

2016



Folkestone and Hythe Bird Report



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Introduction

Welcome to the fifth Folkestone and Hythe Bird Report which covers the 195 species recorded in 2016, which was four fewer than the total for the previous year. There was one addition to the area list – Forster's Tern – which was the 300th species to be recorded locally.

The Chinese Pond Heron record from 2014 has now been admitted to Category A of the British List following review by the BOURC. The rationale for this decision was as follows: "on first impression this species may seem an unlikely natural vagrant to Western Europe and, instead, a more likely escape from captive collections. However, Chinese Pond Heron is kept rarely in captivity in Europe, and is a long distance migrant with extra-limital birds previously found both in continental Europe and North America. The stable isotope analysis was consistent with a native origin in east Asia, although other regions in the world share these isotopic attributes. Thus the balance of evidence pointed very strongly towards the Kent record being a bird that originated from natural populations and it was unanimously accepted (BOURC, 2016a)".

There are, once again, many other highlights to report including the second record of Cattle Egret, the fifth Dipper, eighth Egyptian Goose, eighth and ninth Caspian Gulls, ninth Whooper Swan, tenth Common Crane and tenth and eleventh Black Kites. Sightings of Hooded Crow, Long-eared Owl (4), Red-rumped Swallow (2), Great Grey Shrike and Bearded Tit added further excitement. The first area record of the northern sub-species of Long-tailed Tit (*A. c. caudatus*) was also very notable.

There were record day counts of Red-throated Diver, Cormorant, Buzzard, Snipe and Mediterranean Gull, a record spring movement of Brambling and record spring passages of Firecrest, Wood Lark and Siskin, whilst it was the best year ever overall for Red Kite, Long-eared Owl and Yellow-browed Warbler. Spring also produced the second highest ever passage totals of Brent Goose and Chaffinch, and it was the second best year overall for Goosander.

The first ever winter record of Arctic Skua was notable, whilst spring saw the earliest ever arrival dates for Arctic Skua, Little Tern, Common Tern and Reed Warbler, and the latest ever departure date for Fieldfare. The highlight of the breeding season was the first confirmed nesting of Raven, with two chicks successfully hatching at Samphire Hoe, whilst another pair probably bred at Capel-le-Ferne. Samphire Hoe also recorded its first breeding records of Little Grebe and Reed Warbler. The autumn saw the earliest ever arrival of Redwings and the latest departures of Whitethroat and Wheatear.

There were welcome returns to the year list for Eider, Pomarine Skua and Snow Bunting (all surprising absentees in 2015), whilst Yellow-browed Warbler reappeared in style (registering a record year) as did Nightingale (with the best year since 1995). The sad demise of the Turtle Dove was well documented and there were no records for the first time ever but there were no other significant omissions in 2016.

Two Migration Day Events were held again, on the 18th September and 29th October, coordinated by Paul Holt and the volunteers at Samphire Hoe, and proved extremely popular and successful with two Yellow-browed Warblers being amongst the highlights of the first event.

If there are any local records which have not been included within this report I would be very thankful to receive them. The boundaries of the local area can be found on page 112 and my contact details are given below.

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25th January 2017

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Front cover: Forster's Tern at Princes Parade in November 2016 (Brian Harper)

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List of contributors

I have endeavoured to include all observers known to have contributed records or photographs for the year and their input has been very much appreciated. It is of course possible that there have been accidental omissions from the list below. It is hoped that should this be the case my apologies will be accepted for the oversight.

B Adams	J Jeffreys	P Trodd
J Allchin	A Johnson	J Turpin
C Apps	A Jupp	G Tutton
P Apps		
	M D Kennett	M Vandoen
M Bournat		M Varley
A Brown	D Lawie	
D Brown	Stephen Lea	A Ward
M C Buckland	Stephanie Lea	S Warry
G J A Burton	R Lee	N Webster
	J Leigh	D Weller
D Clarke	O Leyshon	P J Wells
P Coleman	A Luckhurst	M Whybrow
L Collins	D Lunt	B Woolhouse
M Collins		D Wrathall
R Collins	A Mackay	B Wright
S Cutt	B Mansfield	M Wrigley
	D Mansfield	
K Daniells	S McMinn	
	A J Morris	
P Edmondson		
	R K Norman	
D Featherbe		
B Findlay	W Peacock	
N C Frampton	C Philpott	
A Fuggle	K C Privett	
A Gay	R Rackcliffe	
D A Gibson	J Rees	
C Gillard	S Reynaert	
R Godden	I A Roberts	
J Gomm	K E Roberts	
B Green	P Royston	
A J Greenland		
	D Sephton	
N Handon	P J Sharp	
K Harding	D E Smith	
B Harper	P R Smith	
R Haynes	A South	
M Henty	M Stevens	
M Hollingsworth	M Stewart	
D Holman		
L Holman	R Thorogood	
P Holt	J Tilby	
P Howe	C Tomlinson	
J Hunter	J Tomlinson	
	S Tomlinson	
N Jarman	J Tomsett	

Review of the year

January

The year began mild and unsettled with low pressure in charge, bringing some prolonged and heavy rain. It turned drier and colder around the middle of the month, with widespread frosts leading to the canal and even parts of Nickolls Quarry freezing over. The month ended very mild and changeable, with frequent rain and strong winds.

A flock of eight White-fronted Geese flew south-west over West Hythe on the 17th and up to 11 Canada Geese and 18 Mute Swans were in the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area, whilst a Greylag Goose flew east there on the 23rd.

Small numbers of Brent Geese were noted moving east along the coast, including counts of 98 past Princes Parade on the 10th, 17 past Mill Point on the 18th, 20 past Samphire Hoe on the 25th and 35 past Princes Parade on the 27th, whilst one was seen on the Hythe Imperial golf course on the 1st, with four there on the 15th, when two were seen near the Willop sewage works. A pair of Wigeon flew east past Mill Point on the 2nd and two Wigeon and three Shovelers were at Nickolls Quarry the following day, with three Wigeon there on the 18th, whilst a pair of Gadwall were seen there on the 22nd.



Brent Goose at Hythe Imperial golf course (Nigel Webster)

Mandarin Ducks were present at Folks' Wood (6) and Kiln Wood (7), and counts of Teal included 27 at the Willop Sewer and 35 at Chesterfield Wood (Saltwood), whilst seven flew west past Mill Point on the 3rd. Wintering Mallard counts included 60 at the Willop Basin and 112 at Botolph's Bridge and small numbers of Shelduck were noted from coastal watch-points.

Single drake Pochard were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 18th and on the canal at Princes Parade on the 31st (to 1st February), whilst up to eight Tufted Ducks were at the former site. A drake Eider was seen flying west past Hythe, with presumably the same bird later passing east at Battery Point, on the 16th January, and up to 16 Common Scoters were present off Seabrook throughout, whilst three flew west at Samphire Hoe on the 20th and nine passed Mill Point on the 18th. Two Velvet Scoters were seen off the Willop Outfall on the 26th and another flew west past Princes Parade the next day, whilst two Goosanders flew west past Battery Point/Princes Parade on the 10th and a Red-breasted Merganser flew east past the latter site on the 17th.

Red-throated Divers were present in poor numbers, with a peak of just ten off Mill Point on the 2nd, and Great Crested Grebes were also scarce, with counts of 11 at Nickolls Quarry on the 13th and 15 passing Hythe on the 1st. The Little Grebe remained on the canal at Princes Parade, with others at the usual sites in the Botolph's Bridge area. Four Fulmars were at Samphire Hoe at the start of the year, increasing to eight by the 26th, and small numbers were noted at coastal sites, with a peak of five west past Mill Point on the 29th. Counts of Gannet included 47 east past Hythe on the 1st, 30 off Mill Point the next day, 30 east past Princes Parade on the 17th and 40 west past Mill Point on the 18th.

There was a notable movement of 79 Cormorants east past Mill Point on the 17th, whilst the only Shag of the month was at Samphire Hoe the following day. Up to four Little Egrets frequented the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area throughout and up to two were seen regularly at Samphire Hoe, with another at Copt Point on the 6th.

A female Marsh Harrier was seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 10th, with sightings of Merlin at Botolph's Bridge on the 1st and Nickolls Quarry on the 20th, and up to three Peregrines were along the cliffs between Abbotscliffe and Samphire Hoe, with one in the Botolph's Bridge/Donkey Street area in the last week of the month.

At least three Water Rails were at Nickolls Quarry, with two at Princes Parade and the solitary Coot remained at the latter site, whilst up to 17 were at the former. The roost at Folkestone Beach held up to 18 Ringed Plovers and another was seen at Hythe Ranges on the 30th. At least 15 Lapwings remained in the Hillhurst Farm area from last year before the colder weather mid-month led to a small influx, including 27 flying west over Botolph's Bridge on the 18th, one on the Hythe Imperial golf course on the 19th and 16 at Capel-le-Ferne on the 20th, with the Hillhurst Farm flock increasing to 53 on the 23rd.



Little Gull at Princes Parade (Brian Harper)

At least four Purple Sandpipers remained at Hythe, whilst two were seen at the Hythe Redoubt and another was at Mill Point. Two Jack Snipe were flushed from flooded fields in the Willop Basin/Willop sewage works area on the 1st and singles were noted at Nickolls Quarry on two dates, whilst there were 15 Snipe at the Willop Basin on the 1st, with 2-3 at Botolph's Bridge, Nickolls Quarry and near the Willop sewage works. Woodcock were found at Folks Wood and Kiln Wood (2) on the 9th. Up to three Green Sandpipers remained in the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area and up to four Curlews and four Redshanks were at the Willop Basin, whilst 17 Sanderling were counted at the Hythe Redoubt on the 1st, with a peak of six at the Willop Outfall on the 26th. This latter site also hosted up to 4 Oystercatchers and 15 Turnstone, whilst Folkestone Harbour held 4 Redshank and 7 Turnstone.

An Arctic Skua flew east past Mill Point on the 2nd, and single Great Skuas were noted flying east there on the same day and lingering around a fishing boat off Princes Parade on the 17th. There was a notable influx of Little Gulls, with a total of up to 52 recorded between the 2nd and the 11th. Sightings were almost daily during this period and counts included 12 west past Hythe/Princes Parade on the 5th, at least 16 west past Battery Point/Princes Parade on the 10th and seven west past Mill Point on the 11th, whilst one was seen on the Hythe Imperial golf course on the 8th.

Mediterranean Gulls were as always widespread, with counts including 35 at Hythe Imperial golf course and 101 at Copt Point, whilst Great Black-backed Gull counts involved 35 at Folkestone Harbour and 60 off Princes Parade. Auk numbers were low, with the exception of a movement of 655 Guillemots/Razorbills east past Princes Parade on the 17th, and the only Razorbills to be identified were at Samphire Hoe on the 19th and Mill Point on the 29th (3). At least 5,000 Wood Pigeons remained in the Botolph's Bridge/West Hythe area and there were up to 50 Stock Doves there, with 35 at Hillhurst Farm.

The Barn Owl was seen again at Donkey Street on the 1st and Little Owls were noted from Botolph's Bridge (2) and Church Hougham (2), whilst Tawny Owls were recorded at Palmarsh, Folks' Wood, Hythe, Folkestone and Church Hougham. Good numbers of Kingfishers were wintering, with at least three along the canal between Twiss Road (Hythe) and Seabrook, two at both Botolph's Bridge and West Hythe, and singles at Nickolls Quarry, the canal by Hythe Roughs, Hythe (Portland Road), Blackhouse Hill (Water Mill), Folkestone Harbour and Copt Point.

Up to 50 Sky Larks were present in stubble fields in the Botolph's Bridge area, whilst wintering Meadow Pipits included 40 at Church Hougham, 10 at Botolph's Bridge and Hythe Ranges, and 8 at Samphire Hoe. The latter site also hosted eight Rock Pipits, with another at Folkestone Harbour.

Counts of Pied Wagtails included 25 at Botolph's Bridge and 20 at Church Hougham. Single Black Redstarts were noted at Segrave Road (Folkestone) and Samphire Hoe, whilst Stonechats were logged at Samphire Hoe (7), Botolph's Bridge (2), Nickolls Quarry (2), Church Hougham (2), Princes Parade and Abbotscliffe. A flock of up to 70 Fieldfares frequented the Botolph's Bridge area before dispersing shortly after mid-month but Redwing numbers were very low, with a peak there of just 12. A pair of Blackcaps were wintering along the canal between Hythe and Seabrook, with others at Blackhouse Hill and The Fountain (Seabrook), and at least five Chiffchaffs were also noted along this section of the canal, with others at Nickolls Quarry and Copt Point, whilst Cetti's Warblers remained at Nickolls Quarry (3) and Princes Parade (2).



Firecrest at Enbrook Park (Brian Harper)

Wintering Firecrests were seen at Enbrook Park (4), along the canal between Hythe and Seabrook (2) and at West Hythe (2), and five Bearded Tits (3 males) were at Nickolls Quarry from at least the 3rd. At least two Marsh Tits were seen at Folks' Wood, with Nuthatches at Chesterfield Wood, Folks' Wood and Kiln Wood. Nine Ravens were reported at Samphire Hoe on the 2nd and a pair were prospecting potential nest sites there later in the month, with two near Stutfall Castle on the 31st.

The flock of Tree Sparrows remained in the Botolph's Bridge area throughout, with at least 51 counted, and up to 35 Goldfinches were also present there, with a Siskin noted on the 1st. The same area also held up to 33 Yellowhammers, 30 Reed Buntings and an excellent total of 30 Corn Buntings.

February

February was generally mild, wet and cloudy during the first half of the month, with some strong winds around the 8th associated with Storm Imogen, but the second half was colder, drier and sunnier, particularly from the 22nd onwards, with some overnight frost.

An **Egyptian Goose** was seen by the canal at Hythe from the 3rd to the 6th, whilst two Greylag Geese were at Botolph's Bridge on the 3rd and a pair of Canada Geese had returned to Nickolls Quarry by the end of the month. Mute Swans increased to 30 in the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area on the 24th and 90 Brent Geese flew east past Mill Point on the 6th, whilst a total of 115 were logged moving up-channel during the last ten days of February, with a peak of 35 past Samphire Hoe on the 28th.

A Shelduck flew west past Battery Point on the 2nd, whilst one was at the Willop Basin from the 25th to the 27th, with five flying east past Princes Parade on the latter date, and another heading east there the next day. Two Little Grebes, three Pochard, 4 Gadwall, 9 Tufted Ducks and 14 Teal were on the lake at Folkestone Racecourse (Westenhanger), and 20 Teal were at the Willop Basin throughout. Three **Goosanders** flew east past Princes Parade on the 27th and there was a peak of 23 Common Scoter flying east there on the 5th.

Red-throated Divers continued to be present in low numbers, with a peak of 25 flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 26th, whilst a dead individual found near Nickolls Quarry on the 24th and a live bird on the lake there on the 29th were noteworthy. Two Black-throated Divers were reported off Hythe on the 25th. Great Crested Grebes increased from mid-month with 42 off Mill Point on the 18th, 90 off Hythe Redoubt on the 25th and a particularly large movement of 83 flying east past Princes Parade on the 27th.

Up to nine Fulmars remained at Samphire Hoe and small numbers were noted at coastal sites, with a peak of five east past Mill Point on the 13th, when 76 Gannets also flew east. A flock of five Shag were feeding off Samphire Hoe on the 14th (with three to the 16th and one to the month's end) whilst 25 Cormorants were counted there on the 16th. Up to five Little Egrets remained in the Botolph's Bridge area and singles were noted at Cheriton, Lympne and Samphire Hoe.

An immature/female Marsh Harrier was seen at Botolph's Bridge on the 28th, with a Merlin there on the 19th whilst another flew over Hythe on the 28th and there was a Peregrine at Donkey Street on the 3rd, with two at Botolph's Bridge on the 28th.



Egyptian Goose at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

There were some indications of Buzzard passage from mid-February, with one at Samphire Hoe on the 15th, four west over Seabrook on the 19th and up to 16 migrants in the last ten days of the month, including six flying west over Saltwood on the 23rd. At least two Water Rails remained at Princes Parade (with analysis of photographs indicating that at least five individuals have been recorded there over the winter), with at least one at Nickolls Quarry. The Coot lingered at the former site, with seven at Folkestone Racecourse (Westenhanger), ten at Nickolls Quarry and scattered singles elsewhere on the marsh.

A total of 13 Oystercatchers were counted between Hythe Redoubt and the Willop Outfall on the 25th, whilst up to 17 Ringed Plovers were at the Folkestone Beach roost, with two at the Willop Outfall on the 27th, when four Sanderling were also noted. Very few Lapwings were recorded, with peaks of just six at the Willop Basin on the 8th and 25 at Hillhurst Farm on the 6th. At least three Purple Sandpipers remained at Hythe, whilst one on the seawall at Samphire Hoe on the 9th was a very good record for the site. Two Snipe were in a stubble field off Donkey Street and three were seen near Folkestone Racecourse (Westenhanger), whilst a Woodcock was flushed from Chesterfield Wood (Saltwood) and up to seven Curlew were at the Willop Basin. At least two Green Sandpipers remained in the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area.

The peak count of Kittiwakes was 14 flying west past Mill Point on the 6th and auks were scarce, with a maximum of 30 flying west past Battery Point on the 2nd, whilst Razorbills were identified at Samphire Hoe on the 3rd and Mill Point on the 13th (3). A **Barn Owl** flew from Hythe Ranges towards Nickolls Quarry on the 3rd, with presumably the same bird at Botolph's Bridge on the 19th, whilst two were found dead on the roadside near Abbotscliffe on the 28th.

Up to ten Rock Pipits and 15 Meadow Pipits were at Samphire Hoe, with 25 of the latter at Church Hougham where there were also 14 Pied Wagtails. Single Grey Wagtails were seen at various sites, with four in the Saltwood Castle area on the 28th. A Black Redstart remained at Samphire Hoe, whilst Stonechats were at Samphire Hoe (6), Church Hougham (2), Princes Parade and Copt Point.

Winter thrush numbers were very low with just a few Fieldfares in the Saltwood Castle area and only single figure counts of Redwings. At least two Blackcaps remained along the canal between Hythe and Seabrook, with two in a garden in Hythe, and singles at The Fountain (Seabrook) and East Cliff Gardens (Folkestone), whilst there was at least one Chiffchaff along the same section of the canal, with another at Nickolls Quarry. Two Goldcrests at Samphire Hoe on the 28th may have been early spring migrants.

The first area record of **Northern Long-tailed Tit** (form *caudatus*) at Samphire Hoe on the 16th was a major surprise but marked the start of a small influx into Kent and Sussex. It was accompanied by eight birds which appeared to be of the British form (*rosaceus*) which are also unusual at the site. A flock of ten Long-tailed Tits at Hythe seafront on the 25th and a further two at Samphire Hoe on the 29th hinted at continued migration.

Five **Bearded Tits** (3 males) remained at Nickolls Quarry whilst Marsh Tits were noted at Brockhill Country Park and Saltwood Castle, with a Nuthatch and five Treecreepers at the latter site. Following the prospecting of potential sites in January, a pair of Ravens have now built a nest at the eastern end of Samphire Hoe and three flew north over Blackhouse Hill on the 23rd.

At least 20 Corn Buntings, 25 Yellowhammers and 50 Tree Sparrows were still in the Botolph's Bridge area on the 3rd but dispersed during the month and a Brambling was seen along the canal at Hythe on the 3rd. A flock of 35 Linnets were at Donkey Street on the 25th and a pair of Reed Buntings arrived at Princes Parade on the 24th.



Bearded Tit at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)

March

Southerly winds on the 1st induced a small movement at sea, where 3 Brent Geese, 6 auks, 7 Fulmars, 19 Gannets and 47 Red-throated Divers flew east past Mill Point, whilst the first nocturnal movement of Redwings of the spring was noted that evening. The weather turned colder from the 2nd and there were even a few wintry showers over the higher ground.

A Peregrine was at Botolph's Bridge on the 3rd, when 12 Curlew were noted at the Willop Basin and Buzzards continued to pass through with two at Samphire Hoe and two flying east at Seabrook, whilst the following day three flew over Seabrook, two flew over Princes Parade and two flew over Hythe. The 4th also produced a Blackcap at Seabrook, four Redwings at Abbotscliffe and a Peregrine at Princes Parade, where two Water Rails, a Coot, a Kingfisher, a Cetti's Warbler, a Reed Bunting and remained from February, as did the **Barn Owl** at Donkey Street, at least two **Bearded Tits** at Nickolls Quarry, 2 Green Sandpipers in the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area and at least one Purple Sandpiper at Hythe.

A north-westerly breeze on the 5th encouraged the first visual migration of the year, with a Reed Bunting, 7 Linnets, 13 Siskins and 185 Chaffinches flying east at Abbotscliffe, whilst a Greylag Goose was seen flying along the canal at Seabrook and another migrant Buzzard flew over Samphire Hoe. A Snipe and two Goldcrests were at Abbotscliffe the next day, when 3 Siskins, 9 Fieldfares and 23 Redwings were seen at Saltwood Castle and a pair of Ravens were seen attending the nest at Samphire Hoe, with another pair present at Capel-le-Ferne throughout.

North-westerlies on the 7th again led to a small movement, with 7 Siskins and 175 Chaffinches flying east at Abbotscliffe, where 11 Long-tailed Tits were noted, and a Shag was at Samphire Hoe, with 2 Shelduck and 37 Brent Geese flying east.

On the 8th a Sacred Ibis flying west over Nickolls Quarry made for an unusual sight, whilst an Oystercatcher had returned to the breeding site there and two Red-throated Divers were on the lake (remaining until the 12th), with 2 Shelduck and 2 Water Rails also noted, and up to 3 Cetti's Warblers, 7 Tufted Ducks, 10 Canada Geese, 10 Great Crested Grebes and 24 Mute Swans were present throughout the month. A Siskin flew east there and two Redwings were noted, whilst a Goldcrest and a Siskin in a garden in Folkestone may also have been migrants and nine Lesser Black-backed Gulls flew east at Seabrook. A pair of Wigeon were seen on the pond at Samphire Hoe and a Greylag and five Canada Geese flew west, whilst the Shag remained offshore.

A low pressure system passed through on the night of the 8th/9th bringing very strong south-easterly winds and there was a decent passage at sea after early rain had cleared. The highlight was a flock of eight **Black-tailed Godwits** flying east past Samphire Hoe, whilst at Mill Point an adult Little Gull, a drake Eider, 2 Shoveler, 5 Shelduck, 8 Dunlin, 10 Oystercatchers, 19 Curlew, 20 Common Scoter, 20 Black-headed Gulls, 26 Pintail, 36 Fulmars (including a blue morph), 57 Gannets, 135 Kittiwakes and 210 Brent Geese flew east. Eleven Lesser Black-backed Gulls were on the Hythe Imperial golf course. The 10th was calmer with a light northerly breeze and produced the first singing Chiffchaff, a Little Grebe and a Redwing at Samphire Hoe and a Firecrest at Seabrook, whilst three Red-breasted Mergansers flew east past Mill Point.



Barn Owl at Donkey Street (Brian Harper)

Another Red-breasted Merganser was seen off Samphire Hoe the next day, whilst on the 12th a Blackcap was singing at Hythe, two Chiffchaffs and three Reed Buntings were at Princes Parade, two Teal were seen on the sea off Hythe Ranges and a Lesser Black-backed Gull and 65 Black-headed Gulls flew east along the coast. On the 13th the wind edged round to the north-east and encouraged the first large Chaffinch passage of the year, with 1,100 flying east at Abbotscliffe, where a Greenfinch, an *alba* wagtail, 7 Linnets and 26 Siskins also went east. Chiffchaffs increased to four at Princes Parade, including a singing bird, and there were three Water Rails present, whilst two Buzzards flew north there and another headed north-west over Hythe. At sea a Curlew, 23 Black-headed Gulls and 45 Brent Geese flew east.

The following day saw an early Arctic Skua and 28 Brent Geese fly east past Princes Parade, where a singing Blackcap was noted, whilst four Long-tailed Tits were at Samphire Hoe and 16 Pied Wagtails had been grounded at Abbotscliffe. The Brambling reappeared at Hythe on the 15th, whilst eight Siskins flew east at Samphire Hoe and six Shelduck and 130 Brent Geese headed east at sea.

The chilly north-east wind persisted and finches continued to pass through, with two Siskins and 270 Chaffinches flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 16th, when six Siskins appeared in a garden in Folkestone, and there was some further movement at sea, with 5 Common Scoter, 8 Red-throated Divers, 9 Fulmars and 10 Dunlin and c.300 Brent Geese going east past Folkestone. The next day saw 24 Siskins and 1,190 Chaffinches flying east at Abbotscliffe, whilst on the 18th 40 Black-headed Gulls, 41 Red-throated Divers and around 1,000 Brent Geese headed up-channel, whilst two Shags were seen on the sea off Samphire Hoe, where a male Black Redstart and 6 Redwings were new in, as was a Chiffchaff at Abbotscliffe.

A male Black Redstart at Abbotscliffe on the 19th was the highlight of a small arrival that also comprised 3 Blackcaps and 3 Chiffchaffs in gardens in Folkestone and 3 Chiffchaffs at Hythe Ranges. A Snipe was also seen at Abbotscliffe and 105 Chaffinches flew east, whilst 9 Siskins visited feeders in a Folkestone garden, and at sea 2 Grey Plover, 2 Shelduck, 2 Teal, 9 Dunlin and 33 Brent Geese flew east. A **Slavonian Grebe** was seen offshore at Mill Point on the 20th, whilst a drake Pintail, 2 Curlew, 3 Grey Herons and 180 Black-headed Gulls flew east at sea and 3 *alba* wagtails, 69 Siskins and **3,605** Chaffinches went east overhead. Single Black Redstarts were at Abbotscliffe and Samphire Hoe, with four Long-tailed Tits at the latter site.

There was a slight shift in the wind to the north-west on the 21st but it remained rather cold and there was another good visual movement, with 2 **Wood Larks**, 2 *alba* wagtails, 14 Goldfinches, 82 Siskins and 2,850 Chaffinches flying east and 120 Starlings arriving in off, whilst at sea 445 Black-headed Gulls and around 900 Brent Geese headed up-channel. Grounded migrants included a Black Redstart at Mill Point and a Firecrest, 3 Goldcrests and 9 Chiffchaffs at Princes Parade, whilst a Woodcock at Saltwood Castle may have been a passage bird.

Another Woodcock was at Castle Hill the next day, when the first Wheatear of the year was at Princes Parade, where a drake Teal, 2 Siskins, 5 Water Rails and 6 Chiffchaffs were also of note, and 2 Buzzards flew west. A female Marsh Harrier (to the 23rd), a Chiffchaff, 2 Pochard and 2 Snipe were at Nickolls Quarry.

Another **Wood Lark**, a Brambling, 9 Siskins and 50 Chaffinches flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd, when the first two Swallows were seen at Lympe Castle and the first two Sandwich Terns flew east at Mill Point. Also of note were a Wheatear on the beach at Hythe, a Firecrest in Folkestone, a Water Rail at Samphire Hoe, six Snipe at Nickolls Quarry and small numbers of Chiffchaffs, Goldcrests and Redwings across the area. A **Slavonian Grebe** was seen off Hythe on the 24th, when three Wheatears were on the beach and a Wheatear, a Snipe, 2 Firecrests, 2 Reed Buntings, 3 Chiffchaffs and 4 Goldcrests were at Samphire Hoe, whilst 15 Redwings flew west at Abbotscliffe and 355 Brent Geese flew east past Mill Point.



Long-eared Owl at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)

There was a change in the weather during the day as the wind swung round to the south-west and brought the first significant rain for a fortnight, then early showers on the 25th gave way to a pleasant day and there was a small influx of **Red Kites**, with two circling Abbotscliffe for a while before drifting off east, two separate singles later flying over Cheriton, and presumably one of the same seen over Folkestone. Yet another **Wood Lark** also flew east at Abbotscliffe, as did a Brambling, 30 Siskins, 110 Starlings and 185 Chaffinches, whilst 150 Redwings flew west. There was a Firecrest at Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site, with two at Mill Point and 3 Firecrests, 4 Goldcrests and 12 Chiffchaffs at Princes Parade. At sea 105 Brent Geese flew east and a **Barn Owl** was seen near Bargrove Wood in the evening.

In a brisk southerly on the 26th an Arctic Skua, 20 Gannets, 42 Common Gulls, 53 Black-headed Gulls, 59 Common Scoter and 107 Brent Geese flew east past Mill Point, whilst a Wheatear and 12 Chiffchaffs were at Princes Parade. It remained breezy on the 27th and a Wheatear was at Samphire Hoe, whilst 2 Chiffchaffs, 3 Firecrests and 7 Goldcrests were at Nickolls Quarry. The following day was dominated by Storm Katie which brought gale-force winds and stranded a dead Great Crested Grebe in Folkestone and three Brent Geese on the Hythe Imperial golf course. As the winds subsided on the 29th a Blackcap, 2 Wheatears, 2 Goldcrests and 13 Chiffchaffs were seen at Princes Parade, a Black Redstart and a Wheatear were at Samphire Hoe, four Chiffchaffs were at Nickolls Quarry and c.100 Brent Geese flew east past Hythe. The 30th produced a superb **Long-eared Owl** at Botolph's Bridge, a **Short-eared Owl** in off the sea at Samphire Hoe, and the first Willow Warbler of the year in song at Princes Parade. Other migrants included two Firecrests at Botolph's Bridge, a Wheatear, a Blackcap, 3 Chiffchaffs and 4 Firecrests at Samphire Hoe and 3 Blackcaps and 25+ Chiffchaffs at Princes Parade, whilst two Ravens flew over Hythe.

Another **Short-eared Owl** was at Princes Parade the next day, whilst a rather early House Martin was feeding for some time along the cliffs between Abbotscliffe and Samphire Hoe. There was a very good visual passage at Abbotscliffe, including counts of 15 Bramblings and 243 Siskins (both spring records), 78 Linnets and 2,490 Chaffinches, whilst a Swallow, a Coal Tit, a Firecrest, a Reed Bunting, 3 Greylag Geese, 5 Buzzards and 7 *alba* wagtails were also of note there and a Black Redstart, a Brambling, a Blackcap, 2 Firecrests, 2 Chiffchaffs, 2 Goldcrests, 3 continental Coal Tits and 6 Buzzards were at Samphire Hoe. A Swallow flew in off the sea at Princes Parade and two were seen at Nickolls Quarry in the evening, whilst 4 Goldcrests were at Capel-le-Ferne and possible migrant Buzzards were seen over Folkestone, Hythe seafront (3) and Nickolls Quarry (4). In total 516 Siskins and 12,279 Chaffinches were logged moving east during March which is a record spring tally for the former species and the second best ever for the latter.

April

April began unsettled with frequent showers or light rain, and with the wind predominately from the south. The first day of the month was rather quiet with just a Firecrest of note at Samphire Hoe, whilst three Greylag Geese flew west past Hythe and lingering winterers included a Shag at Samphire Hoe (until at least the 12th), single Water Rails at Nickolls Quarry and Princes Parade, up to two Purple Sandpipers at Hythe all month and up to two Green Sandpipers in the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area. An **Osprey** flew north over Folkestone on the 2nd, when a Willow Warbler was singing in a garden in the town and at sea the first Common Tern, a Great Skua, 13 Brent Geese, 30 Sandwich Terns, 62 Common Scoter and 87 Gannets flew east.

The next day saw a **Black Kite** flying east over Hythe, a Willow Warbler and the earliest ever Reed Warbler at Nickolls Quarry, four continental Coal Tits at Mill Point (with two further migrant Coal Tits, possibly of this form, moving through at Seabrook), two Firecrests and five Goldcrests at Abbotscliffe, a Swallow and a Wheatear at Princes Parade and a Swallow over Cheriton, whilst 2 Black-throated Divers, 2 Red-breasted Mergansers, 6 Shoveler, 26 Red-throated Divers, 58 Brent Geese, 64 Sandwich Terns and 84 Common Scoter flew east past Mill Point.



Wheatear at Princes Parade (Brian Harper)

Another **Osprey** was seen in the Folks' Wood/Kiln Wood area on the 4th, when a Willow Warbler, 2 Snipe and 3 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry and continued passage at sea included a Black-throated Diver, a Great Skua, 2 Red-breasted Mergansers, 2 Common Terns, 10 Sandwich Terns, 255 Common Scoter and 375 Brent Geese flying east past Mill Point. On the 5th two continental Coal Tits, 26 Linnets and 245 Wood Pigeons flew west at Abbotscliffe, whilst 50 Linnets and 170 Wood Pigeons flew west at Hythe, where 18 Sandwich Terns and 35 Common Scoter were noted offshore and a Willow Warbler was at Samphire Hoe.

The third **Osprey** of the week flew over Hythe on the 6th, when a Wheatear was at Samphire Hoe, four Siskins were in a garden in Folkestone, 20 Brent Geese and 26 Sandwich Terns flew east past Mill Point and Swallows were noted at Mill Point, Cheriton (3) and Nickolls Quarry (10). The following day produced a **Common Crane** and a **Red Kite** flying over Hythe and a **Red Kite** over Nickolls Quarry, where the first Sand Martin and four Sedge Warblers were seen, whilst the first Whitethroat was at Princes Parade, a Willow Warbler and 8 Chiffchaffs were at Folkestone Downs and a Swallow flew over Capel-le-Ferne Café. The pair of **Bearded Tits** lingered at Nickolls Quarry until at least the 2nd but it appears that just the male remained by the 7th, when it had begun to sing and become increasingly mobile, as if in search of a mate (unsuccessfully, it was last seen the subsequent day).

Two **Red Kites** flew over Saltwood on the 8th, when the first Yellow Wagtail flew in off the sea at Abbotscliffe with a Snipe also being seen there, whilst 46 Linnets and 190 Wood Pigeons flew west. A Common Tern, a Willow Warbler, 2 Reed Warblers and 2 Sedge Warblers were at Nickolls Quarry, a House Martin was at Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site and two Coal Tits flew west at Hythe. The Common Tern remained at Nickolls Quarry the next day, when 28 Swallows were counted.

With the wind switching to the east on the 10th there was some passage at sea, with a Black-throated Diver, a Pintail, 2 Great Skuas, 4 Common Terns, 37 Sandwich Terns, 50 Common Scoter and 630 Brent Geese flying east past Samphire Hoe, and a Wheatear, a Willow Warbler, 2 Goldcrests and a Water Rail (presumably a migrant, remaining until the 13th) were present. A Swallow and 3 Whitethroats were at Princes Parade and 13 Greylag Geese flew east there. A Pintail, a Whimbrel, a Bar-tailed Godwit, a Razorbill, 3 Little Terns, 5 Common Terns, 8 Shoveler, 10 Velvet Scoter, 33 Brent Geese, 37 Sandwich Terns and 78 Common Scoter flew east at sea the next day, when a Velvet Scoter was with 130 Common Scoter in the bay off Princes Parade, the first Ring Ouzel was at Abbotscliffe, a Wheatear was at Samphire Hoe and six Siskins flew east past Mill Point.

