

2021



# Folkestone and Hythe Bird Report



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## Introduction

Welcome to the tenth annual Folkestone and Hythe Bird Report which covers the 210 species recorded in 2021, which was three more than the previous year and the highest total since lists began to be compiled in 1996 (surpassing the previous highest of 207 recorded last year).

There were two additions to the area list in 2021, a Black Guillemot at Samphire Hoe in September and a Pallid Harrier at Abbotscliffe in October, which increased the area list to 301 species.

The British Birds Records Committee (BBRC) recently clarified its position on species pairs or groups (Stoddart, 2021). Following a review of the criteria, two species have now been removed from the area list (which otherwise would have increased to 303) and now need to be considered as species pairs/groups: the “Siberian Stonechat” at Abbotscliffe in October 1991 becomes Siberian/Stejneger’s Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus/stejnegeri*) and the “Subalpine Warbler” at Samphire Hoe in April 2006 becomes Western Subalpine/Moltoni’s/Eastern Subalpine Warbler (*Curruca iberiae/subalpine/iberiae*). These will not be included in the area list total and statistics for the pairs/groups will be provided separately. Additionally, an unidentified small wheatear at Church Hougham in October 1992 can now be considered to have been Western Black-eared/Eastern Black-eared/Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica/melanoleuca/pleschanka*).

Unfortunately the female Bufflehead at Nickolls Quarry in April 2020 was not accepted onto category A of the British List, instead being admitted to category D as its origin was considered to be uncertain (Holt *et al*, 2021). In May 2021 the BBRC reviewed its criteria for the acceptance of rare wildfowl and concluded that a bird’s legs have to be seen to be free of rings for it to be accepted as a wild bird (French, 2021). The legs of the Nickolls Quarry bird had not been clearly visible during its short stay.

There are many other highlights to report, including the third record of Rose-coloured Starling, the fourth modern record of Corncrake, the fourth and fifth records of Black Stork, the sixth records of Grey Phalarope and Sabine’s Gull, and the ninth record of Tundra Bean Goose.

Sightings of Smew, Caspian Gull, Long-tailed Skua, Leach’s Petrel, White Stork, Goshawk, Black Kite, Rough-legged Buzzard, Bee-eater, Red-rumped Swallow and Hawfinch added further excitement.

The early winter period was notable for a record movement of auks in January, an impressive influx of wildfowl and waders during severe weather in February (which also produced a variety of scarce species and a record Starling roost), a record count of Sanderling in February and an exceptionally early Wheatear.

Spring saw a record passage of White-fronted Geese and Pintail in March, perhaps involving cold weather migrants returning following the earlier severe conditions, as well as good numbers of Barnacle Geese. There was a record day count and spring passage of Chaffinches in March, part of a good visual passage on the land, whereas passage at sea in April/May was generally poor, with particularly low numbers of terns, although there was a record count of Manx Shearwaters in late May. June was a record count of Red Kites.

The highlights of the breeding season included the first local nesting by Gadwall, a male White Wagtail seemingly feeding chicks and the return of a pair of Little Ringed Plovers, although they did not stay to breed.

Autumn saw a nice arrival of early Scandinavian migrants in late August, including several Redstarts and Pied Flycatchers, and a popular multiple occurrence of Wrynecks. Stormy weather in October produced a record movement of Leach’s Petrels and some other notable seabirds, but it was a very poor autumn for crests and some of the later Scandinavian migrants, whilst visual passage was disappointing, with low numbers of finches compared to last year. October saw the latest ever departure date for Hobby, whilst November saw a record movement of Shelduck.

Overall it was a record year for Egyptian Goose, Yellow-legged Gull and Great White Egret.

If there are any local records which have not been included within this report I would be very grateful to receive them. The boundaries of the local area can be found on page 107 and my contact details are given below.

Ian Roberts,  
27<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Telephone:	07971 207899	Twitter:	@folkestonebirds
E-mail:	ian_rober@yahoo.co.uk	Facebook:	www.facebook.com/ian.roberts.98622
Website:	<a href="http://www.folkestonebirds.com">www.folkestonebirds.com</a>	You Tube:	Folkestone Birds

Front cover: Pallid Harrier at Abbotscliffe (Elliot Ranford)

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### List of contributors

I have endeavoured to include all observers known to have contributed records or photographs for the year and their input has been very much appreciated. It is of course possible that there have been accidental omissions from the list below. It is hoped that should this be the case my apologies will be accepted for the oversight.

B Adams	A Lawson	L Walker
S Arthur	S Lea	B Webster
	R Lee	D Wrathall
L Bailey	J Leigh	M Whybrow
M Baldock	O Leyshon	B Woolhouse
S Bean	F Ling	B Wright
R Blackman	M Linklater	
R Bonser		
J Brooks	A Mackay	
M Brooks	R McCabe	
D Brown	S McMinn	
G J A Burton	A Millar	
	D Mooney	
P Chantler		
S P Clancy	R K Norman	
D Clarke	C Nuttman	
L Collins		
M Collins	J Organ	
S Cutt		
	C Philpott	
P Edmondson	T Poole	
	K Price	
D Featherbe		
B Findlay	E Ranford	
P Findlay	S Reynaert	
M Fitch	D Richards	
R Flamant	I A Roberts	
E Fleming	J Russell	
N C Frampton	B Ryan	
A Gay	P J Sharp	
D A Gibson	K Shepherd	
C Gillard	P Sidders	
B Gomes	D Smith	
L Gower	P Smith	
C Green	N Stewart	
A Griffin		
	J Tardivel	
B Harper	M Taylor	
C Hearsey	J J Thompson	
N Hollands	R Thorogood	
P Holt	J Tilby	
P Howe	C Tomlinson	
	J Tomlinson	
M D Kennett	J Tomsett	
J King	C Turley	
	G Tutton	

## Review of the year

### January

After a cold and generally settled start to the year it gradually turned milder and more unsettled during the second week and it was often very wet in the third week, with storms on the night of the 20<sup>th</sup>. It then turned colder for a few days before there was a milder and wet end to the month.



Great Northern Diver at Sandgate (Elliot Ranford)

Small numbers of Brent Geese were noted during the month with a larger count of 45 flying west past Folkestone Pier on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, whilst 16 flying east past Seabrook and Samphire Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 11 flying east past Seabrook on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 45 flying east there on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 11 flying east past the Willop Outfall were perhaps signs of early up-channel passage. Single Canada Geese were seen near the Dymchurch Redoubt and at Folkestone Harbour on the 17<sup>th</sup>, whilst a flock of six **Barnacle Geese** flew west past Seabrook on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Five Greylag Geese flew west over Radnor Park and six flew west over the Willop Basin on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and four **Egyptian Geese** flew east past the Willop Outfall on the 8<sup>th</sup> before later being seen at Nickolls Quarry. Six Shelduck were seen on the sea off the Willop Outfall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with smaller numbers noted at coastal sites later in the month. A pair of Mandarin Ducks were present at Folks' Wood.

Two Shoveler were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 10<sup>th</sup> and four were present at Donkey Street on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Two Gadwall flew west past Samphire Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup>, when a drake was seen at Nickolls Quarry, with a pair there the following day, whilst four were seen at Hoorne's Sewer on the 17<sup>th</sup> and a pair flew east past the Willop Outfall on the 24<sup>th</sup>. A total of 26 Wigeon were on the sea off the Willop Outfall on the 1<sup>st</sup>, with 43 there the next day, whilst two flew east there on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, five were at Nickolls Quarry on the 10<sup>th</sup> and ten flew west past the Willop Outfall on the 24<sup>th</sup>. A Pintail was seen at the Willop Outfall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and a total of 34 flew east past Princes Parade on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Up to 58 Teal were present in the Willop Basin area, with ones and twos at other sites.

A Pochard was seen at Cock Ash Lake on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with eight at Nickolls Quarry on the 9<sup>th</sup>, increasing to 21 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, with one there the following day. Up to five Tufted Ducks were also at Nickolls Quarry during the same period, with

seven at Cock Ash Lake on the 31<sup>st</sup>. A male Velvet Scoter flew west past the Willop Outfall on the 24<sup>th</sup> and up to 100 Common Scoters were seen offshore there during the month. A partially summer-plumaged Red-necked Grebe was seen off Seabrook on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 40 Great Crested Grebes were counted off the Willop Outfall on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Lapwing flocks included 29 at Capel-le-Ferne, 46 at Hillhurst Farm and up to 500 at the Willop Basin, where there was a peak of 70 Golden Plovers on the 9<sup>th</sup> and a single Curlew was seen on several dates, whilst up to 19 Ringed Plovers were at Folkestone Beach. Up to 10 Sanderling and 25 Turnstone were at the Willop Outfall, whilst up to three Purple Sandpipers frequented the rock groynes between Hythe and Battery Point.

Single Woodcocks were noted at Chesterfield Wood and Kiln Wood in January, whilst a Jack Snipe was seen at Radnor Park on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and two Jack Snipe and 25 Snipe were at the Willop Basin on the 1<sup>st</sup>, with 11 Snipe near the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 31<sup>st</sup>. At least two Green Sandpipers were wintering in the Donkey Street/Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area, whilst up to six Redshank were at Folkestone Harbour and up to ten were at the Willop Basin.

Cold south-easterly winds in the fourth week induced some massive movements of auks, with 2,545 (most of which appeared to be Razorbills) flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and a record **10,000** auks (with what appeared to be an even split between Guillemots and Razorbills) flying west past the Willop Outfall on the 24<sup>th</sup>, when 100 Kittiwakes and 200 Gannets also flew west there.

The **Great Northern Diver** remained off Sandgate on the 1<sup>st</sup> and another was seen off Hythe Ranges on the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, with presumably both birds seen together off Sandgate in the afternoon, where they lingered until the end of the month. Single Black-throated Divers were seen off Hythe Ranges on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Folkestone Pier on the 31<sup>st</sup>, whilst Red-throated Diver counts included 137 flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 300 off Hythe Ranges on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

A Shag was seen off Sandgate on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and a peak of eight flew west from roost past Samphire Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, whilst Cormorant counts included 1,540 flying east past Seabrook on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 3,150 flying east there on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 3,300 flying east there on the 10<sup>th</sup> and c.1,500 off Abbotscliffe on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A single **Great White Egret** was seen at Donkey Street on two dates whilst up to eight Little Egrets were roosting near the Aldergate Bridge and feeding at various localities on the marsh, with singles at Princes Parade, Seabrook, Broadmead Village, Radnor Park, in a garden in central Folkestone and at Samphire Hoe during the month. A male Marsh Harrier was seen near Abbott's Court Farm on the 11<sup>th</sup> and a Red Kite flew over Horton Priory on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

A Barn Owl was seen frequently in the Lower Wall Road/Abbott's Court Farm area, whilst a Short-eared Owl was noted at the junction of Lower Wall Road and the Aldergate Lane on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and a Merlin was seen at Botolph's Bridge on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Single Marsh Tits were noted at Kiln Wood and Turnpike Hill and Skylark counts included 29 at the Willop Basin and 35 at Botolph's Bridge. The only Chiffchaff noted was seen along the canal at Seabrook but Blackcaps were present in good numbers with one at Cheriton, four at Lympne, five at Folkestone and up to six at Seabrook. A Firecrest was at Botolph's Bridge on the 5<sup>th</sup> and up to three were present at Enbrook Park throughout.

50 Fieldfares and 100 Redwings were in the Botolph's Bridge/Donkey Street area on the 1<sup>st</sup> and there was a peak of 58 Redwings at Church Hougham on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A male Black Redstart was seen intermittently at Samphire Hoe, where up to 12 Stonechats were present, with single Stonechats at Lathe Barn, Princes Parade and Abbotscliffe, and two at the Willop Sewage Works. Pied Wagtail counts included 28 at the Willop Basin on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 56 at Botolph's Bridge on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

A **Water Pipit** was seen at Donkey Street on the 31<sup>st</sup>, whilst Rock Pipits were noted at the Willop Outfall and Folkestone Harbour, with several at Samphire Hoe. A Brambling was seen in a garden in Lympne on the 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, whilst up to 300 Linnets remained in fields at Oathill Cottages near Lympne and Siskins were noted from Cock Ash Lake, Horton Priory, Kiln Wood and Chesterfield Wood. Two Corn Buntings and 20 Reed Buntings were at the Willop Sewage Works on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

## February

There was a mild start to the month and lingering rarities included the **Great Northern Diver** at Sandgate and the **Water Pipit** at Donkey Street, whilst two **Great White Egrets** were roosting at Port Lympe and feeding on the marsh from the 1<sup>st</sup> (following the one seen nearby in January). Other remaining wintering birds included the Curlew at the Willop Basin, at least 2 Purple Sandpipers at Hythe, two Green Sandpipers in the Botolph's Bridge area, up to six Redshanks at Folkestone Harbour, at least three Little Egrets in the Donkey Street area, several Blackcaps, and up to 170 Linnets at Oathill Cottages near Lympe. There was another Black-throated Diver sighting (perhaps the same individual noted in January), when one flew west past Mill Point on the 4<sup>th</sup>, whilst 100 Great Crested Grebes and 120 Red-throated Divers were offshore of the Willop Outfall on the 6<sup>th</sup>.



Smew with Teal and Wigeon at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)

A flock of 15 Brent Geese flew east past Folkestone Pier on the 1<sup>st</sup>, when a Purple Sandpiper was on the apron at Folkestone Warren, a Snipe was seen at Abbotscliffe and two Firecrests were at Westenhangar. A Black Swan was an unusual sight at Haguelands on the 5<sup>th</sup>, when a Woodcock, a Chiffchaff, 5 Greylag Goose, 6 Snipe and 8 Siskins were at Folkestone Racecourse, 7 Canada Geese were at Nickolls Quarry and 7 Ringed Plovers were at the Willop Outfall.

From the 6<sup>th</sup> it became steadily colder, with bitter easterly winds, freezing daytime temperatures and some significant snowfall, and there was a substantial influx of birds, particularly wildfowl and waders, fleeing the even more severe weather on the continent. Highlights amongst the wildfowl included five **Tundra Bean Geese** near the Willop Sewage Works and a 'red-head' **Smew** flying past the Willop Outfall and then at Nickolls Quarry on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and an **Egyptian Goose** in the Nickolls Quarry/Willop Basin area from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, with two at Nickolls Quarry and Cock Ash Lake on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

There were some good counts of the more regular species including 45 Brent Geese at Donkey Street and at least 154 offshore on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with 63 flying east past Seabrook the next day, at least 38 Shelduck offshore on the 8<sup>th</sup>, a peak of 12 Shovelers (one off the Willop Outfall, four at Donkey Street and 7 at Nickolls Quarry) on the 8<sup>th</sup>, a peak of nine Gadwall at Nickolls Quarry on the 17<sup>th</sup>, at least 360 Wigeon on the 8<sup>th</sup> (including 56 at Nickolls Quarry and c.250 off the Willop Outfall), with 78 at Nickolls Quarry and 131 flying east past Seabrook the following day, and 101 at Nickolls Quarry on the 13<sup>th</sup>, a drake Pintail at Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, with a pair at Nickolls Quarry on the

10<sup>th</sup>, 70 Teal off the Willop Outfall and 74 at Nickolls Quarry on the 8<sup>th</sup> and a Red-breasted Merganser flying west past Seabrook on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Highlights amongst the waders included single **Ruff** near the Willop Sewage Works on the 10<sup>th</sup> and at the Willop Basin on the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> and an Avocet flying east and then landing on the sea off the Princes Parade on the 8<sup>th</sup>. There were particularly impressive arrivals of Lapwings (with a peak of between 2,500 and 3,000 on the 8<sup>th</sup>) and Golden Plovers (with a peak of over 400 on the 8<sup>th</sup>), with excellent counts also of Dunlin (with 261 noted on the 8<sup>th</sup>, including 188 heading east offshore and 65 at the Willop Basin) and Snipe (with a peak of 162 in the Donkey Street/Willop Basin area on the 12<sup>th</sup>).

Jack Snipe were also displaced by the conditions, with two at Nickolls Quarry on the 7<sup>th</sup>, one at Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> and singles at Holy Well on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, as were Woodcock, with a total of 11 noted from widespread locations, but many of the latter must sadly have perished as nine corpses were found along the tideline at Hythe on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Other waders of note included 2 Grey Plover and 5 Knot flying east past the Willop Outfall on the 8<sup>th</sup>, a Bar-tailed Godwit in a field near Haguelands Farm on the 10<sup>th</sup>, a Green Sandpiper at Holy Well on the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>, and several Oystercatchers, Ringed Plovers, Curlew and Redshank.

There were counts of 59 Skylarks at Nickolls Quarry on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 35 at the Willop Basin the next day, whilst good numbers of winter thrushes were seen at many localities, including “hundreds” of Fieldfares and Redwings at Holy Well on the 9<sup>th</sup>, at least 50 Fieldfares at Donkey Street on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 100 Redwings at Pedlinge on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The conditions also led to an accumulation of around 10,000 Starlings roosting at the Willop Sewage Works on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Further highlights during the cold spell included adult **Yellow-legged Gulls** at the Willop Basin on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Princes Parade on the 11<sup>th</sup> and a first-winter **Caspian Gull** at Haguelands Farm on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A Water Rail at Holy Well from the 10<sup>th</sup>, a male Marsh Harrier at Haguelands Farm on the 17<sup>th</sup>, single Merlins on the marsh on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, up to two Peregrines on the marsh, a **Great White Egret** at Seabrook on the 16<sup>th</sup>, single Chiffchaffs at Seabrook and the Willop Sewage Works, and a Black Redstart in a garden in Lympe on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A count of 3,802 Cormorants flying east past Seabrook on the 10<sup>th</sup> was also of note.

The latter part of the month was considerably milder, and it also became more settled as time went on. A **Great White Egret** flew south over Lympe on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 20 Brent Geese flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 37 Brent Geese, 62 Gannets, 175 Red-throated Divers and 200 auks flew east past Hythe on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, when a Shoveler, 2 Gadwall, 3 **Great White Egrets** and 12 Wigeon were in the Donkey Street/Hoorne's Sewer area.

A plume of warm air from northern Africa raised local temperatures to over 13°C on the 24<sup>th</sup> and produced the earliest ever Wheatear at Samphire Hoe, whilst the first Red Kite of the spring flew west over Seabrook. Another Red Kite flew west over Hythe Roughs the following day, when a Chiffchaff was at Holy Well.

Two Red Kites and ten Buzzards flew over Hythe on the 26<sup>th</sup>, when a Red Kite flew over Newingreen, ten Buzzards flew over Seabrook, a Red Kite, a Siskin, 19 Stock Doves, 20 Buzzards and 160 Chaffinches flew over Abbotscliffe, and a Short-eared Owl was seen at Selby Farm in the evening.

A Crossbill, a Redpoll, 2 Reed Buntings, 3 Greenfinches, 5 Stock Doves, 9 Siskins and 1,276 Chaffinches flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 27<sup>th</sup>, when a singing Chiffchaff and a Goldcrest were noted there, whilst a Black Redstart and a Chiffchaff were new arrivals at the Willop Basin, a Chiffchaff was singing at Chesterfield Wood and a Knot and 143 Sanderling were roosting at the Willop Outfall. Six Siskins flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 28<sup>th</sup>, when three Green Sandpipers were at Donkey Street and 12 Pochard and 15 Tufted Ducks were in the Cock Ash Lake/Horton Priory area.



## March

Long-staying rarities included two **Great White Egrets** roosting at Port Lympe and feeding on the marsh until at least the 4<sup>th</sup>, the **Great Northern Diver** at Sandgate until at least the 5<sup>th</sup> and the **Water Pipit** at Donkey Street until at least the month's end. Other remaining wintering birds included two Purple Sandpipers at Hythe, two Green Sandpipers in the Donkey Street/Nickolls Quarry area, a Jack Snipe and up to 9 Curlew and 62 Snipe at the Willop Basin and a Little Egret along the coast in the Abbotscliffe/Samphire Hoe area.



Barnacle and White-fronted Geese at Lympe (Phil Sharp)

There was a cool start to March, with an easterly airflow which produced some up-channel passage at sea, including 2 Shelduck, 4 Shovelers, 6 Avocets, 15 Fulmars, 25 Brent Geese, 110 Razorbills and a record count of **305** Pintails on the 1<sup>st</sup>, two Avocets, 9 Shelduck and 200 Brent Geese on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, another 200 Brent Geese the next day, a **Black-tailed Godwit**, the first Sandwich Tern, 3 Eiders, 5 Oystercatchers, 7 Curlews, 10 Shelduck, 40 Dunlin and at least 1,132 Brent Geese on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 3 Oystercatchers, 9 Fulmars, 70 Kittiwakes and 81 Gannets on the 5<sup>th</sup>. A **Red-necked Grebe** was also noted offshore from Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

There was an influx of geese in the first few days of the month, presumably involving birds moving back north having been displaced by the cold weather in February. On the afternoon of the 1<sup>st</sup> a flock of 30 **White-fronted Geese** flew over Cheriton and a total of 104 **White-fronted Geese** (in two flocks) flew east at Seabrook, with a further 18 flying east there the next morning. Four **White-fronted Geese** were seen in fields at the Willop Basin on the 4<sup>th</sup>, when four **Barnacle Geese** were found at Donkey Street (remaining until the 6<sup>th</sup>, with three present on the 7<sup>th</sup>), whilst 6 **Barnacle Geese** and 27 **White-fronted Geese** were seen near Lympe on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Other sightings of note at the beginning of the month included a Red Kite flying over Cheriton, a Merlin at Selby Farm and 2 Gadwall and 2 Wigeon at Hoorne's Sewer on the 1<sup>st</sup>, a Short-eared Owl and a Shoveler at Donkey Street, and a White Wagtail and 2 Gadwall at Nickolls Quarry on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a Marsh Harrier at Donkey Street and a Chiffchaff at Botolph's Bridge on the 4<sup>th</sup> and a Velvet Scoter at the Willop Outfall, a Merlin and a Firecrest at Botolph's Bridge and a Jack Snipe at Donkey Street on the 5<sup>th</sup>, when four Siskins and 240 Chaffinches flew east at Abbotscliffe. The next day saw 80 Chaffinches flying east at the Willop Basin, whilst a Reed Bunting, 13 Siskins and 3,200 Chaffinches flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

The 7<sup>th</sup> also produced a **Great White Egret** and a Woodcock at Samphire Hoe, a White Wagtail at the Hotel Imperial Golf Course and two Black-throated Divers flying west past Folkestone Pier. The 8<sup>th</sup> saw a change to a westerly airflow and it was generally quieter, although a male **Hen Harrier** flew east over Botolph's Bridge Road on the 8<sup>th</sup>, when a Firecrest and a White Wagtail were at Nickolls Quarry, a **Barnacle Goose** was seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 9<sup>th</sup>, when a **Yellow-legged Gull** was at Samphire Hoe, 11 Siskins and 610 Chaffinches flew east at Abbotscliffe, at least 11 Fulmars, 150 Brent Geese and 520 Gannets flew east at sea on the 10<sup>th</sup> and a Red-breasted Merganser flew west past Sandgate on the 11<sup>th</sup>, when a Black Redstart was seen at Cheriton.

A female Marsh Harrier was at Nickolls Quarry on the 13<sup>th</sup>, when a Sandwich Tern was noted off Princes Parade, whilst six **White-fronted Geese** were found at Cock Ash Lake the following day, when a Red Kite flew north over Hythe and a Shag was seen on the canal at Seabrook.

North-westerly winds from mid-month led to some significant visual passage, with 9 Siskins and 1,715 Chaffinches flying east at Abbotscliffe the 15<sup>th</sup>, two Grey Wagtails, 30 Siskins and 2,480 Chaffinches flying east there on the 17<sup>th</sup>, a Grey Wagtail, 2 Bramblings, 4 Pied/White Wagtails, 16 Siskins and 4,875 Chaffinches flying east there the next day, a Brambling, a Reed Bunting, 3 Grey Wagtails, 10 Greenfinches, 73 Siskins and 4,335 Chaffinches flying east there on the 20<sup>th</sup> and a Grey Wagtail, 16 Goldfinches, 61 Siskins, 92 Brent Geese and 8,190 Chaffinches flying east there on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Elsewhere a drake Goosander flew east past Folkestone Beach on the 16<sup>th</sup>, a **Barnacle Goose** was at Nickolls Quarry on the 17<sup>th</sup>, when a Firecrest was at West Hythe and two **Egyptian Geese** and 2 Red-breasted Mergansers flew east past Seabrook, and two Dunlin were at Nickolls Quarry on the 18<sup>th</sup>, with a Woodcock there the following day, when at least six Chiffchaffs were noted across the area and two Curlew and 57 Brent Geese flew east at sea. A Black Redstart was at Samphire Hoe on the 20<sup>th</sup> and a **Great White Egret** flew over the A20/A260 junction on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

South-westerly winds dominated the rest of the month and temperatures gradually began to climb. A **Little Ringed Plover** and a pair of Goosanders were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, when a Short-eared Owl was at Samphire Hoe and a Sandwich Tern and 105 Brent Geese flew east at sea. A Sandwich Tern and 330 Brent Geese flew east past Mill Point the next day, when Black Redstarts were seen at Abbotscliffe, in a garden in Folkestone and at Samphire Hoe. Two Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup>, when 2 Mute Swans, 3 Shelduck and 31 Brent Geese flew east at sea and Chiffchaffs continued to arrive.

A Black Redstart and a Brambling were at Church Hougham on the 25<sup>th</sup> and a Sandwich Tern, 3 Oystercatchers, 5 Fulmars, 40 Red-throated Divers and 46 Gannets flew east at sea, with 6 Sandwich Terns, 6 Fulmars, 14 Common Scoters, 25 Brent Geese and 270 Gannets going east the next day. A Wheatear was at Samphire Hoe on the 27<sup>th</sup>, when a pair of Black Redstarts were at Hythe Ranges and two Fieldfares flew north at Lympne, whilst a satellite-tracked White-tailed Eagle from the Isle of Wight reintroduction scheme passed over the area unseen. The first three Sand Martins and three Swallows of the year were at Nickolls Quarry on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

There was a particularly mild end to the month, with temperatures approaching 22°C on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and there were several notable sightings. On the 29<sup>th</sup> an Osprey flew north-west over Castle Hill, the first House Martin was at Lympne, a Tree Sparrow was at Daleacres on Lower Wall, three Whimbrel were at the Willop Basin, a Red Kite flew west over Seabrook and the Lower Wall, three Little Ringed Plovers were at Nickolls Quarry and a Wheatear was at Samphire Hoe. The 30<sup>th</sup> produced a **Hawfinch** at Saltwood, an **Egyptian Goose** at Radnor Park, Red Kites flying over Abbotscliffe, Seabrook and Folkestone (2), 3 House Martins and 6 Swallows at Abbotscliffe, a Wheatear and a Merlin at the Willop Sewage Works, 2 Wheatears and 2 White Wagtails at Samphire Hoe and a Swallow at Seabrook.

The final day of March saw a **Goshawk** flying west over Barrack Hill (Hythe), a **Great Northern Diver** off the Willop Outfall, the first Whitethroat at Nickolls Quarry, a Wheatear and 3 White Wagtails at Abbotscliffe and 13 Sandwich Terns flying east past Mill Point.

## April

April was particularly cold, dry and sunny and unusually the mean temperature was lower than March.



Spotted Redshank and Greenshanks at Donkey Street (Ian Roberts)

Lingering winter visitors included the **Water Pipit** at Donkey Street until the 5<sup>th</sup>, up to three Green Sandpipers in the Donkey Street/Nickolls Quarry area and up to 5 Curlew at the Willop Basin until the 11<sup>th</sup> and up to two Purple Sandpipers at Hythe until the 27<sup>th</sup>.

A cold north-easterly breeze from the 1<sup>st</sup> produced some movement at sea, with a drake **Garganey**, 10 Common Scoters, 35 Brent Geese, 55 Sandwich Terns and 135 Gannets flying east past Folkestone Beach, and some visual passage, with a Redpoll, a Siskin, a Sand Martin and 4 Swallows flying east and 5 Meadow Pipits, 35 Linnets and 40 Goldfinches arriving in off there, whilst at least 6 Sand Martins and 15 Swallows moved through Nickolls Quarry and a Swallow, 3 Whimbrel and 120 Sanderling were seen at the Willop Basin/Outfall.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> a Bar-tailed Godwit, a Shelduck, 2 Gadwalls, 2 Grey Plovers and 30 Sandwich Terns flew east at sea, the first two Yellow Wagtails of the year and three Gadwalls were at Hoorne's Sewer, and hirundines continued to arrive, with two House Martins, 22 Sand Martins and 25 Swallows at Nickolls Quarry, a House Martin and 10 Swallows at Cock Ash Lake and two House Martins and two Sand Martins over the canal at Seabrook, whilst the 3<sup>rd</sup> produced three Red-breasted Mergansers, 14 Common Scoters, 94 Sandwich Terns and 160 Gannets flying east past Samphire Hoe.

