

The status of birds of conservation concern.

The fourth review of the status of birds of conservation concern on the island of Ireland was published in April 2021 covering the period 2020-2026 (Gilbert *et al.*, 2021). Two hundred and eleven species were assessed and assigned to Red, Amber or Green lists following standard assessment criteria. Of the 37 species that are qualifying interests of designated Special Protection Areas (SPAs) on the South Wexford Coast, six increased their status since the preceding assessment (BoCCI3) published in 2013 (Little Grebe: Amber to Green; the remaining five from Red to Amber: Wigeon, Pintail, Tufted Duck, Black-headed Gull, and Herring Gull), nine decreased (Fulmar: Green to Amber; the remaining eight from Amber to Red: Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Knot, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Kittiwake, Razorbill, and Puffin) and 22 stayed the same (15 staying at Amber and 7 staying at Red) (Table 1). Notes regarding species are quoted.

Species with change in status from 2013 to 2021	Change	BOCCI3	BOCCI4
Little Grebe	↑	Amber	Green
Fulmar	↓	Green	Amber
Gannet	↔	Amber	Amber
Cormorant	↔	Amber	Amber
Shag	↔	Amber	Amber
Bewick's Swan	↔	Amber	Amber
Whooper Swan	↔	Amber	Amber
Light-bellied Brent Goose	↔	Amber	Amber
Shelduck	↔	Amber	Amber
Wigeon	↑	Amber	Amber
Gadwall	↔	Amber	Amber
Teal	↔	Amber	Amber
Pintail	↑	Amber	Amber
Shoveler	↔	Amber	Amber
Tufted Duck	↑	Amber	Amber
Coot	↔	Amber	Amber
Oystercatcher	↓	Amber	Red
Golden Plover	↔	Amber	Red
Grey Plover	↓	Amber	Red
Lapwing	↔	Amber	Red
Knot	↓	Amber	Red
Dunlin	↔	Amber	Red
Black-tailed Godwit	↓	Amber	Red
Bar-tailed Godwit	↓	Amber	Red
Curlew	↔	Amber	Red
Redshank	↔	Amber	Red
Black-headed Gull	↑	Amber	Amber
Lesser Black-backed Gull	↔	Amber	Amber
Herring Gull	↑	Amber	Amber
Kittiwake	↓	Amber	Red
Sandwich Tern	↔	Amber	Amber
Roseate Tern	↔	Amber	Amber
Common Tern	↔	Amber	Amber
Arctic Tern	↔	Amber	Amber
Guillemot	↔	Amber	Amber
Razorbill	↓	Amber	Red
Puffin	↓	Amber	Red

Little Grebe. “some question marks against the availability of data to confidently confirm their improved status. We had difficulty assessing the breeding status” (*ibid*, pages 14 and 20). **Fulmar.** “increased in priority status across Europe” (*ibid*, page 14). **Light-bellied Brent Goose.** “The Irish populations almost entirely consist of recognised subspecies, however all assessments are made for full species to ensure that all criteria including global and European importance can be considered.” (*ibid*, page 3). **Wigeon.** “have populations with less severe declines.” (*ibid*, page 14). **Pintail.** “not known to have had probable or confirmed breeding for a minimum of ten consecutive years since about 1800” (*ibid*, page 7). “have populations with less severe declines.” (*ibid*, page 14). **Tufted Duck.** “have populations with less severe declines.” (*ibid*, page 14). **Coot.** “We had difficulty assessing the breeding status” (*ibid*, page 20). **Oystercatcher.** “We had difficulty assessing the breeding status” (*ibid*, page 20). **Golden Plover.** “Half of the breeding bird species associated with upland habitats are Red-listed, which is the highest proportion by habitat.” (*ibid*, page 18). **Grey Plover.** “declining wintering population”. (*ibid*, page 14). **Lapwing.** “declining catastrophically ... continued severe population declines in Ireland.” (*ibid*, page 17). **Knot.** “notable declines in the wintering populations” (*ibid*, page 17). **Dunlin.** “declining catastrophically ... continued severe population declines in Ireland.” (*ibid*, page 17). **Black-tailed Godwit.** “not known to have had probable or confirmed breeding for a minimum of ten consecutive years since about 1800” (*ibid*, page 7). **Bar-tailed Godwit.** “notable declines in the wintering populations” (*ibid*, page 17). **Curlew.** “declining catastrophically ... continued severe population declines in Ireland.” (*ibid*, page 17). **Redshank.** “... continued severe population declines in Ireland.” (*ibid*, page 17). **Black-headed Gull.** “some recovery in the populations” (*ibid*, pages 1 and 14). **Herring Gull.** “some recovery in the populations” (*ibid*, pages 1 and 14). **Kittiwake.** “now classed as globally Vulnerable” (*ibid*, page 17). **Roseate Tern.** “Ireland hosts up to an estimated 40% of Europe’s breeding Roseate Terns” (*ibid*, page 18). **Razorbill** and **Puffin.** “for their European status.” (*ibid*, page 17). **Puffin.** “There are still species gaps and further work is required to provide up-to-date estimates of our burrow nesting seabirds including Puffin.” (*ibid*, page 19).

Table 1. Changes in assessed status from 2013 to 2021.

(Source: Gilbert *et al.*, 2021)

Reference. Gilbert, G., Stanbury, A., and Lewis, L. 2021. Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 4: 2020–2026. *Irish Birds*, Number 46, pages 1-22.