

## **Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis* **SV**

(Circumpolar Arctic breeding range throughout the northern hemisphere including Scandinavia, Iceland, Northern Scotland, Russia, Siberia, Alaska, Canada and Greenland).

### **Unpublished records:**

**1993**

#### **Londonderry**

One: Black Rock, Portstewart, 17th January (Matthew Tickner).

**1994**

#### **Tyrone**

One: Mullaghmore Lough, Clogherny, Barony, 10th February (Matthew Tickner).

**1996**

#### **Antrim**

Up to ten: Ramore Head, Portrush, 30th September to 17th November (Geoff Campbell *et al.*).

Up to 12: Fair Head, Ballycastle, 1st October to 7th November (Matthew Tickner).

One: Benbane Head, 2nd October (Matthew Tickner).

Ten: Skerries, Portrush, 7th November (Anthony McGeehan).

One: Juvenile. Divis Mountain, Belfast, 10th November (Larry Toal).

One: Stoneyford Reservoir, Stoneyford, Lisburn, 21st December (Ted Rolston).

One: Beaghs Forest, Slievenorra, Antrim Hills, 22nd December (Davy Hunter).

#### **Armagh**

Two: Ardmore Point, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, 2nd October (David Knight).

#### **Down**

Two: Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, 5th October (George Henderson).

#### **Londonderry**

Up to six: Longfield Point, Eglington, 7th October to 17th November (Dave Allen *et al.*).

One: Castlerock, 19th October (Jeff Larkin).

One: Roe Estuary, Lough Foyle, 19th October (Davy Hunter).

Up to 20: Magilligan, 20th October to 17th November (Davy Hunter, Gerard McGeehan *et al.*).

15: Binevenagh, 25th October (Theo Campbell).

20: Barmouth, Bann Estuary, Coleraine, 26th October (Davy Hunter, Gerard McGeehan).

One: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 29th October (Dave Allen, Matthew Tickner).

Up to three: Balls Point, Lough Foyle, Bellarena, 5th to 16th November (Dave Allen, Matthew Tickner *et al.*).

One: Coleraine, 9th November (Anthony McGeehan).

Four: Collonward Mountain, 28th November (John O'Boyle).

20: Downhill, 15th December (Mervyn Guthrie).

**1998**

#### **Antrim**

Up to 20: Star Bog Road, Cappanagh, 21st January to 8th February (Geoff Campbell, Eric Randall).

One: Dunsevrick Castle, Dunseverick, 27th January (Matthew Tickner).

25: North of Doon Farm, Fair Head, Ballycastle, 22nd January (Matthew Tickner).

Up to 15: Rathlin Island, 18th February to 14th May (Liam McFaul).

31: Fair Head, Ballycastle. Eight 22nd February with 23 on 21st October (Larry Toal Matthew Tickner).

20: Cave Hill, Belfast Hills. Four 17th March and up to 16 9th to 27th December (Larry Toal).

Up to 13: Ramore Head, Portrush, 16th September to 29th October (Oscar Campbell, Kerry Leonard *et al.*).

One: Runkerry (Bushfoot) Dunes, Portballintrae, 12th October (Matthew Tickner).

Three: Divis Mountain, Belfast Hills, 9th November (John O'Boyle).

One: Sandy Bay, Larne, 28th November (David Steele).

#### **Armagh**

Two: Reedy Flats, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, 6th November (Oscar Campbell).

One: Ardmore Point, Lough Neagh, Derrytrasna, 6th November (Oscar Campbell).

#### **Down**

Seven: Tyrella Beach, Tyrella, Downpatrick, 26th February (C. Bell).

13: Murlough Nature Reserve, Newcastle, 24th November (Matthew Tickner).

Eight: Ballyquintin Point, Outer Ards Peninsula, 4th December (Dave Allen, Matthew Tickner).

One: BP3, Belfast Harbour Estate, Belfast, 28th December (Anthony McGeehan).

### **Londonderry**

21: Magilligan Nature Reserve, Magilligan. 15 10th January and up to six 10th October to 15th December (Jeff Larkin Davy Hunter *et al.*).

