

Yellow Legged Gull *Larus michahellis michahellis* (0, 9, 146). **RV**

(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.

Published records:

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. North Foreshore Tip, Dargan Road, Belfast, County Antrim, 5th March (Anthony McGeehan, Martin Garner *et al.*). *NIBA* 1999.

1998

One: Adult. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 27th March (David Steele). *NIBA* 2000.

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: 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

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

2003

Five: Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, County Down. One second-year 7th April, one third-year 6th May, different first-winters on 29th October and 30th October to 3rd November and an adult on 13th December (Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006.

Five: Culmore Tip, Culmore, Londonderry, County Londonderry. Two, one adult and one third-year 17th February, adult 25th February and single first-winters on 17th January and 3rd March (Davy Hunter Anthony McGeehan *et al.*). *NIBA* 2006.

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

2004

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

11: Three adults, one fourth-year, six third years. Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, County Down, February to June with an adult on 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 to 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.

At least nine: Belfast Lough, County Antrim / Down. Three or four adults, 14th January to 6th August, two second-summers and one fourth-summer, 3rd June to 3rd July and 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. Lower Lough Islands RSPB Reserve, County Fermanagh, 12th to 21st May (Brad Robson). *NIBA* 2008a.

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

2006

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

Fermanagh

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

Londonderry

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

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.

Unpublished records:

1997

Four: North Foreshore Tip, Dargan Road, Belfast, County Antrim. One first-winter 15th March, two unaged 25th April and a first-summer on 6th June (Anthony McGeehan, Martin Garner).

One: Adult. Ballyfodrin Tip, Armagh City, County Armagh, 6th to 7th March (David Knight, Dennis Doherty).

1998

One: Adult. Bann Estuary, Coleraine, County Londonderry, 29th November (David Steele).

2001

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

2002

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

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

2009

Antrim

Two: Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast. One second-summer 11th to 25th July and an adult 30th to 31st December (Derek Charles, Walter Veale *et al.*).

Down

One: Adult winter. Portavogie, 3rd January to 21st February (Derek Charles *et al.*).

One: Third-summer. Kinnegar, Belfast Lough, Holywood, 11th July (Derek Charles).

Londonderry

Two: Roe Estuary, Lough Foyle. One second-summer 5th July with an adult 27th September to 4th October (Derek Charles, Neal Warnock *et al.*).

2010

Antrim

Two: Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast. One juvenile 14th August with an adult on 26th November (Derek Charles, Keith Bennett).

One: Adult. Dargan Bay, Belfast Lough, Belfast, 26th November (Derek Charles).

2011

Antrim

One: Juvenile. Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast, 6th August (Keith Bennett, Derek Charles, Walter Veale).

One: Adult. Jordanstown, 30th December (Walter Veale, Christopher Veale).

Fermanagh

Three: Adults. Enniskillen Tip, Derrygonnelly Road, Enniskillen, 5th March (Derek Charles, Walter Veale).

2012

Armagh

One: Adult. Reedy Flats, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, 4th to 11th August (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan, Walter Veale *et al.*).

One: Third-winter. Ardmore, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, 26th October (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan).

Fermanagh

One: Adult. Enniskillen Tip, Derrygonnelly Road, Enniskillen, 3rd to 24th February (Tristan Reid, Chris Hinds, Chris Baines, Derek Charles *et al.*)

2013

Antrim

One: Adult. Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast, 18th January (Stuart McKee).

Armagh

Three: Reedy Flats/Ardmore Point, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna. One adult 22nd July to 7th August, one second-summer 13th August and one adult (different individual to the adult above) 19th August to 2nd September

(Derek Charles, Walter Veale, Majella Callaghan, Clifford Sharpe *et al.*).

Down

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

Fermanagh

One: Adult. Enniskillen Tip, Derrygonnelly Road, Enniskillen, 8th to 24th February (Brad Robson *et al.*).

2014

Antrim

One: Third-summer. Dargan Bay, Belfast Lough, Belfast, 1st June (Derek Charles, Walter Veale, Majella Callaghan).

Armagh

One: Adult. Ardmore Point, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, 21st December (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan).

Down

Two: Kinnegar, Belfast Lough, Holywood. One third-summer (different to Dargan Bay bird) 17th July with a second-winter on 20th September (Derek Charles, Walter Veale, Majella Callaghan).

Two: Carlingford Lough. One adult Mill Bay 26th December with a second-winter at Rostrevor on 27th December (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan).

One: Adult. Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast, 28th December (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan, Dave Hadrick, Orcilla Hadrick).

Londonderry

One: Adult. Roe Estuary, Lough Foyle, 14th September (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan).

2015

Antrim

One: Second calendar-year. Dargan Bay, Belfast Lough, Belfast, 9th May (Derek Charles, Walter Veale).

Two: Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast. One juvenile 26th July and one third calendar-year 15th August (Derek Charles).

One: Third calendar-year. Dargan Bay, Belfast Lough, Belfast, 22nd August (Derek Charles).

Down

Three: Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast. One second-winter 28th February, one third calendar-year 2nd May and one juvenile 30th August (Derek Charles, Walter Veale, Ronald Surgenor).

2016

Antrim

One: First-summer moulting to second-winter. Portrush East Strand, Portrush, 21st August (Derek Charles).

Armagh

One: Second calendar-year. Lurgan Cricket Club, Moira Road, Lurgan, 27th July (Derek Charles).

One: Adult. Reedy Flats, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, 20th August (Derek Charles).

Down

One: First-summer. Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, Belfast, 4th June (Derek Charles).

Londonderry

One: Second-summer moulting to third-winter. Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, 20th August (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan).

2017

Antrim

Five: Two adults and three second winters. Portrush East Strand, Portrush, 19th August (Derek Charles).

One: Adult. Whitehouse Lagoon, Belfast, 30th December, photographed (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan). †

Down

One: Adult-winter. Kinnegar Shore, Belfast Lough, Holywood, 21st October (Ronald Surgenor).

Londonderry

One: First-winter. Donnybrewer, Lough Foyle, 24th December (Derek Charles).

2018

Londonderry

Two: Donnybrewer, Lough Foyle. One first-winter 21st January with an adult on 4th March (Derek Charles).

Tyrone

Four: Ballysaggart Lough, Dungannon. Two adults, one second-winter and one first-winter 7th January one adult remaining to 8th to 9th January (Derek Charles, Brian McCloskey *et al.*).

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.



1



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.