It remained cold on the 4<sup>th</sup> with the wind becoming more northerly and single Black Redstart and Wheatear at Samphire Hoe were the only sightings of note, whilst a Whitethroat and 130 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry the following day, when a White-tailed Eagle from the Isle of Wight reintroduction scheme flew in off the sea and then north-east over Samphire Hoe. The eagle made another pass through local airspace on the 6<sup>th</sup>, but was this time unseen, as it headed south-west over Saltwood and West Hythe, whilst 2 **Yellow-legged Gulls** were at Samphire Hoe, the first Sedge Warbler and 15 House Martins were at Nickolls Quarry, a Red Kite flew west over Palmarsh and a Marsh Harrier flew west over Hythe Roughs. A Wheatear was at Samphire Hoe on the 7<sup>th</sup>.



A change to a south-westerly wind on the 8<sup>th</sup> encouraged a little passage at sea, with four **Egyptian Geese**, 48 Red-throated Divers, 70 Brent Geese, 70 Sandwich Terns, 112 Common Scoters and 533 Gannets flying east past Samphire Hoe, whilst a Great Skua, an Eider, 43 Sandwich Terns, 78 Common Scoters and 180 Gannets went east there the next day, when a **Yellow-legged Gull** was on the seawall, single Wheatears were at Princes Parade and Seabrook and a White Wagtail was at Donkey Street, and the first Common Tern, a Red-breasted Merganser, 40 Common Scoters and 105 Sandwich Terns flew east past Mill Point on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Although it remained rather cool, light winds from the 11<sup>th</sup> produced a few migrants on the land. A Ring Ouzel was at Abbotscliffe on the 11<sup>th</sup>, when a Red Kite flew over Cheriton and 14 Sandwich Terns and 182 Gannets flew east past Samphire Hoe, and 3 Black Redstarts, 3 Blackcaps, 4 Wheatears and 11 Chiffchaffs were at Samphire Hoe the next day, when a Bar-tailed Godwit was at the Willop Sewage Works. A Redstart and 2 Ring Ouzels were at Samphire Hoe on the 13<sup>th</sup>, a Common Tern was at Nickolls Quarry on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 2 Ring Ouzels and 7 Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

The second half of the month was milder, with winds mostly from the east or north-east and migrants continued to arrive, with the first Willow Warblers at Nickolls Quarry and Lympe on the 16<sup>th</sup>, although winter visitors still lingered, with 32 Fieldfares at Saltwood. Another Fieldfare was seen at the Willop Sewage Works the following day, when the first two Reed Warblers were at Nickolls Quarry and five Whimbrel flew east at Seabrook. Three Ring Ouzels were seen at Samphire Hoe on the 18<sup>th</sup>, when a Yellow Wagtail flew in off the sea at Capel Battery.

A **Serín** flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 19<sup>th</sup>, when two Grey Partridges were also of note there, whilst there was a small arrival of Willow Warblers with singles at Haguelands, Botolph's Bridge, Hythe and Mill Point, and three at Samphire Hoe, whilst a Wheatear was also seen at Haguelands Farm and 2 Arctic Skuas, 3 Shovelers, 14 Shelducks, 18 Whimbrels, 18 Mediterranean Gulls and 190 Sandwich Terns flew east at sea.

A Nightingale was singing at Port Lympe from the 20<sup>th</sup>, with a further Willow Warbler there, one at Capel Battery and three at Nickolls Quarry, whilst the first Lesser Whitethroat was at Copt Point and Reed Warblers, Sedge Warblers and Whitethroats continued to arrive and a Fieldfare flew over Lympe Park Wood. An Osprey flew north over Aldergate Lane on the 21<sup>st</sup>, when an Arctic Skua, 2 Shovelers, 5 Bar-tailed Godwits, 24 Whimbrels and 80 Gannets flew east past Samphire Hoe and 11 Sand Martins arrived in off the sea there.

An Arctic Skua, 2 Black-throated Divers, 3 Pomarine Skuas, 3 Whimbrels, 12 Bar-tailed Godwits, 32 Fulmars and 66 Sandwich Terns flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, when the first Swift was at Nickolls Quarry, and a Pomarine Skua, a Common Tern, 7 Whimbrels, 16 Bar-tailed Godwits, 30 Kittiwakes and 42 Sandwich Terns flew east past Mill Point the next day.

A **Black Kite** flew in off the sea at Samphire Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup>, where a Red-breasted Merganser, 2 Arctic Skuas, 6 Velvet Scoters, 9 Bar-tailed Godwits, 13 Common Terns, 20 Whimbrels and 830 Common Scoter flew east, whilst a Greenshank was seen at Donkey Street, a Swift was at the Willop Basin, a Fieldfare was at Lympe and a White-tailed Eagle (presumably a reintroduced bird) was reported flying west over Hythe. A **Spotted Redshank**, 4 Greenshank, 4 Snipe and 7 Whimbrel were at Donkey Street on the 25<sup>th</sup>, when the first Cuckoo and 75 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry and a Red-breasted Merganser, 2 Black-throated Divers, 2 Grey Plovers, 3 Great Skuas, 4 Shovelers, 10 Brent Geese and 18 Whimbrel flew east past Samphire Hoe.

The last four days of the month were cooler and more showery, with northerly winds. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, Willow Warblers were seen at Nickolls Quarry, Crete Road West and Samphire Hoe (2), whilst Swifts were noted at Hythe and Folkestone and nine Whimbrels were at Botolph's Bridge, with at least seven noted heading east past coastal sites. Seawatching the following day produced a Knot, a Bar-tailed Godwit, 3 Velvet Scoters, 11 Little Terns, 25 Whimbrels, 150 Black-headed Gulls, 300 Brent Geese and 390 Common Scoters heading east, whilst the first Common Sandpiper, 8 Swifts, 10 Sand Martins, 10 House Martins and 80 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry.

A **Richard's Pipit** and the first Hobby were reported at Samphire Hoe on the 29<sup>th</sup>, when an **Egyptian Goose** was at Cock Ash Lake, a Short-eared Owl flew over Lympe and two Eiders were offshore of the Dymchurch Redoubt. The first Whinchat was reported at Samphire Hoe on the 30<sup>th</sup>, when 2 Black-throated Divers, 6 Oystercatchers, 9 Whimbrels, 11 Bar-tailed Godwits and c.60 Common/Arctic Terns flew east at sea.

## May

The first week of May was unsettled and unseasonably cold, after which it became a little milder but due to a series of deep low pressure systems the frequent, often heavy, rain continued and there were a number of particularly windy days. Conditions settled in the final few days of the month, when it also became warmer. Overall it was the coldest May for 25 years and the fifth wettest in 150 years.



Red-rumped Swallow at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

The Nightingale was still singing at Port Lympe on the 1<sup>st</sup> (where it remained throughout the month) when new arrivals included a Yellow Wagtail, 2 Ring Ouzels and 16 Swallows at Abbotscliffe, whilst a Whimbrel and 15 Brent Geese flew east at Hythe. A male Wheatear remained at Donkey Street until the 10<sup>th</sup>, where a Corn Bunting was holding territory, with two territorial males at Abbotscliffe. A Cuckoo also frequented the Donkey Street/Nickolls Quarry area, with two present from the 20<sup>th</sup>, whilst up to six Yellow Wagtails were in the Romney Marsh area. A pair of Gadwall bred at Hoorne's Sewer (the first occurrence of breeding locally) and a pair of Black Redstarts were on territory at Samphire Hoe.

A Common Sandpiper was seen along the canal at Seabrook on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, when two Common Sandpipers were at Hythe Ranges, three Snipe were at Donkey Street and seven Whimbrels were at Botolph's Bridge (with three remaining until the 4<sup>th</sup>). A Ring Ouzel, a Willow Warbler, a Wheatear, 4 Sand Martins, 8 Swallows and 30 House Martins were at Abbotscliffe, 2 Wheatears at Samphire Hoe, 3 Whimbrels flew there and small numbers of Swifts continued to arrive. A Hobby arrived in off the sea at Seabrook on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, when an Arctic Skua, 20 Oystercatchers, 21 Sandwich Terns and 35 Common Scoters flew past Samphire Hoe and a Willow Warbler was seen at Nickolls Quarry.

An Arctic Skua, a Great Skua and seven Manx Shearwaters flew west past Mill Point on the 4<sup>th</sup>, when a Hobby was hunting over the canal at Seabrook. A Turtle Dove, a Ring Ouzel and a Willow Warbler were at Abbotscliffe the next day, when a Hobby, 10 Swallows and 19 Swifts arrived in off the sea there, a Spotted Flycatcher, a Hobby, a Willow Warbler and 150 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry, a Black-throated Diver was on the sea off the Willop Outfall, two drake Eider flew past Samphire Hoe and a **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** was reported at the A20 Westenhanger junction, at Newingreen.

A **Wood Warbler**, a Ring Ouzel, a Willow Warbler and a Yellow Wagtail were at Abbotscliffe on the 7<sup>th</sup>, when a Hobby was at Hythe, and a Garden Warbler took up territory at Princes Parade the following day, when a Manx Shearwater, a Grey Plover, 2 Bar-tailed Godwits, 19 Whimbrel and 30 Dunlin flew past and a Greenshank was at Donkey Street. A **Great Northern Diver**, an Arctic Skua, 13 Brent Geese and 63 Common Scoters flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup>, when a Yellow Wagtail, a Redpoll and 2 Wheatears were seen, a Hobby arrived in off the sea at Seabrook, two Wheatears were at Abbotscliffe, two Wheatears were at Princes Parade and a very good count of nine Common Sandpipers were at Nickolls Quarry. A Nightingale was singing along the canal near Palmars on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

A **Red-rumped Swallow** lingered for a short while with c.50 House Martins at Samphire Hoe on the 11<sup>th</sup>, when 28 Swallows flew west at Abbotscliffe. A Sand Martin and three Hobbies were at Nickolls Quarry on the 12<sup>th</sup>, when a Snipe was at Donkey Street, whilst a **Great White Egret** flew east over Hythe the next day, when five Red-breasted Mergansers flew past Samphire Hoe and a Hobby was at Seabrook. A Crossbill flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

An Arctic Skua flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 15<sup>th</sup>, when a Cuckoo was seen at Hythe and three Hobbies were at Lympe on the 16<sup>th</sup>, with a Grey Partridge at Abbotscliffe on the 17<sup>th</sup>, where 28 Swifts arrived in off the sea. A Little Egret flew east over Seabrook and four Red Kites flew east over Hythe and on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Another Red Kite was at Crete Road West the following day, when a Willow Warbler was at Brockhill Country Park and two Willow Warblers were at Nickolls Quarry, whilst two Red Kites were seen near Castle Hill on the 20<sup>th</sup>, when a Dunlin was at Donkey Street. On the 21<sup>st</sup> 14 Swifts and 25 House Martins arrived in off the sea at Mill Point, whilst a Firecrest was singing at Port Lympe on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Following a day of stormy conditions, a record count of **66** Manx Shearwaters flew west past Hythe on the 24<sup>th</sup>. A Red Kite flew over Abbott's Court Farm on the 26<sup>th</sup>, when two Redpolls flew over Abbotscliffe, whilst late arrivals on the 27<sup>th</sup> comprised a Wheatear at Hythe and a Willow Warbler at Abbotscliffe. A largely disappointing month ended with a flourish when a **Bee-eater** was heard calling over Samphire Hoe and a Marsh Harrier was seen arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

## June

The first half of the month was predominantly warm and dry, especially at the start, but it became less settled during the second half, with fluctuating temperatures and numerous episodes of rain or heavy showers, some of these thundery. Overall the rainfall total was more than double the mean for June.



Black Stork at Sellindge (Derek Smith)

Highlights in June included the fourth area record of **Black Stork** seen flying over Sellindge on the 5<sup>th</sup> and again on the 6<sup>th</sup>, having presumably roosted nearby, and a flock of nine **Bee-eaters** that arrived in off the sea at Folkestone Warren on the 9<sup>th</sup>, whilst another was heard over Church Hougham later that day (the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> area records).

A **Black Kite** was reported flying north over Postling on the 5<sup>th</sup> (the 17<sup>th</sup> area record), whilst a Red Kite flew over Saltwood on the 4<sup>th</sup>, a record count of **19** flew north over Sellindge on the 5<sup>th</sup> and three flew east over Hythe on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Two Little Egrets also flew over Hythe on the 5<sup>th</sup> and four were seen below Abbotscliffe on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

A male White Wagtail was seen gathering food near Cock Ash Lake on the 6<sup>th</sup> and was thought to presumably be feeding chicks but the female was not seen, so it is unknown whether it was a pure or mixed pair (there has only been one previous breeding record, which involved a pure pair, at Samphire Hoe in 2013).

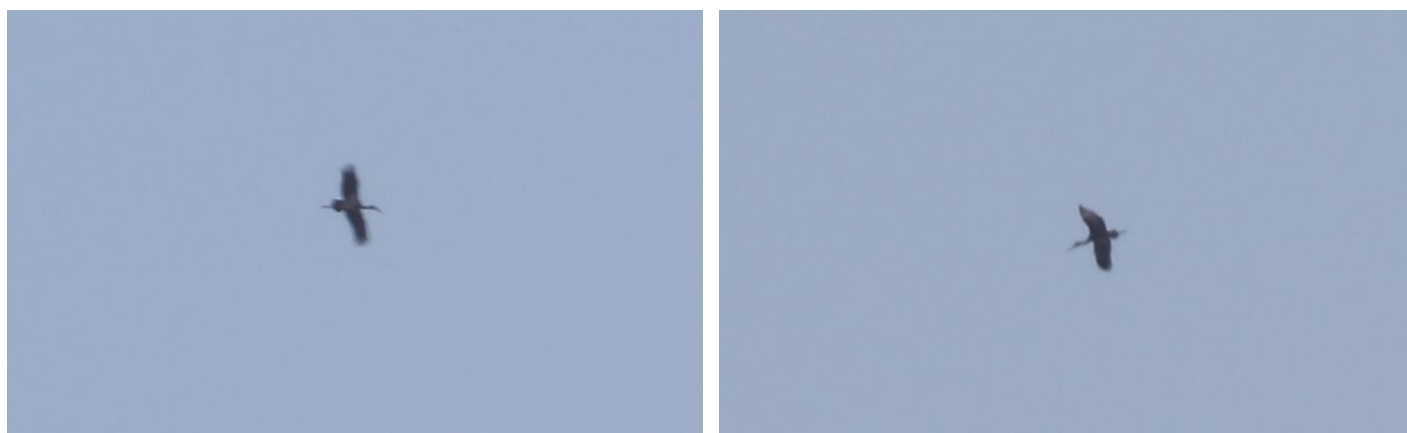
Other breeding records of note included the Garden Warbler continuing to hold territory at Princes Parade until at least the 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Nightingale singing in Thorn Wood on the 19<sup>th</sup>, a pair of Oystercatchers with two fledged young at Nickolls Quarry, up to two Cuckoos in the Nickolls Quarry area throughout, with another at Seabrook on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a territorial Corn Bunting at Donkey Street, with two territorial males at Abbotscliffe, and Tufted Ducks were present at Cock Ash Lake (2 drakes, 1 duck), Nickolls Quarry (2 drakes, 1 duck) and Brockhill Country Park (two pairs).

Hobbies were seen arrived in off the sea at Capel Battery on the 9<sup>th</sup>, at Samphire Hoe on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and hunting over Seabrook on several dates.

Other sightings of note included a Grey Partridge near Bluehouse Wood on the 10<sup>th</sup>, up to 17 Canada Geese at Nickolls Quarry, where 15 Greylag Geese flew over on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a female Shoveler at Nickolls Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, single Lapwings flying over Seabrook on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and a Redshank at Nickolls Quarry on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

## July

The unsettled weather continued into July with unseasonably cool temperatures and frequent spells of rain, many of which were heavy and thundery. However it became much warmer by mid-month, with drier and sunnier conditions, before it became unsettled again during the final week.



Black Stork at Crete Road East (Ian Roberts)

The clear highlight of the month was another **Black Stork** that, having earlier flown west over Dover, spent some time over the Crete Road East area before drifting north over Hawkinge on the 15<sup>th</sup>, with presumably the same bird seen again flying east over Folkestone on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

A Honey Buzzard flying west over Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup> was also notable in an otherwise quiet month.

Returning waders are often a feature of July and comprised single Common Sandpipers at Folkestone Warren on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Hythe Ranges on the 20<sup>th</sup>, a Lapwing at Samphire Hoe on the 13<sup>th</sup> and a Whimbrel at Hythe Ranges on the 20<sup>th</sup>.



Passerines also begun to move through and included 2 Yellow Wagtails at Abbotscliffe on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Whinchat and a Grey Wagtail there on the 25<sup>th</sup> and a Willow Warbler there on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Departing Swifts included 70 flying west over Hythe on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Hobbies continued to be seen hunting over Seabrook and a pair were again present at Lympe Park Wood, with others at Samphire Hoe on the 13<sup>th</sup> and Abbotscliffe on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

A Little Egret flew west at Seabrook on the 13<sup>th</sup> and Mediterranean Gull numbers began to increase from mid-month.

## August

The first half of August was largely unsettled with wet and often windy conditions but the second half was drier and more settled. An anticyclone settled over the continent during the last week of the month, introducing a north to north-easterly airflow and mostly cloudy conditions.



Wrynecks at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)

The first ten days of the month saw passerine migrants continuing to trickle through and these included 3 Willow Warblers, 3 Lesser Whitethroats and 10 Whitethroats at Abbotscliffe on the 1<sup>st</sup>, a Chiffchaff in a garden in Folkestone on the 7<sup>th</sup> and a Garden Warbler at Abbotscliffe, a Willow Warbler at Park Farm and a Wheatear and 6 Willow Warblers at Samphire Hoe on the 10<sup>th</sup>. A Marsh Harrier was also noted at Abbotscliffe on the 7<sup>th</sup> and departing Swifts included 50 flying over Creteway Down on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Three **Balearic Shearwaters** flew past Samphire Hoe on the 11<sup>th</sup>, when a Wheatear, a Sedge Warbler, a Chiffchaff, 2 Sand Martins, 4 Lesser Whitethroats, 7 Willow Warblers and 12 Whitethroats were at Abbotscliffe and seven Sand Martins flew west at Seabrook, whilst the next day saw a Yellow Wagtail flying east and an Arctic Skua flying west at Seabrook. A Green Sandpiper and a Common Sandpiper were at Nickolls Quarry on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a Whimbrel flew west at Hythe the following day, when a Wheatear, a Sand Martin, 3 Lesser Whitethroats, 6 Swifts, 8 Willow Warblers and 36 Whitethroats were at Abbotscliffe and three Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe.

A Whinchat, a Tree Pipit, a Reed Warbler, 2 Swifts and 6 Yellow Wagtails were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 16<sup>th</sup>, whilst the next day saw an Osprey flying west at Samphire Hoe and later over Hythe, where a Ringed Plover and 40 Swifts also flew west. A Whinchat at Samphire Hoe and a Whinchat, a Wheatear and 4 Willow Warblers at Abbotscliffe were also of note. The 18<sup>th</sup> produced a Redshank, 2 Whinchats and 3 Wheatears at Samphire Hoe and 7 Willow Warblers at Abbotscliffe.

Another Osprey flew west over Hythe on the 19<sup>th</sup>, when two Green Sandpipers and four Common Sandpipers at Nickolls Quarry and confirmation was received that a pair of Hobbies had successfully bred again at Lympe Park Wood, raising two juveniles.

A Whimbrel, 26 Sand Martins and 39 Swallows flew west at the Willop Outfall on the 20<sup>th</sup>, when 45 Common Scoters were seen offshore and 97 Sandwich Terns were roosting at Hythe Ranges. A Little Gull, a Shoveler, 3 Little Egrets, 4 Teal, 11 Whimbrels and 75 Sandwich Terns flew past Samphire Hoe the following day, where 3 Whinchats and 5 Wheatears were noted and 70 Swifts flew west. Two **Black-tailed Godwits** flew east and an Arctic Skua, 6 Sand Martins and 18 Swallows flew west at Seabrook on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, when a Spotted Flycatcher, a Whinchat, a Wheatear, 4 Willow Warbler, 5 Lesser Whitethroats and 15 Whitethroats were at Abbotscliffe and ten Yellow Wagtails flew west.

The influence of easterly winds was evident in the last week or so of the month, with a Pied Flycatcher, 2 Redstarts and 2 Whinchats at Abbotscliffe and a Redstart, a Sedge Warbler and 3 Whinchats at Samphire Hoe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and a new Pied Flycatcher at Abbotscliffe the next day, when a Honey Buzzard arrived in off the sea at the Willop Outfall.

An Arctic Skua, 2 Whimbrel, 4 Shelduck and c.60 Sandwich Terns flew past Samphire Hoe on the 25<sup>th</sup>, where Whinchats increased to five, whilst two Wheatears, two Whinchats and 11 Yellow Wagtails were at Abbotscliffe the following day. A juvenile Cuckoo in a garden in Folkestone on the 27<sup>th</sup> was an unusual record, whilst two Common Sandpipers were seen at Sandgate.

Two **Wrynecks** arrived at Abbotscliffe on the 28<sup>th</sup> and remained until the 1<sup>st</sup> September (with at least one lingering until the 6<sup>th</sup> September), whilst a Pied Flycatcher, 2 Wheatears and 3 Whinchats were also noted there, with two Wheatears at Copt Point.

A Marsh Harrier, a Redstart, a Tree Pipit, 2 Wheatears, 4 Whinchats, 7 Lesser Whitethroats and 27 Yellow Wagtails were also seen at Abbotscliffe on the 29<sup>th</sup>, with a Garden Warbler, a Tree Pipit, 2 Black Redstarts, 3 Whinchats, 6 Lesser Whitethroats and 14 Yellow Wagtails there on the 30<sup>th</sup>, when a Pied Flycatcher, 3 Whinchats, 4 Yellow Wagtails and 8 Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe and an Arctic Skua, 2 Wigeon, 11 Teal and 100 Gannets flew east there, a Reed Warbler was seen in a garden in central Folkestone and a Dunlin was along the undercliff below Abbotscliffe.

A Pied Flycatcher, a Spotted Flycatcher, a Tree Pipit, 9 Whinchats and 10 Yellow Wagtails were also seen at Abbotscliffe on the last day of the month, when four Whinchats and ten Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe.

## September

Much of September was fine and settled, with dry, relatively warm conditions although it became markedly cooler and wetter from the 27<sup>th</sup>.

The month began with a Redstart, a Tree Pipit, a Sedge Warbler, a Willow Warbler, 2 Whinchats, 6 Chiffchaffs and 38 Yellow Wagtails at Abbotscliffe on the 1<sup>st</sup>, with a Pied Flycatcher there the next day, when 2 Redstarts, 3 Whinchats, 7 Wheatears and 8 Whitethroats were at Samphire Hoe. A Redstart and 7 Whinchats were at Abbotscliffe on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a further Redstart at Church Hougham, whilst a Pied Flycatcher, a Willow Warbler, 3 Sand Martins, 4 Lesser Whitethroats, 6 Whinchats, 8 Blackcaps and 9 Yellow Wagtails were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

The 6<sup>th</sup> produced a Common Sandpiper, 2 Yellow Wagtails, 2 Whinchats and 4 Wheatears at Samphire Hoe, a Wheatear, 2 Swifts and 5 Whinchats at Abbotscliffe and 2 Yellow Wagtails and 11 Whinchats at Botolph's Bridge, whilst two Golden Plovers were at Hougham Court on the 7<sup>th</sup>. A Grasshopper Warbler was noted between the Aldergate Bridge and the West Hythe dam on the 9<sup>th</sup>.



A **Corncrake** was seen flying over the A20 just south of the Round Hill tunnels on the 11<sup>th</sup> whilst the 12<sup>th</sup> produced an exceptional flock of 45 White Storks flying over West Hythe and later roosting at Etchinghill, although these were considered to have originated from an introduction program. A Spotted Flycatcher, a Swift and 3 Whinchats at Abbotscliffe were also of note, with 2 Wheatears and 4 Whinchats there the following day. A Wigeon was seen at Samphire Hoe from the 14<sup>th</sup> and 2 Yellow Wagtails, 5 Whinchats and 10 Chiffchaffs were at Abbotscliffe the next day.



Rose-coloured Starling at Palmarsh (John Organ)

The 16<sup>th</sup> saw the first migrant Great Spotted Woodpecker, 5 Chiffchaffs and 6 Blackcaps at Abbotscliffe, whilst an Arctic Skua was seen off Samphire Hoe and 19 Wigeon were seen off Princes Parade. A **Balearic Shearwater**, an Arctic Skua, a Red-throated Diver, 2 Wigeon and 50 Sandwich Terns were noted off the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

The first area record of **Black Guillemot** flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 18<sup>th</sup>, where 9 Teal and 100 Gannets also flew east, whilst an Osprey and a Hobby were noted at Abbotscliffe and a Hobby and a Whinchat were at Beachborough Park. The first Brent Geese of the autumn were noted off Samphire Hoe (four) and Seabrook (12) on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Two seemingly wild **White Storks** were reported on the beach between Hythe and Dymchurch on the 20<sup>th</sup>, when a Tree Pipit and 6 Yellow Wagtails flew west at Abbotscliffe, a Red-throated Diver, a Tufted Duck, 2 Brent Geese, 3 Golden Plovers, 7 Wigeon and 8 Teal were seen off the Willop Outfall, 4 Common Terns, 8 Sand Martins, 23 Brent Geese, 30 Kittiwakes and 58 Sandwich Terns were seen from Seabrook and single Little Egrets were noted at Abbotscliffe, Folkestone Harbour and Donkey Street.

A Wheatear, 2 Whitethroats, 6 Blackcaps and 15 Chiffchaffs were seen at Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup>, whilst at Abbotscliffe a Whinchat and 13 Chiffchaffs were present whilst about 100 Meadow Pipits flew east and 143 Meadow Pipits were logged there the following day, when ten Blackcaps were noted. A flock of 31 Greylag Geese flew east at Seabrook on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Black Tern was reported at Copt Point on the 24<sup>th</sup> and the two juvenile Hobbies were still at Lympe Park Wood on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

An adult **Rose-coloured Starling** was found in a garden at Palmarsh on the 28<sup>th</sup>, where it remained until at least the month's end, whilst an Arctic Skua and 2 Red-throated Divers were seen off the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## October

After an unsettled start to the month it became drier and milder between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, before turning unsettled again and the last week saw some heavy and prolonged spells of rain.



Pallid Harrier at Abbotscliffe (Elliot Ranford)

A stormy start to the month with strong southerly winds produced some excellent seawatching, with a juvenile **Long-tailed Skua**, **5 Leach's Petrels**, 12 Arctic Skuas, 110 Gannets and 250 Sandwich Terns flying west past Mill Point on the 1<sup>st</sup> and a **Sooty Shearwater**, a **Balearic Shearwater**, a Manx Shearwater, a Grey Plover, 3 Arctic Skuas, 3 Great Skuas, 3 Red-throated Divers and 900 Gannets flying west past Samphire Hoe the next day.

A quieter spell followed, with just 3 Wheatears at Copt Point and 5 Chiffchaffs and 6 Blackcaps at Samphire Hoe of note on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, whilst offshore single Arctic Skuas were seen off Samphire Hoe on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Princes Parade on the 5<sup>th</sup>. A late Swift flew west at the Aldergate Bridge on the 6<sup>th</sup>, where five Sand Martins and 247 House Martins also flew west, whilst c.200 House Martins were at Nickolls Quarry. A Merlin, 5 Jays and 60 Swallows were noted at Abbotscliffe and a Corn Bunting, 12 Tree Sparrows, 12 Teal and 120 Linnets were present at Donkey Street.

A **Woodlark** and a Hobby flew west over Seabrook on the 7<sup>th</sup>, when two Ring Ouzels were at Samphire Hoe and a Ring Ouzel and 14 Chiffchaffs were at Abbotscliffe, where 2 Siskins, 12 Reed Buntings and 500 Starlings flew over. Another **Woodlark** and a Whitethroat were at Abbotscliffe the following day, when a **Yellow-legged Gull**, a Ring Ouzel and a Wheatear were at Samphire Hoe where a flock of c.1,000 Starlings arrived in off the sea, and a Hobby was seen over Hythe.

