



## Irish Rare Breeding Birds Panel Workshops February 2018

IRBBP hosted two workshops in February aimed at exploring opportunities for improving submissions on rare breeding birds across Ireland. This was part of a wider suite of initiatives funded by NPWS to improve coverage and to facilitate the delivery of the EU Birds Directive report later this year on rare breeding birds in Ireland.

The workshops were held at the Ramada Hotel in Dundalk on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, and in the Maldron Hotel in Limerick on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, and each was attended by around 20 participants, including members of the Panel. The main aim was to engage more individuals and groups in participating, and to inform the attendees about the importance of their records on this important 'group' of bird species.

The agenda was circulated in advance, and background talks were delivered highlighting the importance of the Panels work in delivering on the status and distribution of around 25% of Ireland's breeding bird species. An [overview of the results](#) that have been submitted to date highlighted that there has been interest in submitting details of new colonists and that the Panel has successfully tracked the increases in range in several of these species. There has also been a systematic approach to some site-level monitoring. But there is the need for increased coverage for several species, and for a more systematic approach (recording nulls), targeted surveys and increased efforts in improving the recording of breeding evidence.

There was plenty of opportunity for discussions on a broad range of topics, including (among many others):

- Publicity and promotion of the Panel and its work, with the help of social media.
- Improving submissions by targeting individuals and particular groups.
- Concerns relating to the sensitivity of records and mapping and reporting scales.
- Resources to be provided on the Panel's website to guide participants to priority species, and with guidance on surveying these species.
- The need for an MOU on the website with clear guidance on how data are treated.

IRBBP thanks all who attended and inputted to these workshops.