

Goosander *Mergus merganser* (21, 188, 243). **SV**

(Breeds Northern Europe, northern and central Asia and North America).

Unpublished records:

1987

Down

Three: Corbett Lough, Banbridge, County Down, "January" (Graham McIlwaine, D. Hitchens, J. Cinnamond).

1994

Londonderry

Seven: Six males and one female. Prehan, River Foyle, 30th December (Ralph Shepard).

1995

Antrim

One: Male. Farr's Bay, Lough Neagh, Randalstown, 5th March (Jeff Larkin).

1999

Down

One: Male. Albert Bridge, River Lagan, Belfast, 11th February (J.W. Lyons).

One: Male. Victoria Park Lake, Belfast, 24th February (Martin Garner).

2000

Down

One: Male. Kinnegar Pools, Kinnegar, Holywood, 12th to 28th March and 26th December (Walter Veale, Ted Rolston *et al.*).

2001

Antrim

One: Male. Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast, County Antrim, 11th November (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*).

Down

One: Male. Connswater, East Belfast, 8th April (Colin Guy).

One: Male. Kinnegar Pools, Kinnegar, Holywood, 3rd October to 23rd December (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*).

2002

Down

One: Male. Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, 21st October (Ivan Quail).

2003

Antrim

Two: One male and one female. River Braid, Ballymena, 27th February (D. Coney).

One: Male. North Foreshore Lagoon, Belfast Lough, 19th November (John O'Boyle).

Armagh

One: Darkley Reservoir, Darkely, 19th December 2003 to 1st January 2004 (Joe Devlin, Clifford Sharpe).

Down

One: Male. Connswater, East Belfast, 12th January (J. Piper).

One: Male. Kinnegar Pools, Holywood, 25th September to 4th November (Walter Veale *et al.*).

2009

Antrim

One: Male. In flight. Antrim Town, 22nd January (Davy Hunter).

One: Redhead. Antrim Road Waterworks, Belfast, 14th February (Flightline).

One: Female. Waterfoot, 11th March (Flightline).

Four: Three males and one female. Randalstown Forest, Randalstown, Lough Neagh, 20th May (Flightline).

One: Male. Ballycarry, Larne Lough, 7th October (Neal Warnock).

One: Male. Glenshesk River, Ballycastle, 4th November to 27th December (Geoff Campbell *et al.*).

Down

One: Redhead. Ardilea, Dundrum, 5th to 10th October (Andrew Crory *et al.*).

Two: One pair. Lough Island Reavy, Castlewellan, "January / February" (Andrew Crory *et al.*).

Londonderry

Two: Bann Estuary, Coleraine. One, first-winter male 2nd January with a redhead recorded from 18th January to 3rd March (Richard Smith, Theo Campbell, Roger Murray).

Three: Lough Beg NNR. Two: South east corner, 23rd February, with a female, 15th to 18th December (David Steele *et al.*).

One: Male. Flying into the Lough, Magilligan Point, Lough Foyle, 18th December (Neal Warnock).

2010

Antrim

Two or three: Glenshesk River, Ballycastle. Two: Males. 3rd January to 6th March One: Eclipse male. 16th October to 19th November (Geoff Campbell Colin Guy *et al.*).

One or two males Glynn, Larne Lough. One, 4th January to 2nd March and 20th to 25th October (Cameron Moore *et al.*).

Six: Cushendun 6th January (Irishbirding).

One: Female. Ballymena ECO's Park, Ballymena, 22nd November (Jeff Larkin).

Two: Redheads. River Main, Slaght Bridge, Ballymena, 26th December (David Steele).

One: Redhead. Inver River, Larne 28th December (Neal Warnock).

15: River Main, Randalstown 31st December (Dermot Hughes).

One: Redhead. Cranfield, Lough Neagh, Randalstown, 31st December (Dermot Hughes).

Armagh

One: Male. Craigavon Balancing Lakes, Lurgan, 4th January (Irishbirding).

One: First-winter male. Reedy Flats, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, 27th December (Derek Charles).

Fermanagh

Two: Lough Veaty, 22nd October (Brad Robson).

Down

One: Female. Killard NNR, Strangford, 9th January (Keith Bennett).

Seven: Lough Island Reavy, Castlewellan. Up to four, 6th March to 3rd April, and up to three, two redheads and one male, 14th November into 2011 (Andrew Crory, Mark Killops, Derek Charles, Walter Veale *et al.*).

One: Male. Lough Corbet, Banbridge, 14th November (Derek Charles).

One: Female. Ardilea, Dundrum Bay, Newcastle, 5th December (Andrew Crory).

