

## **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* (? , 60, 112). **SV**

(Breeds Europe, northwestern Africa to Central Asia and northern parts of the Middle East).

### **Unpublished records:**

#### **1990**

One: Adult female. Ellis Gut, Lough Neagh, Lurgan, County Down, 11th August (Oscar Campbell).

#### **1992**

Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon, County Antrim:

One: "May" per RSPB.

One: "August" per RSPB.

#### **1994**

One: Female. Loughbrickland Lake, Loughbrickland, County Down, 18th to 19th July (per Anthony McGeehan).

#### **2000**

One: Ballymurry Ponds, County Down, "December" (M. Meharg).

#### **2009**

##### **Antrim**

Two: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon. One: 27th to 28th April and one female, 17th May (Ed O'Hara, Derek Charles *et al.*).

##### **Armagh**

One: Female. Ardmore Point, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, 16th February (Joe Donaldson).

##### **Down**

##### **Breeding**

Breeding was confirmed at a location two miles south of Comber near the main Downpatrick Road. Two young were successfully fledged (Don Scott).

One: Female. One kilometre east of Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, 23rd July (Tom Tarpey).

##### **Londonderry**

One: Female. West of Church Island, Lough Beg NNR, 12th to 13th May (Flightline).

#### **2010**

##### **Antrim**

Two: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon. Singles on 27th April and 30th May (Ed O'Hara *et al.*).

One: Keeble Nature Reserve, Rathlin Island, 13th June (James Robinson).

##### **Armagh**

Two: Croaghan Flats, Oxford Island NNR, Lurgan, 28th May (Flightline).

##### **Down**

##### **Breeding**

The pair that raised two young near Comber in 2009 returned on 16th March. This coincided with a period of very cold and wet weather and both birds departed on 20th March. The male returned to the site briefly on 24th March and later the same day both adults were seen at another site about 4km distant. Unfortunately they did not remain and breeding was not attempted (Don Scott).

One: Female. Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, 7th May (CBO).

One: Balloo, Bangor, 28th June (Rachel Gentle).

##### **Londonderry**

One: Lough Beg NNR, 14th May (David Steele).

#### **2011**

##### **Antrim**

One: Female / immature. Elliot's Hill, Antrim Hills, 6th May (Clive Mellon).

One: Slieveanorra, Antrim Hills, 11th May (David Steele).

One: South Antrim Hills, 4th June (Bill Guiller).

One: Female. Slemish, Broughshane, 20th June (Neal Warnock).

One: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon, 10th December into 2012 (Paul Toner *et al.*).

##### **Down**

One: Female / immature. Castle Espie WWT, Comber, 24th April (Don Scott).

One: Tullyratty Dam (or Great Dam), Castleward, Strangford, 17th May (Hugh Thurgate).

One: Female. Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, 28th August (Carol Gillespie, Norma Percival-Price).

## **Londonderry**

Two: Lough Beg NNR. Single immatures were observed on 13th April and from 4th to 26th December (David Steele).

### **2012**

#### **Antrim**

Two: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon. One, second calendar year male, from 2011, remained to 19th February, with another single observed on 2nd April (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan, Amy Burns *et al.*).

One: East Dunes, White Park Bay, Ballintoy, 27th May (Neal Warnock).

#### **Armagh**

One: Ardmore, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, 19th February (Neal Warnock).

One: Reedy Flats, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, 12th March (Jeff Larkin).

#### **Fermanagh**

One: Lower Lough Islands RSPB Reserve, Kesh, 16th May (Gyles Knight).

## **Londonderry**

One: Immature male. Lough Beg NNR, 13th February to 25th March (Matthew Tickner *et al.*).

One: Female. Ballyronan, 9th May (Derek Charles).

One: Juvenile. Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 25th August (Matthew Tickner *et al.*).

### **2013**

#### **Antrim**

One: Ballynahinch Road, Lisburn, 30th August (Nigel Ireland).

#### **Armagh**

Four: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon. One female, 26th to 28th April, three 10th May, one remaining to 26th June and a male on 26th December (James Robinson, Matthew Tickner, Seamus Burns, Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan *et al.*).

One: Oxford Island NNR, Lough Neagh, Lurgan, 6th May and 11th May (Noel Austin, Ed O'Hara).

One: Castor Bay, Lough Neagh, Lurgan, 12th October (Harry Lowry).

