

2022



Folkestone and Hythe Bird Report



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Introduction

Welcome to the eleventh annual Folkestone and Hythe Bird Report which covers the 197 species recorded in 2022. This was a return to a more normal level after the record total of 210 species logged last year, being only slightly less than the mean for the previous decade of 199 species.

There were no additions to the area list in 2022 but there were many highlights to report, including the second and third area records of Glossy Ibis (including the first to be photographed), the third record of Black-winged Stilt, the fourth to seventh records of Cattle Egrets (including a record flock of 11), the seventh record of Purple Heron, the seventh and eighth records of Sabine's Gull, and the ninth record of Pink-footed Goose.

The first of the Sabine's Gulls, at Port Lympne, was a particularly long staying and confiding individual and was probably the local highlight for many observers that travelled to see it in November, and Richard Tyler's superb photograph graces the front cover. A Hoopoe in nearby Lympne village later that month also proved popular with local birders and those from further afield.



Part of the record Cattle Egret flock at Donkey Street (Ian Roberts)

In the early winter period, a lingering Snow Bunting proved to be another popular attraction but with no repeat of last year's cold weather it was a quieter season. However, sightings of Glaucous Gull, Great Northern Diver and Long-eared Owl provided some excitement and good numbers of Tree Sparrows, Siskins and Corn Buntings were noted.

Spring was notable for the equal earliest arrival date for Little Tern and the second earliest Arctic Skua, whilst there was a record count and spring passage of Shoveler, although generally the passage of ducks, waders, terns and skuas was poor. Sightings of Egyptian Goose, Black-necked Grebe, Little Ringed Plover, Hen Harrier, Hoopoe, Golden Oriole and Hawfinch were notable.

The highlights of the breeding season included a pair of Great Black-backed Gulls that nested locally for the first time (raising two young) and the second confirmed breeding record of Long-eared Owl. A pair of Spotted Flycatchers nested successfully for the first time since at least 2009, whilst a singing male Firecrest was present in suitable breeding habitat and a comprehensive rookery survey revealed a total of at least 363 pairs. A Little Ringed Plover lingered but there was no definite evidence of breeding success.

Autumn saw the earliest ever Brambling and the second earliest ever arrival date for Brent Goose, both in September which also produced the 14th modern record of Red-backed Shrike, the first Caspian Gull of a record year for the species and no less than five records of Great White Egret (which also had a record year), whilst a Ring-necked Parakeet found in September was to become the longest staying individual and October saw a record arrival of Dartford Warblers.

Unusually mild conditions in November enabled hirundines to linger in either exceptional numbers and/or for an unprecedented time. An exceptional series of Sand Martin sightings included the latest ever record, whilst the highest ever count in that month of Swallows was noted (with one lingering into December) and there were also late records of House Martin. Late November saw perhaps the best seawatching of the year, which included three Barnacle Geese, three Little Auks and good numbers of wildfowl, Little Gulls and Sandwich Terns. This marked the beginning of a remarkable influx of Little Gulls, whilst Sandwich Terns remained in unprecedented numbers into December, which saw the second latest ever record.

December also produced a brief Rough-legged Buzzard and at least two Great Northern Divers, whilst huge numbers of Cormorants were seen offshore.

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 100 and my contact details are given below.

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27th January 2023

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Front cover: Sabine's Gull at Port Lympne (Richard Tyler)

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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.

P Apps	S Lea
S Ashton	R Lee
	Y Lewis-Cutt
R Bonser	O Leyshon
A Borlase	M Linklater
D Brown	
A Buckland	A Mackay
N Burt	D Mansfield
	S McMinn
M Casemore	E Mills
D Clarke	
P Coleman	R Newham
M Collins	
G Coultrip	J Partridge
S Cutt	T Poole
	C Powell
P Edmondson	K Privett
A Edwards	
T Ellery	R Rackcliffe
K England	E Ranford
	D Reynolds
D Featherbe	I A Roberts
B Findlay	
M Fitch	P J Sharp
N Flisher	P Sidders
N C Frampton	M Smith
	P Smith
D A Gibson	
C Gillard	J J Thompson
S Goodwin	R Thorogood
L Gower	J Tilby
C Green	D Todd
	C Tomlinson
E Hamilton	J Tomlinson
B Harper	P Trodd
C Hearsey	G Tutton
N Hollands	R Tyler
P Holt	
D Hornet	J Websper
P Howe	M Whybrow
P Hutchinson	S Wood
	B Woolhouse
M D Kennett	D Wrathall

Review of the year

January

The first ten days of the month were unsettled and, after a very mild start, it became rather cold with some overnight frosts. High pressure developed towards mid-month so the remainder of the month was mostly dry, whilst the last few days of the month were again rather mild. It was a notably sunny month, with rainfall totals well below average.



Snow Bunting at Folkestone Harbour (Rich Bonser)

A Grey Partridge was seen at Abbotscliffe on the 21st, whilst Red-legged Partridges were noted at Donkey Street, Cock Ash Lake and near Pedlinge. There was an early movement of Brent Geese on the 1st, when 95 flew east past Princes Parade and 104 flew east past Samphire Hoe, but very few were noted in the rest of the month. A flock of Greylag Geese were present at Folkestone Racecourse for much of the month and peaked at 51 on the 26th, whilst they were joined by a **Pink-footed Goose** between the 22nd and 26th. A Greylag Goose flew west over West Hythe dam on the 13th and up to 25 Canada Geese were seen at Nickolls Quarry. A Mute Swan in Folkestone Harbour on the 3rd was of note, whilst a flock near Selby Farm peaked at 36 on the 5th.

Two Shelduck were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 18th, whilst a drake Mandarin Duck lingered at the Willop Basin from the 9th to the month's end. Two Gadwall and up to nine Shoveler were present in the Donkey Street/Hoorne's Sewer area throughout, with two Gadwall at Nickolls Quarry on the 18th and single Shovelers there on the 20th and 29th, whilst a Shoveler was at Folkestone Racecourse on the 8th. Single Wigeon flew past Princes Parade on the 1st and Samphire Hoe on the 3rd, whilst six were seen on the sea off Seabrook on the 18th. There was an excellent count of 120 Teal at the Willop Basin on the 1st, with small numbers at Donkey Street, West Hythe dam, Nickolls Quarry and Folkestone Racecourse, whilst three flew east past Princes Parade on the 1st.

A pair of Pochard were at Nickolls Quarry on the 1st, with singles at Cock Ash Lake and Woodside Farm Pond during the month and up to five Tufted Ducks were present in the Cock Ash Lake/Horton Priory area. A Scaup was reported off Hythe on the 26th and up to 50 Common Scoter lingered off the Dymchurch Redoubt. A 'red-head' Goldeneye was seen at Botolph's Bridge on the 22nd and four Goosanders were at West Hythe dam on the 3rd, whilst a flock of 11 flew over there on the 24th.

Water Rails were noted at Donkey Street, Nickolls Quarry, Folkestone Racecourse and Holy Well, whilst 18 Coot were counted at Nickolls Quarry on the 20th. A flock of up to 70 Great Crested Grebes were seen off Folkestone Pier, whilst an excellent total of 400 were on the sea off the Willop Outfall on the 23rd. Lapwing flocks were noted at Cock Ash Lake (16), Botolph's Bridge (30), the Willop Basin (40), Hillhurst Farm (85) and Selby Farm (420), whilst three Golden Plovers flew over Donkey Street on the 1st and a flock of 50 were at Selby Farm on the 9th. The Ringed Plover roost at Folkestone Beach held 17 birds and an Oystercatcher, 11 Sanderling and 30 Turnstone were noted at the Willop Outfall. At least 2 Purple Sandpipers were at Hythe throughout, with one at Folkestone Harbour on the 2nd.

Woodcock were noted at Hythe Roughs and Kiln Wood (two), whilst there were up to two Jack Snipe and 30 Snipe at the Willop Basin, with a single Snipe at Abbotscliffe on the 21st and a peak of 21 at Folkestone Racecourse on the 8th. A Green Sandpiper was seen on the ditch to the north of Nickolls Quarry on the 23rd, whilst up to six Redshank were noted at the Willop Basin and Folkestone Harbour.

A **Glaucous Gull** flew west past Folkestone Sunny Sands on the 2nd, whilst gull counts included 130 Mediterranean Gulls at West Hythe dam on the 3rd, 370 Mediterranean Gulls on the Hotel Imperial Golf Course on the 11th, 353 Common Gulls between Cock Ash Lake and Summerhouse Hill on the 16th and 300 Black-headed Gulls at West Hythe dam on the 24th. Auk numbers were very low, with a peak count of 100 Guillemots/Razorbills passing Princes Parade on the 21st.

A **Great Northern Diver** flew east past Seabrook on the 10th, whilst 64 Red-throated Diver flew east there on the 19th and 130 flew east past Princes Parade on the 21st. At least four Fulmars were on the cliffs at Samphire Hoe, with singles noted from several other sites, whilst four flew past Hythe on the 31st. A Shag was seen in the Folkestone Harbour area on several dates, with one off Sandgate on the 26th and two off Samphire Hoe on the 31st, whilst a peak of 5,970 Cormorants were seen flying east past Princes Parade on the 21st.

A **Great White Egret** was seen in the Donkey Street area on six dates and up to seven Little Egrets were roosting at Port Lympne and feeding on the marsh, with one at Copt Point on the 4th and up to three at Samphire Hoe. An adult male Marsh Harrier was seen at Abbott's Court Farm on the 6th and at Nickolls Quarry on the 23rd, whilst an adult female flew high east over West Hythe dam on the 18th. Up to three Barn Owls were present in the West Hythe dam area throughout, whilst Little Owls were noted there and at Selby Farm. A Merlin flew over Botolph's Bridge on the 23rd.

Single Marsh Tits were noted at Bartholomew's Wood and Bargrove Wood, whilst 28 Skylarks were counted at Abbotscliffe on the 21st. The Dartford Warbler remained at Samphire Hoe throughout, whilst Chiffchaffs were noted at the Aldergate Bridge, West Hythe dam (two) and Willop Sewage Works (four), Blackcaps were wintering in gardens in Lympne, Hythe and Folkestone and Firecrests were seen at Enbrook Park, Castle Hill and Mill Point.

Winter thrush numbers were low with Fieldfares noted in just scattered ones and twos and the only double-figure counts of Redwings were 13 at West Hythe dam on the 3rd, 13 arriving in off the sea at Seabrook on the 4th and ten at Cock Ash Lake the following day, but 23 Song Thrushes were counted at West Hythe dam on the 6th. A Black Redstart remained at Samphire Hoe throughout, whilst up to nine Stonechats were noted there, with two at the Willop Basin and singles at West Hythe dam, Nickolls Quarry and Cheriton Hill.

Up to nine Tree Sparrows were seen in the Botolph's Bridge/Donkey Street area, whilst 30 Linnets, 32 Yellowhammer and 40 Chaffinches were at Abbotscliffe on the 21st. Siskins were present in good numbers, with up to 39 in the Cock Ash Lake area and 79 in Chesterfield Wood. The Snow Bunting remained at Folkestone Harbour until the 9th and there was a very noteworthy peak of 60 Corn Buntings at Botolph's Bridge on the 23rd, where up to 30 Yellowhammers were also present.

February

The first ten days or so of the month were relatively settled at times but then rain became more frequent. It was particularly stormy between the 16th and 21st, with winds approaching hurricane-force along the south coast on the 18th. The unsettled weather persisted until the month's end.



Little Gull at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)

Five Red-legged Partridges were seen along Crete Road West on the 1st. The only signs of Brent Goose passage involved 12 flying east past Mill Point on the 28th. Up to 38 Greylag Geese remained at Folkestone Racecourse until the 4th, whilst up to 8 Canada Geese were at Nickolls Quarry throughout and six flew east over West Hythe on the 1st. Up to 29 Mute Swans remained near Selby Farm and a Shelduck was at Nickolls Quarry on the 19th.

The drake Mandarin Duck lingered at the Willop Basin throughout, whilst good numbers of dabbling duck in the Hoorne's Sewer included up to 8 Gadwall, 15 Shoveler and 51 Teal. Up to three Pochard and seven Tufted Duck were at Cock Ash Lake. Single Water Rails were noted at the Willop Sewage Works, Seabrook, Newington and Enbrook Park. A peak of 93 Great Crested Grebes were counted off Folkestone Pier on the 20th.

