

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea* (? , 0, 0).

(Breeds most of Europe, the Middle East, western Asia and the mountains of North Africa).

There have been no acceptable records in Northern Ireland in the twentieth century.

The Templeton manuscripts show the species to have been regularly seen and heard at his home on the Malone Road, Belfast during the period 1809 – 1823.

*McSkimmin* 1811 regarded the Woodlark as "*common*" around the area of Carrickfergus, County Antrim though by 1849, Thompson described it as resident but very local throughout Ireland. For Northern Ireland, he mentions its presence in counties Armagh, Antrim and Down. Specifically, he states that it is "*not uncommon in the warm sandy district of Malone*" presumably on the authority of Templeton and also singles out Castlereagh, Ballynahinch, the Ards peninsula and Rostrevor, County Down as localities where he knew the species occurred. By 1874, it was breeding in at least three areas, Ballynahinch, Rostrevor and the Ards [*BNFC* 1874] but by 1903 Patterson was unable to find it at Malone.

"*Eight years residence ... has not enabled me to trace it, and we never heard of one being seen or shot*"  
*BNFC* 1902.

One was recorded at Holywood, County Down on 20th January 1935 but this record seems to have been ignored by subsequent commentators. *Smyth* 1935.

Accordingly, the species has not been recorded in Northern Ireland in the twentieth century and the reasons for its disappearance remain unknown.