Overnight rain led to a small arrival on the 12th, including a male Redstart at Nickolls Quarry, a Willow Warbler, a Redwing and 2 Ring Ouzels at Abbotscliffe (where 2 Yellow Wagtails flew in off the sea), a Ring Ouzel, a Willow Warbler and a Wheatear at Samphire Hoe, 2 Wheatears, 4 Whitethroats, 4 Willow Warblers and 18 Blackcaps at Princes Parade and four Wheatears at Mill Point.



Whinchat at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)

The first Lesser Whitethroat was at Abbotscliffe on the 13th, where the two Ring Ouzels remained, a Whimbrel and 102 Common/Arctic Terns flew east past Samphire Hoe and 130 Sandwich Terns and 250 Common Scoter were present off Hythe. On the 14th single **Red Kites** flew over Samphire Hoe and Saltwood, three Whimbrel flew east at Princes Parade, a Lesser Whitethroat and 6 Sedge Warblers were at Nickolls Quarry and a Willow Warbler was singing near Sandling Station. The 15th saw a change to a south-westerly wind and 3 Whimbrel, 27 Brent Geese, 52 Common Scoter, 210 Sandwich Terns and 470 Common/Arctic Terns flew east at sea, with 13 Oystercatchers heading west and 3 House Martins and 11 Swallows arriving in off.

A Yellow Wagtail and 8 Swallows flew in off the sea at Abbotscliffe the next day, when 6 House Martins and 9 Swallows flew in off the sea at Princes Parade and 12 House Martins, 17 Sand Martins and 25 Swallows at Nickolls Quarry, where the last Redwing was also seen and warblers continued to arrive.

A cool north-westerly breeze on the 17th led to some interesting visual migration, with a **Serin**, a male Marsh Harrier, a Jay, 3 Yellow Wagtails, 4 Siskins, 9 Goldfinches, 14 Swallows and 90 Linnets flying over Abbotscliffe and a record total of 29 Buzzards, including flocks of seven over Hythe, nine over Abbotscliffe and 11 over Folkestone Rugby Club. Also of note were a male Ring Ouzel at Peene Quarry, a White Wagtail and a Yellow Wagtail at Samphire Hoe and a Willow Warbler at Enbrook Park. A Swift at Nickolls Quarry the next day equalled the earliest ever arrival and a **Short-eared Owl** at Samphire Hoe, a Yellow Wagtail and a Wheatear at Princes Parade, and single Willow Warblers at Church Hougham and Abbotscliffe were also of note, whilst 2 Yellow Wagtails, 2 Siskins, 10 Swallows and 135 Wood Pigeons flew over the latter site.

New arrivals on the 19th included a **Nightingale** at Nickolls Quarry and the first Cuckoo at West Hythe, whilst at the former site Reed Warblers increased to four singing males and Sedge Warblers to nine, and 11 Whimbrel flew east past Hythe. A Great Skua flew east past Mill Point the next day as the wind moved round to the east. A reeling Grasshopper Warbler was at Hythe Roughs on the 21st, when a Cuckoo, a Sand Martin, 2 House Martins, 3 Lesser Whitethroats and 25 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry, a Lesser Whitethroat, 3 Willow Warblers and 4 Reed Warblers were at Princes Parade, a Yellow Wagtail, a Lesser Whitethroat, 7 House Martins and 12 Swallows were at Saltwood Castle, and a Curlew, 2 Grey Plovers, 21 Bar-tailed Godwits and 27 Whimbrel flew east at sea.



Ring Ouzel at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)

On the 22nd three Shelduck, 7 Oystercatchers, 15 Whimbrel, 21 Mediterranean Gulls and 69 Sandwich Terns flew east at sea, whilst a Yellow Wagtail arrived in off and a Sedge Warbler was new in at Princes Parade. A **Hooded Crow** flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd, as did a House Martin, a Yellow Wagtail, 2 Swallows, 6 Siskins and 20 Linnets, whilst a female Ring Ouzel and a Wheatear were grounded. The 24th was showery with a cool northerly breeze but produced the first Hobby (at Lympne Park Wood) and Common Sandpipers (two at Nickolls Quarry), with 12 House Martins and 60 Swallows feeding over the lake at the latter site. A **Short-eared Owl** (that remained to the 27th), a male Ring Ouzel and a Wheatear were at Samphire Hoe, a male Ring Ouzel was at Abbotscliffe and a Swift was seen over Folkestone. A Hobby flew in off the sea at Sandgate on the 25th, when a House Martin, 3 Yellow Wagtails and 10 Swallows flew in off the sea at Abbotscliffe and a Swift, 4 Sand Martins, 20 House Martins and 40 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry.

It was unseasonably cold on the 26th with even some wintry showers, but migrants continue to arrive. A male Whinchat and a Hobby were at Abbotscliffe, where 2 Yellow Wagtails, 2 Sand Martins and 4 Swallows flew in off the sea, a Common Sandpiper, 3 Wheatears and 6 House Martins were at Samphire Hoe and an increase at Hythe to five Purple Sandpipers may have included passage birds. Two **Nightingales** were heard singing in Folkestone Warren on the 27th (with one remaining into May), when a Willow Warbler, 2 Lesser Whitethroats, 6 Whitethroats and 9 Reed Warblers were at Princes Parade, Common Sandpipers increased to three at Nickoll's Quarry, 2 Siskins, 2 Yellow Wagtails, 3 Wheatears and 5 Whitethroats were at Samphire Hoe and 9 Whimbrel flew east at sea.

A Common Sandpiper was seen at Hythe seafront on the 28th, when a Wheatear and 20 Whitethroats were at Princes Parade and 4 Yellow Wagtails and 8 Swallows flew in off the sea at the cliffs. A change on the 29th to a south-westerly wind led to a Great Skua, 3 Whimbrel, 6 Shelduck, 9 Manx Shearwaters, 17 Brent Geese, 46 Sandwich Terns and 130 Common Scoter flying past Samphire Hoe, whilst two Swifts arrived in off at Hythe. The month ended with a **Red Kite** flying over Hythe, a Swift, 4 Yellow Wagtails, 8 Swallows and 9 House Martins flying in off the sea at Abbotscliffe and four Swifts flying over Folkestone Harbour.

The highlight of the breeding season to date is the successful hatching of two Raven chicks at the eastern end of Samphire Hoe (the first confirmed breeding record locally), with another pair probably nesting at Capel-le-Ferne. The former site was also hosting a pair of Black Redstarts. At Nickolls Quarry a pair of Canada Geese fledged eight young, a pair of Oystercatchers were seen mating, six Tufted Ducks (four drakes) were still present and six Cetti's Warblers territories were established, with at least one at Princes Parade and along canal near Palmarsch.

A census of the heronry at Lympne Park Wood produced 12 occupied nests. A pair of Kingfishers attempted to nest at Botolph's Bridge but appeared to have the nest flooded out, with at least one was still in the Princes Parade area all month.

May

A **Red Kite** flew west over Hythe and Nickolls Quarry on the 1st, with another flying west over Seabrook, and these were the first of up to 28 to be recorded during the month. A singing Nightingale was found at Hythe Ranges (where it remained until at least the 22nd) whilst another was singing at Nickoll's Quarry on the one day only and at least one male lingered in Folkestone Warren until at least the 15th May.

Nickolls Quarry also produced a Hobby, a Common Sandpiper, a Whimbrel, 2 Cuckoos, 6 Swifts and 8 Sedge Warblers on the 1st, whilst the first Garden Warbler, a Yellow Wagtail, a Siskin, 2 Swifts, 3 Wheatears, 5 House Martins and 18 Swallows were at Abbotscliffe and a continental Coal Tit, a Willow Warbler, 3 Wheatears and 20 House Martins were at Samphire Hoe.



Black Kite at Capel-le-Ferne (Dale Gibson)

A moderate southerly breeze on the 2nd encouraged a Manx Shearwater, an Arctic Skua, a Great Skua, a Whimbrel, a Little Egret, 2 Gadwall, 2 Dunlin, 30 Bar-tailed Godwits, 30 Brent Geese, 50 Sandwich Terns and 70 Common/Arctic Terns to fly past Samphire Hoe, whilst three Wheatears were seen there and five Yellow Wagtails flew in off the sea. A male Ring Ouzel was at Folkestone Warren. The following day produced a Whinchat, a Common Sandpiper, 3 Wheatears, 17 Whitethroats and 21 Reed Warblers at Princes Parade, whilst 60 Swallows flew in/west there, a reeling Grasshopper Warbler, a Ring Ouzel, 2 Little Grebes (with at least one lingering to the month's end), 4 Wheatears, 12 Swallows at Samphire Hoe and 2 Yellow Wagtails, 2 Swifts, 5 Sand Martins, 7 House Martins and 23 Swallows flying in off the sea at Abbotscliffe.

South-easterly winds from the 4th led to a very exciting period, which commenced that day with the amazing spectacle of a **Great Bustard** flying in off the sea at Samphire Hoe. Elsewhere a **Red Kite** flew north over Folkestone, a Garden Warbler and a Little Gull were at Nickolls Quarry and 5 Whimbrel, 15 Little Terns, 25 Brent Geese, 80 Common Scoter and 200 Sandwich Terns flew east at sea. The next day saw a **Serín** flew in/west over Hythe and a **Red Kite** flying west over Princes Parade, whilst a Common Sandpiper was also seen there and the two Purple Sandpipers were noted for the last time. At sea 8 **Pomarine Skuas** (including a flock of 7), 2 **Avocets**, a Great Skua, 2 Arctic Skuas, 2 Little Gulls, 2 Grey Plovers, 3 Black-throated Divers, 3 Red-breasted Mergansers, 4 Little Terns, 7 Oystercatchers, 8 Whimbrel, 20 Brent Geese, 54 Common Terns and 100 Sandwich Terns flew past.

Seawatching was again productive on the 6th, when a drake **Garganey**, 13 **Pomarine Skuas**, 2 Little Gulls, 2 Little Terns, 2+ Arctic Terns, 2 Greylag Geese, 3 Bar-tailed Godwits, 4 Ringed Plovers, 6 Arctic Skuas, 7 Oystercatchers, 8 Grey Plovers, 11 Whimbrel, 50 Common Terns, 77 Black-headed Gulls, 205 Common Scoter and 225 Sandwich Terns flew east. Four Common Sandpipers were seen on a rock groyne at Mill Point and 3 Ringed Plover were on a rock groyne at Hythe. The first two Spotted Flycatchers and a Garden Warbler were at Beachborough Lakes.

On the 7th a **Black Kite** flew west at Capel-le-Ferne, where a Hobby, 2 House Martins and 14 Swallows flew in off the sea, whilst a **Red Kite** flew west over Hythe, three Hobbies at West Hythe, five Sanderling were at Hythe Ranges and a Black-throated Diver and 60 Sandwich Terns flew east at sea. A **Red-rumped Swallow** flew east at Capel-le-Ferne Café on the following day, whilst 3 **Red Kites** were seen near Stutfall Castle, a Tree Pipit and a Yellow Wagtail flew east at Abbotscliffe, a Hobby and a Whimbrel were at Nickolls Quarry and an Arctic Skua flew east past Samphire Hoe. Three **Red Kites**, a Redpoll, a Sand Martin, 2 Marsh Harriers and 8 Swallows flew over the cliffs on the 9th when a further two Red Kites flew west at Princes Parade.

On the 10th a Great Skua, 2 Black Terns, 3 Little Terns, 4 Greenshanks, 4 Grey Plovers, 5 Ringed Plovers, 47 Sanderlings, 147 Sandwich Terns and 246 Common Terns headed east past Mill Point, whilst a Shag and seven Common Sandpipers were at Samphire Hoe and a White Wagtail was at Beachborough Lakes. The wind switched to the north-west on the 11th and thick fog for much of the day hampered observations, but it cleared to reveal 3 Bar-tailed Godwits on the golf course at Princes Parade and a singing Reed Warbler at Samphire Hoe was also a new arrival. A couple of days of cool northerly winds followed and on the 12th two **Avocets** flew east past Mill Point, **Red Kites** flew west over Beachborough Lakes and east over Folkestone and a **Barn Owl** was at Hythe Roughs in the evening.



Red-rumped Swallow at Beachborough Lakes (Steve Tomlinson)

Red Kites were the main feature of the 13th, with two flying east over Nickolls Quarry, and singles later noted over Frogholt, Cheriton, Folkestone and Capel-le-Ferne, whilst a Hobby, 4 House Martins, 6 Swifts and 21 Swallows flew in off the sea at the cliffs. A **Common Crossbill**, a Hobby and 7 Swallows flew in/east at Capel-le-Ferne on the 14th, whilst a Cuckoo at Princes Parade was an unusual record for the site.

From mid-month the winds were primarily from the southerly sector and a relatively quieter spell ensued. A Reed Warbler was singing at Abbotscliffe on the 15th, when 2 House Martins, 4 Swifts and 13 Swallows flew in off the sea at the cliffs, and a **Red Kite** flew over Sugarloaf Hill the next day, when 26 singing Reed Warblers were counted at Nickolls Quarry. Further **Red Kites** were seen at Folkestone Downs and Lympne on the 17th, when a late Willow Warbler was singing at Abbotscliffe. Single Hobbies were seen at Abbotscliffe and Folkestone on the 19th and a **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** was seen near Little Dibgate Wood on the 20th, when a **Red Kite** flew over Beachborough Lakes.

The second **Red-rumped Swallow** of the month was seen at Beachborough Lakes on the 23rd, when a Yellow Wagtail, 2 House Martins, 8 Swallows and 15 Swifts flew in/west at Abbotscliffe, whilst a Shag and a Wheatear were at Samphire Hoe on the 24th. Another Yellow Wagtail arrived at Abbotscliffe on the 25th and ten House Martins flew in off the sea at Folkestone Harbour. Single **Red Kites** were seen flying Cheriton and Hythe on the 27th and a **Honey Buzzard** flew in off the sea at Seabrook the next day, whilst small numbers of House Martins and Swallows continued to arrive.

June

The month began settled and dry, but mostly cloudy, with north-easterly winds bringing low cloud in from the North Sea. It then turned warm, but the weather became progressively more unsettled from the 7th, with frequent thundery downpours, and some longer spells of rain. From the 19th onwards, changeable westerlies dominated and brought frequent rain or showers, which were occasionally thundery. Overall June was one of the cloudiest and wettest on record.

Arrivals continued into June, with a singing Reed Warbler at Mill Point on the 6th, a Cuckoo at Samphire Hoe the following day, a **Black Kite** reported flying west over Hythe on the 11th, a possible Marsh Warbler at Princes Parade on the 12th and a Chiffchaff at Samphire Hoe on the 19th. Late departures included a particularly tardy Fieldfare (our latest ever) at Seabrook from the 3rd to the 5th. Further highlights of the breeding season included the first successful nesting of Little Grebe at Samphire Hoe, with a pair fledging five chicks, whilst a pair of Reed Warblers were also breeding there for the first time. The Black Redstarts at the same site raised four young and records of Wheatear there on the 1st and 26th were interesting as these may suggest local breeding nearby.

A **Long-eared Owl** reported hunting over fields near the Hythe Redoubt on the 4th could also have been a local breeder or a late migrant, whilst a juvenile Spotted Flycatcher at Beachborough Lakes on the 27th may have been locally bred, and two Cuckoos at the latter site on the 29th were probably early returning migrants.

A Corn Bunting was holding territory at Church Hougham all month. Sadly the Kingfisher nest at Princes Parade was predated by a Mink.

Mid-summer oddities included a Little Gull off Folkestone Pier on the 16th (only the second June record) and an eclipse drake Gadwall on the canal at Princes Parade on the 13th (only the third record in this month). A Shag at Samphire Hoe on the 9th, six Mute Swans on the sea off Folkestone on the 13th-14th (with five flying east offshore at Hythe on the 15th), a kite sp. over Saltwood on the 19th and Little Egrets at Copt Point and Princes Parade on the 21st, and Hythe on the 29th were also of note.



Juvenile Little Grebe at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Early returning waders are typically a feature of the summer months and included a Lapwing at Church Hougham on the 1st, a Redshank and an Oystercatcher flying past Princes Parade on the 12th, single Oystercatchers flying past Hythe on the 21st and 22nd, a Curlew and 4 Oystercatchers flying past Folkestone Pier on the 22nd and a Lapwing at Samphire Hoe on the 26th-27th.

July

July started showery and quite cool with westerly winds, and unsettled weather persisted for most of the first fortnight. It was often hot and sunny between the 17th and 24th, and especially so on the 19th. Changeable weather with westerly winds returned from the 25th onwards, although it was largely dry.

Wader passage continued in July, including up to two Lapwings at Samphire Hoe on the 2nd to 3rd, a **Black-tailed Godwit** flying west over Folkestone Warren on the night of the 16th/17th, and single Whimbrel flying over Seabrook on the 6th, Samphire Hoe on the 14th and 25th, and Princes Parade on the 29th, when a flock of five flew over Folkestone. Up to two Green Sandpipers were at the Willop Basin between the 22nd and 25th and Common Sandpipers were noted at Folkestone Warren on the 16th, Nickolls Quarry on the 21st, Hythe on the 22nd (two) and 24th, and Folkestone Pier on the 25th. A small number of Oystercatchers were also recorded.

On the 5th four Sand Martins were seen at Abbotscliffe and 20 flew over Cheriton, whilst 100 Swifts flew west over Princes Parade the next day. Single Yellow Wagtails were noted over Samphire Hoe on the 6th and the 9th, and Hythe on the 14th.

The hot weather just after mid-month encouraged a Honey Buzzard to cross the channel to Samphire Hoe on the 18th and an immature Marsh Harrier flew in off the sea at Seabrook the following day.

Three Red Kites flew over Beachborough Lakes on the 29th and Hobbies were noted at Beachborough Lakes (two), Palmarsh, Samphire Hoe and Seabrook.

Mediterranean Gull numbers started to increase in July, with 86 at Saltwood Castle on the 7th, 240 over Hythe on the 19th and 116 flying west over Beachborough Lakes on the 20th.

A flock of 100 Common Scoter flew west past Folkestone Pier on the 29th and a Little Egret was at Sandgate on the 30th. A Wheatear was seen at Beachborough Lakes on the 26th and the first returning Willow Warblers were noted from a number of sites on the 30th and 31st.



Honey Buzzard at Samphire Hoe (Paul Holt)

August

The month began wet with low pressure in charge but, although unsettled weather continued through to the 13th, there were also some dry sunny days. The second half of the month was more settled, although the 20th was particularly windy. Southerly winds then brought a spell of hot weather, which peaked on the 23rd when temperatures exceeded 30 °C.

The first day of August saw 2 Sedge Warblers, 5 Lesser Whitethroats, 14 Willow Warblers and 17 Whitethroats at Abbotscliffe, whilst Common Sandpipers were seen at Cherry Garden Reservoirs and Samphire Hoe (two), seven Dunlin flew east at Hythe and an unseasonal Razorbill was seen off Folkestone Pier. Three Willow Warblers were at Samphire Hoe on the 3rd and a Garden Warbler was at Beachborough Lakes the next day, when a Wheatear was at Church Hougham and a juvenile Hobby flew over Lympne. A Green Sandpiper and 8 Oystercatchers flew west at Folkestone Pier on the 5th with 750 Swifts passing west over Beachborough Lakes.

A Common Sandpiper and 2 Wheatears were at Princes Parade on the 6th, when 25 House Martins and 47 Swallows flew west there, and a Wheatear was at Crete Road West the following day. A Hobby and a Wheatear were at Samphire Hoe on the 8th, with 2 Sedge Warblers, 4 Willow Warblers, 4 Wheatears and 8 Whitethroats there the next day, when a Grasshopper Warbler was at Beachborough Lakes. On the 10th a Wheatear, 2 Sedge Warblers and 3 Lesser Whitethroats at Princes Parade and 4 Sand Martins, 17 Swallows and 35 House Martins flew west there, whilst a Wheatear was noted at Hythe. An Oystercatcher flew over Beachborough Lakes on the 11th and two Yellow Wagtails flew over Princes Parade the following day.

A Wheatear was seen at Folkestone Harbour on the 14th when 200 Mediterranean Gulls were watched hawking insects over Folkestone. A Razorbill was seen again off Folkestone Pier the next day, and 15 Oystercatchers flew east there, whilst four Swifts were feeding over the town. A Common Sandpiper was at Princes Parade on the 16th, when a Rock Pipit was at West Parade (Hythe), a Wheatear and 6 Whitethroats were at Samphire Hoe, 5 Willow Warblers were at Abbotscliffe and there was a record count of around 1,000 Mediterranean Gulls in fields near Crete Road East. On the 17th three Green Sandpipers flew west over Beachborough Lakes and three Yellow Wagtails flew over Abbotscliffe.

A Tree Pipit and 2 Willow Warblers were noted at Beachborough Lakes on the 18th and a Common Sandpiper was seen at Hythe. Two Garden Warblers, 2 Hobbies, 2 Willow Warblers, 4 Whitethroats and 4 Reed Warblers were seen in the Beachborough Lakes area the next day, when a Whinchat was at Princes Parade, where a Shelduck and a Redshank flew east.

A Redstart was seen in a garden in Cheriton on the 20th and singles of Wheatear and Yellow Wagtail were at Princes Parade, where 5 Sand Martins flew west. An **Osprey** flew out to sea over Princes Parade on the 21st, when a Whinchat was at Mill Point and a Whinchat, a Redshank, 2 Wheatear and 7 Whitethroats were at Samphire Hoe. A **Wryneck** was found at the latter site the following day (remaining until the 24th), when 2 Wheatears and 5 Whinchats were also noted there, whilst a Common Sandpiper was at Princes Parade and three Yellow Wagtails flew over Beachborough Lakes.



Wryneck at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

A Little Egret and 2 Reed Warblers were also of note at Samphire Hoe on the 23rd, whilst two Common Sandpipers and six Yellow Wagtails were logged on the 24th, when a **Wood Warbler**, a Garden Warbler, a Whinchat, a Hobby and 2 Reed Warblers were at Beachborough Lakes, and a Wheatear was at Folkestone Harbour.

A Pied Flycatcher was seen in the churchyard at Church Hougham on the 25th, whilst the next day produced a Whinchat at Beachborough Lakes, a Hobby over Cheriton, three Wheatears at Princes Parade and 4 Sanderling and 19 Ringed Plover at Folkestone Harbour. Two Yellow Wagtails, 4 Wheatears and 6 Whitethroats were at Abbotscliffe on the 28th and two Wheatears and 25 Ringed Plovers were at Folkestone Harbour the following day, when a Whinchat, 2 Wheatears, 3 Willow Warblers and 350 House Martins were at Samphire Hoe.

The 30th produced a Redstart at Beachborough Lakes, where 2 Tree Pipits and 7 Crossbills flew over, a Reed Warbler, a Sedge Warbler, 2 Whinchats, 7 Willow Warblers and 8 Wheatears at Samphire Hoe, 2 Whinchats, 2 Wheatears and 20 Willow Warblers at Abbotscliffe and 3 Willow Warblers and 4 Wheatears at Princes Parade, where 10 Swallows and 22 Sand Martins flew west. A Whinchat was at Beachborough Lakes on the last day of the month and two Common Sandpipers were at Nickolls Quarry.

September

After a changeable start with a west to south-westerly airstream, it generally turned warmer and more settled as the first half of September progressed, though with a wet interruption on the 8th to the 10th. A heatwave later in the second week saw the highest temperatures in September in over a century. The second half of the month was generally unsettled but temperatures remained mostly above average.

The month began with a Whinchat and 9 Wheatears at Samphire Hoe, a Hobby, a Whinchat and 3 Yellow Wagtails at Beachborough Lakes, two Wheatears at Folkestone Pier and Six Goldcrests at Hythe. A Redstart arrived at Princes Parade on the 2nd, where it remained for a week, and two Wheatears were also seen there, whilst 200 Swallows flew south-west. A Wheatear, 2 Whinchats and 2 Yellow Wagtails were at Beachborough Lakes and five Willow Warblers were seen at Abbotscliffe. The 3rd produced 2 Wheatears, 2 Sedge Warblers, 3 Goldcrests and 5 Willow Warblers at Princes Parade, where 100 Swallows flew west, and seven Yellow Wagtails flew west at Seabrook. Six Wheatears were seen at Samphire Hoe and another was at Folkestone Leas. A Shag, 2 Whinchats and 5 Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe on the 4th, when two Wheatears were at Princes Parade and 14 Sand Martins and 57 Swallows flew west there.

A Pied Flycatcher was seen in a garden in Folkestone on the 5th, when 4 Whinchats and 4 Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe and a Garden Warbler, a Reed Warbler, 2 Sedge Warblers, 4 Willow Warblers, 8 Chiffchaffs and 15 Blackcaps were at Beachborough Lakes, where 10 Crossbills flew west. The latter site saw an increase to 2 Garden Warblers, 4 Reed Warblers, 14 Willow Warblers, 17 Chiffchaffs and 32 Blackcaps the next day, and a Whinchat, 5 Willow Warblers and 10 Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe.

On the 7th a Pied Flycatcher, 4 Wheatears, 4 Willow Warblers and 5 Whitethroats were seen at Princes Parade, with five Yellow Wagtails flying west there, whilst a Spotted Flycatcher was found in a garden in Folkestone and a very early flock of around 15 Redwings flew over the town.



Redstart at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Four Swifts and 6 Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe, a Common Sandpiper was at Battery Point, with two seen at Nickolls Quarry, and two Hobbies were at Beachborough Lakes, where 3 Whinchats and 10 Yellow Wagtails were also of note. A Whinchat and 2 Spotted Flycatchers were at Creteway Down the next day, when two Arctic Skuas and 5 Sand Martins flew west past Hythe, and six Sand Martins flew west there on the 9th. Three Goldcrests, 4 Willow Warblers and 18 Chiffchaffs were at Princes Parade on the 11th and there was a scattering of Wheatears and Yellow Wagtails across the area, with at least 16 of the former (including 4 at Princes Parade and 6 at Folkestone Harbour) and 13 of the latter (including 8 at Abbotscliffe). A Hobby at Lympne and a Kingfisher at Folkestone Harbour were also of note.

A Grasshopper Warbler, 2 Whinchats and 9 Yellow Wagtails were at Abbotscliffe the next day, when a male Marsh Harrier and a Curlew flew over there, 2 Willow Warblers, 3 Lesser Whitethroats, 9 Whitethroats and 22 Chiffchaffs were at Princes Parade, where a Little Egret flew over, and two Dunlins were at Samphire Hoe. A Spotted Flycatcher and a Whinchat were at Beachborough Lakes on the 13th. On the 14th a Whinchat and 7 Yellow Wagtails were at Abbotscliffe, a Whinchat and 3 Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe and 450 Mediterranean Gulls flew over Beachborough Lakes, whilst the following day produced a Redstart, 3 Whinchats and 8 Wheatears at Beachborough Lakes, two Spotted Flycatchers at Princes Parade, 3 Whinchats and 5 Wheatears at Abbotscliffe, a Whinchat and a Wheatear at Samphire Hoe, 2 Yellow Wagtails and 7 Wheatears at Church Hougham and 20 Blackcaps and 20 Chiffchaffs at Folkestone Downs.

A Firecrest was seen at Lympne on the 16th, when a Whinchat, a Willow Warbler, 3 Wheatears, 3 Sedge Warblers, 3 Yellow Wagtails, 9 Blackcaps and 12 Chiffchaffs were at Beachborough Lakes and a change to cooler weather led to a large accumulation of hirundines over Folkestone that evening and all along the coast the following day (with the greater proportion being House Martins, but also many Swallows and a few Sand Martins). The 17th also produced a Hobby over Folkestone, a Spotted Flycatcher at Nickolls Quarry, a Swift, 2 Wheatears, 5 Whitethroats, 9 Blackcaps and 11 Chiffchaffs at Samphire Hoe and an increase in Meadow Pipits numbers at Abbotscliffe, with others passing overhead along the coast. Offshore the first three Brent Geese of the autumn flew east.

The 18th saw the return of the Wildlife Migration Day event and this was marked by some excellent sightings and counts. The highlights were single **Yellow-browed Warblers** at Mill Point and Samphire Hoe, whilst the supporting cast included a Grasshopper Warbler, a Redstart, a Whinchat and a Sedge Warbler at Abbotscliffe, a Whinchat at Samphire Hoe, a late Willow Warbler in Folkestone Warren, a Lapwing at Copt Point and a Hobby at Nickolls Quarry, with widespread records of Wheatears, Whitethroats, Lesser Whitethroats, Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs, including a count of at least 70 of the latter in Folkestone Warren.

Visual passage included a Marsh Harrier flying out to sea from Capel-le-Ferne, a Greenshank, a Golden Plover, a Tree Pipit, 6 Yellow Wagtails and 7 Grey Wagtails flying over Abbotscliffe, single Swifts there and at Samphire Hoe, and large numbers of hirundines, with conservative estimates of 12 Sand Martins, 500 Swallows and 2,000 House Martins. At sea 20 Common Scoter and 28 Brent Geese flew east. New arrivals on the 19th included a Redwing and a Tree Pipit at Beachborough Lakes and 2 Snipe and 5 Lapwings at Abbotscliffe, where there were increases to 180 Goldfinches and 450 Meadow Pipits. A late Swift was at Samphire Hoe, where a Little Egret, 2 House Sparrows and 5 Grey Herons were also of note, whilst a **Ring-necked Parakeet** was noted at Cinderella Farm (Palmarsh).



Grasshopper Warbler at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)

A Pied Flycatcher and 15 Yellow Wagtails were at Beachborough Lakes the next day, when a Teal was at Samphire Hoe and Chiffchaff counts included ten in Folkestone, 25 at Church Hougham and 50 at Samphire Hoe. The 21st produced a Hobby and 2 Spotted Flycatchers at Lympne, a Pied Flycatcher and a Whinchat at Beachborough Lakes, a Whinchat and 3 Tree Pipits at Abbotscliffe and a Whinchat and 2 Shags at Samphire Hoe, with a general increase in Robin, Blackbird and Song Thrush numbers, whilst sightings of three Jays at both Abbotscliffe and Folkestone Downs may have involved migrants.

A Merlin was at Nickolls Quarry on the 22nd, when single Hobbies were at Abbotscliffe and Church Hougham, a Razorbill was on the sea off Folkestone Pier and a Whinchat and 19 Yellow Wagtails were counted at Beachborough Lakes. A Grasshopper Warbler, a Tree Pipit, a Spotted Flycatcher, a Whinchat, a Sedge Warbler, a Goldcrest, 2 Reed Buntings, 3 Whitethroats and 15 Chiffchaffs were at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd, whilst a Common Sandpiper, a Dunlin, 2 Wheatears and 30 Chiffchaffs were at Samphire Hoe, 25 Chiffchaffs were at Nickolls Quarry and good numbers of House Martins were moving throughout the day, with an estimated 2,000 heading west. A Green Sandpiper was seen near Stutfall Castle on the 25th.

The third **Yellow-browed Warbler** of the month was at Beachborough Lakes on the 26th, whilst an Arctic Skua was noted off Hythe, and a male **Hen Harrier**, 13 Lesser Black-backed Gulls and 500 Mediterranean Gulls flew west over the former site the next day, when an Arctic Skua and 90 Sandwich Terns were lingering off the Hythe Redoubt. On the 28th a Grasshopper Warbler and 2 Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe, 10 Lesser Black-backed Gulls and 500 Mediterranean Gulls flew west over Beachborough Lakes and around 250 Sandwich Terns were seen off the Hythe Redoubt. An **Osprey** flew south-west over Church Hougham on the 29th, when a Ring Ouzel, 25 Sand Martins, 150 House Martins and 1,500 Swallows flew west over Beachborough Lakes and an Arctic Skua was noted off Hythe. The month ended with a Spotted Flycatcher and 20 Chiffchaffs at Folkestone Downs, a Whinchat, a Wheatear, a Whitethroat, a Siskin, 3 Reed Buntings and 11 Chiffchaffs at Abbotscliffe, and single Wheatears at Copt Point and Princes Parade, whilst 9 Yellow Wagtails, 10 Sand Martins and 123 Meadow Pipits flew west along the coast.

October

After a wet start October was mostly dry as a high pressure system became established over the continent for much of the month, producing a predominately easterly airflow. A Spotted Flycatcher, a Stonechat and at least 60 Chiffchaffs were seen at Princes Parade on the 1st, when 70 Swallows flew west there, and a Firecrest and Reed Bunting were at Samphire Hoe. The latter site produced two Ring Ouzels and 2 Wheatears the following day, whilst 80 Swallows flew west at Princes Parade. The 3rd saw the onset of easterly winds which brought a Jack Snipe and 5 Reed Buntings to Abbotscliffe, a Redstart to Beachborough Lakes, where 2 Bramblings and 2 Redwings flew south, and a Brambling and 10 Sand Martins to Samphire Hoe, whilst 6 Teal and 40 Brent Geese flew west at sea.

A Fieldfare, 2 Bramblings and 60 Redwings flew over Beachborough Lakes on the 4th, when a Golden Plover flew over Abbotscliffe and 40 Swallows flew west at Princes Parade, where a Wheatear, 32 Pied Wagtails and 45 Meadow Pipits were seen on the golf course there. At sea at least 77 Brent Geese flew east.

On the 5th a Ring Ouzel and 4 Redwings were at Folkestone Downs and a Firecrest and 9 Goldcrests were at Samphire Hoe, whilst 2 Crossbills, 3 Yellow Wagtails, 5 Fieldfares, 35 *alba* wagtails, 46 Redwings, 60 Chaffinches and 61 Meadow Pipits flew over Beachborough Lakes and an Eider, a Gadwall, 2 Red-breasted Merganser, 3 Snipe and 15 Brent Geese passed Mill Point.



Great Grey Shrike at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)

The next day saw a male Redstart in a garden in Folkestone, a Firecrest at Samphire Hoe and a Golden Plover, a Wheatear and a Reed Bunting at Abbotscliffe, where two Snipe flew east. A Yellow Wagtail, 10 Fieldfares, 29 Song Thrushes, 50 Blackbirds, 70 Meadow Pipits and 400 Redwings flew over Beachborough Lakes, a Velvet Scoter, 2 Shelduck, 12 Common Scoter and 78 Brent Geese flew past Copt Point and 100 Starlings arrived in off the sea at Folkestone Pier.

The 7th produced a decent arrival of Ring Ouzels today, with four at Samphire Hoe, six at Creteway Down, seven at Folkestone Downs and 25 at Abbotscliffe, together with good numbers of Robins and Song Thrushes. A Yellow Wagtail, 2 Tree Pipits, 2 Lesser Redpolls, 4 Bramblings, 6 Grey Wagtails, 7 Fieldfares, 33 Siskins, 39 *alba* Wagtails, 60 Song Thrushes, 75 Meadow Pipits, 130 Swallows and 140 Redwings flew over Beachborough Lakes. Offshore an Arctic Skua passed Samphire Hoe and a Little Gull was seen from Folkestone Pier.

