

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* (3, 6, 10).

(Breeds northeast Africa, much of Europe and Asia across to Japan).

**Published records:**

**Not known:**

One: Shot. Ballydrain Lake, near Belfast, County Antrim, a few years prior to 1808. *Thompson* 1850.

**1936**

One: Killough, County Down, 24th May. *Workman* 1936.

**1937**

One: Lough Beg NNR, County Londonderry, 28th and or the 29th of October. *Deane* 1954.

**1975**

Two: Lough Beg NNR, County Londonderry, 25th May - 4th June (Tom Ennis *et al.*). *Preston* 1976.

**1996**

One: Adult. Lough Beg NNR, County Londonderry, 7th - 9th June (David Steele). *Milne & O'Sullivan* 1998.

**1998**

Two: Strand Lough, Killough, County Down; one sub-adult, 10th - 12th May (M. Stevenson *et al.*) with a juvenile 12th - 14th October (Dave Allen, M. Stevenson *et al.*). *NIBA* 2000.

One: Juvenile. Seagahan Dam, Tassagh, Keady, County Armagh, 12th - 16th October (Joe Devlin, Clifford Sharpe *et al.*). *NIBA* 2000.

One: Juvenile. Ballycarry, Larne, County Antrim, 15th - 17th October (Davy Hunter *et al.*) and 17th to 23rd November (Cameron Moore *et al.*). *NIBA* 2000.

One: Juvenile. Swan Island, Larne Lough, Larne, County Antrim, 18th - 19th October (Ian Enlander *et al.*). *NIBA* 2000.

One: Juvenile. Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, County Down, 25th - 30th October (Anthony McGeehan, Ed. O'Hara *et al.*). *NIBA* 2000.

**1999**

One: Adult. Swan Island, Larne Lough, Larne, County Antrim; 2nd - 4th September (G. Hirons *et al.*) and 31st October (Jeff Larkin). *NIBA* 2001.

One: Adult. Ballycarry Bridge, Larne Lough, Larne, County Antrim; 9th - 10th September (Cameron Moore, Dennis Doherty *et al.*) and adult 6th November (Ivan Quail). *NIBA* 2001.

**2001**

One: Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 14th May (Geoff Campbell). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, County Down, 27th June - 3rd July (Ian Jackson *et al.*). *NIBA* 2004.

**2004**

One: Adult. Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, County Down, 25th - 27th May (P. Hillis *et al.*). *Milne & McAdams* 2008a.

**2007**

One: Dundrum Inner Bay South, Newcastle, County Down, 6th - 10th June (Andrew Crory, R. Long, Craig Nash, D. Blakely *et al.*). *Milne & McAdams* 2009.

One: Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, County Down, 5th - 18th July (Andrew Crory, R. Long, Craig Nash, D. Blakely *et al.*). *Milne & McAdams* 2009.

One: Castle Espie, Comber, County Down, 12th - 13th July (Andrew Crory, R. Long, Craig Nash, D. Blakely *et al.*). *Milne & McAdams* 2009.

**2010**

One: Adult. Lough Beg NNR, County Londonderry, 5th - 27th June (David Steele *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Flew north, 11.45am Blackers Rock, Lough Neagh, Ardboe, County Tyrone, 5th June, same as Londonderry (Irishbirding). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, County Down, 14th - 15th August, photographed (Dan Bailie *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2013

One: Juvenile. "North end of Strangford Lough", County Down, 11th November into 2014 (Billy Miskelly *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

First observed at Mount Stewart on 11th November it relocated to Castle Espie WWT, Comber from 14th November into 2014 and day tripped to the Floodgates, Newtownards on 26th December. *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2014

One: Juvenile/second-winter. "North end of Strangford Lough", County Down from 2013 remained to 4th May and again from the 10th December into 2015 (Derek Charles, Walter Veale, Majella Callaghan *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

First observed at Castle Espie WWT, Comber on 1st January it remained here on and off to 4th May. It was next observed at Islandhill, Comber on 10th January and nearby Horse Island, Kircubbin on 19th January. Its next port of call was Reagh Island, Comber on 28th April and in autumn it was first observed at the Floodgates, Newtownards on 30th August and then at Islandhill, Comber on 3rd December and then again at Castle Espie WWT, Comber from the 10th December into 2015. *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Juvenile. Dundrum, Newcastle / Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, County Down, 22nd June - 16th August, presumed same as Strangford Lough (Phil Higginson *et al.*).

