

## Olive-backed Pipit

*Anthus hodgsoni*

Category A

Very rare vagrant.

1 record

*World/British distribution (Snow & Perrins 1998):*

Breeds from the Urals eastwards across Siberia to China, Kamchatka and Japan, south to the Himalayas. Winters widely across the Indian subcontinent, China and south-east Asia.

*Kent status (KOS 2021):*

Rare vagrant.



Olive-backed Pipit at Capel-le-Ferne (Dale Gibson)

British (BBRC) records to end 2012: 431

Kent (KOS) records to end 2020: 7

It was removed from the list of species considered as a national rarity by the British Birds Rarities Committee (Hudson *et al.* 2013) at the end of 2012 when a total of 431 had been logged, including a record influx of 55 in 2012, with an average of 18 per annum over the final decade (Hudson *et al.* 2013).

The increase nationally has continued, with White & Kehoe (2019) giving an average of 31 per annum across the most recent decade, but it remains a very rare bird in Kent with just seven records including the local record, which was just the fourth occurrence in the county. There have been only three since, singles in 1997, 2009 and 2012. All Kent records have arrived between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October.

The sole local sighting involved one found by James Siddle at the “Orchid Field” at Capel-le-Ferne on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1992, where it remained until the 15<sup>th</sup> and was enjoyed by many observers. It was accepted and published, after a short delay, in the BBRC report for 1994 (Rogers *et al.* 1995).

The record by year is shown in figure 1.

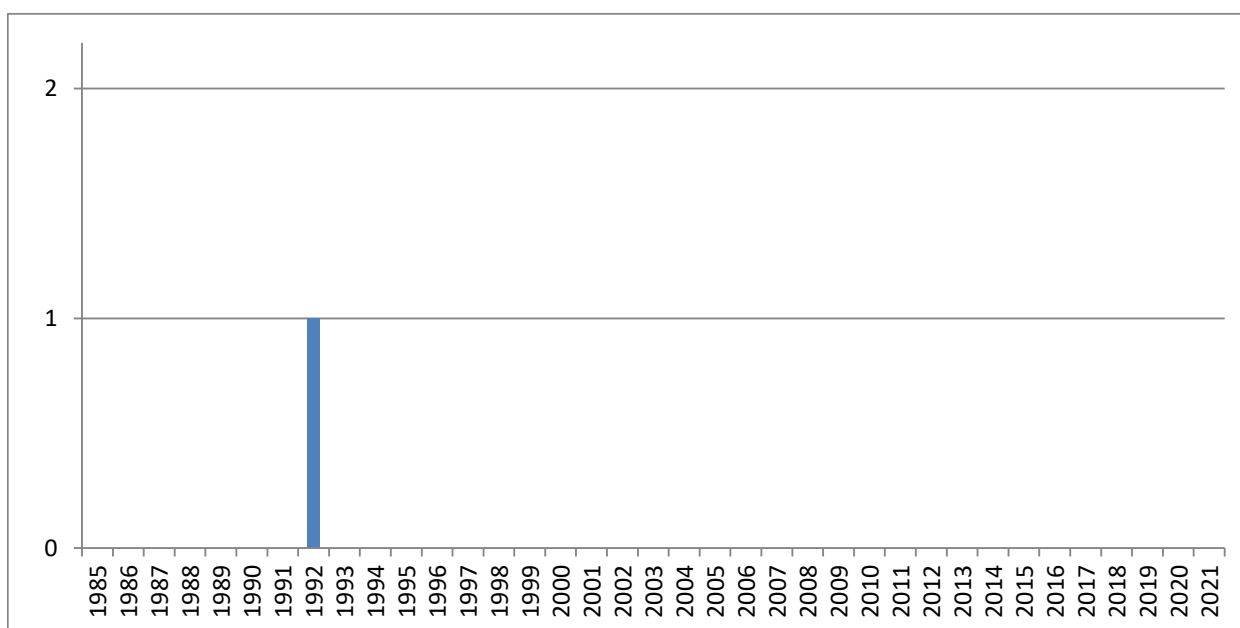


Figure 1: Olive-backed Pipit records at Folkestone and Hythe

The record by week is given in figure 2.