A **Great Grey Shrike** arrived at Abbotscliffe on the 8th (remaining until the 9th), when a Tree Pipit, a Whinchat, a Wheatear, a Fieldfare, a Redwing, 2 Mistle Thrushes, 2 Snipe, 5 Blackcaps, 7 Goldcrests, 8 Chiffchaffs, 16 Reed Buntings, 18 Song Thrushes and 29 Ring Ouzels were also seen there, whilst a Woodcock, 4 Ring Ouzels and 6 Stonechats were at Creteway Down and a Great Spotted Woodpecker, 4 Redwings, 5 Song Thrushes and 8 Chiffchaffs were at Nickolls Quarry. A **Yellow-browed Warbler** was found at Mill Point on the 9th, when a Mistle Thrush, a Snipe, a Wheatear, 2 Redwings, 4 Reed Buntings, 7 Chiffchaffs, 10 Ring Ouzels and 20 Siskins were at Abbotscliffe, two Ring Ouzels were at Blackhouse Ridge, a Snipe, a Redwing, 2 Blackcaps and 22 Chiffchaffs were at Nickolls Quarry and a Fieldfare and 20 Redwings were seen near Bargrove Wood.

The fifth **Yellow-browed Warbler** of the autumn, a Short-eared Owl, a Ring Ouzel, 8 Goldcrests, 16 Robins and 27 Chiffchaffs were at Samphire Hoe on the 10th, when a Ring Ouzel was at Beachborough Lakes, a Firecrest was at Mill Point, a Brambling was at Capel-le-Ferne, a Snipe, a Redwing, 2 Wheatears and 5 Goldcrests were at Abbotscliffe and the first returning Water Rail and two Redwings were at Princes Parade. On the 11th a Ring Ouzel, a Pintail, a Redwing, 3 Wheatears, 4 Shags and 15 Chiffchaffs were at Samphire Hoe and a Red-throated Diver and good numbers of Siskins flew east there, whilst 2 Ring Ouzels and 18 Chiffchaffs were at Beachborough Lakes, where 24 Mistle Thrushes, 45 Fieldfares, 55 Song Thrushes and 120 Redwings flew over, a Great Spotted Woodpecker, a Lapwing, a Snipe, 2 Bramblings, 2 Redwings and 17 Song Thrushes were at Abbotscliffe and a Ring Ouzel was seen in a garden in Folkestone.

A Snipe, 2 Ring Ouzels and 10 Fieldfares were at Abbotscliffe the 12th, when a Fieldfare, 2 Brambling and 5 Ring Ouzels were at Samphire Hoe, where 36 Siskins and 60 Starlings flew over, a late Willow Warbler, a Brambling, a Fieldfare, 10 Ring Ouzels, 10 Goldcrests, 10 Chiffchaffs and 43 Redwings were at Beachborough Lakes and a Whinchat and 3 Stonechats were at Princes Parade.

The following day produced four Ring Ouzels at Samphire Hoe, a Firecrest and 2 Ring Ouzels and Beachborough Lakes, where 150 Meadow Pipits flew south, and a Whinchat and 4 Goldcrests at Princes Parade, where 55 Swallows flew east. A late Sedge Warbler, 4 Reed Buntings and 12 Ring Ouzels were at Abbotscliffe on the 14th, where 23 Siskins and 50 Swallows flew east, 5 Redwings and 7 Ring Ouzels were at Folkestone Downs, 2 Ring Ouzels, 2 Reed Buntings, 3 Goldcrests, 4 Fieldfares, 14 Chiffchaffs, 17 Redwings and 33 Siskins were at Beachborough Lakes and a Great Spotted Woodpecker, 6 Song Thrushes, 8 Chiffchaffs, 12 Bramblings and 12 Blackbirds were at Nickolls Quarry, where 50 Lapwings flew north. A Red-throated Diver and 16 Brent Geese flew past Folkestone Pier.



Yellow-browed Warbler at Mill Point (Ian Roberts)

The 15th produced a Ring Ouzel at Folkestone Downs, two Ring Ouzels at Hythe Roughts and a Tree Sparrow, a Great Spotted Woodpecker, a Fieldfare, 5 Blackcaps, 7 Chiffchaffs, 7 Song Thrushes and 17 Blackbirds at Nickolls Quarry. Another Ring Ouzel was at Abbotscliffe the next day, whilst a Little Gull was seen off Samphire Hoe, an Arctic Skua flew past Hythe and 5 Wigeon flew past Folkestone. A Ring Ouzel was at Beachborough Lakes on the 17th, when 4 Reed Buntings and 6 Ring Ouzels were at Abbotscliffe, where a Redpoll flew over and a Tree Sparrow flew over Princes Parade. A **Red Kite**, a Fieldfare, 3 Redpolls, 3 Reed Buntings, 31 Song Thrushes, 33 Redwings, 120 Meadow Pipits, 190 Siskins and 250 Starlings flew over Beachborough Lakes on the 18th, whilst Ring Ouzels were at Abbotscliffe and Creteway Down (2).

Another **Red Kite**, a Great Spotted Woodpecker, a Brambling, a Redpoll, 2 Reed Buntings and 25 Sky Larks flew over Abbotscliffe on the 19th, whilst a late Whitethroat and 4 Stonechats were at Beachborough Lakes, where a Golden Plover, a Snipe, a Brambling, 4 Reed Buntings, 10 Fieldfares, 18 Song Thrushes, 19 Siskins, 32 Redwings, 110 Goldfinches and 190 Starlings flew over. The 20th produced just two Ring Ouzels and ten Redwings at Abbotscliffe.

On the 21st a late Whinchat, a Snipe and 2 Ring Ouzels were at Abbotscliffe, where a Corn Bunting, a Fieldfare, 3 Redpolls, 4 Bramblings, 8 Golden Plover, 15 Siskins, 40 Sky Larks, 40 Redwings, 40 Chaffinches and 770 Starlings flew over, whilst a Ring Ouzel, 30 Robins, 40 Redwings and at least 80 Blackbirds were at Folkestone Downs, three Ring Ouzels were at Beachborough Lakes, where 2 Bramblings, 6 Fieldfares, 8 Reed Buntings, 16 Song Thrushes, 61 Chaffinches, 128 Siskins, 450 Starlings and 470 Redwings flew over, a Firecrest was at Mill Point, two Green Sandpipers flew over Nickolls Quarry, 200 Starlings arrived in off the sea at Folkestone Pier and 400 Starlings arrived in off the sea at Princes Parade. The following day saw two Firecrests, 4 Chiffchaffs and 10 Goldcrests at Mill Point, where 2 Skylarks and 100 Starlings flew in off the sea, 6 Song Thrushes, 12 Fieldfares and 40 Redwings at Folkestone Downs and five Skylarks flying in off the sea at Folkestone Harbour.

A Blackcap, 2 Fieldfares and 8 Goldcrests were at Princes Parade on the 23rd, when 3 Skylarks and 175 Starlings flew in off the sea and 14 Brent Geese and 23 Swallows flew east. There was a large movement of Fieldfares on the 24th, with 785 arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe and 900 arriving in off the sea at Creteway Down, whilst 25 Redwings were at Abbotscliffe, 3 Ring Ouzels and 6 Goldcrests were at Creteway Down, a Firecrest was at Folkestone Warren, two Razorbills were at Folkestone Pier and 38 Lapwings were at Tumble Tye Farm (Capel-le-Ferne). The following day saw 3 Redpolls, 7 Fieldfares, 7 Bullfinches, 8 Grey Wagtails, 11 Reed Buntings, 44 *alba* wagtails, 49 Song Thrushes, 60 Blackbirds, 80 Siskins, 128 Chaffinches, 330 Redwings and 600 Starlings fly over Beachborough Lakes, whilst a Golden Plover flew over Folkestone Pier.

A **Dartford Warbler** was found at Abbotscliffe on the 26th (where it remained until the 28th), with single Firecrest and Brambling also present there, whilst a Black Redstart was seen in a garden in Folkestone, a Ring Ouzel was at Samphire Hoe and four Stonechats were at Beachborough Lakes, where a Ring Ouzel, 30 Blackbirds, 54 Song Thrushes and 250 Redwings flew over. A Ring Ouzel, 3 Song Thrushes and 5 Blackbirds were at Nickolls Quarry on the 27th, when a Ring Ouzel, 19 Mistle Thrushes, 32 Song Thrushes, 51 Blackbirds and 190 Redwings flew over Beachborough Lakes and two Blackcaps, 3 Stonechats, 4 Chiffchaffs, 5 Shoveler, 6 Goldcrests and 11 Tufted Ducks were at the latter site the next day, where 12 Reed Buntings and 31 Redwings flew over.



Dartford Warbler at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)

The second Wildlife Migration Day on the 29th produced a Ring Ouzel, 2 Chiffchaffs, 3 Goldcrests and 15 Redwings at Folkestone Downs, a Redwing, 6 Golden Plovers and 6 Goldcrests at Abbotscliffe, where a Reed Bunting, a Siskin and 2 Redpolls flew over, and a Redwing, a Siskin and 11 Sky Larks in off the sea at Samphire Hoe, where 12 Wigeon and 30 Brent Geese flew east. On the 30th two Firecrests and 8 Goldcrests were at Mill Point, where 5 Sky Larks and 10 Meadow Pipits flew in off the sea, whilst a Little Grebe appeared at Princes Parade. The month ended with a Velvet Scoter, 3 Stonechats and 10 Grey Plovers at Hythe Ranges and 2 Blackcaps, 3 Stonechats, 3 Chiffchaffs, 9 Tufted Ducks and 10 Goldcrests at Beachborough Lakes, where 9 Reed Buntings and 71 Redwings flew over.

November

There was a mild start to the month but colder air quickly arrived via a slack northerly airflow. Lingering summer migrants on the 1st comprised four Swallows which flew west at Seabrook and Chiffchaffs at Folkestone Pier, Samphire Hoe (2) and Beachborough Lakes (3), whilst incoming winter birds included a Brambling, 3 Fieldfares and 38 Redwings at Beachborough Lakes, 60 Lapwings near Postling Wents and a Brent Goose flying east at Hythe. Another Swallow and a Golden Plover flew over Abbotscliffe on the 2nd, when a Chiffchaff and a Stonechat were seen at Hythe Roughs.

Cooler conditions on the 3rd produced a **Little Auk** seen drifting west on the sea off Hythe and the first returning Purple Sandpipers at Hythe, with singles opposite Stade Street and Twiss Road. Also of note were a Woodcock, a Redshank and five Fieldfares at Samphire Hoe, a Black Redstart and a Great Spotted Woodpecker at Abbotscliffe, two Redpolls and 40 Blackbirds at Folkestone Downs, three Swallows along the canal at Seabrook, and a Coot, 2 Stonechats and 9 Goldcrests at Princes Parade, where 7 Redpolls flew west and 17 Brent Geese flew east.

The next day saw 96 auks (including at least six Razorbills) flying east past Samphire Hoe, a Egret flying west at Hythe and two Little Egrets, 6 Brent Geese and 655 Mediterranean Gulls at Copt Point, whilst the 5th produced single Swallows at Folkestone Harbour, Princes Parade and Hythe, and 45 Chaffinches were seen arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe.

A **Whooper Swan** was found with the Mute Swan flock at Botolph's Bridge on the 6th and it remained until the 16th, whilst the Mute Swans peaked at 39 on the 13th. The 6th also produced a **Little Auk**, a Little Gull and a Rock Pipit at Battery Point and a Water Rail and 2 **Bearded Tits** at Nickolls Quarry (with the latter remaining until the 13th and increasing to four on the 18th). Singles of Siskin and Redpoll flying in off the sea at Abbotscliffe, a Little Egret at Samphire Hoe, a Chiffchaff, a Blackcap, a Stonechat and two Teal at Beachborough Lakes, a Razorbill, 3 Oystercatchers and 4 Ringed Plovers at Folkestone Harbour, a flock of 32 Kittiwakes on the sea off Mill Point and a flock of 100 Common Scoter off Hythe Redoubt completed a memorable day.

The 7th was another productive day, with a red-head **Goosander** on the sea off Mill Point, where a drake **Goldeneye**, a Wigeon, a Curlew, a Grey Plover, 4 Dunlin, 6 Shelduck, 14 Common Scoter and 80 Brent Geese flew past, and a red-head **Goosander** and 3 Knot flew past Hythe. A female/immature **Goldeneye**, a Teal, 4 Wigeon, 5 Shelduck and 14 Brent Geese flew past Mill Point on the 8th, whilst a female Marsh Harrier and 3 Buzzards were at Botolph's Bridge, a Swallow flew west at Hythe, 14 Common Scoter and 24 Shelduck flew past Folkestone Pier, where 300 Starlings arrived in off the sea and a Shag was found (remaining until the end of the month), whilst Purple Sandpipers increased to four at Hythe (with at least four remaining until the month's end).



Little Auk at Hythe (Nigel Webster)

The morning of the 9th was very wet but there was some passage at sea, mainly after the rain cleared, with a Great Skua, 3 Little Gulls, 4 Shelduck, 6 Wigeon and 135 Gannets passing east off Mill Point/Princes Parade. A Woodcock was at Samphire Hoe on the 10th, where 7 Sky Larks flew in off the sea, whilst four Crossbills and 500 Redwings flew over Beachborough Lakes, a Little Egret flew over Folkestone Warren and a Razorbill was feeding off Hythe, where 26 Common Scoter flew west. A **Long-eared Owl** was captured on the security cameras at Samphire Hoe on the 11th, when a Fieldfare, 5 Siskins, 11 Lapwings and 80 Starlings flew over Abbotscliffe, six Sky Larks flew in off sea at Capelle-Ferne, seven Crossbills flew west at Beachborough Lakes, two Razorbills were feeding off Folkestone Pier, where 13 Wigeon and 22 Brent Geese flew east, three Water Rails were at Princes Parade and 40 Redwings were at Botolph's Bridge.

On the 12th a Great Skua, a Red-breasted Merganser, 2 Shelduck, 5 Lapwings, 5 Razorbills, 25 Brent Geese and a mixed flock of 50 Gadwall and Pintail flew past Mill Point, whilst 680 Starlings arrived in off the sea there. A red-head **Goosander**, two Teal and 83 Common Scoter were on the sea off Fisherman's Beach (Hythe) the following day, whilst a Merlin, a Curlew, 3 Jack Snipe, 29 Teal, 50 Sky Larks, 55 Snipe, 60 Corn Buntings and 240 Lapwings were at the Willop Basin, a Purple Sandpiper was at the Hythe Redoubt, a Chiffchaff, 2 Teal, 3 Snipe and 5 Gadwall were at Nickolls Quarry, a Little Egret was at Botolph's Bridge, a Knot was at Folkestone Harbour and 23 Ringed Plovers were at Hythe Ranges.

The weather turned more unsettled from the 14th as the wind switched to a less productive south-westerly direction and just three Little Egrets and 18 Rock Pipits at Samphire Hoe were of note on the 15th. The next day saw nine Sanderlings at the Willop Outfall whilst 10 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 90 Common Gulls and 340 Mediterranean Gulls flew over Beachborough Lakes, with 8 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 135 Common Gulls and 500 Mediterranean Gulls flying over there on the 17th. A Peregrine was at Botolph's Bridge on the 18th, when a Blackcap was seen in a garden in Folkestone and a Snipe, a Reed Bunting, a Redwing and 110 Sky Larks were at Abbotscliffe. A **Goosander** was seen at Botolph's Bridge on the 19th, when a Chiffchaff, 2 Corn Buntings, 2 Stonechats, 3 Jack Snipe, 45 Teal and 50 Snipe were at the Willop Basin/sewage works, but the next day saw coverage restricted as Storm Angus swept up the English Channel, bringing 100mph gusts and torrential rain. In the aftermath a Great Skua, a Little Egret, a Fulmar, 70 Gannets, 112 Kittiwakes and 150 Starlings flew west at Mill Point on the 21st, whilst there were two Firecrests there on the 23rd when 400 Starlings flew over Folkestone.

The last week of the month saw high pressure take charge, which meant it was mostly dry and increasingly cold, and also rather productive again. On the 24th two Snow Buntings were seen briefly on the Hythe Imperial golf course, whilst a Shelduck, 2 Ringed Plovers, 3 Knot, 3 Red-breasted Mergansers, 3 Fulmars, 5 Great Crested Grebes, 11 Wigeon, 17 Brent Geese and 33 Dunlin flew east past Mill Point and a Peregrine, 2 Sky Larks and 40 Starlings arrived in off the sea there. The next day saw six Crossbills and 12 Stock Doves flying east at Abbotscliffe, where a Chiffchaff was also seen and a Snipe was at Shorncliffe Camp.

The 26th will be long-remembered for the appearance of a first-winter **FORSTER'S TERN** at Princes Parade (a new species for the area and only the second county record), whilst a second-winter **Caspian Gull** and an adult **Yellow-legged Gull** were seen nearby at Sandgate, and a Velvet Scoter, 2 Shelduck and 7 Brent Geese flew past, with a Lapwing seen on the beach there, whilst another was at Samphire Hoe.

A **Goosander**, a Water Rail, a Little Egret and 186 Lapwings were at Botolph's Bridge and two Green Sandpipers were at Nickolls Quarry.



Forster's Tern at Princes Parade (Brian Harper)

The following day saw a Great Skua, 4 Velvet Scoters, 4 Eider and 100 Gannets flying past Mill Point, where a Chiffchaff was present, whilst a Little Egret, 2 Shags and 4 Redwings at Samphire Hoe, where 3 Shelduck flew east. A further two Velvet Scoter flew east past Mill Point and Folkestone Pier on the 28th and a Teal and a Water Rail were at Beachborough Lakes.

A **Black-bellied Dipper** was seen briefly at Beachborough Lakes on the 29th, whilst 31 Lapwings were counted at Tumble Tye Farm (Capel-le-Ferne) and a Siskin flew east at Folkestone Warren. The month ended with a Snipe, a Water Rail, a Little Egret and a Siskin at Beachborough Lakes and a Razorbill at Folkestone Pier, where 5 Brent Geese flew east and 15 Ringed Plover were roosting on the beach.

December

December began settled with high pressure in charge and the first week was rather cold and frosty. Predominately southerly winds during the middle two weeks of the month brought generally mild and often quiet weather, though with some rain or drizzle at times. The month ended with some clear and cool weather which led to the formation of some frost and fog. Overall it unusually dry, with just 42% of average rainfall in the south-east, and water levels were considerably lower than at the same time last year.

The Mute Swan flock at Botolph's increased steadily through the month to a peak of 59 on the 29th December. Up-channel passages of Brent Geese from as early as late December have become a feature in recent years but the numbers this month were exceptional, with up to 323 passing Hythe/Princes Parade on the 29th and up to 444 passing Hythe the next day.

Nine Mandarin were at Folks' Wood on the 14th and there was a male Wigeon at Botolph's Bridge on the 15th with a female Nickolls Quarry the next day. Up to four Gadwall were on the lake at Folkestone Racecourse (Westenhanger) and around 100 Teal were at Chesterfield Wood (Saltwood) throughout, with two Teal at Beachborough Lakes on the 21st and five at Nickolls Quarry on the 28th. A female Tufted Duck frequented the canal at Princes Parade from the 20th to the 22nd, whilst a drake **Goldeneye** was at Nickolls Quarry on the 2nd and a red-head **Goosander** remained at Botolph's Bridge all month.

17 Red-throated Divers flew east past Mill Point on the 12th and 25 flew west past Hythe on the 20th before there was a record movement of **535** flying west past Seabrook on the 24th. Little Grebes were noted at Beachborough Lakes (2), Princes Parade (2) and Botolph's Bridge (5), whilst 13 Great Crested Grebes were at Nickolls Quarry on the 4th and 27 were on the sea off Hythe on the 30th. The first returning Fulmars were seen at Samphire Hoe on the 12th. Cormorants were present in good numbers, with counts including 60 flying east past Seabrook on the 5th, 109 flying east past Hythe on the 20th and 225 (30e, 195w) off Hythe Ranges on the 30th, whilst a Shag was seen at Sandgate on the 2nd, with two at Samphire Hoe on the 27th.

The highlight of the month was the second area record of **Cattle Egret**, which spent most of the 3rd feeding in the field above the entrance to the Samphire Hoe tunnel, whilst Little Egrets were recorded from Beachborough Lakes, Folkestone Sands, Folkestone Warren, Radnor Park, Samphire Hoe and Botolph's Bridge (4).



Cattle Egret at Samphire Hoe entrance tunnel (Paul Holt)

A **Red Kite** flew west over Cheriton and Princes Parade on the 22nd and a Merlin flew west over Beachborough Lakes on the 15th. Water Rails were wintering at Beachborough Lakes, the canal at Palmmarsh, Nickolls Quarry (2) and Princes Parade (2), whilst single Coots at Beachborough Lakes and Princes Parade in December were noteworthy records at these sites.

Up to 14 Oystercatchers were counted at the Willop Outfall. A Golden Plover flew over Church Hougham on the 19th and 20 flew over Bartholomew's Wood (Postling Wents) on the 29th, whilst Lapwing flocks included 59 at Capel-le-Ferne and 110 at Hillhurst Farm. A Sanderling was at Hythe Ranges on the 3rd and Purple Sandpipers were wintering at Folkestone Pier (2), Hythe Redoubt (3) and Hythe (4). Single Snipe were noted at Beachborough Lakes on the 1st and Samphire Hoe on the 4th, with three at Botolph's Bridge on the 2nd, whilst two Woodcock flew onto fields at Church Hougham at dusk on the 6th. Up to two Green Sandpipers frequented the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area and three Redshanks were seen regularly in Folkestone Harbour.

16 Kittiwakes were logged at Samphire Hoe on the 23rd and there were some notable counts from Beachborough Lakes of gulls moving between feeding areas on the downs and roosting sites at the coast, with peaks of 600 Black-headed Gulls on the 20th, 600 Mediterranean Gulls on the 8th and 370 Common Gulls on the 19th. On the 19th a first-winter **Caspian Gull** and an adult **Yellow-legged Gull** were identified in Folkestone Harbour. Five Razorbills flew east past Hythe on the 20th but auk numbers generally were very low.

A **Barn Owl** frequented the Nickolls Quarry area from the 26th and a **Long-eared Owl** was seen near Bartholomew's Wood (Postling Wents) on the 9th. Kingfishers were noted at Folkestone Harbour and Princes Parade (3), 40 Sky Larks were counted at Abbotscliffe on the 21st and Rock Pipits were recorded from Battery Point, Hythe, Folkestone Harbour/Pier (2), Folkestone Warren (2) and Samphire Hoe (9).

Single male Black Redstarts were reported from Folkestone Pier on the 8th and Hythe town centre on the 10th and an exceptionally late Wheatear was seen at Samphire Hoe on the 4th. Winter thrush numbers were generally low apart from counts of 40 Fieldfares at Pedlinge on the 22nd and 220 Redwings near Summerhouse Hill on the 9th. Cetti's Warblers remained at Princes Parade (2) and Nickolls Quarry (4), whilst there was an arrival of wintering Blackcaps with birds appearing at Princes Parade on the 10th, Browning Place (Folkestone) on the 12th and Mill Road (Hythe) on the 15th, and Princes Parade also hosted a Firecrest and 2 Chiffchaffs.

At least two **Bearded Tits** remained at Nickolls Quarry, two Ravens remained at Samphire Hoe and a murmuration of at least 1,000 Starlings was noted over Folkestone on several dates towards the end of the month. Four Bramblings were at Samphire Hoe on the 4th and 30 Siskins flew east there on the 7th, whilst 12 were at Seabrook on the 26th.

Systematic list

The systematic list is based on the sequence followed by the British Ornithologist's Union (BOU, 2013) and uses the vernacular names that are common use in Britain. The status of each species is described with reference to its frequency of occurrence, as summarised in the table below, and the time of year when it usually occurs. Any significant changes in status over time are also highlighted.

Status	Frequency of occurrence
Very rare	Has occurred locally on between one and 15 occasions
Rare	Has occurred locally on between 16 and 50 occasions
Scarce	Has occurred locally on more than 50 occasions but on less than ten occasions per year on average

The category given in parentheses after the status is based on the BOU categorisation, adopted to reflect the status of species locally, as follows:

Category	Description
A	Species recorded locally in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950
B	Species recorded locally in an apparently natural state at least once between 1800 and 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently
C	Species that, although introduced, now derive from the resulting self-sustaining populations
D	Species that would otherwise appear in Category A except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state. The only species in this category that are on the local list are Falcated Duck and Great White Pelican
E	Species recorded locally as introductions, human-assisted transportations or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining

A species is usually placed in only one category, but some are placed in multiple categories, for example those species occurring in Category A which now have naturalised Category C populations (e.g. Red Kite).

The Folkestone and Hythe list comprises only those species in Categories A, B and C. Species placed in Category D and E are not included in the species total.

Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
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Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A, C)

Nickolls Quarry is used as an overnight roost site during the winter months for some of the birds which feed on Romney Marsh, and at least 18 were present during January, increasing to 30 in late February, with up to 24 remaining well into March. Whilst slightly lower than last years' peak of 36 this still represents an improvement in the numbers present in the previous three winters.

There was an unusual series of records of birds seen offshore in the spring, with six on the sea off Princes Parade on the 12th, eight there the following day, two there on the 18th May and three there on the 8th May. These were followed in June by six in the bay between Copt Point and Folkestone Pier on the 13th to the 14th and five flying east past Hythe on the 15th. At least four pairs bred in the usual haunts along the canal and on the marsh.

In autumn one was seen on the sea off Folkestone Pier on the 14th October, with two on the sea off Hythe on the 8th November, two flying west there on the 14th November and one flying west past Seabrook on the 27th November.

At Botolph's Bridge a wintering flock steadily increased from 27 on the 6th November to 37 on the 11th November, 39 on the 13th November, 41 on the 7th December, 47 on the 11th, 51 on the 27th, 53 on the 28th and to a peak of 59 on the 29th December which was the highest count since 2009. Some of these were again using Nickolls Quarry is used as an overnight roost site.

Very rare vagrant (A)

An adult was seen with Mute Swans at Botolph's Bridge from the 6th to the 16th November (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts, N. Webster *et al*). The 9th area record, the first since 2011 and the first to be photographed locally.



Whooper Swan at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)



Mute Swan at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A)

A flock of eight flew south-west over West Hythe on the 17th January (I. A. Roberts), part of a small influx into the county at this time. This was only the 29th area record but there have now been 11 in the last eight years.

A regular winter visitor and passage migrant, with most presumably relating to the increasing feral populations within the county. At least one early record, and possibly some others, relate to genuine wild birds. Having been recorded in recent summers in suitable habitat, breeding was confirmed for the first time in 2014. (A, C)

The only records from the early winter period were of one at Botolph's Bridge on the 23rd January and two there on the 3rd February. In March one was seen flying along the canal at Seabrook on the 5th, one flew west at Samphire Hoe on the 8th, one flew south over Hythe on the 10th, one was seen at the Willop Basin on the 16th and three flew west at Abbotscliffe on the 31st.

April produced three flying west at Hythe on the 1st, 13 flying east there on the 10th, one east there on the 16th and one east past Samphire Hoe the next day, whilst in May two flew east past Mill Point on the 6th and three flew west there on the 7th.

There were no records from the latter half of the year.

Canada Goose

<i>Branta Canadensis</i>

Currently breeds almost annually but formerly more numerous. Otherwise can be a visitor at any time of year (C)

In January up to 11 were present in the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area between the 1st and the 19th but there were no further records until a pair returned to the breeding site at Nickolls Quarry on the 29th February. Up to ten adults were present between March and May but only one pair bred successfully, fledging eight young. Elsewhere five flew west past Samphire Hoe on the 8th March.

There were no records from the latter half of the year.

Brent Goose

<i>Branta bernicla</i>

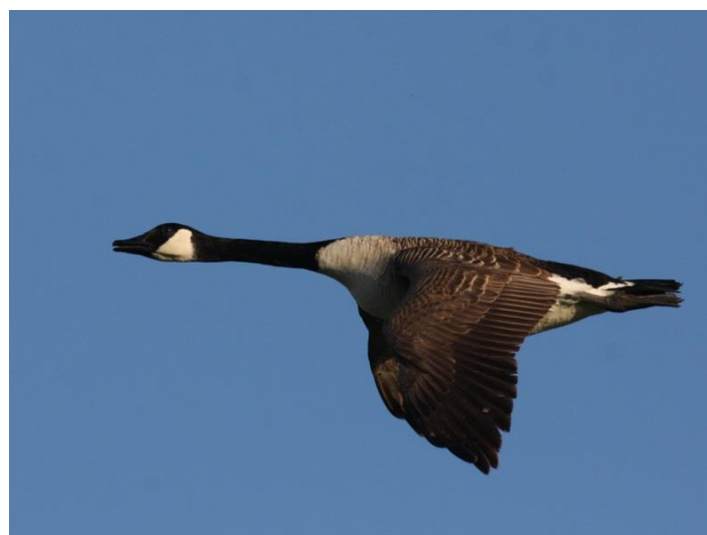
Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The trend for birds to be moving east along the coast from as early as January (or even late December) continued, though the numbers involved were more modest than in the previous three years. A total of 179 were logged in January 2016, including a count of 98 on the 10th, whilst one was seen on the Hythe Imperial golf course on the 1st, with four there on the 15th (see photograph on page 5), when two were seen near the Willop sewage works,.

In February 90 flew east past Mill Point on the 6th, whilst 115 were logged moving up-channel during the last ten days of the month, with a peak of 35 past Samphire Hoe on the 28th. A total of 210 flew east past Mill Point on the 9th March and passage increased from mid-month, when 300 flew east past Folkestone Harbour on the 16th, about 1,000 flew east on the 18th (including 780 passing Princes Parade in the late evening), about 900 flew east past Hythe on the 21st and 315 flew east past Mill Point on the 24th. Up to five were seen on the Hythe Imperial golf course on the 28th-29th.



Brent Geese at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)



Canada Goose at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)

April saw further counts of 375 heading east past Mill Point on the 4th and 600 east past Samphire Hoe on the 10th, whilst two were seen on one of the ponds at Samphire Hoe on the 11th. Small numbers were seen into May, with the last flock of 20 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 5th, which is a fairly typical departure date.

The total for the spring (including the early movement in January) was about 5,113, which is the second highest ever after the 8,065 recorded in 2013.

Departure / Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Departure	5 th May	15 th May	-10	4 th May	+1	26 th May 1997
Arrival	17 th Sep	20 th Sep	-3	21 st Sep	-4	11 th Sep 2014

The first three of the autumn flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 17th September, with 28 east there the next day, 18 off Folkestone Pier on the 19th and 9 there on the 20th September. There were numerous small movements in October with larger counts of 40 west past Hythe on the 3rd, 77 east past Samphire Hoe on the 4th, 78 past Copt Point on the 6th and 30 east past Samphire Hoe on the 29th, and November, including 80 on the 7th, 22 on the 11th and 25 on the 12th.

Easterly movements in late December are not unusual but the numbers involved this year were exceptional, with up to 323 passing Hythe/Princes Parade on the 29th and up to 444 passing Hythe the next day. The previous largest count in December was 160 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 29th December 2012.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Very rare vagrant (C)

One was seen on the canal bank at Hythe from the 3rd to the 6th February (I. A. Roberts, N. Webster, P. Howe *et al*), see photograph on page 8. This was only the eighth record, but there have now been six in the last six years as the species continues to slowly establish a foothold in the county.

Shelduck

Tadorna tadorna

Winter visitor and passage migrant, may have bred on at least one occasion prior to 2004 (A)

Small numbers were noted from coastal watch-points in January and February, whilst one was seen on a flooded field at the Willop Basin between the 25th and 27th February. Spring passage occurred between late February and early May, with a total of at least 50 recorded, with the vast majority seen heading up-channel. Counts included five east past Princes Parade on the 27th February, five east past Mill Point on the 9th March, six east past Princes Parade on the 15th March and six east past Samphire Hoe on the 29th April.

An early single flew east past Princes Parade on the 19th August, with two off Copt Point on the 6th October before 47 were logged in November, including a count of 24 past Folkestone Pier on the 8th.

Mandarin Duck

Aix galericulata

Breeding resident (C)

All sightings again were from the woods in the Saltwood area with counts including six at Folks' Wood and seven at Kiln Wood in January, four at Brockhill Country Park in March and nine at Folks' Wood in December. There was an unusual record of a female found dead hanging from the entrance to a nesting hole at Brockhill Country Park on the 24th April.

Wigeon

Anas Penelope

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Winter numbers were again very low with a pair flying east past Mill Point on the 2nd January, a pair at Nickolls Quarry on the 18th January and three (one drake) at the latter site on the 18th January constituting the only records. A pair on the pond at Samphire Hoe on the 8th March were the only sign of any spring passage.

In autumn 12 flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 29th October, one flew west past Mill Point on the 7th November, with four west there the next day and six east past Princes Parade on the 9th, whilst 13 flew east past Folkestone Pier on the 11th November and 11 flew east past Mill Point on the 24th November. In December a male was seen at Botolph's Bridge on the 15th with a female at Nickolls Quarry the following day.

Gadwall

Anas strepera

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Up to four (two pairs) were present on the lake at Folkestone Racecourse (Westenhanger) in the early winter period but the only other record came from Nickolls Quarry where a pair were seen on the 22nd January.

In spring a pair flew west past Samphire Hoe on the 2nd May, whilst an eclipse drake was seen on the canal at Princes Parade on the 13th June, which was only the third ever record in this month.

An immature/female flew east past Princes Parade on the 5th October and on the 12th November a mixed flock of 50 ducks, which appeared to be mostly Gadwall and Pintail, flew west past Mill Point. Five were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 13th November, with a pair at Nickolls Quarry on the 29th December and four were again present on the lake at Folkestone Racecourse (Westenhanger) in December.



Wigeon at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Gadwall at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Teal

Anas crecca

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period there were peak counts of 14 on the lake at Folkestone Racecourse (Westenhanger), 35 at Chesterfield Wood (Saltwood) and 50 at the Willop Basin. Elsewhere seven flew west past Mill Point on the 3rd January.

The only signs of spring passage were two on the sea off Hythe Ranges on the 12th March, two flying east past Mill Point on the 19th March and a drake at Princes Parade on the 22nd March.

In autumn one was seen at Samphire Hoe on the 20th September, whilst six flew west there on the 3rd October, one flew west past Mill Point on the 8th November and two were on the sea off Hythe Ranges on the 13th November, when two were present at Nickolls Quarry, and 29 were counted at the Willop Basin, where the flock increased to 45 on the 19th November. Up to two were seen regularly at Beachborough Lakes in November and December, up to 100 were at Chesterfield Wood in December and five flew over Nickolls Quarry on the 28th December.

