

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* SV

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

Unpublished records:

1992

Londonderry

One: Overwintered. Portstewart Dunes, "early winter" (Hill Dick).

1998

Antrim

One: East Strand, Portrush, 18th December (G. Herbert, M. Hyndman).

1999

Antrim

One: Benbane Head, Ballycastle, 8th June (Dave Allen).

One: Clady Burn, Knocknacrow Bridge, Cushendall, 11th July (Larry Toal).

One: Loughreema, Ballycastle, 23rd July (Garry Wilkinson).

2002

Antrim

One: Ballyboley, 6km North of Ballyclare, 11th May (Don Scott).

2003

Down

One: Big Island, Copeland Islands, 21st June (Anthony McGeehan).

2007

Down

Two: Darragh Island, Strangford Lough. One bird observed on 17th February and one bird recorded on 18th December (Hugh Thurgate).

2010

Down

One: Kircubbin, 29th January (Richard Weyl).

One: Ardglass Golf Club, Ardglass, 20th October (Tim Murphy).

One: Ballywalter, 30th October (Derek Charles, Walter Veale).

One: Portavogie, 30th October to 13th November (Richard Weyl *et al.*).

One: Ballymacormick Point, Groomsport, 30th October (NI Birding).

One: Ring Reserve, Dundrum NNR, Newcastle, 14th November (Dan Bailie).

One: Thomas Mountain, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 19th November (Patrick Lynch).

Three: Killard NNR, Strangford. One on the 19th December, with three birds present on 22nd December (Craig Nash).

Londonderry

One: Springwell Forest, Coleraine, 29th October (Richard Hoy).

2011

Antrim

Breeding took place in the Antrim Hills. Two pair raised 4 and 3 young respectively.

One: Carnalbanagh, 1st March (Don Scott).

Down

Two: Ballyquintin, Outer Ards Peninsula. One 1st January to 25th February, and again from 6th to 13th November (Keith Bennett, Richard Weyl *et al.*).

Single birds recorded, Killard NNR, Strangford, on 13th August and 21st November (Craig Nash).

One: Upper Ballyspurge, Outer Ards Peninsula 16th November (Hugh Thurgate).

Londonderry

One: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 25th October (Gerry Bond).

2012

Antrim

One: Blackmountain, Belfast Hills, Belfast, 16th May (Stephen Corr).

One: Sallagh Braes, Glenarm, Larne, 30th November (Karl Hamilton).

Down

Single birds recorded, Killard NNR, Strangford, 6th January to 5th February and 20th May (Craig Nash *et al.*).
Five: Ballyquintin Point, Outer Ards Peninsula. Up to three, 8th January to 12th May and up to two, 1st to 29th December (Richard Weyl *et al.*).

One: Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, 2nd February (Colin Guy).

One: Chapel Island, Strangford Lough, Greyabbey, 12th February to 19th March (Richard Weyl *et al.*).

One: Ballymacormick Point, Groomsport, 17th April to 14th May (Mike Pringle *et al.*).

One: Kearney, Outer Ards Peninsula, 24th June (Keith Bennett).

Fermanagh

One: Inishroosk, Upper Lough Erne, 25th April (Gyles Knight).

Londonderry

One: Faughanvale, Lough Foyle, 17th October (Graham McIlwaine, Philip Watson).

One: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 15th December (Theo Campbell, Christine Cassidy).

2013**Antrim**

One: Taken into care. Avian Care Trust, Crumlin, 20th May (Margaret Adamson).

Down

One: Killard NNR, Strangford, 20th to 22nd January (Ronald Surgenor *et al.*).

Single birds recorded, Ballyquintin, Outer Ards Peninsula, 26th January to 27th April and 22nd November (Richard Weyl, Keith Bennett *et al.*).

Four: Darragh Island, Strangford Lough, Killinchy. Two birds observed on 14th February with four birds recorded on 13th March (Hugh Thurgate).

Two or three: Copeland Islands. Singles on Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, 7th and 29th June and one on Mew Island, 29th August (Adam McClure, Kerry Leonard).

One: Ballywalter, 18th October (Martin McClenaghan).

Londonderry

One: Portstewart Dunes, Portstewart, 12th March (Paul Toner).