The breeding pair of Oystercatchers returned to Nickolls Quarry on the 25th, whilst a Golden Plover was at Hoorne's Sewer on the 12th but few Lapwings were noted. Up to two Curlew were seen intermittently at the Willop Basin, whilst up to 34 Sanderling were at the Willop Outfall and two Purple Sandpipers remained at Hythe, with one at Folkestone Harbour on the 21st. A Woodcock was flushed at Abbotscliffe on the 1st, whilst single Jack Snipe were noted at the Willop Basin and Donkey Street. A Green Sandpiper was seen occasionally at Botolph's Bridge, whilst two were near Selby Farm on the 15th. Up to six Redshank remained in Folkestone Harbour.

A first-winter Little Gull lingered in the Donkey Street/Botolph's Bridge area between the 19th and 26th, whilst the first Lesser Black-backed Gull was noted at Nickolls Quarry on the 18th and gull counts included 155 Mediterranean Gull at Botolph's Bridge on the 4th and a total of 550 Common Gulls at inland sites on the 9th. Shags were seen at Sandgate on the 3rd and Folkestone Harbour on the 14th.

A **Great White Egret** was seen at Willop Sewage Works on the 4th and 12th, whilst single Little Egrets were noted from various sites, with two at West Hythe on the 1st. A male Marsh Harrier was seen at the Willop Basin on the 12th. A Barn Owl was seen at the Alkham Valley/Canterbury Road junction on the 21st, whilst up to two Little Owls remained at Selby Farm and a **Long-eared Owl** was seen along Aldergate Lane on the 14th. A Merlin was hunting Skylarks near Selby Farm on the 15th.

Two Marsh Tits were seen at Enbrook Park on the 1st. A Chiffchaff was singing at the Little Piece on Donkey Street on the 19th, whilst at least three Blackcaps were noted in gardens in Folkestone and the Dartford Warbler remained at Samphire Hoe until at least the 8th. Up to two were Firecrests were noted at Enbrook Park. Winter thrush numbers remained low, with the only double-figure counts involving 15 Fieldfares at Cock Ash Lake on the 28th and 20 Redwings at Port Lympne on the 4th, but 14 Song Thrushes were counted in the Willop Sewage Works area on the 12th.

Two Reed Buntings, 13 Yellowhammers, 20 Chaffinches and 40 Linnets were logged at Abbotscliffe on the 28th, 18 Linnets were noted at Hythe Ranges on the 26th and up to 2 Tree Sparrows and 30 Corn Buntings remained at Botolph's Bridge.

March

The first few days of the month were rather cold, and the first half was generally unsettled, but it became milder as high pressure built from mid-month with plentiful sunshine. The end of the month was less settled and much colder, with even a covering of snow on the 31st.



Little Ringed Plover at the Willop Sewage Works (Brian Harper)

The drake Mandarin Duck remained in the Willop Basin area until the 1st, whilst up to 36 Mute Swans remained near Selby Farm, up to 8 Gadwall and 25 Teal lingered at Hoorne's Sewer, with up to seven Tufted Duck at Cock Ash Lake and three Water Rails along the canal at Seabrook, with one remaining at Enbrook Park. The breeding pair of Oystercatchers were at Nickolls Quarry throughout, as did the two wintering Purple Sandpipers at Hythe, whilst there were up to 7 Sanderling and 33 Turnstone at the Willop Outfall. At least two Green Sandpipers were seen regularly in the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area. At least one Firecrest remained at Enbrook Park and 3 Tree Sparrows and up to 27 Corn Buntings were still present in the Botolph's Bridge area.

The first migrant Chiffchaff of the spring was seen in a garden in Hythe on the 2nd, when 7 Greylag Geese, 9 Brent Geese, 8 Fulmars, 9 Teal and 16 Red-throated Divers flew east at sea. Further Chiffchaffs were noted at Abbott's Court Farm and Donkey Street (2) the next day, with a Merlin at the latter site, whilst a Black Redstart was singing at Folkestone Beach (until the 13th), and 107 Brent Geese flew east past Seabrook on the 4th.

The 5th produced the first visual passage of the spring, when a Brambling, a Siskin, 300 Starlings and 1,125 Chaffinches flew east at Abbotscliffe, whilst at sea a Red-breasted Merganser, a Curlew, 6 Shoveler, 40 Red-throated Divers, 48 Brent Geese and 65 Gannets passed by, whilst a Teal and 2 Gadwall were present offshore. The following day saw 2 Shelduck, 3 Bar-tailed Godwits, 17 Brent Geese, 18 Great Crested Grebes, 21 Fulmars, up to 40 Kittiwakes, and 46 Gannets flying east at sea, whilst a Brambling was seen in a garden in Lympe, and on the 7th two Pintail, 8 Fulmars, 13 Great Crested Grebes, 25 Red-throated Divers and 30 Gannets flew east offshore, whilst 3,650 Starlings flew east at the Aldergate Bridge.

A **Long-eared Owl** was seen at the Aldergate Bridge on the 8th and a Red Kite flew over Cheriton. Two **Black-necked Grebes** were seen on the sea off Hythe the following day, when a Curlew, 3 Oystercatchers, 6 Shoveler and at least 710 Brent Geese flew east offshore, further Red Kites flew over Cheriton and Port Lympe, a Firecrest was at Mill Point, a Woodcock was at Aldergate Lane and Chiffchaffs continued to arrive in small numbers. 75 Brent Geese flew east past Seabrook on the 10th. A Shelduck, 2 Wigeon, 17 Teal, 18 Shoveler, 19 Pintail, 25 Red-throated Divers, c.200 Gannets and c.320 Brent Geese flew east past Mill Point the next day.

A **Glossy Ibis** was reported between the Aldergate Bridge and West Hythe dam on the 12th, when a Firecrest was seen at Lympe and four Lapwings were opposite Selby Farm. A Red Kite flew east over Port Lympe the following day, when a Firecrest was seen in Folkestone and five drake Eider and 88 Brent Geese flew east past Mill Point.

Single Black Redstarts were seen in a garden in Capel-le-Ferne and at Samphire Hoe on the 14th, with 3 Siskins and 3 Redwings also at the latter site, and 20 Redwings at Abbotscliffe, whilst the next day produced a Red Kite flying west and 37 Siskins and 337 Chaffinches flying east at Seabrook, a Woodcock at Lympe Park Wood and a Redshank at Nickolls Quarry.

An Arctic Skua, a Red-breasted Merganser, 13 Fulmars, 33 Siskins, 47 Red-throated Divers, 90 Common Scoters and 370 Brent Geese flew past Samphire Hoe on the 16th. The following day saw two Red Kites flying over Radnor Park and three flying over The Durlocks in Folkestone, whilst 6 Siskins and 85 Chaffinches flew east at Abbotscliffe, where a Black Redstart was singing. Eight Siskins were seen along the canal at Palmarsh on the 18th, whilst 12 flew east at Mill Point the next day, when a Woodcock, 2 Grey Partridges and 4 Mandarin Ducks were at Kiln Wood.

A **Little Ringed Plover** and six Gadwall were at Nickolls Quarry on the 20th, when 41 Brent Geese and 137 Siskins flew east at Seabrook and three Red Kites flew over Lympe, whilst two Red Kites flew over Seabrook the following day, when a Gadwall was seen on the canal there, a Blackcap was singing in Folkestone, 8 Chiffchaffs were at Nickolls Quarry and 145 Brent Geese flew east past Samphire Hoe. The first Sandwich Tern of the year was seen off Seabrook on the 22nd, when a Blackcap was singing there, six Red Kites flew over Cheriton and 3 Oystercatchers and 42 Brent Geese flew past Samphire Hoe. On the 23rd two Red Kites flew along the cliffs at Samphire Hoe, a Black Redstart was seen at Abbotscliffe and an immature White-tailed Eagle (presumably from the Isle of Wight reintroduction scheme) flew over Port Lympe.

On the 24th a Red Kite and a Fieldfare were at Donkey Street and a Greylag Goose and 145 Brent Geese flew past Seabrook, whilst two Greylag Geese, 56 Siskins and 188 Chaffinches flew east at Seabrook the next day, when a Red Kite flew over Capel-le-Ferne. A **Little Ringed Plover** and a Black Redstart were at the Willop Sewage Works on the 26th, when a Jack Snipe was at Donkey Street, two Curlew were at the Willop Basin and 74 Chaffinches and 92 Siskins flew east at Seabrook. A Sandwich Tern flew east past Seabrook on the 28th.

The first Wheatear of the year and a Fieldfare were at Samphire Hoe on the 29th, when 44 Siskins and 462 Chaffinches flew east at Mill Point and a Red-breasted Merganser, 10 Sandwich Terns and 48 Brent Geese flew east at sea. A Bar-tailed Godwit, a Sandwich Tern, 5 Dunlin, 12 Sanderling and 100 Brent Geese flew east past the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 30th and a Jack Snipe was at Donkey Street on the 31st, when single Blackcaps were at Nickolls Quarry and West Hythe.

April

April saw predominately dry, settled weather. After a cool start it was reasonably warm, particularly around mid-month, but the last ten days or so were cooler with moderate easterly winds suppressing temperatures.



Wheatear at Samphire Hoe (Dave Clarke)

There was a quiet start to the month in cool northerly and then westerly winds. There was a little visual migration on the 2nd, when a Grey Wagtail, 5 Meadow Pipits, 11 Siskins and 206 Chaffinches flew east at Abbotscliffe and the first three Swallows of the year were seen at Nickolls Quarry, with a Wheatear at Samphire Hoe, a Black Redstart at Willop Sewage Works and Chiffchaffs continued to arrive, including eight at Nickolls Quarry.

On the 3rd five Black Redstarts and eight Redwings were seen at Samphire Hoe, with the first three House Martins of the year and five Swallows at Nickolls Quarry the following day, and two Swallows at Folkestone Warren on the 5th, when nine Chiffchaffs were counted at Holy Well. The first Willow Warbler of the year was at Nickolls Quarry on the 8th, when a Red Kite flew over Lympne and a Black Redstart was seen in a garden there, whilst a Little Egret flew east at Seabrook, a Green Sandpiper was at the Willop Sewage Works, two Gadwalls were at Hoorne's Sewer and several Blackcaps and good numbers of Chiffchaffs were noted.

A singing Black Redstart and 2 Wheatears were at Hythe Ranges on the 9th, when a Jack Snipe was seen at Donkey Street, a Gadwall and 2 Green Sandpipers were at the Willop Sewage Works, a Shoveler was at Nickolls Quarry, two Little Egrets and 6 Greylag Geese flew west offshore, two Sandwich Terns were fishing off Hythe and five Greylag Geese were at Botolph's Bridge. The following day saw an arrival of Willow Warblers, with singles at Botolph's Bridge, Nickolls Quarry, the canal at Palmarsh, Hythe, Cheriton and Samphire Hoe, and two at the Willop Sewage Works, whilst Wheatears were seen at Samphire Hoe and Botolph's Bridge (2).

South-easterly winds on the 11th induced some passage offshore, with a Little Tern, a Red-breasted Merganser, an Oystercatcher, 2 Arctic Skuas, 2 Greylag Geese, 2 Gadwalls, 4 Whimbrels, 5 Pintails, 8 Teal, 9 Common Terns and at least 18 Mediterranean Gulls, 91 Shovelers, 97 Common Scoter, 246 Sandwich Terns and 277 Gannets flying east. On the land, a female Ring Ouzel was seen at Creteway Down and single Willow Warblers were noted in central Folkestone and at Crete Road West. The next day saw a Red-breasted Merganser, 5 Common Terns, 8 Whimbrels, 13 Oystercatchers, 66 Common Scoters and 467 Sandwich Terns going east at sea, whilst four Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe and 14 Siskins flew east at Mill Point.

