

MEDIA RELEASE

## **THE RESULTS OF IRELAND'S FIRST CUCKOO SURVEY TO BE LAUNCHED IN COUNTY CLARE**

County Clare, IRELAND, Oct 26th 2006 - The results of Ireland's inaugural Cuckoo survey will be officially presented in Clare Museum, Ennis, County Clare on Tuesday November 7th 2006. The Clare Cuckoo Survey, which has been undertaken by Clare Biodiversity Group and Clare County Council, is expected to reveal that the bird is making a resurgent comeback in the west of the country.

Wildlife experts and enthusiasts have long feared that the Cuckoo population was in decline due to increased urbanisation and afforestation. The species is currently on the amber list of birds under threat of extinction here in Ireland. Yet, since the survey's inception in the middle of April, there have been over nine hundred records of the bird registered in Clare. The figure does not necessarily mean there are over 900 Cuckoos in Clare, but it does give an indication of the distribution in the county.

John Murphy, Manager of the Clare Biological Records Centre and Elaine Keegan, Biodiversity Officer initiated The Clare Cuckoo Survey in a bid to establish a picture of the remaining cuckoo population here. Mr Murphy said, "The bird, which is synonymous with rural Ireland, is usually heard in mid-April but peak migration takes place in late April/early May. However, this year they were heard and seen as early as mid-March. It was also previously understood that the Burren region was a stronghold as far as Cuckoo numbers were concerned but we now can see that the birds are widely distributed in most parts of Clare. This year seems to be very good for Cuckoos, especially in the midwest of the country."

Commenting on the survey, Elaine Keegan, Biodiversity Officer with Clare County Council stated, "I am delighted to see that so many people have taken part in this survey. The Cuckoo records along with records for many other species are available to view on interactive distribution maps on our web site [www.clarebiodiversity.ie](http://www.clarebiodiversity.ie). Clare is the first county in Ireland to have a web-based Biological Records Centre, which, along with the Cuckoo Survey forms part of the Clare Biodiversity Action Plan - the first of its kind in the country."

John Murphy of the Clare Biological Records Centre will provide a presentation on the results of The Clare Cuckoo Survey at 6pm in Clare Museum, Ennis on Tuesday November 7th 2006. Members of the public are invited to attend the free event where they will be able to collect a booklet of the survey results.

For further information please contact Elaine Keegan (Biodiversity Officer, Clare County Council) at [065-6821616](tel:065-6821616)/[ekeegan@clarecoco.ie](mailto:ekeegan@clarecoco.ie) or John Murphy (Clare Data Base Manager, Biological Records Centre, Clare County Council) on [086-3208965](tel:086-3208965)/[jmurphy@clarecoco.ie](mailto:jmurphy@clarecoco.ie). Further details may also be obtained by logging on to [www.clarebiodiversity.ie](http://www.clarebiodiversity.ie).

-ENDS-

Note to Editor:

- To arrange an interview please contact Mark Dunphy of Dunphy Public Relations on [086-8534900](tel:086-8534900)/[media@dunphypr.com](mailto:media@dunphypr.com).

Mark Dunphy  
Dunphy Public Relations  
Connolly, Ennis, County Clare, Ireland  
[www.dunphypr.com](http://www.dunphypr.com)  
[media@dunphypr.com](mailto:media@dunphypr.com)  
086-8534900