Six: Portstewart Strand, Portstewart, 18th October (Matthew Tickner).

Up to 10: Balls Point, Lough Foyle, Bellarena, 6th November to 8th December (Dave Allen, Mathew Tickner).

40: Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, 15th November (Seamus Burns).

25: Myroe, Lough Foyle, 15th November (Seamus Burns).

### **1999**

#### **Antrim**

35: Lough Doo, Fair Head, 6th January (Matthew Tickner).

25: Cavehill, Belfast. 11 11th January and 14 on 31st October (Larry Toal).

One: Whitehead, County Antrim, 23rd January (J. Piper).

Five: Divis Mountain, Belfast Hills, 2nd February (John O'Boyle).

One: Fair Head, Ballycastle, 6th March (Richard Hunter).

One: Ramore Head, Portrush, 3rd October (Ivor McDonald *et al.*).

Four: Rathlin Island, 22nd October (Davy Hunter).

Two: Troston, Ballycastle, 19th October (Godfrey McRoberts).

#### **Armagh**

Two: Trowagh Visitors Quay, Lough Neagh, 4th November to 30th December (David Knight)

#### **Down**

15: Greyabbey Bay, Strangford Lough, 21st January (Jeff Larkin).

54: Gransha Point, Strangford Lough. 41 24th January with 13 on 14th November (Ivan Quail).

Six: Killard NNR, Strangford, 6th October (H. Craig).

One: Rockport, Holywood, 11th October (Anthony McGeehan).

Two: Slieve Donard, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 3rd November (Fulton Summerville).

Nine: Slieve Commedagh, Mourne Mountains, 11th January (Hugh Thurgate).

### **Londonderry**

Up to 50: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 5th January to 23rd March (Davy Hunter Matthew Tickner).

One: Female. Castlerock, 10th January (Jeff Larkin).

One: Female. Magilligan, 10th January (Jeff Larkin).

Ten: Bann Estuary, Coleraine, 21st January (David Steele).

Eight: Magilligan, 30th October (Mervyn Guthrie).

Three: Gortmore, the Umbra, 31st October (Mervyn Guthrie).

35: Ballykelly, 10th November (Matthew Tickner).

### **2000**

#### **Antrim**

One: Giants Causeway, Bushmills, 12th February (Clive Mellon).

Eight: Divis Mountain, Belfast Hills, 13th February (Larry Toal).

One: Slemish, Ballymena, 10th December (Larry Toal).

#### **Armagh**

Two: Trowagh Visitors Quay, Lough Neagh, 8th January (Brian Nelson, David Knight).

#### **Down**

One: Ringfad Point, Ardglass, 9th January (Chris Murphy).

Three: Light House (Johns) Island, Copeland Islands, 1st November (Neville McKee).

### **Londonderry**

One: Tamnariin Bridge, River Roe (C705045), (Godfrey McRoberts).

Six: Myroe, Lough Foyle, 15th March (Davy Hunter).

One: Male. Black Braes, 25th September (Godfrey McRoberts).

One: Longfield Point, Eglington, 4th December (Matthew Tickner).

### **2001**

#### **Antrim**

15: Cushleake Mountain, Cushendun, 9th December (Larry Toal).

### **2002**

#### **Antrim**

One: Giants Causeway, Bushmills, 18th March (Mr. Mercer).

Two: Glendun, 16th October (Richard Gray).

Up to five: Ramore Head, Portrush, 27th October to 15th December (Matthew Tickner, M Mercer).  
14: Cave Hill, Belfast, 10th November (Larry Toal).

**Down**

One: Male. Burr Point, Ballyhalbert, 3rd February (Wilton Farrelly).  
One: Female. Belfast Harbour Estate, 17th November (Walter Veale).

**Londonderry**

One: Gortmore, Umbra, 14th March (Geoff Campbell).  
One: Magilligan, 18th November (Gerard McGeehan).  
Three: Longfield Pont, Lough Foyle, 19th November (Matthew Tickner).