A Lesser Whitethroat, a Snipe and 3 Lapwings were at Abbotscliffe on the 9<sup>th</sup>, when 5 Jays flew west there, whilst the next day produced a Redwing, 11 Chiffchaffs and 19 Blackcaps at Samphire Hoe, a Firecrest at Sandgate and a flock of 16 Ravens flying east over Hythe and later over Horn Street.



A Brambling and 2 Reed Buntings were at Abbotscliffe on the 11<sup>th</sup>, when 2 Redpolls flew east there and a further seven Ravens flew east over Seabrook. The 12<sup>th</sup> saw a Snipe, a Great Spotted Woodpecker and 10 Chiffchaffs at Abbotscliffe, 4 Corn Buntings and 10 Tree Sparrows at Donkey Street and 100 Redwings flying east over Cheriton.

A juvenile **Sabine's Gull** spent some time feeding off Battery Point on the 13<sup>th</sup>, whilst a **Grey Phalarope** was reported off Princes Parade and 5 Razorbills and 10 Brent Geese were also seen offshore, whilst a Lapwing, 2 Bramblings and 2 Reed Buntings were at Abbotscliffe, where a Fieldfare, 2 Jays, 8 Siskins, 15 Swallows and 375 Goldfinches flew east and 14 Skylarks arrived in off the sea at Seabrook. A Wheatear was at Folkestone Beach. A Shag, 31 Guillemots and 45 Razorbills were seen off Princes Parade the next day. A Black Redstart was at Abbotscliffe on the 15<sup>th</sup>, whilst 5 Jays flew west and c.1,000 Starlings arrived in off the sea there the following day.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> a drake Velvet Scoter, 3 Arctic Skuas, 5 Red-throated Divers, 7 Razorbills, 31 Kittiwakes and 450 Gannets flew past Mill Point, with two Arctic Skuas, 4 Little Gulls and 4 Sandwich Terns flying east there the next day. A Hobby was seen at West Hythe on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The 21<sup>st</sup> produced a Green Sandpiper at Botolph's Bridge, 5 Corn Buntings and 7 Tree Sparrows at Donkey Street and ten Sandwich Terns at the Dymchurch Redoubt, whilst the following day saw a Brambling, 3 Ring Ouzels, 4 Golden Plovers, 4 Jays and 4 Siskins fly west at Abbotscliffe.

A juvenile **Pallid Harrier** at Abbotscliffe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> was a new species for the area, whilst three Ring Ouzels were also seen there and a Redpoll, 5 Reed Buntings, 10 Jays, 14 Siskins, 22 Bramblings and 880 Starlings flew over. Another Ring Ouzel was noted at Samphire Hoe. Two Wigeon and 4 Sandwich Terns flew east past Samphire Hoe and 75 Starling arrived in off the sea there the next day. Single Ring Ouzels were seen at Abbotscliffe and Samphire Hoe on the 25<sup>th</sup> and a Barn Owl was at West Hythe on the 26<sup>th</sup>, with a Hobby at Lympe on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

A Great Skua, 2 Red-breasted Mergansers, 2 Sandwich Terns, 9 Brent Geese, c.75 Guillemots and c.225 Razorbills flew past Mill Point on the 29<sup>th</sup>, whilst a **Great White Egret** flew south-east out to sea from Copt Point the following day. The month ended with a **Sooty Shearwater** flying west past Hythe, the first returning Purple Sandpiper at Hythe and a male Marsh Harrier at Abbott's Court Farm on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

## November

Most of November was mild and settled, with winds predominately from the westerly quarter, and a few summer visitors were lingering early in month, including a Swallow and a Chiffchaff at Seabrook on the 1<sup>st</sup>, when a Water Rail and 31 Blackbirds were also of note, and 63 Goldfinches flew west. A Blackcap, a Chiffchaff and 2 Bramblings were at Copt Point the next day, when a Blackcap was at Samphire Hoe, three Tree Sparrows were at Abbotscliffe, and 2 Redpolls, 8 Bramblings, 15 Siskins, 25 Stock Doves, 120 Starlings and 210 Woodpigeons flew over. A Ring Ouzel was seen at Copt Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, when a Swallow, a Redpoll, 2 Bramblings and 120 Starlings flew over Abbotscliffe and a Chiffchaff was at Samphire Hoe.

A fresh north-westerly breeze on the 4<sup>th</sup> produced a Snow Bunting, a Reed Bunting, a Snipe, a Swallow and 25 Blackbirds at Abbotscliffe, where 3 Golden Plover flew west, whilst six Blackbirds and 30 Redwings flew in off the sea at Samphire Hoe and 7 Song Thrushes, 29 Redwings and 45 Fieldfares flew west at West Hythe. At Mill Point 2 Shelduck, 3 Red-breasted Mergansers, 3 Sandwich Terns, 6 Teal, 8 Dunlin, 12 Razorbills and 53 Brent Geese flew past, whilst 415 Starlings arrived in off and 2 Dunlin and 12 Lapwing were at the Willop Basin. A late Wheatear, a Chiffchaff, 2 Snow Buntings, 2 Ring Ouzels and 2 Fieldfares were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 5<sup>th</sup>, where 3 Siskin, 4 Redpoll and 7 Golden Plover flew west and 26 Blackbirds arrived in off the sea. Two Sandwich Terns were seen off Hythe and 27 Brent Geese flew east at Seabrook, where 247 Starlings flew west.

A **Dartford Warbler** was found at Samphire Hoe on the 6<sup>th</sup> (where it remained until at least the month's end), whilst a Green Sandpiper, a Corn Bunting, a Redpoll, 3 Tree Sparrows, 5 Brent Geese and 23 Lapwings were in the Donkey Street/Willop Basin area. Four Sandwich Terns were seen off Hythe Ranges the following day.

The 8<sup>th</sup> saw 15 Brambling, 19 Stock Doves and 355 Starlings fly over at Abbotscliffe, whilst a Sandwich Tern was seen off the Willop Outfall. On the 10<sup>th</sup> a Woodcock was killed by a Peregrine as it arrived in off the sea at Folkestone Pier, a Shag was seen off of Seabrook and 170 Redwings flew west at West Hythe.

A redhead Goosander, a Woodcock and 2 Green Sandpipers were at Botolph's Bridge the next day, when a Velvet Scoter flew west past the Dymchurch Redoubt. On the 12<sup>th</sup> 470 Starlings arrived in off the sea at Mill Point and a Snow Bunting, 5 Siskins and 11 Stock Doves flew over Abbotscliffe the following day, when a Swallow was at Palmarsh.



Dartford Warbler at Samphire Hoe (Martin Collins)

A Teal, 4 Brent Geese and 14 Shelduck flew past Mill Point on the 14<sup>th</sup>, when a Brambling, a Redpoll and 170 Starlings arrived in off the sea there, and a Red-breasted Merganser, a Pintail, a Gadwall, 2 Sandwich Terns, 11 Wigeon, 30 Shelduck and 33 Brent Geese flew past Samphire Hoe the next day, when 120 Starlings arrived in off the sea, and a Barn Owl (the first of several sightings), 3 Little Egrets and c.12 Golden Plovers were at West Hythe. A Snow Bunting flew west at Samphire Hoe on the 16<sup>th</sup> and two Black Redstarts were at the Willop Outfall on the 17<sup>th</sup>, with another seen below Abbotscliffe on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Four Golden Plovers flew in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> saw a colder northerly airflow and a **Rough-legged Buzzard** was reported at Samphire Hoe, where a Snow Bunting flew over and an Eider, a Pintail, 2 Red-breasted Mergansers, 2 Lapwings, 7 Gadwall, 9 Dunlin, 21 Razorbills, 23 Red-throated Divers, 43 Kittiwakes, 60 Teal, 157 Brent Geese, a record count of 194 Shelduck and 205 Wigeon flew east, but it soon became with quieter, with a male Marsh Harrier at the Willop Basin on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Reed Bunting and 2 Snipe at Abbotscliffe on the 24<sup>th</sup> and a Chiffchaff at the Aldergate Bridge on the 25<sup>th</sup> being the highlights.

A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers, 3 Brent Geese, 60 Red-throated Divers and 240 Guillemots/Razorbills flew past Mill Point on the 28<sup>th</sup>, when a female Blackcap was seen in a garden in Folkestone, whilst the next day produced a female/immature Goldeneye, a Sandwich Tern, 6 Shelduck and 19 Brent Geese passing Mill Point and a Red-breasted Merganser was seen off Hythe on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## December

During the early part of the December it was unsettled and chilly, though towards the middle of the month it became more settled and milder. Unsettled conditions returned around Christmas but the last few days of the year were again milder.



A flock of 12 **White-fronted Geese** flew west along the seawall at Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup>, whilst 15 were seen in fields along Donkey Street on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and small numbers of Brent Geese were noted during December, with a peak of nine at Samphire Hoe on the 20<sup>th</sup>. A peak of 25 Mute Swans were counted near Selby Farm on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Goosanders passing Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Nine Shelduck flew past Samphire Hoe on the 20<sup>th</sup>, with seven heading east past Hythe the following day and two flying west there on the 26<sup>th</sup>, whilst four Wigeon flew west past Hythe on the 15<sup>th</sup>, a Gadwall and seven Wigeon flew east past Princes Parade on the 18<sup>th</sup> and a drake Wigeon was seen on the main pond at Samphire Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup>. At least 25 Teal were in the Willop Sewer area during the month. A flock of five 'red-head' Goosanders were seen flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 14<sup>th</sup>, with possibly the same flock seen at West Hythe dam on the 17<sup>th</sup>, whilst three Red-breasted Mergansers flew west past Hythe on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Water Rails were noted at Nickolls Quarry, Enbrook Park and Holy Well (three), whilst a peak of 28 Great Crested Grebes were logged off Folkestone Pier on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Lapwing numbers were low, with peak counts of just 40 at the Willop Sewer on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 50 at Hillhurst Farm on the 27<sup>th</sup>, but a flock of 15 on Cheriton Polo Ground on the 26<sup>th</sup> was indicative of some movement. A Golden Plover flew over Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup>, where a Turnstone the following day was an unusual record for the site. At least two Purple Sandpipers remained at Hythe, a Green Sandpiper was at the Willop Sewage Works on the 11<sup>th</sup> and up to five Redshanks were seen in Folkestone Harbour.

Single Sandwich Terns were noted from Seabrook on the 5<sup>th</sup> and Hythe the next day. Auk counts were low, with the exception of around 500 Guillemot/Razorbills flying east past Princes Parade on the 18<sup>th</sup>, whilst the peak Red-throated Diver count was just 12 off Folkestone Pier on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Single Black-throated Divers were seen off Hythe Ranges on the 11<sup>th</sup> and Samphire Hoe on the 27<sup>th</sup>, whilst a **Great Northern Diver** was seen on the sea from the latter site on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Small numbers of Fulmars were noted from mid-month as birds began to return to the breeding colonies. Up to five Shags were noted at Samphire Hoe, with one in the Folkestone Harbour area between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Large numbers of Cormorants were present throughout and counts included 1,600 flying west past Hythe on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 2,000 off Samphire Hoe on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

A **Great White Egret** was seen flying east over Haguelands Farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, before landing near the Willop Sewage Works, with possibly the same individual at the latter site on the 21<sup>st</sup>, with two seen near Selby Farm on the following day. Little Egrets were noted at various sites, with a peak of four at West Hythe dam. The Little Owl remained at Selby Farm and a Peregrine was noted there on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

A Chiffchaff and three Firecrests were wintering at Enbrook Park, as was a male Blackcap in a garden in north-east Folkestone, whilst the **Dartford Warbler** remained at Samphire Hoe, although continued to be elusive.

The mild conditions meant that winter thrush numbers were low, with a peak of just three Fieldfares and 29 Redwings at the Aldergate Bridge. At least one Black Redstart remained at Samphire Hoe until the year's end.

A Tree Sparrow, a Corn Bunting, 17 Yellowhammers, 19 Skylarks and 25 Chaffinches were counted in a stubble field at Abbotscliffe on the 13<sup>th</sup>, whilst up to eight Tree Sparrows and 32 Corn Buntings were present in the Botolph's Bridge area. Single Snow Buntings were present along the seafront at Hythe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and at Folkestone Harbour from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the year's end.



Shag at Folkestone Harbour (Elliot Ranford)

## Systematic list

The systematic list is based on the sequence, taxonomy and vernacular names contained within the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) World Bird List, as adopted by the British Ornithologists' Union from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 (BOU, 2017). The status of each species is described with reference to its frequency of occurrence, as summarised in the table below, and the times of year when it usually occurs. Any significant changes in status over time are also highlighted.

Status	Frequency of occurrence
<b>Very rare</b>	Has occurred locally on between one and 15 occasions
<b>Rare</b>	Has occurred locally on between 16 and 50 occasions
<b>Scarce</b>	Has occurred locally on more than 50 occasions but on less than ten occasions per year on average

The category given in parentheses after the status is based on the British Ornithologist's Union (BOU) categorisation (BOU, no date), adapted to reflect the status of species locally, as follows:

Category	Description
<b>A</b>	Species recorded locally in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950
<b>B</b>	Species recorded locally in an apparently natural state at least once between 1800 and 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently
<b>C1</b>	Naturalised introduced: species that have occurred only as a result of introduction, e.g. Egyptian Goose
<b>C2</b>	Naturalised established: species with established populations resulting from introduction, but which also occur in an apparently natural state, e.g. Greylag Goose
<b>C3</b>	Naturalised re-established: species with populations successfully re-established in areas of former occurrence, e.g. Red Kite
<b>C4</b>	Naturalised feral: domesticated species with populations established in the wild, e.g. Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon
<b>C5</b>	Vagrant naturalised: species from established naturalised populations abroad. There are currently no species in category C5 that have occurred in Britain
<b>C6</b>	Former naturalised: species formerly placed in C1 whose naturalised populations are either no longer self-sustaining or are considered extinct
<b>D</b>	Species that would otherwise appear in Category A except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state. The only species in this category that is on the local list is Great White Pelican
<b>E</b>	Species recorded locally as introductions, human-assisted transportations or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining

A species is usually placed in only one category, but some are placed in multiple categories, for example those species occurring in Category A which now have naturalised Category C1-6 populations (e.g. Red Kite).

The Folkestone and Hythe list comprises only those species in Categories A, B and C1-6. Species placed in Category D and E are not included in the species total.

For very rare and rare species the number of records prior to this year and the number record in year are shown in parentheses after the status.

Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
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Breeding resident, possibly declining (C1)

Small numbers were again noted in the Romney Marsh area, with a peak of six near Haguelands Farm on the 9<sup>th</sup> January. Elsewhere one was seen on Hythe Ranges on the 26<sup>th</sup> February and singles were noted at Abbotscliffe on two dates in April and one in September.

Declining breeding resident (A)

There had been no sightings in 2019 or 2020, but two were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021, with a single there on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021, whilst one flew across the A20 near Bluehouse Wood (in TR1537, just to the west of Summerhouse Hill) on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Perhaps this species does still persist in low density at these two former strongholds.

## Pheasant

*Phasianus colchicus*

Breeding resident (C1)

Widely recorded but no notable counts were received.

## Brent Goose

*Branta bernicla*

Winter visitor and passage migrant, rare in summer (A)

In recent years movements (mostly up-channel) have been noted in late December and January, the reasons for which are as yet unclear but may involve late arriving birds re-orientating (for it seems to be most associated with mild winters) or perhaps birds moving between feeding grounds. Following a couple of movements in late December 2020, January saw counts of 45 flying west past Folkestone Harbour on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 16 flying east past Seabrook and Samphire Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 11 east past Seabrook on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 45 east there on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 11 east past the Willop Outfall on the 31<sup>st</sup>, with 15 flying east past Folkestone Pier on the 1<sup>st</sup> February. Cold weather on the 8<sup>th</sup> February produced an influx, with 45 seen in fields Geese at Donkey Street and at least 154 offshore, whilst 63 flew east past Seabrook the following day.

The main spring passage commenced on the 21<sup>st</sup> February, when 20 flew east past Samphire Hoe, with the first double-figure counts in early March, when 200 flew east past Mill Point on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 200 flew east past Samphire Hoe the next day. The 4<sup>th</sup> March saw an excellent total of at least 1,132 passing coastal watch-points (only the 11<sup>th</sup> time that a four-figure movement has been logged). Further three-figure counts in spring involved 150 flying east Mill Point on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, 105 east past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 330 east past Mill Point on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 300 passing coastal sites on the 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Passage continued into early May, with the last flock of 13 seen passing Folkestone Pier and Samphire Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup> May. The overall spring total was at least 3,121, which was an improvement on the previous two years but still less than the mean for the previous decade of around 3,550.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Latest/Earliest ever
	2021	2020				
Brent Goose	9 <sup>th</sup> May	10 <sup>th</sup> May	-1	6 <sup>th</sup> May*	3	26 <sup>th</sup> May 1997*
Arrival	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	0	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep*	-2	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep 2008*

The first autumn arrival involved four flying west past Samphire Hoe and 12 flying east past Seabrook on the 19<sup>th</sup> September and small numbers were noted regularly until the end of the year, with the only notable movement involving 157 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November. No passage was evident in late December.



One pair usually breeds annually but formerly more numerous (between the late 1990s and 2004). Otherwise can be a visitor at any time of year (C1)

In January a single bird, perhaps the same individual, was seen near the Dymchurch Redoubt and later at the unusual location of Folkestone Harbour on the 17<sup>th</sup>. At Nickolls Quarry the first returning birds involved seven on the 5<sup>th</sup> February and up to ten were present during February and early March, whilst a pair settled to breed again on the small island in the main lake, with seven fledglings noted from the 20<sup>th</sup> April and seven well-grown young were present into late May, whilst intermittent sightings in June included 17 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Up to ten (possibly involving the same individuals) were seen occasionally at Donkey Street during February and March, and a pair bred here for the first time, laying at least two eggs and fledging at least one young. This pair were rather later in breeding than the Nickolls Quarry birds and were still on eggs well into May, with the chick first noted on the 20<sup>th</sup> May. After fledging the family quickly moved on.

Small numbers noted elsewhere on the marsh in the early part of the year presumably involved the same birds, whilst further afield two were seen at Cock Ash Lake on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, six flew west past Seabrook on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, four flew west past Samphire Hoe on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and three flew west past Seabrook on the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

In the latter half of the year 11 were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 19<sup>th</sup> August, whilst 43 on the sea off the Willop Outfall on the 17<sup>th</sup> September marked the start of a significant arrival, being followed by 72 at Nickolls Quarry on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, 103 there on the 29<sup>th</sup> September and a peak of 119 there on the 13<sup>th</sup> October. These were the first three-figure counts since 2003.



Pheasants at Sellindge (Derek Smith)



Brent Geese at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Brent Geese at the Willop Outfall (Brian Harper)



Canada Goose on nest at Donkey Street (Ian Roberts)

Rare migrant and winter visitor, with feral birds also recorded (A, C2, E) (36, 5)

A flock of six flew west past Seabrook on the 21<sup>st</sup> January (P. Howe) whilst early March produced a series of sightings that were part of a widespread passage of geese through the county following a period of severe conditions in February, and were thought to be cold weather migrants returning. Many White-fronted Geese were also involved in this movement, whilst large numbers of both species were also noted on the near Continent. The local records comprised up to four at Donkey Street between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March (I. A. Roberts, B. Harper), six at Lympe on the 5<sup>th</sup> March (P. Sharp), see photograph on page 10, and singles at Nickolls Quarry on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts).

## Greylag Goose

*Anser anser*

Formerly a rare winter visitor and passage migrant but now frequently recorded throughout the year, with most birds thought to originate from an increasing introduced population. Has bred in recent years (A, C2, C4)

Only small numbers were noted in the early part of the year, with peaks of five at Radnor Park and six flying west at the Willop Basin on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, five at Folkestone Racecourse on the 5<sup>th</sup> February and five at Nickolls Quarry on the 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Up to 25 were present at Cock Ash Lake in March, with 20 remaining until late April but dwindling to four in early May and there were no indications of breeding. There were single figure counts at a variety of sites during the spring but with little indication of any spring passage, although four flying north at Abbotscliffe on the 31<sup>st</sup> March and five flying east past Seabrook on the 16<sup>th</sup> April were probably the most noteworthy.

There were very few summer records but a flock of 15 flew over Nickolls Quarry on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The autumn however produced some notable counts, with 31 flying east past Seabrook on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 74 at Botolph's Bridge on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 and 21 flying south over the Aldergate Bridge on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The flock of 74 was the second highest count (after 85+ seen off Copt Point on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 1996).



Barnacle Geese at Donkey Street (Ian Roberts)



Greylag Goose at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)

## Tundra Bean Goose

*Anser serrirostris*

Very rare vagrant (A) (8, 1)

Five were present for a short while in fields to the south of Lathe Barn on the 8<sup>th</sup> February before they flew west (I. A. Roberts). The ninth area record and the first since 2011.



Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (33, 7)

Early March produced a record influx that were part of a widespread passage of geese through the county following a period of severe conditions in February, and were thought to be cold weather migrants returning. A number of Barnacle Geese were also involved in this movement, whilst large numbers of both species were also noted on the near Continent. On the 1<sup>st</sup> March a flock of 30 flew over Cheriton (C. Gillard) and a total of 104 (flocks of 23 and 81) flew east past Seabrook (P. Howe), with 18 flying east past the latter site the following day (P. Howe), four present at the Willop Basin on the 4<sup>th</sup> March (I. A. Roberts, B. Harper), 27 at Lypne on the 5<sup>th</sup> March (P. Sharp), see photograph on page 10, and six at Cock Ash Lake on the 14<sup>th</sup> March (D. Smith).

The latter part of the year saw further records of 12 flying west along the seawall at Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup> December (M. D. Kennett) and 15 at Donkey Street on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December (I. A. Roberts, D. Brown).

## Mute Swan

*Cygnus olor*

Breeding resident, perhaps also a winter visitor and occasional migrant (A, C2)

Numbers in the early winter period again were very low, with no counts of note. At least three pairs bred again, with two pairs along the Royal Military Canal (one at Seabrook and one at Palmarsh) and a pair at Donkey Street, with each pair laying five eggs. Both of the pairs on the canal fledged five young but the Donkey Street pair appeared to be unsuccessful.

There were several sightings of birds seen offshore during the spring, with two flying east past Seabrook and later past Samphire Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup> March, one flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup> April and two flying east past Seabrook on the 19<sup>th</sup> May (with two more or perhaps the same flying east 50 minutes later, with two also having flown south over Brockhill Country Park earlier).

There was some improvement in wintering numbers in December, with a peak of 25 near Selby Farm on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.



White-fronted Geese at Cock Ash Lake (Derek Smith)



Mute Swans at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)

## Egyptian Goose

*Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Rare migrant (C1) (16, 8)

A flock of four flew east past the Willop Outfall on the 8<sup>th</sup> January before circling inland over Hythe Ranges and settling briefly at Nickolls Quarry (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts). One was seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, with what was presumed to be the same individual in the Willop Basin area between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February (I. A. Roberts), whilst two were present at both Nickolls Quarry and Cock Ash Lake on the 20<sup>th</sup> February (I. A. Roberts).

March produced two further sightings: two flying east past Seabrook on the 17<sup>th</sup> (P. Howe) and one at Radnor Park on the 30<sup>th</sup> (R. Thorogood), whilst in April four flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> (I. A. Roberts) and another was seen at Cock Ash Lake on the 29<sup>th</sup> (I. A. Roberts).

2020 was the first year to produce more than two sightings (with four), so the total of eight is unprecedented and reflects the species continuing to slowly become established in the county. Despite the increase in records, all have still only occurred between January and May.



Egyptian Goose at the Willop Basin (Ian Roberts)



Egyptian Geese at Cock Ash Lake (Ian Roberts)

Shelduck

*Tadorna tadorna*

Winter visitor and passage migrant, may have bred on at least one occasion prior to 2004 (A)

Small numbers were noted at coastal sites on several dates in January with a peak of six on the sea off the Willop Outfall on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Cold weather in February produced a notable influx, with at least 38 noted offshore on the 8<sup>th</sup>, when three were in fields at the Willop Basin, where they increased to five on the 9<sup>th</sup> and six on the 11<sup>th</sup>, before slowly dwindling and with the last one seen there on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Offshore up to ten were noted on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, whilst ten flew east past the Willop Outfall the following day.

There were several sightings in late February and early March that perhaps involved cold weather migrants returning, following the earlier severe conditions, and these include four at Nickolls Quarry on the 27<sup>th</sup> February, nine flying east past Folkestone Beach on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March and ten flying east there on the 4<sup>th</sup> March.

A further wave of spring passage was noted between the 21<sup>st</sup> March and the 8<sup>th</sup> May, with the only counts in excess of three being 13 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup> April and seven flying east past Sandgate on the 21<sup>st</sup> April. The spring total of 68 was very similar to last year (69) and above the mean for the previous decade of 49.

Four flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 25<sup>th</sup> August, with six flying east there on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September. There were no further sightings until November saw an unprecedented passage. Counts included 14 flying east past Mill Point on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 30 (17 east, 13 west) passing Samphire Hoe on the 15<sup>th</sup> and an incredible total of 194 flying east Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November (the previous largest count involved a cold weather movement of 74 off Hythe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010). In December nine were seen off Samphire Hoe on the 20<sup>th</sup>, seven flew east past Hythe on the 21<sup>st</sup> and two flew west there on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

One believed to be of captive origin was present, with other released wildfowl, at Cock Ash Lake between the 5<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Breeding resident (C1)

Small numbers were again noted at Folks' Wood during the year, but there were no reports from Chesterfield Wood or any other sites. This species appears to have undergone a recent decline locally.

Rare migrant, mainly in spring, possibly bred in the past (A) (29, 1)

A drake flew east past Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> April (I. A. Roberts).

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A pair were present at Nickolls Quarry on the 10<sup>th</sup> January and four were seen in the Donkey Street/Willop Sewer on several dates in January and February, with up to two remaining into late March. Cold weather in February produced a small influx, with one at Nickolls Quarry on the 7<sup>th</sup>, increasing to seven the following day, with a pair on the 16<sup>th</sup> February, whilst one was on the sea off the Willop Outfall on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

A light spring passage comprised four flying east past Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, three flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, two flying east there on the 21<sup>st</sup> April and four flying east there on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. A female at Nickolls Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June was only the third ever mid-summer record but the only sighting in autumn involved one flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> August.



Shelducks at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)



Shovelers at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)

Winter visitor and passage migrant, bred for the first time in 2021 (A, C2)

A good series of records in January comprised two flying west past Samphire Hoe and a drake at Nickolls Quarry on the 9<sup>th</sup>, with a pair at the latter site the next day, four on the Hoorne's Sewer on the 17<sup>th</sup> and a pair flying east past the Willop Outfall on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Cold weather in February produced a small influx, with up to four at Donkey Street, a peak of nine at Nickolls Quarry (on the 17<sup>th</sup>) and three flying east past Seabrook on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Spring migrants comprised a pair at Nickolls Quarry on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March and two on the sea off Hythe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April. After a few sightings of a pair lingering in the Donkey Street/Hoorne's Sewer area in March and April 2021 a female was flushed off a nest containing three eggs on the bank of the Hoorne's Sewer on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, but there were no subsequent reports. This was the first local breeding occurrence.

The only records from the second half of the year involved one flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 15<sup>th</sup> November, seven flying east there on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November and one flying east past Princes Parade on the 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Wigeon
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<i>Mareca penelope</i>
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Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Sightings in January included 26 on the sea off the Willop Outfall on the 1<sup>st</sup>, increasing to 43 there the following day, five at Nickolls Quarry on the 10<sup>th</sup> and ten flying west past the Willop Outfall on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Cold weather in February produced a significant influx with a total of at least 360 across the area on the 8<sup>th</sup> (including 56 at Nickolls Quarry and c.250 off the Willop Outfall), with 78 at Nickolls Quarry and 131 flying east past Seabrook the following day, and 101 at Nickolls Quarry on the 13<sup>th</sup>. This latter flock quickly dwindled to 60 on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 36 on the 17<sup>th</sup>, with none there subsequently, whilst 12 were at Donkey Street on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February and a pair at the Hoorne's Sewer on the 1<sup>st</sup> March were the last of the early winter period.

