

## Black Brant *Branta (bernicula) nigricans*

BOU Category:	as Brent Goose <sup>AE</sup> (GB), A (site) <sup>†</sup>
Site status:	vagrant late autumn and winter visitor
Devon status:	accidental; <sup>†</sup> rare vagrant from N America <sup>†</sup>
Conservation status:	as Brent Goose BOCC3 (Amber-listed); <sup>†</sup> SPEC3W (Vulnerable); IUCN European and Global (Least Concern) <sup>†</sup>
Conservation levels	n/a

### International

Putatively split into three species, <sup>†</sup> but not widely adopted. Brent Goose usually recognised as three, sometimes four subspecies. Black Brant is also referred to as the 'North American and East Siberian' race.

Most nest in Alaska and west Canadian Islands, also expanding its breeding range west in Siberian tundra to Lena Delta. It winters along the Pacific coasts S to Baja California. Formerly in large numbers, it is now rare wintering in N China, Korean Peninsula and Japan. <sup>†</sup>

### Europe

Annual vagrant to northern Europe since 1974 with most records, including returning birds to GB (see below) and Netherlands, where 95 birds accepted to 1998, but no longer considered by CDNA from 1999. Also recorded in Iceland, France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

<sup>††</sup>

### Great Britain and Ireland

The first record was in Feb 1957 (Essex). Records were less than annual until the mid-1970s, but from 1978 it was increasingly found in Irish flocks of Canadian-bred *hrota* and from the early 1980s, increasingly found in Siberian-bred *bernicula* flocks in Lincs, East Anglia and SE coasts. Up to 18 accepted per annum; many presumably involving returning birds and have included mixed hybrid family groups with *hrota* and *bernicula*.<sup>†</sup> There were 178 accepted records of *nigricans* up to the end of 2005, when it ceased to be assessed by the BBRC.<sup>†</sup>

### Devon

Four records, the additional records to those cited below are one wintering on the Kingsbridge Estuary 2007/08<sup>†</sup> and one Penhill Marsh Feb/Mar 2012.

## Dawlish Warren

There are **two records** within recording area:

31 Oct - 18 Nov 1988 one on the Exe on these dates was seen here on at least one occasion (pers comms K Grant).

15 & 22 Feb 2009 in Shutterton Creek (15th); on Bull Hill, relocated to Starcross (22nd) (LC, JEF, DJw, IL *et al*)

The 2009 bird remained on the Exe Estuary 31 Jan - 07 Mar, frequenting sites as widely as Dawlish Warren, Mudbank Lane, Bowling Green Marsh and Powderham. †



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