

## **Yellow Legged Gull** *Larus michahellis* (0, 9, 148).

(Race *Michahellis* breeds western and southern Europe, northwest Africa and Mediterranean).

While most individuals occurring here are of the race *Michahellis* at least some are thought to be the race *Lustinanicus*. For the moment we are publishing all below as *Michahellis*.

### **1993**

One: Second-summer. Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, County Down, 15th June (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 1998.

### **1994**

One: Adult. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 4th October (David Steele). *NIBA* 1998.

### **1997**

One: Adult. Ballyfodrin Tip, Armagh City, County Armagh, 6th - 7th March (David Knight, Dennis Doherty). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

Five: North Foreshore Tip, Dargan Road, Belfast, County Antrim; one adult 5th March (Anthony McGeehan, Martin Garner *et al.*). *NIBA* 1999, one first-winter 15th March (Anthony McGeehan). *Charles and Crory* 2019, two [unaged] 25th April (Martin Garner). *Charles and Crory* 2019, one first-summer 6th June (Anthony McGeehan). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

### **1998**

Two: Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry; single adults on 27th March (David Steele). *NIBA* 2000 and 29th November (David Steele). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

### **2000**

One: Adult. Culmore Tip, Culmore, Londonderry, County Londonderry, 9th to 29th February (David Steele). *NIBA* 2002.

One: Third-year. Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, County Down, 29th April (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 2002.

### **2001**

One: Fourth-year. Lower Lough Islands RSPB Reserve, County Fermanagh, 21st to 22nd June (Brad Robson). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Belfast Lough RSPB, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, County Down, 5th November (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 2003.

It showed some characters (in particular pronounced head streaking and rather dark grey upperparts) possibly indicative of the Azorean race *atlantis* but this could not be conclusively proved. Published as *Michahellis*.

### **2002**

One: Adult. Portavogie, County Down, 6th January (Willie McDowell, Dennis Weir *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

Two: Culmore Tip, Culmore, Londonderry, County Londonderry; one summer plumaged adult 11th February and one third-winter 30th December into 2003. (Davy Hunter, David Steele). *NIBA* 2004.

Two: Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, County Down; one unaged 5th September (Anthony McGeehan) and one third-calendar year 1st October (Ivan Quail, Anthony McGeehan). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2003

Five: Culmore Tip, Culmore, Londonderry, County Londonderry; two [one adult and one third-year] 17th February, one adult 25th February, one first-winter 17th January with another first-winter 3rd March. *NIBA 2006.*

Five: Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, County Down; one second-year 7th April, one third-year 6th May, one first-winter 29th October, one first-winter 30th October to 3rd November [different individual to above] and an adult on 13th December. *NIBA 2006.*

One: Third year. Kinnegar, Belfast Lough, Holywood, County Down, 17th July. *NIBA 2006.*

One: Third-year. Dargan Bay, Belfast Lough, Belfast, County Antrim, 24th December. *NIBA 2006.*

Two: One adult and one first-winter North Foreshore Tip, Dargan Road, Belfast, County Antrim, 26th December. *NIBA 2006.*

One: Third-year. Tamlagh Bay, Upper Lough Erne, Tamlagh, County Fermanagh, 18th February. *NIBA 2006.*

## 2004

One: Adult. Dargan Bay, Belfast Lough, Belfast, County Antrim, 4th January. *NIBA 2006.*

Ten: Three adults, one fourth-year, six third years. Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, County Down February to June. *NIBA 2006.*

One: Adult. 31st August. *NIBA 2006.*

Two: One adult and one second-summer. Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast, County Antrim, June. *NIBA 2006.*

One: Adult. Kinnegar, Belfast Lough, Holywood, County Down, 16th September. *NIBA 2006.*

One: Adult. Culmore Tip, Culmore, Londonderry, County Londonderry, 20th December into 2005. *NIBA 2006.*

One: Lough Erne, County Fermanagh, 21st May - 7th June (present for its third season). *NIBA 2006.*

## 2005

One: Adult. Culmore Tip, Culmore, Londonderry, County Londonderry, from 2004 stayed to 18th January (David Steele). *NIBA 2008a.*