Two: One pair. Newcastle Harbour, Newcastle, 21st December (Dan Bailie).

Londonderry

One: Male. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, 16th January to 16th February (Keith Bennett *et al.*).

Two: Female. Cullyhill, Lower River Bann, Kilrea, 10th February (Irishbirding).

One: Female. Lough Beg NNR, 27th November (David Steele).

Tyrone

One: River Derg, Killeter, Castlederg, 23rd December (Tyrone Nelson).

2011

Antrim

Six: Weir north of village, River Main, Randalstown. Four, female / immatures on 1st January and two males and two females on 26th January (Richard Gray, Dermot Hughes).

Four: River Main, Randalstown, in flight towards Lough Neagh, 1st January (Richard Gray).

Six: Cushendun. Five, one male and four redheads, 5th January, increasing to six birds 6th to 30th January, with two redheads remaining to 24th February (Colin Guy *et al.*).

Three: Glenshesk River, Ballycastle. One, male, 11th January to 24th February with a female observed 22nd January to 23rd February. Later in the year a male was recorded from 16th November to 1st December (Colin Guy, Geoff Campbell *et al.*).

Two: Redheads. Glenarm Estate, Ballymena, one present on 3rd February, with two observed on 22nd February (Andrew Crory, Jeff Larkin).

One: Male. Cushendall, 23rd January (Brenda Campbell).

Three: Waterfoot. Two, redheads, 7th February with a male observed 15th November to 4th December (Geoff Campbell, Brenda Campbell *et al.*).

Three or four: Glynn / Ballycarry, Larne Lough. One female 11th April, one male, 10th September an eclipse male 21st to 27th October. A pair was recorded from 1st to 6th November, with one remaining to 13th December (Cameron Moore, Andy Elliot *et al.*).

One: Eclipse male. Rathlin Island, 16th October (Neal Warnock).

Down

Up to six: Two males and four females. Lough Island Reavy, Castlewellan, from 2010 remained to 23rd March (Andrew Crory *et al.*).

One: Male. Begney Lough, Spa, Ballynahinch, 20th December into 2012 (Ron Price, M. Taylor *et al.*).

One: Male. Twelve Arches, Dundrum, Newcastle, 10th December (Neville McKee).

Londonderry

Three: Males. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, 11th December (Jeff Larkin).

Tyrone

One: River Mourne, Strabane, 18th February (Tyrone Nelson).

2012

Antrim

Two: Waterfoot. One male on 16th January, with two males present on 17th January only, with one remaining to 11th February. Two, males, 26th December (Iris Millar, Mark Killops, Richard Gray *et al.*).

Two: Males. Randalstown, 26th January (Dermot Hughes).

Two: Glynn, Larne Lough. One female, 15th January to 29th February with a male observed 10th to 23rd October (Gerard McGeehan, Shirley Dunlop, Cameron Moore *et al.*).

One: Male. Ballycastle, 25th February (Colin Guy).

Two: One Pair. River Main, Slaght, Ballymena, 23rd February to 9th March (David Steele).

Two: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon. One female 25th December with a pair present from 29th December into 2013 (Keith Bennett *et al.*).

Down

One: Male. Begney Lough, Spa, Ballynahinch, from 2011 remained to 8th January (David Nixon).

Two: One male and one female. Mill Quarter Bay, Strangford, 16th January (David Nixon).

Four: Two pairs. Killard NNR / Kilclief, Strangford, 5th to 12th February (Gerard McGeehan, Shirley Dunlop *et al.*).

Seven: Lough Island Reavy, Castlewellan. One male 6th February and up to six, four males and two females, 11th November to 31st December (Adam McClure *et al.*).

Londonderry

Up to four: Three males and a female. Monavagher, River Bann, Kilrea, 27th February to 9th March (Derek McIntyre, Iris Millar *et al.*).

2013

Antrim

Two: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon. The immature male and one female from 2012 remained to 9th January (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan *et al.*).

One: Male. Waterfoot, 12th to 13th January (Richard Gray *et al.*).

One: Eclipse male. Ballycarry, Larne Lough, 15th October to 8th November (Ian Dickey *et al.*).

One: Female. Slaght, Ballymena, 7th December (David Steele).

Two: One Pair. River Main, Randalstown, 23rd December (Dermot Hughes).

One: Female. Glynn, Larne Lough, 28th December (Neal Warnock).

One: Male. Kellswater River, Moorefield's, Ballymena, 31st December (John Parkinson).

Armagh

One: Redhead. Craigavon Balancing Lakes, Craigavon, Lurgan, 17th to 30th December (Stephen Hewitt, Glen West *et al.*).

