

# Wood Sandpiper

*Tringa glareola*

Category A

Rare passage migrant.

23 records

Breeds chiefly in Fenno-Scandia and Russia eastwards across northern Asia to Kamchatka and Sakhalin Island, with a few pairs in countries on the southern coast of the Baltic and in Britain (where around 30 pairs nest annually). Winters mainly in tropical and subtropical latitudes in Africa, across southern Asia and in Australia (Snow & Perrins, 1998, Holling *et al*, 2019).



Wood Sandpiper at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)

It is a regular passage migrant in Kent and is more plentiful in autumn (KOS, 2020).

It was first noted locally by Roger Norman at Nickolls Quarry on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1952, with a further six records there by 1961. Two sightings occurred in May, with the others between the 5<sup>th</sup> August and 9<sup>th</sup> September, and five related to singles, with two on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1956 and three on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 1961.

There followed a thirty year gap, probably due to some extent to a lack of coverage, before Roger recorded another at Nickolls Quarry on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1992. Ian Roberts noted one there on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 1997 and it then occurred with some regularity between 2000 and 2008, with a total of nine records, including sightings in five consecutive years. All were seen at Nickolls Quarry, apart from one at Botolph's Bridge on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2008. In the first half of the 2000s an area of shallow water, islets and mud existed at Nickolls Quarry, attracting a range of migrant waders, but this was unfortunately infilled.

There have been just two records since, a flock of five at Nickolls Quarry on the 29<sup>th</sup> August and one heard calling as it flew over there during the night on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020.

The records by year are shown in figure 1.

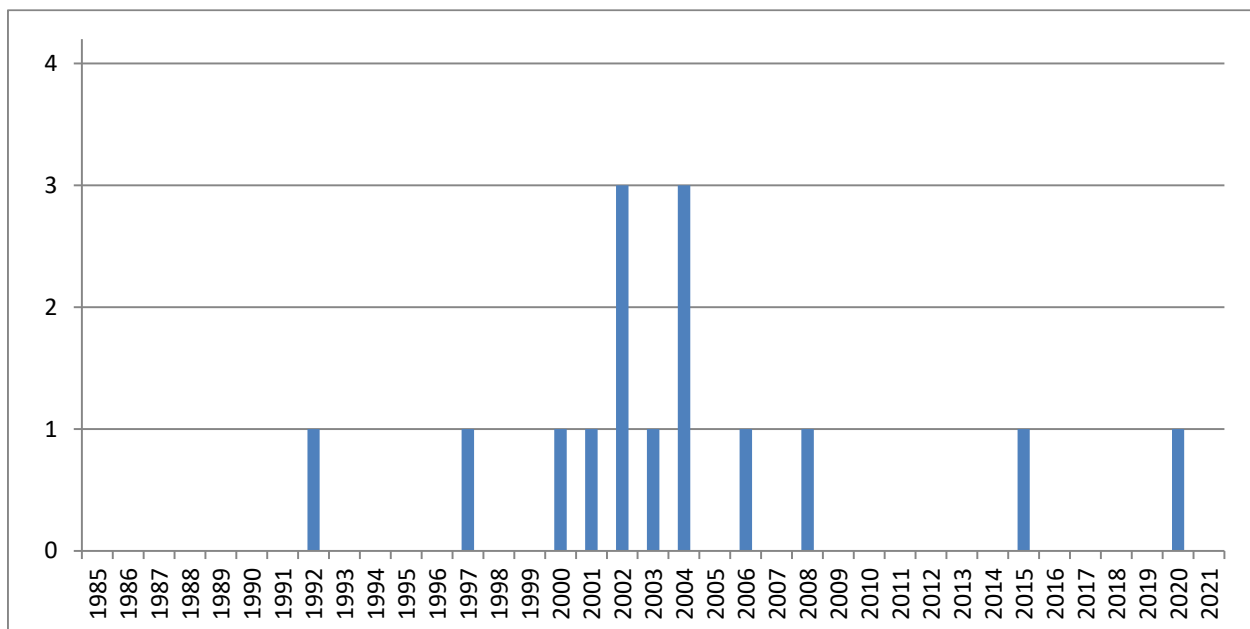


Figure 1: Wood Sandpiper records at Folkestone and Hythe since 1985

The records by week are shown in figure 2. Arrivals have fallen into two distinct periods: late spring/early summer (between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May, with a notably late individual on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1992) and late summer/early autumn (between the 17<sup>th</sup> July and 9<sup>th</sup> September).