The first autumn birds comprised two flying east past Samphire Hoe on the relatively early date of the 30<sup>th</sup> August and small numbers were noted on several dates in September and October, with a peak count of 19 on the sea off Hythe on the 16<sup>th</sup> September. In November 11 flew west past Samphire Hoe on the 15<sup>th</sup>, with an excellent total of 205 flying west there on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, but December saw a peak of just seven flying east past Princes Parade on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mallard
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<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
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Breeding resident and winter visitor (A)

Counts included 35 at Radnor Park on the 5<sup>th</sup> January, 57 in the Donkey Street/Willop Sewer area on the 12<sup>th</sup> February, 60 on the canal at Hythe on the 15<sup>th</sup> February and 43 at Nickolls Quarry on the 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Pintail
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<i>Anas acuta</i>
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Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

One was seen off the Willop Outfall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January before a good count of 34 flew east past Seabrook on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Cold weather in February produced a drake at Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> and a pair at Nickolls Quarry on the 10<sup>th</sup>, with a drake there on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

The only spring movement involved an exceptional total of 305 flying east past Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, and perhaps involved cold weather migrants returning, following the earlier severe conditions. The previous record count was 63 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2006. The only records from the latter part of the year involved singles flying past Samphire Hoe on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021.

A pair believed to be of captive origin were present, with other released wildfowl, at Cock Ash Lake between the 5<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Teal
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<i>Anas crecca</i>
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Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

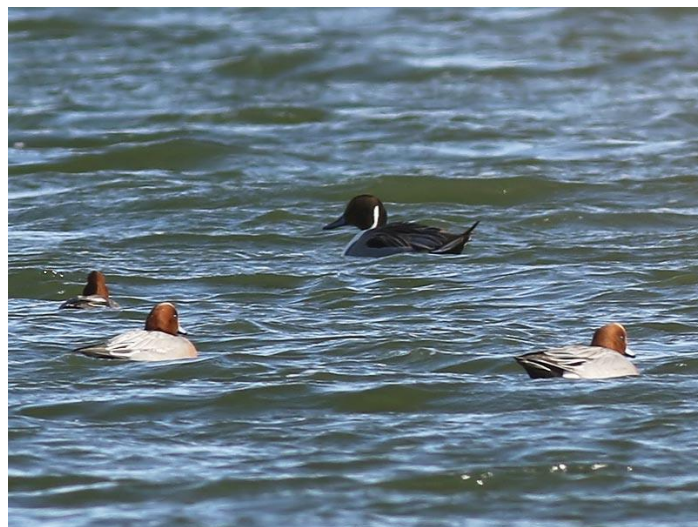
In January up to 58 were present in the Donkey Street/Willop Basin area, with small numbers noted at Nickolls Quarry and offshore. Cold weather in February produced a substantial influx, including 70 on the sea off the Willop Outfall on the 8<sup>th</sup>, a peak of 74 at Nickolls Quarry (on the 8<sup>th</sup>) and a peak of 112 in the Donkey Street/Willop Basin area (on the 12<sup>th</sup>), with smaller numbers elsewhere. Numbers at Nickolls Quarry decreased to two by the 16<sup>th</sup> February, with none thereafter, but at least 56 remained in the Donkey Street/Willop Basin area into early March, decreasing to 16 by the end of the month, with four until the 11<sup>th</sup> April.



The first autumn sighting involved four flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, whilst 11 flew east there on the 30<sup>th</sup> August. Numbers increased in the Donkey Street/Willop Basin area to 18 by the end of September, but counts in the latter winter period were low, with a peak of just 25 on the 21<sup>st</sup> December. Small numbers were noted at other sites, with a notable exception of 60 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.



Gadwall nest at Hoorne's Sewer (Ian Roberts)



Pintail at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)



Pintail at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Teal at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Pochard

*Aythya ferina*

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period eight were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, increasing to 21 the following day, but with just one remaining on the 11<sup>th</sup> January, and none thereafter. Up to two were present at Cock Ash Lake between January and mid-April and again from early September, with a larger count of nine on the 27<sup>th</sup> February, increasing to 12 the next day, before decreasing to three by the 5<sup>th</sup> March. One was noted at nearby Horton Priory lake on the 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Tufted Duck

*Aythya fuligula*

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were regular records again from Cock Ash Lake, where there were peaks of 15 in February, 19 in March and 14 in May, and at least three (two drakes and a duck) remained into early June. Smaller numbers were again present there from September.

Several, perhaps part of the same group, were seen at nearby Horton Priory lake on a few occasions. Up to five were seen at Nickolls Quarry on several dates in January and February, with singles drakes there on three dates in March/April and three (two drakes and a duck) were present on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June. Two pairs were also present at Brockhill Country Park intermittently between mid-May and mid-June. However there were no signs of breeding at any site this year.

Elsewhere three were seen on Woodside Farm lake (near Postling Wents) on the 14<sup>th</sup> March and a female flew west past the Willop Outfall on the 20<sup>th</sup> September.

Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>
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Passage migrant and winter visitor, formerly summered (A)

Three drakes flew east past Folkestone Beach on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, a drake flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup> April, two were on the sea off the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and two drakes flew west past Samphire Hoe on the 5<sup>th</sup> May. The only sighting from the latter part of the year involved a drake flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>
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Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period singles were seen flying west past the Willop Outfall on the 24<sup>th</sup> January and on the sea there on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. Spring produced six flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup> April and three flying east there on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. In the latter part of the year one flew east past Mill Point on the 17<sup>th</sup> October and one flew west past the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>
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Non-breeding summer visitor, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A flock was present off the Dymchurch Redoubt/Willop Outfall area intermittently during the early winter period, with a peak of around 100 there on the 9<sup>th</sup> January.

Spring passage saw a marked improvement of the 699 logged last year, with the total of 1,899 also being an improvement on the mean for the previous decade of around 1,385. Three-figure counts comprised 112 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> April, a very good total of 830 flying east there on the 24<sup>th</sup> April, 390 flying east past Sandgate/Samphire Hoe on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and 127 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 29<sup>th</sup> April. The last of the spring were eight flying east past Mill Point on the 21<sup>st</sup> May and there were no summer records.

Small numbers were again noted from early August and 45 were seen off the Willop Outfall on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, with up to 50 there or from the Dymchurch Redoubt intermittently until the year's end. The only double-figure counts elsewhere comprised 15 flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, 19 off Mill Point on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 11 east past Samphire Hoe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, ten east past Mill Point on the 12<sup>th</sup> November and 11 east past Princes Parade on the 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
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Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A female/immature flew east past Mill Point on the 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (18, 1)

A female/immature flew east past the Willop Outfall on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, with presumably the same bird later relocated at Nickolls Quarry (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts), see photograph on page 8. This was the first to be recorded since 2014.



Pochards at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)



Smew at Willop Outfall (Brian Harper)

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A drake flew east past Folkestone Beach on the 16<sup>th</sup> March and a pair were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March. In the late winter period a female/immature was at Botolph's Bridge on the 11<sup>th</sup> November and five female/immatures flew west past Samphire Hoe on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, see photograph on page 23, with perhaps the same flock of five seen at West Hythe dam on the 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

One flying west past Seabrook on the 8<sup>th</sup> February was the only sighting in the early winter period. Spring passage was noted between the 11<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> May and produced a total of 14 birds, which was very similar to the mean for the previous decade of 14.3. All records involved singles, with the exception of two passing Seabrook on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, three passing Samphire Hoe on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April and five passing there on the 13<sup>th</sup> May.

The latter part of the year produced a total of 14, including three flying west past Mill Point on the 29<sup>th</sup> October and three flying west past Hythe on the 26<sup>th</sup> December.

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first, one at Nickolls Quarry on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, was on the same date as last year and very much in line with the mean for the previous decade of 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Further singles followed at the Willop Basin on the 24<sup>th</sup> and at Folkestone and Hythe on the 27<sup>th</sup>, whilst eight were present at Nickolls Quarry on the 28<sup>th</sup> April.



Arrival was slow during the first half of May, with the only double-figure count relating to 19 arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the main arrival took place during the second half of the month. Counts included 28 arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, 15 over Brockhill Country Park on the 19<sup>th</sup> May, 20 at Nickolls Quarry on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, 14 arriving in off the sea at Mill Point on the 21<sup>st</sup> May and 20 at Nickolls Quarry and 30 at Donkey Street on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	0	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	-1	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2015
Departure	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-2	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	22	16 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1957

Numbers in summer were particularly low, with peak counts of just 60 flying east at Capel-le-Ferne on the 12<sup>th</sup> June and 44 at Seabrook on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, whilst autumn passage only produced 70 flying west at Hythe on the 26<sup>th</sup> July, 50 at Creteway Down on the 5<sup>th</sup> August, 20 at Folkestone and 40 flying west at Hythe on the 17<sup>th</sup> August, and 70 flying west at Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> August.

In September, two flew west at Abbotscliffe on the 6<sup>th</sup> and one was seen there on the 12<sup>th</sup>, whilst a late individual flew west at the Aldergate Bridge on the 6<sup>th</sup> October (there have been later records in just five years).

Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
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Declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

At least one was present in the Donkey Street/ Nickolls Quarry area between the 25<sup>th</sup> April and 24<sup>th</sup> June, with two there on the 20<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> June. The only spring/summer record from elsewhere was one at the allotments at South Road in Hythe on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	25 <sup>th</sup> Apr	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-2	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2001
Departure	27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	14 <sup>th</sup> Jun	74	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jul	36	28 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1969

In autumn a juvenile was seen in a garden at Ingles Manor in Folkestone on the 27<sup>th</sup> August.

Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
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Breeding resident (C4)

A common and widespread species but the only count received involved 32 at Sandgate area on the 28<sup>th</sup> November.

Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>
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Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Counts from the early winter period included 35 flying north over Folkestone on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January and 25 at Botolph's Bridge on the 28<sup>th</sup> February. The only indications of spring passage involved 19 flying north at Abbotscliffe on the 26<sup>th</sup> February and two flying east there on the 17<sup>th</sup> March.

In autumn small numbers were noted on passage on several dates in October and November, with counts 25 flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 19 flying west there on the 8<sup>th</sup> November and 11 flying west there on the 13<sup>th</sup> November. In December 16 were noted at the Willop Sewage Works on the 11<sup>th</sup>.



## Woodpigeon

*Columba palumbus*

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

This species is particularly abundant on the marsh but remains largely under-recorded. The only count received from the early winter period involved 600 at Botolph's Bridge on the 28<sup>th</sup> February, whilst in the latter part of the year "many thousands were moving around" the West Hythe area on the 19<sup>th</sup> October. Autumn passage included 210 flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 73 flying west there on the 5<sup>th</sup> November and 90 flying west there on the 8<sup>th</sup> November.

## Turtle Dove

*Streptopelia turtur*

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant, formerly numerous. Very rare in winter (A)

The only sighting this year involved one seen arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 5<sup>th</sup> May (I. A. Roberts).

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	5 <sup>th</sup> May	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	-18	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1993
Departure	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jul	-	15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1981*

## Collared Dove

*Streptopelia decaocto*

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

No noteworthy counts were received. Small numbers that are sometimes noted at coastal sites in spring and autumn are thought to either involve dispersal or perhaps continuing immigration from the continent. In 2021 these included two flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, one at Samphire Hoe on the 7<sup>th</sup> May, three flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 12<sup>th</sup> October and one flying west there on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.



Swifts at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)



Stock Dove at Holy Well (Elliot Ranford)

## Water Rail

*Rallus aquaticus*

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were records from the traditional sites of Botolph's Bridge, Nickolls Quarry, the canal at Seabrook and at Holy Well, with a peak of three at the latter site on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, whilst one at Enbrook Park between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December was a new record for the tetrad (TR23 C).

Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>
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Very rare vagrant. Formerly was probably a regular breeder and passage migrant (A) (3 modern, 1)

One seen flying over the A20 just south of the Round Hill tunnel on the 11<sup>th</sup> September was only the fourth modern record (P. Chantler).

Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
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Breeding resident (A)

There were widespread records but no counts of note.

Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
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Breeding resident and winter visitor (A)

In the early part of the year there were up to 7 at Cock Ash Lake and up to 14 at Nickolls Quarry, whilst in the latter part of the year there was a peak of 15 at Nickolls Quarry.

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
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Breeding resident and winter visitor (A)

During the year there were records from the Willop Sewer, Botolph's Bridge, Cock Ash Lake, Nickolls Quarry and on the lake at Woodside Farm (near Postling Wents).

Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>
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Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (33, 2)

One was seen on the sea off Seabrook on the 27<sup>th</sup> January (P. Howe), with another on the sea off Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> March (I. A. Roberts). There have only been eight records since 2000.

Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
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Breeding resident and winter visitor (A)

In the early winter period the peak counts occurred in February, when there were 52 off Seabrook on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 100 off the Willop Outfall on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 109 off Folkestone Pier on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There were no indications of spring passage. At least one pair bred at Nickolls Quarry and three young were seen in August. In the late winter period there were 28 off Folkestone Pier on the 28<sup>th</sup> December and 83 off the Willop Outfall on the 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
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Breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor (A)

In the early winter period one was seen at the Willop Outfall on several dates and one was present at Samphire Hoe between the 31<sup>st</sup> January and 10<sup>th</sup> February. Cold weather in February produced some movement, with four flying east past Seabrook on the 8<sup>th</sup> and one flying east there and two flying east past Samphire Hoe the following day.

The first breeding bird had returned to Nickolls Quarry by the 20<sup>th</sup> February and a pair were present from the 27<sup>th</sup> February. This pair nested on the small island in the lake and two young were noted in late June.

Spring passage was noted between early March and mid-May and included counts of five flying east past Folkestone Beach on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, 10 flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, nine flying west there on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, six flying east past Hythe on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, five flying east there on the 1<sup>st</sup> May and 20 flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Autumn passage was noted between the 13<sup>th</sup> August and 22<sup>nd</sup> November but only involved a few single birds.



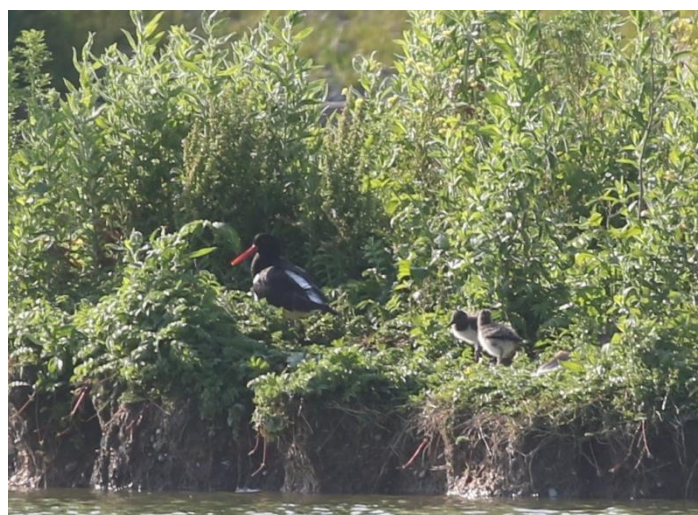
Water Rail at Holy Well (Elliot Ranford)



Great Crested Grebe at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)



Oystercatchers at the Willop Outfall (Brian Harper)



Oystercatchers at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)

Avocet

*Recurvirostra avosetta*

Scarce passage migrant (A)

One flew east past Princes Parade before landing on the sea during a cold weather movement on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, whilst spring passage comprised six flying east past Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> March and two flying east there the following day.

Lapwing

*Vanellus vanellus*

Formerly a widespread breeding species but now only nests occasionally, also a common winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Wintering flocks present in January included 29 at Capel-le-Ferne, 46 at Hillhurst Farm and up to 500 at the Willop Basin. Cold weather in February produced a particularly impressive arrival, with 1,000 at Botolph's Bridge on the 7<sup>th</sup>, increasing to a peak of between 2,500 and 3,000 on the marsh on the 8<sup>th</sup>, when 100 were seen at Lympe. Further movement on the 9<sup>th</sup> involved 15 flying out to sea at Samphire Hoe and 70 arriving in of the sea at Hythe.



Large numbers were still present on the 16<sup>th</sup>, when 500 were at the Willop Basin, 1,200 were at Haugelands Farm and 750 flew over Nickolls Quarry, whilst up to 1,000 remained in the Haugelands Farm area until the 20<sup>th</sup>, when 120 flew north over Sandgate, but quickly dissipated thereafter. Comparatively few were noted in March and the last were three at Hillhurst Farm on the 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Returning migrants were seen flying over Seabrook on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June and Samphire Hoe on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, whilst autumn passage included three flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, one there on the 13<sup>th</sup> October and two flying east at Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Wintering numbers in the latter part of the year were low, with peaks of just 40 at the Willop Basin, 50 at Hillhurst Farm and 64 along Lower Wall Road, whilst a flock of 15 at Cheriton Polo Ground on the 26<sup>th</sup> December hinted at some cold weather displacement.



Lapwing at Donkey Street (Brian Harper)



Lapwing at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

#### Golden Plover

*Pluvialis apricaria*

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There was a single bird at the Willop Basin on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, with a flock of 70 there on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, decreasing to 17 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and two on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. Cold weather in February produced a particularly impressive arrival, with a peak of 409 in the Haguelands Farm/Willop Sewage Works area on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with at least 334 still present on the marsh on the 12<sup>th</sup> February but quickly dissipating thereafter, with the last eight there on the 20<sup>th</sup> February. Elsewhere 45 flew east at Hythe on the 9<sup>th</sup> February and one was seen at Sellindge on the 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Autumn produced two in fields at Hougham Court on the 7<sup>th</sup> September, three flying east at the Willop Outfall on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, four flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, three flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 4<sup>th</sup> November and seven flying west there the following day. A flock of 12 were seen near West Hythe dam on the 15<sup>th</sup> November, four arrived in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 21<sup>st</sup> November and one flew over Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup> December.

After an especially poor 2020 it was, overall, the best year for this species since 2001, whilst the count of 409 was the highest since 2005.

#### Grey Plover

*Pluvialis squatarola*

Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor (A)

Cold weather produced two flying east past the Willop Outfall on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, whilst spring passage comprised two flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April, and one flying east past Princes Parade on the 8<sup>th</sup> May. In autumn one flew west past Samphire Hoe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October.



Occasional breeding species, also a winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period the regular roost at Folkestone Beach held a peak of 19 birds in January. Elsewhere seven were noted at the Willop Outfall on the 5<sup>th</sup> February, whilst cold weather produced four flying east there on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February, and one there on the 17<sup>th</sup> February, when two were on the Willop Basin. Spring migrants were noted in a flooded field at Haguelands Farm on the 8<sup>th</sup> March and on the beach at Princes Parade on the 11<sup>th</sup> March. The only autumn migrant comprised one flying west past Hythe on the 17<sup>th</sup> August.



Lapwings and Golden Plovers at Donkey Street (Ian Roberts)

A breeding summer visitor when suitable habitat exists, otherwise a scarce passage migrant. Very rare away from Nickolls Quarry (A)

One was seen at Nickolls Quarry between the 22<sup>nd</sup> March and the 7<sup>th</sup> April, with three there on the 29<sup>th</sup> March and two on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, but there were no indications of breeding (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts).



Ringed Plover at the Willop Outfall (Brian Harper)



Little Ringed Plover at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)

Passage migrant, mainly in spring (A)

The first record, of three at the Willop Basin from the 29<sup>th</sup> March to the 1<sup>st</sup> April, was the third earliest and only the third to occur in March. There were no further records until five flew east past Seabrook on the 17<sup>th</sup> April but there were then daily sightings until early May. Spring passage involved a decent total of 183, compared to the mean for the previous decade of 168, and counts included 18 flying east past Mill Point/Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, 24 east past Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> April, 20 east there on the 24<sup>th</sup> April, 18 east there the next day, 25 east past Hythe/Samphire Hoe on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and 19 east past Princes Parade on the 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Most spring migrants are seen flying over or are short-stayers but a flock of up to ten remained in the Botolph's Bridge/Donkey Street area between the 20<sup>th</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-12	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2011
Departure	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-48	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-5	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2013

Autumn passage was typically light and involved singles flying over Hythe Ranges at night on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, west past Hythe on the 15<sup>th</sup> August and west past the Willop Outfall on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, a flock of 11 flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> August and two flying west there on the 25<sup>th</sup> August.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

One was seen at the Willop Basin on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, with singles there on several dates from the 30<sup>th</sup> January, then up to three regularly from the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, increasing to five on the 6<sup>th</sup> March and to a peak of nine on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, with up to five then noted until the 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Elsewhere one flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, two were at Haguelands Farm on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, two were at Botolph's Bridge on the 15<sup>th</sup> February (with one the next day), seven flew east past Folkestone Beach on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, one flew west at Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, two flew east past Folkestone Beach on the 19<sup>th</sup> March, and singles flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> April.

There were no records from the latter half of the year.

Passage migrant, mainly in spring (A)

One was seen near Haguelands Farm during cold weather on the 10<sup>th</sup> February.

Another poor spring passage involved a total of 59 recorded between the 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> May, which was an improvement on last year but well below the mean for the previous ten years of 163. Counts included 12 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 16 east past Mill Point on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April and nine east past Samphire Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April. There were no records from the latter half of the year.

Rare passage migrant (A) (33, 2)

One flew east past Folkestone Beach on the 4<sup>th</sup> March (I. A. Roberts) and two flew east past Seabrook on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August (P. Howe).

## Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Small numbers were present in the early winter period at the Willop Outfall, Dymchurch Redoubt, Hythe, Battery Point and Folkestone Harbour with a peak count of 25 at the Willop Outfall on the 1<sup>st</sup> January. There was a pronounced increase from March, presumably involving some migrant individuals, and there was a very good total of 58 at the Willop Outfall on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, whilst counts of 30 at the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, 31 there on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 16 at Hythe on the 17<sup>th</sup> May presumably also involved migrants.

There was no indication of spring passage but in autumn six flew west past Hythe on the 12<sup>th</sup> August, one flew west there on the 17<sup>th</sup> August and two flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

The same sites were occupied in the late winter period, with peaks of four at Folkestone Harbour, 14 at the Dymchurch Redoubt, 18 at the Willop Outfall and 20 at Hythe. One on the western beach at Samphire Hoe on the 20<sup>th</sup> December was noteworthy as it was only the second winter record for the site (it is typically absent as a wintering species to the east of Folkestone Harbour).



Whimbrels at Donkey Street (Brian Harper)



Curlews at Botolph's Bridge (Ian Roberts)



Turnstones at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)



Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
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Passage migrant (A)

Five flew east past the Willop Outfall during cold weather on the 8<sup>th</sup> February and one was seen there on the 27<sup>th</sup> February. The only spring migrant involved one flying east past Sandgate on the 28<sup>th</sup> April

Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
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Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (34, 2)

Cold weather produced singles at Donkey Street on the 10<sup>th</sup> February (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts) and at the Willop Basin from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts).

Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
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Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Up to ten were present at the Willop Outfall between January and April, with larger counts of 37 there on the 17<sup>th</sup> February, a record count of 143 roosting on rocks at high tide there on the 27<sup>th</sup> February (including a Dutch-ringed individual) and 120 there on the 1<sup>st</sup> April. Elsewhere four were noted at Hythe Ranges during cold weather on the 8<sup>th</sup> February and 28, presumably migrants, were at the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. Small numbers were again present at the Willop Outfall from October. The previous record count involved 100 at the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 11<sup>th</sup> April last year.

Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
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Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

One at Samphire Hoe on the 7<sup>th</sup> February was the forerunner of a large cold weather influx, with a total of 261 noted the following day (including 188 heading east offshore and 65 at the Willop Basin). Smaller numbers were noted across the marsh until the 20<sup>th</sup> February, whilst one flew east past Samphire Hoe and two flew east past Princes Parade on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, and two flew west past Princes Parade on the 19<sup>th</sup> February. A total of 40 flying east past Folkestone Beach on the 4<sup>th</sup> March perhaps involved cold weather migrants returning, following the earlier severe conditions and one was at the Willop Outfall on the 6<sup>th</sup> March, with two at Nickolls Quarry on the 18<sup>th</sup> March.

Spring passage comprised 30 flying east past Princes Parade on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and one at Donkey Street on the 20<sup>th</sup> May. In autumn two were seen on the shore below Abbotscliffe on the 30<sup>th</sup> August, two were at the Willop Outfall on the 4<sup>th</sup> November, when eight flew east past Mill Point/Samphire Hoe, and nine flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>
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Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period up to three were frequenting the rock groynes at Hythe, opposite the ends of Stade Street and Twiss Road until the 27<sup>th</sup> April, whilst two were seen at Battery Point on the 9<sup>th</sup> January and one was on the apron at Folkestone Warren on the 1<sup>st</sup> February. In the late winter period two were again seen regularly at Hythe from the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Departure	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3	5 <sup>th</sup> May	-8	20 <sup>th</sup> May 1987
Arrival	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	0	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1984



Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In January singles were noted at Chesterfield Wood and Kiln Wood, whilst one was seen at Folkestone Racecourse on the 5<sup>th</sup> February. Cold weather from the 7<sup>th</sup> February led to a marked influx, with a total of 11 noted from widespread locations, but many must sadly have perished as nine corpses were found along the tideline at Hythe on the 15<sup>th</sup> February and another was found dead on the beach at Sandgate on the 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Spring migrants involved one seen on the cliff at Samphire Hoe on the 7<sup>th</sup> March and one at Nickolls Quarry on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. In autumn one was killed by a Peregrine as it arrived in off the sea at Folkestone Pier and one was seen at Botolph's Bridge the following day.



Turnstone at Hythe (Brian Webster)



Purple Sandpiper at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

At least two were wintering at the Willop Basin in the early part of the year and one was reported at Radnor Park on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Cold weather in February led to a small influx, with two at Nickolls Quarry on the 7<sup>th</sup>, one at Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> and singles at Holy Well on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, whilst one was seen at Donkey Street on the 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Wintering numbers in January included 11 near the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 31<sup>st</sup> and 25 at the Willop Basin on the 1<sup>st</sup>, before cold weather in February produced a significant influx. Counts included peaks of 29 at Nickolls Quarry (on the 10<sup>th</sup>), 45 at Haguelands Farm (on the 10<sup>th</sup>) and 162 in the Donkey Street/Willop Basin area (on the 12<sup>th</sup>), with smaller numbers at many other sites, including one in a garden in Earlsfield Road in Hythe. Numbers dwindled after mid-February but 62 remained at the Willop Basin on the 6<sup>th</sup> March and small numbers were noted into May, with the last at Donkey Street on the 12<sup>th</sup> May.

The first four of the autumn were noted at Donkey Street on the 30<sup>th</sup> September but numbers were much lower in the late winter period. Migrants were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October, and 4<sup>th</sup> November, with two on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Very rare vagrant (A) (5, 1)

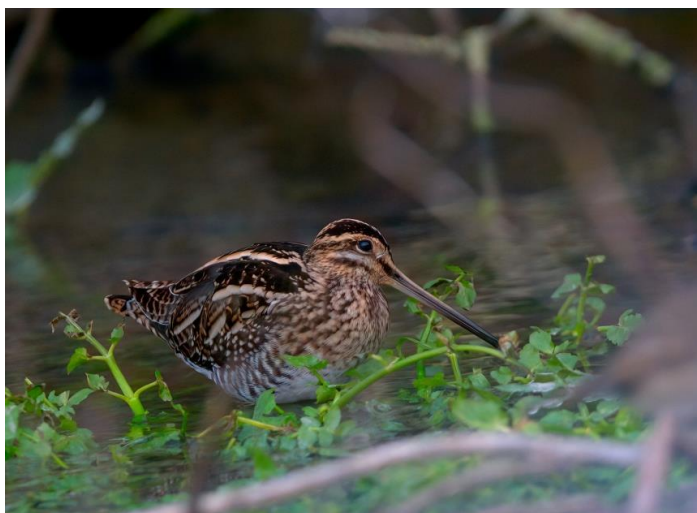
One was reported on the sea off Princes Parade on the 13<sup>th</sup> October (per Rare Bird Alert). This was only the sixth record and the first since 2009.



Jack Snipe at Holy Well (Elliot Ranford)



Jack Snipe at Samphire Hoe (Paul Holt)



Snipe at Holy Well (Elliot Ranford)



Snipe at Donkey Street (Brian Harper)

Passage migrant, occasionally overwinters (A)

The first arrival was at Nickolls Quarry on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, with one along the canal at Seabrook and two at Hythe Ranges on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, a good count of nine at Nickolls Quarry on the 9<sup>th</sup> May and one there the next day. The spring total of 14 bird/days was very similar to the mean for the previous decade of 15.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2013*
Departure	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	-15	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep*	-15	Several wintered

The first returning bird was heard calling over Folkestone Warren at 03:00 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July and a further nocturnal record followed at Hythe Ranges on the 20<sup>th</sup> July.