Down

Ten: Lough Island Reavy, Castlewellan. Up to two, 12th to 13th January and up to eight, one male and seven females, 30th November into 2014 (Kerry Leonard, Keith Bennett *et al.*).

One: Ardilea, Dundrum, 23rd January (Dan Baillie).

One: Female. Boating Lake, Newcastle, 14th November into 2014 (Leonard Charles *et al.*).

Fermanagh

Two: Lower Lough Islands RSPB Reserve, Kesh, 10th January (Brad Robson).

One: Female. Derrylin Lough, Tempo, 20th February (Clive Mellon).

2014

Antrim

Six: Glynn, Larne Lough. One female, 8th January to 3rd April (Adam McClure *et al.*), and up to five, four redheads and one male. 5th to 6th December (Neal Warnock, Linda Thompson).

One: Female. Glenarm, 26th January (Neal Warnock).

Two: One Pair. River Main, Slaght, Ballymena, 23rd February to 1st April (David Steele).

One: Male. Ballycarry, Larne Lough, 6th to 10th November (Cameron Moore *et al.*).
Five: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon, 27th November (Simon Gray).
Two: Females. North end of Cushendun Beach, Cushendun, 2nd December (Colin Guy).

Armagh

Two: Craigavon Balancing Lakes, Lurgan. One male, 2nd January with a redhead, 1st to 8th February (Ed O'Hara, Brain Nelson).

Down

Up to seven: Lough Island Reavy, Castlewellan. Five females and two males from 2013 remained to 12th March (Jim Whitla, Michael Richardson, Fulton Summerville *et al.*).

One: Female. Begney Lough, Dromara, 10th January (David Nixon).

One: Redhead. Newcastle Boating Pond, Newcastle, from 2013 remained to 6th February (Andrew Crory, Derek Charles *et al.*).

One: Redhead. Shimna River, Ivy Bridge, Tollymore, 11th March (Ron Price).

Fermanagh

Two: Lower Lough Islands RSPB Reserve, 26th March (Brad Robson).

2015

Antrim

One: Redhead, Randalstown, 13th January (Dermot Hughes).

Four: Glynn Larne, Lough. Up to three, one male and two redheads, 17th January to 24th February with an eclipse male on 31st October (Neal Warnock Cameron Moore, Ed O'Hara *et al.*).

Four: Two males and two redheads. River Main, Slaght, Ballymena, 30th January with one pair remaining to 28th April (David Steele *et al.*).

One: Ballygalley, 17th March (David Stirling).

One: Eclipse male. Ballycarry, Larne Lough 19th September to 5th November (Stephen Foster *et al.*).

Armagh

One: Redhead. Craigavon Balancing Lakes, Lurgan, 19th January to 21st February (Steven Hewitt, Ciara Lavery *et al.*).

Down

Up to seven: Three males and four redheads. Lough Island Reavy, Castlewellan, 2nd January to 11th February (Andrew Crory *et al.*).

One: Male Ballydougan Lake, Downpatrick, 17th January (David Nixon).

Londonderry

Two: Redheads. Carnroe, River Bann, 7th June (Jeff Larkin).

2016

Antrim

Up to three: Males: River Main, Moorefield's, Ballymena, 6th January to 1st February (Adam McClure).

Up to three: Two males and a female. Glynn, Larne Lough, 16th to 17th January (Neal Warnock *et al.*).

12: River Main, Slaght, Ballymena. Up to seven, 7th February to 29th March and up to five, one male and four females, 22nd 27th November (Richard Gray *et al.*).

One: Male. Portballintrae, 19th March (Colin Guy).

Up to two: Ballycarry, Larne Lough, 16th September to 20th November (Cameron Moore *et al.*).

One: Redhead. Nandas Bridge, Lock-keepers gate, Shaw's Bridge, River Lagan, Belfast, 21st to 24th October (Muriel Moore).

Four: Two males and two redheads. River Main, Randalstown, 11th November (Rodney Monteith).

One: Redhead. Six-mile water, River Park, Ballyclare, 19th to 28th December (Brenda Campbell *et al.*).

Down

Ten: Lough Island Reavy, Castlewellan. Up to three, one male and two females, 18th to 20th January and up to seven, two males and five redheads 5th to 26th December (David Nixon, Ian Jackson *et al.*).

One: Female. Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, 10th April (Garry Armstrong).

Fermanagh

Two: Lower Lough Islands RSPB Reserve, Kesh, 25th February (Fionbarr Cross, Amy Burns).

Two: One pair. River Erne, Belleek, 24th December (Paul McGahon).

