

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* (0, 9, 10).

(Breeds South Alaska east across Central and Northern Canada to South Baffin Island, Labrador, Newfoundland and north east coastal region of USA. Many birds resident, others winter south to Southern USA and Mexico).

1990

Three: Belfast Harbour Pools, Belfast, County Down; one 27th March (Anthony McGeehan), one 27th March - 17th April, different to above (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*) and one 31st March (Stuart McKee). *Irish Birds* 4: 446

One had apparently been seen a few days previously to 27th March at the North Foreshore Tip, Antrim but appears to be un-published.

NIBA 1992 states: "Two first-winter birds were seen regularly at Belfast Harbour Pools and Belfast Rubbish Tip" but no other details are published.

1991

One: First winter. North Foreshore Tip, Dargan Road, Belfast, County Antrim, 13th March. *Irish Birds* 9: 473

1996

One: First-winter. Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast Lough, Belfast, County Antrim, 27th December (Anthony McGeehan). *Irish Birds* 6: 80.

1997

Two: Juveniles/ first-winters. North Foreshore Tip, Dargan Road, Belfast, County Antrim, 22nd January - 27th March (Martin Garner, Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). Presumably one or both of these birds were responsible for sightings at Belfast Waterworks, Antrim Road, Belfast, County Antrim on 16th January (Martin Garner, Ken Douglas) and at Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast, County Antrim, 22nd January and 2nd - 12th February 1997 (Martin Garner, Ken Douglas, Anthony McGeehan) *Charles and Crory* 2019.

1998

One: North Foreshore Tip, Dargan Road, Belfast, County Antrim, observed on 15th January, 27th February and 15th March (Martin Garner, Anthony McGeehan, David Steele). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

1999

Two: North Foreshore Tip, Dargan Road, Belfast, County Antrim; one first-winter, 22nd January (Martin Garner, Anthony McGeehan). *Irish Birds* 7: 99 and one first-winter 16th November into 2000 (Anthony McGeehan, Martin Garner *et al.*). *NIBA* 2001. Note extended dates from *NIBA* 2001.

One: First-winter. Culmore Tip, County Londonderry, 13th - 18th February (Davy Hunter *et al.*). *NIBA* 2001.

One: First-winter. Whiteabbey Shore, Belfast Lough, County Antrim, 6th November (Martin Garner). *Irish Birds* 7: 99.

2000

Two: One first-winter and one second winter. North Foreshore Tip, Dargan Road, Belfast, County Antrim, 7th January (Martin Garner, Anthony McGeehan, Gerard McGeehan). *NIBA* 2002. It says in *NIBA* 2002 that both birds were found in December 1999 however there is no published record of a second-winter for 1999.

One: Second-winter. Culmore Tip, Londonderry, County Londonderry, 7th - 8th March (Davy Hunter, David Steele). *NIBA* 2002. Note additional observer from *NIBA* 2002.

2003

At least five: Culmore Tip, Londonderry, County Londonderry; two juveniles. 21st January (Davy Hunter, David Steele *et al.*). *Irish Birds* 8: 373-394. Milne, P. & McAdams, D.G. 2008a. Irish Rare Bird Report 2005, one juvenile [different to above bird] 27th January to end of February (Davy Hunter, David Steele *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006, one juvenile 17th February [different to above three birds] (Davy Hunter, David Steele *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006, one juvenile 19th February [different to above four individuals, on this date three birds were present] (Davy Hunter, David Steele *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006, two, seen on several subsequent dates in February (Davy Hunter, David Steele *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006 with a juvenile on 14th March [this was one of the birds seen previously] (Davy Hunter, David Steele *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006.

2004

One: Juvenile. Culmore Tip, Londonderry, County Londonderry, 13th February - 4th March (David Steele *et al.*). *Milne & McAdams* 2008a.

Three: Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast, Belfast Harbour Estate, County Down; single first-winters, 8th - 23rd April (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*), 10th April - 24th April (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*) and 24th April - 26th May (Anthony McGeehan, M. Ruddock *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006.

Note changes from *NIBA* 2006.

2006

One: Second-winter. Culmore Tip, Londonderry, County Londonderry, 24th January - 15th February, photographed (David Steele *et al.*) *NIBA* 2008a.

All photos of American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*, Donnybrewer, County Londonderry, 9th December 2011. All photos courtesy of Derek Charles.







2011

One: Juvenile. Donnybrewer / Culmore, Londonderry, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 9th - 23rd December videoed (Derek Charles).

The bird was observed at Donnybrewer on 9th December and Culmore on 23rd December.



Video grab, Culmore 23rd December 2011. Derek Charles.