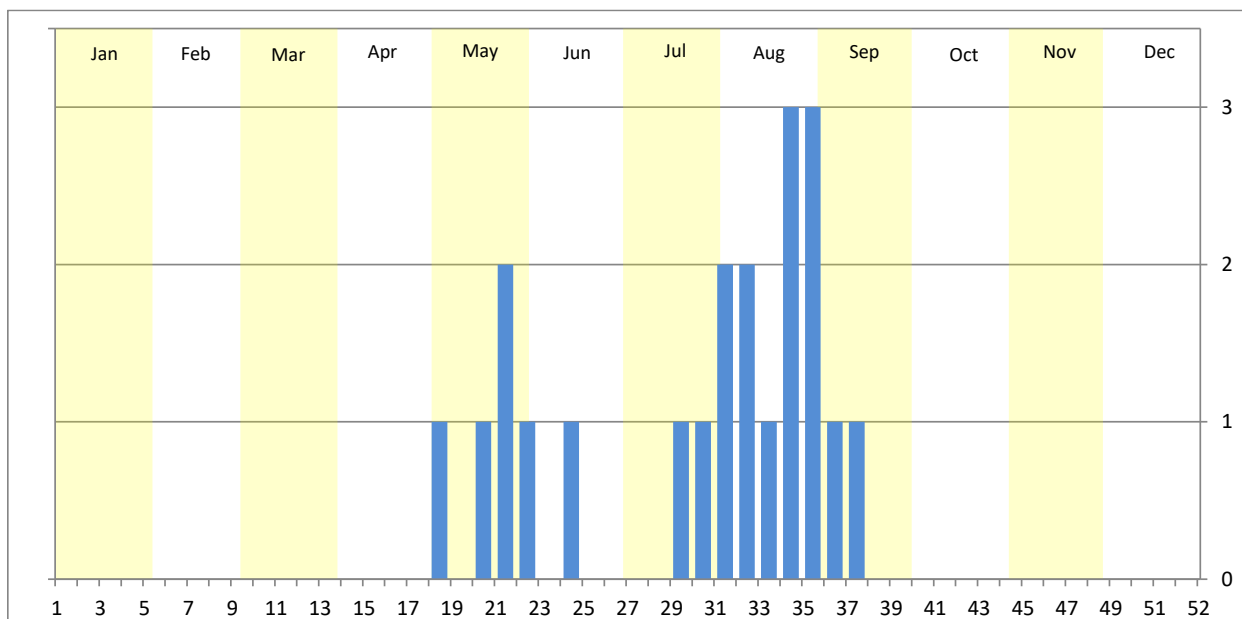


Figure 2: Wood Sandpiper records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the distribution of records by tetrad.