The first Yellow Wagtail of the year flew in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 13th, with two Swallows, the first three Whitethroats of the year and three Willow Warblers also of note there, whilst another Whitethroat was singing along Botolph's Bridge Road. The first Reed Warbler of the year was singing at Aldergate Lane the following day, when the first two Sedge Warblers and a Willow Warbler were at Nickolls Quarry, a male Ring Ouzel, a Whimbrel and a Black Redstart were at Abbotscliffe, a Yellow Wagtail and 68 Sanderling were at the Willop Outfall, two Green Sandpipers were at Botolph's Bridge and Swallows and Whitethroats continued to arrive.

The 15th saw a further Ring Ouzel, a Whimbrel, a Redwing, 2 Willow Warblers and six Whitethroats at Abbotscliffe, where a Great Spotted Woodpecker flew west. Two **Egyptian Geese** were found at Cock Ash Lake on the 16th (where they remained until the month's end), whilst two Gadwall and four Tufted Ducks were also noted there.

A **Hawfinch** visited a pond in a garden in central Folkestone on the 17th, when a Red Kite flew over Copt Point, a Ring Ouzel was at Summerhouse Hill, a Reed Warbler was at Beachborough Lakes, and 3 Green Sandpipers and 3 Sedge Warblers were at Nickolls Quarry. A Yellow Wagtail and a Redpoll were noted at Samphire Hoe the next day, where two Whimbrel and 25 Brent Geese flew east, and there was a Wheatear there on the 19th, when two Firecrests were at Brockhill Country Park. The first two Hobbies of the year were seen at Lympne on the 20th and two House Martins were at Sandling the following day.

A 'ring-tail' **Hen Harrier**, a Grey Plover, 2 Shoveler, 4 Teal, 23 Dunlin, 29 Whimbrel, 63 Gannets and 85 Bar-tailed Godwits flew east at sea on the 22nd, when a Greenshank was at Nickolls Quarry, a Hobby flew over Cheriton and a House Martin was at Cock Ash Lake. The next day produced the first Common Sandpiper of the year at Battery Point and 2 Whimbrel, 2 Yellow Wagtails and 2 Reed Warblers at Donkey Street. The first Lesser Whitethroat of the year was at Hythe Ranges on the 24th, when a Ring Ouzel was at Beachborough Lakes, a Willow Warbler, a House Martin and 2 Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe and 6 Whimbrel, 13 Bar-tailed Godwits and 15 Common Terns flew east at sea.

The first Sand Martin, 2 House Martins and 5 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry on the 25th, when a Hobby was seen at Kiln Wood, whilst the next day saw three Wheatears at Samphire Hoe and 6 Bar-tailed Godwits, 9 Oystercatchers and 14 Whimbrels flying east past Mill Point. On the 27th three Common Terns, 11 Whimbrels and 20 Sandwich Terns flew east past Mill Point and eight Swallows arrived in off the sea there, a Hobby, 3 House Martins, 5 Sand Martins and 8 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry and 2 Whimbrel, 2 Wheatears and 8 House Martins were at Samphire Hoe.

The first Swift of the year was at Nickolls Quarry on the 28th, when a Green Sandpiper was at Cherry Garden Reservoirs and six Swallows arrived in off the sea at Seabrook. A Nightingale was singing at West Hythe the following day, when a Great Skua and 13 Whimbrel flew east past Mill Point and 68 Swallows arrived in off the sea there, whilst the first Garden Warbler of the year was at Bluehouse Wood on the 30th.

May

The weather in May was generally rather quiet and mostly reasonably warm and settled, although not as dry as April, with some showery rain at times and thunderstorms on occasion.

The first Cuckoo of the year was at Botolph's Bridge on the 1st, when two Red Kites were present at Pent Farm, and a Whimbrel and three Oystercatchers flew past Hythe. A Common Sandpiper, a Ring Ouzel, Wheatear and 20 House Martins were at Samphire Hoe the following day, when four Shelducks flew east, whilst a Yellow Wagtail, a Sand Martin and 21 Swallows were at Abbotscliffe and a Swift was seen at Nickolls Quarry. A Nightingale was singing at Thorn Wood on the 3rd, when a Black Redstart was seen at Palmarsh, a Wheatear was at Mill Point and 29 Swallows were at Abbotscliffe. A Wheatear and three Common Sandpipers were at Samphire Hoe the next day.

The 5th produced a Whinchat, a Sedge Warbler, a Red Kite and 2 Wheatears at Abbotscliffe, where a Yellow Wagtail, 2 Sand Martins and 23 Swallows arrived in off the sea, whilst two Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe. A Red Kite and 2 Hobbies were seen at Lympne the following day. On the 8th three Whimbrel, 5 Brent Geese and 38 Bar-tailed Godwit flew east past Samphire Hoe.



Whinchat at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)

Seawatching on the 9th saw a **Great White Egret**, a Pomarine Skua, 2 Little Terns, 2 Turnstones, 4 Sanderlings, 5 Oystercatchers, 6 Dunlin, 12 Shelducks, 18 Whimbrels, 21 Common/Arctic Terns and 149 Black-headed Gulls heading up-channel, whilst there was an arrival of Swifts, with 30 seen over Folkestone. Three Hobbies were at Folks' Wood on the 13th.

A **Hoopoe** was reported in a garden in Hawkinge on the 14th, whilst on the 16th a Tree Pipit, a Wheatear, a Yellow Wagtail, a Red Kite, 2 Siskins and 14 Whitethroats were seen at Abbotscliffe and a Hobby was hunting over the canal at Seabrook. An Osprey was seen fishing offshore between the Willop Outfall and Dymchurch on the 17th, before it flew inland, whilst a Siskin flew over Abbotscliffe and a Whimbrel flew east at Hythe on the 18th.

A **Golden Oriole** was seen along Crete Road West on the 19th, before it flew north, and a Spotted Flycatcher and a Garden Warbler were also noted there, whilst a late migrant Reed Warbler was singing at Abbotscliffe the following day. A pair of Mandarin Ducks flew over Gibbin's Brook on the 21st and a Turtle Dove was reported along the canal at Hythe the next day.

A **Black-winged Stilt** was heard calling as it flew south-west over Hythe after dusk on the 23rd, whilst another late migrant Reed Warbler was singing at Abbotscliffe the same day, with a further individual at Paraker Wood on the 28th. Four Red Kites flew over Cheriton on the 24th and one flew west at Church Hougham on the 27th. A Garden Warbler was singing at Princes Parade on the 30th, when a Sand Martin arrived in off the sea at Abbotscliffe.

A **Little Ringed Plover** was seen at Nickolls Quarry on several dates between the 8th and 22nd, whilst a pair of **Egyptian Geese** lingered at Cock Ash Lake from the 8th until at least the 21st, but were no indications of either species breeding (and neither were present in early June). The highlight of the breeding season involved a pair of Great Black-backed Gulls nesting locally for the first time, on a roof at the Park Farm industrial estate, whilst a total of eight pairs of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were nesting within the two main local gull colonies, with at least one further pair at Hythe.

Also of note were single pairs of Canada Goose and Oystercatcher breeding at Nickolls Quarry and Greylag Geese nesting successfully at Cock Ash Lake and Stanford Lake. Up to 24 Tufted Ducks were also present at Cock Ash Lake, a Firecrest was singing at the American Garden on the 8th and at least two pairs of Corn Buntings were at Abbotscliffe throughout, with up to two territorial males at Donkey Street and another along the Aldington Road.

June

June saw mostly fine and settled weather after some showers during the first week. There was a warm spell in mid-month which peaked on the 17th, giving the warmest day of the year so far. The final week of June again saw a few showers, but overall the month was warmer, drier and sunnier than average.



Honey Buzzard at Samphire Hoe (Michael Smith)

A Cuckoo was heard at Nickolls Quarry on the 21st, when four Little Egrets flew east at Seabrook and several wandering Grey Herons were noted during the month.

The pair of Great Black-backed Gulls at the Park Farm industrial estate successfully raised two young, whilst surprises during June included the discovery of a pair of Spotted Flycatchers nesting at Bartholomew's Wood (the first successful local breeding since 2009) and two recently fledged **Long-eared Owls** at West Hythe (only the second confirmed instance of local breeding). A Black Redstart holding territory at Dollands Moor (near Frogholt) was also of note.

July

There was a fairly cool start to the month but within a few days it became increasingly warm and daytime temperatures exceeded 25°C on several days from the 11th. However, it was a spell just after mid-month that broke records, with Britain's first ever readings above 40°C and temperatures locally exceeded 38°C. It remained settled for the remainder of the month, with daytime temperatures in excess of 20°C. It was provisionally the fourth warmest July for England (in a series from 1884) and there was very little rain (with less than a fifth of the average).

A singing Corn Bunting at Shrine Farm, near Posting Wents on the 2nd was an unusual record away from the marsh, whilst an out-of-habitat Reed Warbler was singing at Abbotscliffe on the 6th.

The warm weather encouraged a few raptors to wander, particularly on the 17th when an Osprey flew over Cheriton, a Honey Buzzard arrived in off the sea at Samphire Hoe and a Marsh Harrier flew west sea past Sandgate, whilst a further Honey Buzzard flew over Samphire Hoe on the 27th. Red Kites were seen hunting over Donkey Street on the 13th and in the Abbotscliffe area on the 26th and 31st.



Honey Buzzard at Samphire Hoe (Dave Clarke)

Hobbies were noted at Lympe Park Wood, Hythe, Church Hougham and Abbotscliffe during the month, whilst a Barn Owl was seen at West Hythe dam on the 8th, when a Little Egret was also present there, whilst two Little Egret flew east at Seabrook on the 16th.

At least one Turtle Dove (possibly two) were seen in Church Hougham churchyard on the 22nd and a juvenile Black Redstart in a garden in Seabrook on the 28th was presumably locally bred. A juvenile Coot on the sea off Battery Point on the 24th was an unusual record.

Returning waders included a Curlew flying east at Hythe on the 8th, two Whimbrel at Sandgate on the 21st, a Whimbrel at Dymchurch on the 23rd, a Green Sandpiper at Nickolls Quarry on the 31st and several Oystercatchers (with a peak of nine flying east past Seabrook on the 30th), whilst a Common Tern was seen off Sandgate on the 20th.

Other returning migrants included three Sand Martins at Church Hougham on the 22nd and five Sand Martins at Abbotscliffe on the 31st, where 227 Swifts flew west.

August

It remained largely warm and dry during August. Nationally it was the third warmest August for England (in a series from 1884), with southern areas furthest above average, and rainfall was again well below average, although there was a was a thundery breakdown mid-month after a particularly hot spell (when daytime highs locally had exceeded 30°C for several days).

The first signs of returning passerine migration were evident from the 1st, when a Reed Warbler, a Sedge Warbler, 3 Lesser Whitethroats and 24 Whitethroats were seen at Abbotscliffe and at least 2 Willow Warblers were present in a garden in Folkestone, whilst on the 3rd a Sedge Warbler, 5 Lesser Whitethroats, 9 Willow Warblers and 14 Whitethroats were logged at Abbotscliffe (where ten Sand Martins and 28 Swifts flew over) and two Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe, with five there the next day and one at Church Hougham on the 5th, when three Willow Warblers were seen at Sandgate.



White Storks at Sandgate (Chris Powell)

A Willow Warbler, 2 Sedge Warblers, 3 Lesser Whitethroats and 22 Whitethroats were at Abbotscliffe on the 7th, with 4 Willow Warblers and 5 Lesser Whitethroats there the following day, when a Yellow Wagtail flew west, whilst on the 8th a juvenile Cuckoo, a Whinchat and 5 Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe. A Willow Warbler, 2 Wheatears, 2 Sedge Warblers, 7 Lesser Whitethroats and 16 Whitethroats were at Abbotscliffe on the 10th.

Wader migration continued, with a Whimbrel flying over Folkestone on the 1st, two Oystercatchers flying west past Sandgate on the 5th, a Ringed Plover and three 3 Dunlin at Copt Point on the 6th, a Golden Plover flying west at Abbotscliffe and an Oystercatcher flying east at Seabrook on the 7th, and a Curlew flying west and four Golden Plovers arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 10th, when four Shelduck flew east over Folkestone Harbour.

Four Sand Martins flew east at Seabrook on the 11th, with nine heading east there the next day, whilst a Curlew, a Sedge Warbler, 3 Willow Warblers and 6 Wheatears were at Samphire Hoe on the 13th. The 15th produced a Redstart, 3 Wheatears and 5 Stonechats at Hythe Ranges and a Tree Pipit flying west at Seabrook.

