

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (? , 11 , 1). **RV**

(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).

Published records since 1924:

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.

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.