

Continental Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* (0, 1, 0).

(Atlantic waters and nearby inland waters. On Western European coasts and south to North Africa, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland).

1985

One: Ringed. Lough Neagh, County Tyrone, 25th October. 2011 Irish Rare Bird Report, *Irish Birds* 9(3): 455. This bird had been ringed in Denmark.

Below are other published records of Continental Cormorant. Due to difficulty identifying this sub-species without rings we do not include these in our totals. A complete review of all previous records should be undertaken as well as a set of criteria for acceptance of future claims of *sinensis*. A review may find some or all of these records acceptable.

1956

One: "Showing characteristics of". Reported off County Down, 6th March (C.D. Deane, J. Kirk). *Ruttledge* 1957. **R**

One: "Showing characteristics of". Kinnegar, Holywood, County Down, 20th March (A.R. Thompson). *Ruttledge* 1957. **R**

Ruttledge stated in the 1958 Irish Bird Report that the subspecies *sinensis* and *carbo* were not separable in the field, which would appear to indicate that both earlier records could not be definitely assigned to the Continental form and must remain in the records as "showing characteristic of".

1985

One: Ringed. Lough Neagh, County Tyrone, 25th October. 2011 Irish Rare Bird Report, *Irish Birds* 9(3): 455. This bird had been ringed in Denmark.

1999

Up to three: Upper Lake, Seaforde Estate, Seaforde, County Down. Two observed on 10th November, with three [adult, sub-adult and juvenile] recorded from 11th to 20th November (Martin Garner). *NIBA* 2002.

Up to five: Hillsborough Park Lake, Hillsborough, County Down. Two, one adult and one sub-adult, 27th November with five [two juveniles, the other three not aged] on 4th December (Martin Garner). *NIBA* 2002.

2000

One: Belfast Waterworks, Antrim Road, Belfast, County Antrim, 8th January (Martin Garner *et al.*). *NIBA* 2002.
Six: Two adults and four immatures. Hillsborough Park Lake, Hillsborough, County Down, 6th January (Martin Garner). *NIBA* 2002.

Two: One juvenile and one sub adult. Upper Lake, Seaforde Estate, Seaforde, County Down, 15th November (Martin Garner). *NIBA* 2002.



Identification uncertain but possibly Continental Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* Strangford Lough, summer 2014. Photo courtesy of Dave Suddaby.

Dave Suddaby took this photo off his television screen. It shows (far right) a presumed Continental Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* filmed at a breeding colony in Strangford Lough in summer 2014. This further highlights the difficulty accessing claims of *sinensis*.