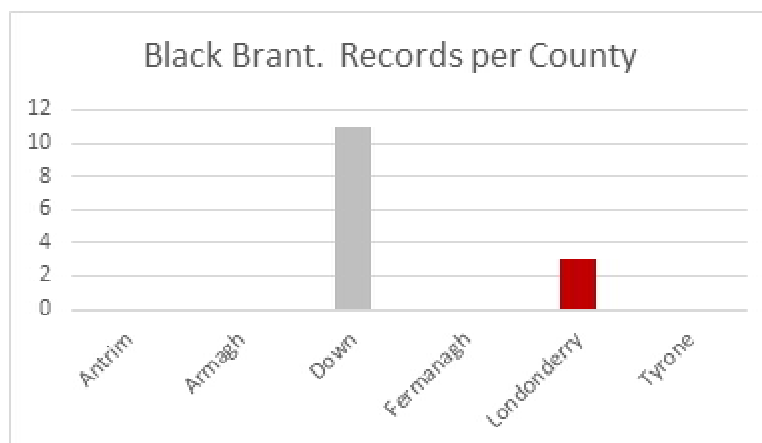


Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* (0, 7, 7).

(Breeds north-west Canada, Alaska and eastern Siberia. Winters west coast of North America from southern Alaska to California, also east Asia).

While Black Brant has been recorded frequently since the first record in 1978 these masks its true status in Northern Ireland. From 1978 it was recorded annually up to 2014 but presumed returning birds were responsible for many of these records. The records suggest that just two birds were recorded from Strangford Lough in the years 1978-1987 with one bird on Lough Foyle 1980-1983 and one or two birds again at Lough Foyle 1991-2006. One roaming individual could be responsible for the records 1988-1998 from south Down and again probably just two birds were recorded at Strangford Lough 2000-2011. Our totals reflect this thinking but it is just guesswork at best.



1978

Two: Strangford Lough, County Down, 10th to 18th November, with one remaining to 30th December (Tom Ennis, Dennis Weir *et al.*). *Irish Birds* 1986.

1979

Two: Strangford Lough, County Down. One adult, 20th October with two adults on 17th November (Anthony McGeehan, Dennis Weir *et al.*). *Irish Birds* 1986.

1980

Two: Greyabbey, Strangford Lough, County Down, 25th October to 2nd November (Willie Laird, Anthony McGeehan). *Irish Birds* 1986.

This record in the Northern Ireland Bird Report 1980, states date as 25th October only. *NIBRC* 1982.

One: Faughanvale, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 16th October to 2nd November (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). *NIBRC* 1982.

This record in *Irish Birds* 1986, states dates as 16th to 19th October only.

1981

Two: Adults. Strangford Lough, County Down, 25th October, through November, gone by December (Willie Laird, Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). *NIBRC* 1982.

1982

One: Strangford Lough, County Down. An adult was observed on 15th September and 14th November (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBRC* 1987.

One: Adult. Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 6th October to 14th November (Dave Allen). *NIBRC* 1987.

1983

One: Strangford Lough, County Down. An adult 2as recorded on 9th January and 24th September (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBRC* 1987

One: Adult. Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 9th to 14th October (Dave Allen *et al.*). *NIBRC* 1987.

1984

One: Carlingford Lough, County Down, 4th to 10 November (David Knight). *Irish Birds* 1986. This record not published by NIBRC / NIBA.

1985

Two: Carlingford Lough, County Down, 1st to 6th January, one remaining to 12th January (David Knight). *Irish Birds* 1986. This record not published by NIBRC / NIBA.

Two: Greyabbey, Strangford Lough, County Down. One adult 22nd September with two adults observed 3rd to 9th November (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). *Irish Birds* 1986.

1986

One: Carlingford Lough, County Down. A bird was recorded on 11th January and 28th December (David Knight). *McGeehan* 1992. This record not published by NIBA / NIBARC.

One: Adult. Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 3rd to 24th October. *NIBA* 1992.

1987

Two: Adults. Castle Espie WWT, Strangford Lough, Comber, County Down, 21st September. *NIBA* 1992.

