

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Category A

Rare migrant.

26 records,
34 birds

World/British distribution (Snow & Perrins 1998):

Breeds in subarctic tundra across northern Europe and across northern Siberia almost to the extreme east. Winters from western Europe and West Africa to south-east China. European migration is characterised by long, continuous flights between staging areas, so that over large regions it is seen only in small numbers.



Spotted Redshank at Donkey Street (Ian Roberts)

Kent status (KOS 2022):

It is mainly a passage migrant in the county, being more numerous in autumn than spring, but also winters in small numbers.

Ticehurst (1909) described the Spotted Redshank as a rare straggler in Kent in spring, with parties of up to a dozen in autumn, and referred to a single winter record. It was not included in Knight & Tolputt's "List of birds observed in Folkestone and its immediate neighbourhood" (1871). Harrison (1953) considered it to be more regular on passage and made several references to overwintering.

Taylor *et al.* (1981) found that it continued to increase and was only absent from the county for a brief period in midsummer. It was during their review period (1952-76) that the first local records occurred, when Roger Norman saw one at the "old pit" Nickolls Quarry on the 16th August 1953, followed by further singles seen by the same observer at the same site on the 4th to 5th September 1957 and 23rd March 1960, and one flying high to the south-west there on the 2nd September 1964 (Norman 2007).

A quarter of a century elapsed before the next sighting, when three were seen at by Ian Roberts at Nickolls Quarry on the 28th August 1989, but records of four at Copt Point on the 3rd July 1992, one flying over Capel-le-Ferne on the 3rd July 1995 and one flying north over Nickolls Quarry on the 11th August 1995 followed relatively soon after.

It was then recorded with some regularity at Nickolls Quarry between 1998 and 2006, with a total of 14 records in these nine years. During this time an area of shallow water, islets and mud existed at the site, which attracted a range of migrant waders, but the habitat has since been filled in and it has not been noted there since. The only sightings away from this site during this period were one flying east past Copt Point on the 7th May 2001 and two flying over Folkestone calling at night on the 10th April 2005.

It has been particularly rare since, with just two subsequent sightings: one reported on the western beach at Samphire Hoe on the 30th August 2010 and one with four Greenshank at Donkey Street on the 25th to 26th April 2021.



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The records by year are shown in figure 1.

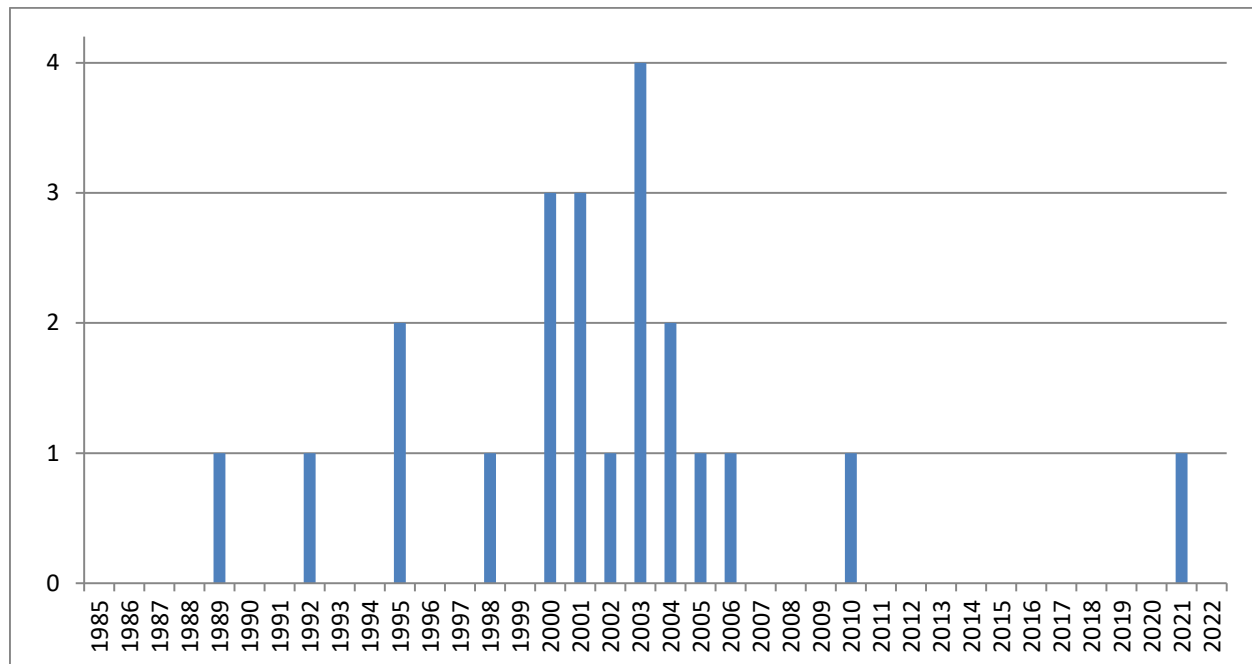


Figure 1: Spotted Redshank records at Folkestone and Hythe since 1985

The records by week are given in figure 2. The pattern of occurrence matches the description in Taylor *et al.* that spring passage usually occurs between mid-March and mid-May, followed by a mid-summer absence and then an autumn passage between mid-June and mid-November. Locally the earliest spring arrival date was the 23rd March (1960) and the latest spring sighting was the 8th May (2003). The first autumn arrival was on the 22nd June (2003) and there has only been one occurrence after early September: on the 30th October (2006). It is slightly more regular in autumn (with 58% of records), compared to spring (with 42%).