A flock of up to 25 White Storks (from the introduction project in Sussex) provided some entertainment as they were tracked heading westwards from Samphire Hoe over Castle Hill, Cheriton and Sandgate on the 16th. The following day saw a Grasshopper Warbler, 8 Lesser Whitethroats and 14 Whitethroats at Abbotscliffe, 2 Whinchats and 2 Wheatears at Church Hougham and four Willow Warblers in a garden in central Folkestone, where a Pied Flycatcher was seen on the 18th, when a Wheatear was at Folkestone Harbour and 32 Gannets flew west at Sandgate.

A Little Egret flew east over Seabrook on the 20th, when 37 Gannets flew west past Sandgate and at least one juvenile Hobby was seen at Lympne Park Wood (with two there on the 23rd). The 21st produced a Redstart, a Spotted Flycatcher, a Yellow Wagtail, 2 Willow Warblers and 2 Reed Buntings at Abbotscliffe, a Green Sandpiper and 2 Willow Warblers along the canal at Seabrook and a Common Sandpiper at Folkestone Harbour. On the 22nd a Hobby, a Tree Pipit, a Whinchat, a Spotted Flycatcher, a Garden Warbler, a Reed Warbler, a Sedge Warbler, 2 Sand Martins, 5 Lesser Whitethroats, 6 Blackcaps, 7 Willow Warblers and 15 Whitethroats were at Abbotscliffe, a Spotted Flycatcher, 4 Willow Warblers and 12 Crossbills were at Lympne Castle and a juvenile Hobby was seen at Seabrook.

A Whinchat, a Spotted Flycatcher, a Sedge Warbler, a Sand Martin, 2 Lesser Whitethroats, 3 Willow Warblers, 8 Blackcaps and 9 Whitethroats were at Abbotscliffe on the 24th, when four Willow Warblers were at Mill Point, whilst the next day saw a Whinchat at Samphire Hoe and a Tree Pipit and 13 Yellow Wagtails flying west at Abbotscliffe.

A Redstart and 2 Spotted Flycatchers were at Church Hougham on the 26th, whilst five Oystercatchers flew east at Seabrook the following day. A Pied Flycatcher, a Whinchat, a Wheatear and a Yellow Wagtail were at Abbotscliffe on the 28th, when an Arctic Skua, a Fulmar and 16 Gannets flew east past Sandgate, whilst a Redstart, 2 Willow Warblers and 11 Whitethroats were at Samphire Hoe on the 29th and a Common Sandpiper was seen at Sandgate on the 30th.

September

The first couple of days of September were fine and warm, but it soon became more unsettled and showery. By the middle of the month it was becoming cooler and, although it became drier for a few days, the latter part of the month was much more autumnal with lower temperatures and further rain. After several dry months rainfall was well above average in September.



Red-backed Shrike at Hythe Ranges (Sean McMinn)

The first couple of days of September were fine and warm, but it soon became more unsettled and showery. By the middle of the month it was becoming cooler and, although it became drier for a few days, the latter part of the month was much more autumnal with lower temperatures and further rain. After several dry months rainfall was well above average in September.

The month began with a Common Sandpiper at Hythe and a Wheatear at Hythe Ranges on the 1st, followed by a Redstart at Samphire Hoe and a Firecrest at Enbrook Park the next day, whilst the 3rd produced a **Red-backed Shrike**, 2 Whinchats, 4 Stonechats and 22 Wheatears at Hythe Ranges and three Wheatears at Copt Point.

Two **Great White Egrets** flew west at Samphire Hoe on the 4th, when a Wheatear, a Shag, an Oystercatcher and 2 Little Egrets were also noted there, whilst a Wigeon, 2 Arctic Skuas and 2 Oystercatchers flew past Sandgate. A further Arctic Skua was seen there the following day, when a Garden Warbler, a Hobby, a Wheatear, a Blackcap, 2 Whinchats, 6 Lesser Whitethroats and 7 Whitethroats were at Abbotscliffe and a Sand Martin, 16 Yellow Wagtails and 30 Swallows flew west. Three Arctic Skuas were seen off Sandgate on the 6th.

The 7th produced a **Balearic Shearwater**, 7 Brent Geese, 7 Shelduck, 10 Common/Arctic Terns, up to 12 Arctic Skuas and 72 Sandwich Terns flying past Sandgate, a further **Balearic Shearwater** and 2 Arctic Skuas flying past Hythe and 68 Gannets passing Seabrook.

The next day saw four Arctic Skuas flying past Sandgate and on the 9th three Arctic Skuas, 5 Common Terns, 44 Sandwich Terns and 100+ Gannets were seen off Princes Parade/Sandgate, whilst three Yellow Wagtails flew west. A juvenile **Purple Heron** was reported flying over Hythe on the 10th, when a Cuckoo, a Wheatear, a Willow Warbler, 3 Whinchats and 5 Swifts were at Abbotscliffe, a Tree Pipit flew west at Sandgate and a Common Sandpiper and five Little Egrets were at Copt Point.

On the 11th, a Redstart, a Spotted Flycatcher and 2 Wheatears were at Hythe Ranges, where 3 Grey Wagtails and 40 Meadow Pipits flew south, a Wheatear, a Siskin, a Reed Bunting, 3 Tree Pipits, 4 Whinchats, 5 Whitethroats and 16 Blackcaps were at Abbotscliffe, a Redshank, a Yellow Wagtail, 2 Wheatears, 2 Willow Warblers, 4 Whinchats, 8 Little Egrets, 15 Chiffchaffs, 19 Stonechats and 50 Blackcaps were at Samphire Hoe and single Spotted Flycatchers were seen at Grove Road in Folkestone and at Folkestone Warren.

A Swift flew over Hythe on the 14th, whilst the next day saw a Swift, 3 Yellow Wagtails, 6 Grey Wagtails, 112 Sand Martins, 292 Meadow Pipits, c.1,000 Swallows and c.3,000 House Martins flying east at Abbotscliffe, whilst a Whinchat was also noted there. A further Swift, 3 Yellow Wagtails, 3 Grey Wagtails and 130 Meadow Pipits flew over Abbotscliffe on the 16th, when a Mute Swan was seen on the sea off Sandgate and 14 Chiffchaffs were at Mill Point. Seven Brent Geese flew east at Seabrook on the 17th.

Two **Great White Egrets** flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 18th, when a Hobby was at Abbotscliffe and two Brent Geese flew past Princes Parade. A Ring Ouzel, a Brambling, a Swift and c.1,000 House Martins were at Round Down the following day, when a Firecrest was at Seabrook, two Spotted Flycatchers were at Pedlinge and 1,500 House Martins flew over Hythe in the evening. On the 20th, a Hobby, a Swift, a Willow Warbler, a Goldcrest, a Lesser Whitethroat, 6 Blackcaps and c.1,000 House Martins were at Abbotscliffe, where a Great Spotted Woodpecker flew over.

A first-winter **Caspian Gull**, a Common Tern, 4 Shags, 8 Sandwich Terns and 85 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at Sandgate on the 21st, when a Marsh Harrier, 2 Yellow Wagtails, 2 Lesser Whitethroats, 4 Reed Buntings, 11 Stonechats, 13 Blackcaps, 61 Meadow Pipits and 158 Swallows were at Abbotscliffe, where 100 Starlings arrived in off the sea, two Shags and 13 Chiffchaffs were at Mill Point and a Razorbill was seen off Hythe.

An Arctic Skua, a Razorbill and a Red-throated Diver were seen off Sandgate the next day, when two Firecrests were at Paraker Wood and a Siskin was seen in a garden in Cheriton. Two Reed Buntings and 23 Stonechats were at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd, when 326 House Martins flew west at Seabrook. The next day saw a Firecrest at Enbrook Park, two Wheatears at Samphire Hoe, two Wheatears at Folkestone Harbour, 8 Eider flying east past Seabrook and 165 Gannets flying east past Sandgate.

The fifth **Great White Egret** of the month was seen arriving in off the sea at Copt Point on the 25th, when 2 Razorbills and 3 Shags were seen off Mill Point, whilst a **Ring-necked Parakeet** flew east at Seabrook the following day, when a new (German-ringed) first-winter **Caspian Gull** and 89 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Sandgate, where a Sand Martin, 56 Swallows and 151 House Martins flew west, and three Firecrests were at Enbrook Park.

A Firecrest, 2 Goldcrests and 17 Chiffchaffs were at Enbrook Park on the 27th, when a Hobby, 10 Meadow Pipits and 154 House Martins flew west at Sandgate. The 28th produced a Grasshopper Warbler, 6 Siskins and 16 Reed Buntings at Abbotscliffe and 28 Chaffinches arrived in off the sea there, whilst nine Grey Herons flew out to sea from Sandgate on the 29th and c.250 Swallows flew east there.

The month ended with six Firecrests at Enbrook Park, 12 Chiffchaffs at Mill Point and a Kingfisher, 16 Chiffchaffs and 18 Blackcaps at Samphire Hoe, whilst a Shag, two Razorbills, 11 Sandwich Terns, 42 Brent Geese, 48 Common Scoter and 146 Gannets were seen offshore.

October

The first week of the month was warm, but rather unsettled at times. Temperatures were lower during the second week, especially by night, with a few drier days. The second half of the October became increasingly unsettled, but it remained very mild, with a mix of sunny periods and rain. It was provisionally England's equal fourth warmest October (in a series from 1884), with maximum temperatures for the month nearly 3 °C above average in parts of the south-east.



Glossy Ibis at Sandgate (Chris Powell)

October began well, with the third area record of **Glossy Ibis** seen flying west at Sandgate on the 3rd, when a first-year **Yellow-legged Gull**, 2 Arctic Skuas and 126 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were also seen there, whilst singles of Arctic Skua and Great Skua were noted off Folkestone Warren. Three Kingfishers were logged at Folkestone Harbour the following day.

On the 3rd a Hobby, a Snipe, a Whinchat, 5 Reed Buntings, 7 Goldcrests, 8 Stonechats, 9 Chiffchaffs, 10 Song Thrushes, 12 Blackcaps and 103 Goldfinches were seen at Abbotscliffe, whilst a Shag was offshore from Seabrook, where 9 Meadow Pipits arrived in off the sea and 10 Brent Geese and 1,172 House Martins flew east. Two Black Redstarts and 150 Sandwich Terns were seen at Hythe and a Wheatear was at Folkestone Harbour. The next day saw two Firecrests at Enbrook Park and an Arctic Skua flying west past Seabrook, whilst 25 Brent Geese and 40 Gannets flew past Sandgate on the 5th.

A Spotted Flycatcher was seen in Lympne Churchyard on the 6th, when two Firecrests were at Mill Point and 3 Firecrests and 5 Chiffchaffs were at Enbrook Park. On the 7th a total of 96 Great Black-backed Gulls flew west at Seabrook whilst 1,000 Starlings arrived in off the sea at Sandgate.

A **Dartford Warbler** and a Snipe were at Abbotscliffe on the 8th, when a Great Spotted Woodpecker, 3 Reed Buntings, 4 Siskins, 48 Swallows and 362 House Martins flew west there and an Arctic Skua flew west at Sandgate, where 40 Starlings arrived in off the sea. The following day saw a Whinchat, 3 Blackcaps and 6 Chiffchaffs at Samphire Hoe, where 69 Brent Geese flew west, whilst an Arctic Skua was seen off Sandgate and two Shags were at Battery Point. A Black Redstart, a Grey Wagtail, 2 Redwings, 2 Siskins, 4 Reed Buntings and 14 Stonechats were at Abbotscliffe on the 10th, when a Little Egret flew east at Seabrook and two Arctic Skuas flew past Sandgate.

Two new **Dartford Warblers**, a Whinchat, a Redpoll, 2 Corn Buntings, 2 Little Egrets, 3 Goldcrests, 5 Chiffchaffs, 6 Siskins, 8 Song Thrushes and 10 Reed Buntings were at Abbotscliffe on the 11th, when 575 Starlings arrived in off the sea, whilst single Arctic Skuas were seen off Copt Point and Sandgate, and a **Ring-necked Parakeet** (presumably the individual first seen in September) was seen in the Golden Valley area of Cheriton (with intermittent sightings until at least the 28th). A further three **Dartford Warblers** were found at Abbotscliffe the following day, when 2 Chiffchaffs, 2 Blackcaps, 4 Goldcrests, 6 Siskins, 11 Reed Buntings and 21 Stonechats were also seen there, whilst 200 Starlings arrived in off the sea and 430 Goldfinches flew east. Five Firecrests were seen at Enbrook Park. On the 13th an Arctic Skua was noted off Sandgate.