One: Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 25th October. *NIBA* 1992.

1988

One: Dundrum Bay / Killough Harbour area, County Down, 1st January to 10th April. *NIBA* 1992.

One: Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 25th October. *NIBA* 1992.

1989

One: Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 3rd to 8th October. *NIBA* 1992.

1990

One: Adult. Dundrum Bay and Killough Harbour, County Down, 15th March to 15th April. *NIBA* 1992.

One Adult. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 30th September. *NIBA* 1992.

One: Dundrum, Newcastle, County Down, 18th December. *McGeehan* 1992.

1991

One: Adult. Newcastle and Minerstown, County Down, 24th February to 4th March. *NIBA* 1993.

One: Adult. Faughanvale, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 25th October. *NIBA* 1993.

One: Newcastle, County Down, 30th December into 1992. *NIBA* 1993.

1992

One: Adult. Newcastle, County Down, from 1991 remained to early April. *NIBA* 1993.

One: Killough, County Down, 11th to 19th April. *NIBA* 1993.

One: Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 7th to 28th October. *NIBA* 1993.

1993

One: Adult was at Newcastle, County Down between 20th February and 22nd April (K. O'Kane Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). *NIBA* 1994.

One: Killough, County Down, 14th March and 11th April (*NIBA* 1994).

1994

One: Adult. Killough, County Down, 7th March to 5th April (Matthew Tickner *et al.*). *NIBA* 1996.

One: Tyrella Beach, Tyrella, Downpatrick, Down, 4th to 9th April 1994 (K. O'Kane *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 26th October (Dave Allen). *NIBA* 1996.

1995

One: Killough Harbour, Killough, County Down, 8th April (Matthew Tickner). *NIBA* 1997.

One: Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 8th September (Davy Hunter). *NIBA* 1997.

One: Faughanvale, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 18th December (Dave Allen, Matthew Tickner). *NIBA* 1997.

1996

One: Killough Harbour, Killough, County Down, 20th April (Anthony McGeehan).

NIBA 1998.

One: Adult. Lough Foyle, was seen at Faughanvale, Carrickhue and Ballykelly from 7th October to 15th November (Dave Allen). *NIBA* 1998.

1997

One: Adult. Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 27th November (Matthew Tickner). *NIBA* 1999.

One: Greyabbey Bay, Greyabbey, Strangford Lough, Down, 30th November (Willie McDowell, Dennis Weir *et al.*) *Charles and Crory* 2019.

1998

One: Minerstown, Down, 8th to 14th April (Jack Malins *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Greyabbey Bay, Strangford Lough, Greyabbey, County Down, 21st October (Martin Garner). *NIBA* 2000.

1999

One: Roe Estuary, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 23rd March. *NIBA* 2001.

One: Adult. Carrickhue, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 23rd September - 19th October. It was also observed at Longfield Point, Lough Foyle, Eglington, County Londonderry on 10th November only (Matthew Tickner, Dave Allen David Steele). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

2000

One: Maltings, Strangford Lough, County Down, 28th October to 5th November (Anthony McGeehan, Eric Randall, Walter Veale *et al.*). *NIBA* 2002.

2001

One: Gasworks, Strangford Lough, Mountstewart Road, Greyabbey, County Down, 2nd January (Derek Polley). *NIBA* 2003.

One: Newtownards Sailing Club, Newtownards, Strangford Lough, County Down, 9th October (Joe Lamont). *NIBA* 2003.

One: Carrickhugh, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 16th October (Matthew Tickner). *NIBA* 2003.

One: Castle Espie WWT, Comber, Strangford Lough, County Down, 4th November (George Gordon *et al.*). *NIBA* 2003.

One: Floodgates, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, County Down, 9th December (Willie McDowell *et al.*). *NIBA* 2003.

2002

One: Second-year. Kinnegar, Belfast Lough, County Down, 21st August (Derek Polley, Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 2004.

One: Faughanvale, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 26th October (Matthew Tickner). *NIBA* 2004.

