

## CORNCRAKE UPDATE – 1 August 2008

Some new and late Corncrakes reports from Kinnadoohy, Killadoon, from Roonagh, and from Corclogh and Tirraun on the Mullet, suggest late nesting in some areas.

At Kinnadoohy, one first reported heard by Bruce Vaughan at 3 a.m. on 19 August was probably calling from a meadow mown the very next day. This is the first one reported heard in the hinterland south of Killadoon in many years. It hasn't been heard since. Two at Roonagh, one at Accony crossroads near the road and in the second crop of silage down the road towards the quay, at Aghany, have been heard in the last two weeks. The one at the crossroads is in four acres which won't be grazed until 1 September, the one in the silage apparently moved over the hill after this field was sprayed for docks.

On the Mullet, one has been calling continuously and consistently all month from tillage and weeds at the top of a large area of silage due to be mown now the 1 August grant-delay date is reached. The landowner promises to leave the area around the calling male uncut. The one reported at Tirraun may be the same bird that called for six weeks at Elly Point, was heard for two weeks at Mid-Elly, and then two weeks in Tirraun, in a large meadow opposite the road to Mullaghroe North. If it is the same one, it has now been heard west of Tirraun church. One near the phone-box in Fallmore village is still being heard. Three of the fieldowners have agreed to leave their meadows unmown until 15 August, but others will be mown imminently.

A hen and six or seven chicks have been encountered twice in four days within 250 metres of each other, by Eddie Conroy and John Mangan, at Tonamace, on the Mullet. This follows Corncrake-friendly mowing in early July of a meadow from which the male had been heard calling from mid-May through to mid-June.

Elsewhere, on Inishbofin, Co Galway, one calling from 3 July in the last meadow west on the road out to Dun Mor was recovered by Beaga Murray, killed probably by a feral cat, on 21 July. Also on Bofin, a juvenile was recovered injured, having been caught in fencewire, and was treated and released by Caroline and Dermot Concannon of The Galley B&B, East End.

Mowing in grant scheme-delayed fields began today, 1 August. The forecast of localised heavy downpours dissuaded most people from mowing immediately, however one 4-acre meadow opposite Carne golf course on the Mullet was cut, Corncrake-unfriendly, this morning. An adult was reported seen to fly to the bottom of the field during mowing. No remains were found in a search of the field carried out soon after.

Mowing of the first tranche of 1 August-delayed fields is expected to be further delayed and spread-out over the coming week or so, due to what Met Eireann describes as "extremely limited opportunities" for hay and silage making.

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