A Brambling, 4 Goldcrests, 4 Blackcaps, 5 Chiffchaffs and 9 Reed Buntings were at Abbotscliffe on the 14th, when 30 Siskins arrived in off the sea. On the 15th a total of 123 Gannets flew east past Sandgate and 62 flew west there the following day, when a Black Redstart at Hythe Ranges, where 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers and 3 Redpolls flew over and a Firecrest was at West Hythe. Three Firecrests were at Copt Point on the 17th and the next day saw three Goosanders flying east past Sandgate, and a Redpoll and 2 Siskins flying over Abbotscliffe.

A **Dartford Warbler** and 4 Firecrests were seen at Samphire Hoe on the 19th, when a Common Tern and 4 Sandwich Terns were at Sandgate and 55 Brent Geese flew past. A Ring Ouzel was at Samphire Hoe the next day, when four Fieldfare were at Sandgate, whilst at sea an Oystercatcher, a Sandwich Tern, 3 Gadwall, 3 Shoveler, 6 Little Gulls, 15 Teal, up to 90 Common Scoter and up to 122 Brent Geese flew past. Five Little Gulls flew west past Mill Point on the 21st, with up to five Firecrests and five Goldcrests there, whilst 920 Mediterranean Gulls were counted at Hythe.

A **Woodlark** was found at Hythe Ranges on the 22nd, when three Brambling were seen in a mixed finch flock at Shrine Barn and a Black Swan was an unusual sight in Folkestone Harbour. Two Velvet Scoter and 83 Gannets flew east past Samphire Hoe the next day, when 3 Blackcaps, 4 Little Egrets, 4 Firecrests and 7 Goldcrests were at Holy Well and a Firecrest was in a garden in Folkestone, with two there on the 24th. A Wheatear was at Samphire Hoe on the 25th.

A juvenile **Sabine's Gull** was glimpsed at Port Lympne on the 27th (but later showed exceptional well in early November). Two House Martins and 1,645 Mediterranean Gulls were at Copt Point the next day, when five Firecrests were at Enbrook Park, whilst on the 29th a Reed Bunting, a Grey Wagtail, a Siskin and 5 Redpolls flew over Abbotscliffe. A **Dartford Warbler**, 2 Siskins and 4 Reed Buntings were seen there the following day, when two Grey Wagtails flew west, whilst the month ended with 10 Sandwich Terns and 1,159 Mediterranean Gulls off Mill Point /Sandgate.

November

The first half of November was very mild and unsettled, although it did become drier for a time towards mid-month. It was unsettled again for most of the second half, with temperatures nearer normal, though it became drier and colder at the end of the month. Overall, it was provisionally England's equal fourth warmest November (in a series from 1884), with the south-east seeing the mildest temperatures, but also wet, with rainfall about twice the long-term average amount in Kent.

A Curlew, a Sandwich Tern, 19 Brent Geese and 22 Gannets flew west at sea on the 1st, whilst 2 Swallows and 2 Redpolls were at Nickolls Quarry the following day, and 2 Corn Buntings, 25 Yellowhammers and 50 Skylarks were at Botolph's Bridge.

An Arctic Tern, 3 Sandwich Terns, 5 Sooty Shearwaters, 16 Kittiwakes and 87 Gannets flew west past Mill Point on the 3rd, whilst 220 Starlings arrived in off the sea there and a Short-eared Owl was seen at Samphire Hoe. A juvenile **Sabine's Gull** had been glimpsed at Port Lympne in late October and was relocated in the car park there on the afternoon on the 3rd, where it delighted many observers with its incredibly confiding nature during its stay until the 13th.

The 4th produced a Ring Ouzel, a Fieldfare, 2 Blackcaps and 2 Redwings at Samphire Hoe, whilst a Snow Bunting, 2 Bramblings, 6 Stock Doves, 20 Redpolls, 57 Meadow Pipits, 60 Siskins and 358 Goldfinches flew east at Abbotscliffe and a Snipe, a Corn Bunting and 5 Reed Buntings were present.



Sabine's Gull at Port Lympe (Elliot Ranford)

A **Yellow-browed Warbler** and a Green Sandpiper were seen at Port Lympe on the 5th, when a 'redhead' Goosander was found at Cock Ash Lake (where it remained until the 8th), with 95 Fieldfares also seen there, whilst a Ring Ouzel, a Woodcock and 3 Black Redstarts were at Samphire Hoe, 6 Snipe and 15 Red-legged Partridges were at Shrine Barn, 50 Redwings and 100 Fieldfares were at Pent Farm, 6 Tree Sparrows and 10 Corn Buntings were at Botolph's Bridge, 18 Ringed Plovers were at Folkestone Beach and 9 Brent Geese flew past at sea.

Quite remarkably another juvenile **Sabine's Gull** was seen on the 6th, as it flew past Sandgate, where a Black Redstart was also seen, whilst the next day saw an adult Little Gull flying west past Princes Parade and a Sand Martin, 2 House Martins and 9 Swallows at Nickolls Quarry. Two House Martins and 4 Swallows were still present there on the 9th, when a Sandwich Tern was seen off the Willop Outfall, four Tree Sparrows were at Botolph's Bridge, a Blackcap was at Church Hougham, where 2 Redpolls flew west, and two Firecrests were seen in a garden in Folkestone.

A flock of **11 Cattle Egrets** were found between Donkey Street and Lower Wall on the 10th, when a **Great White Egret** was seen in a marshy field near Capel-le-Ferne, a Goosander, 20 Yellowhammers and 23 Corn Buntings were at Botolph's Bridge, a Sandwich Tern was seen off Princes Parade and two Firecrests were at Enbrook Park. A **Cattle Egret** flew west over Hythe the following day, when a Barn Owl was at Botolph's Bridge, a Sand Martin and an exceptional count (for the time of year) of 25 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry, three Swallows were at Capel Street and a drake Mandarin Duck was at the Willop Basin (where it remained until at least the end of the month).

The 12th saw a small arrival of Black Redstarts, with singles at Hythe, Mill Point and Abbotscliffe, whilst a Jack Snipe was at Donkey Street, a Blackcap was seen in a garden in Folkestone and a Sand Martin and 4 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry, with further Swallows at Abbotscliffe (3) and the Willop Basin (3). Three **Dartford Warblers** were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 13th, where a Redpoll, 2 Siskins, 5 Goldcrests, 6 Corn Buntings and 7 Reed Buntings were also noted, whilst there was a marked increase in thrushes (with 8 Fieldfares, 15 Blackbirds, 18 Song Thrushes and 28 Redwings) and Robins (34) there. Elsewhere, a 'redhead' Goosander, a drake Gadwall and 3 Swallows was seen at Botolph's Bridge and two 'redhead' Goosanders were present at Cock Ash Lake, whilst a Shoveler and a Golden Plover were seen at Donkey Street, a Woodcock was at Capel-le-Ferne, a Firecrest was at Samphire Hoe and 15 Sandwich Terns were at Hythe Ranges.

The **Ring-necked Parakeet** reappeared on the 14th, when it flew east over Seabrook and was later seen feeding in a garden there, whilst 4 Redpolls, 28 Fieldfares and 152 Redwings were counted at Abbotscliffe.

On the 15th two Fulmars, 3 Little Gulls, 21 Sandwich Terns and 31 Common Scoter flew west past Mill Point, whilst a Sand Martin and 5 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry the next day. A **Hoopoe** was found in Lympe on the 17th, where it remained until the 22nd and proved to be a popular attraction, although it could be elusive at times. Elsewhere, a Dunlin and three Sandwich Terns flew past Princes Parade, 13 Sanderlings were seen on Dymchurch Beach, 55 Lapwings were at the Willop Basin and a Sand Martin and 6 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry.

Cooler conditions on the Continent led to some notable movements locally, beginning with a Golden Plover and 30 White-fronted Geese flying south over Samphire Hoe on the 18th, and the following day saw a Goosander, a Red-breasted Merganser, 3 Sandwich Terns, 3 Shelduck, 5 Razorbills, 7 Gadwall, 8 Wigeon, 59 Teal and 84 Brent Geese flying west at sea and 30 Lapwings arriving in off. Also of note were a Snow Bunting flying west at Abbotscliffe, a Golden Plover and 2 Jack Snipe in the Donkey Street area, a Tufted Duck off the Willop Outfall and Black Redstarts at the Dymchurch Redoubt and the Willop Outfall, whilst Swallows lingered at Nickolls Quarry (5) and West Hythe (7).

The 20th produced a **Little Auk**, a Sooty Shearwater, a Curlew, 3 **Barnacle Geese**, 3 Shoveler, 6 Sandwich Terns, 9 Gadwall, 12 Little Gulls, 13 Red-breasted Mergansers, 19 Pintail, 22 Brent Geese, 23 Razorbills, 38 Wigeon, 39 Dunlin and 45 Shelducks flying west past Princes Parade, whilst the next day saw a **Great Northern Diver**, a Black-throated Diver, a Great Skua, a Red-breasted Merganser, a Pintail, 2 **Little Auks**, 2 Eider, 2 Shelduck, 5 Brent Geese, 12 Teal, 16 Little Gulls, 17 Sandwich Terns, 37 Red-throated Divers, 48 Razorbills, 170 Kittiwakes and 285 Gannets flying past there and 120 Starlings arriving in off the sea. A Shoveler and 9 Swallows were at Nickolls Quarry and a Brambling was with 40 Chaffinches at Kick Hill.

On the 22nd a **Bearded Tit** was found at Nickolls Quarry (where it was also seen on the 25th), with 2 House Martins and 4 Swallows also present there, and a 'redhead' Goosander in the ditch to the north. A female Eider was seen off Princes Parade and, following the movements at sea over the previous two days, a remarkable influx of Little Gulls began with singles at Botolph's Bridge, Nickolls Quarry and Princes Parade. The following day saw five Little Gulls off Hythe, with further sightings at Princes Parade, Folkestone Harbour and Nickolls Quarry (2), whilst one was found dead on the seawall at Samphire Hoe. A Chiffchaff at Nickolls Quarry and two Sandwich Terns off Princes Parade was also of note.

A Black-throated Diver was seen at Folkestone Harbour on the 24th, with a 'redhead' Goosander, a Peregrine, 3 Fieldfares and 17 Redwings at the Aldergate Bridge, a Wigeon at Hoorne's Sewer, a House Martin at Nickolls Quarry and 2 Shags at Princes Parade, whilst Little Gulls were seen at Botolph's Bridge, Hythe (2), Princes Parade (4) and Nickolls Quarry (7).

A **Cattle Egret** was seen with the European Bison at Port Lympe on the 25th, with a drake Pochard on Woodside Farm Pond, a Woodcock at Samphire Hoe, a House Martin, 2 Swallows and 5 Little Gulls at Nickolls Quarry, a Black Redstart and 41 Sanderling at the Willop Outfall, a Black Redstart at Folkestone Harbour, two Swallows at Abbotscliffe and 60 Fieldfares at the Aldergate Bridge.

A Little Gull was seen off Hythe on the 26th, when six Little Gulls were at Nickolls Quarry and 24 Turnstones were counted at the Stade Street groyne. On the 27th a Black Redstart was at Mill Point, two Green Sandpipers were at Nickolls Quarry and three Little Gulls were seen off Princes Parade.

The 28th produced two **Caspian Gulls** (an adult and a 2CY) on the beach at Sandgate, a Little Gull, 3 Gadwall and 33 Teal at the Willop Outfall, a Woodcock and 8 Mandarin Ducks at Folks' Wood, 5 Little Gulls at Princes Parade and 7 Little Gulls at Nickolls Quarry. The following day saw a drake Pochard, 2 Swallows, 2 Chiffchaffs and 4 Little Gulls at Nickolls Quarry and a Little Gull off the Willop Outfall.