Nine or ten: Belfast Lough, County Antrim / Down; three or four adults 14th January - 6th August, three [two second-summers and one fourth-summer] 3rd June - 3rd July, three [two adults and a first-winter] 5th November to 23rd December (Derek Charles, Walter Veale, Dave Allen, Clive Mellon, Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA 2008a.*

One: Adult. Ramore Head, Portrush, County Antrim, 13th August (David Steele). *NIBA 2008a.*

One: Adult. Lower Lough Islands RSPB Reserve, County Fermanagh, 12th to 21st May (Brad Robson). *NIBA 2008a.*

## 2006

Ten: Belfast, County Antrim / Down "during the year" (Derek Charles). *NIBA 2008a.* See below for details.

### Antrim

North Foreshore Tip, Dargan, Belfast:

One: Adult. 7th January to 22nd February (Flightline). *Charles and Crory 2019.*

Two: One first-winter and one adult. 19th January (Flightline). *Charles and Crory 2019.*

Dargan Bay, Belfast Lough, Belfast:

One: First-winter. 19th January (Flightline).

One: Adult. 5th to 26th February (Flightline). *Charles and Crory 2019.*

Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast:

One: Adult. 19th April (Flightline).

One: Second-summer. 2nd June (Flightline).

Two: One adult and one third-summer. 5th June (Flightline).

One: Fourth-summer. 9th June (Flightline).

One: Third-year. 21st July (Flightline).

One: Adult. 19th August to 27th December (Flightline). *Charles and Crory 2019.*

## **Down**

Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast:

One: Adult. 21st February to 19th March (Flightline).

One: Adult. 17th October (Flightline). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Kinnegar Shore, Belfast Lough, Holywood, 26th September (Flightline). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## **Fermanagh**

One: Adult. Lower Lough Islands RSPB Reserve RSPB, dates unknown (Brad Robson). *NIBA* 2008a. See below for details.

One: Adult. Lower Lough Erne Islands, RSPB Reserve, 11th May (Flightline). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## **Londonderry**

Two: Culmore Tip, Culmore, Londonderry, dates unknown (David Steele). *NIBA* 2008a. See below for details.

Culmore Tip, Culmore, Londonderry:

One: Adult. 19th January (Flightline).

One: Adult. 6th December (Flightline).

Two: One adult and one third -year. 29th December (Flightline). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## **2007**

One: First winter. Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, County Down, 12th January (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 2008b.

One: Culmore Tip, Culmore, Londonderry, County Londonderry, 31st January (David Steele). *NIBA* 2008b.

## **2009**

One: Adult winter. Portavogie, County Down, 3rd January - 21st February (Derek Charles *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

Two: Roe Estuary, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry; one second-summer 5th July and an adult from 27th September - 4th October (Derek Charles, Neal Warnock *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

Two: Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast, County Antrim; one second-summer 11th - 25th July with an adult from 30th - 31st December (Derek Charles, Walter Veale *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Third-summer. Kinnegar, Belfast Lough, Holywood, County Down, 11th July (Derek Charles). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## **2010**

Two: Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast, County Antrim; one juvenile 14th August with an adult on 26th November (Derek Charles, Keith Bennett). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Dargan Bay, Belfast Lough, Belfast, County Antrim, 26th November (Derek Charles). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## **2011**

Three: Adults. Enniskillen Tip, Derrygonnelly Road, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, 5th March (Derek Charles, Walter Veale). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Juvenile. Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast, County Antrim, 6th August (Keith Bennett, Derek Charles, Walter Veale). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Jordanstown, County Antrim, 30th December (Walter Veale, Christopher Veale). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## **2012**

One: Adult. Enniskillen Tip, Derrygonnelly Road, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, 3rd - 24th February (Tristan Reid, Chris Hinds, Chris Baines, Derek Charles *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Reedy Flats, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, County Armagh, 4th - 11th August (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan, Walter Veale *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Third-winter. Ardmore, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, County Armagh, 26th October (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2013

One: First-winter. Maltings, Strangford Lough, Newtownards, County Down, 26th January (Derek Charles *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Enniskillen Tip, Derrygonnelly Road, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, 8th - 24th February (Brad Robson *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