Breeding resident and winter visitor (A)

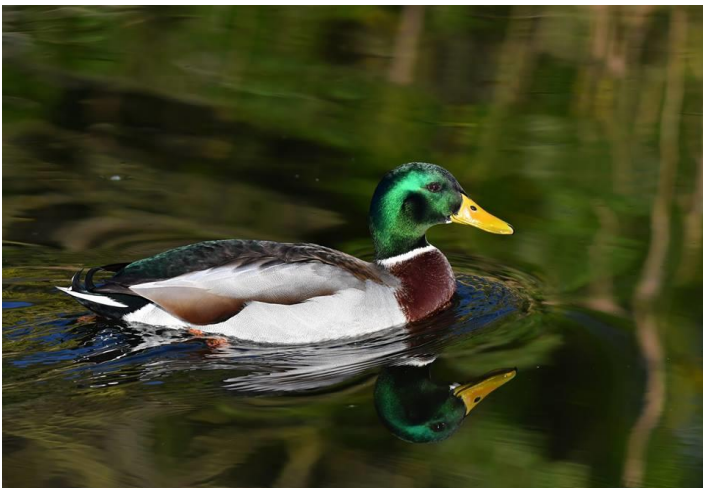
Counts from the early winter period suggested that at least 340 birds were present, including totals of 17 at Chesterfield Wood, 21 at Radnor Park, 38 near Stutfall Castle, 41 on the canal between Hythe and Seabrook, 60 at the Willop Basin and 112 at Botolph's Bridge.

In the latter winter period counts included 30 at the Willop Basin in November and 50 at Chesterfield Wood in December.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

An excellent total of 26 (15 males, 11 females) flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 9th March, which constitutes the fifth highest ever spring count. Further records comprised a male flying east past Mill Point on the 20th March, a female east past Samphire Hoe on the 10th April and a male east past Mill Point on the 11th April. Despite the large count, the spring total of 29 was only slightly better than the mean for the previous ten years of 25.

A female/immature was present on the pond at Samphire Hoe on the 11th October on the 12th November a mixed flock of 50 duck, which appeared to be mostly Gadwall and Pintail, flew west past Mill Point.



Mallard at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)



Pintail at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Rare migrant, mainly in spring, possibly bred in the past though not since 1960 (A)

A drake was seen heading east past Mill Point, Copt Point and Samphire Hoe with a small flock of Common Scoters on the 6th May (B. Harper, D. A. Gibson, I. A. Roberts). This was the 27th area record, but only the fourth since 2008.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Three were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 3rd January. A modest spring passage involved a pair flying east past Mill Point on the 9th March, six east there on the 3rd April and eight east there on the 11th April. The total for the spring of 16 was a little below the mean for the previous ten years of 22.

Five were seen at Beachborough Lakes on the 28th October.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Up to three were at the usual site of the lake at Folkestone Racecourse (Westenhanger) in January and February. Elsewhere a drake was at Nickolls Quarry on the 18th January, a drake was on the canal at Princes Parade on the 31st January to the 1st February, a pair were at Nickolls Quarry on the 22nd to the 24th March and three were seen there on the 23rd April.

There were no records from the latter half of the year.

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Five were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 3rd January, with eight there on the 20th January, whilst 9 were present on the lake at Folkestone Racecourse (Westenhanger) in February. One was at Nickolls Quarry again on the 29th February, increasing to three on the 8th March and up to seven remained there from the 12th March until at least mid-May but breeding was not noted.

Two were seen on two dates in June at Beachborough Lakes and one was present there on the 19th to the 21st October, whilst 11 were noted on the 28th October and nine flew west over the site on the 31st October. A female frequented the canal at Princes Parade from the 20th to the 22nd December.



Pochard at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)



Tufted Duck at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Passage migrant and winter visitor, formerly summered but not since 2003 (A)

A drake was seen flying west past Hythe, with presumably the same bird later passing east at Battery Point, on the 16th January and a drake flew east past Mill Point on the 9th March.

In the latter winter period an immature drake flew west past Mill Point on the 5th October and four flew past Mill Point on the 27th November.

This was a good showing considering that none were seen last year.

Non-breeding summer visitor, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Up to 16 wintering in Hythe Bay (off Princes Parade) throughout January, with small numbers noted from other coastal watch-points, but after 23 flew east there on the 5th February very few were seen until March.

Spring migrants were noted between 9th March and 18th May, with a total of around 1,300 heading up-channel, which was considerably better than the mean for the previous decade of 860. Counts included 84 past Mill Point on the 3rd April, 255 past there the next day, 78 past there on the 11th April, 130 past Samphire Hoe on the 29th April, 80 past Mill Point on the 4th May and 172 past Samphire Hoe on the 6th May. Hythe Bay is often used as a staging post by northbound birds and up to 250 were present there between the 10th and 22nd April.

Few were noted over the summer with the exception of 100 which flew west past Folkestone Pier on the 29th July. Autumn passage was very modest with a peak of just 20 east past Hythe Ranges on the 18th September but up to 100 were present off Hythe Redoubt/Willop Outfall on the 6th to the 7th November, with 83 off Hythe Ranges on the 13th and 75 there on the 19th November. In December 23 flew west past Mill Point on the 12th.

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

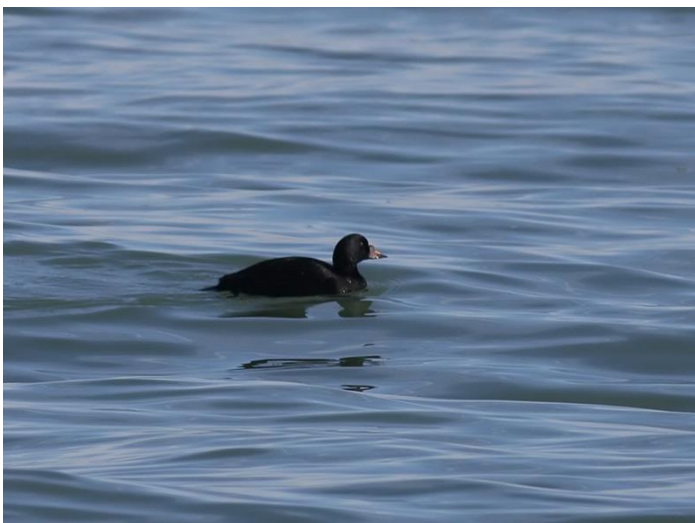
Two were seen off the Willop Outfall on the 26th January and another flew west past Princes Parade the next day. In spring a flock of ten flew past Hythe on the 11th April, when another was seen on the sea off Princes Parade.

In October one flew past Copt Point on the 6th and one was on the sea close inshore off Hythe Ranges on the 31st, whilst in November one was reported off Princes Parade on the 26th, four flew past Mill Point on the 27th and two flew past both Mill Point and Folkestone Pier on the 28th.

The total of 23 individuals was considerable better than the mean for the previous decade of nine, and this was the best showing since 2013.

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A drake flew east and then west at Mill Point on the 7th November (I. A. Roberts), a female/immature flew east there the following day (I. A. Roberts) and a drake was at Nickolls Quarry on the 2nd December (B. Harper).



Common Scoter at Princes Parade (Brian Harper)



Goldeneye at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)

Red-breasted Merganser

<i>Mergus serrator</i>

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A female/immature flew east past Princes Parade on the 17th January.

In spring three flew east past Mill Point on the 10th March, one was seen off Samphire Hoe the next day, two flew east past Mill Point on the 3rd April, two flew east there on the 4th April and three flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 5th May. The spring total of 11 was somewhat lower than the mean for the previous decade of 19.

The autumn produced two flying west past Mill Point on the 5th October, one flying west there on the 12th November and three flying east there on the 24th November.

Goosander

<i>Mergus merganser</i>

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Two flew west past Battery Point/Princes Parade on the 10th January and three flew east there on the 27th February.

In autumn a female/immature was seen on the sea off Mill Point on the 7th November when another was seen flying east past Hythe, a female/immature was seen on the sea off Hythe Ranges on the 13th November and a female/immature, possibly the same bird, was present at Botolph's Bridge from the 19th November until the year's end.

Another good year, the total of 7 records was the second best ever (after 11 in 2010).

Red-legged Partridge

<i>Alectoris rufa</i>

Breeding resident (C)

Small numbers were noted at the usual sites of Hythe Ranges, the Abbotscliffe/Round Down area and Samphire Hoe, with a peak of four at the latter site on the 4th September.

Grey Partridge

<i>Perdix perdix</i>

Declining breeding resident (A)

A pair were seen near Saltwood Castle in April and a pair were present at Abbotscliffe in April and May, with up to three there in autumn. One was at Church Hougham in May and up to two were at Samphire Hoe in April and May, with one there in September.

Pheasant

<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>

Breeding resident (C)

As always very few counts of this species were received, with a peak of just ten near Botolph's Bridge on the 10th February. A male in a garden at Ingles Manor (Folkestone) on the 31st March was an unusual occurrence. The species tends to be scarce at Samphire Hoe but there were records in February, March, April, June and September.

Red-throated Diver

<i>Gavia stellata</i>

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Numbers in the early winter period were low with a peak of just 25 off Samphire Hoe on the 26th February. Inland records are scarce, so a series of records from Nickolls Quarry was noteworthy.

A slightly oiled bird was found dead there on the 24th February, with another slightly oiled individual there on the 29th February, before two apparently clean birds were present from at least the 8th to the 12th March.

Spring passage was noted from the 1st March, when 47 flew east past Mill Point, but numbers were generally small, with subsequent counts of 41 east past Princes Parade/Samphire Hoe on the 18th March, 62 off the Willop Outfall on the 23rd March and 26 east past Mill Point on the 3rd April, with the last on the 6th May.

Departure / Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Departure	6 th May	2 nd May	+4	4 th May	+2	6 th Jun 2006
Arrival	11 th Oct	10 th Oct	+1	7 th Oct	+4	7 th Sep 1997

The first of the autumn was flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 11th October but very few were noted before mid-November when 19 flew east past the same site on the 13th. In December 17 flew east past Mill Point on the 12th, 25 flew west past Hythe on the 20th and a record count of 535 flew west past Princes Parade on the 24th. The previous highest count related to 486 which flew east past Copt Point on the 22nd February 1996.

Black-throated Diver

Gavia arctica

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring, and occasional winter visitor (A)

Two were reported off Hythe on the 25th February. In spring, two flew east past Mill Point on the 3rd April, with another east there the next day and one east past Samphire Hoe on the 10th April. In May three flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 5th and a single flew east past Mill Point on the 7th. The total of ten was an improvement on the mean for the previous ten years of 6.5.

Fulmar

Fulmarus glacialis

Breeding visitor and passage migrant (A)

Birds had begun arriving back at the cliffs from November 2015 and three or four pairs bred at both Capel-le-Ferne and Samphire Hoe.

Elsewhere small numbers were noted at other coastal sites in January and February. A significant movement of 36 east past Mill Point on the 9th March included a dark morph bird (I. A. Roberts), which was only the fourth occurrence of this form (following others at Copt Point in March 2001, April 2004 and April 2012). Subsequent counts included 12 east past Mill Point on the 15th April and 13 east there on the 21st April. Between April and June several were seen flying inland over Princes Parade.



Red-throated Diver at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)



Fulmars at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Small numbers were recorded until mid-September but there were no sightings thereafter until November when one flew past Folkestone Harbour on the 5th, one flew past Mill Point on the 21st and three flew past there on the 24th. The first prospecting birds were noted at Samphire Hoe from the 12th December and small numbers were noted at coastal sites in December.

Manx Shearwater

<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>

Scarce passage migrant (A)

A total of nine, including a flock of six, flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 29th April and one flew west there on the 2nd May. With the mean for the previous ten years being 7.6, the total of 10 was slightly above average.

Gannet

<i>Morus bassanus</i>

Passage migrant and non-breeding visitor at all times of year (A)

Counts in January included 47 flying east past Hythe on the 1st and 40 flying west Mill Point on the 18th, whilst in February 76 flew east past Mill Point on the 13th. In spring 57 flew east past Mill Point on the 9th March, 87 flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 2nd April and 50 flew east past Mill Point on the 5th May.

Autumn counts included 135 passing east off Mill Point/Princes Parade on the 9th November, 70 off Mill Point on the 21st November and 100 flying past Mill Point on the 27th November.

Cormorant

<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>

Non-breeding visitor at all times of year (A)

There was a good count of 79 flying east past Mill Point on the 17th January but no repeat of the exceptional numbers seen in February last year, with a peak of just 25 off Samphire Hoe on the 16th. Smaller numbers were noted between March and May, with 11 east past Samphire Hoe on the 9th March and 15 east past Samphire Hoe on the 13th March being the only counts of note.

The late winter period did however see some extraordinary movements, with 60 flying east past Seabrook on the 5th December, 109 flying east past Hythe on the 20th December and a record count of 225 (30e, 195w) off Hythe Ranges on the 30th December. These presumably related to flocks dispersing from a roosting site, and perhaps exploiting a localised concentration of prey, rather than passage birds.



Shag at Samphire Hoe (Paul Holt)



Cormorant at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Passage migrant and winter visitor, with occasional summer records (A)

One was seen at Samphire Hoe on the 18th January then a flock of five were feeding offshore there on the 14th February, with one reported flying west there the same day. At least three remained until the 16th February, then singles were noted there on several dates until the 9th June, with two on the 18th and 24th March. Just along the coast there was one on the sea off Abbotscliffe on the 21st March, with two there on the 25th March.

In autumn singles were seen on several dates at Samphire Hoe, with two there on the 21st September, a peak of four on the 11th October, and two on both the 27th November and 27th December. Elsewhere one was seen in the Folkestone Pier/Mill Point area on at least eight dates between the 8th and 30th November, with perhaps the same bird at Sandgate on the 2nd December.

The total of 52 bird/days was more than double the average for the previous decade of 24.

Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Very rare vagrant (A)

One was seen in fields by the entrance tunnel to Samphire Hoe on the 3rd December (M. C. Buckland, P. Holt *et al*), see photographs on pages 27 and 105. The second area record, following one at Samphire Hoe on the 25th April 2006.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Non-breeding visitor at any time of year, now regular in winter and on passage (A)

Up to five remained in the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry in January and February but then quickly dispersed with just two singles noted there in March. There were two at Samphire Hoe on the 2nd January, with singles then noted regularly in January and February, with two sightings there in March too. Elsewhere singletons were seen at Copt Point on the 6th January, Cheriton and Lympne on the 27th February, Holy Well on the 18th March and flying over Wear Bay Crescent (Folkestone) on the 21st March. The only record in April was of one at Abbotscliffe on the 30th, whilst one was seen at Samphire Hoe on the 2nd May.

Summer records remain scarce, with singles flying east at Copt Point and west at Princes Parade on the 21st June, one on the canal in Hythe on the 29th June, one at Sandgate on the 30th July and one at Samphire Hoe on the 23rd August.

In September one flew west over Princes Parade and Hythe on the 12th September and there were regular sightings along the coast between Copt Point and Samphire Hoe from the 19th September, with counts of three at Samphire Hoe on the 4th October, four there on the 24th October and three there on the 15th November. Elsewhere singles were seen at various sites in November/December including Donkey Street, Botolph's Bridge, Beachborough Lakes, Hythe, Mill Point and Radnor Park, and four were present at Botolph's Bridge on the 27th December.

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

At least 12 nests were occupied in Lympne Park Wood, where the population appears to be stable with 11 to 13 pairs noted in each of the last eight years.

Small numbers were seen at many sites across the area during the year, with peak counts of five at Samphire Hoe on the 19th September and at Botolph's Bridge on the 4th December. There were very few records suggestive of passage or dispersal, with two flying in off the sea at Hythe Ranges on the 18th September being the most noteworthy.

Breeding resident and winter visitor (A)

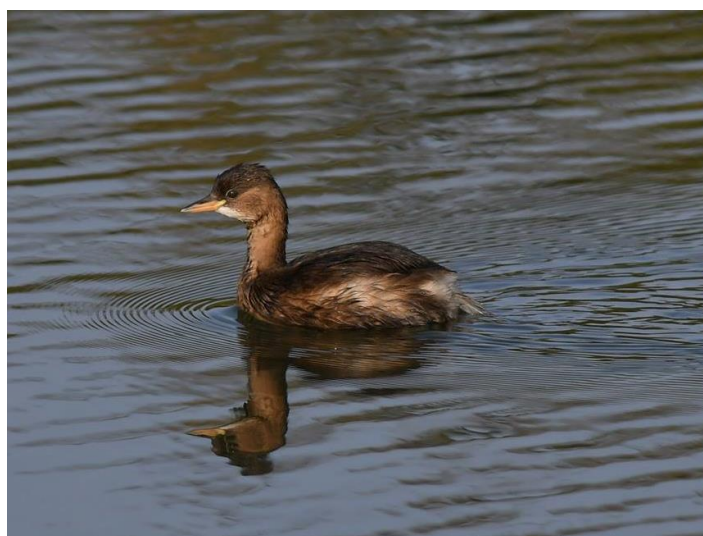
The individual that frequented the canal between Hythe and Seabrook in late 2015 remained into January, and small numbers were seen in the Botolph's Bridge area, with two at Folkestone Racecourse (Westenhanger) in February.

One was at Samphire Hoe on the 10th March and a pair were seen there from the 3rd May, with five young noted on the 9th June – the first successful breeding at this site, see photograph on page 17. At least four (two adults and two Juveniles) were seen into August, with three present in September and two birds until at least November.

One, perhaps the same returning bird, was on the canal between Hythe and Seabrook from the 30th October until the year's end, with two there on the 29th December, two at Botolph's Bridge from the 7th November, increasing to five there on the 4th December, and one at Beachborough Lakes from the 1st December, increasing to two on the 15th December.



Little Egret at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Little Grebe at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Breeding resident and winter visitor (A)

Numbers were low in January but increased from mid-February, with 42 off Mill Point on the 18th, 90 off Hythe Redoubt on the 25th and 83 flying east past Princes Parade on the 27th. In March there was an unusual record of a grebe, presumed to be this species, which was seen flying high over the Fountain pub in Seabrook on the 4th, whilst counts included 12 off Samphire Hoe on the 7th, 15 off Mill Point on the 10th, 41 off Princes Parade on the 20th, 25 off the Hythe Redoubt on the 21st and 25 off the Willop Outfall on the 23rd. There was a further unusual record on the 28th March when one was found dead at Browning Place (Folkestone). Smaller numbers were noted in April and May.

Up to 11 were present at Nickolls Quarry in January, with two pairs remaining into spring and probably breeding, though proof was not recorded.

In October one was present at Beachborough Lakes from the 3rd to the 21st, whilst numbers increased at Nickolls Quarry to a peak of 13 on the 4th December. Small numbers were also noted offshore with a peak of 27 off Princes Parade on the 30th December.

Slavonian Grebe

Podiceps auritus

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A)

Singles were seen on the sea off Mill Point on the 20th March (B. Harper) and Hythe on the 24th March (S. McMinn). The 44th and 45th area records but the first since 2013.

Honey Buzzard

Pernis apivorus

Scarce passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	28 th May	9 th Jun	-12	22 nd May	+6	3 rd May 2013
Departure	-	4 th Oct	-	15 th Sep	-	15 th Oct 1995

Singles were seen flying in off the sea at Seabrook on the 28th May (P. Howe) and at Samphire Hoe on the 17th July (P. Holt), see photograph on page 18.

A total of 125 have now been recorded in the area in the 27 years since 1990 (4.6 per year) so the two in 2016 were less than half the average.

Black Kite

Milvus migrans

Very rare vagrant (A)

Singles seen flying east over Hythe on the 3rd April (N. Webster), south-west at Capel-le-Ferne on the 7th May (D. A. Gibson) and west over Hythe on the 11th June (C. Griggs) were the 10th to 12th area records, see photograph on page 15. This was only the second year to produce more than one (there were also three records in 2011). The 7th May was the first time that both kite species were recorded in the area on the same day.

Red Kite

Milvus milvus

Scarce but increasing migrant, mainly in spring, but recorded in all months of the year (A, C)

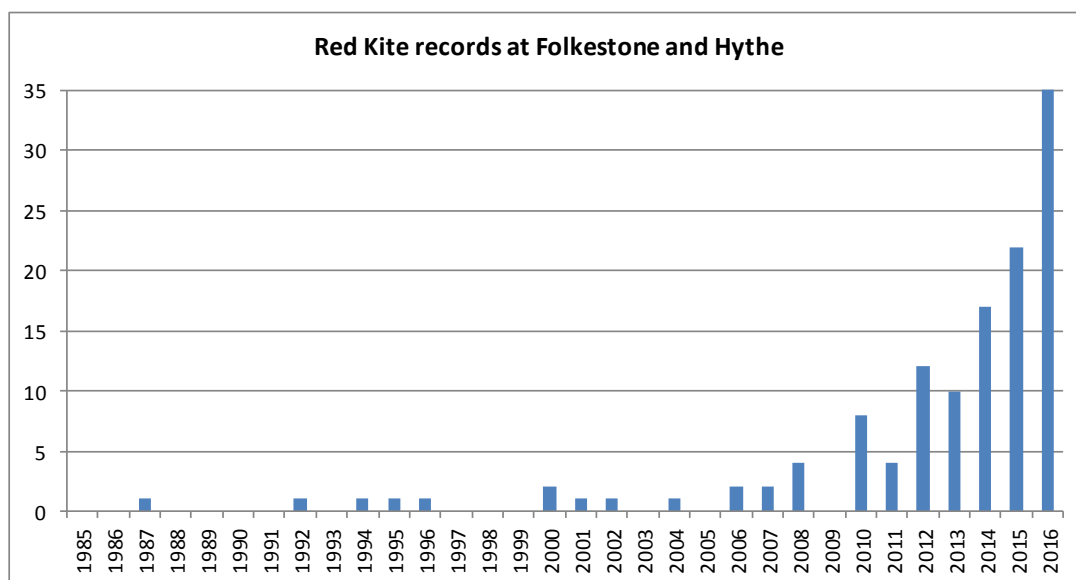
The first of the year were seen on the 25th March when two circled Abbotscliffe for a while before drifting off east, whilst two separate singles were later flying over Cheriton, with presumably one of the same seen over Folkestone. In April singles were seen Hythe and Nickolls Quarry on the 7th, with two over Saltwood on the 8th, singles over Samphire Hoe and Saltwood on the 14th, and one over Hythe on the 30th.

There was a significant influx of up to 28 in May. On the 1st one flew west over Hythe and Nickolls Quarry, with another flying west over Seabrook, whilst singles flew over Folkestone on the 4th, Princes Parade on the 5th and Hythe on the 7th, and three were seen near Stutfall Castle on the 8th. A further three flew east over Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site on the 9th (with two, presumed part of this flock, later seen heading east over Abbotscliffe and Round Down), whilst an additional two flew west at Princes Parade the same day. On the 12th singles were noted going west over Beachborough Lakes and east over Folkestone.

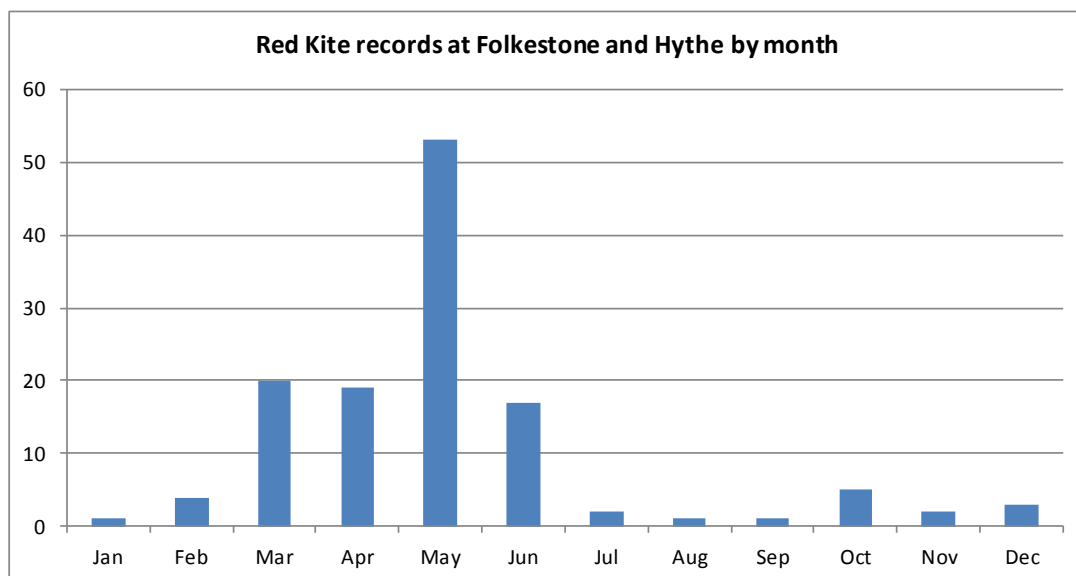
Two flew east over Nickolls Quarry on the 13th May and singles were noted later that day over Frogholt, Cheriton, Folkestone and Capel-le-Ferne but it is difficult to be certain how many individuals were involved. Further singles were seen flying over Sugarloaf Hill on the 16th, over Folkestone Downs and Lympe on the 17th, over Beachborough Lakes on the 20th and over Cheriton and Hythe on the 27th.

Three flew over Beachborough Lakes on the 29th July, singles flew east over Beachborough Lakes on the 18th October and Abbotscliffe the next day, and one flew west over Folkestone and Princes Parade on the 22nd December.

2016 was yet another record year, with 35 records of 46 birds, as demonstrated by the chart below.



Whilst records have occurred in all months of the year, the vast majority (85%) have occurred between March and July and it remains a scarce bird in the latter half of the year, as confirmed by the chart below.



Marsh Harrier

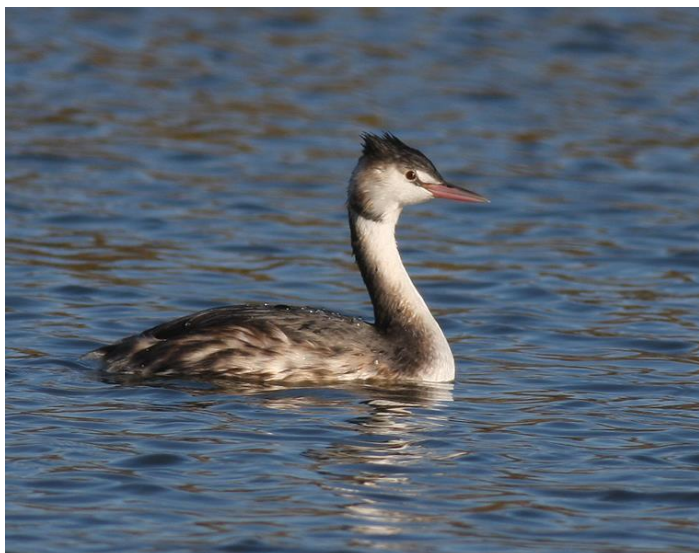
Circus aeruginosus

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The pattern of more regular winter occurrences (as described in the 2013 report) continued with sightings of a female/immature at Nickolls Quarry on the 20th January and Botolph's Bridge on the 28th February, and there were further singles of a female/immature at the former site on the 22nd and 23rd March.

In spring a male was seen arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 17th April, a female/immature flew east there on the 9th May and one flew out to sea at Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site the same day.

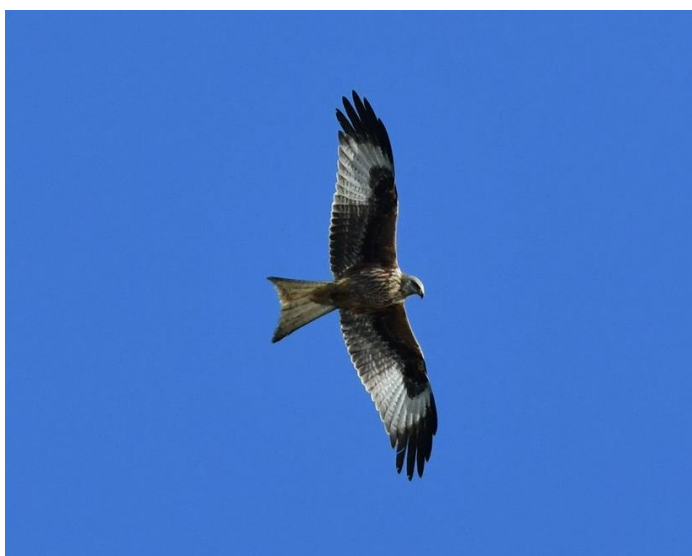
An immature/female flew in off the sea at Seabrook on the relatively unusual date of the 19th July (there have only been two previous records in this month). In autumn a male flew out to sea from Abbotscliffe on the 12th September, one flew in off the sea at Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site on the 18th September and one was seen along Donkey Street on the 8th November. The total of 11 records was very similar to the mean for the previous ten years of 12.3.



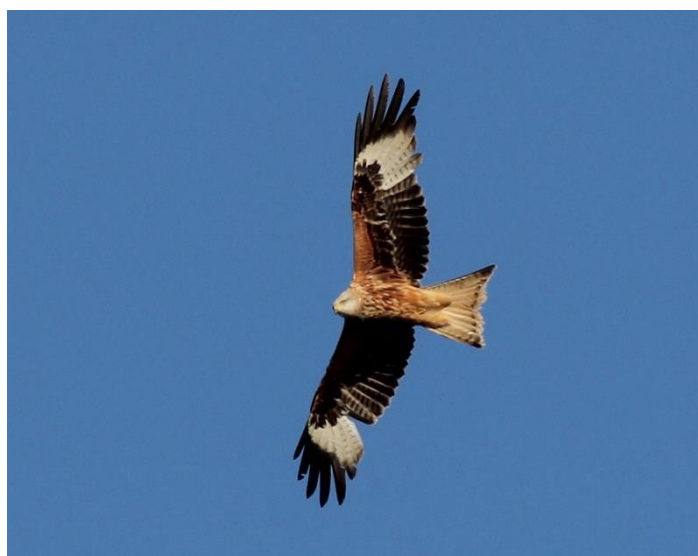
Great Crested Grebe at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)



Marsh Harrier at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)



Red Kite at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)



Red Kite at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)

Hen Harrier

Circus cyaneus

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A)

A male that flew west over Beachborough Lakes on the 27th September (S. Tomlinson) was the earliest autumn arrival, preceding one at Chesterfield Wood on the 29th September 2007. This was only the 41st area record but the species has now been recorded in 13 of the last 15 years (with only 2008 and 2009 being blank).

Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nisus

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Ones and twos were seen at many sites throughout the year. There was little evidence of any passage but one which was seen flying out to sea from Folkestone Pier on the 22nd September may have been a migrant.

Formerly scarce, but has bred since 2001 and continues to increase, also a winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were widespread records throughout the year. Some indications of passage were evident from mid-February, with one at Samphire Hoe on the 15th, four west over Seabrook on the 19th and up to 16 migrants in the last ten days of the month, including six flying west over Saltwood on the 23rd. Birds continued to pass through in March with up to 60 migrants logged, including counts of on the 31st of four over Nickolls Quarry, five at Abbotscliffe and six over Samphire Hoe. A similar number were also noted in April, including five east over Cheriton on the 10th April and a record total of 29 on the 17th which comprised two at Samphire Hoe, and flocks of seven over Hythe, nine over Abbotscliffe and 11 over Folkestone Rugby Club.

The Beachborough Lakes/Summerhouse Hill area provided the largest counts during the summer, with 13 there on the 6th May and 12 on the 16th June. Autumn passage was also noted but was much less pronounced, with a peak count of just three west over Hythe on the 3rd October.



Sparrowhawk at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)



Buzzard at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)

Scarce passage migrant (A)

Three singles were seen in early April, flying north over Cheriton on the 2nd, perched by the roadside at Folks Wood on the 4th and flying over Hythe on the 6th. In autumn one flew out to sea from Princes Parade on the 21st August and one flew south-west over Church Hougham on the 29th September.

A total of 81 have been recorded in the area in the 27 years since 1990 (3.0 per year) so five again constituted an above average showing.

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Widespread in small numbers with no counts of note.

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (A).

Singles were seen at Botolph's Bridge on the 1st January, Nickolls Quarry on the 20th January, Botolph's Bridge on the 19th February and flying over Hythe on the 28th February.

In the latter half of the year one was seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 22nd September, one flew over the Willop Basin on the 13th November and one flew west over Beachborough Lakes on the 15th December.

The previous decade saw a mean of 4.6 records per year so the total of seven was above average.



Osprey at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)



Kestrel at Samphire Hoe (Paul Holt)

Hobby

Falco subbuteo

A summer visitor with breeding suspected in many years but not proven until 2014, also a passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015				
Arrival	24 th Apr	23 rd Apr	+1	23 rd Apr	+1	9 th Apr 1998
Departure	22 nd Sep	19 th Oct	-27	3 rd Oct	-11	22 nd Oct 2001

The first, one at Lympne Park Wood on the 24th April, was just a day later than last year and the mean for the previous decade. A pair again bred at this locality, raising at least one young, and the adults were seen chasing off a third bird on the 7th May. Sightings from Hythe Ranges and Nickolls Quarry during the summer may have involved the same birds and the juvenile lingered until the 21st September by which time the adults appeared to have departed. A pair were seen hunting at Beachborough Lakes between June and September (with three there on the 28th June) and presumably bred nearby, whilst one seen hunting in the Seabrook area in June and July was also suggestive of local nesting.

Elsewhere one flew in off the sea at Sandgate on the 25th April, with one at Abbotscliffe the following day, one at Capel-le-Ferne Café on the 7th May, singles in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 13th May and Capel-le-Ferne Café on the 14th May, and singles at Abbotscliffe and Cheriton on the 19th May.

Singles were noted at Samphire Hoe on the 4th July and the 8th August, with one over Cheriton on the 26th August, one over central Folkestone on the 17th September and the final sightings were singles at Abbotscliffe and Church Hougham on the 22nd September.

Peregrine

Falco peregrinus

Resident breeder until 1960 and again from the early 1990s, also a winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were regular records from the cliffs between Folkestone and Dover throughout the year, with up to three pairs present and these were presumably the source of birds seen hunting over Folkestone on various dates. Elsewhere up to two were wintering in the Botolph's Bridge/Donkey Street area until early March, singles were seen at Princes Parade on the 4th and 23rd March, Nickolls Quarry on the 23rd March, Hythe on the 4th April, Beachborough Lakes on the 26th May, Saltwood on the 10th June and Summerhouse Hill on the 8th July. In the latter winter period one was seen on several occasions in the Hythe Roughs/Nickolls Quarry/Donkey Street area, one flew over Westenhanger on the 20th October and one was seen arriving in off the sea at Mill Point on the 24th November.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In early winter period at least three were present at Nickolls Quarry and at least five were present along the canal between Hythe and Seabrook, with the last sightings in late March. None were noted at Samphire Hoe in January or February but singles, presumably migrants, were seen there on the 23rd March and from the 10th to 13th April.