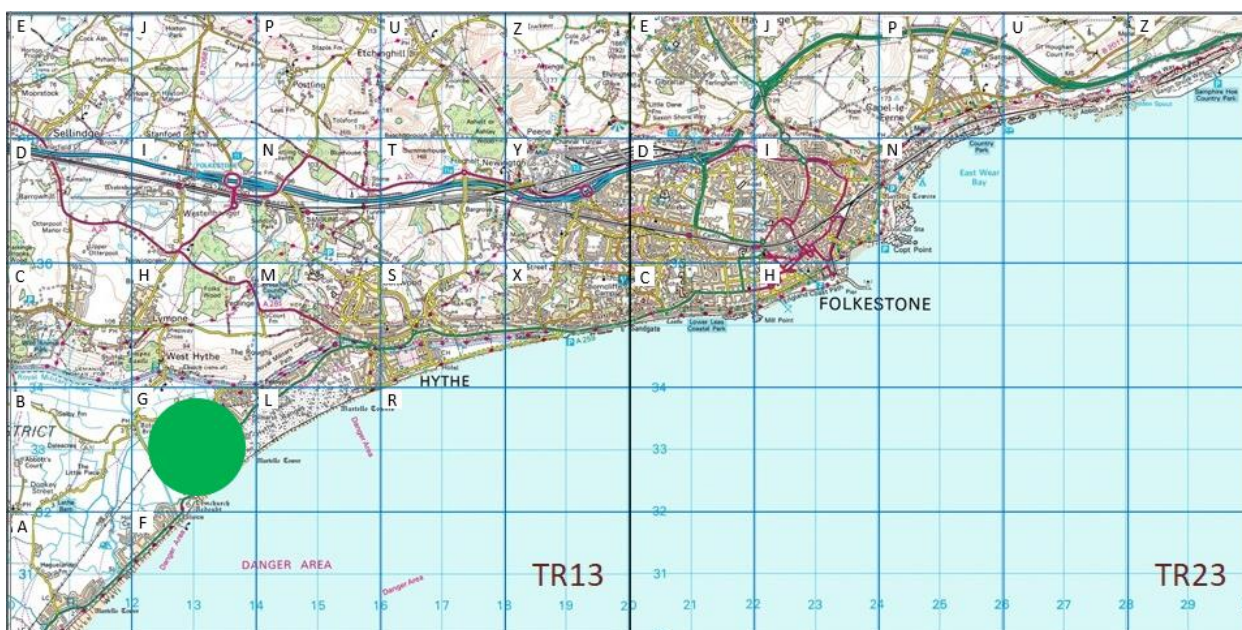


Figure 3: Distribution of all Wood Sandpiper records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1952** Nickolls Quarry, one, 20<sup>th</sup> August (R. K. Norman)
- 1956** Nickolls Quarry, two, 5<sup>th</sup> August (R. K. Norman)
- 1956** Nickolls Quarry, one, 9<sup>th</sup> September (R. K. Norman)
- 1957** Nickolls Quarry, one, 29<sup>th</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> September (R. K. Norman)
- 1958** Nickolls Quarry, one, 3<sup>rd</sup> May (R. K. Norman)
- 1958** Nickolls Quarry, one, 9<sup>th</sup> September (R. K. Norman)
- 1961** Nickolls Quarry, three, 24<sup>th</sup> May (R. K. Norman)
- 1992** Nickolls Quarry, one, 14<sup>th</sup> June (R. K. Norman)
- 1997** Nickolls Quarry, one, then flew high south-west, 10<sup>th</sup> August (I. A. Roberts)

- 2000** Nickolls Quarry, two, 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July, with one remaining to the 31<sup>st</sup> (R. K. Norman, D. A. Gibson, P. Haines)
- 2001** Nickolls Quarry, one, 31<sup>st</sup> May (R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)
- 2002** Nickolls Quarry, one, 14<sup>th</sup> August (R. K. Norman)
- 2002** Nickolls Quarry, one, 26<sup>th</sup> August (I. A. Roberts)
- 2002** Nickolls Quarry, one, 2<sup>nd</sup> September (R. K. Norman)
- 2003** Nickolls Quarry, one flew east, 23<sup>rd</sup> August (R. K. Norman)
- 2004** Nickolls Quarry, at least four different birds on 11 dates from 17<sup>th</sup> July, including one staying from 29<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> August (R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)
- 2006** Nickolls Quarry, one, 27<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August (I. A. Roberts)
- 2008** Botolph's Bridge, one, 18<sup>th</sup> May (R. K. Norman)
- 2015** Nickolls Quarry, five, 29<sup>th</sup> August, photographed (B. Harper)
- 2020** Nickolls Quarry, one, calling at night, 22<sup>nd</sup> May (I. A. Roberts)



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### **References**

Holling, M. & the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, 2019. Rare breeding birds in the UK in 2017. *British Birds*, 112: 706-758

Kent Bird Reports. Kent Ornithological Society

Snow, D. & Perrins, C.M., 1998. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*. Oxford University Press.

### **Acknowledgements**

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