

Baltic Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus fuscus* (0, 10, 0). (Breeds North Norway and along Baltic coasts of Sweden and Finland, inland to North and East Finland and West Russia. Migrates south across Eastern Europe, Black Sea, East Mediterranean and Middle East to winter coastal East Africa and Western Rift Valley Lakes).

Published records of Scandinavian Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Fuscus*. Baltic Gull):

1951

Two: Newcastle, County Down, 25th August. *Deane* 1954.

1954

One: Dundrum, County Down, 7th October (C.D. Deane). *Ruttledge* 1955.

1958

One: Acton Lake, Poyntzpass, County Armagh, 1st March (Joe Furphy). *Ruttledge* 1959.

One: Castlerock, County Londonderry, 2nd March (A.J. Tree). *Ruttledge* 1959.

One: North shore, Belfast Lough, County Antrim, 25th September (Hill Dick). *Ruttledge* 1959.

1959

One: Lough Neagh, County Antrim, 13th December (Tom Ennis, R. McKay). *Ruttledge* 1960.

1960

One: Duncrue Street, County Antrim, 19th May (R.W. Milliken). *Ruttledge* 1961.

1964

One: Duncrue Street, County Antrim, 1st May (Joe Donaldson). *Ruttledge* 1965.

1965

One: Mew Island, Copeland Island, County Down, 18th April (H.B Doherty, Neville McKee). *Ruttledge* 1966.

Identification of Baltic (*Fuscus*) Lesser Black Backed Gull was poorly known and mis-understood in the era of the records above and all the above records don't meet the standard required in the modern bird recording era. However, all remain on the record books.

Scandinavian Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus intermedius*

(0, 4, 4). (Breeds Holland, Germany, Denmark, southwest Sweden and western Norway).

1984

One: Adult in winter plumage. Belfast Harbour Estate, County Down, 10th December (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 1987.

1987

One: Adult. North Foreshore Tip, Dargan Road, Belfast, Antrim / Belfast Harbour Estate, County Down, 27th to 30th December (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). *NIBA* 1992.

1988

One: Adult. "Showing similar characters", Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 11th April. *NIBA* 1992.

1997

One: Adult. Belfast Harbour Estate, County Down, 21st September, showed characters of this race (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 1999.

2006

One: Adult. Showing characteristics of *intermedius* or *fuscus*. Whiteabbey Shore, Belfast Lough, Belfast, County Antrim, 7th September (Ian Mitchell). *NIBA* 2008a. Not published in Irish Bird Report.

2007

One: Adult. North Foreshore Tip, Dargan Road, County Belfast, 24th March, photographed (Derek Charles). *NIBA* 2008b. Not published in Irish Bird Report.

One: Adult or near adult. Kinnegar Shore, Belfast Lough, County Down, 1st - 2nd October, photographed (Derek Charles). *NIBA* 2008b. Not published in Irish Bird Report.



Adult or near adult. Kinnegar Shore, Belfast Lough, County Down, 1st October 2007, photo, Derek Charles.

2018

One: Adult. Ballysaggart Lough, Dungannon, County Tyrone, 7th January, photographed (Derek Charles).
Charles and Crory 2019.



Adult [middle bird with Herring Gull on left and Iceland Gull on right], Ballysaggart Lough, Dungannon, County Tyrone, 7th January 2018, photo, Derek Charles.

Baltic Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus fuscus* / **Scandinavian Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus intermedius*

2005

One: Moulting adult or near adult. Randalstown Tip, Lisnavenagh Road, Antrim, County Antrim, 1st December 2005. The late moult strongly favours Baltic Lesser Black Backed Gull [Fuscus] however, this cannot be safely used to identify an out of range vagrant individual. *Charles and Crory 2019.*



Unidentified. Baltic or Scandinavian Lesser Black-backed Gull [adult or near adult] with European Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus argenteus* and Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*. Randalstown Tip, Lisnavenagh Road, County Antrim, 1st December 2005. Photo courtesy of Derek Charles.