The first returning bird was at Princes Parade on the 10th October and up to three were seen there in November, with at least remaining until the year's end. One was seen at Botolph's Bridge on the 26th November, one was seen regularly at Beachborough Lakes from the 28th November, one was along the canal at Palmarsh on the 13th December and at least two were present at Nickolls Quarry in December.



Hobby at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)



Peregrine at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)

Breeding resident (A)

There were widespread records but the only double-figure count came from Samphire Hoe, where 12 were noted on the 19th January.

Breeding resident and winter visitor (A)

Yet another mild winter meant that numbers in the early part of the year were low again, with peak counts of 7 at Folkestone Racecourse (Westenhanger) on the 26th February and 15 at Nickolls Quarry on the 8th January. Smaller numbers were noted in the Willop Sewer area and the single on the canal at Princes Parade remained from last year until at least the 4th March.

Up to two pairs were present at Nickolls Quarry and the Willop Basin in spring/summer and breeding may have occurred.

The latter winter period also produced only small numbers but up to two on the canal at Princes Parade from early November and one at Beachborough Lakes on the 22nd December were noteworthy at these sites.

Very rare vagrant (A)

One reported over Hythe at 10:30 on the 7th April (per Rare Bird Alert) was the 10th area record.



Water Rail at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)



Moorhen at Beachborough Lakes (Steve Tomlinson)

Breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor (A)

Small numbers were wintering along the shore between the Willop Outfall and Hythe Ranges, with a peak count of 13 there on the 25th February.

In March one had returned to Nickolls Quarry, with a pair present from the 23rd. Mating was observed on the 8th April and there appeared to be a nest on the island in the lake, with regular sightings here until mid-June, though no chicks were noted. An additional pair were seen there on the 14th and 21st April.

Spring passage was noted between the 9th March and the 10th May, with around 57 being logged, and peak counts of ten past Mill Point on the 9th March, 12 past Samphire Hoe on the 15th April, 7 past Mill Point on the 22nd April, 7 past Samphire Hoe on the 5th May and 7 past the same site the next day.

Small numbers were noted passing offshore in June and July, with a peak of four off Folkestone Pier on the 22nd June, and larger numbers in August, including eight flying west past Folkestone Pier on the 5th and 15 flying east there on the 15th, whilst one flying west over Beachborough Lakes on the 11th was a notable inland record. Few were noted between September and October, but 14 were counted at the Willop Outfall on two dates in December.

Scarce migrant (A)

Two flew west past Copt Point on the 5th May (D. A. Gibson) and two flew east past Mill Point on the 12th May (B. Harper). The 64th and 65th area records.

Occasional breeding species, also a winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The regular roost at Folkestone Beach held a peak of 18 birds on the 18th January. Elsewhere one was seen at Hythe Ranges on the 30th January, with two at the Willop Outfall on the 27th February.

Spring migrants involved one at the Willop Outfall on the 4th April, three at Hythe and four flying east at Samphire Hoe on the 6th May, and five flying east at Mill Point on the 10th May.

Birds were noted again at the Folkestone Beach roost in August, with a peak of 25 there on the 29th August and up to 15 remained until the end of the year. At Hythe Ranges there were counts of 12 on the 18th September and 23 on the 13th November, whilst passage birds comprised six flying west past Folkestone Pier on the 5th September and two flying east past Mill Point on the 24th November.



Oystercatcher at the Willop Outfall (Brian Harper)



Ringed Plovers at the Hythe Redoubt (Brian Harper)

Declining winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were no records from the early winter period but in autumn singles were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 18th September, 4th October and 6th October, whilst one flew over Beachborough Lakes on the 19th October. A total of eight flew in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 21st October, whilst one flew over Folkestone Pier on the 25th and six were seen in an arable field at Abbotscliffe on the 29th October before they flew west. In November a single flew over Abbotscliffe on the 2nd and in December one flew over Church Hougham on the 19th, whilst a flock of 20 flew over Bartholomew's Wood (Postling Wents) on the 29th.

Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor (A)

Spring passage comprised two flying east past Mill Point on the 19th March, two east there on the 21st April, two east past Samphire Hoe on the 5th May, eight east there the next day and four east past Mill Point on the 10th May. The total of 18 was slightly better than the mean for the previous decade of 13.7.

A flock of ten were seen on the beach at Hythe Ranges on the 31st October and one flew east at Mill Point on the 7th November.

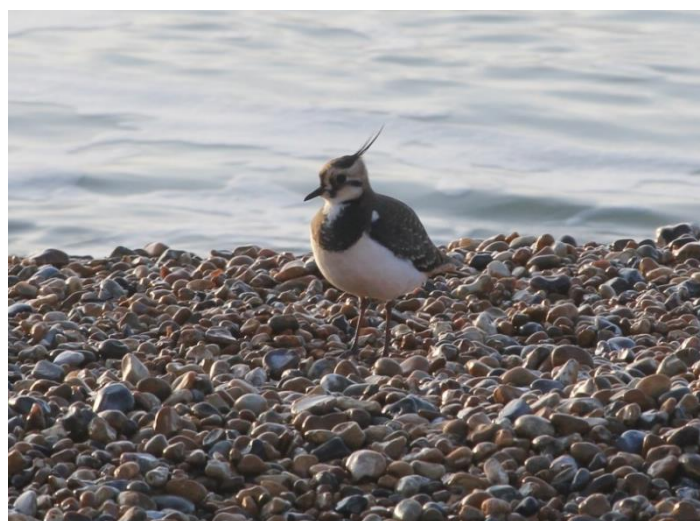
Former breeding species (most recently in 2011), also a winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

At least 15 remained in the Hillhurst Farm area from 2015 before colder weather in mid-January led to a small influx, including 27 flying west over Botolph's Bridge on the 18th, one on the Hythe Imperial golf course on the 19th and 16 at Capel-le-Ferne on the 20th, with the Hillhurst Farm flock increasing to 53 on the 23rd, before reducing to 25 in early February. Six were seen at the Willop Basin on the 8th February but there were very few records thereafter, and none between March and May.

In June there were singles at Church Hougham on the 1st and at Samphire Hoe on the 26th-27th, with one at the latter site on the 3rd July and two there on the 6th. Small numbers were noted at many localities from mid-September with larger counts of 50 at Nickolls Quarry on the 14th October, 60 at Postling Wents on the 1st November, 240 at the Willop Basin on the 13th November, 186 at Botolph's Bridge on the 26th November, 59 at Capel-le-Ferne on the 1st December and 110 at Hillhurst Farm on the 9th December.



Golden Plover at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)



Lapwing at Princes Parade (Ian Roberts)

Passage migrant (A)

Another poor year, with the only records occurring in November, when three flew east past Hythe on the 7th, one was seen in Folkestone Harbour on the 13th and three flew east past Mill Point on the 24th.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A total of 17 were counted at the Hythe Redoubt on the 1st January, with up to six present at the Willop Outfall until mid-March. Spring passage comprised five at Hythe Ranges on the 7th May and 47 flying east past Mill Point on the 10th May.

In the latter half of the year there were records from late August, with peak counts of nine at the Willop Outfall, four in Folkestone Harbour and one at Hythe Ranges.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

At least four remained at Hythe from 2015 into January, with three still present in February and at least two remaining until the 5th May. Elsewhere up to two were at the Hythe Redoubt during January, with another at Mill Point on the 17th January, one on the seawall at Samphire Hoe on the 9th February and one at Hythe Ranges on the 13th March.

Departure / Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Departure	5 th May	10 th May	-5	2 nd May	-3	10 th May 2009
Arrival	3 rd Nov	23 rd Oct	+11	2 nd Nov	+1	30 th Sep 1984

The first returning birds were seen at Hythe on the 3rd November when there were singles on both the Stade Street and Twiss Road groynes, with four at the latter site on the 8th November. At least four remained at Hythe until the end of the year, with others at the Hythe Redoubt on the 13th November, increasing to two on the 18th November and three from the 3rd December, one at Battery Point (Seabrook) on the 27th November and two at Folkestone Pier on the 26th December.



Sanderling at Hythe Ranges (Brian Harper)



Purple Sandpiper at Hythe (Nigel Webster)

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were no records in January or February but in March two flew east past Princes Parade and eight flew east past Mill Point on the 9th, whilst ten flew east past the latter site on the 16th and nine flew east there on the 19th. A further single flew east past Mill Point on the 15th April and two flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 2nd May.

In autumn seven flew east past Hythe on the 1st August, one was seen on the west beach at Samphire Hoe on the 23rd September, four flew east past Mill Point on the 7th November and 33 flew east there on the 24th November.

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Two were flushed from flooded fields in the Willop Basin/Willop sewage works area on the 1st January and singles were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 3rd and the 20th January, but there were no further records from in the early winter period.

A migrant at Abbotscliffe on the 3rd October was the earliest arrival since 1957 (when two were seen at Nickolls Quarry from the 19th September) but the only other records came from the flooded fields in the Willop Basin area where three were flushed on the 13th and 19th November.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A total of 15 were flushed from the Willop Basin area on the 1st January, whilst 2-3 were seen at Botolph's Bridge, Donkey Street, Folkestone Racecourse, Nickolls Quarry and Willop sewage works in the early winter period.

There was some evidence of spring passage, with singles at Abbotscliffe on the 6th March, 19th March and 8th April, and Samphire Hoe on the 24th March, whilst there was an increase at Nickolls Quarry to six on the 23rd March, where the last was noted on the 23rd April.

In autumn two were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 19th September, three flew east past Mill Point on the 5th October and two flew east at Abbotscliffe the following day, with two there on the 8th October and singles on five further dates in October. Elsewhere there were singles at Nickolls Quarry on the 9th October and Beachborough Lakes on the 19th October.

In November there was a record count of 55 at the Willop Basin on the 13th, whilst three were seen at Botolph's Bridge and Nickolls Quarry in November/December with singles at Beachborough Lakes, Shorncliffe Camp, Abbotscliffe and Samphire Hoe.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period singles were noted at Chesterfield Wood and Folks' Wood, with two at Kiln Wood. Sightings at Saltwood Castle on the 21st March and Castle Hill the next day probably related to migrants.

In autumn migrants were at Creteway Down on the 8th October and Samphire Hoe on the 3rd and 10th November, whilst two were seen flying onto fields at Church Hougham at dusk on the 6th December.

Rare passage migrant (A)

A flock of eight flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 9th March (D. E. Smith) and one was heard calling as it flew west over Folkestone Warren on the night of the 16th/17th July (R. Lee, B. Harper, I. A. Roberts). The 28th and 29th area records.

Passage migrant, mainly in spring (A)

Spring passage involved a total of 56 moving up-channel between the 11th April and the 10th May, including counts of 21 past Samphire Hoe on the 21st and 30 past there on the 2nd May, whilst a further three were grounded by fog on the Hythe Imperial golf course on the 11th May. This represented a slight improvement on last year but was still well below the average for the previous ten years of just over 260.



Jack Snipe at the Willop Basin (Ian Roberts)



Bar-tailed Godwit at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Passage migrant, mainly in spring (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015				
Arrival	11 th Apr	16 th Apr	-5	13 th Apr	-2	25 th Mar 2011
Departure	29 th Jul	5 th Sep	-38	28 th Aug	-30	12 th Nov 2013

Spring passage involved a total of about 104, mostly noted moving up-channel, between the 11th April and the 15th May, which was slightly less than the 116 recorded last spring and the average for the last ten years of 115. Counts included 11 east past Hythe on the 19th April, a total of 27 east past coastal watch-points on the 21st April, 15 east past Mill Point/Princes Parade on the 22nd and nine east past Samphire Hoe on the 27th April. One which had been grounded at Nickolls Quarry on the 1st May allowed fairly close approach.

Autumn passage was typically light, with five records, all in July: singles flying over Seabrook on the 6th, Samphire Hoe on the 14th and 25th, and Princes Parade on the 29th, when a flock of five flew over Folkestone.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Up to seven were present at the Willop Basin in January and February, increasing to 12 on the 3rd March but numbers dwindled quickly thereafter with the last noted on the 24th March.

Spring migrants involved a good count of 19 heading east past Mill Point on the 9th March, with one east past Samphire Hoe on the 13th March, two east past Mill Point and Samphire Hoe on 20th March, and singles past Samphire Hoe on the 2nd, 10th and 21st April.

There were just four later records: one flying past Folkestone Pier on the 22nd June, one flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 12th September, one flying east at Mill Point on the 7th November and one at the Willop Basin on the 13th November.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Passage migrant, occasionally overwinters, most recently in 2008 (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	24 th Apr	25 th Apr	-1	23 rd Apr	+1	4 th Mar 2013*
Departure	23 rd Sep	9 th Sep	+14	23 rd Sep	0	Several wintered

The first, two at Nickolls Quarry on the 24th April, were just one day earlier than the arrival date last year and one day later than the mean arrival date over the previous decade. Two were at the same site the following day, increasing to three on the 27th April, with singles there regularly until the 1st May. Elsewhere one was at Samphire Hoe on the 26th April, one was at Princes Parade on the 28th April, 3rd May and 5th May, four were at Mill Point on the 6th May, one was at Beachborough Lakes on the 9th May and seven were at the western end of Samphire Hoe on the 10th May. The spring total of 25 bird/days was a marked increase on last year's ten and the average for the previous ten years of 9.9.

Autumn passage was slightly lighter with a total of 23 bird/days, but this was also an improvement on last year (19) and the ten-year mean (18.3). It was also more protracted than spring passage, with ones and twos recorded between the 16th July and the 23rd September. Records were widespread, with sightings at Samphire Hoe, Folkestone Warren, Folkestone Pier, Cherry Garden Reservoirs, Battery Point, Princes Parade, Hythe and Nickolls Quarry. The departure date matched the mean for the previous ten years.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Three remained in the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area from 2015 until late January, decreasing to two from February to the 8th April. Later singles at Nickolls Quarry on the 23rd and 28th April may have related to spring passage migrants.

Up to two were present at the Willop Basin between the 22nd and 25th July, whilst one flew west past Folkestone Pier on the 5th August and three flew west over Beachborough Lakes on the 17th August. One was seen near Stutfall Castle on the 25th September, two flew over Nickolls Quarry on the 21st October and up to two frequented the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area from late November until the year's end.

Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

Scarce passage migrant (A)

Four flew east past Mill Point on the 10th May and one was heard calling as it headed south over Abbotscliffe on the 18th September. The two records are very much in line with the mean for the previous decade (2.1).

Redshank

Tringa totanus

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Up to four were present at both Folkestone Harbour and the Willop Basin in the early winter period.

An early returning migrant flew east at Princes Parade on the 12th June, with another seen heading east there on the 19th August, and one at Samphire Hoe on the 21st August. One was seen in Folkestone Harbour from the 22nd October, increasing to two on the 5th November and three from the 20th November until the end of December. Elsewhere one flew over Samphire Hoe on the 3rd November, one was at the Willop Outfall on the 11th November, one was at Mill Point on the 23rd November and one was seen at Botolph's Bridge on a couple of dates in late December.



Redshank at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)



Whimbrel at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)

Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period there were up to three at Hythe, four at Princes Parade, six at the Hythe Redoubt, seven at Folkestone Harbour and Fisherman's Beach, and 15 at the Willop Outfall. There was no evidence of any spring passage.

In the latter part of the year counts included 5 at Seabrook, 7 at Folkestone Harbour/Pier, 8 at Mill Point and the Willop Outfall, 10 at Hythe and 11 at Fisherman's Beach.

Pomarine Skua

Stercorarius pomarinus

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring (A)

A flock of seven passed east very close inshore off Mill Point at 19:30 on the 5th May, with a further single heading east at 19:42. The following day saw a further up-channel movement comprising three past Mill Point at 08:30 which later passed Samphire Hoe at 08:42, where four flew by at 09:55 and three more did at 10:15. Three, thought to be additional birds, were also seen off Princes Parade at 09:05.

The total of 21 represents an increase on the mean for the previous decade of 9.7 and constitutes the best passage since 2011.

Arctic Skua

Stercorarius parasiticus

Passage migrant (A)

One that flew east past Mill Point on the 2nd January was the first winter record.

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	14 th Mar	23 rd Apr	-40	18 th Apr	-35	14 th Mar 2016
Departure	16 th Oct	24 th Sep	+22	20 th Oct	-4	21 st Nov 2002

The first spring record, one east past Princes Parade on the 14th March, was also of particularly note as this was the earliest ever sighting. A further single flew east past Mill Point on the 26th March, whilst in May one flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 2nd May, singles flew east past Mill Point and Samphire Hoe on the 5th May, a total of six flew east past Mill Point on the 6th May and one flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 8th May. The total of 12 was slightly lower than the annual mean for the previous ten years of around 15.

Autumn passage was also unremarkable, with two flying west past Hythe on the 8th September, one offshore there on the 26th September, one off Hythe Redoubt the next day and one off Hythe on the 29th September, and singles off Samphire Hoe on the 7th October and flying west past Hythe on the 16th October. The total of 7 was significantly less than the annual mean for the previous ten years of 24.

Great Skua

Stercorarius skua

Passage migrant (A)

In January singles were noted flying east past Mill Point on the 2nd and lingering around a fishing boat off Princes Parade on the 17th.

Spring produced a total of nine heading up-channel between the 2nd April and the 10th May, all singles apart from two off Samphire Hoe on the 10th April.

The latter part of the year produced four sightings, all at Mill Point and all in November, on the 9th, 12th, 21st and 27th.

The total of 15 birds was identical to last year but a little below the average for the previous decade of 24.

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Small numbers were present offshore in the early winter period with double-figure counts of 13 east past Hythe on the 1st January, 35 west past Princes Parade on the 27th January, 12 west past Mill Point on the 29th January and 14 west past Mill Point on the 6th February.

Spring passage was noted between the end of February and mid-May, including a particularly notable count of 135 flying east past Mill Point on the 9th March. There have only been six larger spring movements.

In autumn small numbers were noted from the start of August with larger counts of 32 on the sea off Mill Point on the 6th November, 112 flying west past Mill Point on the 21st November and 16 off Samphire Hoe on the 23rd December.

Black-headed Gull

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Large numbers were present in the early winter period but the highest count received was of 70 at Samphire Hoe on the 23rd February. Spring passage was noted between March and mid-May, including counts of 65 east at Hythe Ranges on the 12th March, 140 at Nickolls Quarry on the 19th March, 180 east past Mill Point the next day, 445 east past Hythe/Mill Point on the 21st March, 53 east past Mill Point on the 26th March and 77 east there on the 6th May.

There were some notable counts from Beachborough Lakes in December of birds moving between feeding areas on the downs and roosting sites at the coast, with 290 on the 15th, 400 on the 19th and 600 on the 20th.

A colour-ringed bird from the Czech Republic was seen at Princes Parade in August, see page 109 for further information.



Black-headed Gull at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)



Pomarine Skuas at Mill Point (Ian Roberts)

Little Gull

Hydrocoloeus minutus

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There was a notable influx in January, with a total of up to 52 recorded between the 2nd and the 11th. Sightings were almost daily during this period and counts included 12 west past Hythe/Princes Parade on the 5th, at least 16 west past Battery Point/Princes Parade on the 10th (see photograph on page 6) and seven west past Mill Point on the 11th, whilst one was seen on the Hythe Imperial golf course on the 8th. This was the largest winter arrival since 2003.

Spring passage was rather modest, with a total of just six recorded: one east past Mill Point on the 9th March, one at Nickolls Quarry on the 4th May, two east past Mill Point on the 5th May and a further two east there the next day. One seen off Folkestone Pier on the 16th June was only the third to be recorded in that month. The latter half of the year produced singles off Folkestone Pier on the 7th October, Samphire Hoe on the 16th Samphire and Battery Point on the 6th November, whilst three flew east past Mill Point on the 9th November.

After a poor showing in 2015 the total of 65 was significantly better than the mean for the previous decade of 19 and represents the best year since 2005.

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

Increasing winter visitor and passage migrant, scarce in summer (A)

There were widespread records in the early winter period including counts of 35 at Hythe Imperial golf course and 101 at Copt Point in January. There was some evidence of a small easterly passage in spring, between late March and mid-May, including eight east past Mill Point on the 26th March, seven at Nickolls Quarry on the 8th April, six east past Samphire Hoe on the 10th April and 21 east past Mill Point/Princes Parade on the 22nd April.

As usual few were noted between mid-May and the end of June but numbers began to increase from July, with 86 near Saltwood Castle on the 7th, 240 over Hythe on the 19th and 116 flying west over Beachborough Lakes on the 20th. In August 200 were watched hawking insects over Folkestone on the 14th, whilst on the 16th there was a new record count of 1,000 in fields near Crete Road East. This is the fourth consecutive year that has seen the previous record exceeded.

Good numbers remained into September, with 450 flying west over Beachborough Lakes on the 14th and 500 flying west there on the 27th and 28th (presumably birds commuting between feeding areas on the downs and roosting sites at the coast), whilst 655 were counted at Copt Point on the 4th November, and further movement over Beachborough Lakes included 500 on the 17th November, 600 on the 8th December and 460 on the 19th December.

A couple of colour-ringed birds were noted but these were only local recoveries, see page 109 for further information.



Mediterranean Gull at Mill Point (Ian Roberts)



Little Gull at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Common Gull

Larus canus

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Large numbers were present in January and February but no counts of note were received. Spring passage was noted from mid-March until early May, with counts of 400 at Hythe on the 20th March, 117 at Saltwood Castle the next day, 42 east past Mill Point on the 26th March and 25 east past Samphire Hoe on the 2nd April.

There were some notable counts from Beachborough Lakes in the latter winter period of birds moving between feeding areas on the downs and roosting sites at the coast, with 205 on the 18th November, 230 on the 15th December, 300 on the 16th December and 370 on the 19th December.

A colour-ringed bird from Norway was seen at Princes Parade in August, see page 109 for further information.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

Breeding species, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Only small numbers were noted in January and February but there was increase during March including nine flying east at Seabrook on the 8th and 11 on the Hythe Imperial golf course the following day.

A pair were seen with a nest at a roof-top site in Hythe, and adults were also present during the breeding season at another location in Hythe, and at sites in Sandgate and Folkestone.

Counts in autumn included 13 flying west over Beachborough Lakes on the 27th September, ten west there the next day, ten west there on the 18th October and ten south there on the 16th November.

A colour-ringed bird from Essex was seen at Hythe in July, see page 110 for further information.

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Large numbers were present across the area throughout the year, but the only three-figure counts received were of 270 flying west over Beachborough Lakes on the 27th September and 250 in Folkestone Harbour on the 21st December.

Several colour-ringed birds were noted but these were only local recoveries, see page 110 for further information.

Rare migrant (A)

Single adults were seen on the beach at Sandgate on the 26th November and in Folkestone Harbour on the 19th December (I. A. Roberts). The 21st and 22nd area records.



Lesser Black-backed Gull on nest at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Yellow-legged Gull at Sandgate (Ian Roberts)

Very rare vagrant (A)

A second-winter was seen on the beach at Sandgate on the 26th November (I. A. Roberts) and a first-winter was seen in Folkestone Harbour on the 19th December (I. A. Roberts). These were the eighth and ninth area records and the fifth and sixth to be identified in the last six years.



Yellow-legged and Caspian Gulls at Sandgate (Ian Roberts)



Caspian Gull at Folkestone Harbour (Ian Roberts)

Winter visitor and passage migrant, with small numbers over-summering (A)

Counts included 60 off Princes Parade on the 17th January, 40 in Folkestone Harbour on the 1st February, 50 flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 27th September, 50 at Samphire Hoe on the 6th December and 55 at Sandgate on the 16th December.

Colour-ringed individuals from Norway and Normandy were noted – see page 110 for further information.

Passage migrant mainly in spring, formerly bred (but not since 1968) (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	11 th Apr	8 th May	-27	29 th Apr	-18	11 th Apr 2016
Departure	-	-	-	-	-	16 th Sep 1999

The first, three flying east past Princes Parade on the 11th April, were exceptional, being the earliest ever arrival date by some 18 days. A further 24 were logged moving up-channel in the more typical period of the first half of May, with 15 past Mill Point on the 4th, four past Copt Point/Mill Point on the 5th, two past Princes Parade on the 6th and three past Mill Point on the 10th. The total of 27 matched the mean for the previous decade.

Scarce passage migrant (A)

Two flew east past Mill Point on the evening of the 10th May. This was only the second record in the last four years.

Non-breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, rare in winter (last record in 2000) (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	23 rd Mar	29 th Mar	-6	23 rd Mar	0	7 th Mar 2011
Departure	19 th Oct	11 th Oct	+8	4 th Oct	+15	9 th Nov 2010

The first, two east past Mill Point on the 23rd March, were six days earlier than the arrival date last year but equal to the mean for the previous decade. There were no further records until April, when 30 flew east past Hythe/Samphire Hoe on the 2nd, 64 flew east past Mill Point on the 3rd, 37 flew east Samphire Hoe on the 10th, 37 flew east Mill Point on the 11th and 130 were present off Hythe on the 13th. Spring passage peaked on the 15th April when 210 flew east past Mill Point before numbers declined during the second half of the month, with later counts of just 69 east past Mill Point on the 22nd and 46 east past Samphire on the 29th April. There was a further wave of up-channel passage in early May, when 200 flew past Mill Point on the 4th, 100 passed there on the 5th, 225 passed there on the 6th and 147 passed there on the 10th.

Small numbers continued to be noted offshore throughout the summer, with a peak of 30 off Hythe on the 29th July. There was a notable increase in late September when 90 flew west past Hythe Redoubt on the 27th, with between 200 and 300 offshore there the next day and 42 off Hythe on the 29th. Numbers dwindled quickly thereafter, with just single figure counts in October and the last off Samphire Hoe on the 19th.

Very rare vagrant (A)

A first-winter lingered at Princes Parade for around four hours on the 26th November before heading off east towards Folkestone (I. A. Roberts, B. Harper, P. Smith *et al*). The first area record and the second for Kent. See pages 106-108 for a full account of this sighting and the front cover and page 26 for further photographs.



Little Tern at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)



Sandwich Tern at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Passage migrant, formerly bred (but not since 1998) (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015				
Arrival	2 nd Apr	8 th Apr	-6	15 th Apr	-13	2 nd Apr 2016
Departure	29 th Sep	28 th Sep	+1	4 th Oct	-5	30 th Oct 2007

The first, one flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 2nd April, was the earliest ever, preceding the previous record of 3rd April (2005). This was followed by two east past Mill Point on the 4th April, one at Nickolls Quarry on the 8th to the 9th, four east past Samphire Hoe on the 10th and five east past Mill Point the next day. Numbers increased significantly on the 13th April, when 102 flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 13th and peaked on the 15th April, when a good count of 470 flew east past Mill Point. Numbers declined during the second half of the month but there was a further wave of up-channel passage in early May, including 70 past Samphire Hoe on the 2nd, 54 past Hythe/Mill Point on the 5th May, 50 past Mill Point on the 6th May and 246 past Mill Point on the 10th May. Some of these could only be identified as Common/Arctic Terns but both species were definitely involved in the movement on 6th May.

Numbers in autumn were disappointing, with no counts of note and the last were four seen off Hythe on the 29th September.

Passage migrant (A)

As stated above the movement past Mill Point on the 6th May involved both Common and Arctic Terns, with at least two of the latter being identified.

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A)

One was seen drifting west close inshore off Hythe on the 3rd November (N. Webster), see photograph on page 25 and below, and one flew east past Battery Point on the 6th November (B. Harper). The 23rd and 24th area records and the first since 2012.



Common Tern at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)



Little Auk at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Very few were recorded in the early winter period with the notable exception of a movement of 655 Guillemots/Razorbills east past Princes Parade on the 17th January. The next highest counts were 20 Guillemots off Samphire Hoe on the 24th January and 30 Guillemots/Razorbills west past Battery Point on the 2nd February.

There was some evidence of spring passage between mid-April and mid-May, with a peak of ten Guillemots/Razorbills east past Mill Point/Samphire Hoe on the 21st April.

Autumn/late winter period numbers were also low, with a peak of 96 large auks (mostly Guillemots, but including at least six Razorbills) flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 4th, and later counts of 20 Guillemots/Razorbills east past Mill Point on the 9th November and ten Guillemots in the outer section of Folkestone Harbour on the 26th December.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

As mentioned above some of the larger movements of auks were not identified to species, though the majority were likely to be Guillemots. The only confirmed Razorbill records in the early winter period were as follows: one off Samphire Hoe on the 19th January, three off Mill Point on the 29th January, one off Samphire Hoe on the 3rd February and three east past Mill Point on the 13th February.

In spring one flew east past Mill Point on the 11th April.

Singles seen on the sea off Folkestone Pier on the 1st and 15th August were particularly notable as there had been only three previous records in this month, most recently in 2008. A further bird was seen there on the 22nd September, whilst one flew west past Hythe on the 16th October, two off Folkestone Pier on the 24th October and a total of 18 in November, including six east past Samphire Hoe on the 4th and five east past Mill Point on the 12th. Finally five flew east past Hythe on the 20th December.

Breeding resident (C)

A common and widespread species but as always few counts were received: 63 were counted at the sluice near the Hythe Redoubt on the 20th January, 55 were in Radnor Park on the 27th February and 30 were seen at Hythe Ranges on the 22nd May.



Guillemot at Folkestone Harbour (Ian Roberts)



Razorbill at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period counts included 35 at Hillhurst Farm and up to 50 in the Botolph's Bridge/West Hythe area. There was no suggestion of spring passage and autumn passage very light, with a peak of just 12 flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 25th November.

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

At least 5,000 remained in the Botolph's Bridge/West Hythe area from 2015 into January but dispersed during February. There was some evidence of spring passage, including on the 5th April when 170 flew north-west at Hythe and 245 flew west at Abbotscliffe, on the 8th April when 190 flew west at Abbotscliffe and on the 18th April when 135 flew west there.

There were no counts of note in autumn or the late winter period.

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Possible migrants involved one at Samphire Hoe on the 26th April and four flying east at Capel-le-Ferne on the 14th May. There were no counts of note of resident birds.

Very rare vagrant (A)

One was seen flying from a stand of tall poplar trees (*Populus sp.*) at Cinderella Farm (Palmarsh) at 16:30 on the 19th September (A. Johnson).

Declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015				
Arrival	19 th Apr	16 th Apr	+3	22 nd Apr	-3	27 th Mar 2001
Departure	29 th Jun	23 rd Jun	+6	4 th Aug	-36	28 th Sep 1969

The first, one at West Hythe, on the 19th April was three days later than the arrival date last year, but still three days earlier than the mean for the last decade. There were no further sightings at this site but one was seen regularly at Nickolls Quarry from the 21st April until the 27th May, with two reported there on the 1st and the 24th May.

Elsewhere singles were at Princes Parade on the 14th May, Hythe Ranges on the 22nd May and Samphire Hoe on the 7th June, whilst two at Beachborough Lakes on the 29th June were probably returning migrants.

Scarce breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor (A)

There were six sightings in the Donkey Street/Nickolls Quarry area between January and March (see photograph on page 10, with others near Bargrove Wood on the 25th March and Hythe Roughs on the 12th May. Also of note was the finding of two dead individuals along a 1km section of the A20 between Capel-le-Ferne and Abbotscliffe on the 28th February.

In the latter part of the year one frequented the Nickolls Quarry area from the 26th December into 2017.



Cuckoo at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)



Barn Owl at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)

Little Owl

Athene noctua

Resident breeding species (C)

There were records from the Botolph's Bridge area, West Hythe, Hythe Roughs, Beachborough Lakes and Church Hougham.

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Breeding resident (A)

There were records from Lympe, Palmarsh, Hythe Ranges, Folks' Wood, Cowtye Wood, Hythe/Seabrook, Summerhouse Hill, Little Dibgate Wood, Folkestone, Folkestone Warren and Church Hougham. This species is known to be widely-distributed and tends to be under-recorded due to its nocturnal habits.

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

Very rare vagrant (A)

One which was found roosting in the open adjacent to Botolph's Bridge Road on the 30th March gave incredibly good views, as the photograph on page 11 attests (I. A. Roberts, J. Tomsett, B. Harper *et al*). Another was reported hunting over fields near the Hythe Redoubt on the 4th June (A. South).

In the latter half of the year one was captured by security cameras when it landed on the perimeter fence of the compound at Samphire Hoe on the 11th November (per P. Holt) and one was seen in the Postling Wents area on the 9th December (S. Lea).

These were only the 12th to 15th area records but there have now been eight sightings in the last six years and 2016 was the first year to witness more than two occurrences.

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

Passage migrant (A)

One flew in off the sea at Samphire Hoe before landing on the cliff on the 30th March and another was noted at Princes Parade the following day. A further bird was reported at Samphire Hoe on the 18th April, with it or another seen daily there between the 24th and the 27th April. The total of four constituted the second best spring passage, which is perhaps not unexpected following the record influx the previous autumn.

In contrast to last autumn however just one was noted this year, at Samphire Hoe on the 10th October.

2015

There was an additional report of a bird at Hythe Roughs in December, which increased the bird/day total for the record influx to 22.

Common Swift

Apus apus

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015				
Arrival	18th Apr	18th Apr	0	24th Apr	-6	18 th Apr 2015
Departure	19th Sep	25th Sep	-6	12th Sep	+7	16 th Nov 1957

The first, one at Nickolls Quarry on the 18th April, equalled the earliest ever record which occurred at the same site last year. Unlike 2015 however there were a number of other records in April, with one over Folkestone on the 24th, another at Nickolls Quarry on the 25th, two in off the sea at Hythe on the 29th, and one in off the sea at Abbotscliffe, four over Folkestone Harbour and four at Nickolls Quarry on the 30th.

Numbers increased slowly in May, including six at Nickolls Quarry on the 1st, ten there on the 3rd, 18 over Folkestone on the 7th and 30 over Hythe on the 22nd, whilst a few were seen arriving in from the sea, with a peak of 15 in off at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd. Further counts in June included 80 at Creteway Down on the 11th, 25 at Samphire Hoe on the 13th and 40 over Folkestone on the 27th, whilst in July at least 100 flew west over Princes Parade on the 6th.

Autumn passage was unremarkable, with the exception of a count of 750 heading west over Beachborough Lakes on the 5th August. Small numbers persisted into September, with the last at Samphire Hoe on the 19th being a week later than the mean departure date over the previous decade, but six days earlier than last year.



Little Owl at West Hythe (Brian Harper)



Short-eared Owl at Samphire Hoe (Paul Holt)

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

Breeding resident, with dispersal to coasts and non-breeding areas in autumn and winter (A)

Good numbers were wintering in the early part of the year, with at least three along the canal between Twiss Road (Hythe) and Seabrook, two at both Botolph's Bridge and West Hythe, and singles at Nickolls Quarry, the canal by Hythe Roughs, Hythe (Portland Road), Blackhouse Hill (Water Mill), Folkestone Harbour and Copt Point.

