

Barred Warbler

Sylvia nisoria

Category A

Very rare vagrant.

2 records,
2 birds

World/British distribution (Snow & Perrins 1998):

Breeds across mid-latitude Europe eastwards from eastern Germany through Russia to Mongolia, and south-east through the Balkans to the Black Sea. Winters in east Africa.

Kent status (KOS 2022):

It is a rare autumn vagrant to the county.

Kent (KOS) records to end 2020: 100

The Barred Warbler was not noted in Britain until 1884 when one was shot on the Isle of Skye, but singles in Norfolk and Yorkshire followed later the same year, with another 12 by the end of the nineteenth century. It was then recorded with some regularity and in increasing numbers, with 158 logged by the end of the 1930s and there have been annual sightings since the mid-1940s (Naylor 2021). Taylor *et al.* (1981) documented the first county record at Dungeness on the 4th October 1951, with the second in 1953 and there were then almost annual sightings from 1957, with 26 in the 19 years to the end of their review period (1976).

Nationally it has continued to increase, with a mean of 143 records per annum in the 1970s, 108 per annum in the 1980s, 158 per annum in the 1990s, 172 per annum in the 2000s and 220 per annum in the 2010s (White & Kehoe (2022), but in Kent numbers increased during the 1960s (12), 1970s (17), 1980s (20) and 1990s (24), before declining in the 2000s (13) and 2010s (10) (KOS no date).

White & Kehoe noted that records have an east coast bias, with most occurring in coastal counties between Shetland and Kent, with the largest numbers in the Northern Isles. It is almost exclusively an autumn migrant to the country and all county records have occurred between August and December, with a peak between mid-August and mid-October.

The first area record involved a bird seen by Neil Frampton at West Hythe on the 30th September 1984 and the second was found by Ian Roberts at Abbotscliffe on the 9th October 2012. The records by year are shown in figure 1.

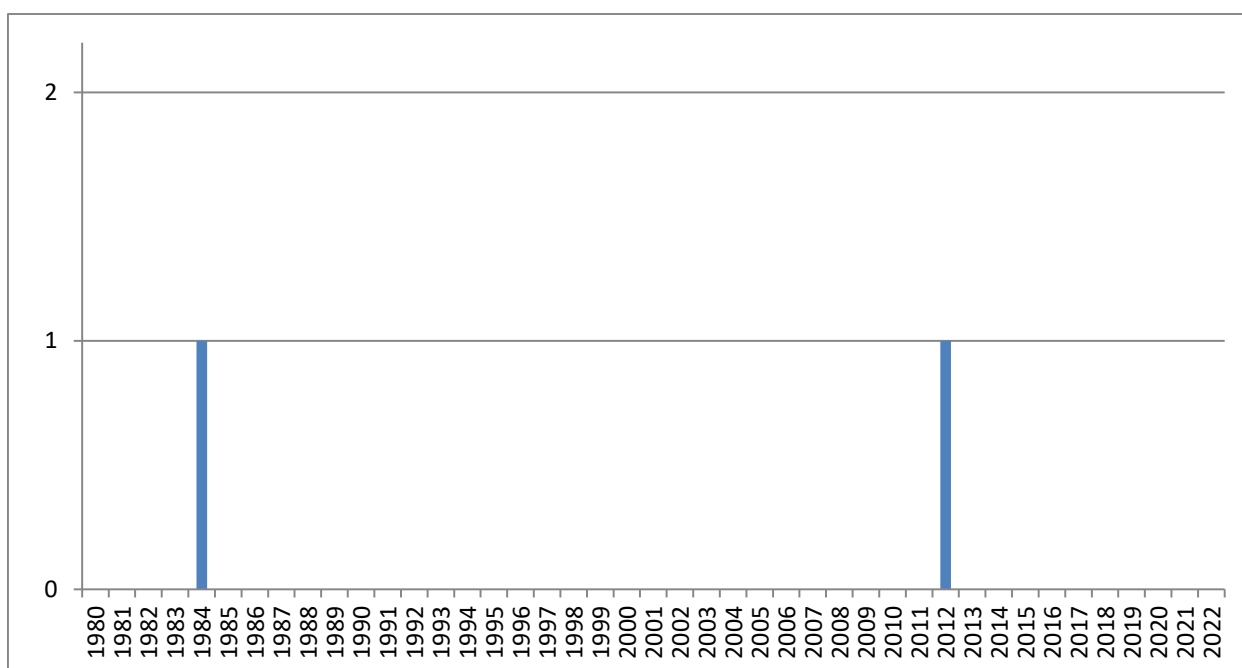


Figure 1: Barred Warbler records at Folkestone and Hythe

The records by week are given in figure 2.