The month ended with a Little Gull, 3 Green Sandpipers and 3 Golden Plovers at Botolph's Bridge, 2 Chiffchaffs and 5 Little Gulls at Nickolls Quarry, a Brambling, a Corn Bunting and 80 Yellowhammers between Folks' Wood and Pedlinge and 3 Sandwich Terns and 5 Gadwall at the Willop Outfall.

December

The first half of the month was settled and relatively cold, with sunshine at times and little rain, and some frosts. After mid-month milder air dominated and brought more regular rainfall.



Great Northern Diver at Hythe (Tony Poole)

December began well with a **Great Northern Diver** seen briefly at Nickolls Quarry on the 1st before it flew off to the east and five Little Gulls were also present there (with up to three until the 6th, and one until the 12th), whilst at Botolph's Bridge there were two adult Little Gulls (with both present the next day and with an adult and a first-year on the 3rd) and two Green Sandpipers (also present the following day, with one until the month's end), and up to eight Sandwich Terns were noted in Hythe Bay (three off the Willop Outfall and five off Hythe, with the latter still present the following day).

The 2nd produced a **Great White Egret**, a Shelduck and a Chiffchaff (remaining until the 4th) at Nickolls Quarry and a Little Gull and a female Eider (which remained until the 10th) off Hythe. On the 3rd a Jack Snipe, a drake Mandarin Duck (also seen on the 8th), 30 Snipe, 30 Lapwing and 50 Teal were seen at the Willop Basin and a Red-throated Diver was on the lake at Nickolls Quarry.

On the 4th the **Ring-necked Parakeet** put in another appearance at Battery Point and a **Great Northern Diver** was found offshore there (with at least one noted regularly between Hythe and Battery Point until the 16th, when two were present), whilst a Razorbill and six Sandwich Terns were also noted. A further Sandwich Tern was seen off Hythe, whilst a late Swallow was at Nickolls Quarry and two Canada Geese flew west at Samphire Hoe. Cormorants started to increase during the first week of the month, with 580 Cormorants counted off Seabrook on the 5th, whilst 2 Shags were noted at Samphire Hoe the next day, where a small flock of Siskins flew east and a Tufted Duck was at Nickolls Quarry.

A **Cattle Egret** was reported flying low over Hythe on the 7th, when 3 Corn Buntings, 4 Tree Sparrows, 6 Reed Buntings, 23 Yellowhammers and 63 Skylarks were at Abbotscliffe and 3 Fieldfare, 15 Golden Plover, 35 Skylark, 38 Redwing and 58 Lapwings were at Capel-le-Ferne. Three **Great White Egrets** flew west at Seabrook the following day, when a Shag flew east at Sandgate, a Brambling was seen at Kick Hill, a Woodcock was at Samphire Hoe, 2 Firecrests were at Enbrook Park and there were marked increases in Lapwings (with 54 at Hillhurst Farm and 102 at the Willop Basin) and winter thrushes (including 50 Redwings at Saltwood reservoir).

Two adult **Caspian Gulls** were found at Sandgate on the 9th, when a **Great Northern Diver** (presumably an additional individual) flew east past Fisherman's Beach (Hythe), a Snow Bunting, two Snipe, two Tree Sparrows and 46 Yellowhammers were at Abbotscliffe and two Snipe were at Samphire Hoe. A **Great White Egret** was seen at Botolph's Bridge the next day, whilst the 11th produced a female Blackcap at Enbrook Park and numbers of Cormorants continued to build, with at least 2,580 seen offshore, whilst a total of 6,165 flew east past Princes Parade the following day, with a Shag also flying east and 2 Gadwall and 6 Teal flying west there, and a Wigeon, a Gadwall and 3 Redshank at the Willop Basin.

Two Blackcaps were noted at Wingate Hill on the 13th, when 13 Snipe, 24 Golden Plovers, 28 Yellowhammers and 62 Skylarks were counted at Abbotscliffe and 28 Golden Plovers and 29 Lapwings were at Capel Street.

A **Rough-legged Buzzard** spent a short while hunting at Abbotscliffe on the 14th, whilst the next day produced a Woodcock at Casebourne Wood and two Sanderling and 11 Turnstone at Folkestone Harbour, where a Little Egret and 4 Redshank were wintering, with 18 Ringed Plovers at nearby Folkestone Beach. On the 16th a Corn Bunting, 2 Grey Partridge, 5 Snipe, 41 Yellowhammers and 88 Skylarks were at Abbotscliffe and a Little Grebe was on the canal at Princes Parade, where a Snipe flew over, with a Tufted Duck there the following day, when a small cold weather displacement included small numbers of Snipe (with three at Kiln Wood, five at Lympne and eight at Pedlinge), Lapwings (with two on playing fields at Brockhill School, four by Blackhouse Shaw, five at Pedlinge and at Lympne) and winter thrushes, whilst a Woodcock, a Brambling and five Teal were seen at Kiln Wood and a Peregrine and 90 Teal were at Donkey Street.

On the 18th two Firecrests, 2 Water Rails, 3 Snipe and 5 Lapwings were at Holy Well, where 130+ Lapwings flew north, whilst around 500 Lapwings were at Hillhurst Farm on the 21st. A Black Redstart was seen at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd and a male Blackcap was in a garden in Hythe on the 23rd. An **Egyptian Goose** was found in a flooded field at Stone Farm (near Postling Wents) on the 24th (where it remained until the 27th), when the **Ring-necked Parakeet** reappeared at Battery Point and a Blackcap was seen in a garden in Cheriton, whilst up to three were frequenting a garden in Lympne. A Shoveler, a Gadwall, 5 Redshank and 50 Teal were at the Willop Basin on Christmas Day, with at least Great Crested Grebes offshore.

An adult **Yellow-legged Gull** was seen at Battery Point on the 26th, when a late Sandwich Tern was off Hythe Ranges. On the 27th a **Great White Egret** was seen at Botolph's Bridge and two Shoveler and 10 Gadwall were at Donkey Street, whilst four Shoveler and 17 Gadwall were at Hoorne's Sewer on the 29th, when four Chiffchaffs at the Willop Sewage Works, a Barn Owl was in the Hougham Valley, a Peregrine and two Corn Buntings were at Botolph's Bridge and 2 Reed Buntings and 4 Corn Buntings were at Abbotscliffe. Three Woodcock were seen in Paraker Wood on the final day of the year.

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 1st 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
Very rare	Has occurred locally on between one and 15 occasions
Rare	Has occurred locally on between 16 and 50 occasions
Scarce	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
A	Species recorded locally in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950
B	Species recorded locally in an apparently natural state at least once between 1800 and 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently
C1	Naturalised introduced: species that have occurred only as a result of introduction, e.g. Egyptian Goose
C2	Naturalised established: species with established populations resulting from introduction, but which also occur in an apparently natural state, e.g. Greylag Goose
C3	Naturalised re-established: species with populations successfully re-established in areas of former occurrence, e.g. Red Kite
C4	Naturalised feral: domesticated species with populations established in the wild, e.g. Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon
C5	Vagrant naturalised: species from established naturalised populations abroad. There are currently no species in category C5 that have occurred in Britain
C6	Former naturalised: species formerly placed in C1 whose naturalised populations are either no longer self-sustaining or are considered extinct
D	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 are on the local list are Bufflehead and Great White Pelican
E	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)

Good numbers were noted in the Shrine Farm area (near Postling Wents) in the autumn and a peak of 15 there in early November was the first double-figure count locally since 2009. Smaller numbers were seen in the Crete Road West/Gibraltar Lane area, where there was a peak of five in February and in the Donkey Street area, with a peak of three in January.

Ones and twos were also recorded in the Cock Ash/Smeeds Farm area (north of Sellindge), at the Pedlinge end of the Aldington Road, at Pent Downs and at Abbotscliffe.

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

Declining breeding resident (A)

After two “blank” years in 2019 and 2020, it has now been recorded at Abbotscliffe in two consecutive years, with one seen there on the 21st January and two on the 16th December (following records in April and May 2021), so it appears that is still surviving at low density at this site. A sighting of two in Kiln Wood on the 19th March was the first record for this tetrad (TR13 I) for many years and provides further hope for its continued presence.

Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus

Breeding resident (C1)

Widely recorded but the largest count received involved ten at Donkey Street in March. There are indications that rearing has recommenced in Chesterfield Wood and Kiln Wood.

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. Although no movement was noted in late December 2021, 95 flew east past Princes Parade and 104 flew east past Samphire Hoe on the 1st January. However very few were noted in the rest of the month.

Spring passage commenced on the 28th February, when 12 flew east past Mill Point, with the first three-figure counts in early March, when 107 flew east past Seabrook on the 4th and at least 710 flew east past Mill Point/Samphire Hoe on the 9th. Further three-figure counts comprised c.320 flying east past Mill Point on the 11th, 370 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 16th, 145 flying east there on the 21st, 145 flying east past Seabrook on the 24th and 100 flying east past the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 30th March. Very few were noted in April and the only double-figure count involved 25 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 18th, whilst the final sighting of the spring was of five flying east there on the 8th May.

The overall spring total was at least 2,300, which was somewhat less than the mean for the previous decade of around 3,650.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Latest/Earliest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Brent Goose	8 th May	9 th May	-1	6 th May*	1	26 th May 1997*
Arrival	7 th Sep	19 th Sep	-12	21 st Sep*	-15	1 st Sep 2008*

The first autumn arrival involved seven flying west past Sandgate on the 7th September, which was the second earliest ever arrival date and more than a fortnight earlier than the mean arrival date over the last decade. Small numbers were then noted regularly into December, with larger counts of 42 flying east past Seabrook on the 30th September, 69 flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 9th October, 55 flying past Sandgate on the 19th October, up to 122 noted off coastal watchpoints the following day and 84 flying west past Hythe on the 19th 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)

Following the large counts in autumn 2021, there were unusually good numbers present at Nickolls Quarry in the early winter period, with a peak of 25 on the 23rd January and 14 remaining into early March. A pair settled to breed there again, raising seven young, with up to five additional adults still present throughout the spring. The family party remained into early June but then moved on and only a few singles were noted at Nickolls Quarry in the autumn and late winter period.

Other sightings on the marsh in the early winter period, including six flying east over West Hythe dam on the 1st February, six at Botolph's Bridge on the 6th March and five at the Aldergate Bridge on the 8th March perhaps involved the same birds wandering from Nickolls Quarry. Elsewhere there were up to four at Horton Park Lakes in January and February.

A pair were present again at Donkey Street from early April and appeared to be sitting on eggs by the end of the month, but no young were noted. Other late spring/summer records involved one at the Willop Basin on the 6th May, three at Botolph's Bridge on the 8th May and three at the Willop Basin on the 3rd June.

The only coastal records involved one on the sea off Seabrook on the 10th April and two flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 4th December.



Red-legged Partridge near Pedlinge (Brian Harper)



Canada Goose at Donkey Street (Brian Harper)

Rare migrant and winter visitor, with feral birds also recorded (A, C2, E) (41, 1)

A flock of three flew west at Seabrook on the 20th November (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts).

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)

19 were seen in fields by Folkestone Racecourse on the 8th January and this flock steadily increased to 43 by the 22nd January and 49 by the 24th January, before peaking at 51 on the 26th January. Some dispersal followed but 38 were still present on the 4th February, although these soon dwindled.

Only small numbers were noted elsewhere in January/February, with four at Nickolls Quarry (on the 1st January), two at Horton Priory and singles at West Hythe dam, Cock Ash Lake and Horton Park Lakes.

In TR13 E 13 were noted at Cock Ash Lake 13 on the 22nd March and these increased to 24 by the 22nd April, with one pair breeding there and raising a single gosling, whilst another pair nested at Stanford Lake, raising four young. Three were also noted at Horton Priory in April but there were no indications of nesting there.

One was seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 1st March, with five at Botolph's Bridge on the 9th April, four flying east at Nickolls Quarry on the 10th April and two there on the 25th April.

Coastal records in spring included seven flying east past Seabrook (with presumably the same flock also passing Samphire Hoe) on the 2nd March, two flying north at Abbotscliffe on the 17th March, two flying east at Seabrook on the 25th March, six flying west over Seabrook and Hythe on the 9th April, two flying east at Samphire Hoe on the 11th April and two flying west at Seabrook on the 17th April.