**2003**

**Antrim**

Six: Cavehill, Belfast Hills, 29th January (Larry Toal).  
Four: North Foreshore Tip, Dargan Road, Belfast. Three 17th February with a single on 13th November (Cameron Moore *et al.*).  
Two: Slievenacloy, Belfast Hills, Lisburn, 27th October to 7th November (Dermot Hughes).

**Down**

One: Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, 18th January (Kerry Leonard).  
Two: On the summit of Slieve Donard, Mourne Mountains, 23rd November (Flapline).

**Londonderry**

One: Magilligan, Lough Foyle, 12th January (Davy Hunter *et al.*).  
One: Roe Estuary, Lough Foyle, 5th March (Charles Stewart).  
Three: Altahullion Hill, Dungiven, 11th February (David Steele).  
One: Female. Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, 9th November (J. Clark *et al.*).

**2004**

**Antrim**

Five: Giants Causeway, Bushmills, 30th January (J. Clark).

**Down**

One: Light House (Johns) Island, Copeland Islands, 31st March (Neville McKee).

**Londonderry**

Eight: Glenshane Mountain, 22nd January (Matthew Tickner).

**2005**

**Antrim**

20: Giants Causeway, Bushmills, 21st January (Flightline).  
70: Ballywilland, Portrush, 25th January (Flightline).  
One: Runkerry, Portballintrae, 25th March (Flightline).  
One: Divis Mountain, Belfast Hills, 23rd October (Flightline).  
Up to four: Ramore Head, Portrush, 25th October to 24th November (Flightline).  
One: Browns Bay, Larne, 6th November (Flightline).  
Four: Rathlin Island, 6th November (Flightline).

**Down**

Six: Portavogie, 26th January (Flightline).  
One: Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, 13th November (Flightline).  
20: Cave Hill, Belfast Hills, 26th December (Flightline).

**Londonderry**

Two: Binevenagh (C689311) 5th January (Flightline).  
Four: Magilligan, Lough Foyle, 15th November (Flightline).

**2006**

**Antrim**

One: Altnahinch Dam, Bush River, Antrim Hills, 22nd January (Flightline).  
26: Cave Hill, Belfast Hills, 27th January (Flightline).  
One: Causeway Hotel, Giants Causeway, Bushmills, 22nd March (Flightline).  
Two: Females. Ballintoy Demesne, 1km East of White Park Bay, 31st March (Flightline).  
35: White Park Bay, Ballintoy, 5th February (Flightline).  
One: Fair Head, Ballycastle, 28th October (Flightline).

**Down**

Four: Tyrella, 12th January (Flightline).  
One: Ballyholme Bay, Bangor, 5th November (Flightline).

## **Londonderry**

One: Glenshane Pass, on farm track near the Ponderosa, Sperrin Mountains, 12th November (Flightline).

### **2007**

#### **Antrim**

18: Glenhead, Antrim Hills, 11th February (Flightline).

Two: Dunseverick, 27th September (Flightline).

One: Male. Whitehead, 31st October to 4th November (Cameron Moore *et al.*).

Up to four: Ramore Head, Portrush, 3rd to 10th November (Flightline).

#### **Down**

One: Male. Orlock, Groomsport, 27th December (Flightline).

Seven: Kircubbin Bay, Kircubbin, Strangford Lough, 31st December (Flightline).

### **2008**

#### **Antrim**

Eight: Criagahulliar Road, Portrush, 6th February (Flightline).

Three; Ramore Head, Portrush. Two: 11th February One: 10th November (Flightline).

One: Ballyboley Reservoir, Ballyboley, Larne, 18th October (Flightline).

Three: Slemish Mountain, Ballymena, 16th November (Flightline).

50: Beaghs Forest, Slievanorra, Antrim Hills, 3rd December (Flightline).

27: Divis Mountain, Belfast Hills, 6th December (Flightline).

Five: Skerry Hill, Antrim, 16th December (Flightline).

30: Hightown, Ballyvaston, Glengormley, 24th December (Flightline).