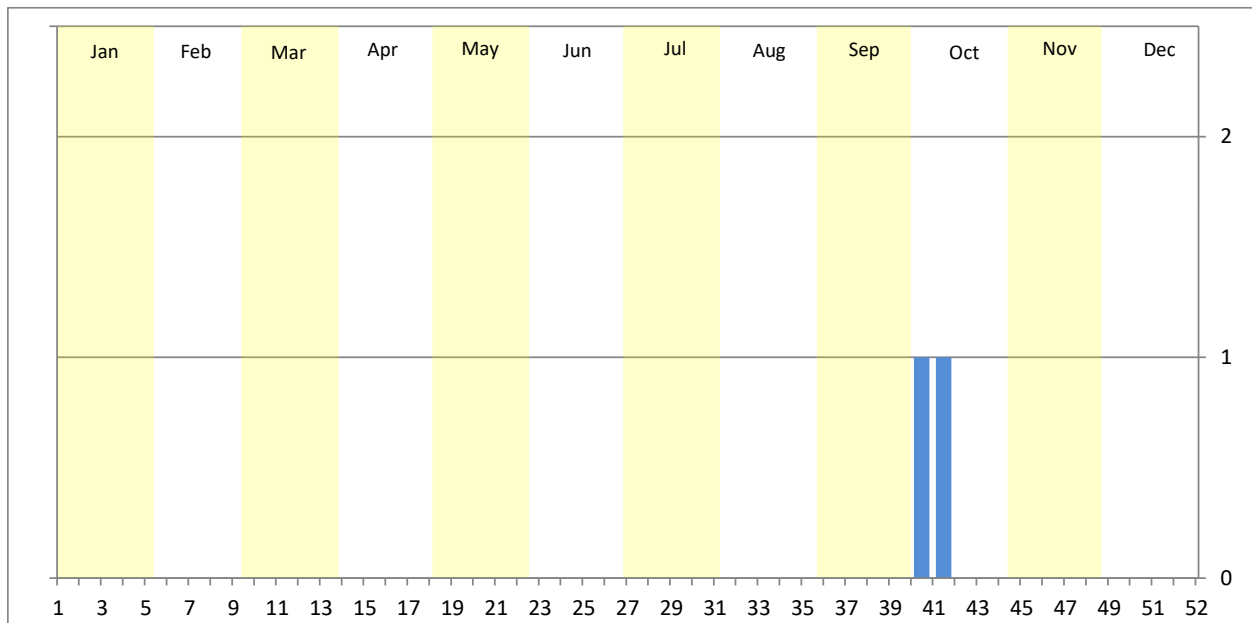


Figure 2: Barred Warbler records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the location of records by tetrad.

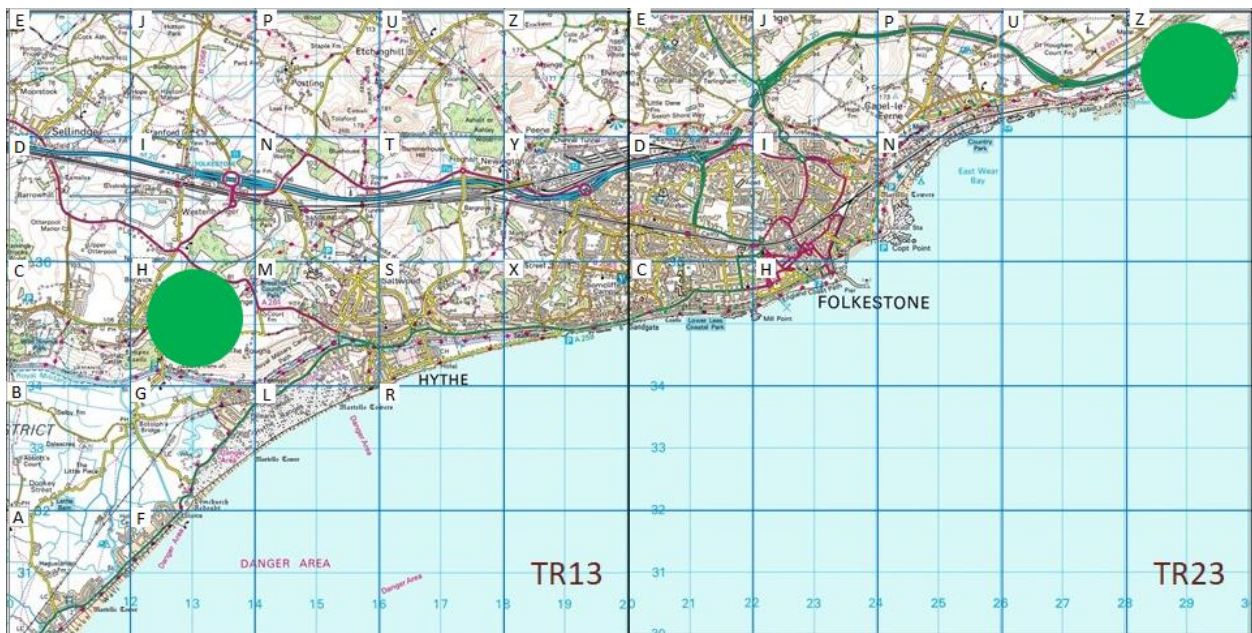


Figure 3: Distribution of all Barred Warbler records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

The full list of records is as follows:

1984 West Hythe, first-winter, 30th September (N. C. Frampton)

2012 Abbotscliffe, one, 9th October (I. A. Roberts)

References

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

Taylor, D., Davenport, D. & Flegg, J. 1981. *Birds of Kent*. Kent Ornithological Society.

White, S. & Kehoe, C. 2022. Report on scarce migrant birds in Britain in 2020. *British Birds* 115: 427-451.

Acknowledgements

The tetrad map images were produced from the Ordnance Survey [Get-a-map service](#) and are reproduced with kind permission of [Ordnance Survey](#).

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