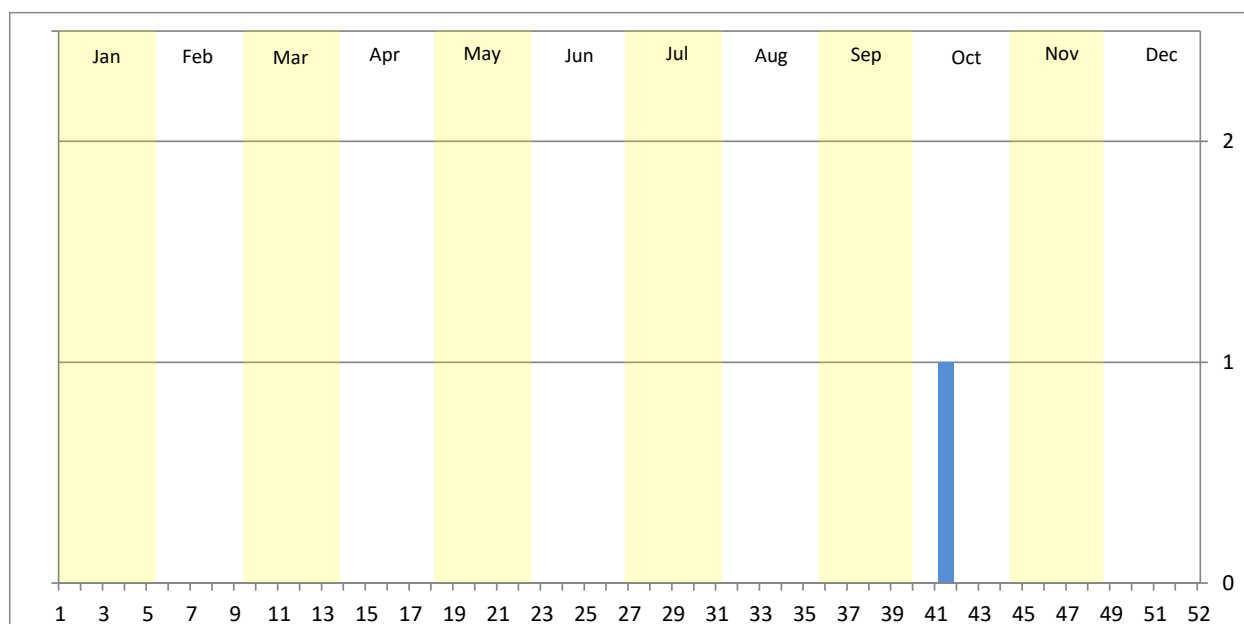


Figure 2: Olive-backed Pipit records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the location of the record by tetrad.

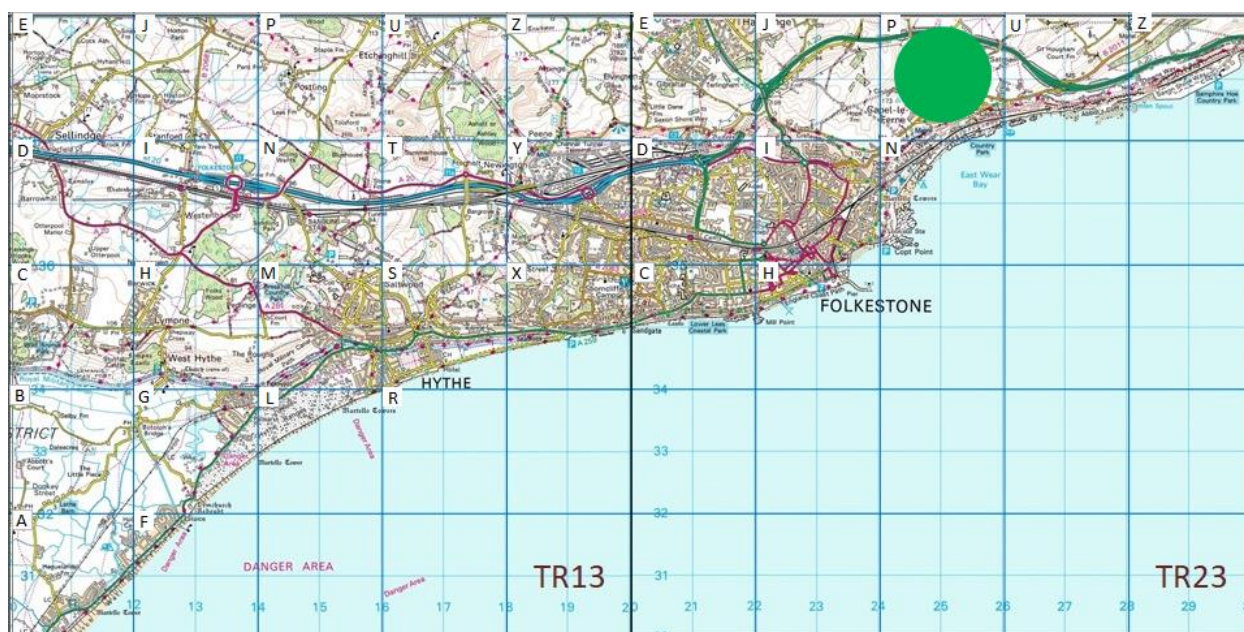


Figure 3: Distribution of all Olive-backed Pipit records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

Confirmation of the only area record is as follows:

**1992** Capel-le-Ferne Orchid Field, 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October, photographed (D. A. Gibson, J. P. Siddle *et al.*).

## References

- British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Statistics. [www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information/statistics](http://www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information/statistics) (accessed 2021).
- Hudson, N. & the Rarities Committee 2013. Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 2012. *British Birds* 106: 570-641.
- Kent Ornithological Society (KOS). 1953-2021. *Kent Bird Reports*. Kent Ornithological Society.

Kent Ornithological Society (KOS). The Kent List. <https://kentos.org.uk/index.php/recording/the-kent-list> (accessed 2021).

Rogers, M. J. & the Rarities Committee 1995. Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1994. *British Birds* 88: 493-558.

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

White, S. & Kehoe, C. 2019. Report on scarce migrant birds in Britain in 2017. *British Birds* 112: 444-468.

### ***Acknowledgements***

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