

## **Dark-bellied Brent Goose** *Branta bernica bernicla* (2, 22, 94). **RV**

(Breeds Arctic coasts of central and western Siberia, winters in southern England, northern Germany and northern France).

### **Published records:**

#### **1938/1939**

One: Shot. Strangford Lough, County Down, during the winter 1938-39 and sent to Peter Scott for identification. *Kennedy, Ruttledge & Scroope* 1954.

#### **1916**

One: Shot. Ballyholme Bay, Bangor, County Down, 24th November. *Deane* 1954.

#### **1954**

One: Strangford Lough, County Down, 21st November (C.D. Scotland, D. Wolsey). *Ruttledge* 1955.

#### **1985**

Two: Adults. Greyabbey, Strangford Lough, County Down, 8th to 9th November (Anthony McGeehan). *Irish Birds* 1986.

#### **1992**

Two: Killough, County Down, 5th to 9th April. *NIBA* 1993.

One: Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 16th October (Theo Campbell). *NIBA* 1993.

#### **1993**

Four: Adults. Killough, County Down, 14th March, with three to 14th April (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). *NIBA* 1994.

Two: Adults. Castle Espie WWT, Strangford Lough, Comber, County Down, 30th October (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 1994.

#### **1994**

One: Adult. Killough, County Down, 29th March to 17th April (Matthew Tickner, Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). *NIBA* 1996.

#### **1995**

One: Killough Harbour, Killough, County Down, 25th March to 16th April (Dennis Doherty *et al.*). *NIBA* 1997.

One: Belfast Harbour Estate / Kinnegar Pools, County Down, 1st October (Matthew Tickner *et al.*). *NIBA* 1997.

#### **1997**

One: Cloughey Rocks, Cloughey, Strangford Lough, County Down, 16th March (Drew Brown *et al.*). *NIBA* 1999.

One: Tully Hill Bay, Strangford, Strangford Lough, County Down, 11th April (Geoff Campbell). *NIBA* 1999.

One: Tyrella Beach, Tyrella, Downpatrick, County Down, 22nd April (Mathew Tickner). *NIBA* 1999.

#### **1998**

One: Adult. Killough Harbour, Killough, County Down, 26th January to 19th April (Anthony McGeehan, George Gordon). *NIBA* 2000.

One: Portaferry, County Down, 21st March (Martin Garner). *NIBA* 2000.

One: Floodgates, Newtownards, Strangford Lough, County Down, 22nd November (Eric Randall, Walter Veale). *NIBA* 2000.

One: Greyabbey Bay, Strangford Lough, Greyabbey, County Down, 26th November (Martin Garner). *NIBA* 2000.

#### **1999**

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

One: Floodgates, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, County Down, 18th September to 31st October (Anthony McGeehan, Gerard McGeehan *et al.*). *NIBA* 2001.

#### **2000**

Two: Groomsport, County Down, 30th January (Wilton Farrelly). *NIBA* 2002.

One: Killough Harbour, Killough, County Down, 22nd April (Chris Murphy). *NIBA* 2002.

**2001**

One: Longfield, Eglington, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 15th February (Matthew Tickner). *NIBA* 2003.  
Two: Adults. Newcastle Beach, Newcastle, County Down, 19th February (Martin Garner). *NIBA* 2003.  
One: Adult. Ballywalter, County Down, 14th March (George Gordon, Jim Whitla). *NIBA* 2003.  
One: Killough, County Down, 21st April (Martin Garner). *NIBA* 2003.

**2002**

Two adults at Ballykelly on 13th October and probably same seen at Faughanvale on 2nd November, where they remained to 22nd November (Davy Hunter *et al.*). *NIBA* 2003.  
One: Brent Hide, Castle Espie WWT, Strangford Lough, Comber, County Down, 18th November (Wilton Farrelly). *NIBA* 2003.  
One: Killough Harbour, Killough, County Down, 24th March (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 2004.  
One: Tide Bank, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, County Down, 29th September (Dot Blakely). *NIBA* 2004.  
One: Roe Estuary, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 3rd October (Davy Hunter). *NIBA* 2004.  
One: Greyabbey, Strangford Lough, County Down, 20th October (Anthony McGeehan, Ken Douglas). *NIBA* 2004.  
One: Tide Bank, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, County Down, 21st October (Ivan Quail). *NIBA* 2004.

**2003**

One: Carrickhugh, Faughanvale, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 19th September (David Steele). *NIBA* 2006.  
One: Maltings, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, County Down, 16th November (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 2006.

**2004**

One: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 13th to 23rd April (Stuart McKee *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006.  
One: Dargan Bay, Belfast, County Antrim, 8th May (Michael Ruddock). *NIBA* 2006.  
Two: Carrickhugh, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 9th October. *NIBA* 2006.  
One: Maltings, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, County Down, 17th to 21st October. *NIBA* 2006.  
One: Runkerry Point, Portballintrae, County Antrim, 24th October. *NIBA* 2006.

