

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

Category A

Rare migrant and winter visitor.

35 records

Breeds across eastern Europe into Asia, and in North America. After breeding most disperse to tidal water.

The principal wintering areas are the coasts of Norway and Britain to the Bay of Biscay, and Baltic and Caspian Seas, with lesser numbers reaching the Black Sea and northern Mediterranean (Snow & Perrins, 1998).



Red-necked Grebe at Sandgate (Ian Roberts)

It is a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor to Kent (KOS, 2020).

Ticehurst (1909) includes details of a specimen that was taken off Sandgate in the winter of 1893 but then nearly sixty years elapsed before Roger Norman saw the next at Nickolls Quarry on the 21st January 1951, however this was soon followed by another there between the 9th to 11th March 1958.

In 1967 T. Grant saw one swimming east past Seabrook on the 2nd December, whilst the 1970s produced two “still showing chestnut on the neck” seen by M. E. Upstone at Nickolls Quarry on the 23rd August 1973 and two, including one found dead, seen there by Dave Weaver on the 10th March 1979.

There were three records in both 1983 and 1985, with one in 1998, and it occurred with some regularity during the 1990s, with 14 records, including four in 1996 which is the best year to date. There has been an apparent decrease since with just eight in the last 21 years.

The records by year are shown in figure 1.

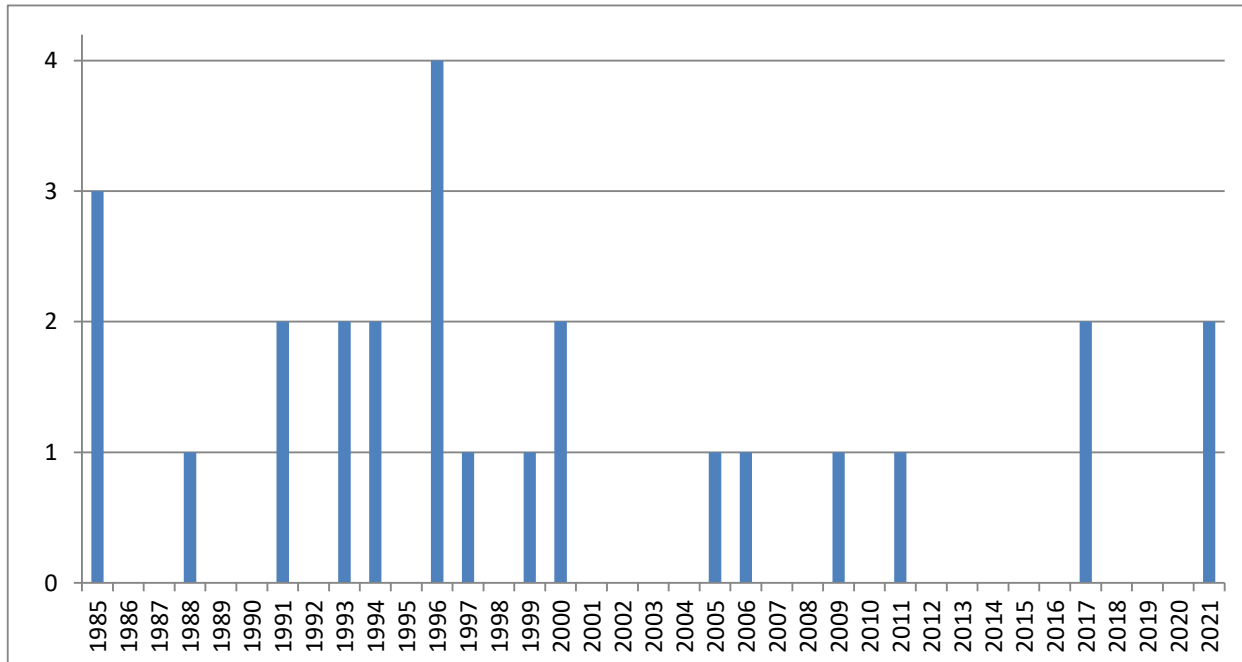


Figure 1: Red-necked Grebe records at Folkestone and Hythe since 1985

The earliest arrival date was the 23rd August (in 1973), with two records in each of September and October, and four in November. January and February have produced almost half (47%) of all sightings, with many associated with the onset of severe weather. There have been four March records and the latest was on the 7th April (2011). The records by week are given in figure 2, and there are further undated records in January and November.