2017

Antrim

12: River Main, Randalstown. Up to ten, four males and six females, 17th January to 1st February and two, one pair, 28th December (Brenda Campbell, Dermot Hughes *et al.*).

Five: River Main, Slaght. Two, one pair 21st January to 12th March with three, two males and one female, 29th November (Joe Lamont *et al.*).

Four: Waterfoot. Up to three, two males and one female, 4th February to 8th March with an eclipse male on 19th October (John Bamford *et al.*).

One: Male. Glenarm. 16th February to 6th March (Garry Wilkinson, Nigel Moore *et al.*).

One: Male. Moorfield's, Ballymena, 27th February (Rubean Douglas).

One: Female. Marconi's Cottage, Ballycastle, 1st October (Colin Guy).

One: Eclipse male. Ballycarry Bridge, Ballycarry, Larne Lough, 10th November (Cameron Moore).

Armagh

Four: Maghery, Lough Neagh. One, female, 29th January with three, one male and two females on 5th March (David Knight).

One: Redhead. Oxford Island NNR, Lough Neagh Lurgan, 19th November (Ed O'Hara).

Down

13: Lough Island Reavy, Castlewellan. Up to seven: 8th January to 5th March and up to six, one male and five females. 9th November to 30th December (Dermot Hughes, David Nixon *et al.*).

One: Female. River Lagan, Belfast, 12th November (Paul Hunter).

One: Redhead: Dundrum Inner Bay, Newcastle, 23rd October to 29th November (David Nixon *et al.*).

One: Female. Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, 21st November (Tom Ennis, Tony Dodds, John Edwards).

Two: Redheads. Loughbrickland Lake, Loughbrickland, 23rd to 27th December (Mike McLoughlin *et al.*).

One: Corbett Lough, Banbridge, 30th December (Joe Furphy).

Fermanagh

One: Female. Lower Lough Islands RSPB Reserve, Kesh, 16th January (Brad Robson).

One: Female. White Island, Castle Archdale, 17th January (Amy Burns).

Five: Castle Caldwell, Leggs, 27th January (Amy Burns, Fionbarr Cross).

One: Lower Lough Erne, 20th April (Michael Stinson).

2018

Antrim

One: Redhead. Belfast Waterworks, Antrim Road, Belfast, 17th to 19th January (Stuart McKee *et al.*).

Two: Waterfoot. 20th January (Neal Warnock).

Two: Redheads. Keeble Lough, Rathlin Island, 22nd January (Ric Else, Hazel Watson).

One: Female. Toe River, Ballycastle, 2nd February (Michael Barton, Patrick Barton).

Up to five: Four males and one redhead. River Slaght, Ballymena, 9th to 23rd March (Richard Gray *et al.*).

One: Redhead, Dunconnell Reservoir, Cargan, 20th March (Sean Hickey).

One: Male. Glenarm River, Ballymena, 22nd November (Andrew Crory).

One: Redhead. Ballycarry, Larne Lough, 7th to 25th December (Michael Latham *et al.*).

Armagh

Two: One pair. Lough Ross, Crossmaglen, 4th February (Joe Devlin).

Down

Two: Redheads. Loughbrickland Lake, Loughbrickland, 1st January (Mike McLoughlin).

22: Lough Island Reavy, Castlewellan. Up to six, 4th to 28th January and up to 16, late October into 2019 (Daniel Newtown, Dan Bailie *et al.*).

Three: Redheads. Corbett Lake, Banbridge, 8th to 28th January (Neill Cartmill *et al.*).

Two: One Pair. Victoria Park, Belfast, 4th April (Walter Veale *et al.*).

One: Redhead. Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, 15th to 16th April (Garry Armstrong *et al.*).

Fermanagh

Three: One male and two females, Meenatully Lough, Pettigoe Plateau, 11th December (Fionnbarr Cross).

Two: Males. Tullycastle, Lower Lough Erne, 19th December (Jamie Dillon).

Londonderry

Four: Bann Estuary, Coleraine. Two, males on 20th January One: Male. 4th March One: Redhead: Barmouth, 24th November (Theo Campbell, Richard Smith, Richard Donaghey).

One: Redhead. Pottagh Burn, Articlave River, Castlerock, 29th August (Richard Donaghey).

One: Redhead. Castlerock, 24th November (Derek Charles).

One: Redhead. Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 3rd September (Gerard McGeehan, Shirley Dunlop, Richard Donaghey).

One: Redhead. Lough Beg NNR, 5th October to 11th November (David Steele *et al.*).



Goosander *Mergus merganser*,
Ballycarry, Larne Lough, 20th October 2015. Photo courtesy of Ian Dickey.