Very few were noted in the second half of the year with a peak of just five at Cock Ash Lake on the 5th November.

Pink-footed Goose

<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>

Very rare vagrant (A) (8, 1)

One was present with the Greylag Goose flock in fields near Folkestone Racecourse between the 22nd and 26th January (I. A. Roberts, B. Harper *et al*). This was only the ninth area record but the third in the last three years and was the only occurrence to have lingered for more than a single day.



Pink-footed Goose with Greylag Geese at Folkestone Racecourse (Ian Roberts)

White-fronted Goose

<i>Anser albifrons</i>

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (40, 1)

A flock of 30 were seen flying south over Samphire Hoe on the 18th November 2022 (P. Holt).

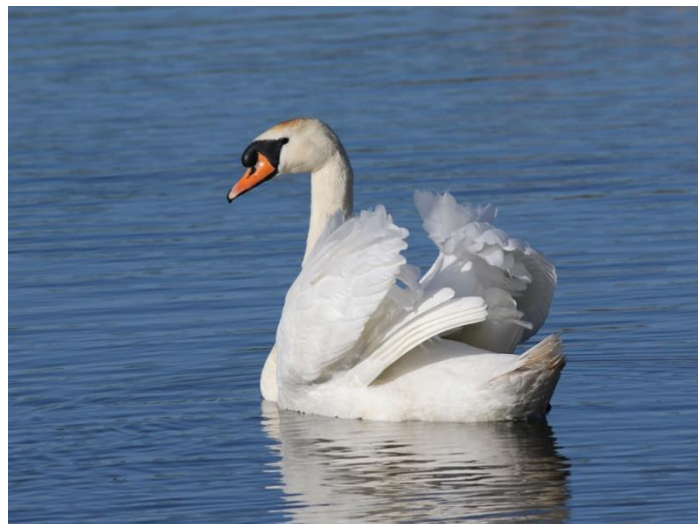
Breeding resident, perhaps also a winter visitor and occasional migrant (A, C2)

Following an increase in wintering numbers during December 2021 (to 25), 36 were counted near Selby Farm on the 5th January and these remained until the 17th March, when they began to disperse. Breeding was confirmed along the canal at Palmarsh and at Seabrook, and at sewer at the Willop Basin, and suspected at the pond near Rose Cottage on Burmarsh Road. One present at Cock Ash Lake on three dates between the 8th May and 9th June appears to be the first record for the tetrad (TR13 E).

Coastal records comprised one in Folkestone Harbour on the 3rd January, up to five on the sea off Seabrook between the 17th and 20th May and one on the sea off Sandgate on the 16th September. The peak count from the late winter period involved just 16 in the Selby Farm area on the 26th November.



Mute Swan on the sea at Sandgate (Chris Powell)



Mute Swan at the Willop Sewage Works (Brian Harper)

Rare migrant (C1) (24, 2)

A pair were present at Cock Ash Lake between the 16th April and 21st May (I. A. Roberts), raising hopes that they may breed but no evidence was noted. This species is increasing and spreading eastwards across the county and is now nesting as close as lakes in the Ashford area (KOS, 2022), so if this continues then future local colonisation would seem to be a distinct possibility. One at Stone Farm (between Postling Wents and Bluehouse Wood) from the 24th to 27th December (B. Harper), was the first record for both the tetrad (TR13 N) and the month of December.

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

In the early winter period two were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 18th January, with one there on the 19th February. Spring passage was light, with a total of just 26 noted passing up-channel between the 3rd March and 9th May, and with a peak count of 12 flying east past Mill Point on the 9th May. This was the lowest spring total since 2012 and well below the mean for the previous decade of 55.

Similarly to last year, there were single records in August (when four flew east past Folkestone Pier on the 10th) and September (when seven flew west past Sandgate on the 7th) but then no further sightings until November when a noteworthy passage occurred. After three flew west past the Willop Outfall on the 19th November, 45 (the fourth highest total ever recorded) flew west past Princes Parade the following day, with a further two on the 21st. The final sighting of the year involved one at Nickolls Quarry on the 2nd December.

Breeding resident (C1)

Up to eight were again noted at Folks' Wood during the year and four were seen in Kiln Wood in March, but once more there were no reports from Chesterfield Wood. A pair that flew over Gibbin's Brook on the 21st May were perhaps local breeders.

A male was seen with the Teal at the Willop Basin between the 9th January and 1st March, with presumably the same returning bird there from the 11th November until at least the 8th December.



Egyptian Geese at Cock Ash Lake (Ian Roberts)



Egyptian Goose at Stone Farm (Brian Harper)

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A female was seen at Hoorne's Sewer on the 1st January, with a pair there between the 13th and 22nd January, increasing to nine on the 30th January, ten on the 2nd January and a very good count (the second highest ever in winter) of 15 there on the 12th February. Elsewhere, singles were seen on the lake at Folkestone Racecourse on the 8th January and at Nickolls Quarry on the 20th and 29th January, whilst six flew west past Seabrook on the 5th March.

Spring passage included six flying east past Mill Point on the 9th March, 18 flying east there on the 11th March and a record total of 91 flying east there on the 11th April (the previous largest movement involved 49 flying east past Copt Point on the 10th March 1995). It was also a record spring passage, with a total of 118 logged (whilst the previous spring record of 86 in 2013 was eclipsed on a single day).

In the latter part of the year three flew west past Sandgate on the 20th October, one was at Donkey Street on the 13th November, three flew west past Princes Parade on the 20th November, one was at Nickolls Quarry on the 21st November and up to four were in the Donkey Street/Hoorne's Sewer area from the 25th December.

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

Up to eight were wintering in the Hoorne's Sewer area until early April whilst the only other sighting in the early winter period involved two at Nickolls Quarry on the 18th January. Spring migrants comprised two on the sea off the Willop Outfall on the 5th March, six at at Nickolls Quarry on the 20th March, one on the canal at Seabrook the following day, two flying east past Mill Point on the 11th April and a pair at Cock Ash Lake on the 16th April.

Autumn migrants involved three flying west past Sandgate on the 20th October, one at Botolph's Bridge on the 13th November, seven flying west past the Willop Outfall on the 19th November, nine flying west past Princes Parade the following day, five on the sea off the Willop Outfall on the 30th November and two flying west past Princes Parade on the 12th December.

On the marsh three were at the Willop Basin on the 28th November, with singles there on the 12th and 25th December, with ten at Donkey Street on the 27th December and 17 at Hoorne's Sewer on the 29th December.



Mandarin Duck at the Willop Basin (Brian Harper)



Shoveler at the Willop Sewage Works (Brian Harper)

Wigeon

Mareca penelope

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The only sightings in the first half of the year were one flying east past Princes Parade on the 1st January, one flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 3rd January, six on the sea off Seabrook on the 18th January and two flying east past Mill Point on the 11th March.

In autumn one flew west past Sandgate on the 4th September, 8 flew west past Hythe on the 19th November and 38 flew west past Princes Parade on the 20th November. In the late winter period singles were seen at Hoorne's Sewer on the 24th November and one was at the Willop Basin on the 12th December.

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Breeding resident and winter visitor (A)

The largest count from the early winter period involved 40 at Chesterfield Wood on the 7th January. In the late winter period counts included 24 at Chesterfield Wood on the 8th November, 60 at the Willop Basin on the 9th November, 61 at Botolph's Bridge on the 13th November and 94 there on the 13th December.

Pintail

Anas acuta

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

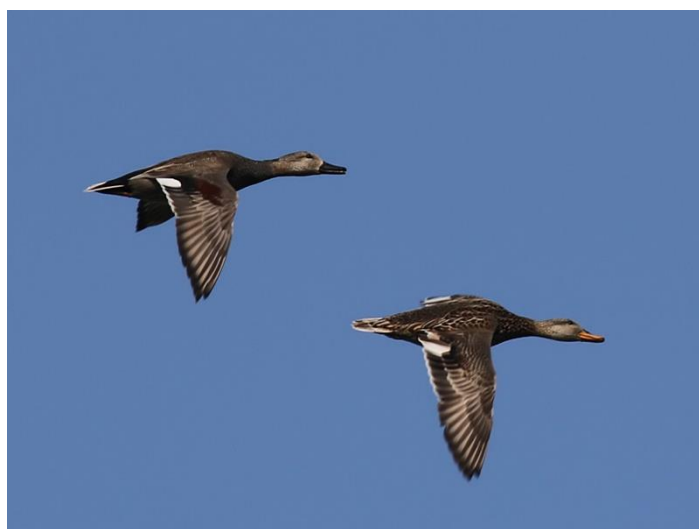
There were no records from the early winter period. In spring two flew east past Seabrook and Mill Point on the 7th March, 19 flew east past Mill Point on the 11th March and five flew east there on the 11th April. In autumn 19 flew west past Princes Parade on the 20th November, with one west there the following day.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

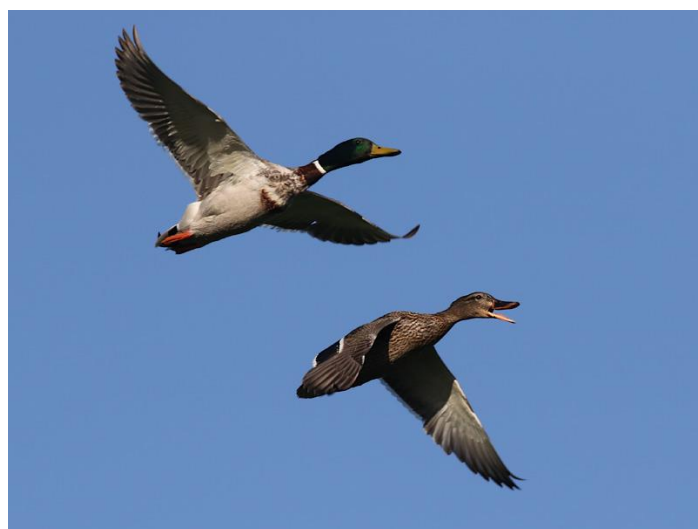
Around 120 were present at the Willop Basin on the 1st January, with smaller counts in the Willop Basin/Hoorne's Sewer/Donkey Street area into early April. Elsewhere one was on the lake at Folkestone Racecourse on the 22nd January, nine were in the ditch to the north of Nickolls Quarry on the 23rd January and there were 18 at West Hythe dam on the 1st February.

Spring passage comprised nine flying east past Seabrook on the 2nd March, 17 flying east past Mill Point on the 11th March, eight flying east there on the 11th April, four flying east there on the 22nd April and two at Donkey Street on the 24th April.

In autumn 12 flew west past Princes Parade on the 20th October, 59 flew west past Hythe on the 19th November, ten flew west past Princes Parade on the 21st November and six flew west there on the 12th December. At least 90 were again in the Willop Basin/Donkey Street area in November and December, with much smaller numbers at Chesterfield Wood (1), Kiln Wood (5) and Botolph's Bridge (6).



Gadwall at the Willop Sewage Works (Brian Harper)



Mallards at Donkey Street (Brian Harper)

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period a pair were at Nickolls Quarry on the 1st January, one was at Woodside Farm Pond between the 2nd and 16th January and up to three were at Cock Ash Lake between the 16th January and 28th February. In the late winter period a drake was at Woodside Farm Pond from the 25th November and a drake was at Nickolls Quarry on the 29th November.

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The only site to provide regular records again was Cock Ash Lake, where there were peaks of 5 in January, 7 in February, March and April, 24 in May and 20 in June, although there were no indications of breeding occurring. None were noted there later in the summer or in the early autumn but up to three were present in November.

Elsewhere two were seen at nearby Horton Priory on the 5th January, two were at Nickolls Quarry on the 2nd April, one was seen on the sea off the Willop Outfall on the 19th November, one was at Nickolls Quarry on the 6th December and one was seen on the canal at Seabrook on the 17th December.

Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>
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Rare passage migrant and winter visitor (A) (28, 1)

One was reported offshore of Hythe on the 26th January (per Rare Bird Alert).