#### **Down**

15: Slieve Bearnagh, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 17th March (Flightline).

Five: Slieve Commedagh, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 27th March (Flightline).

Five: Slieve Donard, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 15th April (Flightline).

## **Londonderry**

27: Binevenagh, Benone, 6th March (Flightline).

### **2009**

#### **Antrim**

Up to 31: Shanes Hill, Killwaughter, Larne, 26th January to 6th February (Flightline).

35: Carnal Ridge, Portrush, 27th January (Matthew Tickner).

One: Portballintrae, 7th October (Flightline).

Four: Rathlin Island, 8th October (Neal Warnock).

One: Star Bog Road, Larne, 10th October (John Lovatt).

One: Ramore Head, Portrush, 11th October (Flightline).

#### **Down**

Up to 35: Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, 4th to 7th February (Neal Warnock *et al.*).

Up to 70: Moira Road, Ballinderry, Moira, 6th to 14th February (Flightline).

## **Londonderry**

30: Slieve Donard, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 16th February (Flightline).

One: Male. Longfield Point, Lough Foyle, 5th April (Flightline).

One: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 25th October (Neal Warnock).

## **Tyrone**

One: Kinrush Airfield, Ardboe, 8th November (Flightline).

### **2010**

#### **Antrim**

Two: Ballintoy One: 28th April One: 26th October (Patrick Barton *et al.*).

Up to two: Ramore Head, Portrush, 18th September to 23rd October (Richard Hoy *et al.*).

Three: Blackmountain, Belfast, 20th September (Dave Allen).

Two: Rathlin Island, 17th October (Geoff Campbell).

25: Garron Plateau, Carnlough, 9th November (Geoff Campbell).

One: Female. East Strand, Portrush, 11th November (Matthew Tickner).

One: Sandy Bay, Larne, 16th November (Cameron Moore).

One: Coleraine, 24th December (Keith Bennett).

#### **Down**

Ten: Slieve Commedagh, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 7th March (Flightline).

Two: Slieve Donard, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 19th November (Patrick Lynch).

**Fermanagh**

31: Cuilcagh Mountain, Marble Arch. One, 11th October with 30 on 5th December (Brad Robson).

**Londonderry**

One: Termain Hill, Garvagh, 24th November (David Steele).

Three: Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, 27th November (Tyrone Nelson).

**Tyrone**

One: Slieve Beagh, Fivemiletown, 3rd November.

**2011****Antrim**

Three: Agnews Hill, Larne, 8th February (Brian Porter).

Twelve: Greenisland, 17th February (Gerard McGeehan).

One: Hightown, Glengormley, 18th December (Larry Toal).

One: Ramore Head, Portrush, 10th to 31st October (Matthew Tickner *et al.*).

One: Cushendall, 1st November (Colin Guy).

Four: Slemish, Ballymena, 3rd November (Neal Warnock).

Two: Rathlin Island, 5th November (Neal Warnock).

One: Rasharkin, 14th November (Kerry Leonard).

**Down**

One: Newry, 1st to 6th January (A. McEvoy).

Up to eight: Slieve Donard, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 24th March to 5th April (Dan Bailie *et al.*).

Two: Luke's Point, Bangor, 14th October (Robert Taylor).

One: Orlock Point, Groomsport, 20th October (Ron Price)

**Londonderry**

Two: Magilligan, Lough Foyle. Singles on 24th February and 14th to 15th October (Andrew Croy *et al.*).

Two: Balls Point, Lough Foyle. One 25th February and one 19th October (George Henderson).

One: Benbradagh, 23rd March (Tyrone Nelson).

Two: Benone, Castlerock, 10th October (Charles Stewart)

**2012****Antrim**

68: Hightown, Glengormley. Up to 40 2nd January to 10th March and 28 1st to 9th December (Larry Toal *et al.*).

Eight: Cavehill, Belfast Hills, 17th March (Larry Toal).

Seven: Giants Causeway, Bushmills. Five 18th March and two at the Visitor Centre, 11th December (Neal Warnock, Hill Dick, Peter Robinson).