In August there was one at Nickolls Quarry on the 14<sup>th</sup>, four there on the 19<sup>th</sup> and two at Sandgate on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The last records of the year were singles at Samphire Hoe on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September. The autumn bird/day total of 11 was a little below the mean for the previous decade of 17.



Common Sandpipers at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)

#### Green Sandpiper

*Tringa ochropus*

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

At least two were wintering in the Botolph's Bridge/Donkey Street/Nickolls Quarry until the 11<sup>th</sup> April, with three seen at Donkey Street on the 28<sup>th</sup> February. Three at a small pool on Hythe Ranges on the 7<sup>th</sup> April may have been migrants. Elsewhere one was present at Holy Well from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February.

The first returning birds were seen at Nickolls Quarry where one was present on the 14<sup>th</sup> August, with two there on the 19<sup>th</sup> and four on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August. There were only infrequent records in the late winter period, mostly of singles but two were at Botolph's Bridge on the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

#### Redshank

*Tringa totanus*

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period there were up to six at Folkestone Harbour and up to ten at the Willop Basin, whilst one was at Nickolls Quarry and five flew east past Hythe during cold weather on the 9<sup>th</sup> February. There were no indications of spring passage.

The first returning bird was at Nickolls Quarry on the relatively early date of the 14<sup>th</sup> June, with one at Samphire Hoe on the 18<sup>th</sup> August. Wintering birds had returned to Folkestone Harbour by October, with up to six there again, but none were noted at the Willop Basin

#### Spotted Redshank

*Tringa erythropus*

Rare migrant (A) (25, 1)

One was present with four Greenshanks at Donkey Street on the 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts), see photograph on page 12. The first record since 2010.

Scarce passage migrant (A)

One was seen at Donkey Street on the 24<sup>th</sup> April, with four there on the 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April, see photograph on page 12, and one on the 8<sup>th</sup> May. The mean for the last decade is just over 3 birds so this was an above average showing.



Green Sandpiper at Holy Well (Elliot Ranford)



Redshanks at Folkestone Harbour (Elliot Ranford)



Spotted Redshank at Donkey Street (Ian Roberts)



Greenshank at Donkey Street (Ian Roberts)

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Small numbers were noted regularly offshore during the early winter period, with counts including 37 flying east past Princes Parade on the 30<sup>th</sup> January, 40 off Folkestone Harbour on the 13<sup>th</sup> January and 100 flying west past the Willop Outfall on the 24<sup>th</sup> January. A light spring passage included 70 flying east past Folkestone Beach on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, 25 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 10<sup>th</sup> March and 30 flying east past Mill Point on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

In autumn 30 were seen off Seabrook on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, 31 flew east Mill Point on the 17<sup>th</sup> October and 43 flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.



Very rare vagrant (A) (5, 1)

A juvenile was seen offshore of Battery Point between 10:50 and 11:30 on the 13<sup>th</sup> October before it flew off to the west (I. A. Roberts). The first record since 2012.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Large numbers were present in the early winter period but the only count received involved 120 at Radnor Park on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Spring passage was noted between mid-March and late April, with counts including a good total of 460 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 34 east past Princes Parade the following day, 31 east past Samphire Hoe on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, 42 east past Mill Point on the 19<sup>th</sup> April and 150 east past Samphire Hoe on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. There were no counts of note from the latter half of the year.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A juvenile flew west past Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> August and four adults flew east past Mill Point on the 18<sup>th</sup> October. Another poor year compared to the mean for the previous decade of 20 birds.

Increasing winter visitor and passage migrant, scarce in summer (A)

Large numbers were present as normal in the early winter period but the only significant count came from Hythe Ranges where there were 420 on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. There was a light spring passage in the second half of April which included 18 flying east past Mill Point on the 19<sup>th</sup> April and seven flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 28<sup>th</sup> April.

As usual very few were noted between mid-May and the end of June, with counts of eight at Hythe on the 5<sup>th</sup> June and three flying east past Seabrook on the 10<sup>th</sup> June being of note. Numbers began to build again in July, with 27 flying west at Hythe on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, and by mid-August at least 700 had returned to Copt Point. Elsewhere 478 were seen off Seabrook on the 5<sup>th</sup> September, 500 flew south over Lympne on the 27<sup>th</sup> October and 240 were at the Hotel Imperial Golf Course on the 25<sup>th</sup> December. Many colour-ringed birds were noted during the year.



Black-headed Gull at Sellindge (Derek Smith)



Mediterranean Gulls at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Large numbers were present in the early winter but the only notable count received was of 200 in the Cock Ash Lake area on the 12<sup>th</sup> February. Up-channel passage was noted in April, with counts including 40 past Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15 east there on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Large numbers were also present in the late winter period but no notable counts were received.

## Great Black-backed Gull

*Larus marinus*

Winter visitor and passage migrant, with small numbers over-summering (A)

There were no counts of note received. A bird that had been ringed as a chick in Normandy on the 29<sup>th</sup> June was seen at Folkestone Harbour on the 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## Herring Gull

*Larus argentatus*

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Large numbers were present across the area throughout the year, but no notable counts were received. The two areas that were identified during the roof-nesting gull survey in 2020 as holding the greatest concentrations of breeding birds were again visited in 2022. The results suggest that the local population has continued to increase:

Year	Channel Tunnel Terminal site (in TR13 Y)			Park Farm Industrial Estate West (in TR23 D)			Park Farm Industrial Estate East (in TR23 I)		
	AON	Variance	Var%	AON	Variance	Var%	AON	Variance	Var%
2019	89			53			53		
2020	114	25	28%	60	7	13%	75	22	42%
2021	108	-6	-5%	75	15	25%	80	5	7%

The overall population across the three colonies increased from 195 in 2019 to 249 in 2020 (+28%), and to 263 in 2021 (+6%).



Common Gull at Donkey Street (Ian Roberts)



Herring Gull at Folkestone (Elliot Ranford)

## Caspian Gull

*Larus cachinnans*

Rare visitor, mostly in winter (A) (17, 1)

A first-winter was seen at Haguelands Farm on the 19<sup>th</sup> February (I. A. Roberts). All records have occurred since 2006.

Rare migrant (A) (28, 6)

An adult was seen at the Willop Basin on the 9<sup>th</sup> February (I. A. Roberts) and another adult was seen at Sandgate on the 11<sup>th</sup> February (C. Gillard). At Samphire Hoe an adult was present on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, with two adults there on the 6<sup>th</sup> April and one adult, possibly one of the same birds, there on the 8<sup>th</sup> April (all P. Smith). A further adult was seen at Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> October (G. J. A. Burton). A record year.



Caspian Gull at Haguelands Farm (Ian Roberts)



Yellow-legged Gulls at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Breeding species, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Small numbers were noted in January and February before an increase was noted in March, including eight at Nickolls Quarry on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, but few counts were received.

The gull colonies on buildings within the Channel Tunnel Terminal site complex (in TR13 Y) and at the Park Farm Industrial Estate in Folkestone (TR23 D/TR23 I) have been continued to be surveyed since the 2019 census and the population has increased here, as the table below demonstrates:

Year	Channel Tunnel (in TR13 Y)	Park Farm West (in TR13 D)	Park Farm East (in TR23 I)	3 colonies total	Variance	Var%
	AON/AOT	AON/AOT	AON/AOT	AON/AOT		
2019	4	0	1	5		
2020	3	0	4	7	2	40%
2021	3	1	5	9	2	29%

Sightings suggested that another pair may have been nesting again in the Hythe area. There were no notable counts from the latter half of the year.

Non-breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, rare in winter (A)

The first, one flying east past Seabrook on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, was the third earliest arrival. As the Kent Bird Report for 2019 noted “the brevity of the period between departure and arrival of migrants now makes it hard to decide if a bird [occurring in the winter months] is wintering or a migrant”. Due to the difficulty of distinguishing between wintering birds and early migrants, a pragmatic approach has now been adopted locally that assumes that birds seen during January and February relate to winter records.

This was followed by further singles flying east past Princes Parade on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March, with almost daily records from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and the first double-figure count involved 13 flying east past Mill Point on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Movements in April included 55 flying east past Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 94 east past Samphire Hoe on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 70 east there on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 105 east past Mill Point on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 190 east there on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 66 east past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Passage continued into early May, with 21 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-16	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-11	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2019
Departure	6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	-14	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	43	27 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1955

Autumn counts included 97 at the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, 75 flying west past Samphire Hoe the following day and 60 flying east there on the 25<sup>th</sup> August. In September 50 were at the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 58 were seen off Seabrook on the 20<sup>th</sup>, whilst around 250 flew west past Mill Point on the 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Small numbers again persisted into November, with ones and twos on several dates, and a peak of four off Hythe Ranges on the 7<sup>th</sup>, whilst singles were seen off Seabrook on the 5<sup>th</sup> December and flying west past Hythe on the 6<sup>th</sup> December. As last year's report noted it does appear to be becoming more regular in the winter months.

Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
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Formerly bred, but now a passage migrant in spring, very rare in autumn (A)

The only record involved a flock of 11 fishing off Fisherman's Beach (Hythe) in the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> April. Another poor year, the mean for the previous decade is 25 birds.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11	26 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2016
Departure	-	-	-	-	-	16 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1999

Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
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Formerly bred but now just a passage migrant (A)

The first, a single flying east past Mill Point on the 10<sup>th</sup> April, was later than average and set the tone for a very disappointing year for this species. The only double-figure counts involved 13 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup> April and c.60 Common/Arctic Terns flying east past Mill Point/Samphire Hoe on the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2020
Departure	5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	2	27 <sup>th</sup> Sep	7	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2007

Small numbers were again noted in autumn, with the last off Princes Parade on the 5<sup>th</sup> October. Overall it was the worst showing since 2009 and no Arctic Terns could be identified with certainty amongst the small numbers of Common/Arctic Terns logged.

Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
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Scarce passage migrant (A)

One was reported at Copt Point on the 24<sup>th</sup> September.



## Great Skua

*Stercorarius skua*

Passage migrant (A)

There were no records from the early winter period and spring passage comprised one flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup> April, three flying east there on the 25<sup>th</sup> April and one flying east past Mill Point on the 4<sup>th</sup> May. Autumn passage involved three flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October and one flying east past Mill Point on the 29<sup>th</sup> October. There were no records either from the late winter period. The total of just nine was well below the mean for the previous decade of 35 and the lowest since 2009.

## Pomarine Skua

*Stercorarius pomarinus*

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring (A)

Three flew east past Samphire Hoe during the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup> April and one flew east past Mill Point the following morning. A welcome return after a 'blank' last year.

## Arctic Skua

*Stercorarius parasiticus*

Passage migrant (A)

Spring passage involved a total of ten flying east past coastal sites between the 19<sup>th</sup> April and 25<sup>th</sup> May, all singles apart from two passing Mill Point/Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup> April and two passing the latter site on the 24<sup>th</sup> April. This was slightly below the mean for the previous decade of 14.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020				
Arrival	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	1	14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	5	14 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2016*
Departure	18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	-45	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 2020

The first autumn sighting involved one flying west past Seabrook on the 12<sup>th</sup> August and there were three further singles in August and three in September. October produced a good count of 12 flying west past Mill Point on the 1<sup>st</sup> and a further ten were logged, including three west past Samphire Hoe the following day, three east past Mill Point on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the last two east past Mill Point on the 18<sup>th</sup> October. The autumn total of 29 was an improvement mean for the previous ten years of 20.

## Long-tailed Skua

*Stercorarius longicaudus*

Very rare vagrant (A) (10, 1)

A juvenile flew west past Mill Point on the 1<sup>st</sup> October (J. Russell).

## Guillemot

*Uria aalge*

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Cold south-easterly winds in the fourth week of January induced some massive movements of auks, including a record count of 10,000 (with what appeared to be an even split between Guillemots and Razorbills) flying west past the Willop Outfall on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Further early winter period counts included 250 Guillemots/Razorbills off Samphire Hoe on the 31<sup>st</sup> January, 300 Guillemots flying east past Princes Parade on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, 700 Guillemots/Razorbills flying east there the next day and 200 Guillemots/Razorbills flying east past Hythe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Spring movements included 70 Guillemots flying east past Folkestone Beach on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, 165 Guillemots/Razorbills east past Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> March and 500 Guillemots/Razorbills east past Mill Point on the 10<sup>th</sup> March.

Counts in the autumn/late winter period included 31 Guillemots on the sea off Battery Point on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, c.75 Guillemots west past Mill Point on the 29<sup>th</sup> October, 240 Guillemots/Razorbills east past Mill Point on the 28<sup>th</sup> November and 500 Guillemots/Razorbills east past Princes Parade on the 18<sup>th</sup> December.

# Razorbill

*Alca torda*

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Cold south-easterly winds in the fourth week of January induced some massive movements of auks, with 2,545 (most of which appeared to be Razorbills) flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and a record **10,000** auks (with what appeared to be an even split between Guillemots and Razorbills) flying west past the Willop Outfall on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Further early winter period counts included 250 Guillemots/Razorbills off Samphire Hoe on the 31<sup>st</sup> January, 125 Razorbills flying east past Princes Parade on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, 700 Guillemots/Razorbills flying east there the next day and 200 Guillemots/Razorbills flying east past Hythe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Spring movements included 110 Razorbills flying east past Folkestone Beach on the 1st March, 165 Guillemots/Razorbills east past Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> March and 500 Guillemots/Razorbills east past Mill Point on the 10<sup>th</sup> March.

Counts in the autumn/late winter period included 45 Razorbills on the sea off Battery Point on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, c.225 Razorbills west past Mill Point on the 29<sup>th</sup> October, 240 Guillemots/Razorbills east past Mill Point on the 28<sup>th</sup> November and 500 Guillemots/Razorbills east past Princes Parade on the 18<sup>th</sup> December.



Sandwich Tern at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)



Guillemot at Folkestone Pier (Don Mooney)

# Black Guillemot

*Cephus grylle*

Very rare vagrant (A) (0, 1)

One seen flying east close inshore past Samphire Hoe on the 18<sup>th</sup> September was the first area record (I. A. Roberts). See page 104 for a full account of this sighting.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Counts in the early winter period included 300 off Hythe Ranges on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 137 flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 120 off the Willop Outfall on the 6<sup>th</sup> February, 61 flying east past Seabrook on the 10<sup>th</sup> February and 175 flying east past Hythe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

A light spring passage between early March and early May included counts of 93 east past Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, 54 east past Mill Point on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, 55 east past Mill Point on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 48 east past Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Latest/Earliest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Departure	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	14 <sup>th</sup> May	-11	8 <sup>th</sup> May	-5	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2006
Arrival	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	0	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep	-13	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1997

The first returning bird was seen off the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 17<sup>th</sup> September and there were just single figure counts until late November, when 23 flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 60 flew east past Mill Point on the 28<sup>th</sup> November and 25 flew east there the next day.



Razorbill at Folkestone Pier (Tony Poole)



Guillemot and Razorbill at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring, and occasional winter visitor (A)

One was seen off Hythe Ranges on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January and singles, perhaps the same individual, were seen off Folkestone Pier on the 31<sup>st</sup> January and flying west past Mill Point on the 4<sup>th</sup> February, whilst two flew west past Folkestone Pier on the 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Spring passage comprised two flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April two flying east there on the 25<sup>th</sup> April two flying east past Mill Point on the 30<sup>th</sup> April and one on the sea off the Willop Outfall on the 5<sup>th</sup> May.

The late winter period produced two further records: singles off Hythe Ranges on the 11<sup>th</sup> December and off Samphire Hoe on the 27<sup>th</sup> December.

The total of up to 14 was the second highest ever (only exceeded in 2008, when 15 were logged), and well above the mean for previous ten years of 6.6.

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (38, 4)

One remained at Sandgate from the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to the 5<sup>th</sup> March, see photograph on page 6, and was joined by another from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> January, presumably the same individual that had been seen Hythe Ranges the previous day (S. McMinn).

Further singles were seen off the Willop Outfall on the 31<sup>st</sup> March (B. Harper), flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup> May (I. A. Roberts, M. Collins, B. Woolhouse) and on the sea there on the 14<sup>th</sup> December (P. Smith).



Red-throated Diver at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)



Black-throated Diver at Folkestone Pier (Elliot Ranford)

Very rare vagrant (A) (10, 1)

An exceptional total of five were seen passing west off Mill Point after a stormy night on the 1<sup>st</sup> October (I. A. Roberts).

Breeding visitor and passage migrant (A)

Birds had begun to arrive back at the cliffs from late 2020 and three or four pairs bred at both Capel-le-Ferne and Samphire Hoe.

Spring passage included counts of 15 flying east past Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 11 flying east past Mill Point on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, 11 flying east past Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> April and 32 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. One flying east over Encliffe Farm (Hawkinge) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May was an unusual inland record.

Small numbers were seen regularly again from mid-August, with a peak count of six flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, and birds began to return to the colonies again in December.

Scarce passage migrant (A)

Singles were seen flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October and off Hythe on the 31<sup>st</sup> October.



Scarce passage migrant (A)

Seven flew west past Mill Point on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, one flew west past Princes Parade on the 8<sup>th</sup> May, an exceptional total of 66 flew west past Hythe on the 24<sup>th</sup> May and one flew west past Samphire Hoe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The count of 66 exceeded the previous record of 36 flying east past Copt Point on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1999.



Great Northern Diver at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Manx Shearwater at Mill Point (Ian Roberts)

Rare passage migrant (A) (42, 3)

Three flew west past Samphire Hoe on the 11<sup>th</sup> August (S. M. Cutt), whilst singles flew west past the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 17<sup>th</sup> September (I. A. Roberts) and Samphire Hoe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October (I. A. Roberts, M. D. Kennett).

Very rare vagrant (A) (3, 2)

One was seen flying over Sellindge on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June (D. Smith), see photograph on page 15, having presumably roosted nearby, and another was seen flying north over Crete Road East on the 15<sup>th</sup> July, see photograph on page 16, with what was presumed to be the same individual flying east over Folkestone two days later (I. A. Roberts).

Very rare vagrant (A) (13, 1)

Two were reported on the beach between Hythe and Dymchurch, before they flew off to the west, on the 20<sup>th</sup> September (per Rare Bird Alert).

A flock of 45 flew over West Hythe in the afternoon of the 12<sup>th</sup> September and later roosted at Etchinghill, departing to the north-east early the next morning. These were considered to have certainly originated from the introduction program at Knepp Wildland in Sussex and, whilst they provided a spectacular sight, cannot be included in the statistics.

Passage migrant and non-breeding visitor at all times of year (A)

The early winter period produced counts of 200 flying west past the Willop Outfall on the 24<sup>th</sup> January and 110 flying east past Princes Parade on the 8<sup>th</sup> February.

Spring passage included 520 flying east past Mill Point on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, 270 east there on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, 135 east past Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 161 east past Samphire Hoe on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 533 east there on the 8<sup>th</sup> April, 180 east there on the 9<sup>th</sup> April and 182 east there on the 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Autumn movements included 100 east past Samphire Hoe on the 30<sup>th</sup> August, 100 east there on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, 110 west past Mill Point on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, a good count of 905 west past Samphire Hoe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October and 450 east Mill Point on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. In the late winter period 250 were seen off the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 17<sup>th</sup> November.



White Storks at Etchinghill (Ruth McCabe)



Gannet at Folkestone Pier (Elliot Ranford)



Gannet at Folkestone Pier (Elliot Ranford)

Passage migrant and winter visitor, with occasional summer records (A)

A total of eight flew west past Samphire Hoe shortly after dawn on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, presumably leaving a roost site, perhaps in the Dover Harbour area, and up to two were noted off Samphire Hoe on numerous dates until late May, with a larger count of five offshore there on the 20<sup>th</sup> April. Elsewhere one was seen off Sandgate on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January, one was on the canal at Seabrook on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, two were offshore from Mill Point on the 31<sup>st</sup> March and one was offshore from Folkestone Beach the following day.

There were no sightings in June or July, but in August there was one at Samphire Hoe on the 31<sup>st</sup>, with up to two there until the end of the year, with a larger count of five on the 20<sup>th</sup> December. Elsewhere there were singles off Battery Point on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, Seabrook on the 10<sup>th</sup> November and Folkestone Pier on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
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Non-breeding visitor at all times of year (A)

Large numbers were again present in the early winter period, when counts included 1,540 flying east past Seabrook on the 5<sup>th</sup> January, 3,150 flying east there on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, 3,300 flying east there on the 10<sup>th</sup> January, c.1,500 off Abbotscliffe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2,015 flying east past Seabrook on the 9<sup>th</sup> February and 3,802 Cormorants flying east past Seabrook on the 10<sup>th</sup> February.

In the late winter counts included 1,600 flying west past Hythe on the 7<sup>th</sup> December and 2,000 off Samphire Hoe on the 27<sup>th</sup> December.

Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
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Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

There were just five occupied nests at Lympne Park Wood. The population at the heronry has recently appeared to be stable at around 12 to 15 pairs, although had been subject to considerable fluctuations in the past: there were just six nests counted in 2001 for example, but the heronry recovered to 19 pairs the following year. It is too early to assess the result for this year, which may have been affected by the severe weather in February.

There was some evidence of passage, mostly involving single birds but with two flying high east over Abbotscliffe on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, two flying high east over Samphire Hoe the following day, two flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 27<sup>th</sup> July, two flying east at Seabrook on the 1<sup>st</sup> August, four flying west at Cheriton on the 6<sup>th</sup> October and two flying west at Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> October.



Shag on canal at Seabrook (Ian Roberts)



Grey Heron below Abbotscliffe (Mike Fitch)

Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
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Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (23, 8)

Up to three remained in the area from autumn 2020 until the 4<sup>th</sup> March and appeared to roost near Aldergate Bridge, leaving to feed at various sites on the marsh during the day.

Further sightings involved one at Seabrook on the 16<sup>th</sup> February (P. Howe), one flying south over Lympe on the 20<sup>th</sup> February (P. Sharp), one flying east at Samphire Hoe on the 7<sup>th</sup> March (M. Collins), one flying east over the junction of the A20/A260 near Hawkinge on the March (P. Smith) and one flying east over Hythe on the 13<sup>th</sup> May (P. Howe).

In the latter half of the year one was seen flying south-east out to sea from Copt Point on the 30<sup>th</sup> October (D. A. Gibson), one flew east over Haguelands Farm and landed near Willop Sewage Works on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, with presumably the same individual at the Willop Sewage Works on the 21<sup>st</sup> December (I. A. Roberts), whilst two were seen near Selby Farm on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December (I. A. Roberts, D. Brown).

This was another record year for this species which appears to have become a regular component of our local avifauna.

## Little Egret

*Egretta garzetta*

Non-breeding visitor at any time of year, now regular in winter and on passage (A)

A total of eight were seen leaving a roost at the Aldergate Bridge on the 1<sup>st</sup> January and were presumably the source of regular sightings at various sites on the marsh between January and April. Elsewhere up to three were seen regularly at Samphire Hoe or along the foreshore below Abbotscliffe between January and mid-May, singles were noted in gardens in Broadmead Village and central Folkestone in January/February, with one at Radnor Park, and singles were seen occasionally in the first half of the year at Cock Ash Lake, Fairmead Farm, Turnpike Hill, Hythe, Princes Parade and Seabrook, with two flying over Hythe on the 9<sup>th</sup> June, three at Sellindge on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and four below Abbotscliffe on the 6<sup>th</sup> June.

One flew west at Seabrook on the 13<sup>th</sup> July and three flew east at Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, with up to two noted there or along the foreshore below Abbotscliffe between early September and the end of the year, and larger counts of six flying west on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October and three flying west on the 4<sup>th</sup> November. One was seen at Donkey Street on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, with up to three seen regularly on the marsh from late October, with a larger count of four at the West Hythe dam on the 17<sup>th</sup> December. Elsewhere one was seen at Folkestone Harbour on several dates from mid-September, with one at Folkestone Warren on the 18<sup>th</sup> December and two at Broadmead Village on the 29<sup>th</sup> October.



Great White Egret near Selby Farm (Ian Roberts)



Little Egret at Folkestone Harbour (Elliot Ranford)

## Osprey

*Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant (A)

In spring singles flew north-west over Castle Hill on the 29<sup>th</sup> March and north over the Aldergate Bridge on the 21<sup>st</sup> April. Autumn produced one flying west at Samphire Hoe and then 45 minutes later at Hythe on the 17<sup>th</sup> August, one flying west at Hythe on the 19<sup>th</sup> August and one flying north-west at Abbotscliffe on the 18<sup>th</sup> September.



## Honey Buzzard

*Pernis apivorus*

Scarce passage migrant (A)

Singles were seen flying west at Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup> July and arriving in off the sea at the Willop Outfall on the 24<sup>th</sup> August. The average number of records per year since 1990 has been 4.4 so this was a below average year.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	-	25 <sup>th</sup> May	-	26 <sup>th</sup> May	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2013
Departure	24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	11 <sup>th</sup> Aug	13	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-4	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1995

## Sparrowhawk

*Accipiter nisus*

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Ones and twos were seen at many sites throughout the year. There were no indications of passage.

## Goshawk

*Accipiter gentilis*

Very rare vagrant (A/C3) (14, 1)

One flew west over Barrack Hill (Hythe) on the 31<sup>st</sup> March (C. Gillard). This was only the 15<sup>th</sup> area record but there have now been eight in the last 11 years.

## Marsh Harrier

*Circus aeruginosus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Possibly bred on one occasion recently (A)

In the early winter period an adult male was seen at Selby Farm on the 11<sup>th</sup> January, with presumably the same bird at Haguelands Farm on the 17<sup>th</sup> February, with a female along Donkey Street on the 4<sup>th</sup> March and a female at Nickolls Quarry on the 13<sup>th</sup> March. Spring migrants comprised singles flying west at Hythe Roughs on the 6<sup>th</sup> April and arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 31<sup>st</sup> May.

Autumn produced singles at Abbotscliffe on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August and in the late winter period an adult male (perhaps the individual from earlier in the year) was seen at Abbott's Court Farm on the 31<sup>st</sup> October and at the Willop Basin on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

## Hen Harrier

*Circus cyaneus*

Scarce migrant and winter visitor (A)

The only record involved a male seen flying east at Botolph's Bridge on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

## Pallid Harrier

*Circus cyaneus*

Very rare vagrant (A) (0, 1)

A juvenile at Abbotscliffe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October was the first area record (E. Ranford), see photographs on front cover and page 20, also refer to page 105 for a full account of this sighting.

Regular non-breeding visitor, mainly in spring (A, C3)

The first of the year was seen over Horton Priory on the 31<sup>st</sup> January, followed by singles flying west over Seabrook on the 24<sup>th</sup> February and over Hythe Roughs the following day, with singles at Abbotscliffe and Newingreen, and two at Hythe on the 26<sup>th</sup> February. A further eight were logged in March, including four on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and April produced more two singles. Four flew east over Hythe on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, with a further four in May, whilst in June one was seen over Saltwood on the 4<sup>th</sup>, a record count of 19 flew north over Sellindge on the 5<sup>th</sup> and three flew east over Hythe on the 9<sup>th</sup>.



Sparrowhawk at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Red Kite at Folkestone (David Featherbe)

Rare migrant, primarily in spring (A) (15, 2)

One was seen arriving in off the sea at Samphire Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup> April (S. Cutt, I. A. Roberts *et al*) and another was reported flying north over Postling on the 5<sup>th</sup> June (per Rare Bird Alert).

Very rare vagrant (A) (15, 1)

One was seen along the cliffs at the western end of Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November (S. Bean).

Formerly scarce, but has bred since 2001 and continues to increase, also a passage migrant (A)

There were widespread records throughout the year. Some indication of passage was evident in spring, including a notable movement on the 26<sup>th</sup> February when ten flew over Hythe, ten flew over Seabrook and 20 flew over Abbotscliffe, and in autumn, including five flying over Copt Point on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Another count of note comprised seven flying out of a roost near the Aldergate Bridge and heading south, presumably to forage on the marsh, on the 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Scarce breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor (A)

There were regular records again from the area between the West Hythe dam, Aldergate Bridge and Abbott's Court Farm in January and February, and from October to December.



Buzzard at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)



Buzzard at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)

Breeding resident (A)

There were records from numerous woodland sites including Port Lympne, Lympne Park Wood, Brockhill Country Park and Paraker Wood.

Declining resident breeding species (C)

A pair were present in the Selby Farm area throughout but the only other record was from Church Hougham, where one was seen in November.

Rare passage migrant, has bred on at least one occasion (A) (20, 1)

One was seen at an undisclosed site (where breeding occurred in 2019) on the 7<sup>th</sup> February but there were no indications of nesting this year.