First observed at Ardilea, Dundrum, Newcastle on 22nd June. It moved back and forward from here and to the Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick. It was first observed at the Quoile on 25th June and finally seen there on 16th August. *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2015

One: Second-winter/third-winter. "North end of Strangford Lough" County Down, from 2014 remained to 19th April and again from 7th October into 2016 (Dot Blakely *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

First observed at Castle Espie WWT, Comber from 2014 remained on and off at this site to 14th February, the bird day tripped to Greyabbey on 1st February and was observed at Ann's Point, Greyabbey on and off from 14th March - 20th April. It was observed at nearby Chapel Island on two days only the 18th and 19th April and it reappeared for the winter season at Islandhill, Comber on 7th October and was observed here on and off to 23rd October. It reappeared at Castle Espie on 11th October and was primarily seen here into 2016. It was observed on one day only at Chapel Island, Mount Stewart on 1st November and on and off at Ann's Point, Greyabbey from 6th - 23rd December. *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Second-winter. Castle Island Causeway, Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, County Down, 27th March, presumed same as Strangford Lough (Tony Donaldson). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2016

One: "North end of Strangford Lough", County Down, from 2015 remained to 20th March and from 8th November into 2017 (Walter Veale, Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

The bird over-wintering at Castle Espie WWT, Comber from 2015 remained here on and off to 11th March and it moved between here and Ann's Point, Greyabbey being observed here occasionally from 23rd January - 20th March. In the later part of the year it was first recorded 400 meters south east of Islandhill, Comber on 8th November then Reagh Island, Comber from 23rd - 27th November and finally at Ann's Point, Greyabbey on 27th November. It wintered unseen into 2017. *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: First-summer. Mullagh, Lough Beg NNR, County Londonderry, 24th - 28th March (David Steele *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 7th - 12th October (Brian Hegarty *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2017

One: "North end of Strangford Lough", County Down, from 2016 remained to 12th March and 11th November into 2018 (Kevin Kirkham-Brown *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

The bird over-wintering was first observed at Castle Espie WWT, Comber on 1st January and remained on and off to 12th February. It was observed on one day only at Islandhill, Comber on 5th February and also at Ann's Point, Greyabbey from 2nd - 12th March. It started off its winter sojourn at the Maltings, Newtownards on 11th November and it relocated the same day to Ann's Point, Greyabbey where it remained into 2018. *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Immature. Lady Bay, Lough Neagh, Aghagallon, County Antrim, 1st June, photographed (Nigel Moore). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2018

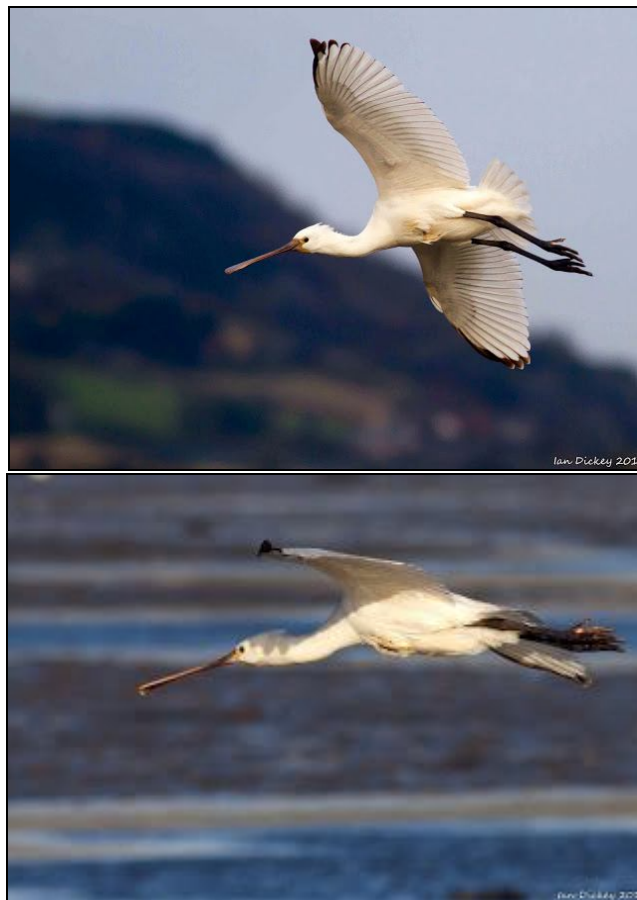
One Adult: "North end of Strangford Lough", County Down, from 2017 remained to 18th February and again from 28th December into 2019 (Richard Weyl *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

In the early part of the year it was only observed at Ann's Point, Greyabbey. In the later part of the year it was recorded at Castle Espie WWT, Comber on 28th December and at Ogillby Island on 31st December. *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2019

The long stayig Spoonbill at the north end of Strangford Lough remained at Castle Espie WWT, Comber, County Down 18th March 2019.

A juvenile was at Ardliea, Dundrum, County Down, 8th April – 7th May 2019 (Dan Bailie *et al.*) probably the same juvenile was at Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, County Down on 7th May (Stuart McKee *et al.*) and presumably the same juvenile was at the Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry on the 12th May (Derek Charles).





All photos courtesy of Ian Dickey, Castle Espie, Down, 2013.