2014**Antrim**

One: Rathlin Island, 8th November (Neal Warnock).

Down

Two or three: Ballyquintin Point, Outer Ards Peninsula. Up to two, 25th January to 8th March, with one bird observed on 23rd November (Richard Weyl).

Five: Darragh Island, Strangford Lough, Killinchy, 16th February (Hugh Thurgate).

One: Groomsport, 30th October (Frank Murphy).

One: Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, 23rd November (Colin Guy).

Two: Kircubbin, Strangford Lough, 23rd November (Edward Lowry *et al.*).

Londonderry

One: Found dead. Near Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 14th September (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan), killed in a collision with a car.

2015**Antrim**

One: Kilroot, Larne, 31st October (Gerard McGeehan).

One: Ballintoy Harbour, Ballintoy, 1st November (Gerard McGeehan).

One: Ramore Head, Portrush, 4th November (Dougie Gamble).

Armagh

One: Shelshion Bog, Portadown, 1st November (Brian Nelson).

Down

One: Ballywalter, 15th October (Martin McClenaghan, Ronnie Snoddy).

Up to five: Ballymacormick Point, Groomsport, 25th October to 7th November (Colin Guy, Stephen Maxwell, John Edwards *et al.*).

One: Ballyquintin, Outer Ards Peninsula, 29th October (Keith Bennett).

One: Warrenpoint, 7th November (Karen Elliot).

One: Killard NNR, Strangford, 11th November (Chris Murphy).

One: Portavogie, 15th November (Richard Weyl).

One: Horse Island, Kircubbin, 20th December (Richard Weyl).

Londonderry

One: Paddy's Dub, Lough Beg, 28th October (Godfrey McRoberts).

One: Bann Estuary, Coleraine, 29th October (Peter Welch).

Up to four: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 1st to 4th November (Christine Cassidy, Raymond Brogan, David Nixon, Phillip Mahaffie *et al.*).

2016**Antrim**

One: Rathlin Island, 20th April (Colin Guy).

Armagh

One: South east Bann Meadows, Portadown, 5th March (James O'Neill).

One: Charlestown, Portadown, 5th March (James O'Neill).

Down

12: Darragh Island, Strangford Lough, Killinchy. Nine, 22nd February with three on 20th December (Hugh Thurgate).

One: Ballyquintin, Outer Ards Peninsula, 7th March (Dan Bailie).

One: Inishroan, Strangford Lough, Whiterocks, 29th April (Hugh Thurgate).

One: Killard NNR, Strangford, 24th May (Angus Kennedy).

One: Bloody Bridge, Newcastle, 14th August (Jim Leitch).

One: Ballymacormick Point, Groomsport, 28th October (Lesley Crenshaw).

Fermanagh

One: Lisnaskea, 6th May (Sarah McCaffrey).

2017**Down**

One: Ballyquintin Point, Outer Ards Peninsula, 11th November (Richard Weyl).

2018**Antrim**

One: Dunseverick, 21st April (Colin Guy).

Two: Rathlin Island. One adult, Kinramer, 13th September, with one at Knockans in late November (Ric Else, Hazel Watson).

One: Glenhead, Antrim Hills, 1st November (Ian Dickey).

Down

One: Ballymacormick Point, Groomsport, 17th February (Billy Miskelly).

One: Tara Bay, Portavogie, 6th July (Dermot Hughes).

One: Kircubbin, 14th August (Harry Lowry).

One: Copeland Bird Observatory, Lighthouse Island, Copeland Islands, 8th September (Laurence Eagley).

One: Cockle Island, Groomsport, 28th September (Richard Weyl).

One: Magheraleave Road, Fairfield's Road, Lisburn, 7th October (Desmond Hassett).

One: Islandhill, Comber, 17th October (Harry Byron).

One: Ballyquintin, Outer Ards Peninsula, 22nd October to 29th November (Dan Bailie *et al.*).

Londonderry

One: Balls Point, Bellarina, 19th November (Richard Donaghey).

One: Myroe Levels, 10th December (Brian Halligan).



Short Eared Owl *Asio flammeus*,
Glenhead, Antrim Hills, 1st November 2018. Photo courtesy of Ian Dickey.