



Biodiversity in County Roscommon

Some places in County Roscommon to see wildlife...

- Annaghmore Lough
near Strokestown
- Bogs throughout the county
- Hedgerows everywhere
- Lake O'Flynn near
Ballinlough
- Lough Allen
- Lough Funshinagh
- Lough Ree
- Mote Park Wood
- Lough Key Forest Park
- St John's Wood
- Suck Valley



South Roscommon Grassland

Wildlife Species

Habitats support an array of animal and plant species, some are very visible and some not so visible.

Some species can be dependent on another for survival.

The brimstone butterfly is widespread in County Roscommon. It lays its eggs on the leaves of the buckthorn tree. The caterpillars feed on the leaves and eventually develop into the adult butterfly. The removal the buckthorn tree from the countryside would result in the brimstone butterfly losing its food source, which in turn could lead to a decrease in the species or even its extinction.



Buckthorn Tree

Brimstone Butterfly



Grasslands

Much of County Roscommon is covered with grassland habitat. Pastures and meadows hold a diverse array of grasses, wildflowers, insects, birds and animals. Wildflowers add colour to meadows and attract many species of insect that, in turn, attract birds and animals.



Hay Meadow



Frog



Mote Park



Fly Agaric Fungus



Peacock Butterfly

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Fox



The 7 Spot Ladybird

www.roscommoncoco.ie



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

www.roscommoncoco.ie

Produced by Roscommon County Council © 2009
Text and images: John J Earley MSc. © 2009
Funded by the Heritage Council.



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Design by: www.creativefreedom.ie



Biodiversity in County Roscommon



What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is short for Biological Diversity, the variety of life on earth. This includes all life forms - plants, animals and the habitats of which they are part. It varies from the largest animal to the smallest micro-organism. It also includes crops and humans. It is the relationship within species, between species and the relationship with their environment.

Why is Biodiversity important?

Biodiversity is important because without it the world would not exist. Biodiversity sustains all living things; providing us with food, medicines, fuels and building materials. The processes of biodiversity help to provide the planet with fresh air, clean water, pollination of crops, fertility of soil and control of pests and diseases.

County Roscommon

Roscommon is an inland county covering an area of approximately 2,500 square kilometres. The landscape is generally flat with gentle rolling hills. Only in some northern parts of the county does the land rise above 250m.

Most of the county is underlain with carboniferous limestone. There are a few pockets of sandstone, in the north, west and east of the county. The underlying geology is one of the main factors that influences the habitats and species found in the county.

The River Suck lies to the west and south of the county, while the mighty River Shannon flows along its eastern border.

Habitats of Roscommon

County Roscommon hosts an array of interesting habitats including peat bogs, hedgerows, wildflower meadows, conifer woodlands, native woodlands, fens, marshes, turloughs, lakes, rivers and eskers.



Ballinturley



Buttercups



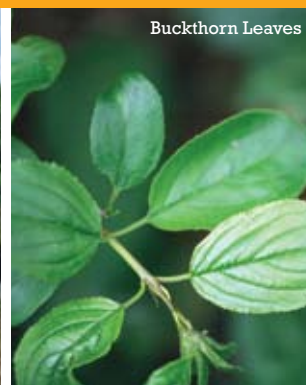
Drystone Wall

Bogs

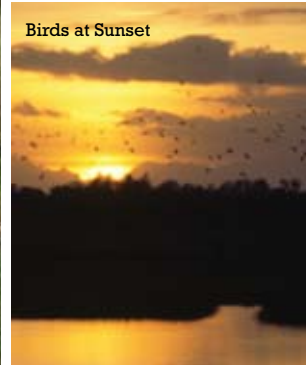
Around seventy peat bogs have been identified in County Roscommon. Peat bogs host an interesting and diverse array of wildlife including birds, mammals, insects, wildflowers, lichens and fungi.



Bog



Buckthorn Leaves



Birds at Sunset



Turlough near Strokestown

Turloughs

Turloughs are temporary water lakes that are filled and emptied through a swallow hole connected with the underground water table. Depending on rainfall, most turloughs are filled during the winter months of the year. Turloughs occur mainly in Ireland and are principally associated with limestone areas. They occur widely in the western counties including Roscommon. Turloughs are important as wildfowl wintering sites. Wintering species include whooper swan, golden plover, lapwing, curlew and several species of duck.



Lough Funshinagh

St. John's Wood

St. John's Wood is situated on the western shore of Lough Ree near Lecarrow, between Athlone and Roscommon town. The wood is interesting because the trees and wildlife are all native Irish species. Hazel is the dominant tree species in the wood. At around 300 acres, St John's wood is the largest native woodland in the midlands and one of the largest hazel woods in Ireland.



Hazel Catkins



St. John's Wood