

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris* (? 11, 4).

(Breeds temperate parts of Europe and Asia from the British Isles, Sweden and Finland eastwards to Sakhalin Island in eastern Siberia and Hokkaido Island in Japan. Small populations in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia).

**1924**

One: Found injured. Ballybuttle, Millisle, County Down, 19th February. *Deane* 1938.

**1933**

One: Dead. Near Magherafelt, County Londonderry, 19th October. *Stendall* 1934.

**1936**

One: Shot. Near Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, 14th March. *Burkitt* 1936.

**1937**

One: Found dying. Scoutbush Road, Greenisland, County Antrim, 6th January. *Workman* 1937.

**1945**

One: Dead. Ballymacully Bog, Killylea, County Armagh, 13th January. *Patterson* 1945.

**1947**

One: Male. Dead. Charlemont, County Armagh, 4th January. *Stendall* 1947.

One: Female. Portmore Lough, Aghagallon, County Antrim, 17th February. *Stendall* 1947.

**1953**

Two: Killough, County Down, 23rd July (M. Nelson). *Ruttledge* 1954.

**1975**

One: Shot. Trory Bay, Lough Erne, County Fermanagh, about the 28th of December (Joe Magee). *NIBRC* 1987

**1976**

One: Heard booming. Trory Bay, Lough Erne, County Fermanagh, 12th and 15th April (Joe Magee). *NIBRC* 1987.

**1979**

One: Shot. Portmore Lough, Aghagallon, County Antrim, "January" (Marshall McKee). *NIBRC* 139/1979.

**1982**

One: Shot. Gawley's Gate, County Antrim, 2nd January. *NIBRC* 1987.

This specimen is in the Ulster Museum.

One: Portmore Lough, Aghagallon, County Antrim, 16th February (H. McBride). *NIBRC* 1987.

**1983**

One: Shot. Ballyronan, Lough Neagh, County Londonderry, "in winter". *NIBRC* 1987.

The specimen is in the Ulster Museum.

**1989**

One: Ellis's Gut, Lough Neagh, Lurgan, County Down, 2nd September (Oscar Campbell). *NIBA* 1992.

**1994**

One: Hunshigo Lake, Ballynahinch, County Down, 18th January to 3rd March (Nigel Dunlop, David Knight *et al.*). *NIBA* 1996.

The bird was found on 18th January by local wildfowler Nigel Dunlop who reported it to Dave Allen. The next morning it was refound by David Knight and seen subsequently by many others.

**1996**

One: Reedy Flats, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, County Armagh, 26th May (Richard Gray). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

**1998**

One: The Cutts, River Bann, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 20th December (S. Archibald *et al.*). *NIBA* 2000. *NIBA* 2000 states "NIBARC considered there was a slight caveat that American Bittern had not been ruled out". However, the record was published as European Bittern and not European / American as perhaps it should have been considering that statement.

**2003**

One: Mullagh, Lough Beg NNR, County Londonderry, 21st October (David Steele). *Milne & McAdams* 2008b.

**2009**

One: Flurrybridge, Newry, County Armagh, 8th January (James Robinson, Alan Lauder *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

**2010**

One: Ballykine Lough, Ballynahinch, County Down, 17th December (Andrew Bingham). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

**2011**

One: Found dead. Lough Beg NNR, County Londonderry, 28th January, photographed (Phillip McGrath). *Charles and Crory* 2019.