A pair that attempted to nest at Botolph's Bridge appeared to have the nest flooded out, whilst a pair that attempted to nest at Princes Parade had the young and female predated by a Mink. Birds were also present during the breeding at West Hythe, along the canal by Hythe Roughs, at Fairmead Farm (Westenhanger) and at Beachborough Lakes – it is hoped that at least some of these had better breeding success.

During the latter half of the year there were sightings from Nickolls Quarry, Princes Parade, Beachborough Lakes and Folkestone Harbour.

Wryneck

Jynx torquilla

Formerly bred (until 1964), now a rare passage migrant (A)

One was present at Samphire Hoe from the 22nd to the 24th August (N. Hando, P. Smith, M. D. Kennett). The 23rd area record since 1980. See photograph on page 19. There have now been records in 11 of the last 13 years.

2014

Details have been received of one present at Sandgate on the 10th to the 11th September (per K. Privett).

Green Woodpecker

Picus viridis

Breeding resident (A)

Widely recorded but there were no notable counts received.



Kingfisher at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)



Kingfisher at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Widely recorded but there were no notable counts received of resident birds. Up to eight possible migrants were noted in October/early November, including one at Mill Point, three at Abbotscliffe and four at Nickolls Quarry.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos minor

Formerly bred (until the early 1980s), now a very rare vagrant (A)

One was seen on a roadside fencepost on the Blackhouse Hill road, near Little Dibgate Wood at 05:40 on the 20th May (J. Tomsett). After a gap of 15 years there have now been two records in the last three years, this being only the 8th since 1985. These sightings were approximately 2km apart, could it be possible that a population might exist in the area in the wooded valleys between Cheriton and Hythe?

Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

Very rare vagrant (A)

One was present at Abbotscliffe from the 8th to the 9th October (S. Cutt, P. Royston, I. A. Roberts *et al*), see photograph on page 22. This was only the 14th area record but there have now been seven in the last 12 years.

Breeding resident (A)

The largest counts received were 12 at Samphire Hoe on the 6th March, 17 at Copt Point on the 18th September, 14 at Abbotscliffe on the 3rd October, 28 at Folkestone Downs on the 15th October and 26 at Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site on the 31st October.

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Resident birds were widely recorded. The only sign of spring migration was of one that flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 17th April, whilst in autumn sightings of three at both Abbotscliffe and Folkestone Downs on the 21st September may have involved migrants

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Counts included 400 at Botolph's Bridge on the 18th January, 700 flying over Nickolls Quarry at dawn on the 22nd January,



Magpie at Mill Point (Ian Roberts)



Jackdaw at Hythe Redoubt (Brian Harper)

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

The only significant count received was of 194 at Beachborough Lakes on the 9th August, though the large roost remained in the Saltwood area.

There was some evidence of passage from the cliffs (where the species is scarce), with three flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 17th April, five flying west there the next day and a single there on the 25th April, whilst in autumn three were seen at Samphire Hoe on the 1st October.

Formerly numerous prior to 1950, but a very rare vagrant since (A)

One flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd April, part of a small influx into the county at this time (I. A. Roberts). The 11th area record since 1950.

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

The largest counts received were again at Samphire Hoe, where there were 32 on the 7th June, 50 on the 24th October and 45 on two dates in November. There were no signs of passage.

Bred until about 1890 but then not recorded until 1997 (when there were two records), with no further sightings until 2006. Since then it has become established and continues to increase and spread, with breeding first suspected in 2015 and then proven this year. Now recorded in all months of the year (A)

A record count of nine were reported at Samphire Hoe on the 2nd January and a pair were confirmed breeding there for the first time, successful hatching two chicks at the eastern end of the site. Another pair were present at Capel-le-Ferne in spring and probably also nested, whilst up to four were seen regularly along the cliffs between Capel-le-Ferne and Samphire throughout the year. These birds were probably the source of occasional records from Church Hougham, Copt Point, Creteway Down and Folkestone Downs.

Elsewhere two were seen near Stutfall Castle on the 31st January, three flew north over Blackhouse Hill on the 23rd February, two flew over West Parade (Hythe) on the 30th March, one flew over Folkestone Rugby Club on the 3rd April and one flew over Saltwood on the 14th April.

There were a series of records from Beachborough Lakes, with up to three there on several dates between May and July, and singles there and at Paraker Wood and Lympe in September. In October three flew west over Beachborough Lakes on the 5th, with one there on the 17th and one at Brockhill Country Park on the 10th.



Ravens at nest at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Fledged Raven chick at Samphire Hoe (Ian Roberts)

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Resident birds were widely recorded throughout the year. There was a noticeable spring passage between early March and mid-April with arrivals or increases noted mainly at coastal sites. Counts included four at Samphire Hoe on the 24th March, four at Princes Parade the next day, seven at Nickolls Quarry on the 27th March, four at Capel-le-Ferne on the 31st March and five at Abbotscliffe on the 3rd April.

After last year's record autumn passage, 2016 saw a return to normal levels. The total of 161 bird/days was only 20% of the 2015 total but only slightly lower than the mean for the previous decade of 173. Few were noted in September, with the bulk of the passage occurring in October, including counts of nine at Samphire Hoe on the 5th, ten at Beachborough Lakes on the 12th, ten at Mill Point on the 22nd and ten at Beachborough Lakes again on the 31st. In November nine were at Princes Parade on the 3rd but numbers dwindled quickly thereafter.

Passage migrant and winter visitor, bred in 2012 (A)

In the early part of the year the two (a ringed bird and an un-ringed one) at Princes Parade remained from December 2015, whilst four were at Enbrook Park (see photograph on page 7), and two were at West Hythe, with these remaining until into February at least, and the ringed bird was still present at Princes Parade on the 10th March.

There was a record passage of 25 bird/days in spring, with one at Princes Parade on the 21st March, one in a garden at Ingles Manor (Folkestone) on the 23rd March, two at Samphire Hoe on the 24th March, a total of six (three at Princes Parade, two at Mill Point and one at Capel-le-Ferne) on the 25th March, three at Nickolls Quarry on the 27th March, six again (four at Samphire Hoe and singles at Botolph's Bridge and Nickolls Quarry) on the 30th March and three (two at Samphire Hoe and one at Capel-le-Ferne) on the 31st March. In April there was one at Samphire Hoe on the 1st and three at Abbotscliffe on the 3rd.

Autumn passage however was poor, with a total of just 15 bird/days which was somewhat lower than the mean for the previous decade of 25, and considerably less than last years' 57. One was seen near Lympe churchyard on the 16th September, with 12 in October, all singles with the exception of two at Mill Point on the 22nd and 30th, and two at Mill Point on the 23rd November. One was wintering at Princes Parade from the 10th December.

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

There were no counts of note and no evidence of migration.

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

There were no counts of note and no evidence of migration.

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

There were no counts of note of resident birds but there was an apparent arrival of the nominate continental form in spring, with one flying west at Abbotscliffe and three at Samphire Hoe on the 31st March, two at Seabrook and four at Mill Point on the 3rd April, two at Abbotscliffe before they flew west on the 5th April, two flying west along Hythe seafront on the 8th April, two at Samphire Hoe on the 12th April and one at the latter site on the 1st May.

In autumn three at Princes Parade on the 12th September and one at Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site on the 18th September may have been migrants.



Goldcrest at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)



Coal Tit at Sandling (Brian Harper)

Marsh Tit

Poecile palustris

Breeding resident (A)

There were records from Folks' Wood, Brockhill Country Park, Saltwood Castle and Bargrove Wood during the year.

Bearded Tit

Panurus biarmicus

Rare migrant and winter visitor, recently more regular, having over-wintered for the last four years (A)

Although none were noted at Nickolls Quarry in late 2015, five (three males) were present there from at least the 3rd January to at least the 24th February, with a pair lingering until at least the 2nd April but only the male was seen subsequently – it remained until the 7th April, when it had begun to sing and become increasingly mobile, as if in search of a mate (unsuccessfully however, it was last seen the subsequent day). See photograph on page 9.

Two were at Nickolls Quarry again from the 6th November, increasing to four on the 18th November, with at least two remaining until the end of the year (four were probably still present as these were seen in early 2017). This is the fourth consecutive winter that birds have been present at this site.

Wood Lark

Alauda arborea

Rare passage migrant (A)

There was an excellent series of records at Abbotscliffe in March, with two flying east on the 21st (I. A. Roberts), one flying north on the 23rd (M. Varley) and one flying east on the 25th (I. A. Roberts). The 29th to 31st area records.

Sky Lark

Alauda arvensis

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period up to 50 were present in stubble fields in the Botolph's Bridge area.

Autumn passage was noted in October and November, including 20 at Abbotscliffe on the 11th October, 25 in/west there on the 19th October, 40 in off the sea there on the 21st October, 35 there and 11 in off the sea at Samphire Hoe on the 29th October, 50 at the Willop Sewer on the 13th November and 110 at Abbotscliffe on the 18th November, with at least 40 remaining there until at least late December.

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

Passage migrant, has bred but not since 2003 (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	7 th Apr	30 th Mar	8	11 th Apr	-4	5 th Mar 1995
Departure	3 rd Oct	18 th Oct	-15	7 th Oct	-4	4 th Nov 1963

The first was seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 7th April but there were no further sightings until a very good total of 17 were present at the same site on the 16th April, the largest spring count since 2004. Nickolls Quarry also produced one on the 21st April and four on the 25th April, whilst elsewhere three flew in off the sea at Mill Point on the 21st April, two flew in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 26th April, five arrived at Abbotscliffe on the 3rd May and one arrived at Capel-le-Ferne Café on the 9th May. Despite the large count in April the spring total of 34 bird/days was lower than last year's 40.

The first returning migrants involved four at Abbotscliffe and 20 seen over Folkestone West station (Cheriton) on the 5th July, and small numbers were then noted regularly until late September. Larger counts included 22 flying west at Princes Parade on the 30th August, and in September 14 flying west there on the 4th, 12 east at Abbotscliffe on the 18th, 25 west at Beachborough Lakes on the 29th and ten west at Abbotscliffe on the 30th. The last record involved ten at Samphire Hoe on the 3rd October.

Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	23 rd Mar	12 th Mar	+11	25 th Mar	-2	10 th Mar 1952
Departure	8 th Nov	8 th Dec	-30	13 th Nov	-5	8 th Dec 1955

The first, two at Lympne Castle on the 23rd March, were considerably later than the arrival date last year but still earlier than the previous ten year mean. There were then no others until the 31st March, when singles were seen flying in off the sea at Abbotscliffe and Princes Parade in the morning and two were at Nickolls Quarry in the evening.

There were then almost daily sightings from the 3rd April and numbers at Nickolls Quarry built up from three on the 4th April to ten on the 6th and 28 on the 9th April. Counts of birds arriving in off the sea included 8 at Abbotscliffe on the 13th April, 11 at Princes Parade on the 15th, 8 at Abbotscliffe and 9 at Princes Parade on the 16th, 14 at Abbotscliffe on the 17th and 9 at Abbotscliffe on the 18th April. On the 21st April there were 12 at Saltwood Castle and 25 at Nickolls Quarry, with numbers at the latter site increasing to 60 on the 24th April, with 40 there the following day, when ten were seen arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe. At Samphire Hoe 15 flew west on the 30th April.

In May 18 were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 1st and there was a large arrival on the 3rd, with 12 at Samphire Hoe, 23 in off the sea at Abbotscliffe and at least 60 in off the sea at Princes Parade. Birds continued to arrive right through the month but the only other double-figure counts were ten in off the sea at Capel-le-Ferne on the 7th, 13 in off the sea there on the 13th and 12 east there on the 28th.

An increase in autumn was noted from August when 47 flew west at Princes Parade on the 6th and 40 flew west at Nickolls Quarry on the 31st. In September 200 flew west at Princes Parade on the 2nd and 100 flew west there the next day, whilst a change to cooler conditions in mid-month induced a larger movement: on the 16th the sky above Folkestone was “filled with hirundines”, whilst the next day 200 were feeding very low over Mill Point, “a steady stream” flew east over Folkestone Harbour and “large numbers” were at Abbotscliffe, and 500 flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 18th. A further 500 flew west at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd September and 1,500 flew west over Beachborough Lakes on the 29th September, but numbers decreased thereafter with the only subsequent three-figure counts being 130 over Beachborough Lakes on the 7th October and 100 east at Abbotscliffe the next day. The last double-figure count was of 23 flying east at Princes Parade on the 23rd October and stragglers lingered into November with almost daily sightings until the 5th, and the last at Hythe on the 8th.

House Martin

Delichon urbicum

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	31 st Mar	4 th Apr	-4	10 th Apr	-10	7 th Feb 2004
Departure	19 th Oct	28 th Nov	-40	2 nd Nov	-14	2 nd Dec 1974

The first, one which spent some time feeding along the cliffs between Abbotscliffe and Samphire Hoe on the 31st March, was the earliest arrival since 2004. The next was seen at Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site on the 8th April and three flew in off the sea at Princes Parade on the 15th April. On the 16th April two were seen at Samphire Hoe, with six flying in off the sea at Princes Parade and 12 at Nickolls Quarry, and ones and twos were seen regularly thereafter, with larger counts including seven at Saltwood Castle on the 21st April, 12 at Nickolls Quarry on the 24th, 20 there the following day, six at Samphire Hoe on the 26th and 9 arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 30th April.

Small numbers continued to arrive in off the sea in May, including seven at Abbotscliffe on the 3rd and ten at Folkestone Harbour on the 25th May, whilst at Samphire Hoe there were 20 at on the 1st, increasing to 30 on the 10th and 40 by the end of the month, with at least 50 there from the 4th June. A total of 44 nests were in use at the cliffs in mid-July, 18 at the eastern end of Samphire Hoe and 26 at the western end.

An increase in autumn was noted from late August, with 100 at Samphire Hoe on the 23rd and 350 on the 29th, whilst in September there was a significant movement from mid-month, triggered by a change to cooler weather. On the 15th there were 350 again at Samphire Hoe and “hundreds” at Abbotscliffe, whilst on the 17th there were 200 at Samphire Hoe, 250 flying east at Hythe, at least 500 at Mill Point, “large numbers” at Abbotscliffe, “hundreds” at Folkestone Pier and “a steady stream east” over Folkestone Harbour, whilst at Folkestone the “sky was filled with hirundines”. The following day saw 1,000 heading east over Seabrook in the early morning and 2,000 flying east at Abbotscliffe.

On the 23rd September a further 2,000 flew east at Abbotscliffe but numbers decreased quickly thereafter, with 300 at Samphire Hoe on the 26th and 150 west over Beachborough Lakes on the 29th September, but no further three-figure counts. In October 45 flew over Beachborough Lakes on the 5th, 50 flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 8th, 40 flew east at Samphire Hoe and 62 were at Beachborough Lakes on the 12th and ten were seen at the latter site on the 18th, with the last at Abbotscliffe on the 19th.

An interesting partial albino was seen at Capel-le-Ferne on the 19th September, see photograph on page 73.

Red-rumped Swallow

Cecropis daurica

Very rare vagrant (A)

One flew east at Capel-le-Ferne Café on the 8th May (I. A. Roberts, M. Vandoen) and one lingered for a short while at Beachborough Lakes on the 23rd May (S. Tomlinson), see photograph on page 16. The 12th and 13th area records and the first since 2012.

Not recorded until 1981 but now well-established as a breeding resident though remains vulnerable to population decline in colder winters (A)

At least three were wintering at Nickolls Quarry with at least two at Princes Parade. Six were holding territory at Nickolls Quarry in the spring, with others along canal near Palmarsh and at Princes Parade. The species is typically double-brooded and the pair at the latter site were seen feeding young in May and again in August.

Up to four were present at both Nickolls Quarry and Princes Parade in autumn/winter, with another at Botolph's Bridge in November.



Cetti's Warbler at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)



House Martin at Capel-le-Ferne (Dale Gibson)

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

The largest counts of resident birds received related to 20 at Nickolls Quarry on the 17th September and 15 at Folkestone Downs on the 29th October.



rosaceus form at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)



caudatus form at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

The first area record of Northern Long-tailed Tit (*A. c. caudatus*) was found at Samphire Hoe on the 16th February (P. Smith) and this marked the start of a small influx into Kent and Sussex. It was accompanied by eight birds which appeared to be of the British form (*A. c. rosaceus*) which are also unusual at the site. A flock of ten at Hythe seafront on the 25th February and a further two at Samphire Hoe on the 29th February hinted at continued migration. These were followed in March by a flock of eleven at Abbotscliffe on the 7th, four at Samphire Hoe on the 14th and 20th March and two at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd.

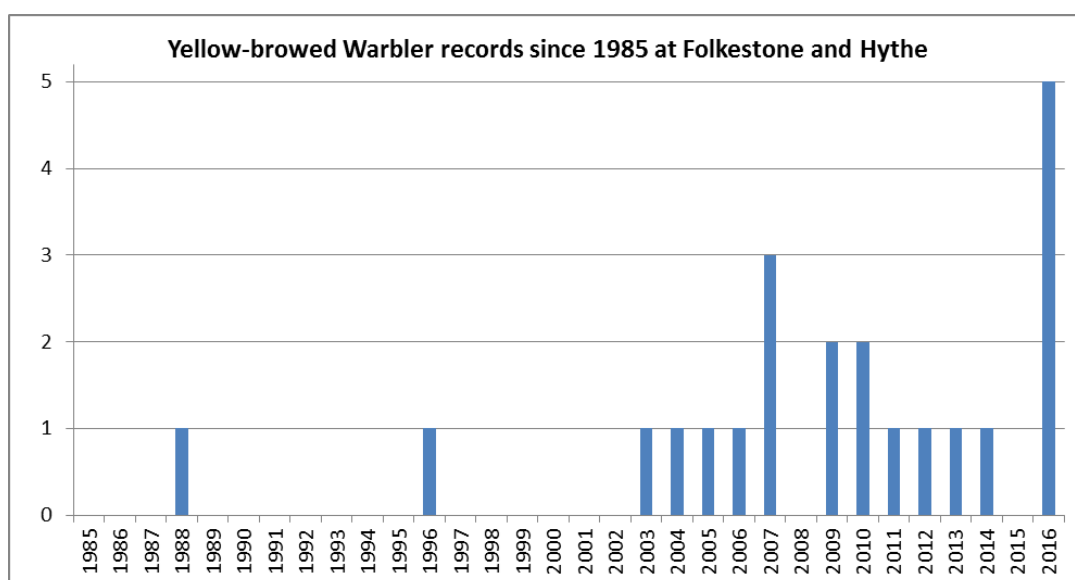
In autumn singles at Abbotscliffe on the 8th and 9th October, two there on the 11th and 21st October and two at Hythe seafront on the 24th October may have been at least local migrants.

Yellow-browed Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus

Rare migrant (A)

After a blank in 2015, this year witnessed a record influx with a total of five individuals being recorded, as the chart below demonstrates. The arrival began with two being found on the 18th September, singles at Mill Point (A. J. Greenland) and Samphire Hoe (P. Holt), with another at Beachborough Lakes on the 26th September (S. Tomlinson), then two in October: singles at Mill Point on the 9th, see photograph on page 23 (I. A. Roberts) and Samphire Hoe the following day (P. Holt).



Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Formerly regular, probably bred but not since 1973. Now a rare passage migrant (A)

One was seen at Beachborough Lakes on the 24th August (S. Tomlinson). The 21st record since 1980.

Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, with small numbers wintering (A)

At least five were wintering along the canal between Hythe and Seabrook, with up to two at Nickolls Quarry and another Copt Point.

One at Samphire Hoe on the 10th March was certainly new in, whilst a singing male along the canal at Princes Parade on the 13th March might also have been a migrant. Arrival gathered pace from the 18th March, when one was at Abbotscliffe, with two in gardens in Folkestone and three at Hythe Roughs on the 19th, nine at Princes Parade on the 21st and 12 there on the 25th, with smaller numbers at numerous locations. Further counts included 13 at Princes Parade on the 29th, at least 25 there the following day and eight in song at Folkestone Downs on the 7th April.

New birds continued to be noted until early May, whilst one at Samphire Hoe on the 19th June was an unusual record and may have been a very late arrival.

A few autumn migrants were noted from mid-August, with larger numbers from September, including 17 at Beachborough Lakes on the 6th September, 22 at Princes Parade on the 12th September and at least 20 at Folkestone Downs on the 15th. There was a marked arrival from the 18th September, when 70 were at Folkestone Warren, with 31 at Abbotscliffe and large numbers at Capel-le-Ferne the next day, and at least 50 at Samphire Hoe, 25 at Church Hougham and 10 in a garden in Folkestone on the 20th. Further counts in September included 25 at Nickolls Quarry and 30 at Samphire Hoe on the 23rd and 20 at Folkestone Downs on the 30th.

In October at least 60 were at Princes Parade and 27 were at Samphire Hoe on the 1st but numbers otherwise were generally quite low, with peaks of 22 at Nickolls Quarry on the 9th and 15 at Samphire Hoe and 18 at Beachborough Lakes on the 11th. Migration appeared to continue well into November but it has become increasingly difficult to distinguish between late migrants and wintering individuals: one at the Willop sewage works on the 19th was probably a wintering bird (possibly the same bird was seen in early 2017) whilst singles at Abbotscliffe on the 25th and Mill Point on the 27th were more likely to be migrants. In December two were wintering along the canal at Princes Parade.

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Breeding summer visitor, but now scarce (having declined in recent years), and passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015				
Arrival	30 th Mar	11 th Apr	-12	6 th Apr	-7	26 th Mar 1960
Departure	12 th Oct	9 th Oct	+3	24 th Sep	+18	19 th Oct 1986

The first, a male in song at Princes Parade on the 30th March, was considerably earlier than last year and the mean for the previous decade. Furthermore this was the first March record since 2011 and only the tenth time that the first has appeared in this month. This was quickly followed by a singing male in a garden at East Cliff Gardens, Folkestone on the 2nd April, singing males at Nickolls Quarry on the 3rd and 4th April, one at Samphire Hoe on the 5th April, one at Folkestone Downs on the 7th April, a male at Nickolls Quarry on the 8th April and a male at Samphire Hoe on the 10th April.

An arrival on the 12th April involved four at Princes Parade and singles at Abbotscliffe and Samphire Hoe, with widespread singles thereafter and further counts of four at Samphire Hoe on the 19th April and three at Princes Parade on the 21st April. Passage continued into early May, with a particularly late singing male at Abbotscliffe on the 17th May.

The first returning birds were singles at Princes Parade and in a garden in Ingles Manor (Folkestone) on the 30th July, with one at Samphire Hoe and two at Princes Parade the next day. There was then a significant arrival of 14 at Abbotscliffe on the 1st August, followed by small numbers at many localities, with counts including four at Samphire Hoe on the 9th August and five at Abbotscliffe on the 16th August, before the 30th August produced another arrival, with 3 at Princes Parade, 7 at Samphire Hoe and 20 at Abbotscliffe. Reasonable numbers remained during the first half of September, including counts of five at Abbotscliffe on the 2nd, five at Princes Parade on the 3rd, five at Samphire Hoe and 14 at Beachborough Lakes on the 6th, 12 at the latter site the next day and 8 there on the 8th, but dwindled quickly thereafter with just singles at Beachborough Lakes on the 16th and Folkestone Warren on the 18th.

As in 2015 there was a notably late sighting, with one at Beachborough Lakes on the 12th October. Records in this month are unusual, having occurred in only ten previous years, and there has been only one later occurrence: at Copt Point on the 19th October 1986.

The spring total of 36 bird/days was somewhat better than the average for the last ten years of 23 as was the autumn total of 148 bird/days (compared to a mean of 97).

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, with small but increasing numbers wintering (A)

A pair were wintering along the canal between Hythe and Seabrook, with two in a garden in Hythe, and singles at Blackhouse Hill, The Fountain (Seabrook) and East Cliff Gardens (Folkestone). It has become increasingly difficult to identify the first arriving migrants but singing males in March at Mill Road (Hythe) on the 12th and 13th, Seabrook on the 14th and in a garden at Ingles Manor (Folkestone) on the 19th, when a pair were in a garden at East Cliff Gardens (Folkestone), were candidates.

There was a definite arrival from late March, with singles at Brockhill Country Park and Princes Parade on the 29th, three at the latter site and another at Samphire Hoe on the 30th March, and widespread records in April, including the first records from Eaton Lands and Hythe Roughs on the 3rd, Mill Point on the 6th and Nickolls Quarry on the 8th, whilst at Princes Parade numbers increased to a peak of 18 on the 12th. Arrival continued into early May.

Autumn migrants were noted from late August/early September with numbers increasing from early September, including 32 at Beachborough Lakes on the 6th, at least 20 at Folkestone Downs on the 15th and 12 at Samphire Hoe on the 20th September, but there were only single-figure counts in October. One at Beachborough Lakes on the 6th November was probably a late migrant but one in a garden at Ingles Manor (Folkestone) on the 18th November may have been a wintering individual.

There was a noticeable arrival in December, presumably of wintering birds of German origin, with singles at Princes Parade from the 10th, Browning Place (Folkestone) from the 12th, and Mill Road (Hythe) from the 15th.

Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin

Breeding summer visitor, but now scarce (having declined in recent years), and passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	1 st May	30 th Apr	+1	29 th Apr	+2	10 th Apr 2001
Departure	8 th Sep	7 th Sep	+1	13 th Sep	-5	6 th Nov 1981

The first, a singing male by the underpass at Abbotscliffe on the 1st May, was slightly later than the arrival date for last year and the previous ten year mean. There were further singles at Nickolls Quarry on the 4th May and Beachborough Lakes on the 6th May. There were no records this year from the breeding site at Heane Wood.

All records in autumn came from Beachborough Lakes where there was one on the 4th August, two on the 19th August, one on the 24th August and up to two daily between the 5th and 8th September.

The total of 12 passage bird/days (three in Spring and nine in Autumn) constitutes the best year since 1998, when 13 migrants were also logged (three in Spring and ten in autumn).

Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	13 th Apr	24 th Apr	-11	17 th Apr	-4	8 th Apr 2007
Departure	26 th Sep	2 nd Oct	-6	23 rd Sep	+3	3 rd Nov 1994

The first, one at Abbotscliffe on the 13th April, was significantly earlier than the arrival date last year and there have only been earlier records in three previous years.

This was quickly followed though by one at Nickolls Quarry the next day and singles at Abbotscliffe, Botolph's Bridge and Nickolls Quarry on the 16th, with two at the latter site on the 20th and three there on the 21st, when singles were at Princes Parade and Saltwood Castle. Samphire Hoe recorded its first on the 24th and there were four at Abbotscliffe on the 25th, with two new arrivals there the following day, and up to three were present at many sites thereafter.

Autumn passage was recorded from early August, and was rather light, with a peak count of five at Abbotscliffe on the 1st August. The last was noted at Abbotscliffe on the 26th September.

Common Whitethroat

Sylvia communis

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	7 th Apr	12 th Apr	-5	11 th Apr	-4	30 th Mar 2002
Departure	19 th Oct	30 th Sep	+19	2 nd Oct	+17	19 th Oct 2016

The first, one at Princes Parade on the 7th April, was somewhat earlier than the arrival date last year and the mean for the previous decade. Indeed there have only been earlier records in three previous years. This was followed by three at Princes Parade on the 10th April, increasing to four there on the 12th, whilst one was at Nickolls Quarry on the 13th, with a new individual there the next day, and there were three there on the 16th, when Samphire Hoe recorded its first. There were first records for Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site on the 17th, Copt Point on the 18th and Saltwood Castle on the 21st April. Four remained at Princes Parade and there were larger counts of six at West Hougham on the 25th April, five at Abbotscliffe and six at Princes Parade on the 27th and an influx of 20 at the latter site the next day. Further counts in May included six singing males at Samphire Hoe on the 1st, 17 at Princes Parade on the 3rd and eight singing males at Hythe Ranges on the 22nd.

Autumn migration started well, with counts of 17 at Abbotscliffe and five at Samphire Hoe on the 1st, but there were no further double-figure counts in August, with peaks of just eight at Samphire Hoe on the 9th and four at Beachborough Lakes on the 19th. Peak counts in September included nine at Princes Parade on the 12th, five at Samphire Hoe on the 17th, three at Beachborough Lakes on the 7th-8th and three at Abbotscliffe on the 18th. Numbers dwindled quickly in the latter part of the month, with three still at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd but only two singles thereafter, on the 26th and the 30th. There was an exceptional record in October, of one at Beachborough Lakes on the 19th, which is the latest ever, with the previous latest referring to two at Abbotscliffe on the 10th October 1998.



Chiffchaff at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)



Whitethroat at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A)

One at Abbotscliffe from the 26th to the 28th October (I. A. Roberts, P. Smith), see photograph on page 24, was the 34th area record.

This follows two last year, which were the first since 2009 when a couple of very cold winters led to a reduction in numbers and a contraction in range nationally. It would appear that milder conditions since have enabled the species to slowly recover.

Grasshopper Warbler

Locustella naevia

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn, bred until about the mid-1980s but now rare in spring (A)

In spring reeling birds were recorded at Hythe Roughts on the 21st April and Samphire Hoe on the 3rd May. These were only the 6th and 7th spring records since 2000 and this was the first time that more than one had been recorded in this season since 1993.

There was also a strong autumn passage, with singles at Beachborough Lakes on the 9th August, Abbotscliffe on the 12th, 18th and 23rd September (see photograph on page 21) and Samphire Hoe on the 28th September. The autumn mean for the previous ten years was 3.2 so the total of five was an above average showing.

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015				
Arrival	7 th Apr	10 th Apr	-3	16 th Apr	-9	5 th Apr 2014
Departure	14 th Oct	8 th Oct	+6	22 nd Sep	+22	15 th Oct 1996

The first, four singing males at Nickolls Quarry on the 7th April, were three days earlier than the arrival date last year and nine days earlier than the mean arrival date over the previous decade. There has only ever been one earlier record, on the 5th April 2014. Numbers increased to six singing males there by the 14th and to nine singing males by the 19th April, with at least eight holding territory there through May (rather fewer than the record count of 14 singing males last year). Elsewhere one was holding territory at the Willof Basin in May and migrants were recorded from Princes Parade on the 22nd April and Beachborough Lakes on the 23rd May.

Returning migrants were noted from the 1st August, when two were at Abbotscliffe, with two at Samphire Hoe on the 9th August, two at Princes Parade on the 10th August and one at Samphire Hoe on the 30th August. In September there were two at Princes Parade on the 3rd, up to two at Beachborough Lakes between the 5th and the 8th, with three there on the 16th, singles at Abbotscliffe on the 18th and 19th, two at Beachborough Lakes on the latter date and another single at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd. A particularly late individual was seen at Abbotscliffe on the 14th October, there has only ever been one later record: at Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site on the 15th October 1996.

Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015				
Arrival	3 rd Apr	11 th Apr	-8	16 th Apr	-13	3 rd Apr 2016
Departure	27 th Sep	2 nd Oct	-5	26 th Sep	+1	4 th Nov 1984

The first, a singing male at Nickolls Quarry on the 3rd April, was the earliest ever (preceding one at Hythe on the 6th April 1996), with two singing there on the 8th April and four on the 19th April. Numbers continued to increase through April and May, with a peak of 26 singing males at Nickolls Quarry on the 16th May. Only three years have produced a larger count of territorial birds there (2001, 2003 and 2004). Good numbers were also present along the canal, with the first at Princes Parade on the 16th April and a peak of 21 there on the 3rd May.

Elsewhere there were up to seven at Beachborough Lakes from late April and a pair bred at the pond at Samphire Hoe for the first time. Migrants were singing in non-breeding habitat at Abbotscliffe on the 15th May, Mill Point on the 6th June and Eaton Lands on the 3rd July.

In autumn birds were present at breeding sites into September, with the last at Nickolls Quarry on the 27th. Elsewhere one was found dead in a garden in Hythe on the 30th August, presumably having been killed by a cat.



Sedge Warbler at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)



Reed Warbler at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Nuthatch

Sitta europaea

Breeding resident (A)

As usual most records were from the woods in the Saltwood area (Brockhill Country Park, Chesterfield Wood, Heane Wood, Folks' Wood, Kiln Wood and Saltwood Castle), with others at Butcher's Wood and Perry Wood (Westenhanger), and the Beachborough Lakes area.

Eurasian Treecreeper

Certhia familiaris

Breeding resident (A)

Widely recorded but there were no notable counts.

Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Widely recorded. The highest counts received were from Samphire Hoe where there were 15 on the 13th November.

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were no large counts received from the early winter period and the only signs of spring passage were 120 flying in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 21st March and 110 flying east there on the 25th March.

A post-breeding flock of 65 were at Hythe Ranges on the 22nd May, whilst at Samphire Hoe numbers increased from ten on the 5th July to 30 by the end of month and 60 by the 8th August, before peaking at 100 on the 23rd August. Numbers declined thereafter but up to 40 were present throughout September.

Autumn passage was noted from October and included 100 flying in off the sea at Folkestone Pier on the 6th October, 250 flying over Beachborough Lakes on the 18th October and 190 over there the following day. The 21st October saw a notable arrival, with 200 in off the sea at Folkestone Pier, 400 in off the sea at Princes Parade, 450 flying over Beachborough Lakes and 770 in off the sea at Abbotscliffe. The next day saw another 100 in off the sea at Mill Point, with 175 in off the sea at Princes Parade on the 23rd and 600 flying over Beachborough Lakes on the 25th. Movement continued into November, with 200 over Abbotscliffe on the 2nd, 300 in off the sea at Folkestone Pier on the 8th, 680 in off the sea at Mill Point on the 12th, 300 west at Samphire Hoe on the 17th and 150 west at Mill Point on the 21st, whilst 400 were seen over Folkestone Central at dawn on the 23rd.

A flock of 300 were feeding in fields at Capel-le-Ferne on the 1st December and a roost built up in Folkestone during December, with at least 1,000 present by the end of the month (with numbers increasing significantly in early 2017). The birds were seen to engage in some spectacular pre-roost murmurations before settling into two Holm Oaks in Pleydell Gardens.

Passage migrant, typically more numerous in autumn (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	11 th Apr	10 th Apr	+1	16 th Apr	-5	9 th Mar 1997
Departure	29 th Oct	20 th Nov	-22	3 rd Nov	-5	26 th Nov 2005

One was seen at Abbotscliffe on the 11th April, with two there (remaining until the 13th) and one at Samphire Hoe the next day, whilst a male was at Peene Quarry on the 17th April, with a female at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd (see photograph on page 14) and single males at Abbotscliffe and Samphire Hoe the following day. Finally there were singles at Folkestone Warren on the 2nd May and Samphire Hoe on the 3rd May. The total of 12 bird/days was more than double the mean for the previous ten springs of 5.4.