One: North end Strangford Lough, County Down, 10th to 17th November (Joe Lamont *et al.*). *NIBA* 2004.

2003

One: Myroe, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 11th October (Matthew Tickner). *Milne & McAdams* 2008a.

One: Adult. Maltings, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, County Down. One recorded on 16th October and 2nd November (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 2006.

2004

One: Dundrum Inner Bay, Newcastle, Down, 4th April (Anthony McGeehan). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Strangford Lough, 16th October. *Milne & McAdams* 2008a. This is published in error and relates to the 2003 individual. We do not include in our totals.

2005

Two: Adults. Tide Bank, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, County Down, 30th September (S. Bairhall). *Milne & McAdams* 2009.

One: Greyabbey Bay, Strangford Lough, Greyabbey, County Down, 24th October (S. Bairhall). *Milne & McAdams* 2009.

One: Faughanvale, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 4th November (Matthew Tickner). *Milne & McAdams* 2009.

2006

One: Strangford Lough, County Down, 16th October to 28th December (Graham McIlwaine *et al.*). *Milne & McAdams* 2009.

One: Carrickhugh, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 27th November (Graham McIlwaine). *Milne & McAdams* 2009.

2007

One: Killyleagh Harbour, Killyleagh, County Down, 26th March (Graham McIlwaine, David Nixon). *Milne & McAdams* 2009.

One: Myra Castle, Strangford, County Down, 10th April (Graham McIlwaine, David Nixon). *Milne & McAdams* 2009.

One: Floodgates, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, County Down, 21st October to 4th November (Derek Charles *et al.*). *Milne & McAdams* 2009.

2008

One: Dundrum Inner Bay North, Newcastle, County Down, 20th January (Dave Allen, Clive Mellon). *Fahy* 2010.

One: Millisle, County Down, 6th to 23rd February (Derek Charles, David Nixon, George Gordon, Keith Bennett, Joe Lamont *et al.*). *Fahy* 2010.

One: Belfast Lough, Counties Antrim / Down, 3rd April to 2nd May (Derek Charles, Cameron Moore *et al.*). *Fahy* 2010. Observed at Whiteabbey and Kinnegar.

One: Floodgates, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, County Down, 5th October (Derek Charles). *Fahy 2010*.

2009

Down

One: Adult. Maltings, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, 10th October, photographed (Derek Charles). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

2010

Two: Adults. Floodgates / Ballyreagh, Newtownards, Strangford Lough, County Down: one adult 23rd October, two observed on 28th October only with one remaining to 31st October (Derek Charles, Walter Veale, Dennis Weir *et al.*). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

2011

One: Adult. Floodgates, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, County Down, 30th September (Derek Charles). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

2012

One: Adult. Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 27th September (Theo Campbell, Christine Cassidy *et al.*). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

2013

One: Kinnegar Shore, Belfast Lough, Holywood, County Down, 5th - 7th October (Stuart McKee *et al.*). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

2016

One: Greyabbey, Strangford Lough, County Down, 29th October (Stuart McKee). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

2018

One: North end of Strangford Lough, Newtownards, County Down, 23rd September (Anthony McGeehan). *Charles and Crory 2019*.

Intergrades / unidentified:

There are three records of birds that may have been Black Brants or Black Brant hybrids; one juvenile, Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 23rd November 1994 was either Black Brant or Dark Bellied Brent. *NIBA 1996*, two, Dundrum Bay, Newcastle, County Down, 12th March 1995. Were considered intergrades between *nigricans* and *hrota*. *NIBA 1997* and a second-year Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* x Dark Bellied Brent *Branta bernicla* hybrid. Kinnegar, Belfast Lough, Holywood, County Down, 21st August 2002 (Derek Polly, Anthony McGeehan). *Charles and Crory 2019*.



Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*,
Millisle, County Down, 8th February 2008. Photo courtesy of Derek Charles.



Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*, Kinnegar Shore, Belfast Lough, Holywood, County Down, 5th October
2013. Photo courtesy of Stephen Maxwell. (Stuart McKee *et al.*).