Five: Ramore Head, Portrush. One 26th March and four on 5th November (Stephen Maxwell, Alastair Prentice).

Up to five: Fair Head, Ballycastle, 6th to 31st October (Richard Donaghey *et al.*).

Up to eight: Ballintoy Harbour, 27th October to 13th November (Colin Guy, Ian Dickey *et al.*).

Five: Four at West Light and one at Kebble, Rathlin Island, 30th October (Liam McFaul *et al.*).

One: Runkerry Head, Portballintrae, 15th November (Colin Guy).

30: Glendun, 11th November (Larry Toal).

25: Wolf Hill, Belfast Hills, 1st December (Larry Toal).

Up to 100: Causeway Coastal Path, Bushmills, 5th to 8th December (Roger Woodward *et al.*).

40: Portrush, 5th to 9th December (Ian Dickey).

Up to 60: Bengore Head, Dunseverick, 10th and 11th of December (Ronald Surgenor).

Three: Slievenacloy, Belfast Hills, 24th December (Dermot Hughes).

**Armagh**

Ten: Ardmore, Lough Neagh, 25th November (Derek Charles, Majella Callaghan).

**Down**

One: Ben Crom, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 7th January (Dan Bailie).

Nine: Slieve Donard, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 11th January (Patrick Lynch).

Five: Commedagh, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 23rd March (Dan Bailie).

Up to 12: Kearny, Outer Ards Peninsula, 19th to 20th October (Mike Crossley *et al.*).

**Londonderry**

One: Letterlogger Hill, 1st January.

20: Magilligan, Lough Foyle. Up to 19 17th January to 22nd February and one 16th to 23rd October (George Henderson, Christine Cassidy *et al.*).

Four: Longfield, Lough Foyle, 14th February (Brad Robson, Mathew Tickner, Gareth Bareham).

Four: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 13th to 20th December (Derek Charles *et al.*).

### **Tyrone**

Two: Tullycar, Hill, Killeter, 12th January (David Steele).

### **2013**

#### **Antrim**

20: Fair Head, Ballycastle, 3rd January (Ronald Surgenor).

Up to 25: Hightown Quarry, Glengormley, 16th February to 30th March (Larry Toal *et al.*)

Two: Wolfs Hill, Belfast Hills, 23rd February (Larry Toal).

One: Shane's Hill, Kilwaughter, Larne, 26th February (Joe Lamont).

Up to ten: Portstewart Dunes, Portstewart, 7th to 10th March (Paul Toner John Clarke).

One: Ramore Head, Portrush, 28th September to 2nd October (Matthew Tickner *et al.*).

Two: Rathlin Island, 8th October to 6th November (Colin Guy *et al.*).

One: Agnew's Hill, Kilwaughter, 26th October (Keith Bennett).

One: Carrick-a-Rede, Ballintoy, 30th October (Ronald Surgenor).

Three: Islandmagee, 1st November (Kerry Leonard).

#### **Down**

Four: Slieve Donard, Mourne, Newcastle. One 2nd February with three, two males and one female on 31st October (Keith Bennett *et al.*).

One: Groomsport, 15th February (Ivan DalGLISH).

One: Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, 20th February (Colin Guy).

Two: Copeland Bird Observatory, 17th March (Kerry Leonard).

One: Slieve Gullion, Newry, 17th December (David Knight).

#### **Londonderry**

Two: Donnybrewer, Lough Foyle 25th November (Matthew Tickner, Gareth Bareham).

### **2014**

#### **Antrim**

Up to nine: Rathmore Golf Course, Portrush, 15th January to 28th February (Colin Guy).

Three: East Strand, Portrush, 1st to 16th February (John Clarke *et al.*).

16: Slieveanee, Dunaghy, Barony, Glenarm, Antrim Hills, 6th February (Dave Allen *et al.*).

One: Ramore Head, Portrush, 11th October to 15th November (Matthew Tickner *et al.*).

Two: White Rocks Portrush, 20th October (Colin Guy).