**2005**

One: Enniskillen Castle, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, 13th to 15th March (Brad Robson *et al.*). *NIBA* 2008a.

## Unpublished records:

**1986**

### **Londonderry**

One: Adult. Lough Foyle, 3rd to 24th October (Dave Allen, Martin Gray).

**1994**

### **Londonderry**

One: Juvenile. Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, 23rd November (Matthew Tickner).

**2000**

### **Antrim**

One: Whitehead, 26th September (Ian Enlander).

**2006**

### **Down**

Two: Dundrum Inner Bay South, Dundrum, Newcastle. One bird on 21st April, with two observed from 22nd to 23rd April (Stephen Foster).

Two: Killough Harbour, Killough. Two observed from 27th April to 6th May, with one adult remaining to 21st May (Chris Murphy).

One: Castle Espie WWT, Comber, Strangford Lough, 6th November (K. Hamilton).

Two: The Maltings, Newtownards, Strangford Lough, 12th November (Wilton Farrelly).

One: Gasworks Bay, Greyabbey, Strangford Lough, 12th November (Wilton Farrelly).

**2007**

### **Down**

One: Lagnagoppope, Kilclief, Strangford, 16th April (Graham McIlwaine).

Two: Killough Harbour, Killough. Two on 20th to 26th April, with one remaining to 1st May (Graham McIlwaine).

One: Newcastle Beach, Newcastle, 28th to 29th April (Graham McIlwaine).

### **Londonderry**

Two: Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, 18th February (Dermot Breen).

**2008**

### **Down**

One: Portavogie, Outer Ards Peninsula, 29th March (Richard Weyl).

One: Mill Quarter Bay, Strangford, 30th April (Graham McIlwaine).

One: Dundrum Inner Bay South, Dundrum, 7th May (David Nixon).

One: Kearney Point, Outer Ards Peninsula, 8th May (Ian Mitchell).

One: Copeland Islands. Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, 9th May with the same individual, Mew Island, 10th to 18th May (Neville McKee).

One: Tide Bank, Newtownards, Strangford Lough, 26th August (Graham McIlwaine).

Two: Castle Espie WWT, Comber, Strangford Lough, 16th September (Graham McIlwaine).

**2009**

### **Down**

One: Dundrum Inner Bay North, Newcastle, 15th March (Frank Carroll).

One: Adult. Cloughey Beach, Cloughey, Outer Ards Peninsula, 4th April (Derek Charles).

Two: Newcastle Beach, Newcastle, 11th May (Flightline).

**2010**

### **Down**

Six: Four adults and two juveniles. Killough Harbour, Killough, 3rd to 7th May (Derek Charles *et al.*).

One: Dundrum Inner Bay South, Dundrum, Newcastle, 8th May (Flightline).

Two: The Floodgates / Ballyreagh, Newtownards, Strangford Lough, 23rd October, with one remaining to 31st October (Derek Charles, Dennis Weir, Walter Veale *et al.*).

Two: Finlay Road Bay, Strangford Lough, 4th November (Graham McIlwaine).

One: The Gasworks, Greyabbey, Strangford Lough, 14th November (Keith Bennett).

### **Londonderry**

Three: Roe Estuary, Lough Foyle, 16th February (Neal Warnock).

One: Adult. Longfield Point, Eglington, Lough Foyle, 19th September (Derek Charles).

## 2011

### Antrim

One: Larne Lough, 6th February to 2nd April (Neal Warnock *et al.*).

### Down

Two: Floodgates / Maltings, Strangford Lough, Newtownards. One adult observed, 22nd September to 12th October, with two adults present on 2nd October only (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan, Keith Bennett *et al.*).

One: Adult. Greyabbey, Strangford Lough, 8th October to 20th November (Derek Charles *et al.*).

## 2012

### Antrim

One: Larne Lough, 11th January to 13th February (Cameron Moore *et al.*).

One: Juvenile. Derryclone, Bartins Bay, Lough Neagh, 13th January (David Nixon).

### Down

One: Ganaway Bay, Ballywalter, Outer Ards Peninsula, 12th May (Richard Weyl).

One: Cloughey Beach, Cloughey, Outer Ards Peninsula, 13th May (Keith Bennett).

### Londonderry

Two: Adults. Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle. Singles observed on 18th February and 18th December (Derek Charles, Walter Veale, Majella Callaghan).

One: Adult. Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, 27th September (Theo Campbell, Christine Cassidy).

One: Adult. Balls Point, Lough Foyle, Bellarena, 29th September (Derek Charles, Walter Veale, Majella Callaghan).

## 2013

### Antrim

Two: Glynn, Larne Lough, 27th April (Neal Warnock).

### Down

Two: Adults. Killard NNR, Strangford, 11th May (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan, Walter Veale).

One: Adult. Dundrum Inner Bay South, Newcastle, 1st to 3rd December (Derek Charles *et al.*).