In autumn the first flew west over Beachborough Lakes on the 29th September, with two at Samphire Hoe on the 2nd October and one at Folkestone Downs on the 5th October. There was a good arrival on the 7th October when four were at Samphire Hoe, six were at Creteway Down, seven were at Folkestone Downs and 25 were at Abbotscliffe. Numbers increased to 29 at Abbotscliffe the next day, when four were seen at Creteway Down, and ten remained at the former site on the 9th October when two were at Blackhouse Ridge (Hythe). Small numbers were then seen at various sites on a daily basis until the 21st October, with larger counts of ten flying south over Beachborough Lakes on the 12th, 7 at Folkestone Downs and 12 at Abbotscliffe on the 14th and six at Abbotscliffe on the 17th. Of particular note was one which visited a garden at Ingles Manor (Folkestone) on the 11th October.

The last week of October produced three at Creteway Down on the 24th, singles at Beachborough Lakes and Samphire Hoe on the 26th, singles at Beachborough Lakes and Nickolls Quarry on the 27th and one at Folkestone Downs on the 29th. The autumn total of 171 bird/days was a reduction on the 297 recorded last year but still a significant improvement on the mean for the previous ten autumns of 83.

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There was some suggestion of spring passage in March with peaks of 14 at Samphire Hoe on the 8th and 12 at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd.

Autumn migration was noted mainly in October, when 50 flew over Beachborough Lakes on the 6th, 17 were at Nickolls Quarry on the 15th, at least 80 were at Folkestone Downs on the 21st, 60 flew over Beachborough Lakes on the 25th and 51 flew over there on the 27th. In November 40 were at Folkestone Downs on the 3rd.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A flock of up to 70 frequented the Botolph's Bridge area in January before dispersing shortly after mid-month and very few were noted in February, whilst in March there was a peak of just nine at Saltwood Castle on the 6th. Although none were recorded in April or May the latest ever was at Seabrook from the 3rd to the 5th June. The previous latest was at Church Hougham from the 13th to the 19th May 1996.

Departure / Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Departure	5 th Jun	10 th Apr	+56	30 th Mar	+67	5 th Jun 2016
Arrival	4 th Oct	12 th Oct	-8	14 th Oct	-10	29 th Sep 2007

Small numbers were seen regularly in autumn from the 4th October, with larger counts of ten over Beachborough Lakes on the 6th October, 45 over there on the 11th October, ten at Abbotscliffe the next day, ten over Beachborough Lakes on the 19th October and 12 in off the sea at Folkestone Downs on the 22nd October. There was a significant arrival on the 24th October, with 785 arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe and 900 arriving in off the sea at Creteway Down, but only single figure counts thereafter.

Numbers in the late winter period were low apart from a count of 40 at Pedlinge on the 22nd December.



Blackbird at West Hythe (Brian Harper)



Fieldfare at Samphire Hoe (Ian Roberts)

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period up to 13 were frequenting a stubble field opposite the Little Piece on Donkey Street in January whilst up to six were noted at Nickolls Quarry. The only suggestion of spring passage was at least one passing over Hythe during a nocturnal movement of thrushes on the night of the 20th March and six grounded at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd March.

Autumn passage was noted from mid-September to mid-November, with the largest numbers in October, including 29 flying over Beachborough Lakes on the 6th, 60 over there on the 7th, 18 at Abbotscliffe and “good numbers” at Creteway Down on the 8th, and 17 at Abbotscliffe and 55 over Beachborough Lakes on the 11th. Further counts of birds moving over the latter site included 31 on the 18th, 49 on the 25th, 54 on the 26th and 32 on the 27th.

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Very few were noted in the early winter period with a peak of just 12 in the Botolph's Bridge area in mid-January. The first nocturnal movement of the spring was noted on the night of the 1st March, followed by four at Abbotscliffe on the 4th March and 23 at Saltwood Castle on the 6th March. Small numbers were noted until late March with larger counts of six at Samphire Hoe on the 18th March, 15 flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 24th March and 150 flying west there the next day, with 58 landing for a while near Abbot's House. There were also nocturnal movements on several nights, particularly on the 22nd March, when at least 30 were heard over Hythe. In April there were late singles at Abbotscliffe on the 12th and 13th and Nickolls Quarry on the 14th and 16th.

Departure / Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015				
Departure	16 th Apr	9 th Apr	+7	31 st Mar	+16	4 th May 1981
Arrival	7 th Sep	12 th Oct	-35	5 th Oct	-28	7 th Sep 2016

There was an extraordinary report of a flock of 15-20 flying over Shorncliffe Road (Folkestone) on the 7th September, which is the earliest arrival date ever by nearly two weeks, whilst the next sighting at Beachborough Lakes on the 19th September was also earlier than the previous record (one at Folkestone on the 20th September 1981).

The main arrival took place in October, with the largest counts involving birds passing over Beachborough Lakes, where there 60 on the 4th, 46 on the 5th, 400 on the 6th, 140 on the 7th, 120 on the 11th, 43 on the 12th, 33 on the 18th and 32 on the 19th. The 21st saw a significant arrival, including 40 in off the sea at Abbotscliffe, 40 at Folkestone Downs and 470 flying over Beachborough Lakes, whilst 330 flew over the latter site on the 25th, with 250 over on the 26th, 190 over on the 27th and 71 over on the 31st. Passage continued into November, with 500 flying over Beachborough Lakes on the 10th.

Numbers in the late winter period were low apart from a count of 220 near Summerhouse Hill on the 9th December.

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Breeding resident (A)

A count of 11 at Lympe Churchyard on the 10th-11th September was worthy of note. There was a series of records in October which were suggestive of passage, including two flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 8th, one there on the 9th, 24 flying over Beachborough Lakes on the 11th, 11 over there on the 18th, one at Abbotscliffe on the 24th, ten over Beachborough Lakes on the 26th and 19 over the latter site the following day.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Passage migrant, mainly in autumn, occasionally breeds (formerly more regular) (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015				
Arrival	6 th May	12 th May	-6	14 th May	-8	19 th Apr 1961
Departure	2 nd Oct	25 th Sep	+7	20 th Sep	+12	11 th Oct 1999

The only records in spring were from Beachborough Lakes where a pair were present from the 6th May and bred successfully, raising a single juvenile. The last successful breeding was in 2010.

In autumn there was one in a garden at Ingles Manor (Folkestone) on the 7th September, two at Creteway Down the next day, one at Beachborough Lakes on the 13th September, two at Princes Parade on the 15th September, one at Nickolls Quarry on the 17th September, two at Lympe on the 21st September, one at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd September and one at Folkestone Downs on the 30th September. A late single was at Princes Parade on the 1st to the 2nd October. After last year's record passage there was a return to normal levels, with the autumn total of 13 bird/days being just slightly more than the mean for the previous decade of 11.

Robin

Erithacus rubecula

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Autumn migrants were noted from mid-September with the largest numbers in October, including 14 at Samphire Hoe on the 1st, 15 there on the 4th, 16 there on the 10th, 15 at Abbotscliffe on the 12th, 30 at Folkestone Downs on the 21st and 12 at Samphire Hoe on the 27th.



Robin at Samphire Hoe (Martin Collins)



Spotted Flycatcher at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Nightingale

Luscinia megarhynchos

Declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015				
Arrival	19 th Apr	-	-	24 th Apr	-5	10 th Apr 1981

At least two males were heard singing in Folkestone Warren on the 27th April, with at least one remaining until at least the 15th May, and one was holding territory at Hythe Ranges from the 1st to at least the 22nd May. There were also separate singing males at different location within the Nickolls Quarry area on the 19th April and the 1st May, but neither lingered.

Not only was this a very welcome return after two blank years, the total of at least five singing males was the best since 1995. Details of the local and national decline of this species were provided in the 2013 report.

Pied Flycatcher

<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn (A)

One was seen in the churchyard at Church Hougham on the 25th August, whilst in September there were singles in a garden at Ingles Manor (Folkestone) on the 5th, at Princes Parade on the 7th and at Beachborough Lakes on the 20th and 21st. The total of five was very much in line with the mean for the previous decade of 4.2.

Dipper

<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>

Very rare vagrant (A)

An individual of the Black-bellied form *C. c. cinclus* was seen at Beachborough Lakes on the 29th November (S. Tomlinson). The fifth area record and the first since 1989.

Black Redstart

<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

At least one female-type was wintering at Samphire from 2015 and it was joined by a male on the 18th March. The pair remained through April and May, with the male singing and holding territory at the eastern end of the site, and bred successfully, raising four young.

Elsewhere one was seen at Segrave Road (Folkestone) on the 18th January, whilst in spring a male was at Abbotscliffe on the 19th March, with a female there the next day and on the 21st March one was seen on the breakwater arm at Mill Point.

There were up to seven at Samphire Hoe in August, decreasing to five in September and four in October but there were no reports in November or December. Elsewhere singles were at Folkestone Pier on the 1st September and 21st October, whilst one was seen in a garden at Ingles Manor (Folkestone) on the 26th October, one was at Abbotscliffe on the 3rd November, one was at Folkestone Pier again on the 8th December and one was seen in the car park of Aldi in Hythe on the 10th December.



Black Redstart at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Black Redstart at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Passage migrant, mainly in autumn (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	12 th Apr	-	-	13 th Apr	-1	12 th Mar 1960
Departure	6 th Oct	20 th Sep	+16	29 th Sep	+7	27 th Oct 1999

The only spring record involved a male at Nickolls Quarry on the 12th April.

In autumn singles were seen in a garden in Carter's Road (Cheriton) on the 20th August and Beachborough Lakes on the 30th August, whilst in September one lingered at Princes Parade from the 2nd to the 8th (see photograph on page 20), one was at Beachborough Lakes on the 15th and another was at Abbotscliffe on the 18th. Finally there were singles at Beachborough Lakes on the 3rd and in a garden in Browning Place (Folkestone) on the 6th.

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

Passage migrant, mainly in autumn. Has bred in the past but not since 1997 (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	26 th Apr	28 th May	-32	2 nd May	-6	11 th Apr 2011
Departure	21 st Oct	2 nd Oct	+19	7 th Oct	+14	10 th Nov 2009

Spring passage was typically light with singles at Abbotscliffe on the 26th April (see photograph on page 13) and Princes Parade on the 3rd May. The mean for the previous ten springs was 1.6 bird/days.

The first autumn record was at Princes Parade on the 19th August, after which ones and twos were regularly encountered at the cliffs/downs, with larger counts of five at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd August, four there on the 5th September, three at Beachborough Lakes on the 7th September and three at Abbotscliffe and Beachborough Lakes on the 15th September. Elsewhere there were singles at Mill Point on the 21st August and Princes Parade on the 12th to 13th October.

The last, one at Abbotscliffe on the 21st October, was notable as there have only been later sightings in three previous years. The autumn total of 65 bird days was slightly above the mean for the previous ten years of 56.

Stonechat

Saxicola torquatus

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period there were up to seven at Samphire Hoe, two at Botolph's Bridge, two at Nickolls Quarry, two at Church Hougham, and singles at Princes Parade, Copt Point and Abbotscliffe.

Numbers increased at Samphire Hoe to 11 by the end of March but these may have included some migrants, including an individual apparently of form continental form *S. t. rubicola* on the 29th, whilst two at Princes Parade on the 26th March were passage birds. Up to five males were present at Samphire Hoe in April and three pairs probably bred successfully. Territorial males were also present at Hythe Roughs, Folkestone Warren and Abbotscliffe, and a pair with four juveniles were noted at the latter site on the 9th September.

Autumn migrants were evident from late September, with one at Beachborough Lakes on the 21st-22nd and one at Copt Point from the 26th. In October one was at Princes Parade from the 1st, with six at Creteway Down and seven at Abbotscliffe on the 8th, ten at Samphire Hoe on the 11th, three at Princes Parade on the 12th, four at Beachborough Lakes from the 19th to the month's end and three at Hythe Ranges on the 31st.

In the latter winter period up to six were wintering at Samphire Hoe, with single pairs at the Willop Basin and Nickolls Quarry, one at Hythe Roughs and one at Folkestone Downs.

Several of the colour-ringed birds from 2015 remained at Samphire Hoe throughout, see page 109 for further details.



rubicola form at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



hibernans form at Samphire Hoe (Paul Holt)

Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

A rare breeding summer visitor but common passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015				
Arrival	22 nd Mar	8 th Mar	+14	18 th Mar	+4	8 th Mar 2015
Departure	4 th Dec	4 th Nov	+30	26 th Oct	+39	4 th Dec 2016

The first, a male at Princes Parade on the 22nd March, was some two weeks after the arrival date last year, but only four days later than the mean for the previous decade. There were then almost daily sightings until the 6th May with a total of 64 bird/days logged, which despite the late arrival was an increase on the 39 recorded last spring and the mean for the previous ten years of 53. Day totals included four on the 24th March (one at Samphire Hoe and three at Hythe), eight on the 12th April (two at Princes Parade, two at Samphire Hoe and four at Mill Point), six on the 1st May (three at Abbotscliffe and three at Samphire Hoe) and seven on the 3rd May (one at Hythe, two at Princes Parade and four at Samphire Hoe), see photograph on page 12. Singles reported at Samphire Hoe on the 24th May, 1st June and 26th June were interesting as they suggest that a pair may have possibly bred locally.

The first returning migrant was at Beachborough Lakes on the 26th July, with regular sightings from early August until the 19th October. There was a strong passage with the total of 223 bird/days being a considerable increase on the mean for the previous decade of 158. Double-figure day totals involved 14 on the 30th August (including four at Princes Parade and eight at Samphire Hoe), 11 on the 1st September (including 9 at Samphire Hoe), ten on the 6th September (all at Samphire Hoe), 11 the next day (including four at Princes Parade and six at Samphire Hoe), 16 on the 11th September (including six at Folkestone Harbour), 22 on the 15th September (including five at Abbotscliffe, seven at Church Hougham and eight at Beachborough Lakes) and 15 on the 18th September (including six at Samphire Hoe and seven at Hythe Ranges).

An exceptionally late bird was seen at Samphire Hoe on the 4th December (the previous latest was one at the same site on the 9th November 1997), see photograph on page 100.

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

There appeared to be an increase at coastal sites in the autumn, suggestive of passage, with a peak of 20 at Abbotscliffe on the 12th October.

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Declining breeding resident (A)

No counts of note were received. Two at Samphire Hoe on the 19th September were unusual as the species does not breed there, and three at Abbotscliffe on the 14th October may also have been local migrants.

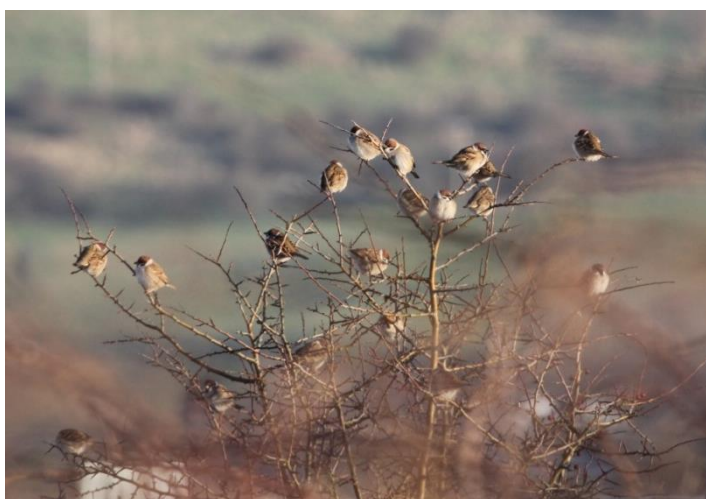
Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Declining passage migrant. No longer breeds and now scarce in winter (A)

The flock of Tree Sparrows remained in the Botolph's Bridge area from 2015, with at least 51 counted (on the 9th January), and 50 were still present on the 3rd February but had dispersed by the end of the month.

In autumn singles were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 15th October and flying west over Princes Parade on the 17th October but none were seen in the Botolph's Bridge area at the latter end of the year, where no stubble had been left.



Tree Sparrows at Botolph's Bridge (Ian Roberts)



Dunnock at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015				
Arrival	8 th Apr	24 th Apr	-16	12 th Apr	-4	28 th Mar 1991
Departure	7 th Oct	13 th Oct	-6	28 th Sep	+9	20 th Oct 1984

The first, one which flew in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 8th April, was significantly earlier than last year and four days earlier than the mean for the previous decade. There was an excellent spring passage with a total of 50 bird/days, which far exceeded the mean for the previous ten years of 20, and was the best since 2000.

Counts included three in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 17th April, three in off the sea there on the 25th April, four in off the sea there on the 30th April and five in off the sea at Samphire Hoe on the 2nd May.

Return passage was noted from the 6th July, when one flew over Samphire Hoe, and was also strong with the bird/day total of 157 being the highest since 2004. Counts included ten at Beachborough Lakes on the 7th September, eight at Abbotscliffe on the 11th September, nine flying west there the next day, 15 at Beachborough Lakes on the 20th September, 19 there on the 22nd September and nine flying west at Princes Parade on the 30th September. The last flew over Beachborough lakes on the 7th October.

Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
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Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Ones and twos were seen at numerous sites in the early winter period, including the Willop Outfall, Botolph's Bridge, Nickolls Quarry, Brockhill Country Park, Chesterfield Wood, Bluehouse Wood, Princes Parade, Saltwood Castle, Enbrook Park and Folkestone town, with a peak of four in the Saltwood Castle area in late February and early March. There was little evidence of spring passage though singles at Samphire Hoe on the 18th March and the 1st May might have been migrants.

Autumn passage was noted from mid-September until late October, with counts including seven east at Abbotscliffe on the 18th September, six over Beachborough Lakes on the 7th October and eight over the latter site on the 25th October. Small numbers were wintering at regular sites again at the end of the year.



Yellow Wagtail at Samphire Hoe (Martin Collins)



Grey Wagtail at Enbrook Park (Brian Harper)

Pied/White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
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Pied Wagtail (*M. a. yarrellii*) is a breeding resident and passage migrant. White Wagtail (*M. a. alba*) is a scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring, which has bred once (in 2013) (A)

The peak counts from the early winter period were 20 at Church Hougham and 25 at Botolph's Bridge in January. There was a small spring passage of Pied/White Wagtails noted in March and April, with counts including 16 at Abbotscliffe on the 14th March and seven flying east there on the 31st March.

Autumn passage was noted between late September and the end of October, including counts of 17 at Princes Parade on the 30th September, 32 there on the 4th October, 35 over Beachborough Lakes on the 5th October, 39 over there on the 7th October, 33 at Princes Parade on the 10th October and 44 over Beachborough Lakes on the 25th October.

The only confirmed records of White Wagtail (*M. a. alba*) were singles at Samphire Hoe on the 17th April and Beachborough Lakes on the 10th May.

Tree Pipit

Anthus trivialis

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn (A)

Arrival / Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	8 th May	-	-	9 th May	-1	26 th Mar 1965
Departure	8 th Oct	27 th Sep	+11	29 th Sep	+9	20 th Oct 2001

One which flew east at Abbotscliffe on 8th May was the first spring record since 2012.

In autumn one was seen at Beachborough Lakes on the 18th August, with two flying east there on the 30th August, singles flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 18th September and Beachborough Lakes the next day, three at Abbotscliffe on the 21st September, with one remaining to the 23rd, two flying over Beachborough Lakes on the 7th October and the last flying west at Abbotscliffe the following day. The total of 13 bird/days was an improvement on the mean for the previous ten autumns of 7.2 and constitutes the strongest passage since 2002.

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Counts from the early winter period included up to ten at Botolph's Bridge and Hythe Ranges, 15 at Samphire Hoe and 40 at Church Hougham.

There was a typically light spring passage involving three flying in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 17th March, four flying east there on the 21st March, two in off the sea there on the 25th March and six off the sea there on the 31st March, whilst at Samphire Hoe numbers peaked at 20 on the 22nd March.

Autumn passage was noted from mid-September and numbers at Abbotscliffe increased rapidly from 25 on the 17th September, to 86 the next day and to a peak of 450 on the 19th September. 170 were still there on the 22nd September, decreasing to 123 by the end of the month. In October there were 45 at Princes Parade on the 4th, 61 flew over Beachborough Lakes on the 5th, 70 flew over there on the 6th, 75 flew over there on the 7th and 60 were at Abbotscliffe on the 9th. 150 flew over Beachborough Lakes on the 13th and 120 flew over there on the 18th, whilst 60 were at Abbotscliffe again on the 29th. In November there were 15 at the Willop Basin throughout, whilst 37 were counted at Samphire Hoe on the 15th and 15 were at Folkestone Downs in December.

Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Recorded from Samphire Hoe throughout the year, with peak monthly counts as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	10	15	6	4	9	10	15	24	14	18	9

At least one pair bred successfully and were seen feeding young in June. Numbers in autumn were presumably swelled by migrants, with the peak count of 24 being made on the 21st September.

The only records from elsewhere during the early winter period were at Folkestone Harbour where a single bird was present. In spring a migrant was seen at Hythe seafront on the 21st April.

Another migrant was seen on the beach at Hythe on the 16th August, whilst two were present at Folkestone Pier on the 15th September, increasing to three on the 17th September and to six on the 21st October.

In November/December there were up to eight in Folkestone Warren, at least four in the Folkestone Harbour/Pier area, and singles at Battery Point, Hythe and the Willop Outfall.



Tree Pipit at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)



Rock Pipit at Samphire Hoe (David Featherbe)

Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were no winter counts of note but there was another excellent spring passage, with counts including 1,100 flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 13th March, 1,190 flying east there on the 17th March, 3,605 flying east at Abbotscliffe/Mill Point on the 17th March, 2,850 flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 17th March and 2,490 flying east there on the 31st March. The total of 12,279 constitutes the second best ever spring tally, after last year's record 12,400.

Autumn passage was again rather more modest, with peak counts of 60 flying over Beachborough Lakes on the 5th October, 49 flying over there on the 19th October, 40 in off the sea at Abbotscliffe and 61 flying over Beachborough Lakes on the 21st October, 128 flying over the latter site on the 25th October and 45 in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 5th November.

Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

One seen along the canal near Twiss Avenue (Hythe) on the 3rd February was presumably the same as the bird present there in December 2015, and seen again there on the 15th March, but it was very elusive and could not be found on other dates despite searching.

In spring singles flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd and 25th March, with a record spring movement of 15 flying east there on the 31st March, when one was seen at Samphire Hoe. The previous spring record was 11 flying east at Capel-le-Ferne on the 26th March 2002.

Departure / Arrival	Date		Difference
	2016	2015	
Departure	31 st Mar	-	-
Arrival	3 rd Oct	10 th Oct	-7

Prev. ten year mean	Difference
	+/-
27 th Mar	+4
13 th Oct	-10

Earliest / Latest ever
23 rd Apr 1958
21 st Sep 1996

Autumn passage was also decent, with a total of 41 being more than double the mean for the previous decade of 19. Ones and twos were recorded at various sites, with larger counts of four over Beachborough Lakes on the 7th October, 12 over Nickolls Quarry on the 14th October, four in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 21st October and four over Samphire Hoe on the 4th December.



Brambling at Hythe (Nigel Webster)



Chaffinch at Hythe Redoubt (Brian Harper)

Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
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Rare passage migrant (A)

Singles flew east over Abbotscliffe on the 17th April (I. A. Roberts) and in/west over Hythe on the 5th May (S. McMinn). The 25th and 26th area records but there have been only four since 2005.

Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
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Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant, having declined in recent years (A)

The recent decline was described in last year's report and numbers remained low with no double-figure counts received. During the early winter period there was a peak of six along the canal at Hythe on the 7th February.

A very light spring passage comprised one flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 5th March, one flying east there on the 13th March, a total of six (3 east, 3 west) there on the 31st March and one at Samphire Hoe (the only record there this year) on the 8th May.

Autumn passage was equally small, with one flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 18th September, one flying west there on the 3rd October, five heading east there on the 8th October and three passing east there on the 13th October.

Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
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Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, widespread but less common in winter (A)

Counts in the early winter period included 12 at Hythe, 12 at the Willop Basin, 18 at Nickolls Quarry and 35 at Botolph's Bridge.

A light spring passage was noted between mid-March and early May with peak counts of 14 flying east at Mill Point on the 21st March, nine flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 17th March and 13 flying west there on the 30th April.

There was no repeat of the record passage of last year, but in autumn numbers increased in September to a peak of 180 at Abbotscliffe on the 19th, whilst there were 120 at Samphire Hoe on the 7th October. Visual passage in October included 70 flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 8th, 100 flying east there on the 14th, 110 east there and 90 over Beachborough Lakes on the 18th, 110 over Beachborough Lakes on the 19th, 129 over there and 95 flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 21st and 100 over Beachborough Lakes on the 25th.

Siskin

Carduelis spinus

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The only record from the early winter period related to one that flew over Botolph's Bridge on the 1st January.

There was a record spring passage with a total of 542 logged moving east between early March and early May, including counts of 26 at Abbotscliffe on the 13th March, 69 there on the 20th March, 82 there the next day, 30 there on the 25th March and a spring record of 243 there on the 31st March. The previous records were 210 on the 5th April 2008 and a total of 360 in spring of the same year. During the spring there were also two on Alders (*Alnus sp.*) at Princes Parade on the 22nd March, three at Saltwood Castle on the 6th March, six in a garden in Foreland Avenue (Folkestone) on the 25th March and up to nine in a garden in Ingles Manor (Folkestone) between the 8th March and the 6th April.

Departure / Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest / Latest ever
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Departure	3 rd May	8 th May	-5	15 th Apr*	+18	29 th May 2000*
Arrival	30 th Sep	4 th Sep*	+26	19 th Sep*	+11	2 nd Sep 1997*

Autumn passage, noted from late September, however was unremarkable, with a total of 670 bird/days which was only about half of the mean for the previous decade (1,250). Counts included 33 flying over Beachborough Lakes on the 7th October, 36 flying east at Samphire Hoe on the 12th October, 190 flying over Beachborough Lakes on the 18th October, 128 over there on the 21st October and 80 over there on the 25th October. Only small numbers were noted in November but in December 30 flew east at Samphire Hoe on the 7th and 12 were at Seabrook on the 26th.

Linnet

Carduelis cannabina

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, less common in winter (A)

Very few were noted in the early winter period with the exception of a flock of 35 at Donkey Street on the 25th February.

Spring passage was noted from early March to early May and included counts of 78 flying over Abbotscliffe on the 31st March, 26 flying west there and 50 flying west at Hythe on the 5th April, 46 flying in/west at Abbotscliffe on the 8th April and 90 flying in/west there on the 17th April.

In autumn there were 110 at Samphire Hoe on the 20th September, with 100 still on the 7th October, but numbers there decreased quickly thereafter. At Abbotscliffe there were 200 in an arable field at the eastern end of between the 2nd and 10th October, decreasing to 100 by the 21st October but with these remaining until at least the 11th November before decreasing to 60 by the 18th November and 25 by the 21st December. There were few counts of visual migrants, with only ten west at Abbotscliffe on the 30th September, 45 west there on the 19th October and 30 over Beachborough Lakes on the 21st October being of note.

Other flocks noted in the late winter period involved 20 at the Willop Basin on the 19th November and ten at Hythe Ranges on the 26th December.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

As last year there were no records from the early winter period and just one in spring – a single flying east over Capel-le-Ferne and Abbotscliffe on the 9th May.

There was no repeat of last year's record numbers, with a total of just 28 bird/days between the 7th October and the 13th November, which was well below the mean for the previous decade of 195. It was however still better than the tally for 2014. Only single figure counts were recorded, with a peak of 7 west over Princes Parade on the 3rd November.

Passage migrant, with occasional summer irruptions, rare in winter (A)

The only record from the first half of the year involved one which flew east at Capel-le-Ferne Café on the 14th May.

In autumn seven flew west over Beachborough Lakes on the 30th August, ten flew west there on the 5th September, two flew west there on the 5th October, flew west there on the 10th November, seven flew west there the next day and six flew east over Abbotscliffe on the 25th November.

Breeding resident (A)

There were records of resident birds from numerous sites including West Hythe, Nickolls Quarry, Hythe Roughs, Hythe Ranges, Chesterfield Wood (Saltwood), Princes Parade, Beachborough Lakes, Seabrook, Paraker Wood, Peene Quarry, Cheriton, Folkestone Downs, Copt Point and Folkestone Warren.

There was little evidence of any passage though a pair flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 31st March and seven flew south over Beachborough Lakes on the 25th October.



Linnet at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)



Bullfinch at West Hythe (Brian Harper)

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn, has overwintered (A)

Two were seen briefly on the golf course at the Hythe Imperial on the 24th November.

A poor year but at least this was not a second consecutive blank.

Breeding resident (A)

In the early winter period up to 33 were present in the Botolph's Bridge area, with smaller numbers at various sites, including eight at Church Hougham, and there were five at Folkestone Downs in March.

In autumn up to 12 were noted at Abbotscliffe on the 22nd September but few were present in the latter winter period (no stubble had been left in the Botolph's Bridge area).



Yellowhammer at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)



Reed Bunting at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Up to 30 remained in the Botolph's Bridge area from 2015 into January but dispersed during the month and smaller numbers were present in the early winter period at Nickolls Quarry and other regular sites.

A pair arrived at Princes Parade on the 24th February, where they remained until at least May, with three there on the 12th March. Elsewhere in March one flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 5th, a pair were seen on the seawall at Samphire Hoe on the 24th and a male was at Abbotscliffe on the 31st. In April a pair were at Samphire Hoe on the 8th to the 10th, with one there on the 16th, and at Abbotscliffe there were two on the 12th and singles on the 25th and the 30th, with one at Samphire Hoe on the 1st May.

Breeding birds included 3-4 pairs at Nickolls Quarry, at least one pair at Beachborough Ponds and possibly a pair at Princes Parade.

Autumn passage between late September and early November produced a good total of 114 bird/days, the best tally since 2003. Counts included 16 at Abbotscliffe on the 8th October, 11 flying south over Beachborough Lakes on the 25th October, 12 flying west there on the 28th October and 9 flying west there on the 31st October. The only count of note in the late winter period was of ten at the Willop Basin on the 19th November.

Corn Bunting

<i>Emberiza calandra</i>

Breeding resident (A)

Six had been present in the Botolph's Bridge area in December 2015 and these increased to 11 on the 1st January and to a very good count of 30 on the 23rd January, Twenty were still present on the 3rd February but the flock quickly dispersed.

The only summer record related to a male holding territory at Church Hougham throughout June but it did not appear to be paired.

One was seen at Abbotscliffe on the 21st October and an excellent flock of 60 were seen at the Willop Basin on the 13th November but unfortunately they quickly moved on, with just two remaining on the 19th November and none thereafter. The counts of 30 and 60 were both larger than any recorded since 1996.

Category E species

Indian Peafowl

<i>Pavo cristatus</i>

Escapee. Native to India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (E)

Three were seen on the road at Blackhouse Hill in the early morning of the 20th May (I. A. Roberts, J. Tomsett).

Sacred Ibis

<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>

Escapee. Native to sub-Saharan Africa (E)

One which flew west at Nickolls Quarry on the 8th March (I. A. Roberts) was possibly the same bird seen at Horse Eye Level, East Sussex on the 4th March.

Yésou & Clergeau (2005) describe the establishment of a feral breeding colony in western France in the 1980s which had grown to a population of over 1,100 breeding pairs by 2005. These were known to regularly disperse as far north as Brittany and possibly further afield, which made the species a potential category C5 vagrant to Britain. However, as AEWA (2011) report, they were posing conservation concerns due to their predation and disturbance of colonies of nesting terns and other species and culling began in 2007. This was successful in reducing the breeding population at the main site from a peak of 1,400 pairs in 2008 to around 600 pairs by 2011. Ongoing shooting and egg sterilisation was expected to be maintained but more recent population data do not appear to be available.

There is a possibility that this may have been a wanderer from a persisting feral population in western France but without recent population data it is difficult to assess the likelihood of this. The species is widely kept in captivity in Britain, with the Zootierliste website detailing 26 collections which currently hold the species in Britain, with many others on the near continent.

Harris's Hawk

<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>

Escapee. Native to the Americas (E)

One was frequenting gardens in Morehall Avenue (Cheriton) on the 4th July (per O. Leyshon).

Reintroduction project currently underway in Britain, but not yet self-sustaining. Formerly resident in Britain, now native to Iberian Peninsula, eastern Europe and Asia (E)

One was seen flying in off the sea at Samphire Hoe at around 08:15 on the 4th May (I. A. Roberts, M. D. Kennett).

This record was submitted to the BBRC for consideration and was accepted to category E (BOURC 2016b). This is the same decision that was applied to a record from Kent in April 2015, the rationale for which was as follows: "Since the release scheme began in Wiltshire, in 2004, determining the origin of any Great Bustard in Britain has become somewhat complicated. Any modern record is now overwhelmingly likely to refer to a wanderer from this reintroduction project, and most recent British records have been attributable to it, either by being recognised individuals, or by virtue of their location. Yet the possibility of a vagrant European bird, either from a wild population or from the Brandenburg 'headstarting' project in Germany, cannot be entirely discounted. Kent is well away from the release area and well placed to receive a European bird. Historically, wild Great Bustards from the continent have generally occurred in harsh weather in winter, while birds from the German project are also reported to move west in the same conditions. The Kent bird cannot be identified individually but the date does not fit the established vagrancy pattern and no movement of German birds was recorded at this time. The likelihood is that this bird was from the British reintroduction project" (Hudson *et al*, 2016).

This record also does not fit the established vagrancy pattern. There is little doubt though that it did cross the English Channel from France, as it was seen watched arriving in off the sea from a long-distance out. However it is known that at least five of the reintroduced Wiltshire birds have reached France, with one even nearly reaching the Pyrenees, though the others were sighted in the north-west of the country (Taylor, 2012).



Indian Peafowl at Blackhouse Hill (Ian Roberts)



Sacred Ibis at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)

Escapee. Native to Australia (E)

One was seen in the Sir John Moore Avenue/Bartholomew Street area of Hythe on the 9th October (W. Peacock).

Amazon parrot sp.

Amazona sp.

Escapee. Native to Central and/or South America (E)

One was reported at West Hythe on the 3rd September (J. Gomm).

Atlantic Canary

Serinus canaria

Escapee. Native to the Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira (E)

One was seen at Copt Point on the 4th May (A. Mackay).



Harris's Hawk at Cheriton (per Owen Leyshon)



Atlantic Canary at Copt Point (Alistair Mackay)

First and last dates for selected migrants

The arrival and departure dates for selected summer and winter migrants are shown in the tables below. In cases where records appear to relate to over-wintering or over-summering individuals these have been excluded, and are indicated by an asterisk by the date. A negative difference in the table indicates that a species arrived or departed earlier than the previous year or ten year mean, whilst a positive difference indicates a later arrival or departure. Winter records of Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps have become so frequent in recent years that these species have been excluded due to the difficulty of determining the first arriving or last departing migrant.

Spring arrival was earlier than last year for 16 species and only later for seven, whilst there were the earliest ever arrival dates for Arctic Skua, Little Tern, Common Tern and Reed Warbler. The arrival date for Swift equalled the earliest ever and there were notably early arrivals of House Martin, Willow Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat and Sedge Warbler.

