

## Grey Phalarope

*Phalaropus fulicarius*

Category A

Very rare vagrant.

6 records

Breeds in the extreme north of Europe, Asia, North America and Greenland. Winters off western Africa and western South America. Migrates almost exclusively by sea routes, occurring inshore or inland only under stress of weather. Occasionally large numbers can occur off Britain and Ireland following passages of vigorous Atlantic depressions. (Snow & Perrins, 1998).



Grey Phalarope at West Hythe (Mike Terry)

It is a scarce autumn and winter migrant in Kent (KOS, 2020).

The first area record was documented in the Zoologist (1871): “last month Baillon’s Crake, three Grey Phalaropes and the Common Cormorant were taken in the Hythe Canal by Mr. F. Young – *Charles Gordon; Museum, Dover, November 24, 1870*”. Ticehurst (1909) also referred to this record and it is no doubt the basis for inclusion in Knight and Tolputt’s “List of birds observed in Folkestone and its immediate neighbourhood” (1871).

The second area record concerned one seen and “fully described” at Folkestone (East Cliff) Sands on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1966, followed by another which spent two days in the nearby Harbour from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> January 1981.

There have been three subsequent records: one flying east past at Copt Point on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2003, one on the canal at West Hythe on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and one reported on the sea off Princes Parade on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The records by year are shown in figure 1.

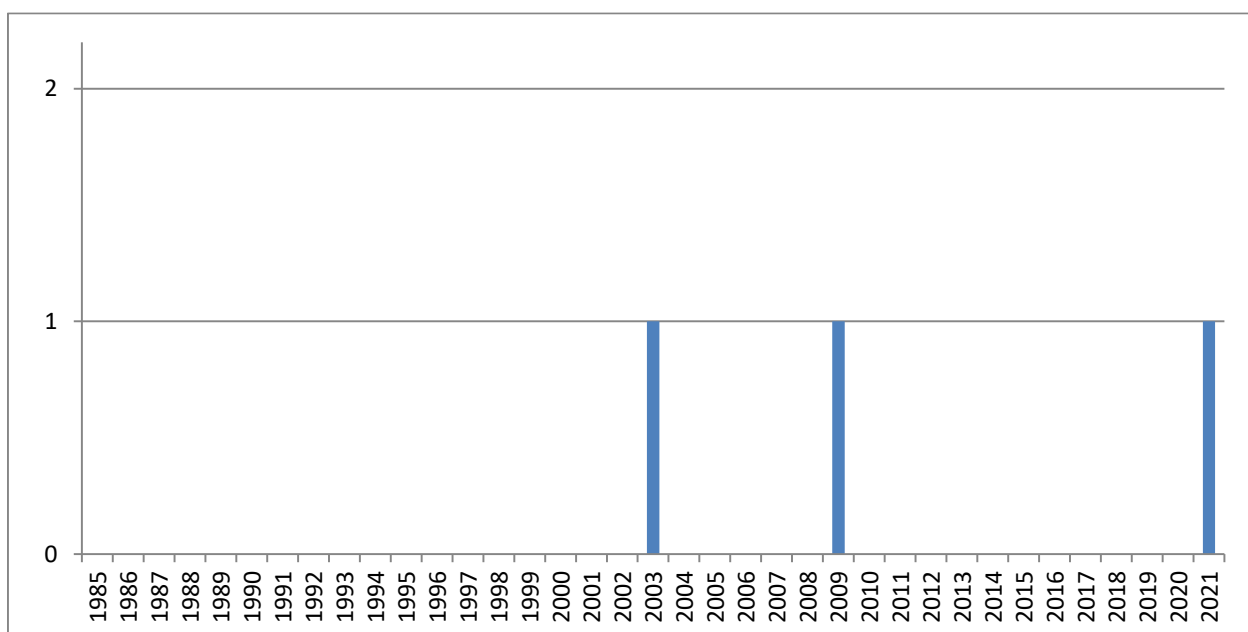


Figure 1: Grey Phalarope records at Folkestone and Hythe since 1985

The records by week are given in figure 2. All dated records have occurred between the 13<sup>th</sup> October (week 41) and the 6<sup>th</sup> January (week 1). The first area record was only given as “October”.

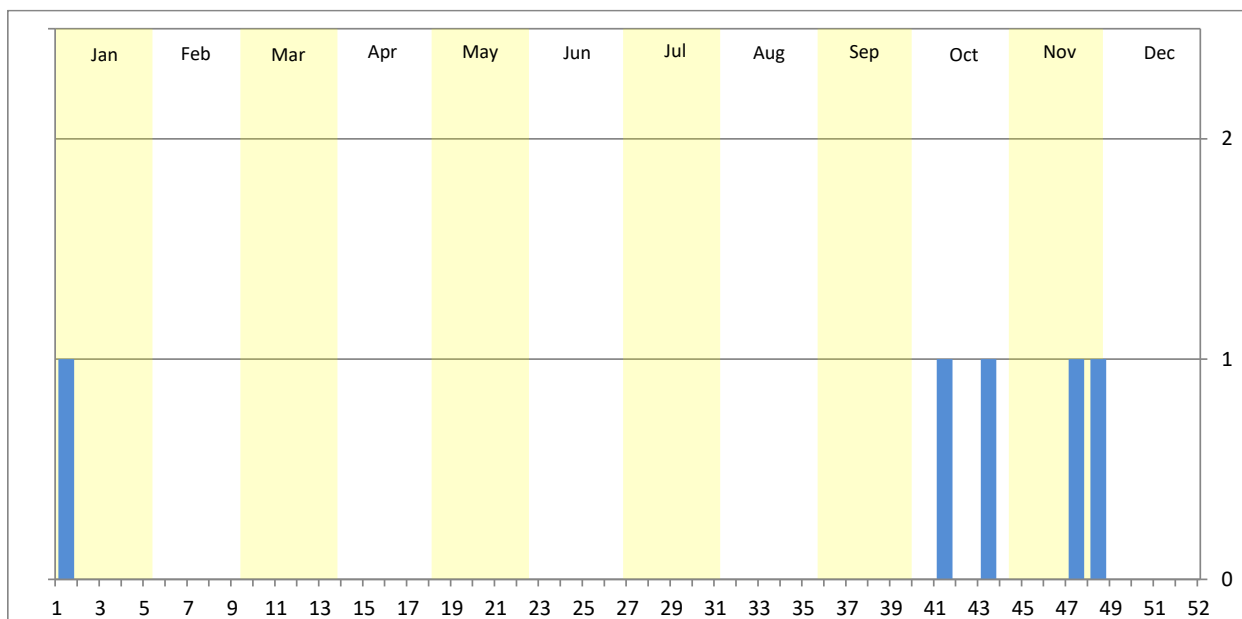


Figure 2: Grey Phalarope records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the distribution of records by tetrad.



Figure 3: Distribution of all [Species] records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1870** Hythe Canal, three shot, October (F. Young)
- 1966** Folkestone Sands, one, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, fully described (T. Grant)
- 1981** Folkestone Harbour, one, 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> January (R. G. W. Heselden, M. P. Sutherland, L. F. Woollard)
- 2003** Copt Point, one flew east, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, (I. A. Roberts)
- 2009** West Hythe, one, 25<sup>th</sup> November, photographed (M. Terry)
- 2021** Princes Parade, one on the sea, 13<sup>th</sup> October (reported per Rare Bird Alert)



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### **References**

Gordon, C., 1871. Little Auk, &c., near Dover. *The Zoologist*, 1871: 2443

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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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