

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* (0, 9, 13). **RV**

(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).

Published records:

1990

Two: Belfast Harbour Pools, Belfast, County Down. One 27th March and a different individual 27th March to 17th April (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). *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

At least one frequented the North Foreshore Tip in Belfast, County Antrim, over the winter 1996/1997 with a confirmed sighting of a juvenile / first-winter on 5th March (Martin Garner). *NIBA* 1999.

1999

Two: North Foreshore Tip, Dargan Road, Belfast, County Antrim. Single first winters 22nd January and 23rd December into 2000 (Anthony McGeehan, Martin Garner *et al.*). *NIBA* 2001.

One: First-winter. Culmore Tip, County Londonderry, 13th to 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 to 8th March (Davy Hunter, David Steele). *NIBA* 2002. Note additional observer from *NIBA* 2002.

2003

Five: Culmore Tip, Londonderry, County Londonderry, recorded as follows:

Two: Juveniles. 21st January (Davy Hunter, David Steele *et al.*).

One: Juvenile. Different to above bird, 27th January to end of February (Davy Hunter, David Steele *et al.*).

One: Juvenile. 17th February. Different to above three birds (Davy Hunter, David Steele *et al.*).

One: Juvenile. 19th February. Different to above four individuals, on this date three birds were present (Davy Hunter, David Steele *et al.*).

Two: Seen on several subsequent dates in February (Davy Hunter, David Steele *et al.*).

One: Juvenile. 14th March, 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 to 4th March (David Steele *et al.*). *Milne & McAdams* 2008a.

Three: First winters. Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast, Belfast Harbour Estate, County Down. Recorded on

8th to 23rd April, 10th April to 24th April and 24th April to 26th May (Anthony McGeehan, M. Ruddock *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006.

2006

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

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