Arrival dates of summer migrants

Species	Arrival date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest ever arrival
	2016	2015				
Honey Buzzard	28 th May	9 th Jun	-12	22 nd May	+6	3 rd May 2013
Hobby	24 th Apr	23 rd Apr	+1	23 rd Apr	+1	9 th Apr 1998
Whimbrel	11 th Apr	16 th Apr	-5	13 th Apr	-2	25 th Mar 2011
Common Sandpiper	24 th Apr	25 th Apr	-1	23 rd Apr	+1	4 th Mar 2013*
Arctic Skua	14 th Mar*	23 rd Apr	-40	18 th Apr	-35	14 th Mar 2016*
Little Tern	11 th Apr	8 th May	-27	29 th Apr	-18	11 th Apr 2016
Sandwich Tern	23 rd Mar	29 th Mar	-6	23 rd Mar	0	7 th Mar 2011*
Common Tern	2 nd Apr	8 th Apr	-6	15 th Apr	-13	2 nd Apr 2016
Turtle Dove	-	4 th Jul	-	13 th May	-	10 th Apr 1993
Cuckoo	19 th Apr	16 th Apr	+3	22 nd Apr	-3	27 th Mar 2001
Swift	18 th Apr	18 th Apr	0	24 th Apr	-6	18 th Apr 2015
Sand Martin	7 th Apr	30 th Mar	+8	11 th Apr	-4	5 th Mar 1995
Swallow	23 rd Mar	12 th Mar	+11	25 th Mar	-2	10 th Mar 1952
House Martin	31 st Mar	4 th Apr	-4	10 th Apr	-10	7 th Feb 2004
Willow Warbler	30 th Mar	11 th Apr	-12	6 th Apr	-7	26 th Mar 1960
Garden Warbler	1 st May	30 th Apr	+1	29 th Apr	+2	10 th Apr 2001
Lesser Whitethroat	13 th Apr	24 th Apr	-11	17 th Apr	-4	8 th Apr 2007
Common Whitethroat	7 th Apr	12 th Apr	-5	11 th Apr	-4	30 th Mar 2002
Sedge Warbler	7 th Apr	10 th Apr	-3	16 th Apr	-9	5 th Apr 2014
Reed Warbler	3 rd Apr	11 th Apr	-8	16 th Apr	-13	3 rd Apr 2016
Ring Ouzel	11 th Apr	10 th Apr	+1	16 th Apr	-5	9 th Mar 1997
Spotted Flycatcher	6 th May	12 th May	-6	14 th May	-8	19 th Apr 1961
Nightingale	19 th Apr	-	-	24 th Apr	-5	10 th Apr 1981
Redstart	12 th Apr	-	-	13 th Apr	-1	12 th Mar 1960
Whinchat	26 th Apr	28 th May	-32	2 nd May	-6	11 th Apr 2011
Wheatear	22 nd Mar	8 th Mar	+14	18 th Mar	+4	8 th Mar 2015
Yellow Wagtail	8 th Apr	24 th Apr	-16	12 th Apr	-4	28 th Mar 1991
Tree Pipit	8 th May	-	-	9 th May	-1	26 th Mar 1965

Departures of summer migrants were generally a little later than last year, with 14 leaving later and ten earlier. The departure dates for Willow Warbler, Sedge Warbler and Whinchat were notably late.

Departure dates of summer migrants

Species	Departure date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Latest ever departure
	2016	2015				
Honey Buzzard	-	4 th Oct	-	15 th Sep	-	15 th Oct 1995
Hobby	22 nd Sep	19 th Oct	-27	3 rd Oct	-11	22 nd Oct 2001
Whimbrel	29 th Jul	5 th Sep	-38	28 th Aug	-30	12 th Nov 2013
Common Sandpiper	23 rd Sep	9 th Sep	+14	23 rd Sep*	0	Several wintered
Arctic Skua	16 th Oct	24 th Sep	+22	20 th Oct	-4	21 st Nov 2002
Little Tern	-	-	-	-	-	16 th Sep 1999
Sandwich Tern	19 th Oct	11 th Oct	+8	4 th Oct	+15	9 th Nov 2010*
Common Tern	29 th Sep	28 th Sep	+1	4 th Oct	-5	30 th Oct 2007
Turtle Dove	-	-	-	-	-	24 th Oct 1981*
Cuckoo	29 th Jun	23 rd Jun	+6	4 th Aug	-36	28 th Sep 1969
Swift	19 th Sep	25 th Sep	-6	12 th Sep	+7	16 th Nov 1957
Sand Martin	3 rd Oct	18 th Oct	-15	7 th Oct	-4	4 th Nov 1963
Swallow	8 th Nov	8 th Dec	-30	13 th Nov	-5	8 th Dec 1955
House Martin	19 th Oct	28 th Nov	-40	2 nd Nov	-14	2 nd Dec 1974
Willow Warbler	12 th Oct	9 th Oct	+3	24 th Sep	+18	19 th Oct 1986
Garden Warbler	8 th Sep	7 th Sep	+1	13 th Sep	-5	6 th Nov 1981
Lesser Whitethroat	26 th Sep	2 nd Oct	-6	23 rd Sep	+3	3 rd Nov 1994
Common Whitethroat	19 th Oct	30 th Sep	+19	2 nd Oct	+17	19 th Oct 2016
Sedge Warbler	14 th Oct	8 th Oct	+6	22 nd Sep	+22	15 th Oct 1996
Reed Warbler	27 th Sep	2 nd Oct	-5	26 th Sep	+1	4 th Nov 1984
Ring Ouzel	29 th Oct	20 th Nov	-22	3 rd Nov	-5	26 th Nov 2005
Spotted Flycatcher	2 nd Oct	25 th Sep	+7	20 th Sep	+12	11 th Oct 1999
Redstart	6 th Oct	20 th Sep	+16	29 th Sep	+7	27 th Oct 1999
Whinchat	21 st Oct	2 nd Oct	+19	7 th Oct	+14	10 th Nov 2009
Wheatear	4 th Dec	4 th Nov	+30	26 th Oct	+39	4 th Dec 2016
Yellow Wagtail	7 th Oct	13 th Oct	-6	28 th Sep	+9	20 th Oct 1984
Tree Pipit	8 th Oct	27 th Sep	+11	29 th Sep	+9	20 th Oct 2001

Spring departure dates and autumn arrivals of winter visitors were fairly evenly balanced compared to last year, with the notable exceptions of the latest ever departure of Fieldfare and the earliest ever arrival of Redwing.

Departure dates of winter migrants

Species	Departure date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Latest ever departure
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Brent Goose	5 th May	15 th May	-10	4 th May	+1	26 th May 1997*
Red-throated Diver	6 th May	2 nd May	+4	4 th May	+2	6 th June 2006
Purple Sandpiper	5 th May	10 th May	-5	2 nd May	-3	10 th May 2009
Fieldfare	5 th Jun	10 th Apr	+56	30 th Mar	+67	5 th Jun 2016
Redwing	16 th Apr	9 th Apr	+7	31 st Mar	+16	4 th May 1981
Brambling	31 st Mar	-	-	27 th Mar	+4	23 rd Apr 1958
Siskin	3 rd May	8 th May	-5	15 th Apr*	+18	29 th May 2000*

Arrival dates of winter migrants

Species	Arrival date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest ever arrival
	2016	2015	+/-		+/-	
Brent Goose	17 th Sep	20 th Sep	-3	21 st Sep*	-4	11 th Sep 2014*
Red-throated Diver	11 th Oct	10 th Oct	+1	7 th Oct	+4	7 th Sep 1997
Purple Sandpiper	3 rd Nov	23 rd Oct	+11	2 nd Nov	+1	30 th Sep 1984
Fieldfare	4 th Oct	12 th Oct	-8	14 th Oct	-10	29 th Sep 2007
Redwing	7 th Sep	12 th Oct	-35	5 th Oct	-28	7 th Sep 2016
Brambling	3 rd Oct	10 th Oct	-7	13 th Oct	-10	21 st Sep 1996
Siskin	30 th Sep	4 th Sep*	+26	19 th Sep*	+11	2 nd Sep 1997*



Latest ever Wheatear at Samphire Hoe (David Featherbe)

Year list

January

1	Mute Swan	1 st Jan
2	Canada Goose	1 st Jan
3	Brent Goose	1 st Jan
4	Shelduck	1 st Jan
5	Teal	1 st Jan
6	Mallard	1 st Jan
7	Common Scoter	1 st Jan
8	Pheasant	1 st Jan
9	Red-throated Diver	1 st Jan
10	Fulmar	1 st Jan
11	Gannet	1 st Jan
12	Cormorant	1 st Jan
13	Little Egret	1 st Jan
14	Grey Heron	1 st Jan
15	Little Grebe	1 st Jan
16	Great Crested Grebe	1 st Jan
17	Sparrowhawk	1 st Jan
18	Buzzard	1 st Jan
19	Kestrel	1 st Jan
20	Merlin	1 st Jan
21	Moorhen	1 st Jan
22	Coot	1 st Jan
23	Sanderling	1 st Jan
24	Purple Sandpiper	1 st Jan
25	Jack Snipe	1 st Jan
26	Snipe	1 st Jan
27	Curlew	1 st Jan
28	Redshank	1 st Jan
29	Turnstone	1 st Jan
30	Kittiwake	1 st Jan
31	Black-headed Gull	1 st Jan
32	Mediterranean Gull	1 st Jan
33	Common Gull	1 st Jan
34	Herring Gull	1 st Jan
35	Great Black-backed Gull	1 st Jan
36	Guillemot	1 st Jan
37	Feral Pigeon	1 st Jan
38	Stock Dove	1 st Jan
39	Wood Pigeon	1 st Jan
40	Collared Dove	1 st Jan
41	Barn Owl	1 st Jan
42	Kingfisher	1 st Jan
43	Green Woodpecker	1 st Jan
44	Magpie	1 st Jan
45	Jackdaw	1 st Jan
46	Rook	1 st Jan
47	Carrion Crow	1 st Jan
48	Goldcrest	1 st Jan
49	Blue Tit	1 st Jan
50	Great Tit	1 st Jan
51	Sky Lark	1 st Jan

52	Cetti's Warbler	1 st Jan
53	Long-tailed Tit	1 st Jan
54	Chiffchaff	1 st Jan
55	Treecreeper	1 st Jan
56	Wren	1 st Jan
57	Starling	1 st Jan
58	Blackbird	1 st Jan
59	Fieldfare	1 st Jan
60	Song Thrush	1 st Jan
61	Redwing	1 st Jan
62	Robin	1 st Jan
63	Stonechat	1 st Jan
64	Dunnock	1 st Jan
65	House Sparrow	1 st Jan
66	Tree Sparrow	1 st Jan
67	Grey Wagtail	1 st Jan
68	Pied Wagtail	1 st Jan
69	Meadow Pipit	1 st Jan
70	Chaffinch	1 st Jan
71	Goldfinch	1 st Jan
72	Siskin	1 st Jan
73	Linnet	1 st Jan
74	Yellowhammer	1 st Jan
75	Reed Bunting	1 st Jan
76	Corn Bunting	1 st Jan
77	Wigeon	2 nd Jan
78	Great Skua	2 nd Jan
79	Arctic Skua	2 nd Jan
80	Raven	2 nd Jan
81	Jay	2 nd Jan
82	Coal Tit	2 nd Jan
83	Firecrest	2 nd Jan
84	Rock Pipit	2 nd Jan
85	Shoveler	3 rd Jan
86	Tufted Duck	3 rd Jan
87	Lapwing	3 rd Jan
88	Green Sandpiper	3 rd Jan
89	Little Gull	3 rd Jan
90	Bearded Tit	3 rd Jan
91	Water Rail	4 th Jan
92	Blackcap	5 th Jan
93	Bullfinch	6 th Jan
94	Tawny Owl	7 th Jan
95	Mandarin	8 th Jan
96	Great Spotted Woodpecker	8 th Jan
97	Woodcock	9 th Jan
98	Nuthatch	9 th Jan
99	Mistle Thrush	9 th Jan
100	Marsh Tit	9 th Jan
101	Greenfinch	9 th Jan
102	Goosander	10 th Jan
103	Lesser Black-backed Gull	11 th Jan
104	Little Owl	11 th Jan
105	Oystercatcher	15 th Jan
106	Eider	16 th Jan

107	Peregrine	16 th Jan
108	White-fronted Goose	17 th Jan
109	Red-breasted Merganser	17 th Jan
110	Pochard	18 th Jan
111	Shag	18 th Jan
112	Ringed Plover	18 th Jan
113	Black Redstart	18 th Jan
114	Razorbill	19 th Jan
115	Marsh Harrier	20 th Jan
116	Gadwall	22 nd Jan
117	Greylag Goose	23 rd Jan
118	Velvet Scoter	26 th Jan
119	Red-legged Partridge	30 th Jan

February

120	Egyptian Goose	3 rd Feb
121	Brambling	3 rd Feb
122	Black-throated Diver	25 th Feb

March

123	Pintail	9 th Mar
124	Black-tailed Godwit	9 th Mar
125	Dunlin	9 th Mar
126	Grey Plover	19 th Mar
127	Slavonian Grebe	20 th Mar
128	Wood Lark	21 st Mar
129	Wheatear	22 nd Mar
130	Sandwich Tern	23 rd Mar
131	Swallow	23 rd Mar
132	Red Kite	25 th Mar
133	Short-eared Owl	30 th Mar
134	Long-eared Owl	30 th Mar
135	Willow Warbler	30 th Mar
136	House Martin	31 st Mar

April

137	Common Tern	2 nd Apr
138	Osprey	2 nd Apr
139	Reed Warbler	3 rd Apr
140	Black Kite	3 rd Apr
141	Sedge Warbler	7 th Apr
142	Whitethroat	7 th Apr
143	Sand Martin	7 th Apr
144	Common Crane	7 th Apr
145	Yellow Wagtail	8 th Apr
146	Ring Ouzel	11 th Apr
147	Little Tern	11 th Apr
148	Bar-tailed Godwit	11 th Apr
149	Whimbrel	11 th Apr
150	Redstart	12 th Apr
151	Lesser Whitethroat	13 th Apr
152	Grey Partridge	16 th Apr

153	Serin	17 th Apr
154	Swift	18 th Apr
155	Nightingale	19 th Apr
156	Cuckoo	19 th Apr
157	Grasshopper Warbler	21 st Apr
158	Hooded Crow	23 rd Apr
159	Common Sandpiper	24 th Apr
160	Hobby	24 th Apr
161	Whinchat	26 th Apr
162	Manx Shearwater	29 th Apr

May

163	Garden Warbler	1 st May
164	Avocet	5 th May
165	Pomarine Skua	5 th May
166	Arctic Tern	6 th May
167	Garganey	6 th May
168	Spotted Flycatcher	6 th May
169	Tree Pipit	8 th May
170	Red-rumped Swallow	8 th May
171	Lesser Redpoll	9 th May
172	Greenshank	10 th May
173	Black Tern	10 th May
174	Common Crossbill	14 th May
175	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	20 th May
176	Honey Buzzard	28 th May

August

177	Wryneck	23 rd Aug
178	Wood Warbler	24 th Aug
179	Pied Flycatcher	25 th Aug

September

180	Golden Plover	18 th Sep
181	Yellow-browed Warbler	18 th Sep
182	Ring-necked Parakeet	19 th Sep
183	Hen Harrier	27 th Sep

October

184	Great Grey Shrike	8 th Oct
185	Dartford Warbler	26 th Oct

November

186	Little Auk	3 rd Nov
187	Whooper Swan	6 th Nov
188	Goldeneye	7 th Nov
189	Knot	7 th Nov
190	Snow Bunting	24 th Nov
191	Yellow-legged Gull	26 th Nov
192	Caspian Gull	26 th Nov

193 Forster's Tern
194 Dipper

26th Nov
29th Nov

December

195 Cattle Egret

3rd Dec



Cattle Egret at Samphire Hoe – the final addition to the year list (Paul Holt)

New species for Folkestone and Hythe in 2016

Forster's Tern was added to the Folkestone and Hythe list in 2016, which increased it to 300 species. An account of this record is given below.

Forster's Tern at Princes Parade 26th November 2016

(Ian Roberts, Brian Harper, Phil Smith *et al*)

Status:

Breeds in North America, with two discrete populations, one in the prairies of Canada and the USA which migrate extensively overland towards the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico, and the other along the eastern and southern USA seaboard from Maryland to Texas, with migratory birds following the coasts south. Winters in the southern USA (north to California and Virginia), through Mexico south to Guatemala.

There had been 20 previous records in Britain to the end of 2015, most recently in 2003, but only one had occurred in Kent, at Margate in October 1986. Birds have been found in Britain between August and May, but must have been located in late autumn or winter.



Forster's Tern at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Circumstances of the find:

At about 10:15 on the 26th November 2016 I was driving back from Sandgate, where I had been photographing a Caspian Gull and a Yellow-legged Gull on the beach, heading west along Princes Parade when I noticed a tern flying towards me along the beach.

I assumed it was going to be a late Sandwich Tern but as it flew past it looked too small for that species so I began to think about the other possibilities - there had been an exceptionally late Common Tern at Ramsgate recently and of course a Forster's Tern in Essex.

After a hasty three-point turn I caught up with it again, drove on a little ahead and jumped out with camera at the ready. As it approached I could clearly see the distinctive 'bandit mask' characteristic of Forster's Tern! I was very relieved to be able to secure some record shots in case it quickly disappeared but fortunately it turned back towards Hythe and appeared to be feeding happily along the strand. I put the news out and kept the bird in view as I waited for people to arrive.

A couple of times it strayed as far as Hythe and was nearly lost to view but thankfully it doubled back and then landed on the beach right in front of me, which is where it was when Brian Harper and Phil Smith arrived. They were the first of many who were able to enjoy excellent views of the bird as it spent the four hours or so feeding along the beach and roosting on the shingle. Some excellent photographs were obtained as were a couple of clips of video footage (which can be found under the 'Sound & video recordings' section of the website).

At around 14:30 it headed off eastwards towards Folkestone and there have been no further sightings to date.



Forster's Tern at Princes Parade (Phil Smith)

Description of the bird:

Head: The bill was completely black and rather long. The head was mostly white apart from the obvious black 'bandit mask' and some faint streaking on the crown, particularly towards the rear.

Upperparts: The mantle was grey and the rump white. The upperwings were grey with darker primary tips, a faint dark carpal bar and some dark markings on the primary coverts. The underwings were white with darker primary tips. The tail was grey with darker tips to the outer tail feathers.

Underparts: The underparts were clean white. Legs red.

It was presumably the same bird as one seen in Essex between the 19th and the 20th November 2016.



Forster's Tern at Princes Parade (Phil Smith)



Forster's Tern at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)

Ringing recoveries

Details of birds ringed elsewhere and recovered in the Folkestone and Hythe area are given here. The code of the metal ring and colour rings are provided on the left. The distances and directions travelled are in relation to the ringing site in all cases.

The highlights in 2016 were a Black-headed Gull from the Czech Republic, a Common Gull from Norway and Great Black-backed Gulls from Norway and Normandy.

I am grateful to Glenn Tutton for passing on details of the Black-headed Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, to Nigel Webster for passing on details of the Mediterranean and Common Gulls, to John Tomlinson for passing on details of a Herring Gull, to Paul Roper of the North Thames Gull Group for providing details of a Great Black-backed Gull and two Herring Gulls, to Nils Helge Lorentzen for providing details of a Great Black-backed Gull and to Gilles Le Guillou of the Groupe Ornithologique Normand for providing details of two Great Black-backed Gulls.

Four of six Stonechats which were colour-ringed at Samphire Hoe in 2015 by the East Kent Wildlife Group remain at the site and there had been no sightings of any of these birds elsewhere up until the end of 2016. The female photographed whilst being ringed and featured in last year's report (with the 'green over black' ring combination) remains faithful to a very specific part of Samphire Hoe, thus demonstrating a remarkable site fidelity.

Please continue to report sightings of these Stonechats, making a note of the position and order of the rings, the date and location, by either picking up a form from the Rangers' Office at Samphire Hoe or by emailing pwjfindley@hotmail.com.

Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
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Yellow WA22	Ringed	23-Apr-2016	Adult	Ostrava, Czech Republic	
	Read in field	01-Jun-2016	Adult	Ostrava, Czech Republic	0km
	Read in field	03-Aug-2016	Adult	Princes Parade	1,226km W

Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>
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FS73964	Ringed	26-Jan-2013	Adult	Le Portel, Pas-de-Calais	
Green R63R	Read in field	08-Apr-2013	Adult	Antwerp, Belgium	202km ENE
	Read in field	22-Jul-2013	Adult	Outreau, Pas-de-Calais	4km E
	Then seen in Outreau/Le Portel area on several dates to				
	Read in field	23-Aug-2013	Adult	Le Portel, Pas-de-Calais	0km
	Read in field	11-Aug-2014	Adult	Le Portel, Pas-de-Calais	0km
	Read in field	15-Aug-2014	Adult	Le Portel, Pas-de-Calais	0km
	Read in field	21-Mar-2015	Adult	Antwerp, Belgium	202km ENE
	Read in field	28-Mar-2015	Adult	Antwerp, Belgium	202km ENE
	Read in field	31-Mar-2015	Adult	Antwerp, Belgium	202km ENE
	Read in field	12-Oct-2015	Adult	Audresselles, Pas-de-Calais	13km N
	Read in field	08-Jan-2016	Adult	Princes Parade	52km NW
EZ09722	Ringed	05-May-2015	Adult	Copt Point	
	Read in field	09-Jan-2016	Adult	Princes Parade	8km WSW

Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>
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5150086	Ringed	10-Jul-2013	Juvenile	Karmøy, Rogaland, Norway	
White JX63	Read in field	23-Aug-2016	Adult	Princes Parade	955km SSE

Lesser Black-backed Gull					<i>Larus fuscus</i>	
FH41172	Ringed	12-Mar-2016	Adult	Pitsea, Essex		
Orange H5CT	Read in field	29-Jul-2016	Adult	Hythe	68km	SSE
Herring Gull					<i>Larus argentatus</i>	
GR75609	Ringed	05-Oct-2013	1 st -year	Pitsea, Essex		
Orange H4HT	Read in field	08-Jan-2014	1 st -year	Dannes, Pas-de-Calais	132km	SSE
	Read in field	16-Jan-2014	1 st -year	Blaringhem, Nord, France	163km	SE
	Read in field	21-Feb-2014	1 st -year	Calais, Pas-de-Calais	115km	SE
	Read in field	21-Nov-2014	1 st -year	Le Portel, Pas-de-Calais	120km	SSE
	Read in field	25-Nov-2014	2 nd -year	Boulogne, Pas-de-Calais	120km	SSE
	Read in field	10-Oct-2015	3 rd -year	Walmer, Kent	74km	SE
	Read in field	08-Jan-2016	3 rd -year	Boulogne, Pas-de-Calais	120km	SSE
	Read in field	13-Apr-2016	3 rd -year	Deal, Kent	73km	SE
	Read in field	16-Jul-2016	4 th -year	Seabrook	69km	SSE
GR15329	Ringed	19-Mar-2011	4 th -year	Pitsea, Essex		
Orange ST8T	Read in field	19-Dec-2016	Adult	Folkestone Harbour	71km	SSE
GV33618	Ringed	05-Dec-2015	4 th -year	Pitsea, Essex		
Orange R7PT	Read in field	18-Dec-2015	4 th -year	Dungeness	80 km	SE
	Read in field	19-Jan-2016	4 th -year	Beddington	48 km	WSW
	Read in field	21-Dec-2016	Adult	Folkestone Harbour	71km	SSE
Great Black-backed Gull					<i>Larus marinus</i>	
3008483	Ringed	01-Jul-2009	Juvenile	Lyngdal, Norway		
Black JA559	Read in field	14-Jan-2010	1 st -year	Dungeness	880km	SSW
	Read in field	15-Jan-2011	2 nd -year	Cap-Griz-Nez, France	868km	SSW
	Read in field	04-Apr-2011	2 nd -year	Nordjylland, Denmark	184km	E
	Read in field	07-Apr-2012	3 rd -year	Beachy Head, Sussex	921km	SSW
	Read in field	01-Feb-2013	4 th -year	Boulogne, France	884km	SSW
	Read in field	25-Jan-2015	Adult	Boulogne, France	883km	SSW
	Read in field	05-Jun-2015	Adult	Lindesnes, Norway	12km	E
	Read in field	05-Jul-2015	Adult	Lindesnes, Norway	12km	E
	Read in field	02-Jan-2016	Adult	Folkestone Harbour	858km	SSW
DB117944	Ringed	01-Jul-2015	Juvenile	Ilot du Ratier, Normandy		
Black 65U	Read in field	23-Nov-2015	1 st -year	St Aubin, Seine-Maritime	74km	NE
	Read in field	11-Jan-2016	1 st -year	Princes Parade	196km	NNE
White A7SW	Ringed	30-Jun-2011	2 nd -year	Dover		
	Read in field	25-Aug-2012	3 rd -year	Seabrook	14km	SW
	Read in field	01-Mar-2016	Adult	Folkestone Harbour	10km	SW
DB115361	Ringed	02-Jul-2012	Juvenile	Le Harve, Normandy		
Black 80L	Read in field	29-Aug-2013	2 nd -year	Guernsey	196km	W
	Read in field	02-Sep-2014	3 rd -year	Looe Island, Cornwall	340km	WNW
	Read in field	04-Nov-2015	4 th -year	Folkestone Harbour	192km	NE
	Read in field	18-Dec-2015	4 th -year	Princes Parade	190km	NE
	Read in field	23-Aug-2016	Adult	Princes Parade	190km	NE

MA30155	Ringed	15-Oct-2015	1 st -year	Pitsea, Essex	
Orange M2ST	Read in field	21-Dec-2016	1 st -year	Folkestone Harbour	71km SSE



Black-headed Gull ringed in the Czech Republic (Glenn Tutton)

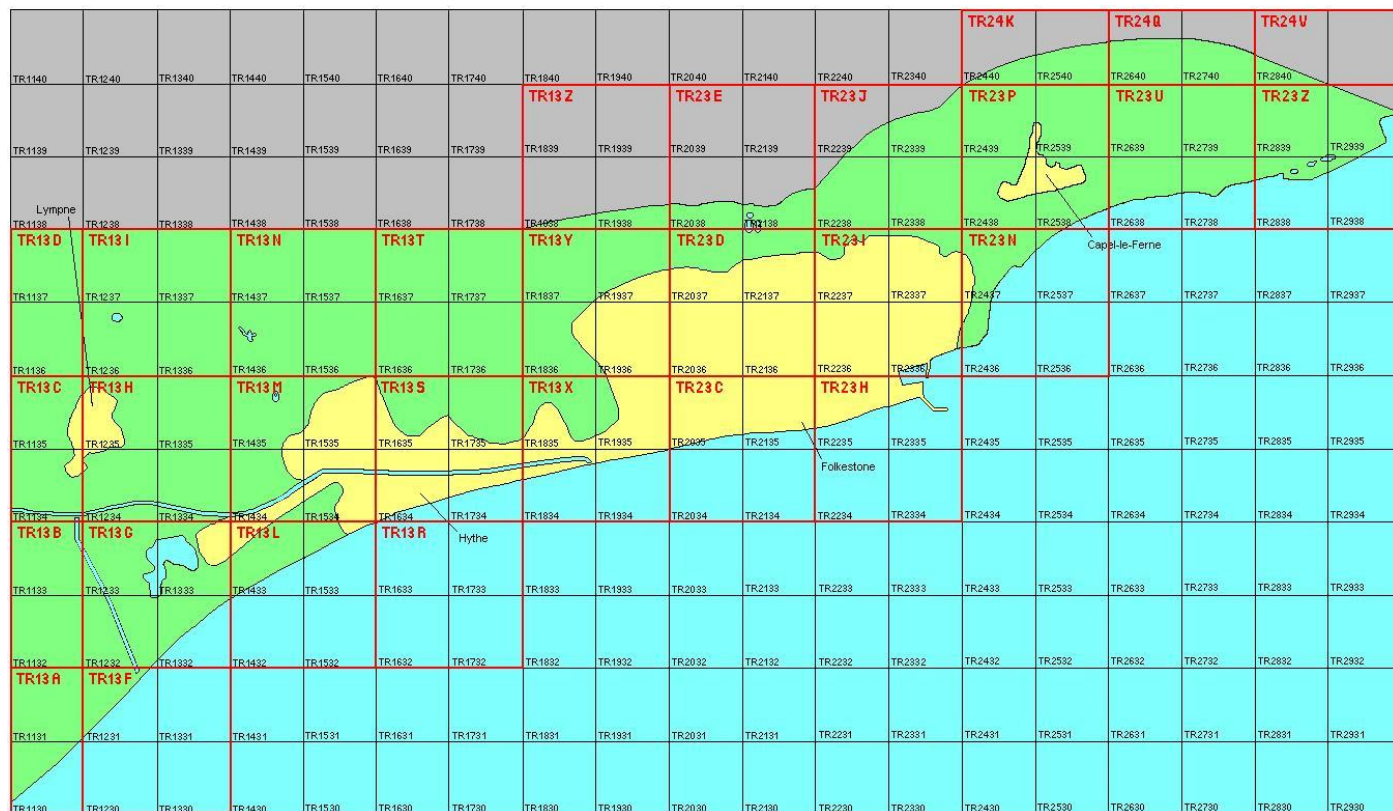


Colour-ringed Stonechat at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith) – ‘green over black’, ringed at Samphire Hoe on the 18th October 2015 and still present in December 2016

The Folkestone and Hythe area

The Folkestone and Hythe area includes most of the 10km squares TR13 and TR23, though excludes the western half of the first 'column' of 2km tetrads in TR13 and the most northern 'row' of 2km tetrads, and it also includes a small component of the most southerly part of TR24, as shown in the map below.

It therefore extends from the Willop Outfall and Basin in the south-west to Folkestone Racecourse, Westenhanger in the north-west to Samphire Hoe in the east, and excludes Dymchurch, Sellindge, Hawkinge and Dover.



Gazetteer

The locations mentioned in this report are listed below together with the 2km square(s) or tetrad(s) in which they are located. The tetrads which form the Folkestone and Hythe area can be found on the map on the preceding page.

A map of some of the major sites listed together with the tetrads and 1km squares is available via Google maps on the 'where to watch' section of the website: www.folkestonebirds.com/wheretowatch.htm.

Site	Tetrad
Abbotscliffe	TR23 U / TR23 Z
Bargrove Wood	TR13 T
Bartholomew Street (Hythe)	TR13 M
Bartholomew's Wood (Postling Wents)	TR13 N
Battery Point (Seabrook)	TR13 X
Beachborough Lakes	TR13 T
Blackhouse Hill	TR13 S
Blackhouse Hill (Water Mill)	TR13 S
Blackhouse Ridge (Hythe)	TR13 S
Bluehouse Wood	TR13 N
Botolph's Bridge	TR13 G
Brockhill Country Park	TR13 M
Browning Place (Folkestone)	TR23 I
Butcher's Wood (Westenhanger)	TR13 I
Capel-le-Ferne	TR23 P
Capel-le-Ferne Café	TR23 P
Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site	TR23 N / TR23 P
Castle Hill	TR23 D / TR23 E
Cheriton	TR13 Y / TR23 D
Cherry Garden Reservoirs	TR23 D / TR23 E
Chesterfield Wood (Saltwood)	TR13 N
Church Hougham	TR23 U / TR24 Q
Cinderella Farm (Palmarsh)	TR13 G
Copt Point	TR23 N
Crete Road East	TR23 I / TR23 J
Creteway Down	TR23 J
Cowtye Wood	TR13 N
Donkey Street	TR13 B
East Cliff Gardens (Folkestone)	TR23 I
Enbrook Park (Sandgate)	TR23 C
Fairmead Farm (Westenhanger)	TR13 I
Fisherman's Beach (Hythe)	TR13 L
Folkestone	TR23 C / TR23 D / TR23 H / TR23 I
Folkestone Beach	TR13 H
Folkestone Downs	TR23 I / TR23 J
Folkestone Harbour	TR13 H / TR13 I
Folkestone Leas	TR23 C / TR23 H
Folkestone Pier	TR23 H
Folkestone Racecourse (Westenhanger)	TR13 I
Folkestone Rugby Club	TR13 T

Site	Tetrad
Folkestone Sands	TR23 I
Folkestone Warren	TR23 N / TR23 P
Folkestone West station (Cheriton)	TR23 D
Folks' Wood (Pedlinge)	TR23 H
Frogholt	TR13 T
Heane Wood (Saltwood)	TR13 N
Hillhurst Farm (Westenhanger)	TR13 I
Hythe	TR13 M / TR13 S
Hythe (Aldi)	TR13 S
Hythe Imperial golf course	TR13 S
Hythe Ranges	TR13 G / TR13 L
Hythe Redoubt	TR13 G (/TR13 F for records on sea)
Hythe Roughs	TR13 H / TR13 M
Hythe seafront	TR13 S
Ingles Manor (Folkestone)	TR23 C
Kiln Wood (Pedlinge)	TR13 I
Little Dibgate Wood	TR13 T
Lympne	TR13 H
Lympne Castle	TR13 C
Lympne Park Wood	TR13 C / TR13 H
Morehall Avenue (Cheriton)	TR23 D
Mill Point	TR23 C / TR23 H
Mill Road (Hythe)	TR13 S
Nickolls Quarry	TR13 G
Palmarsh	TR13 G
Paraker Wood (Seabrook)	TR13 X
Peene Quarry	TR13 Z
Perry Wood (Westenhanger)	TR13 I
Pleydell Gardens (Folkestone)	TR23 H
Portland Road (Hythe)	TR13 M
Postling Wents	TR13 N
Princes Parade	TR13 S / TR13 X
Radnor Park (Folkestone)	TR23 I
Round Down	TR23 Z
Saltwood	TR13 M
Saltwood Castle	TR13 S
Samphire Hoe	TR23 Z
Sandgate	TR23 C
Sandling Station	TR13 N
Seabrook	TR13 X
Segrave Road (Folkestone)	TR23 I
Shorncliffe Camp	TR13 X
Shorncliffe Road (Folkestone)	TR23 D
Sir John Moore Avenue (Hythe)	TR13 M
Stade Street (Hythe)	TR13 S
Stutfall Castle (West Hythe)	TR13 C

Site	Tetrad
Sugarloaf Hill	TR23 I
Summerhouse Hill	TR13 T
The Fountain (Seabrook)	TR13 X
Tumble Tye Farm (Capel-le-Ferne)	TR24 K
Twiss Avenue (Hythe)	TR13 S
Twiss Road (Hythe)	TR13 S
Wear Bay Crescent (Folkestone)	TR23 I
West Hythe	TR13 H
West Parade (Hythe)	TR13 M / TR13 S
Willop Basin	TR13 A
Willop Outfall	TR13 A
Willop Sewage Works	TR13 A / TR13 B



Mute Swans leaving roost at Nickolls Quarry at sunrise (Brian Harper)

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