

Short Eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

(Breeds Europe, Asia, North and South America, Caribbean, Hawaii and the Galapagos Island).

Historical data is incomplete and will be updated during 2020.

Prior to 1954, it was seen regularly in Cos. Antrim, Down and Armagh (Kennedy, Ruttledge & Scroope 1954). There is very little documentation of Short Eared Owl in Northern Ireland 1954-1982 and we will add any information as and when we receive it. The historical data is incomplete we will update during 2010.

1966

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 12th-13th September (CBO).

1969

Two: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down; singles on 18th - 19th October and 5th November (CBO).

1971

Two: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down; singles 4th April and 11th September (CBO).

1972

Two: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down; singles 6th and 19th August (CBO).

1974

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 1st September (CBO).

1975

Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down; singles 2nd September and 3rd November (CBO).

1976

Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 7th May (CBO).

1980

At least two: Duncrue Street, Dargan, Belfast, County Antrim; single birds 1st – January – 16th March with two 9th February only (Bill Laird, Anthony McGeehan, Richard Woods *et al.*). *NIBA* 1980/1981.

One: Drenagh Estate, Limavady, 7th February (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 1980/1981.

One: Near Middleton, County Armagh, 5th August (Richard Weyl). *NIBA* 1980/1981.

1981

Three: Duncrue Street, Dargan, Belfast, County Antrim; one 6th February with two 10th October (Anthony McGeehan). *NIBA* 1980/1981.

One: Rathlin, County Antrim, 14th June (P. Moore). *NIBA* 1980/1981.

One: Cavehill, Belfast, County Antrim, 16th August (J. Harper). *NIBA* 1980/1981.

One: Oxford Island NNR, Lurgan, County Armagh, 25th and 27th August (R.W. Culbert, M. Hayes). *NIBA* 1980/1981.

1983

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 6th September (CBO).

1984

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 21st September. (CBO).

1986

Two: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down; singles 26th April and 18th October. (CBO).

1991

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 10th September. (CBO).

1992

One: Overwintered. Portstewart Dunes, County Londonderry, "early winter" (Hill Dick). Record not published.
Four: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down; one 4th April, two 24th April and one 9th May. (CBO).

1994

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 24th September. (CBO).

1995

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 17th September. (CBO).

1997

Two: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down; singles 27th September and 30th October. (CBO).

1998

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 24th October. (CBO).

One: East Strand, Portrush, County Antrim, 18th December (G. Herbert, M. Hyndman). Record not published.

1999**Antrim**

One: Benbane Head, Ballycastle, 8th June (Dave Allen). Record not published.

One: Clady Burn, Knocknacrow Bridge, Cushendall, 11th July (Larry Toal). Record not published.

One: Loughreema, Ballycastle, 23rd July (Garry Wilkinson). Record not published.

2000

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 24th March. (CBO).

2002**Antrim**

One: Ballyboley, 6km North of Ballyclare, 11th May (Don Scott). Record not published.

2003**Down**

One: Big Island, Copeland Islands, 21st June (Anthony McGeehan). Record not published.

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down 30th April. (CBO).

2007

Down

Two: Darragh Island, Strangford Lough; one bird observed on 17th February and one bird recorded on 18th December (Hugh Thurgate). Record not published.

2010

Down

One: Kircubbin, 29th January (Richard Weyl). Record not published.

One: Ardglass Golf Club, Ardglass, 20th October (Tim Murphy). Record not published.

One: Ballywalter, 30th October (Derek Charles, Walter Veale). Record not published.

One: Portavogie, 30th October to 13th November (Richard Weyl *et al.*). Record not published.

One: Ballymacormick Point, Groomsport, 30th October (NI Birding). Record not published.

One: Ring Reserve, Dundrum NNR, Newcastle, 14th November (Dan Bailie). Record not published.

One: Thomas Mountain, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 19th November (Patrick Lynch). Record not published.

Three: Killard NNR, Strangford; one 19th December with three birds present on 22nd December (Craig Nash). Record not published.

Londonderry

One: Springwell Forest, Coleraine, 29th October (Richard Hoy). Record not published.

2011

Antrim

Breeding took place in the Antrim Hills. Two pair raised 4 and 3 young respectively. Record not published.