### Londonderry

One: Adult. Roe Estuary, Lough Foyle, 6th October (Derek Charles *et al.*).

One: Adult. Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 29th December (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan).

## 2014

### Down

One: Adult. Dundrum Inner Bay North, Dundrum, Newcastle, 21st February (Andrew Crory).

One: Adult. Killough, 6th April (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan, Walter Veale).

One: Adult. Greyabbey, Strangford Lough, 20th September to 18th October (Derek Charles, Dave Allen *et al.*).

One: Adult. Mill Bay, Carlingford Lough, 1st November (David McIlwaine).

## 2015

### Antrim

One: Loughshore Park, Newtownabbey, 26th April (Stuart McKee).

### Down

One: First-winter. Tyrella Beach, Tyrella, Downpatrick, 8th April (Chris Murphy).

Two: One adult and one juvenile. Killough Harbour, Killough, 10th to 13th April, the juvenile remained to 16th April (Chris Murphy).

One: Cloughey, Outer Ards Peninsula, 19th April (Philip West).

One: Adult. Mill Quarter Bay, Strangford, 22nd April (David Nixon).

Two: One adult and one juvenile. Dundrum Inner Bay South, Newcastle, 23rd to 24th April (David Nixon *et al.*).

One: Adult. Kinnegar Shore, Belfast Lough, Holywood, 26th April (Stuart McKee).

One: Adult. Floodgates, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, 19th September to 7th October (Derek Charles, Walter Veale *et al.*).

One: Adult. Castle Espie WWT, Strangford Lough, Comber, 6th November (Derek Charles, Walter Veale *et al.*).

### Londonderry

One: Adult. Ballykelly / Balls Point / Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 25th September to 10th November (Theo Campbell, Ronald Surgenor, Ian Dickey).

## 2016

### Down

One: Dundrum Inner Bay North, Dundrum, Newcastle, 23rd to 26th April (David Nixon).

Two: Greyabbey, Strangford Lough, 29th October (Stuart McKee).

### **Londonderry**

One: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle. Singles observed on 7th March and presumed same, 30th December (Ivor McDonald, Neal Warnock).

**2017**

### **Antrim**

One: Rathlin Island, 26th April (Ric Else).

One: Juvenile. Dargan Bay, Belfast Lough, Belfast, Antrim, 30th April, photographed (Derek Charles).

Two: Larne Lough. Singles recorded at Glynn on 28th May and at Drains Bay on 16th October (Ian Graham, Neal Warnock).

### **Down**

One: Juvenile. Killough Harbour, Killough, 17th to 29th April (Chris Murphy *et al.*).

Three: Kinnegar Shore, Belfast Lough, Holywood, 30th April to 15th May, with two remaining from the 16th to 22nd May, photographed (Derek Charles, Daniel Newtown *et al.*).

Three: Dundrum Inner Bay South, Newcastle. One adult and one juvenile 2nd May, one juvenile observed on 5th May, three were present on 6th May, with one adult remaining to 26th May (David Nixon *et al.*).

One: Adult. Mill Quarter Bay, Strangford Lough, 3rd May (David Nixon).

Two: The Maltings, Newtownards, Strangford Lough, 5th November (Walter Veale, Christopher Veale *et al.*).

### **Londonderry**

Three: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle. Two adults observed on 19th May, with one bird recorded on 16th September (Richard Smith, Theo Campbell *et al.*).

**2018**

### **Down**

One: Adult. Dundrum Inner Bay South, Newcastle, 19th to 30th April (David Nixon).

One: North end, Strangford Lough, 30th September to 10th November (Richard Weyl *et al.*).

### **Londonderry**

One: Adult. Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, 20th September to 26th October (Theo Campbell, Richard Smith, Steve McQueen, Derek Charles *et al.*).

One: Adult. Balls Point, Lough Foyle, Bellarena, 23rd September to 4th November (Theo Campbell, Richard Smith, Derek Charles *et al.*). Different individual to above at Ballykelly.

One: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 28th September (Neal Warnock). Same as Balls Point bird.



Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*,  
Strangford Lough, County Down, 2010. Photo courtesy of Derek Charles.



Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*,  
Killough, County Down, 3rd May 2010. Photo courtesy of Derek Charles.



Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*,  
Balla Point County Londonderry, 2012. Photo courtesy of Derek Charles.



Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Killard, County Down, 2013. Photo courtesy of Derek Charles.



Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Myroe Levels, County Londonderry, 2015. Photo courtesy of Ronald Surgenor.



Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*,  
Mill Bay, County Down, 2017. Photo courtesy of David Nixon.



Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*,  
Kinnegar, County Down, 2017. Photo courtesy of Derek Charles





Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*,  
Kinnegar, County Down, 2017. Photo courtesy of Ronald Surgenor.



Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*,  
Kinnegar, County Down, 2017. Photo courtesy of Ronald Surgenor.



Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*,  
Dundrum, County Down, 2018. Photo courtesy of David Nixon.