne

**Jackdaw**—*Corvus monedula*—Cág

**Magpie**—*Pica pica*—Snag Breac

**Robin**—*Erithacus rubecula*—Spideog

**Rook**—*Corvus frugilegus*—Rúcach

**19. Siskin**—*Carduelis spinus*—Siscín

**Song Thrush**—*Turdus philomelos*—Smólach ceoil

## OTHER COMMON BIRDS

**Bullfinch**—*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*—Corcrán coille

**1. Goldcrest**—*Regulus regulus*—Cíorbhuí

**20. Grey Wagtail**—*Motacilla inerea*—Glasóg liath

**22. Long-tailed Tit**—*Aegithalos caudatus*—Meantán earrfhada

**Long-eared Owl**—*Asio otus*—Ceann cait

**Meadow Pipit**—*Anthus pratensis*—Riabhóg Mhóna. A plain bird similar to a Skylark.

**21. Treecreeper**—*Certhia familiaris*—Snag

Difficult to see it creeps up trees.

**Hooded Crow**—*Corvus corone cornix*—Caróg liath

**Pheasant**—*Phasianus colchicus*—Piasún

**Pied Wagtail**—*Motacilla alba*—Glasóg shráide

**14. Mistle Thrush**—*Turdus viscivorus*—Smólach mór. Less commonly seen in small garden. Prefers parks/large areas



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## OTHER BIRDS YOU MIGHT SEE

**16. Linnet**—*Carduelis cannabina*—Gleoiseach

**8. Lesser Redpoll**—*Carduelis flammea* cabaret—Deargéadan

**22. Jay**—*Garrulus glandarius*—Caróg liath

**Raven**—*Corvus corax*—Fiach dubh—

Widespread in upland areas. Usually first bird to breed in Spring.

**Woodcock**—*Scolopax rusticola*—Creabhar—(Great Snipe)

**Skylark**—*Alauda arvensis*—Fuisseog



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## LAKESHORE BIRDS

**23. Reed Bunting**—*Emberiza schoeniclus*—Gealóg ghíolcaí

**6. Kingfisher**—*Alcedo atthis*—Cruidín. Resident on Irish streams, rivers and canals it is a distinctive bright blue/green and feeds mostly on small fish

**Grey Heron**—*Ardea cinerea*—Corr réisc. Common/widespread

## RARE and CHANGING POPULATIONS IN THIS AREA

**Barn Owl**—*Tyto alba*, Declining population

**Spotted Flycatcher**—*Muscicapa striata*—Cuilire liath

Summer visitor May to September

**Brambling**—*Fringilla montifringilla*—Breacán. Rare visitor

**Crossbill**—*Loxia curvirostra*—Crosghob

Widespread resident/fluctuating. Mainly conifer plantations.

**12. Water Rail**—*Rallus aquaticus*—Rálóg uisce. Resident in wetlands.

Call like a squealing pig

**Golden Plover**—*Pluvialis apricaria*—Feadóg bhúí

A rare winter visitor

**5. Lapwing**—*Vanellus vanellus*—Pilibín. Of conservation concern there is a small resident population and winter visitors

**Little Egret**—*Egretta garzetta*—Éigrít bheag. Still rare in this area but increasing in number.

**Grasshopper Warbler**—*Locustella naevia*—Ceolaire casarnaí

Of conservation concern it is a summer visitor to Ireland

**17. Snipe**—*Gallinago gallinago*—Naoscach. Of conservation concern it is a Summer visitor from West Europe, Africa and a winter visitor from Northern Europe including Iceland.

**Whinchat**—*Saxicola rubetra*—Caislín aitinn. A rare summer visitor of conservation concern

**Curlew**—*Numenius arquata*—Crotach. At risk, partly due to increased afforestation and agricultural improvement. Breeds in small numbers in floodplains and boglands.

**Pintail**—*Anas acuta*—Biorearrach—Rare winter visitor

## WATER BIRDS

**9. Mute Swan**—*Cygnus olor*—Eala bhalbh

Resident and widespread. Call: Snorting/hissing. Diet: Water plants, small amphibians, snails and insects Nest: Large mound

**Teal**—*Anas crecca*—Praslacha Resident and winter visitors.

Small with short neck, males -green patch. Call: "tree!"

Diet: Seeds/molluscs/larvae. Nest: Near lakes/pools

**13. Little Grebe (Dabchick)**—*Tachybaptus ruficollis*—Spagáire tonn

Resident ponds and lakes. Small dumpy body and short neck.

Call: "tree!". Diet: mostly insects & fish. Nests on floating plants

**2. Mallard Duck**—*Anas platyrhynchos*—Mallard

Resident population and winter migrants. Call: rheab, plus short whistling and quacking. Nest: Hidden in vegetation

**3. Coot**—*Fulica atra*—Cearc cheannann. Resident and winter visitors. Distinctive white forehead/bill, sturdy legs and long lobed toes. Call: Various.

Diet: Plant shoots, seeds, insects, algae and fish. Nest: In vegetation

**Tufted Duck**—*Aythya fuligula*—Lacha bhadáinach

A resident small diving duck plus winter visitors. Has yellow eyes and tufted crest. Males black with white flank and belly

Call: Males, low whistling—females growling Diet: Various

**Wigeon**—*Anas penelope*—Rualacha—Common winter wetland visitor

Sept-April

**11. Moorhen**—*Gallinula chloropus*—

Widely distributed throughout Ireland, small population on the lake

**Gadwall**—*Anas strepera*—Gadual—

scarce winter visitor

**Pochard**—*Aythya farina*—Póiseard

cíordhearg—scarce summer visitor and

winter visitor to lake in summer areas

**24. Goldeneye**—*Bucephala clangula*—Órshúileach— winter visitor

**Cormorant**—*Phalacrocorax carbo*—Broigheall—Resident

**7. Black headed Gull**—*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*—Sléibhín—Resident plus winter migrants. Of conservation concern due to declining numbers.

**Scaup**—*Anas marila*—Lacha iascán—Scarce winter visitor of conservation concern due to declining numbers in Europe.

**Shoveler**—*Anas clypeata*—Spadalach—Resident & winter migrant. A declining duck species, it is red listed (at extreme risk ).

**25 Great Crested Grebe (Satin Bird)**—*Podiceps cristatus*—Foitheach mór.

A few resident and winter migrants

**Whooper Swan**—*Cygnus Cygnus*—Eala Ghlórach

**Greylag Goose**—*Anser anser*—Gé Ghlas. Resident population in a few areas on the lake.



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