One: Carnalbanagh, 1st March (Don Scott). Record not published.

Down

Two: Ballyquintin, Outer Ards Peninsula; one 1st January - 25th February and again from 6th - 13th November (Keith Bennett, Richard Weyl *et al.*). Record not published.

Single birds recorded, Killard NNR, Strangford on 13th August and 21st November (Craig Nash). Record not published.

One: Upper Ballyspurge, Outer Ards Peninsula 16th November (Hugh Thurgate). Record not published.

Londonderry

One: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 25th October (Gerry Bond). Record not published.

2012

Antrim

One: Blackmountain, Belfast Hills, Belfast, 16th May (Stephen Corr). Record not published.

One: Sallagh Braes, Glenarm, Larne, 30th November (Karl Hamilton). Record not published.

Down

Single birds recorded, Killard NNR, Strangford, 6th January - 5th February and 20th May (Craig Nash *et al.*). Record not published.

Five: Ballyquintin Point, Outer Ards Peninsula; up to three 8th January - 12th May and up to two 1st - 29th December (Richard Weyl *et al.*). Record not published.

One: Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, 2nd February (Colin Guy). Record not published.

One: Chapel Island, Strangford Lough, Greyabbey, 12th February - 19th March (Richard Weyl *et al.*). Record not published.

One: Ballymacormick Point, Groomsport, 17th April - 14th May (Mike Pringle *et al.*). Record not published.

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, County Down, 8th June (CBO).

One: Kearney, Outer Ards Peninsula, 24th June (Keith Bennett). Record not published.

Fermanagh

One: Inishroosk, Upper Lough Erne, 25th April (Gyles Knight). Record not published.

Londonderry

One: Faughanvale, Lough Foyle, 17th October (Graham McIlwaine, Philip Watson). Record not published.

One: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 15th December (Theo Campbell, Christine Cassidy). Record not published.

2013

Antrim

One: Taken into care. Avian Care Trust, Crumlin, 20th May (Margaret Adamson). Record not published.

Down

One: Killard NNR, Strangford, 20th to 22nd January (Ronald Surgenor *et al.*). Record not published.

Single birds recorded, Ballyquintin, Outer Ards Peninsula, 26th January to 27th April and 22nd November (Richard Weyl, Keith Bennett *et al.*). Record not published.

Four: Darragh Island, Strangford Lough, Killinchy; two birds observed on 14th February with four birds recorded on 13th March (Hugh Thurgate). Record not published.

Three or four: Copeland Islands; singles on Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, 31st May, 7th and 29th June and one on Mew Island, 29th August (Adam McClure, Kerry Leonard). Record not published.

One: Ballywalter, 18th October (Martin McClenaghan). Record not published.

Londonderry

One: Portstewart Dunes, Portstewart, 12th March (Paul Toner). Record not published.

2014

Antrim

One: Rathlin Island, 8th November (Neal Warnock). Record not published.

Down

Two or three: Ballyquintin Point, Outer Ards Peninsula; up to two 25th January - 8th March with one bird observed on 23rd November (Richard Weyl). Record not published.

Five: Darragh Island, Strangford Lough, Killinchy, 16th February (Hugh Thurgate). Record not published.

One: Groomsport, 30th October (Frank Murphy). Record not published.

One: Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, 23rd November (Colin Guy). Record not published.

Two: Kircubbin, Strangford Lough, 23rd November (Edward Lowry *et al.*). Record not published.

Londonderry

One: Found dead. Near Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 14th September (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan), killed in a collision with a car. Record not published.

2015

Antrim

One: Kilroot, Larne, 31st October (Gerard McGeehan). Record not published.

One: Ballintoy Harbour, Ballintoy, 1st November (Gerard McGeehan). Record not published.

One: Ramore Head, Portrush, 4th November (Dougie Gamble). Record not published.

Armagh

One: Shelshion Bog, Portadown, 1st November (Brian Nelson). Record not published.

Down

One: Ballywalter, 15th October (Martin McClenaghan, Ronnie Snoddy). Record not published.

Up to five: Ballymacormick Point, Groomsport, 25th October - 7th November (Colin Guy, Stephen Maxwell, John Edwards *et al.*). Record not published.