Passage migrant (A)

Singles, perhaps the same wintering individual, were seen at Aldergate Lane on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January, near Selby Farm on the 26<sup>th</sup> February and at Donkey Street on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Spring produced migrants at Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March and at Lympne on the 29<sup>th</sup> April but none were noted in autumn.

Breeding resident, with dispersal to coasts and non-breeding areas in autumn and winter (A)

Resident birds were recorded from various points along the canal between the Aldergate Bridge and Seabrook, also from the canal cutting between the West Hythe dam and the seawall, whilst a pair probably bred at Brockhill Country Park. There were winter records from Donkey Street, Folkestone Harbour and Samphire Hoe in the early part of the year and Nickolls Quarry and the Willop Sewage Works in the latter part. An individual seen some distance from water near Shepway Cross at the top of Lympe Hill on the 9<sup>th</sup> February had presumably been displaced by severe weather.



Little Owl at Selby Farm (Brian Harper)



Kingfisher at Hythe (Mark Brooks)

Very rare vagrant (A) (12, 3)

One was heard calling on five occasions over Samphire Hoe on the 31<sup>st</sup> May (P. Holt), a flock of nine flew in off the sea at Folkestone Warren and then flew east along the cliffs on the 9<sup>th</sup> June (also being logged at South Foreland around 25 minutes later) (I. A. Roberts) and one was heard calling over Church Hougham the same day (M. D. Kennett). A record year.

Formerly bred, now a rare passage migrant (A) (29 since 1980, 1)

Two at Abbotscliffe delighted many observers from the 28<sup>th</sup> August to the 1<sup>st</sup> September, with at least one remaining until the 6<sup>th</sup> September, see photograph on page 17 (I. A. Roberts et al)



Formerly bred, now a very rare vagrant (A) (9 since 1990, 1)

One was seen at Newingreen near the turning to Westenhanger on the 5<sup>th</sup> May (J. Tomsett). There were no records between 1999 and 2013, but there have been reports in four of the eight years since, suggesting that it might still persist as an over-looked resident, or maybe it is undergoing a slight recovery: Clements *et al* (2015) speculated that dieback of the European Ash may perhaps lead to a temporary resurgence in Lesser Spotted Woodpecker numbers.



Wryneck at Abbotscliffe (Russ Blackman)



Wryneck at Abbotscliffe (Karl Price)

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Widely recorded but there were no notable counts received of resident birds. Very few migrants were noted in autumn, with just singles at Abbotscliffe on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, flying east at the Willop Outfall on the 17<sup>th</sup> September and flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 12<sup>th</sup> October.

Breeding resident (A)

Widely recorded, but with no counts or occurrences of note received.

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Widely recorded. No counts of note were received and there were no obvious indications of passage.

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (A).

At least one was seen at various sites on the marsh on six dates between the 5<sup>th</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> March and one was noted at Abbotscliffe on the 6<sup>th</sup> October.

A summer visitor with breeding suspected in many years but not proven until 2014, also a passage migrant (A)

The first arrival, one at Samphire Hoe on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, was again rather late. In May one flew in off the sea at Seabrook on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, one was hunting over the canal at Seabrook there next day, singles were seen at Nickolls Quarry and arriving in off the sea at Capel-le-Ferne on the 5<sup>th</sup>, flying over Cliff Road (Hythe) on the 7<sup>th</sup> May and arriving in off the sea at Seabrook on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, whilst three were at Nickolls Quarry on the 12<sup>th</sup> May. Further singles were seen at Seabrook and Samphire Hoe on the 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Three were seen at Lympe Park Wood on the 16<sup>th</sup> May and a pair bred again successfully there, with two juveniles seen from late August. These birds were probably responsible for most of the summer records on the marsh and adjacent areas. There were also regular sightings in the Horn Street/Seabrook area, where breeding has been suspected in recent years, between June and early August.

Elsewhere singles were seen arriving in off the sea at Capel Battery on the 9<sup>th</sup> June, at Samphire Hoe on two dates in June and one in July, and flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020				
Arrival	29 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> May	-9	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	5	9 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1998
Departure	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	26	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	25	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021

Singles were seen at Abbotscliffe and Beachborough Lakes on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, flying west at Seabrook on the 7<sup>th</sup> October and at Hythe on the 8<sup>th</sup> October. The two juveniles were still at Lympe Park Wood on the 27<sup>th</sup> September and may have been the same as juveniles seen at the Aldergate Bridge on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, at West Hythe dam on the 19<sup>th</sup> October and at Lympe on the exceptionally late date of the 27<sup>th</sup> October.



Kestrel at Abbotscliffe (Elliot Ranford)



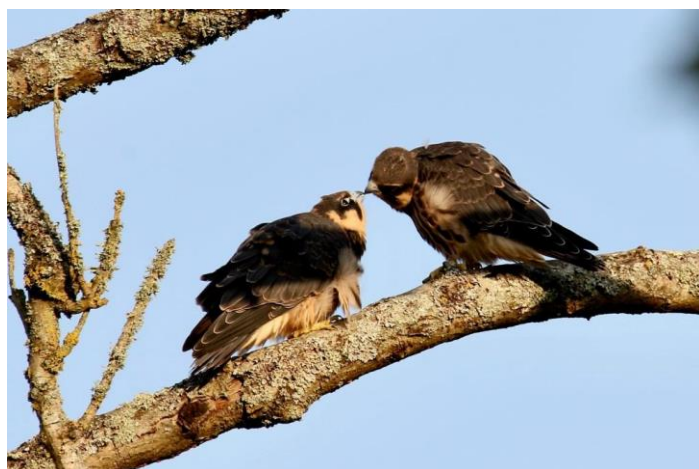
Merlin at Donkey Street (Ian Roberts)

Resident breeder until 1960 and again from the 1990s, also a winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were regular records from the cliffs between Folkestone and Dover throughout the year and a pair were again present on Shakespeare Cliff just to the east of Samphire in the early part of the year and were seen mating in late March but their favoured eyrie was lost in a cliff fall and they probably moved to another site. A pair probably bred at Capel-le-Ferne again. Away from the cliffs there were singles at several sites on the marsh between January and March, with two near Lathe Barn on Donkey Street on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. Singles flying east at Nickolls Quarry and Mill Point on the 10<sup>th</sup> April may have been migrants.

Birds were again noted on the marsh from late August, with two (an adult and a juvenile) seen near the Aldergate Bridge on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. Elsewhere one flew east at Seabrook on the 7<sup>th</sup> November, whilst one at Folkestone Pier on the 10<sup>th</sup> November took a Woodcock that was arriving in off the sea.

A female with the colour-ring 'green 21' was seen again at Samphire Hoe in January and Abbotscliffe in August. This bird was ringed as a nestling on the cliffs at Birling Gap in East Sussex in May 2007, and has been present in the area since at least March 2019.



Hobbies at Lympe Park Wood  
(Phil Sharp)



Peregrine with Woodcock at Folkestone Pier  
(Don Mooney)

Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
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Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Resident birds were widely recorded. Presumed migrants involved a total of 43 logged at the cliffs between the 6<sup>th</sup> October and 8<sup>th</sup> November, including counts of five at Abbotscliffe on the 6<sup>th</sup> October, five flying west there on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, five flying west there on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 10 flying west there on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October and five flying over Copt Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
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Breeding resident (A)

The largest numbers were again noted on the marsh, with 32 at Botolph's Bridge on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 24 there on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March and 20 there on the 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
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Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

The only count of note involved 250 leaving the roost at Port Lympe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
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Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Previously unrecorded rookeries were noted at Marine Avenue, Dymchurch (TR13 A), where there were 75 nests, and at Horton Priory (TR13 E) where there were 24 nests.



Migrants included one flying in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, four flying east at Samphire Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup> April, eight flying east there on the 8<sup>th</sup> October and one flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Carrion Crow

*Corvus corone*

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

There were no counts of note.

Raven

*Corvus corax*

Formerly a rare vagrant but now a scarce resident, with breeding recommencing in 2016 after an absence of 125 years (A)

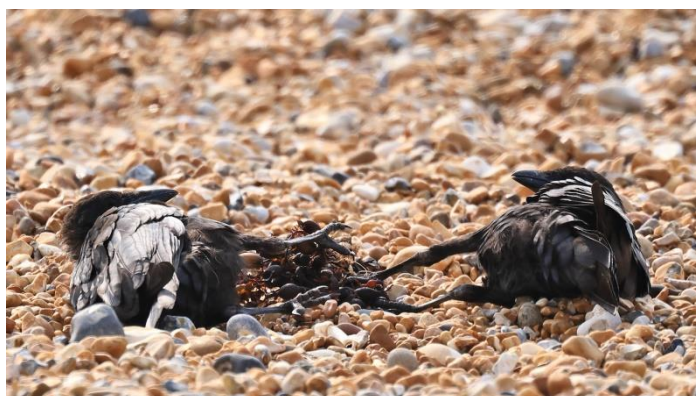
Up to three pairs were present and may have bred along the cliffs between at Capel-le-Ferne and Samphire Hoe, whilst a pair nested successfully again near the church at Lympne, fledging two young (the first chick was thought to have hatched on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April and the first young fledged on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, with the second on the 20<sup>th</sup> May). A presumed family party of five flew over Sellindge on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July and may have been locally bred.

There were records from numerous other sites, including Abbott's Court Farm, the Aldergate Bridge, West Hythe, Newingreen, Hythe, Beachborough Park, Seabrook and Crete Road East.

There was some indication of passage, with a flock of 16 flying east over Hythe on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, later being seen passing east over Horn Street, whilst seven flew east over Seabrook the following day.



Jay at West Hythe (Brian Harper)



Carrion Crows at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)



Raven at Abbotscliffe (Mike Fitch)



Ravens at Lympne (Phil Sharp)



Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>
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Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Widely recorded but no noteworthy counts of resident birds were received and there were no indications of passage.

Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>
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Breeding resident (A)

There were records from the usual haunts of Kiln Wood, Chesterfield Wood and Bargrove Wood during the year, whilst one was also noted in the wood adjacent to Turnpike Hill in Hythe on the 17<sup>th</sup> January.

Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
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Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

No counts of note were received.

Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
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Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

No counts of note were received.



Blue Tit at Holy Well (Elliot Ranford)



Great Tit at Cheriton (Tony Poole)

Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
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Rare migrant (A) (37, 2)

Singles were seen flying west over Seabrook on the 7<sup>th</sup> October (P. Howe) and at Abbotscliffe the following day (M. D. Kennett). These were only the 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> area records but the 19<sup>th</sup> in the last ten years.

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were counts of 29 at the Willop Basin and 35 at Botolph's Bridge in January, before cold weather produced an increase to 59 at Nickolls Quarry on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, with 35 at the Willop Basin the following day, and 15 were at Abbotscliffe on the 21<sup>st</sup> February. There was little indication of spring passage, although two arrived in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 27<sup>th</sup> February and one flew east at Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Autumn passage was unremarkable, with a peak count of 14 arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 13<sup>th</sup> October. The only count of note from the late winter period involved 19 at Abbotscliffe on the 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Passage migrant, formerly a breeding summer visitor (A)

The first, three at Nickolls Quarry on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, were slightly earlier than the average arrival date, and six were seen there on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, when one flew east at Folkestone Beach. Two were seen over the canal at Seabrook on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April, when 22 were counted at Nickolls Quarry. Ten remained at Nickolls Quarry the following day, with small numbers at this site on many dates until mid-May, and larger counts of 15 on the 21<sup>st</sup> April and ten on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. Elsewhere two were at Cock Ash Lake on the 10<sup>th</sup> April, 11 arrived in off the sea at Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> April, four arrived in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May and singles were seen at Hoorne's Sewer and the Willop Sewage Works on the 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	-3	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	-3	5 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1995
Departure	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	-29	9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-3	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1963

A very light autumn passage was noted from the 11<sup>th</sup> August, when two were at Abbotscliffe and seven flew west at Seabrook. The only double-figure count involved 26 flying west at the Willop Outfall on the 20<sup>th</sup> August. The last were one flying west at the Willop Basin and five flying west at the Aldergate Bridge on the 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first three were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, whilst one arrived in off the sea at Seabrook and six flew in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, and one was at Nickolls Quarry on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. April produced counts of 15 at Nickolls Quarry on the 1<sup>st</sup>, ten at Cock Ash Lake and 25 at Nickolls Quarry on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 130 at Nickolls Quarry on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 60 at Cock Ash Lake on the 10<sup>th</sup> and up to 80 at Nickolls Quarry on several further dates. Smaller numbers continued to be seen arriving in off the sea in April, whilst early May saw an increase, with 16 in off at the cliffs on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 15 in off at the cliffs on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 28 west at Abbotscliffe on the 11<sup>th</sup>. At Nickolls Quarry numbers also increased, with 150 present on the 5<sup>th</sup>, whilst up to 100 remained until mid-May, whilst 60 were at Cock Ash Lake on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	-3	23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2019
Departure	13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	-23	17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	-4	8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1955

There were no counts of note in autumn and departure was relatively early, with just four sightings in November and the last was at Palmarsh on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first, one at Lympne on the 29<sup>th</sup> March and three arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, were notably early as there had only been records in March in six previous years. These were soon followed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April with one at Cock Ash Lake, two over the canal at Seabrook and two at Nickolls Quarry, with four at the latter site on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 15 there on the 6<sup>th</sup> April. Small numbers continued to arrive during in April before early May saw a marked increase, with 30 at Abbotscliffe on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 30 at Nickolls Quarry on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 26 at Samphire Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 50 there on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Arrivals continued through May, including a count of 25 in off the sea at Mill Point on the 21<sup>st</sup>, into early June. Breeding was again noted at Samphire Hoe but nests were not counted.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020				
Arrival	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-9	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-8	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2004
Departure	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	-29	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	-30	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 1974

There were no counts of note in autumn and none were noted after the 6<sup>th</sup> October, when 200 were at Nickolls Quarry and 247 flew west at the Aldergate Bridge.



Skylark at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



House Martins at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Very rare vagrant (A) (14, 1)

One lingered for a short while at Samphire on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, see photograph on page 14 (P. Smith).

Not recorded until 1981 but now well-established as a breeding resident though remains vulnerable to population decline in colder winters (A)

Present throughout the year, with territorial males widely recorded on the marsh: at the Willop Basin, Lower Wall Road, Donkey Street (near The Little Piece), Botolph's Bridge, Nickolls Quarry, Hythe Roughs and along the canal between Hythe and Seabrook.

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

No counts of note were received.

Rare migrant (A) (23 since 1980, 1)

One seen at Abbotscliffe on the 7<sup>th</sup> May (I. A. Roberts) was the first since 2018.



Red-rumped Swallow at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Long-tailed Tit at Holy Well (Elliot Ranford)

Formerly a breeding summer visitor, now a declining passage migrant (A)

The first, singles at Lympe and Nickolls Quarry on the 16<sup>th</sup> April, were rather late but marked the start of a much better spring passage than last year. Arrivals included seven on the 19<sup>th</sup> April (singles at Haguelands, Botolph's Bridge, Hythe and Mill Point, and three at Samphire Hoe) and five on the 20<sup>th</sup> April (singles at West Hythe and Capel Battery, and three at Nickolls Quarry). Passage continued into May, with the last at Abbotscliffe on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The total of 29 bird/days was a very slight improvement on the mean for the previous decade of 27.5.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020				
Arrival	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11	26 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1960
Departure	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	10 <sup>th</sup> Sep	-3	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	-15	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1986

The first returning bird was seen at Abbotscliffe on the 26<sup>th</sup> July and counts in autumn included six at Samphire Hoe on the 10<sup>th</sup> August, seven at Abbotscliffe on the 11<sup>th</sup> and eight there on the 15<sup>th</sup> August, and seven there on the 18<sup>th</sup> August. The autumn total of 64 bird/days was somewhat less than the mean for the previous decade of 101.

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, with small numbers wintering.

The only sighting in January involved one along the canal at Seabrook on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, but February produced singles at Folkestone Racecourse on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Seabrook on the 9<sup>th</sup>, the Willop Sewage Works on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Holy Well on the 25<sup>th</sup> and there were three on the 27<sup>th</sup>: one at the Willop Sewer and singing males at Abbotscliffe and Chesterfield Wood.

In the first half of March, a singing male was at the Willop Sewage Works on the 1<sup>st</sup>, one was at Botolph's Bridge on the 4<sup>th</sup>, singing males were at Gibbin's Brook on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Seabrook on the 14<sup>th</sup>, one was at Abbotscliffe and a singing male was at Nickolls Quarry on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The second half of March saw a widespread arrival, which continued into April, but the only double-figure count comprised 11 at Samphire Hoe on the 12<sup>th</sup> April.



Autumn passage was noted mainly in September and October, with counts including ten at Abbotscliffe on the 15<sup>th</sup> September, 13 at Abbotscliffe and 15 at Samphire Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, 14 at Abbotscliffe on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, 11 at Samphire Hoe on the 10<sup>th</sup> October and ten Abbotscliffe on the 12<sup>th</sup> October. Small numbers were noted in November, with the last apparent migrant at Abbotscliffe on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Wintering birds were present at the Aldergate Bridge and Enbrook Park.



Willow Warbler at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Chiffchaff at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)

#### Sedge Warbler

*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first, one at Nickolls Quarry on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, was slightly earlier than the mean arrival date, and continued the trend of earlier arrivals. A different individual was seen there the next day and one was noted on most dates until the 17<sup>th</sup> April, when two were present, with four there on the 20<sup>th</sup>, when one was singing along the canal near Port Lympne, whilst another was singing along Donkey Street on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. At least four males held territory at Nickolls Quarry, with two males holding territory at Donkey Street.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020				
Arrival	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-4	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr 2017
Departure	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-29	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	-21	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1996

Autumn produced three passage migrants at the cliffs: singles at Abbotscliffe on the 11<sup>th</sup> August, Samphire Hoe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August and Abbotscliffe on the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

#### Reed Warbler

*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first, two at Nickolls Quarry on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, were rather late, but were soon followed by two at Botolph's Bridge on the 20<sup>th</sup> April and singles at Donkey Street and along the canal at Seabrook on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Small numbers bred at Nickolls Quarry and along the canal.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020				
Arrival	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr 2016
Departure	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-38	25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	-26	24 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2018

Autumn produced two passage migrants away from the breeding sites: singles at Abbotscliffe on the 16<sup>th</sup> August and in a garden in central Folkestone on the 30<sup>th</sup> August.

Grasshopper Warbler

*Locustella naevia*

Scarce and declining passage migrant, mainly in autumn. Bred until about the late 1980s/early 1990s but now rare in spring (A)

The only record related to one at the Aldergate Bridge on the 9<sup>th</sup> September.

Blackcap

*Sylvia atricapilla*

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, with small but increasing numbers wintering (A)

Good numbers were present in the early winter period, with a male near Folkestone West station in Cheriton, up to three in gardens in Hythe, up to five in gardens in Lympne, up to six in gardens and along the canal at Seabrook and at least eight in gardens in Folkestone.

A singing male at Abbotscliffe on the 18<sup>th</sup> March was probably the first arriving migrant, with small numbers during March and a more widespread arrival in April, with a peak count of nine at Nickolls Quarry on the 29<sup>th</sup> April. At Brockhill Country Park 12 males held territory.

Counts in autumn included 8 at Abbotscliffe on the 5<sup>th</sup> September, 12 there on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 19 at at Samphire Hoe on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. Numbers dwindled thereafter and singles at Copt Point and Samphire Hoe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November were probably the last departing migrants. In the late winter period there were at least two wintering in gardens in Folkestone.

Garden Warbler

*Sylvia borin*

A scarce and declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

A male held territory at Princes Parade from the 8<sup>th</sup> April to at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. In autumn singles were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	8 <sup>th</sup> May	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	21	26 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2001
Departure	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	21	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	-6	6 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1981



Blackcap at Lympne (Nick Hollands)



Garden Warbler at Princes Parade (Ian Roberts)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first, one at Copt Point on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, was the latest arrival since 2015 and there were no further sightings until the 27<sup>th</sup> April, when one was at West Hythe and two were at Nickolls Quarry, with one at Hythe Roughs on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. There was a widespread arrival in early May, including three at Abbotscliffe on the 1<sup>st</sup>, three at Nickolls Quarry on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and four at Abbotscliffe on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	5	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2007
Departure	9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	18	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep	9	3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 1994

Autumn passage was noted from late July, with a peak count in August of seven at Abbotscliffe on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and small numbers were noted until mid-September, with a rather late bird at Abbotscliffe on the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first arrival, a singing male at Nickolls Quarry on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, was notably early and only the second to be recorded in that month (after the earliest at the same site on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2002). The male remained and was joined by a second bird on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, but the first sighting elsewhere was two at Hythe Roughs on the 15<sup>th</sup> April, with three at Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup> April and a widespread arrival occurred during the last ten days of the month, with peak counts of five at Nickolls Quarry on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and seven at Samphire Hoe on the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-10	9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-10	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2002
Departure	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	17	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	4	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2016

Autumn passage was noted from early August, when 10 were at Abbotscliffe on the 1<sup>st</sup>, and counts included 12 there on the 11<sup>th</sup> August, a peak of 36 there on the 15<sup>th</sup> August and 15 there on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Eight were seen at Samphire Hoe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September but numbers then quickly dwindled with no more than three noted during the rest of the month. A relatively late bird was at Abbotscliffe on the 8<sup>th</sup> October (there have only been later sightings in five years).

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (37, 1)

One was present at Samphire Hoe from the 6<sup>th</sup> November until the year's end, see photograph on page 22 (P. Holt, M. Collins et al).

Passage migrant and winter visitor, has bred on one occasion (A)

In the early winter period there were up to three at Enbrook Park, two at Westenhangar and one at Botolph's Bridge. Spring migrants comprised singles at Botolph's Bridge on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, Nickolls Quarry on the 8<sup>th</sup> March and West Hythe on the 17<sup>th</sup> March. A singing male was present at Port Lympe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May.



Autumn passage was virtually non-existent, with just a single bird at Sandgate on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. Up to three were wintering again at Enbrook Park at the end of the year.



Whitethroat at Samphire Hoe (Dave Clarke)



Dartford Warbler at Samphire Hoe (Lee Walker)

#### Goldcrest

*Regulus regulus*

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Resident birds were widely recorded throughout the year. There was a very light spring passage, with a peak of three at Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup> April. Autumn passage was virtually non-existent, with just one at Seabrook on the 6<sup>th</sup> October, two at Mill Point on the 4<sup>th</sup> November and six at West Hythe dam on the 10<sup>th</sup> November. The total of nine was well below the mean for the previous decade of 225.

#### Wren

*Troglodytes troglodytes*

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Widely recorded but there no counts of note.

#### Nuthatch

*Sitta europaea*

Breeding resident (A)

There were records from the Aldergate Bridge, Horton Priory, Lympe Park Wood, West Hythe, Lympe, Brockhill Country Park, Chesterfield Wood and Saltwood.

#### Treecreeper

*Certhia familiaris*

Breeding resident (A)

There were widespread sightings from the usual haunts. Two at Nickolls Quarry on the 15<sup>th</sup> April and singles there on the 27<sup>th</sup> April and 18<sup>th</sup> May were only the third to fifth records for the site.



Very rare vagrant (A) (2, 1)

An adult frequented gardens in Palmarsh between the 28<sup>th</sup> September and the 25<sup>th</sup> October, see photograph on page 19 (J. Organ, I. A. Roberts *et al*). This was only the third area record, following sightings in September 2012 and June 2020.



Wren at Holy Well (Elliot Ranford)



Treecreeper at the Aldergate Bridge (Phil Smith)

## Starling

*Sturnus vulgaris*

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

During the period of severe weather in February 2021 there a huge murmuration and roost of around 10,000 birds at the Willop Sewage Works on the 10<sup>th</sup>, which is a record winter count. Post-breeding flocks included c.300 at Hythe Ranges on the 6<sup>th</sup> June and c.400 north of Nickolls Quarry on the 14<sup>th</sup> June.

Autumn passage included counts of 500 flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1,000 arriving in off the sea there in the 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1,000 in off the sea at Samphire Hoe on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 880 in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 365 in off the sea at Mill Point on the 4<sup>th</sup> November, 355 in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 8<sup>th</sup> November and 470 in off the sea at Mill Point on the 12<sup>th</sup> November.

## Ring Ouzel

*Turdus torquatus*

Passage migrant, typically more numerous in autumn (A)

The first was seen at Abbotscliffe on the 11<sup>th</sup> April, with two at Samphire Hoe from the 13<sup>th</sup> April, increasing to three there on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, with one remaining until the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Two were present at Abbotscliffe on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, with a female lingering until the 7<sup>th</sup> May. The spring total of 19 bird/days was the highest ever and well above the mean for the previous decade of nine.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr*	4	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-1	9 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1997*
Departure	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	-3	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	0	26 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2005*

Autumn passage however was disappointing, with a total of just 16 birds days, well below the mean for the previous decade of 96 and the lowest since 2011. The first were seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, when one was at Abbotscliffe and two flew west at Samphire Hoe, with a peak count of just three flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October and three there the following day.

In November one was seen at Copt Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and two were at Abbotscliffe on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Blackbird

*Turdus merula*

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Cold weather in February produced counts of 13 at Samphire Hoe on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 24 at Church Hougham the following day. Autumn passage included 31 along the canal at Seabrook on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, six in off the sea at Samphire Hoe, ten at Mill Point and 25 at Abbotscliffe on the 4<sup>th</sup> November and 26 in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 5<sup>th</sup> November.



Rose-coloured Starling at Palmarsh (Barry Wright)



Ring Ouzel at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

## Fieldfare

*Turdus pilaris*

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In January there was a peak count of 50 at Donkey Street on the 1<sup>st</sup>, whilst 25 were at Folkestone Racecourse on the 5<sup>th</sup> February. Cold weather from the 7<sup>th</sup> February induced some movement, including 25 at Botolph's Bridge on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 12 flying south-west over Folkestone at 15 at Lathe Barn on the 8<sup>th</sup>, "hundreds" at Holy well on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 50 at Donkey Street on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 19 at the Willop Sewage Works on the 12<sup>th</sup> February.

Spring passage involved two flying north over Lympne on the 27<sup>th</sup> March, 32 in a field near the American Garden on the 16<sup>th</sup> April and singles at the Willop Sewage Works on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, Lympne Park Wood on the 20<sup>th</sup> April and a fairly late bird at Lympne on the 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020				
Departure	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	13	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	6	5 <sup>th</sup> Jun 2016
Arrival	13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep 2018

The first autumn arrival involved one flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 13<sup>th</sup> October but passage was very light, with a peak count of 45 at West Hythe on the 4<sup>th</sup> November. Numbers in the late winter period were very low.

## Redwing

*Turdus iliacus*

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In January notable counts included 100 in the Botolph's Bridge/Donkey Street area on the 1<sup>st</sup> and a peak of 58 at Church Hougham on the 21<sup>st</sup>, whilst 120 were at Berwick Manor Farm (Lympne) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

Cold weather from the 7<sup>th</sup> February induced some movement, including 24 in a garden in Folkestone on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 30 at Lathe Barn on the 8<sup>th</sup>, “hundreds” at Holy well on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 50 in a garden in Folkestone and 100 at Pedlinge Farm on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 75 at Cinderella Farm on the 16<sup>th</sup> February. Spring passage was light, with a few nocturnal movements and a diurnal peak of 20 at Brockhill Country Park on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, with the last at Abbotscliffe on the 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Departure	24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-14	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-14	4 <sup>th</sup> May 1981
Arrival	10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	28 <sup>th</sup> Sep	12	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	8	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2016

The first autumn bird was seen at Samphire Hoe on the 10<sup>th</sup> October but autumn passage was very poor, with a peak in October of 100 flying east at Cheriton on the 12<sup>th</sup>. November produced 30 in off the sea at Samphire Hoe on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 170 flying west at West Hythe dam on the 10<sup>th</sup>, whilst a count of 29 at the Aldergate Bridge on the 15<sup>th</sup> December included one in full song.



Fieldfare at Holy Well (Elliot Ranford)



Redwing at Folkestone (David Featherbe)

#### Song Thrush

*Turdus philomelos*

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Cold weather in February produced counts of 14 at Samphire Hoe on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 21 at Lympe on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There was no evidence of spring passage and little movement in autumn. In the late winter period 15 were at Donkey Street on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

#### Mistle Thrush

*Turdus viscivorus*

Breeding resident (A)

There were no counts of note but four territories were located at Brockhill Country Park. The only sign of passage involved one at Abbotscliffe on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

#### Spotted Flycatcher

*Muscicapa striata*

Formerly a breeding summer visitor, now only a passage migrant, more frequent in autumn (A)

One was seen at Rock Cottage on the Botolph's Bridge Road, near Nickolls Quarry on the 5<sup>th</sup> May, whilst autumn produced singles at Abbotscliffe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August, and 12<sup>th</sup> September.



Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	5 <sup>th</sup> May	-	-	13 <sup>th</sup> May	-8	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1961
Departure	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-24	26 <sup>th</sup> Sep	-14	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1999

Robin

*Erithacus rubecula*

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The only count of note involved 35 at Abbotscliffe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October.



Song Thrush at Holy Well (Elliot Ranford)



Robin at Cheriton (Tony Poole)

Nightingale

*Luscinia megarhynchos*

Declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

A male was holding territory in scrub adjacent to the canal at Port Lympne from the 20<sup>th</sup> April until at least the end of May, whilst another was singing along canal near Palmars on the 10<sup>th</sup> May. A third male was singing at Thorn Wood on the 19<sup>th</sup> June.

To hear a recording of the Port Lympne bird singing click [here](#).

Pied Flycatcher

*Ficedula hypoleuca*

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn (A)

Singles were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August, with one at Samphire Hoe on the 30<sup>th</sup> August. Further singles were at Abbotscliffe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September.

It was another good year, with the total of seven bird/days being an improvement on the mean for the previous decade of 4.8.

Black Redstart

*Phoenicurus ochruros*

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A male was seen intermittently at Samphire Hoe from December 2020 through until March, when it was joined by a female from the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, whilst three were present on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April. The pair bred successfully raising at least one brood (with two juveniles seen in August). Up to four were seen there until October, with a larger count of 12 on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, and at least remained until the end of the year



Elsewhere singles were seen in a garden in Lympe on the 19<sup>th</sup> February, at the Willop Outfall on the 27<sup>th</sup> February, at Cheriton Court Road in Cheriton on the 11<sup>th</sup> March, at Abbotscliffe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and at Church Hougham on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, with a pair at Hythe Ranges on the 27<sup>th</sup> March. In autumn two were Abbotscliffe on the 30<sup>th</sup> August, with one there on the 15<sup>th</sup> October, two at the Willop Outfall on the 17<sup>th</sup> November and one at Abbotscliffe on the 20<sup>th</sup> November.



Pied Flycatcher at Abbotscliffe (Elliot Ranford)



Black Redstart at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

## Redstart

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Passage migrant, mainly in autumn (A)

In spring a male was present at Samphire Hoe on the 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-	-	14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-1	12 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1960
Departure	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	-30	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-31	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1999

Autumn produced one at Samphire Hoe and two at Abbotscliffe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August, singles at Abbotscliffe on the 29<sup>th</sup> August, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September, and singles at Samphire Hoe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September and Church Hougham on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

The total for the year of 10 bird/days was very much in line with the mean for the previous decade of 11.

## Whinchat

*Saxicola rubetra*

Formerly bred but now a passage migrant, mainly in autumn (A)

One was reported at Samphire Hoe on the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3	1 <sup>st</sup> May	-1	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2011
Departure	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	-12	5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-14	10 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2009

An early returning migrant was seen at Abbotscliffe on the 25<sup>th</sup> July with the next at Abbotscliffe on the 16<sup>th</sup> August. Autumn passage showed a significant improvement on last year, with a total of 117 bird/days (compared to just 28 in 2020), and was significantly better than the mean for the previous decade of 52.

Counts included five at Samphire Hoe on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August, nine at Abbotscliffe on the 31<sup>st</sup> August, seven there on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September (decreasing to five by the 6<sup>th</sup>), 11 at Botolph's Bridge on the 6<sup>th</sup> September and five at Abbotscliffe on the 15<sup>th</sup> September.

## Stonechat

*Saxicola rubicola*

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A).

In the early winter period there were up to two at Lathe Barn, the Willop Sewage Works, Donkey Street and the Hotel Imperial Golf Course, with singles between Lympe and Newingreen, Princes Parade, Holy Well and Copt Point.

Up to 12 were present at Samphire Hoe from January and up to six pairs bred, whilst 20 were counted there on the 11<sup>th</sup> September. Elsewhere singles pairs nested successfully at Abbotscliffe (raising two young) and Round Down (raising at least three young), whilst a male held territory (and breeding possibly occurred) at Hythe Ranges.

In the late winter period there was at least one in the Willop Sewage Works area, one at Botolph's Bridge, one at West Hythe, two at Donkey Street, two at Cheriton Hill, three at Folkestone Warren and six at Hythe Ranges.



Whinchat at Samphire Hoe (Dave Clarke)



Stonechat at Donkey Street (Brian Harper)

## Wheatear

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

Formerly bred, now only does so occasionally. A common passage migrant (A)

A male at Samphire Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup> February was the earliest ever sighting, and was thought to have been encouraged north by a plume of warm air from northern Africa that raised local temperatures to over 13°C. This was the first sighting in February and considerable ahead of the previous earliest (on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015).

The next sighting occurred a full month later, when two males were seen at Samphire Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup> March, with further arrivals at the Willop Sewage Works on the 30<sup>th</sup> March and Abbotscliffe on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Passage continued through April, with ones and twos at various sites and larger numbers at Samphire Hoe, where four were noted on three dates in April and with a peak of seven there on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, until mid-May, with a late bird at Hythe on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. The spring total of 80 bird/days was a considerable improvement on the 31 recorded last year and also better than the mean for the previous decade of 69.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020				
Arrival	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-20	17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-21	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2021
Departure	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	6	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	5	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2016

Autumn passage was noted between the 10<sup>th</sup> August and the 5<sup>th</sup> November and also showed improvement on last year, though was still well below average with a total of 92 bird days, compared to the mean for the previous decade of 163. The largest counts again came from Samphire Hoe, where there were five on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August, eight on the 30<sup>th</sup> August, ten on the 31<sup>st</sup> August, seven on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September and six on the 16<sup>th</sup> September.

#### House Sparrow

*Passer domesticus*

Declining breeding resident (A)

The largest count received involved 40 at Palmarsh on the 30<sup>th</sup> October. At Samphire Hoe, where the species is unusual, one was seen on the 21<sup>st</sup> April, with two on the 7<sup>th</sup> September.

#### Tree Sparrow

*Passer montanus*

Declining passage migrant. No longer breeds and now scarce in winter (A)

The only record from the early part of the year involved one seen at Daleacres on the Lower Wall Road on the 29<sup>th</sup> March. In the latter part of the year, up to 12 were in the Botolph's Bridge/Donkey Street area from the 6<sup>th</sup> October to the end of December, and three were present in stubble fields at Abbotscliffe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, with one there on the 13<sup>th</sup> December.

#### Dunnock

*Prunella modularis*

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

There were no counts of note, although an increase at coastal sites in the autumn, indicative of passage, was noted.

#### Yellow Wagtail

*Motacilla flava*

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first, two at the Hoorne's Sewer, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April were relatively early and they remained in the Donkey Street/Hoorne's Sewer area until at least late June and probably bred. Three birds were noted there on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Coastal migrants involved singles arriving in off the sea at Capel Battery on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, Samphire Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April, Abbotscliffe on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May, Samphire Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup> May and Abbotscliffe on the 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-6	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-6	21 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2018
Departure	20 <sup>th</sup> Sep	10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-20	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-14	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1984

Two early returning migrants were at Abbotscliffe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, with the next flying east over Seabrook on the 12<sup>th</sup> August. Six were at Abbotscliffe on the 16<sup>th</sup> August, four flew east there on the 21<sup>st</sup> August and ten flew west there the next day. A cattle field at Abbotscliffe then attracted a feeding flock of 11 from the 26<sup>th</sup> August, increasing to 27 on the 29<sup>th</sup> August and peaking at 28 on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, when a further eight flew east, before steadily dispersing. The only sightings after mid-September involved two flying west at Nickolls Quarry and four flying west at Nickolls Quarry on the 17<sup>th</sup> and six flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 20<sup>th</sup> September. The autumn bird/day total of 165 was well above the mean for the previous decade of 74, but this was largely due to the lingering flock.

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Small numbers were present at various sites in the early winter period, including the Willop Sewage Works, Botolph's Bridge, Westenhanger, Beachborough Park, Enbrook Park, Cheriton, Radnor Park, Holy Well and Folkestone. Spring passage involved a total of nine flying east at Abbotscliffe between the 27<sup>th</sup> February and 21<sup>st</sup> March, with a peak of three on the 20<sup>th</sup> March.

A pair bred at Westenhanger/Stanford South, raising at least one young, whilst further pairs probably bred at Turnpike Hill, Hythe and Seabrook. A light autumn passage was noted between early September and early November, involving ones and twos at coastal sites. Small numbers were again wintering at numerous sites at the latter end of the year.



Wheatear at Samphire Hoe (Steve Reynaert)



Yellow Wagtail at Abbotscliffe (Mike Linklater)

Pied Wagtail (*M. a. yarrellii*) is a breeding resident and passage migrant. White Wagtail (*M. a. alba*) is a scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring, that has bred once (in 2013) (A)

In the early winter period counts included 28 at the Willop Basin on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 56 at Botolph's Bridge on the 17<sup>th</sup> January and 45 at Abbott's Court Farm on the 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Spring passage began when two arrived in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 26<sup>th</sup> February, whilst 23 were present at Nickolls Quarry on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March and small numbers were noted mostly heading east or in off the sea during March and April, with counts of four east at Abbotscliffe on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, four east there on the 20<sup>th</sup> March and six east on the 21<sup>st</sup> March.

White Wagtails were identified at Nickolls Quarry on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, the Hotel Imperial Golf Course on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, Nickolls Quarry on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, Samphire Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> April and Donkey Street on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. A male White Wagtail was seen gathering food near Cock Ash Lake on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. It was thought to presumably be feeding chicks but unfortunately the female was not seen and it could not be ascertained whether it was a pure or mixed pair.

Autumn passage was very light with peaks of just five flying over Abbotscliffe on the 6<sup>th</sup> October and four flying over on the 13<sup>th</sup> October.



Rare passage migrant (A) (19, 1)

One was seen at Samphire Hoe on the 29<sup>th</sup> April before it flew west (R. Blackman). This was the 20<sup>th</sup> area record but the first to be recorded in spring.



Grey Wagtail attending nest at Westenhanger/Stanford South (Phil Sharp)



White Wagtail carrying food at Cock Ash Lake (Paul Holt)

## Meadow Pipit

*Anthus pratensis*

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Counts in the early winter period included 16 at Samphire Hoe on the 7<sup>th</sup> January and 40 at the Willop Basin on the 12<sup>th</sup> February. A light spring migration included six flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 27<sup>th</sup> February, 12 arriving in off the sea there on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, six in off the sea there on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, nine in off the sea there the next day and five in off the sea there on the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Autumn passage was noted in September and October, when counts at Abbotscliffe included 100 flying east on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, 143 there the following day and 51 there on the 6<sup>th</sup> October.

## Tree Pipit

*Anthus trivialis*

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn (A)

Singles were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 16<sup>th</sup> August, with daily records there (perhaps involving the same individual) between the 29<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September, whilst one flew west there on the 20<sup>th</sup> September.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	-	-	-	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-	26 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1965
Departure	20 <sup>th</sup> Sep	9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-19	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	-3	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2001

The total of six bird/days was a little below the mean for the previous decade of 7.3.

## Water Pipit

*Anthus spinoletta*

Very rare vagrant (A) (8, 0)

The wintering bird from 2020 remained in the Donkey Street area intermittently until the 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.

In the early winter period there were up to nine at Folkestone Warren, four at Samphire Hoe, at least one in the Folkestone Harbour/Pier area and one at the Willop Outfall. Two at Hythe on the 15<sup>th</sup> March were probably migrants. At least two pairs were thought to have bred at Samphire Hoe.

Up to 14 were present at Samphire Hoe in October, whilst one at Sandgate on the 10<sup>th</sup> October and two at Battery Point on the 13<sup>th</sup> October were probably migrants. In the late winter period birds were wintering at Samphire Hoe, Folkestone Warren (up to five), Folkestone Harbour/Pier area (up to three), the Willop Outfall (two), Abbotscliffe (two) and the Dymchurch Redoubt (one).



Meadow Pipit at Samphire Hoe (Paul Holt)



Rock Pipit at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The only count of note from the early winter period was of 75 feeding on piles of farm waste at Westenhangar on the 13<sup>th</sup> March.

A record spring passage was noted from the 26<sup>th</sup> February, when 160 flew east at Abbotscliffe, with 1,276 flying east there the following day. Further counts included 3,200 east there on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1,175 east on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2,480 east on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 4,875 east on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, 4,335 east on the 20<sup>th</sup> March and a record total of 8,190 east there on the 21<sup>st</sup> March. The spring total of over 27,000 birds was more than double the previous highest (12,485 in 2015) and well above the mean for the previous decade of 5,730.

Autumn passage by contrast was very poor again, with no counts of note.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The only record from the early winter period involved one seen in a garden in Lympe on the 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January. Spring passage involved two flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, one flying east there on the 20<sup>th</sup> March and one at Church Hougham on the 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020				
Departure	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-13	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	-7	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr 1958
Arrival	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	28 <sup>th</sup> Sep	13	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-4	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep 1996

In autumn October produced one at Abbotscliffe on the 11<sup>th</sup>, two there on the 13<sup>th</sup>, one there on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and a total of 22 there (eight plus 14 flying west) on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. In November there were two at Copt Point and eight at Abbotscliffe on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, two at Abbotscliffe on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 15 arriving in off the sea there on the 8<sup>th</sup> and one in off the sea at Mill Point on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### Hawfinch

*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (18, 1)

One landed briefly in a garden in Saltwood and then flew north on the 30<sup>th</sup> March (S. Clancy). This was only the 19<sup>th</sup> record but there have now been eight sightings in the last five years.

#### Bullfinch

*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Breeding resident (A)

There were records of resident birds from numerous sites.

#### Greenfinch

*Carduelis chloris*

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant, having declined in recent years (A)

Numbers remain low. A light spring passage involved a total of 24 flying east at Abbotscliffe in March, with a peak of ten on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Very few autumn migrants were noted.



Brambling at Lympne (Phil Sharp)



Greenfinch at Holy Well (Elliot Ranford)

#### Linnet

*Linaria cannabina*

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, less common in winter (A)

The record winter flock of 300 remained in fields at Oathill Cottages near Lympne until mid-January before slowly dispersing, with 200 there on the 29<sup>th</sup> January, 170 on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, 100 on the 19<sup>th</sup> February and 36 on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. Elsewhere there were 25 at Fisherman's Beach (Hythe) in January.

Spring passage was noted from late February and included counts of 23 arriving in off the sea Abbotscliffe at 30<sup>th</sup> March, 35 in off the sea at Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> April and 33 in/east at Samphire Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, whilst up to 40 were present at Abbotscliffe in April and 80 were counted at Hythe Ranges on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

Autumn counts included c.120 at Donkey Street on the 6<sup>th</sup> October, 80 at Abbotscliffe on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, 76 flying west there on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 92 there (70 in fields and 22 flying west) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.



Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In spring singles were seen flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 27<sup>th</sup> February, east at Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, west at Round Down on the 24<sup>th</sup> April and on the cliff at Samphire Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, whilst two flew north-west at Abbotscliffe on the 26<sup>th</sup> May.

There was no repeat of last year's record autumn passage and numbers were very low. At Abbotscliffe a total of just ten were logged between the 11<sup>th</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> November, with a peak of four on the latter date. Elsewhere singles were seen at the Willop Sewage Works on the 6<sup>th</sup> November and Cock Ash Lake on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, whilst one flew east at Mill Point on the 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Passage migrant, with occasional summer irruptions, rare in winter (A)

Singles were seen flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 27<sup>th</sup> February and 14<sup>th</sup> May. A very poor year following the excellent numbers recorded in 2020.

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, widespread but less common in winter (A)

A light spring passage included counts of 16 flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 15 flying east there on the 30<sup>th</sup> March and 40 flying east at Folkestone Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Autumn numbers were low, in contrast to last year's excellent passage, with counts of just 60 at Abbotscliffe on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, 140 there on the 15<sup>th</sup> September, 375 flying east there on the 13<sup>th</sup> October and 63 flying west at Seabrook on the 1<sup>st</sup> November.



Linnet at Samphire Hoe (Mike Linklater)



Goldfinch at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Rare migrant (A) (26, 1)

One flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 19<sup>th</sup> April (I. A. Roberts). The first since 2018.



Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were widespread records of small numbers in the early winter period, with sightings at Horton Priory, Cock Ash Lake (up to five), Folkestone Racecourse (up to eight), Kiln Wood, along the canal by Hythe Roughs (two), Brockhill Country Park (four), Chesterfield Wood (two), Asholt Wood (three) and in a garden in central Folkestone.

Spring passage was noted between late February and mid-April, with a total of 243 logged heading east, including counts of 30 flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 73 east there on the 20<sup>th</sup> March and 61 east there the following day.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2020	+/-		+/-	
Departure	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> May	-34	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr*	-4	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2000*
Arrival	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	36	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep*	20	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep 1997*

It was a very poor autumn following the record count last year. The only double-figure counts comprised 14 flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, ten at Cock Ash Lake on the 10<sup>th</sup> November and 17 flying east at Samphire Hoe on the 15<sup>th</sup> November.

## Snow Bunting

*Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn, has overwintered (A)

One was seen at Abbotscliffe on the 4<sup>th</sup> November, with two there the following day and one flying east on the 13<sup>th</sup> November, whilst singles flew west at Samphire Hoe on the 16<sup>th</sup> November and east there on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Confiding individuals along the seafront at Hythe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December and at Folkestone Harbour from the 21<sup>st</sup> December until the end of the year completed the best year since 2010.



Snow Bunting at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Snow Bunting at Folkestone Harbour (Elliot Ranford)

## Corn Bunting

*Emberiza calandra*

Declining resident, probably still breeding in most years (A)

Two were seen at the Willop Basin on the 1<sup>st</sup> January. A flock 13 were seen at Botolph's Bridge on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, and this flock remained in the Botolph's Bridge/Donkey Street area until early May, when it had decreased to eight. A male was holding territory at Donkey Street and two territorial males were present at Abbotscliffe. These were present well into the summer and breeding may have occurred at both sites.

In the late winter period there were up to 32 in the Botolph's Bridge area, with one at Abbotscliffe.

Yellowhammer
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<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
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Breeding resident (A)

In the early winter period there were counts of 14 at Lympe on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, 42 at Church Hougham on the 25<sup>th</sup> March and 41 at Oathill Cottages near Lympe on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, whilst the late winter period saw up to 28 at Abbotscliffe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 12 at Botolph's Bridge on the 6<sup>th</sup> November and 11 at Donkey Street on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, whilst 17 were still present at Abbotscliffe in mid-December. At Samphire Hoe where the species is unusual there were singles on the 21<sup>st</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> December.

Reed Bunting
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<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
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Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The peak count from the early winter period was 20 at the Willop Basin in January. Spring migrants included two flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 27<sup>th</sup> February, singles flying east there on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> March and one at Samphire Hoe on the 18<sup>th</sup> April.

Autumn passage involved 12 flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, with a further 11 logged there in October (including five flying west on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October) and three in November. The largest count in the late winter period was of 20 at Donkey Street.



Yellowhammer at the Aldington Road (Brian Harper)



Reed Bunting at Lympe Old Airfield (Nick Hollands)

### Category E species

Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>
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Escapee (E)

One was seen near Haguelands Farm on the 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
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Escapee (E)

One of captive origin was present, with other released wildfowl, at Cock Ash Lake between the 20<sup>th</sup> February and 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>
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Escapee (E)

Up to six of captive origin were present, with other released wildfowl, at Cock Ash Lake between the 20<sup>th</sup> February and the end of the year.

White-cheeked Pintail	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>
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Escapee (E)

Two of captive origin were present, with other released wildfowl, at Cock Ash Lake on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, with one remaining until the 17<sup>th</sup> April.



Ruddy Shelduck at Cock Ash Lake (Ian Roberts)



White-cheeked Pintail at Cock Ash Lake (Ian Roberts)

Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
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Escapee (E)

A semi-feral flock of up to eight that originate from Saltwood Castle were seen on several dates in the Saltwood area.



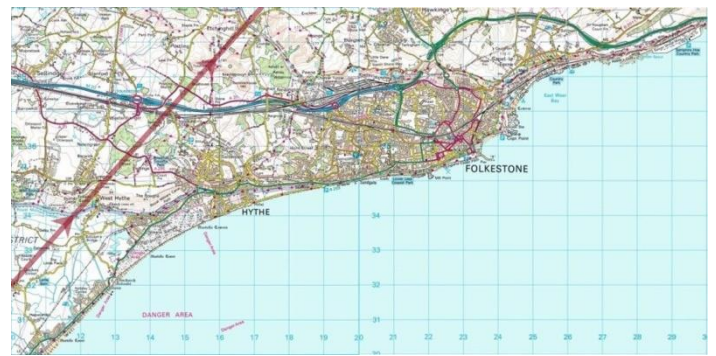
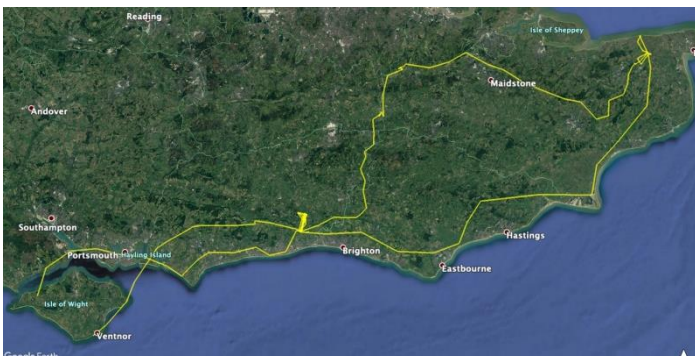
Very rare vagrant. Birds originating from the Isle of Wight reintroduction programme are included in category E as this population is not yet self-sustaining (A, C3, E)

Satellite tracking data revealed that a male (G461) from Isle of Wight reintroduction scheme that was seen flying north over Dungeness on the 27<sup>th</sup> March then passed unseen approximately over West Hythe, Lympe and Westenhanger, before departing the area in the direction of Lyminge.

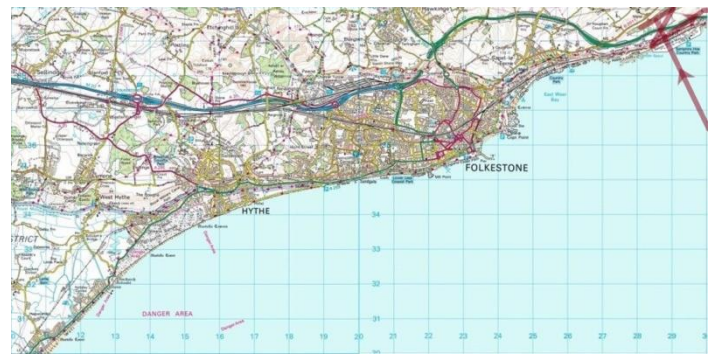
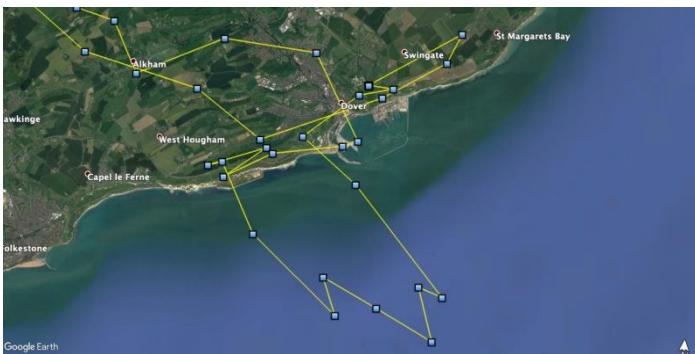
Another male (G463) that had flown for 6.8km out into the English Channel from Dover on the 5<sup>th</sup> April was later seen arriving in off the sea at Samphire Hoe, where it then flew north-east and left the area, but data revealed that it then passed unseen as it headed south-west over Saltwood and West Hythe the following day before successfully crossing the Channel from Dungeness.

There was a further report of one flying west over Hythe on the 24<sup>th</sup> April but no more details were forthcoming.

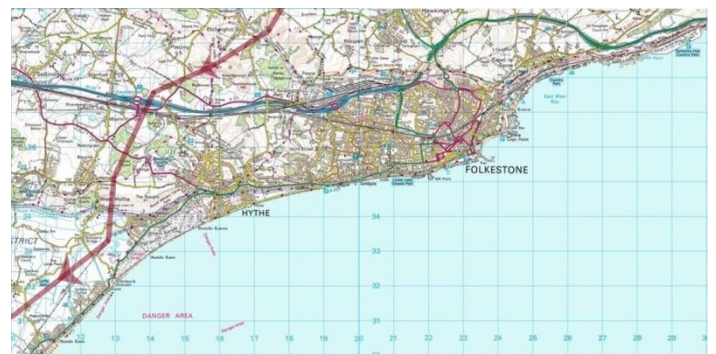
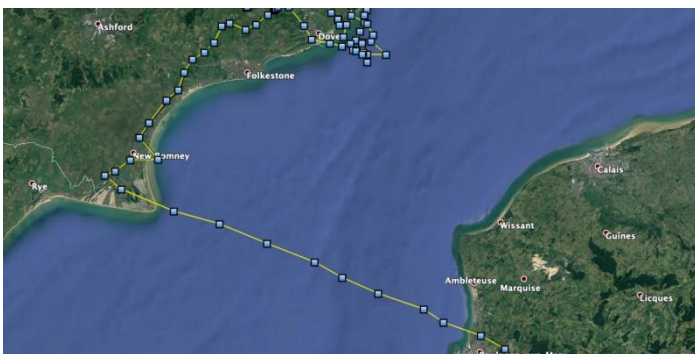
The satellite tracks for the three local occurrences are shown below, reproduced from Dennis (2021) and also superimposed on the local area map.



Satellite track of White-tailed Eagle G461 on the 27<sup>th</sup> March



Satellite track of White-tailed Eagle G463 on the 5<sup>th</sup> April



Satellite track of White-tailed Eagle G463 on the 6<sup>th</sup> April



## Escapee (E)

One was heard above Baker's Gap at Folkestone Sunny Sands on the 13<sup>th</sup> August with presumably the same individual in north-east Folkestone the following day, when it was taken by a Sparrowhawk.



White-tailed Eagle and Buzzard at Samphire Hoe (Paul Holt)

## First and last dates for selected migrants

The arrival and departure dates for selected summer and winter migrants are shown in the tables below. In cases where records appear to relate to over-wintering or over-summering individuals these have been excluded, and are indicated by an asterisk by the date. A negative difference in the table indicates that a species arrived or departed earlier than the previous year or ten year mean, whilst a positive difference indicates a later arrival or departure. Winter records of Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps have become so frequent in recent years that these species have been excluded due to the difficulty of determining the first arriving or last departing migrant. Due to the difficulty of distinguishing between wintering Sandwich Terns and early migrants, a pragmatic approach has now been adopted locally that assumes that birds seen during January and February relate to winter records.

Spring arrival of summer migrants was earlier than last year for 9 species and later for 14 species, with one arriving on the same date. The earliest ever Wheatear was of particular note, as was the third earliest Sandwich Tern.

### Arrival dates of summer migrants

Species	Arrival date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest ever arrival
	2021	2020				
Swift	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	0	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	-1	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2015
Cuckoo	25 <sup>th</sup> Apr	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	5	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2001
Turtle Dove	5 <sup>th</sup> May	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	-18	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1993
Whimbrel	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-12	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2011
Common Sandpiper	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	10	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2013*
Sandwich Tern	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-16	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-11	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2019
Little Tern	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11	26 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2016
Common Tern	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2020
Arctic Skua	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	1	14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	5	14 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2016*
Honey Buzzard	-	25 <sup>th</sup> May	-	26 <sup>th</sup> May	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2013
Hobby	29 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> May	-9	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	5	9 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1998
Sand Martin	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	-3	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	-3	5 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1995
Swallow	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	-3	23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2019
House Martin	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-9	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-9	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2004
Willow Warbler	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8	5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11	26 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1960
Reed Warbler	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr 2016
Sedge Warbler	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-4	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr 2017
Garden Warbler	8 <sup>th</sup> May	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	21	26 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2001
Lesser Whitethroat	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	5	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2007
Whitethroat	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-10	9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-10	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2002
Ring Ouzel	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr*	4	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-1	9 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1997*
Spotted Flycatcher	5 <sup>th</sup> May	-	-	13 <sup>th</sup> May	-8	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1961
Nightingale	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	25 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-5	25 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-5	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1981
Redstart	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-	-	14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-1	12 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1960
Whinchat	30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3	1 <sup>st</sup> May	-2	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2011
Wheatear	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-20	17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-22	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2021
Yellow Wagtail	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-6	8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-6	21 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2018
Tree Pipit	-	-	-	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-	26 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1965

Departures of summer migrants were earlier for 17 species and only later for 8. The latest ever Hobby was of particular note.