#### **Down**

One: Second-summer male. Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, 5th to 14th April (Dan Bailie *et al.*).

One: Female. Islandhill, Strangford Lough, Comber, 23rd April (Colin Guy).

Two: Lough Cowey, Portaferry, 12th to 13th May (Keith Bennett *et al.*).

#### **Fermanagh**

One: Inishmore, 21st May (Giles Knight).

### **2014**

#### **Antrim**

One: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon, 25th April (Ciaran Burns, Amy Burns).

One: Female type. Station Road, Ballinderry, 21st August (Derek Charles).

#### **Down**

One: Adult female. Lough Cowey, Portaferry, 27th May to 1st June (Tim Murphy *et al.*).

One: Juvenile. Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, 24th September to 7th October (Dan Bailie *et al.*).

## **Londonderry**

One: Female. Bann Estuary, Coleraine 17th May (Theo Campbell).

### **2015**

#### **Antrim**

One: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon, 15th November to 7th December (Ed O'Hara *et al.*).

#### **Down**

Three: Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick. One, second-summer male recorded on 14th April, with a female on 28th April, and later in the year a single was observed on 4th November (Billy Miskelly, Garry Wilkinson, Tony Donaldson).

One: Lough Aghey, Dromara, 16th May (Gerard McLaughlin).

One: St. John's Point, Killough, 4th November (Chris Murphy).

## **Londonderry**

One: Immature. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, 29th April (Richard Donaghey).

### **2016**

#### **Antrim**

One: Carrickfergus, 28th April (Gerard McGeehan).

One: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon, 11th October, remained into 2017 (Zoe McGee, Laura Smith *et al.*).

**Armagh**

One: Adult female. hunting over farmland near Moira, 2nd August (Derek Charles).

**Down**

One: Quoile Pondage NNR, Downpatrick, 13th October to 2nd November (Tony Donaldson *et al.*).

**Fermanagh**

One: Lough McNeen, Belcoo, 9th October (Brad Robson).

**Londonderry**

Two: Lough Beg NNR. One juvenile, 1st to 12th September with a different juvenile recorded 30th October to 5th November (Tim Murphy, David Steele *et al.*).

**2017****Antrim**

Three: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon. One female, from 2016 remained to 3rd January, a single bird on 1st April, and finally a male was observed from 26th October to 24th November (John Cussack, Tom McEntee, Vanessa Dunn, Noeni Bryers, Susan Beshazzar, Nigel Moore, Gary Wilkinson, Andrew Cleave *et al.*).

One: Rathlin Island, 15th May (Ric Else, Hazel Watson).

One: Immature. Collin Road, Ballyclare, 7th August (Thom Shannon).

**Armagh**

One: Female. Oxford Island NNR, Lurgan, 9th to 17th February (Annette Elkin, Raymond Elkin *et al.*).

**Down**

One: Adult female. Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, 21st May (Richard Donaghey, David Galbraith, Philip Galbraith).

**Fermanagh**

One: Teiges Hill, Brookborough, 17th May (Clive Mellon).

One: Knockninny, Derrylin, Upper Lough Erne, 18th December (Brad Robson).

**Londonderry**

One: Lough Beg NNR, 13th February (Sean McCourt, Richard Weyl).

**2018****Antrim**

One: Rathlin Island, 21st to 23rd May (Ric Else, Hazel Watson *et al.*).

**Armagh**

One: Female. Derrycrow, 11th June (David Knight).

Two: Reedy Flats, Derrytrasna, Singles on 13th August and 21st October (David Knight, Ed O'Hara).

One: Juvenile. Oxford Island NNR, Lurgan, 19th October to 15th November (Ed O'Hara, Mark McMullen, Noel Austin *et al.*).

Two: Portmore Lough RSPB Reserve, Aghagallon, 8th to 14th November (Laura Smith *et al.*).

**Down**

One: Minerstown Beach, Minerstown, 18th July (Dan Dempsey).

**Fermanagh**

One: Near Lisnaskea, Upper Lough Erne, 22nd November (Brad Robson).

**Londonderry**

One: Juvenile. Paddy's Dub, Lough Beg NNR, 23rd September (David Steele).



Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*,  
Quoile Pondage NNR, Down, 18th October 2016. Photo courtesy of Ian Dickey.