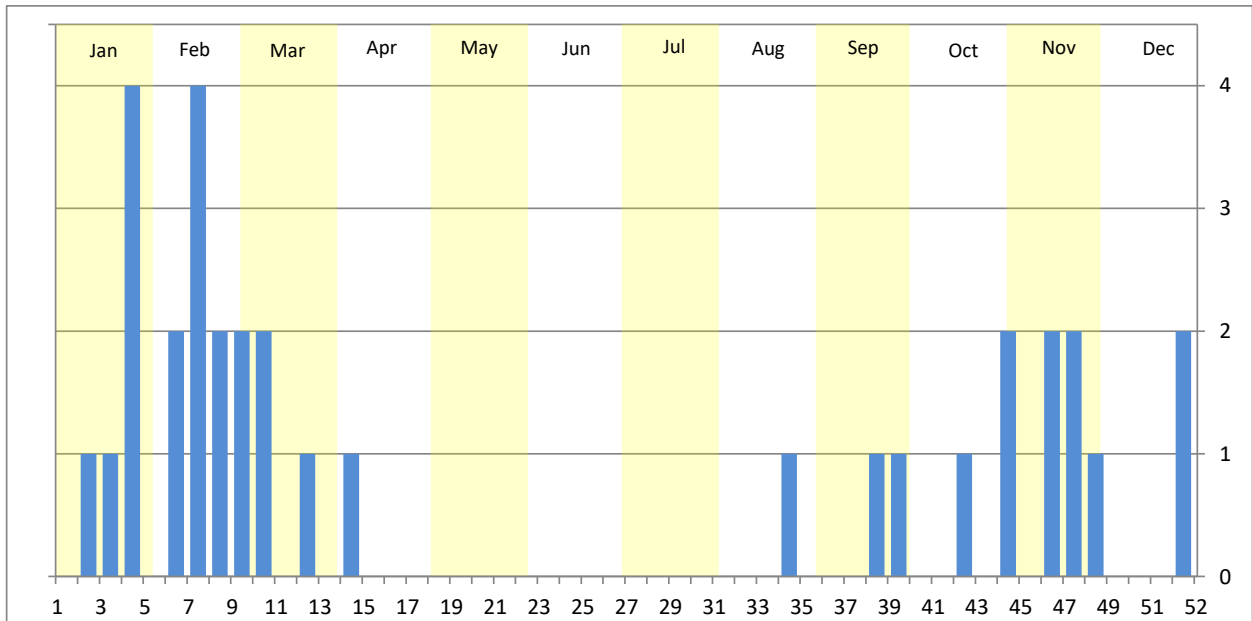


Figure 2: Red-necked Grebe records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the distribution of records by tetrad.

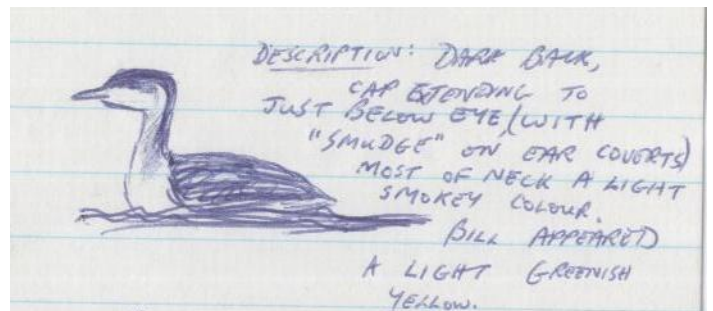


Figure 3: Distribution of all Red-necked Grebe records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

Records have been split between Nickolls Quarry (9) and coastal sites, where there have been two at Samphire Hoe, six at Copt Point and 13 in the bay between Folkestone Beach and the Dymchurch Redoubt.



Red-necked Grebe at Sandgate (B. Harper)



Red-necked Grebe at Seabrook in 1967 (T. Grant)

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1893** Sandgate, one obtained, in winter (per N. Ticehurst)
1951 Nickolls Quarry, one, 21st January (R. K. Norman)
1958 Nickolls Quarry, one, 9th to 11th March (R. K. Norman)
1967 Seabrook, one swimming east, 2nd December (T. Grant)
1973 Nickolls Quarry, two “still showing chestnut on the neck”, 23rd August (M. E. Upstone)
1979 Nickolls Quarry, two, including one found dead, 10th March (D. Weaver)
1983 Copt Point, one, 18th February (reported)
1983 Folkestone, two, 22nd February (per Kent Bird Report)
1983 Folkestone, two, 29th September (per Kent Bird Report)
1985 Copt Point, one, 13th January (reported)
1985 Nickolls Quarry, one, 16th February (R. & S. Philpott)
1985 Copt Point, two, 23rd February (reported)
1988 Sandgate, one, in January (reported)
1991 Dymchurch Redoubt, one, 15th February (R. K. Norman)
1991 Copt Point, one flew west, 31st October (D. A. Gibson)
1993 Hythe, one in partial summer plumage, 7th to 8th February (I. A. Roberts *et al*)
1993 Hythe Ranges, two flew west, 26th December (R. K. Norman)
1994 Nickolls Quarry, one, 13th November (R. K. Norman)
1994 Nickolls Quarry, one, 23rd November (R. K. Norman)
1996 Sandgate, one, 5th to 11th February (P. Howe, H. G. Brown, R. Thorogood)
1996 Copt Point, two, 14th February (D. A. Gibson)
1996 Nickolls Quarry, one, 26th February to 8th March (R. K. Norman)
1996 Sandgate, one, 19th to 21st March (P. Howe, R. Thorogood)
1997 Sandgate, one, 24th January (P. Howe)
1999 Nickolls Quarry, one, 15th October (R. K. Norman)
2000 Copt Point, one flew west, 20th September (D. A. Gibson, I. A. Roberts)
2000 Hythe Redoubt, one, 28th December (P. Haines)
2005 Samphire Hoe, one flew west, 19th November (I. A. Roberts)
2006 Mill Point, one flew east, 27th January (I. A. Roberts)
2009 Hythe, one, 24th January (D. Brown)
2011 Hythe, one, 7th April (S. McMinn)
2017 Mill Point, one on the sea, later seen off Sandgate, 4th November, photographed (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
2017 Samphire Hoe, one, 13th November (P. Holt)
2021 Seabrook, one on the sea, drifted west, 27th January (P. Howe)
2021 Folkestone Beach, one on the sea, 1st March (I. A. Roberts)

References

Kent Bird Reports. Kent Ornithological Society

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

Ticehurst, N. F. 1909. *A History of the Birds of Kent*. Witherby, London.

Acknowledgements

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