Three: Reedy Flats/Ardmore Point, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna County Armagh; one adult 22nd July - 7th August with a second-summer on 13th August. A different adult was observed from 19th August - 2nd September (Derek Charles, Walter Veale, Majella Callaghan, Clifford Sharpe *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2014

One: Third-summer. Dargan Bay, Belfast Lough, Belfast, County Antrim, 1st June (Derek Charles, Walter Veale, Majella Callaghan). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

Two: Kinnegar, Belfast Lough, Holywood County Down; one third-summer [different to Dargan Bay bird] 17th July with a second-winter on 20th September (Derek Charles, Walter Veale, Majella Callaghan). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Roe Estuary, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry, 14th September (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Ardmore Point, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, County Armagh, 21st December (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Mill Bay, Carlingford Lough, County Down, 26th December (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Second-winter. Rostrevor, County Down, 27th December (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast, County Down, 28th December (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan, Dave Hadrick, Orcilla Hadrick). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2015

Three: Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast County Down; one second-winter on 28th February with a third calendar-year on 2nd May. A juvenile was recorded on 30th August only (Derek Charles, Walter Veale, Ronald Surgenor). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Second calendar-year. Dargan Bay, Belfast Lough, Belfast, County Antrim, 9th May (Derek Charles, Walter Veale). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

Two: Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast County Antrim; one juvenile 26th July with a third calendar-year on 15th August (Derek Charles). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Third calendar-year. Dargan Bay, Belfast Lough, Belfast, County Antrim, 22nd August (Derek Charles). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2016

One: First-summer. Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, County Down, 4th June (Derek Charles). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Second calendar-year. Lurgan Cricket Club, Moira Road, Lurgan, County Armagh, 27th July (Derek Charles). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Reedy Flats, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, County Armagh, 20th August (Derek Charles). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Second-summer moulting to third-winter. Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry 20th August (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: First-summer moulting to second-winter. Portrush East Strand, Portrush, County Antrim, 21st August (Derek Charles). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2017

Five: Two adults and three second-winters. Portrush East Strand, Portrush, County Antrim, 19th August (Derek Charles). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult-winter. Kinnegar Shore, Belfast Lough, Holywood, County Down, 21st October (Ronald Surgenor). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: First-winter. Donnybrewer, Lough Foyle, County Londonderry 24th December into 2018 (Derek Charles). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

One: Adult. Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast, County Antrim, 30th December, photographed (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2018

Two: Donnybrewer, Lough Foyle County Londonderry; one first-winter from 2017 remained to 21st January with an adult on 4th March (Derek Charles). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

Four: Ballysaggart Lough, Dungannon, County Tyrone; two adults, one second-winter and one first-winter 7th January with an adult remaining to 9th January (Derek Charles, Brian McCloskey *et al.*). *Charles and Crory* 2019.

## 2019

One: Adult. Ardglass, County Down, 11th January (Billy Miskelly).

One: Juvenile / first-winter. Dargan Bay, Belfast. County Antrim, 13th September (Derek Charles).

**The following records have also been published by NIBA / NIBARC and should either be reviewed or disregarded. We do not include them in our totals.**

## 1995

One: Adult. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, 22nd March (David Steele). Showed characteristics of one of the races of "yellow-legged" Herring Gulls either *L.(a). michahellis / cachannis* or *L.a. argantatus / argenteus*. *NIBA* 1998.

## 1996

One: Adult Tully Hill Bay, Strangford Narrows, 24th August (A. Knox). Showed characteristics of one of the races of "yellow-legged" Herring Gulls either *L.(a). michaellis / cachannis* or *L.a. argantatus / argenteus*. *NIBA* 1998.

## 1997

One: Near adult. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 27th April (Davy Hunter, Gerard McGeehan). Was considered probably of this race [*Michahellis*]. *NIBA* 1999.

Photos 1-5 courtesy of Derek Charles. All taken Belfast Lough between 2005 to 2006.



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2



3



4



5



Photos 6-9 courtesy of Derek Charles. All taken Whitehouse Lagoon in 2009.



6



7



8



9



Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*,  
Culmore Tip, County Londonderry, 2006. Photo courtesy of Derek Charles.