One: Ballyquintin, Outer Ards Peninsula, 29th October (Keith Bennett). Record not published.

One: Warrenpoint, 7th November (Karen Elliot). Record not published.

One: Killard NNR, Strangford, 11th November (Chris Murphy). Record not published.

One: Portavogie, 15th November (Richard Weyl). Record not published.

One: Horse Island, Kircubbin, 20th December (Richard Weyl). Record not published.

Londonderry

One: Paddy's Dub, Lough Beg, 28th October (Godfrey McRoberts). Record not published.

One: Bann Estuary, Coleraine, 29th October (Peter Welch). Record not published.

Up to four: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 1st - 4th November (Christine Cassidy, Raymond Brogan, David Nixon, Phillip Mahaffie *et al.*). Record not published.



Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 4th November 2015. Photo Ian Dickey.

2016

Antrim

One: Rathlin Island, 20th April (Colin Guy). Record not published.

Armagh

One: South east Bann Meadows, Portadown, 5th March (James O'Neill). Record not published.

One: Charlestown, Portadown, 5th March (James O'Neill). Record not published.

Down

12: Darragh Island, Strangford Lough, Killinchy; nine 22nd February with three on 20th December (Hugh Thurgate). Record not published.

One: Ballyquintin, Outer Ards Peninsula, 7th March (Dan Bailie). Record not published.

One: Inishroan, Strangford Lough, Whiterocks, 29th April (Hugh Thurgate). Record not published.

One: Killard NNR, Strangford, 24th May (Angus Kennedy). Record not published.

One: Bloody Bridge, Newcastle, 14th August (Jim Leitch). Record not published.

One: Ballymacormick Point, Groomsport, 28th October (Lesley Crenshaw). Record not published.

Fermanagh

One: Lisnaskea, 6th May (Sarah McCaffrey). Record not published.

2017

Down

One: Ballyquintin Point, Outer Ards Peninsula, 11th November (Richard Weyl). Record not published.

2018

Antrim

One: Dunseverick, 21st April (Colin Guy). Record not published.

Two: Rathlin Island; one adult Kinramer, 13th September with one at Knockans in late November (Ric Else, Hazel Watson). Record not published.

One: Glenhead, Antrim Hills, 1st November (Ian Dickey). Record not published.

Down

One: Ballymacormick Point, Groomsport, 17th February (Billy Miskelly). Record not published.

One: Tara Bay, Portavogie, 6th July (Dermot Hughes). Record not published.

One: Kircubbin, 14th August (Harry Lowry). Record not published.

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, 8th September (Laurence Eagley). Record not published.

One: Cockle Island, Groomsport, 28th September (Richard Weyl). Record not published.

One: Magheraleave Road, Fairfield's Road, Lisburn, 7th October (Desmond Hassett). Record not published.

One: Islandhill, Comber, 17th October (Harry Byron). Record not published.

One: Ballyquintin, Outer Ards Peninsula, 22nd October - 29th November (Dan Bailie *et al.*). Record not published.

Londonderry

One: Balls Point, Bellarina, 19th November (Richard Donaghey). Record not published.

One: Myroe Levels, 10th December (Brian Halligan). Record not published.



Short Eared Owl *Asio flammeus* Glenhead, Antrim Hills, 1st November 2018 (Ian Dickey).

2019**Antrim**

Two or three: Rathlin Island; singles at East Light 10th June (David Morrow), Kinramer on 21st June (Dermot Hughes, John OBoyle) and Alley on 11th July (Patrick Barton, Michael Barton). Record not published.

Armagh

One: Reedy Flats, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, 2nd May (Clive Mellon). Record not published.

Down

Two: Kearney, Outer Ards Peninsula; singles on 1st and 2nd November (Richard Weyl). Record not published.

Londonderry

One: Benone, Castlerock, 7th January (Gerry Bond). Record not published.

One: Myroe, Lough Foyle, 2nd November (Ian Dickey *et al.*). Record not published.

One: Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, 3rd November (Michael Savage). Record not published.



Myroe, Lough Foyle, 2nd November 2019. Photo Ian Dickey.