

# Pallid Harrier

*Circus macrourus*

Category A

Very rare vagrant.

1 record

Breeds from Ukraine eastwards through Russia to c.100°E and south to Kazakhstan and north-west China. Occasionally breeds in Finland. Winters throughout much of east and central Africa, and the Indian subcontinent (Snow & Perrins, 1998).

It was an exceptionally rare vagrant to Britain prior to 1993, with just three having been recorded, before that year saw an influx of five. A further two followed before 2001 saw the start of a remarkable change in status, with records in all but one year since and a total of 111 by the end of 2019 (including an arrival of 29 in 2011) (BBRC, 2021)



Pallid Harrier at Abbotscliffe (Elliot Ranford)

There had been six accepted records in Kent to the end of 2019, with one in April, one in August and four in September.

The only local record involved a juvenile that was seen at Abbotscliffe by Elliot Ranford for around 30-40 minutes on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021. It had caught a Starling but after persistent disturbance from corvids it headed off to the north.

The records by year are shown in figure 1.

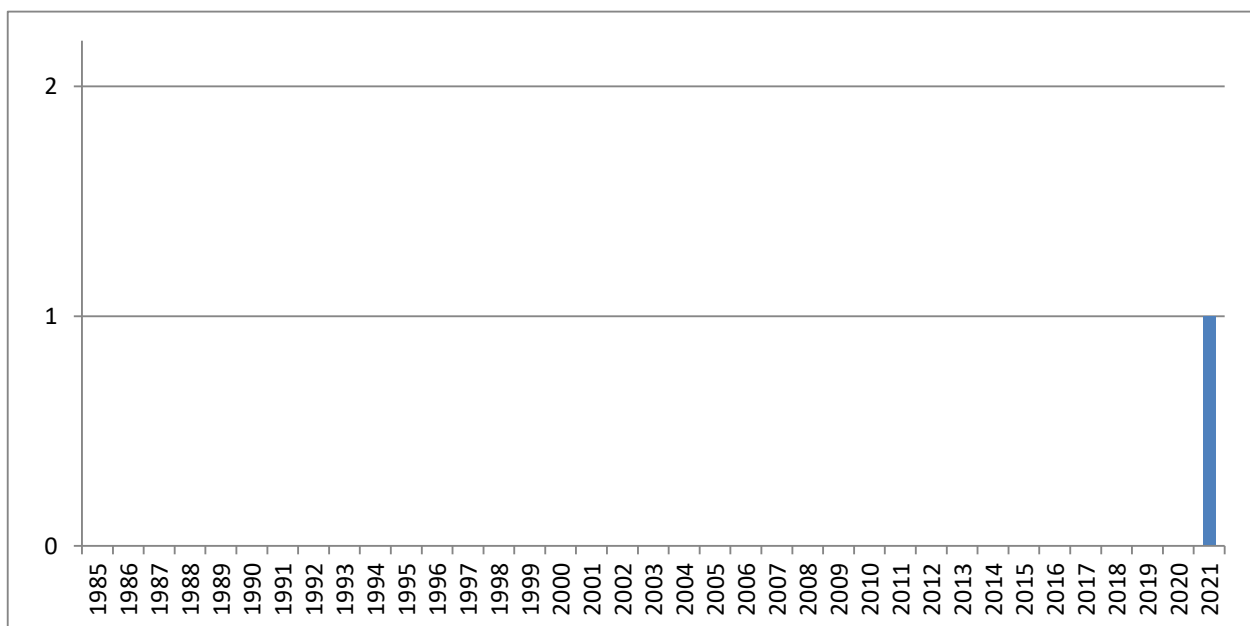


Figure 1: Pallid Harrier records at Folkestone and Hythe

The records by week are given in figure 2

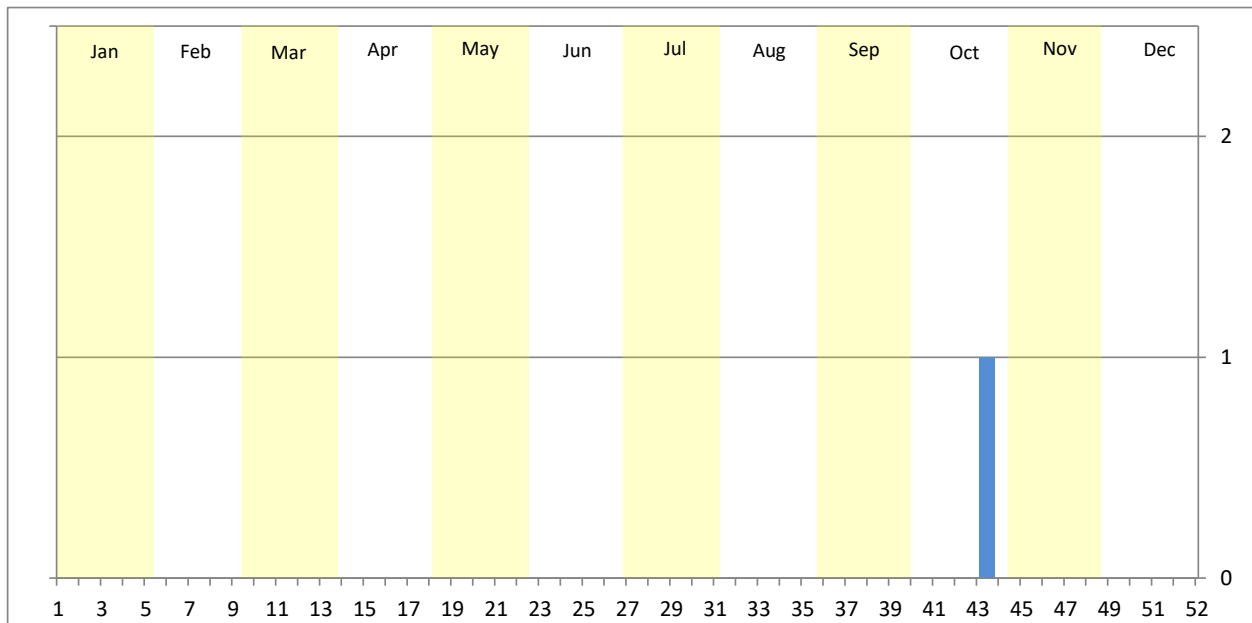


Figure 2: Pallid Harrier records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the distribution of records by tetrad.

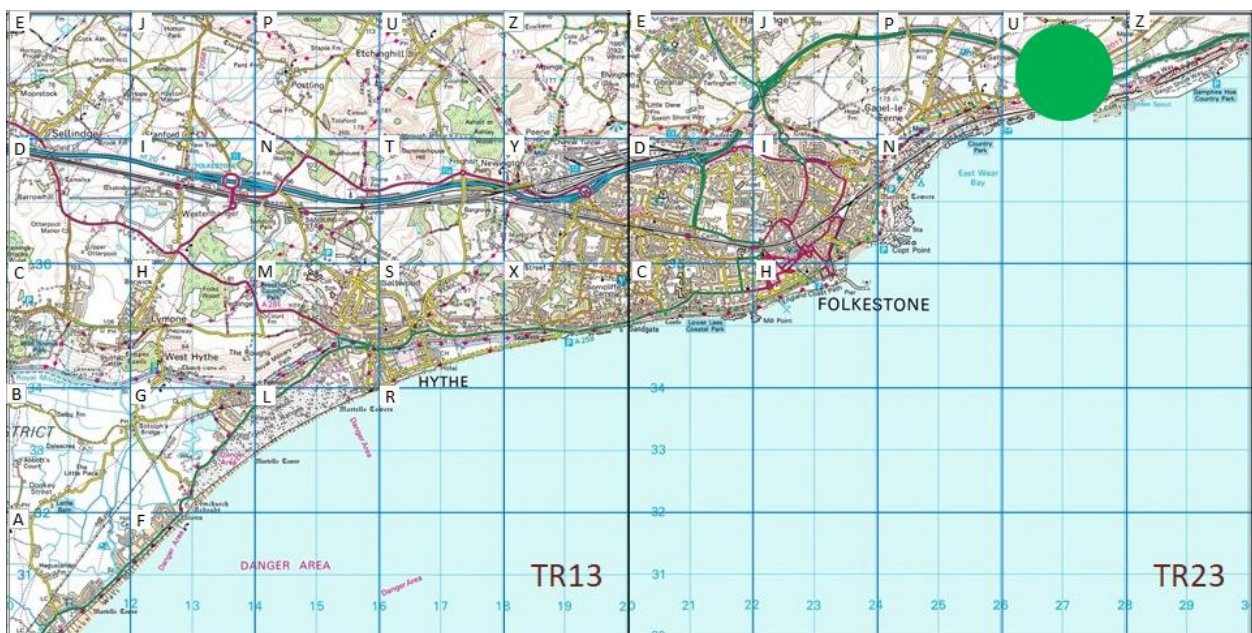


Figure 3: Distribution of all Pallid Harrier records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

Confirmation of the only area record is as follows:

**2021** Abbotscliffe, juvenile, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, photographed (E. Ranford)

**References**

BBRC statistics: <https://www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information/statistics> (accessed 2021)

Kent Bird Reports. Kent Ornithological Society

KOS Kent list: <https://kentos.org.uk/kent-list> (accessed 2021)

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

## ***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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