Two: Rathlin Island, 5th November (Colin Guy).

Three: Divis Mountain, Belfast Hills, Belfast, 7th to 15th November (Aide McElduff).

44: Ballygally, Antrim Hills, 23rd November (Richard Donaghey).

#### **Down**

Three: Slieve Commedagh, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 25th January (Matthew Scott).

Up to three: Briggs Rocks, Groomsport, 23rd November to 11th December (Colin Guy).

One: Orlock Point, Groomsport, 30th December (Richard Weyl).

#### **Londonderry**

Three: Castlerock. Two 20th February, with a single 8th to 9th October (Alex Tinley, John Clarke, Christine Cassidy *et al.*).

One: Bann Estuary, Coleraine, 22nd October (Theo Campbell).

One: Slieve Gallion, Sperrin's, 25th December (John Spratt).

### **2015**

#### **Antrim**

One: Rathlin Island, 13th October (Colin Guy).

One: Ramore Head, Portrush, 20th October (Colin Guy).

#### **Down**

One: Orlock Point, Groomsport, 11th January (Richard Weyl).

One: Camlough Mountain, Newry, 8th November (David Knight).

One: Killard Point, Strangford, 22nd November (James O'Neill).

#### **Fermanagh**

Four: Knockmore, 17th October (Brad Robson).

#### **Londonderry**

Up to 33: Benbradagh Mountain, Dungiven, 3rd to 6th January (Peter McAllister, Donna Rainey).

Up to three: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle. 29th September to 31st October (David Hill *et al.*).

**Tyrone**

One: Dunnaree Hill, 4th November (Clive Mellon).

**2016****Antrim**

One: Ramore Head, Portrush, 5th October to 11th November (Matthew Tickner *et al.*).

One: Rathlin Island, 20th October (Neal Warnock).

One: Female. Dunsevrick, 26th October (Colin Guy).

One: White Park Bay, Ballintoy, 20th November (Wilton Farrelly).

14: Skeery Hill, Altnahich Road, Antrim Hills, 28th November (David Steele).

**Down**

Four: 17th December Slieve Gullion, Newry (David Knight).

**Londonderry**

Two: Carnogher Mountain, Sperrin Mountains, 18th November (David Morrow).

Eight: Keady Mountain, 8th December (David Steele).

**2017****Antrim**

Up to two: Ramore Head, Portrush, 4th October to 10th November (Matthew Tickner *et al.*).

Up to six: Rathlin Island, 12th October to 11th November (Ric Else, Hazel Watson, Neal Warnock).

One Runkerry, Portballintrae, 9th November (Colin Guy).

**Down**

One: Slieve Gullion, Newry 2nd November (David Knight).

One: Female / immature. Tyrella Beach, Tyrella, 12th November (Dermot Hughes).

One: Kearney, 14th November (Heather Parker).

20: Slieve Comedagh, Mourne Mountains, Newcastle, 7th December (Fergal O'Connor).

**Londonderry**

Five: Binevenagh, 19th January (Dick Glasgow).

22: Keady Mountain, Limavady, 10th February (David Steele).

Up to five: Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle 27th to 29th November (Christine Cassidy, Lyndsey Hodges).

**2018****Antrim**

Four: Rathlin Island. One, 1st to 6th January, one, 30th March and up to two, 13th to 31st October (Ric Else, Hazel Watson *et al.*).

One: Ramore Head, Portrush, 4th January (Colin Guy).

Two: Kilroot, Larne, 19th January (Stephen Drake)

Two: Glenarm Rowing Club, Glenarm, 12th February (Paul Tout).

One: Scawt Hill, Cairncastle, Antrim Plateau, Larne, 18th October (David Steele).

Two: Islandmagee. One, male, 7th November and a female on 11th November (David Galbraith).

Three: Royal Portrush Golf Club, 4th December (Colin Guy).

**Londonderry**

Five: Old School Hotel, Portstewart, 1st March (Gary Wilkinson).



Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*,  
Portrush, October 2010. Photo courtesy of Geoff Campbell.