

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis fabalis* (0, 1, 3). **RV**

(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, Aghagallon, County Antrim, 23rd January and was seen at various localities along the south shore of Lough Neagh until 21st March (Walter Veale, Ted Rolston *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006.

2005

Two: Mountnorris, 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: Mountnorris, 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.



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, 2). **RV**

(Breeds in the Russian tundra and winters at coastal locations in Europe).

Published record:

2004

Two: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 5th January to 8th February (David Steele *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006.

Indeterminate Bean Goose *A.f. fabalis* / *A.s. rossicus* (1, 17, 0). **RV**

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.

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.