

## Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis fabalis* (0, 1, 4).

(Breeds from western Siberia to Scandinavia. Winters in western Europe with small numbers at sites in Scotland and eastern England).

Historically Bean Goose *A. fabalis* was comprised of five subspecies that were divided in two distinct groups, i.e. three in the mainly orange-billed taiga breeding forms with the remaining two in the darker-billed tundra breeding forms. The absence of recorded interbreeding between these groups led many to suspect both were better treated as full polytypic species. Therefore it was not a great surprise when in 2008 the IOC followed an initiative by the AOU to recognise both as full species, i.e. Taiga Bean Goose *A. fabalis* and Tundra Bean Goose *A. serrirostris*.

### 1997

One: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 22nd October (Dave Allen, Matthew Tickner). *NIBA* 1997.

### 2003

One: Tunny Cut, Lough Neagh and environs, County Antrim/ Armagh on 23rd January – 21st March (Walter Veale, Ted Rolston *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006.

After the initial sighting at Tunny Cut, County Antrim, 23rd January it wasn't observed again until it was found again at Diamond Lane, Aghagallon, County Antrim, 2nd - 3rd February (Dennis Weir, Willie McDowell *et al.*), it was then recorded at Lady Bay, Lough Neagh, Aghagallon, County Antrim, 4th - 10th February (Laurence Morgan *et al.*), Lennymore Bay, Lough Neagh, Crumlin, County Antrim on 5th February (Oscar Campbell, Dennis Doherty), Ardmore Point, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, County Armagh, 11th February - 21st March (Joe Devlin, Clifford Sharpe *et al.*) and finally at both Shelshin Drain, Portmore, County Antrim and Tunny Cut on 15th February (Dave Allen, Clive Mellon *et al.*).

### 2005

Two: Mounthorris, County Armagh, 26th November to the end of the year (Joe Devlin *et al.*). *NIBA* 2008a. *Milne & McAdams* 2008, in the Irish Bird Report states that both birds stayed to 18th December. This is incorrect.

### 2006

One: Mounthorris, County Armagh, from 2005 stayed to 19th February (Joe Devlin *et al.*). *NIBA* 2008a.

Three: Copeland Islands, County Down, 21st - 22nd October (Peter Munro, Peter McCarron *et al.*). *NIBA* 2008a. *Milne & McAdams* 2009. The Irish Bird Report has the dates as 22nd to 23rd October

It is unclear if the three birds from the Copeland Islands are accepted by NIBRC although they appeared in their Bird Report *NIBA* 2008a, and the Irish Bird Report *Milne & McAdams* 2009. We do not include them in our totals.

### 2009

One: Flatfields, Moira, County Antrim, 2nd - 4th February (Clive Mellon *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: South Shore, Lough Neagh, Lurgan, County Armagh, 8th - 22nd February (Garry Armstrong, Ed O'Hara, Mark Killops *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

It was first recorded at Reedy Flats, Derrytrasna, on 8th February, then observed at Closet Meadows, Oxford Island NNR, Lurgan 14th February and finally at Ardmore, Derrytrasna from 15th - 22nd February.

The same individual was involved in all of the above 2009 sightings.



Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis fabalis* Mountnorris, County Armagh, 28th November 2006. Photo courtesy of Derek Charles.

**Tundra Bean Goose** *Anser serrirostris rossicus* (0, 0, 6).  
(Breeds in the Russian tundra and winters at coastal locations in Europe).

**2004**

Two: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 5th January to 8th February (John Coveney *et al.*). *NIBA 2006. Note change of observer from NIBA 2006.*

These individuals were also observed at Brighter Road, Ballykelly on 12th January (Matthew Tickner, Anthony McGeehan), Carrowclare Road from 18th - 25th January (Charles Stewart *et al.*) and Ballyhenry on 23rd January (Raymond Murray).

**2011**

**Antrim**

Three: Adults. Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve / Diamond Lane, Aghagallon, 18th - 23rd December with two remaining into 2012 photographed (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan *et al.*). *Charles and Croy 2019.*

**Armagh**

Three: Adults. Kinnego Meadows, Oxford Island NNR, Lurgan, 18th December, photographed (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan).

These birds quickly relocated the same day to Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, County Antrim, see above. *Charles and Croy 2019.*

**2012**

**Antrim**

Two: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon from 2011 remained to 2nd January, photographed (Mark Killops). *Charles and Croy 2019.*

**Armagh**

One: Armagh Shore, Lough Neagh, 18th February - 18th March (Ed O'Hara *et al.*). This individual was observed at Reedy Flats, Oxford Island NNR, Ardmore and Corkey Point. *Charles and Croy 2019.*



Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 5th January 2004. Photo courtesy of John Coveney.



Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris rossicus* with Greylag Geese *anser anser* Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon, Antrim, 18th December 2011. Photo courtesy of Derek Charles.

## Indeterminate Bean Goose *A.f. fabalis* / *A.s. rossicus* (2, 18, 0).

### Birds that could not be specifically identified as either Taiga or Tundra Bean Goose:

#### 1908

One: Shot. Near Downpatrick, County Down, 11th February. The specimen was mounted by Sheals. *Deane* 1954.

#### 1932

One: On a farm in Dundonald, County Down, "April" (Lance Turtle). It was reported to be very confiding. *Deane* 1954. We do not include in our totals.

#### 1956

Two: One of which were shot. Tynan Abbey, Tynan, Caledon, County Armagh, 4th January (C.D. Deane). The specimen was sent to the Ulster Museum *IBR* 4: 8.

One: At the northern end of Strangford Lough, County Down, 18th February (W. Granleese). *IBR* 4: 8.

#### 1972

One: Shot. Kinnegar, Belfast, County Down, 21st January. Specimen in Ulster Museum. *Charles and Crory* 2019.

#### 1974

One: Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 30th December (J.R. Sheppard). *IBR* 23: 10.

#### 1982

Thirteen: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 2nd to 12th April (Dave Allen, Bill Laird *et al.*). The observers considered the flock was made up of eleven Taiga and two Tundra Bean Goose. *Irish Birds* 2: 381. **R**

One: Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 13th April (Colin N. Davidson, Richard Hoy, Davy Hunter). *Irish Birds* 4: 615.

#### 1991

One: Castle Caldwell RSPB Reserve, Leggs, County Fermanagh, "March" (Joe Magee). *Charles and Crory* 2019.