#### Departure dates of summer migrants

Species	Departure date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Latest ever departure
	2021	2020				
Swift	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-2	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep	22	16 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1957
Cuckoo	27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	14 <sup>th</sup> Jun	74	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jul	36	28 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1969
Turtle Dove	-	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jul	-	15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1981*
Whimbrel	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-48	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-5	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2013
Common Sandpiper	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	-15	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep*	-15	Several wintered
Sandwich Tern	6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	-14	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	43	27 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1955
Little Tern	-	-	-	-	-	16 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1999
Common Tern	5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	2	27 <sup>th</sup> Sep	7	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2007
Arctic Skua	18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	-45	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 2020
Honey Buzzard	24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	11 <sup>th</sup> Aug	13	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-4	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1995
Hobby	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	26	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	25	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021
Sand Martin	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	-29	9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-3	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1963
Swallow	13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	-23	17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	-4	8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1955
House Martin	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	-29	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	-31	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 1974
Willow Warbler	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	10 <sup>th</sup> Sep	-3	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	-15	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1986
Reed Warbler	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-38	25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	-26	24 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2018
Sedge Warbler	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-36	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	-21	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1996
Garden Warbler	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	21	4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	-6	6 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1981
Lesser Whitethroat	9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	18	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep	9	3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 1994
Whitethroat	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	17	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	4	19 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2016
Ring Ouzel	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	-3	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	0	26 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2005*
Spotted Flycatcher	12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-24	26 <sup>th</sup> Sep	-14	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1999
Redstart	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	-30	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-31	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1999
Whinchat	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	-12	5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-15	10 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2009
Wheatear	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	6	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	5	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2016
Yellow Wagtail	20 <sup>th</sup> Sep	10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-20	4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-14	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1984
Tree Pipit	20 <sup>th</sup> Sep	9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-19	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	-3	20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2001



Five winter visitors departed earlier than last year and two were later. In autumn all species arrived later or on the same date last year.

### Departure dates of winter migrants

Species	Departure date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Latest ever departure
	2021	2020				
Brent Goose	9 <sup>th</sup> May	10 <sup>th</sup> May	-1	6 <sup>th</sup> May*	3	26 <sup>th</sup> May 1997*
Purple Sandpiper	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3	5 <sup>th</sup> May	-8	20 <sup>th</sup> May 1987
Red-throated Diver	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	14 <sup>th</sup> May	-11	8 <sup>th</sup> May	-5	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2006
Fieldfare	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	13	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	6	5 <sup>th</sup> Jun 2016
Redwing	24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-14	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-14	4 <sup>th</sup> May 1981
Brambling	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	-13	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	-7	23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr 1958
Siskin	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	16 <sup>th</sup> May	-34	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr*	-4	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2000*

### Arrival dates of winter migrants

Species	Arrival date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest ever arrival
	2021	2020				
Brent Goose	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	0	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep*	-2	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep 2008*
Purple Sandpiper	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	0	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1984
Red-throated Diver	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	0	30 <sup>th</sup> Sep	-13	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1997
Fieldfare	13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep 2018
Redwing	10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	28 <sup>th</sup> Sep	12	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	8	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2016
Brambling	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	28 <sup>th</sup> Sep	13	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	-4	21 <sup>st</sup> Sep 1996
Siskin	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	36	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep*	20	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep 1997*



Wheatear at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

## Year list

### January

1	Pheasant	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
2	Brent Goose	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
3	Mute Swan	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
4	Wigeon	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
5	Mallard	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
6	Teal	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
7	Feral Pigeon	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
8	Stock Dove	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
9	Woodpigeon	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
10	Collared Dove	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
11	Water Rail	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
12	Moorhen	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
13	Coot	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
14	Little Grebe	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
15	Great Crested Grebe	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
16	Lapwing	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
17	Golden Plover	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
18	Curlew	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
19	Turnstone	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
20	Sanderling	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
21	Purple Sandpiper	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
22	Jack Snipe	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
23	Snipe	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
24	Green Sandpiper	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
25	Redshank	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
26	Black-headed Gull	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
27	Mediterranean Gull	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
28	Common Gull	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
29	Great Black-backed Gull	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
30	Herring Gull	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
31	Razorbill	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
32	Red-throated Diver	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
33	Great Northern Diver	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
34	Fulmar	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
35	Gannet	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
36	Cormorant	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
37	Grey Heron	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
38	Little Egret	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
39	Buzzard	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
40	Barn Owl	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
41	Kingfisher	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
42	Great Spotted Woodpecker	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
43	Green Woodpecker	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
44	Kestrel	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
45	Peregrine	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
46	Magpie	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
47	Jackdaw	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
48	Rook	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
49	Carrion Crow	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
50	Coal Tit	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
51	Blue Tit	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan

52	Great Tit	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
53	Skylark	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
54	Long-tailed Tit	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
55	Blackcap	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
56	Firecrest	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
57	Goldcrest	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
58	Wren	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
59	Treecreeper	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
60	Starling	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
61	Blackbird	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
62	Fieldfare	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
63	Redwing	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
64	Song Thrush	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
65	Robin	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
66	Stonechat	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
67	House Sparrow	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
68	Dunnock	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
69	Grey Wagtail	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
70	Pied Wagtail	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
71	Meadow Pipit	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
72	Chaffinch	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
73	Bullfinch	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
74	Goldfinch	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
75	Corn Bunting	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
76	Reed Bunting	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
77	Shelduck	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
78	Mandarin Duck	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
79	Pintail	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
80	Common Scoter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
81	Oystercatcher	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
82	Black-throated Diver	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
83	Sparrowhawk	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
84	Short-eared Owl	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
85	Jay	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
86	Raven	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
87	Cetti's Warbler	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
88	Mistle Thrush	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
89	Black Redstart	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
90	Greenfinch	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
91	Yellowhammer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan
92	Ringed Plover	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan
93	Kittiwake	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan
94	Guillemot	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan
95	Shag	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan
96	Great White Egret	4 <sup>th</sup> Jan
97	Little Owl	4 <sup>th</sup> Jan
98	Merlin	5 <sup>th</sup> Jan
99	Linnet	7 <sup>th</sup> Jan
100	Egyptian Goose	8 <sup>th</sup> Jan
101	Pochard	8 <sup>th</sup> Jan
102	Tufted Duck	8 <sup>th</sup> Jan
103	Woodcock	8 <sup>th</sup> Jan
104	Marsh Tit	8 <sup>th</sup> Jan
105	Nuthatch	8 <sup>th</sup> Jan
106	Rock Pipit	8 <sup>th</sup> Jan



107	Siskin	8 <sup>th</sup> Jan
108	Red-legged Partridge	9 <sup>th</sup> Jan
109	Gadwall	9 <sup>th</sup> Jan
110	Chiffchaff	9 <sup>th</sup> Jan
111	Shoveler	10 <sup>th</sup> Jan
112	Marsh Harrier	11 <sup>th</sup> Jan
113	Lesser Black-backed Gull	15 <sup>th</sup> Jan
114	Canada Goose	17 <sup>th</sup> Jan
115	Tawny Owl	18 <sup>th</sup> Jan
116	Barnacle Goose	21 <sup>st</sup> Jan
117	Greylag Goose	23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan
118	Velvet Scoter	24 <sup>th</sup> Jan
119	Brambling	24 <sup>th</sup> Jan
120	Red-necked Grebe	27 <sup>th</sup> Jan
121	Red Kite	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan
122	Water Pipit	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan

## February

123	Dunlin	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb
124	Long-eared Owl	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb
125	Tundra Bean Goose	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb
126	Smew	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb
127	Avocet	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb
128	Grey Plover	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb
129	Knot	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb
130	Red-breasted Merganser	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb
131	Yellow-legged Gull	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb
132	Bar-tailed Godwit	10 <sup>th</sup> Feb
133	Ruff	10 <sup>th</sup> Feb
134	Caspian Gull	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb
135	Wheatear	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb
136	Lesser Redpoll	27 <sup>th</sup> Feb
137	Crossbill	27 <sup>th</sup> Feb

## March

138	White-fronted Goose	1 <sup>st</sup> Mar
139	Eider	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar
140	Black-tailed Godwit	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar
141	Sandwich Tern	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar
142	Hen Harrier	8 <sup>th</sup> Mar
143	Goosander	16 <sup>th</sup> Mar
144	Little Ringed Plover	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar
145	Sand Martin	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar
146	Swallow	28 <sup>th</sup> Mar
147	Whimbrel	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar
148	Osprey	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar
159	House Martin	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar
150	Tree Sparrow	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar
151	Hawfinch	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar
152	Goshawk	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar
153	Whitethroat	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar

## April

154	Garganey	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr
155	Yellow Wagtail	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr
156	Sedge Warbler	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr
157	Great Skua	9 <sup>th</sup> Apr
158	Common Tern	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr
159	Ring Ouzel	11 <sup>th</sup> Apr
160	Redstart	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr
161	Willow Warbler	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr
162	Reed Warbler	17 <sup>th</sup> Apr
163	Grey Partridge	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr
164	Arctic Skua	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr
165	Serin	19 <sup>th</sup> Apr
166	Lesser Whitethroat	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr
167	Nightingale	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr
168	Swift	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr
169	Pomarine Skua	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr
170	Greenshank	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr
171	Black Kite	24 <sup>th</sup> Apr
172	Cuckoo	25 <sup>th</sup> Apr
173	Spotted Redshank	25 <sup>th</sup> Apr
174	Common Sandpiper	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr
175	Little Tern	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr
176	Hobby	29 <sup>th</sup> Apr
177	Richard's Pipit	29 <sup>th</sup> Apr
178	Whinchat	30 <sup>th</sup> Apr

## May

179	Manx Shearwater	4 <sup>th</sup> May
180	Turtle Dove	5 <sup>th</sup> May
181	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	5 <sup>th</sup> May
182	Spotted Flycatcher	5 <sup>th</sup> May
183	Wood Warbler	7 <sup>th</sup> May
184	Garden Warbler	8 <sup>th</sup> May
185	Red-rumped Swallow	11 <sup>th</sup> May
186	Bee-eater	31 <sup>st</sup> May

## June

187	Black Stork	5 <sup>th</sup> Jun
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## July

188	Honey Buzzard	19 <sup>th</sup> Jul
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## August

189	Balearic Shearwater	11 <sup>th</sup> Aug
190	Tree Pipit	16 <sup>th</sup> Aug
191	Little Gull	21 <sup>st</sup> Aug
192	Pied Flycatcher	23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug
193	Wryneck	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug

## September

194	Grasshopper Warbler	9 <sup>th</sup> Sep
195	Corncrake	11 <sup>th</sup> Sep
196	Black Guillemot	18 <sup>th</sup> Sep
197	White Stork	20 <sup>th</sup> Sep
198	Black Tern	24 <sup>th</sup> Sep
199	Rose-coloured Starling	28 <sup>th</sup> Sep

## October

200	Long-tailed Skua	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct
201	Leach's Petrel	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct
202	Sooty Shearwater	2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct
203	Woodlark	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct
204	Grey Phalarope	13 <sup>th</sup> Oct
205	Sabine's Gull	13 <sup>th</sup> Oct
206	Pallid Harrier	23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct

## November

207	Snow Bunting	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov
208	Dartford Warbler	6 <sup>th</sup> Nov
209	Rough-legged Buzzard	22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov
210	Goldeneye	29 <sup>th</sup> Nov



Wryneck at Abbotscliffe (Elliot Ranford)

## Ringing recoveries

Details of birds ringed elsewhere and recovered in the Folkestone and Hythe area are given here. The code of the metal ring and colour rings are provided on the left. The distances and directions travelled are in relation to the ringing site in all cases.

The most notable recoveries in 2021 were a Dutch-ringed and since well-travelled Sanderling, a French-ringed Great Black-backed Gull spending its first winter in Folkestone, and the re-appearance of a Peregrine ringed as a nestling in East Sussex 14 years previously. Late news of a Fulmar found dead in late 2020 was also of note as it had been ringed ten previously in Orkney

A large number of Mediterranean Gull rings were read in 2021, largely due to the efforts of Renaud Flamant, with birds having been ringed in the many European countries. There is too much data for inclusion in this report and a separate article on the usage of the Folkestone and Hythe area by Mediterranean Gulls will be produced for a future publication.

I am grateful to Rich Bonser for passing on details of the Great Black-backed Gull, to John Tomlinson for passing on details of the Fulmar and Goldcrest, and to Martin Collins for passing on details of the Peregrine.

Several new Stonechats were ringed again at Samphire Hoe this year. Please continue to report sightings of these, making a note of the position and order of the rings, the date and location, by either picking up a form from the Rangers' Office at Samphire Hoe or by emailing [pwjfindley@hotmail.com](mailto:pwjfindley@hotmail.com).

<b>Sanderling</b>	<i>Calidris alba</i>
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NLA H324828	Ringed	13 Aug 2013	Adult	Vlieland, The Netherlands	
Y6GRWG	Read in field	18 Aug 2013	Adult	Griend, The Netherlands	8km SE
	Read in field at Griend on many dates until 13 Sep 2013				
	Read in field	06 Nov 2013	Adult	Luc-sur-Mer, France	585km SW
	Read in field	10 Nov 2013	Adult	Urville-Nacqueville, France	623km SW
	Read in field	08 Dec 2013	Adult	Urville-Nacqueville, France	623km SW
	Read in field	22 Jul 2014	Adult	Griend, The Netherlands	8km SE
	Read in field at Griend almost daily until 27 Aug 2014				
	Read in field	23 Mar 2015	Adult	Zeeland, The Netherlands	231km SSW
	Read in field	16 Aug 2015	Adult	Griend, The Netherlands	8km SE
	Read in field at Griend almost daily until 04 Oct 2015				
	Read in field	31 Dec 2015	Adult	Urville-Nacqueville, France	623km SW
	Read in field	17 Jan 2016	Adult	Urville-Nacqueville, France	623km SW
	Read in field	27 Feb 2021	Adult	Willop Outfall	378km SW

<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>	<i>Larus marinus</i>
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-	Ringed	29 Jun 2021	Juvenile	Le Havre, Normandy, France	
Black 94X	Read in field	31 Dec 2021	First-winter	Folkestone Harbour	192km NNE

<b>Fulmar</b>	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>
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-	Ringed	12 Aug 2010	Juvenile	North Ronaldsay, Orkney	
-	Found dead	21 Oct 2020	Adult	Folkestone Beach	948km SSE



Peregrine					<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
-	Ringed	16 May 2007	Juvenile	Birling Gap, East Sussex	
Green 21	Read in field	26 Mar 2019	Adult	Abbotscliffe	84km NE
	Read in field	mid-Jan 2021	Adult	Samphire Hoe	85km NE
	Read in field	late Aug 2021	Adult	Abbotscliffe	84km NE

Goldcrest					<i>Regulus regulus</i>
-	Ringed	28 Oct 2020	Adult	Folkestone	
-	Found dead	16 Apr 2021	Adult	Folkestone	0km



Great Black-backed Gull at Folkestone (Rich Bonser)

## **New species for Folkestone and Hythe in 2021**

Black Guillemot and Pallid Harrier were added to the Folkestone and Hythe list in 2021, subject to acceptance by the relevant authorities, which would increase it to 301 species. Account of these records is given below.

### **Black Guillemot at Samphire Hoe 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

(Ian Roberts)

#### **Status:**

Breeds along the coasts of Ireland, northern Britain, Iceland, Fenno-Scandia eastwards along the coast of northern Siberian, Alaska, Greenland and eastern North America. Resident and dispersive, showing less movement than other auks and less often encountered outside the breeding range (Snow & Perrins, 1998).

It is a rare vagrant to Kent, with 26 previous records, the most recent of which was seen in 2011. Half of these were recorded from Dungeness, with six along the east coast between St. Margaret's bay and Ramsgate, and six along the north coast between Reculver and Swalecliffe (a further, nineteenth century record, has no location details). Seven were recorded in late winter/spring (between February and May), with nine in summer/early autumn (between late July and September) and seven in late autumn/early winter (November/December) (a further three, nineteenth century records, are undated) (KOS, 2021).

#### **Circumstances of the find:**

Having recorded my first Balearic Shearwater of the year off the Dymchurch Redoubt on the previous day, I felt encouraged to give seawatching another go, hopeful that the south-easterly breeze (although very light) might induce some movement. I had just set up the telescope and pointed it straight out to sea when I picked up a close flock of seven Teal, with another bird just in front of the group. It was auk-like in shape and flight but had very obvious white wing-panels on otherwise seemingly dark upperparts. As inconceivable as it was, it had to be a Black Guillemot, a species I had seen in good numbers on a trip to Orkney just six weeks previously. I noted the quite peculiar jizz, with the head held fairly high and the full, low-lying belly and vent.

As it was close inshore and flying fast it had passed by far too quickly and was already heading away when I realised I hadn't made much note of the plumage. The clear, symmetrical white wing panels contrasted strongly with the dark upperparts but the ventral area appeared paler as it headed away, whilst I had seen very little of the head or underparts. It would appear that it was adult, possibly in transition to non-breeding plumage.

It continued heading east but changed its course slightly as it began moving further out to sea to avoid Dover Harbour's Admiralty Pier. It was now flying directly away from me and becoming more distant and I lost sight of it as it passed into the glare.

#### **Description of the bird:**

Size and shape: it had the obvious appearance of an auk but was smaller than Guillemot with a distinctive jizz due to its head being held fairly high and having a full, low-lying belly and vent.

Head and upperparts: clear, symmetrical white wing panels contrasting strongly with otherwise seemingly dark upperparts.

Underparts: little was noted of the underparts, except that the ventral area appeared paler.

Bare parts: bill appeared dark and pointed. The feet were not noticeable with the views that were had.

**Pallid Harrier at Abbotscliffe**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021**

(Elliot Ranford)

**Status:**

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).

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

**Circumstances of the find:**

During the late morning and early afternoon of the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, I was walking at Abbotscliffe, along with my in-law Alan Stewart. We were on a casual walk, hoping to see anything of interest that might be on the patch. The day started well with a Peregrine sighting, then a nice flock of Brambling dropped in briefly. As we continued our walk, we made our way into the field just off the footpath/cycle track, adjacent to the A20. As we approached the end of this field, and were close to re-joining the footpath, we inadvertently flushed a harrier, which was hunkered down in the long grass, beside some gorse. I immediately took a couple of photos as it flew away from us, which showed the bird to have caught a starling, and the white rump initially giving the assumption of hen harrier.

We waited patiently for 5/10 minutes, as the harrier had dropped into the gorse only 50m down the field. After some serious mobbing by corvids, the harrier again emerged from the gorse, and we were able to watch it quarter across the field for 15 minutes or so, and take some more images as well. Eventually, the mobbing caused the harrier to make its way across the A20, and circle the opposite field for a further 10-15 minutes. The harrier then headed inland towards Hougham, where it was lost to view.

On return from the field, I passed some photos on to Ian Roberts and Andy Luckhurst, who both confirmed the bird to be a juvenile Pallid Harrier. An exciting find for the local patch, as well as my own records!

**Description of the bird (from photographs):**

Size and shape: Similar to Montagu's Harrier in size and shape, being smaller and slimmer than Hen Harrier, with a long, narrow tail and long, narrow wings.

Head: Very striking, contrasting head pattern, with a thin, buff eyebrow and a whitish spot below the eye, which formed a concave angle. Prominent buff-orange collar sandwiched between the extensive dark brown ear-covert crescents and a distinctive thick, dark brown half-collar or 'boa' on the neck sides.

Upperparts: Largely dark-brown, relieved by an attractive spangling of golden feather tips, particularly across the median coverts. Rump white. Brownish-grey tail with darker bands.

Underparts: Breast, belly, vent and underwing coverts orangey-buff with no visible streaking. The underside of the primaries more contrasting than most juvenile Montagu's, with a bolder, though irregular pattern of light and dark bars, extending into the primary tips (which were not solidly dark like Montagu's). Secondaries appeared rather dark.



Pallid Harrier at Abbotscliffe (Elliot Ranford)

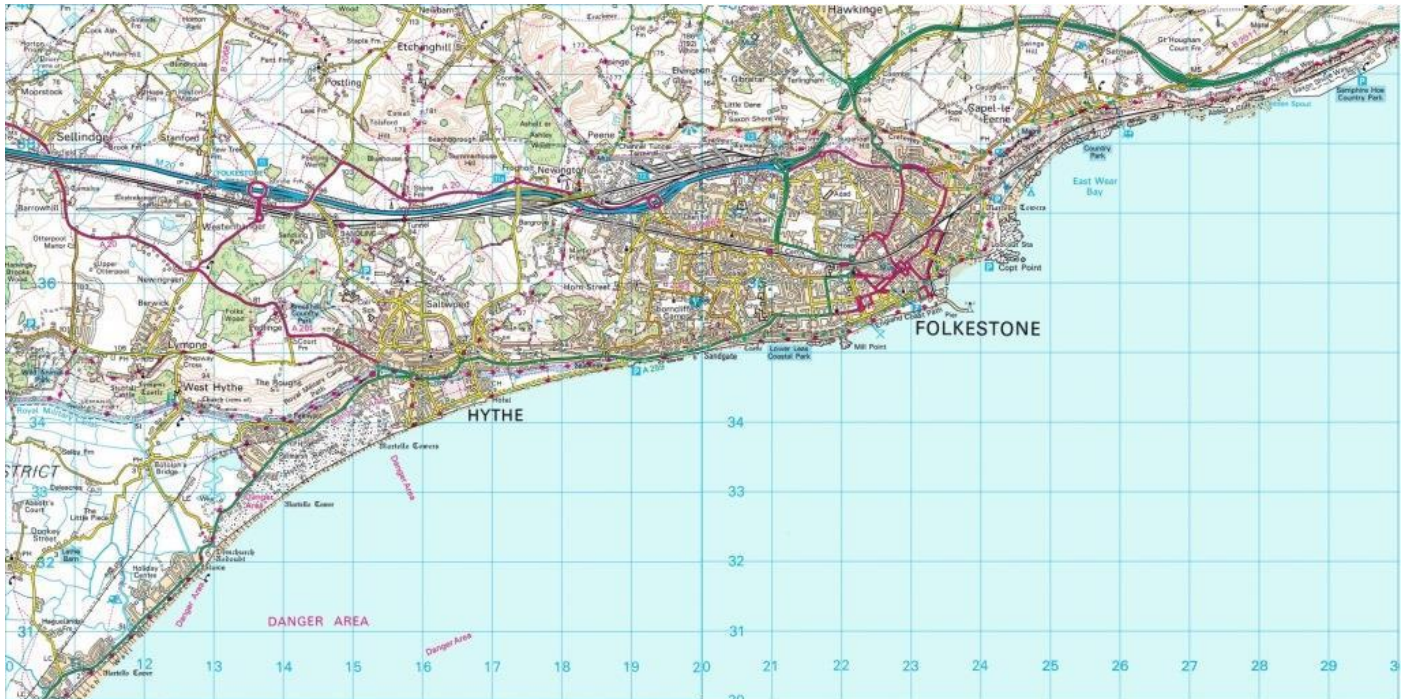


Pallid Harrier at Abbotscliffe (Elliot Ranford)



## The Folkestone and Hythe area

The Folkestone & Hythe area comprises the 10km squares TR13 and TR23 as shown by the map below. The tetrad layouts are also provided for ease of reference.



## Gazetteer

The locations mentioned in this report are listed below together with the 2km square(s) or tetrad(s) in which they are located. The tetrads which form the Folkestone and Hythe area can be found on the map on the preceding page.

A map of some of the major sites listed together with the tetrads and 1km squares is available via Google maps on the ‘where to watch’ section of the website: [www.folkestonebirds.com/wheretowatch.htm](http://www.folkestonebirds.com/wheretowatch.htm).

Site	Tetrad
A20/A260 junction	TR23 J
Abbotscliffe	TR23 U/TR23 Z
Abbott’s Court Farm	TR13 B
Aldergate Bridge	TR13 C
Aldergate Lane	TR13 B/TR13 C
Aldington Road	TR13 H/TR13 M
American Garden	TR13 N
Asholt Wood	TR13 T/TR13 U
Bargrove Wood	TR13 T
Barrack Hill (Hythe)	TR13 M
Battery Point	TR13 X
Beachborough Lakes	TR13 T
Beachborough Park	TR13 U
Berwick Manor Farm (Lympne)	TR13 H
Bluehouse Wood	TR13 N
Botolph’s Bridge	TR13 G
Broadmead Village	TR23 D
Brockhill Country Park	TR13 M
Capel-le-Ferne	TR23 P
Capel Battery (also known as the “Gun Site”)	TR23 N/TR23 P
Castle Hill	TR23 D
Channel Tunnel Terminal	TR13 Y
Cheriton	TR13 Y/TR23 D
Cheriton Court Road	TR13 Y
Cheriton Hill	TR13 Z
Cheriton Polo Ground	TR23 D
Chesterfield Wood	TR13 N
Church Hougham	TR23 U
Cinderella Farm	TR13 G
Cliff Road (Hythe)	TR13 S
Cock Ash Lake	TR13 E
Copt Point	TR23 N
Crete Road East	TR23 I/TR23 J
Crete Road West	TR23 E
Creteway Down	TR23 J
Daleacres (Lower Wall)	TR13 B
Donkey Street	TR13 B
Dymchurch Redoubt	TR13 G (/TR13 F for records on sea)
Earlsfield Road (Hythe)	TR13 S
Enbrook Park	TR23 C

Site	Tetrad
Folkestone Beach	TR13 H
Folkestone Harbour	TR13 H/TR13 I
Folkestone Pier	TR23 H
Folkestone Racecourse	TR13 I
Folkestone Sunny Sands	TR23 I
Folkestone Warren	TR23 N/TR23 P
Folkestone West station	TR23 D
Folks' Wood	TR23 H
Gibbin's Brook	TR13 E
Haguelands Farm	TR13 A
Hawkinge	TR23 E
Hillhurst Farm	TR13 I
Holy Well	TR23 J
Hoorne's Sewer	TR13 B
Horn Street	TR13 X/TR13 Y
Horton Priory	TR13 E
Hougham Court	TR23 U
Hythe	TR13 M/TR13 S
Hythe Imperial hotel and golf course	TR13 S
Hythe Ranges	TR13 G/TR13 L
Hythe Roughs	TR13 H/TR13 M
Hythe Seafront	TR13 S
Ingles Manor (Folkestone)	TR23 C
Kiln Wood	TR13 I
Lathe Barn	TR13 B
Lower Wall Road	TR13 B
Lympne	TR13 H
Lympne Park Wood	TR13 C/TR13 H
Marine Avenue (Dymchurch)	TR13 A
Mill Point	TR23 C/TR23 H
Newingreen	TR13 I
Nickolls Quarry	TR13 G
Oathill Cottages, near Lympne	TR13 H
Palmarsh	TR13 G
Paraker Wood	TR13 X
Park Farm/Park Farm Industrial Estate	TR23 D/TR23 I
Pedlinge Farm	TR13 M
Port Lympne	TR13 C
Postling	TR13 P
Princes Parade	TR13 S/TR13 X
Radnor Park	TR23 I
Rock Cottage (Botolph's Bridge Road)	TR13 G
Round Down	TR23 Z
Round Hill/Round Hill tunnels	TR23 E
Saltwood	TR13 M
Saltwood Castle	TR13 S

Site	Tetrad
Seabrook	TR13 X
Selby Farm	TR13 B
Sellindge	TR13 E
Shakespeare Cliff	TR23 Z
Shepway Cross	TR13 H
South Road (Hythe)	TR13 S
Stade Street (Hythe)	TR13 S
Stanford South	TR13 I
Summerhouse Hill	TR13 T
The Little Piece (Donkey Street)	TR13 B
Thorn Wood	TR13 N
Turnpike Hill	TR13 M
Twiss Road (Hythe)	TR13 S
West Hythe	TR13 H
West Hythe dam	TR13 C
Westenhanger	TR13 I
Willop Basin	TR13 A
Willop Outfall	TR13 A
Willop Sewer	TR13 A/TR13B
Willop Sewage Works	TR13 A/TR13 B
Woodside Farm lake (near Postling Wents)	TR13 N/TR13 P



## References

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Red Kite at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)