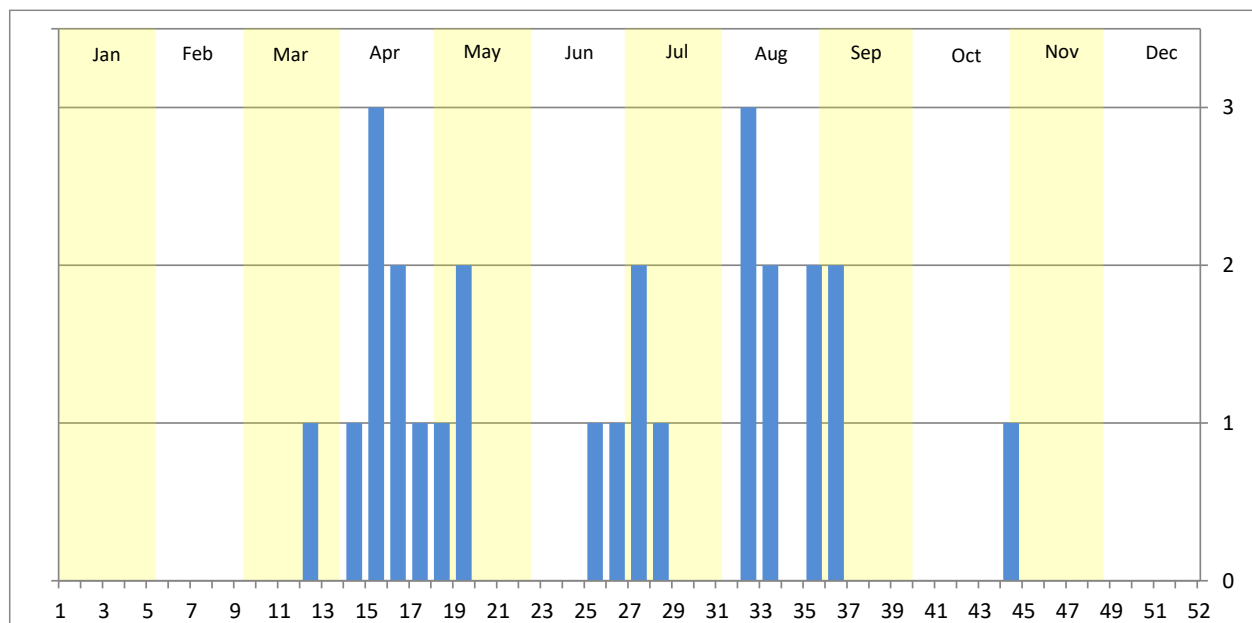


Figure 2: Spotted Redshank records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the distribution of records by tetrad. Although there have been no records at the site since 2006, Nickolls Quarry still accounts for 77% of the total occurrences.



Figure 3: Distribution of all Spotted Redshank records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1953** Nickolls Quarry, one, 16th August (R. K. Norman)
- 1957** Nickolls Quarry, one, 4th to 5th September (R. K. Norman)
- 1960** Nickolls Quarry, one, 23rd March (R. K. Norman)
- 1964** Nickolls Quarry, one flew south-west, 2nd September (R. K. Norman)
- 1989** Nickolls Quarry, three, 28th August (I. A. Roberts)
- 1992** Copt Point, four, 3rd July (D. A. Gibson)
- 1995** Capel-le-Ferne, one flew over calling, 3rd July (I. A. Roberts)
- 1995** Nickolls Quarry, one flew north, 11th August (R. K. Norman)
- 1998** Nickolls Quarry, three, 14th April (R. K. Norman)
- 2000** Nickolls Quarry, one flew north-west, 2nd April (R. K. Norman)
- 2000** Nickolls Quarry, one flew north-west, 30th April (R. K. Norman)
- 2000** Nickolls Quarry, adult, 14th July (I. A. Roberts)
- 2001** Nickolls Quarry, one, 22nd April (R. K. Norman)
- 2001** Copt Point, adult flew east with Redshank, 7th May (I. A. Roberts)
- 2001** Nickolls Quarry, one, 12th August (R. K. Norman)
- 2002** Nickolls Quarry, one, 14th April (R. K. Norman)
- 2003** Nickolls Quarry, one flew north-west, 8th May (R. K. Norman)
- 2003** Nickolls Quarry, one flew west, 22nd June (R. K. Norman)
- 2003** Nickolls Quarry, one, 27th June (R. K. Norman)
- 2003** Nickolls Quarry, one, 6th August (R. K. Norman)
- 2004** Nickolls Quarry, one, 20th April (R. K. Norman)
- 2004** Nickolls Quarry, one, 14th August (R. K. Norman)
- 2005** Folkestone, two flew over calling at night, 10th April (D. A. Gibson)
- 2006** Nickolls Quarry, one flew south-west, 30th October (R. K. Norman)
- 2010** Samphire Hoe, one, 30th August (L. Collins)
- 2021** Donkey Street, adult with four Greenshank, 25th to 26th April, photographed (I. A. Roberts, B. Harper)

References

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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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Spotted Redshank with Greenshank at Donkey Street (Ian Roberts)