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

The only record from the first half of the year involved five flying east past Mill Point on the 13th March. In the latter half of the year a flock of eight flew east past Seabrook on the 24th September, a pair flew west past Samphire Hoe and Princes Parade on the 21st November, and an immature/female was seen on several dates between the 22nd November and 10th December on the sea from various sites between Sandgate and Hythe.

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

The only record involved two flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 23rd October. A poor year.

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

A flock of up to 50 were present off the Dymchurch Redoubt/Willop Outfall area intermittently during January.

Spring passage was poor, with a total of just 469 noted passing up-channel, which was significantly less than the mean for the previous decade of around 1,540. The only counts over 50 comprised 90 passing Samphire Hoe on the 16th March, 97 passing Mill Point on the 11th April, 66 passing there the next day and 67 passing there on the 26th April.

The last of the spring were 16 passing Mill Point on the 9th May and there were no further sightings until 25 flew west past Sandgate on the 18th July. Small numbers were noted offshore regularly until the end of the year, with larger counts of 48 flying west past Princes Parade on the 30th September, 80 flying west past there on the 20th October, 31 flying west past Mill Point on the 15th November and 25 off Princes Parade on the 20th November.

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

A female/immature was seen on the canal cutting at Botolph's Bridge on the 22nd January (N. Burt).

Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
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Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period four were seen at West Hythe dam on the 3rd January and a flock of 11 flew over there on the 24th January. In the late winter period three flew east past Sandgate on the 18th October, one was at Cock Ash Lake between the 5th and 8th November, with two there on the 13th November, one frequented the Botolph's Bridge/West Hythe area between the 10th and 24th November and one flew west past the Willop Outfall on the 19th November.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were just five singles recorded in spring: flying west past the Willop Outfall on the 5th March, flying west past Samphire Hoe on the 16th March and flying east past Mill Point on the 29th March, 11th April and 12th April. In autumn, one flew west past Hythe on the 19th November, 13 flew west past Princes Parade on the 20th November and one flew west there the following day.

Swift

Apus apus

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first, one at Nickolls Quarry on the 28th April, was six days later than last year's arrival date and five days later than the mean for the previous decade. There were no further sightings until May and then only small numbers were noted until the 9th, when a larger arrival included 30 seen over Folkestone. Spring/early summer counts were relatively low, with a peak of 40 seen over Folkestone on the 18th June.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021				
Arrival	28 th Apr	22 nd Apr	6	23 rd Apr	5	18 th Apr 2015
Departure	20 th Sep	6 th Oct	-16	18 th Sep	2	16 th Nov 1957

Autumn passage produced a peak count of 227 flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 31st July before numbers dwindled quickly during August. There were several late sightings in September, with five at Abbotscliffe on the 10th, and singles at Hythe on the 14th, Abbotscliffe on the 15th and 16th, Round Down on the 19th and Abbotscliffe on the 20th.



Goosanders at Cock Ash Lake (Tony Poole)



Swift at Round Down (Jamie Partridge)

Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

Declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

At least one was present in the Donkey Street/Nickolls Quarry area between the 1st May and 21st June.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021				
Arrival	1 st May	25 th Apr	6	20 th Apr	10	27 th Mar 2001
Departure	10 th Sep	27 th Aug	14	26 th Jul	45	28 th Sep 1969

In autumn single juveniles were seen at Samphire Hoe on the 9th August and at Abbotscliffe on the 10th September (which was the third latest ever and only the sixth to be recorded in September).

Feral Pigeon

<i>Columba livia</i>

Breeding resident (C4)

A common and widespread species but the only count received involved 30 at Folkestone Racecourse on the 22nd January.

Stock Dove

<i>Columba oenas</i>

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

The only count of note from the early winter period involved 23 at Shrine Farm (near Postling Wents) on the 23rd February, whilst the only indication of spring passage involved four flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 17th March.

In autumn only very small numbers were noted on passage in October and November, with no double-figure counts of visual migration, although 31 were at Cock Ash Lake on the 5th November.



Feral Pigeon at Folkestone Pier (Brian Harper)



Stock Dove at the Willop Sewage Works (Brian Harper)

Woodpigeon

<i>Columba palumbus</i>

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 1,000 at the Aldergate Bridge on the 25th February, whilst in the late winter period 500 were at Abbotscliffe on the 14th November and 3,500 flew over Lympne the following day.

Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
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Rare summer visitor and passage migrant, formerly numerous. Very rare in winter (A)

In spring one was reported at "Hythe at the Royal Military Canal" on the 22nd May (per Rare Bird Alert), whilst in autumn one (possibly two) was seen at in the churchyard at Church Hougham on the 22nd July 2022 (M. D. Kennett).

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	22 nd May	5 th May	8	24 th May	-2	10 th Apr 1993
Departure	22 nd Jul	-	-	4 th Aug	-14	24 th Oct 1981*

Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
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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 2022 these included one at Samphire Hoe on the 19th May and one flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 8th October.

Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
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Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were records again from the traditional sites of Botolph's Bridge, the canal between Hythe and Seabrook, and at Holy Well, with a peak of three along the canal in early March, whilst the bird first seen in December 2022 at Enbrook Park remained until the 4th March. Elsewhere one was at the Willop Sewage Works in February, and one seen at a farm pond between Newington and Peene on the 2nd February was a new record for the tetrad (TR13 Y).

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)

The largest counts again came from Nickolls Quarry (where there were peaks of 8 in March and 18 in November/ December) and Cock Ash Lake (where there was a peak of 10 in June). An unusual record involved one seen on the sea at Battery Point on the 24th July (offshore sightings are very rare).

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, the Aldergate Bridge, Horton Priory, Cock Ash Lake, Nickolls Quarry, Hayton Lake, Woodside Farm Pond and on the canal at Seabrook.

Breeding resident and winter visitor (A)

The largest counts in the early winter period involved c.400 off the Willop Outfall on the 23rd January and 93 off Folkestone Pier on the 20th February. The only indications of spring passage involved 18 flying east past Seabrook on the 6th March and 13 flying east past Mill Point the following day. At least two pairs were present throughout at Nickolls Quarry and may have bred. In the late winter period there were 50 off the Willop Outfall on the 25th December and 20 off Folkestone Pier on the 29th December.



Water Rail at Enbrook Park (Brian Harper)



Coot at the Willop Sewage Works (Brian Harper)

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (22, 1)

Two summer-plumaged birds were seen on the sea off Hythe on the 9th March (I. A. Roberts). The first record since 2019.

Breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor (A)

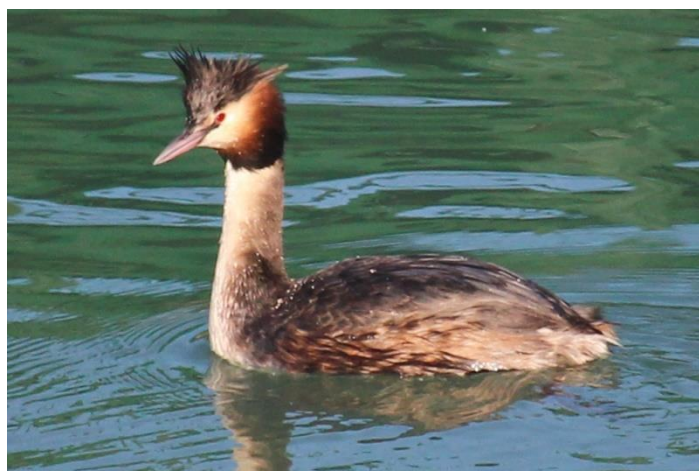
In the early winter period one was seen at the Willop Outfall on several dates. The breeding pair had returned to Nickolls Quarry by the 25th February and appeared to nest again on the small island in the lake, remaining into June. One seen feeding in a field by Lower Wall Road on the 16th May was presumably part of this pair.

Spring passage was noted between early March and mid-May and included counts of 13 flying east past Mill Point on the 12th April, nine flying east there on the 26th April and six flying east there on the 4th May.

Autumn passage was noted from late July, when the largest counts of six flying east past Sandgate on the 28th and nine flying east there on the 30th were noted, then ones and twos were seen irregularly until late November, with a count of five flying east past Seabrook on the 27th August.

Very rare vagrant (A) (2, 1)

One was heard calling as it flew south-west over Hythe after dusk on the 23rd May (S. McMinn). This was the third area record and occurred on the same date as the first (in 1965). The only other sighting was in September 1997.



Great Crested Grebe at Folkestone Harbour (Tony Poole)



Oystercatchers at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)

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

In January flocks were noted at Cock Ash Lake (16), Botolph's Bridge (30), the Willop Basin (40), Hillhurst Farm (85) and Selby Farm (420) but few remained into February. On the 12th March two pairs were seen displaying near Selby Farm but were presumably migrants as they were not noted subsequently.

Small numbers were noted again from early November, with a noticeable increase just after mid-month when 55 were seen at the Willop Basin on the 17th and 30 were seen arriving in off the sea at Hythe on the 19th. In December numbers built up to 16 at Botolph's Bridge, 50 at Haguelands Farm, 54 at Hillhurst Farm, 58 at Capel-le-Ferne and 102 at the Willop Basin.

Some displacement due to cold weather on the continent was noted on the 17th December, when two were seen on the playing fields at Brockhill Park School, four were at Blackhouse Shaw, five were at Pedlinge Farm and 16 were on the former airfield at Lympe, whilst five were at Holy Well the following day, when a flock of at least 130 flew north. Numbers at Hillhurst Farm increased to around 500 on the 21st but then dispersed.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period three were seen at Donkey Street on the 1st January, 50 were along the Lower Wall Road on the 9th January and one was near Hoorne's Sewer on the 12th February.

In the early autumn period one flew west at Abbotscliffe on the 7th August and four were seen arriving in off the sea there on the 10th August, whilst later in the year singles were seen at Donkey Street on the 13th November, Samphire Hoe on the 18th November and Donkey Street on the 19th November, whilst three were at Botolph's Bridge on the 30th November. December produced 15 at Capel-le-Ferne on the 7th and 24 at Abbotscliffe and 28 at Capel-le-Ferne on the 13th.

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor (A)

The only record involved one seen flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 22nd April. The worst year since 2009.

Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

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 17 birds in January, whilst in the late winter period there was a peak of 19 in November. The only record from elsewhere involved a single at Copt Point on the 6th August.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

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 on the 20th March and then on several dates to 22nd May. It was seen to exhibit agitated behaviour/anxiety calls but there was no definite evidence of breeding success (I. A. Roberts). Another was seen at the Willop Sewage Works on the 26th March (B. Harper), see photograph on page 9.

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

Passage migrant, mainly in spring (A)

The first four of a modest spring passage were seen flying east past Seabrook on the 11th April, a date very close to the mean for the previous decade. The only double-figure counts involved 29 flying east past Mill Point on the 22nd April, 14 east there on the 26th April, 11 east there the next day, 13 east there on the 29th April and 18 east there on the 9th May. Spring passage saw a total of 116 compared to the mean for the previous decade of 167. The last sighting of the spring, one at Hythe Ranges on the 2nd June, was notably late as was only the fifth June record.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	11 th Apr	29 th Mar	13	10 th Apr	1	25 th Mar 2011
Departure	1 st Aug	25 th Aug	-24	1 st Sep	-31	12 th Nov 2013

Autumn passage was typically light and involved two at Sandgate on the 21st July, one at Dymchurch beach on the 23rd July and one flying over Folkestone on the 1st August.

Curlew

Numenius arquata

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Up to two were seen irregularly at the Willop Basin between the 12th February and 10th April. Elsewhere, singles flew east past Seabrook on the 5th March and east past Mill Point on the 9th March.

In autumn singles were seen flying east at Hythe on the 8th July, west at Abbotscliffe on the 10th August, at Samphire Hoe on the 13th August, flying over Hythe on the 22nd September, flying west at Sandgate on the 1st November and flying west past Princes Parade on the 20th November. None were noted at the Willop Basin in the late winter period.

Passage migrant, mainly in spring (A)

Three were seen flying east past Seabrook on the 6th March and one flew east past the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 30th March but the main spring passage occurred in late April and early May. The total of 153 birds included counts of 85 east past Mill Point on the 22nd April and 38 east past Samphire Hoe on the 8th May, and was a marked improvement on the 59 recorded last year and on the mean for the previous ten years of 79, being the best showing since 2014.



Ringed Plovers at Folkestone Beach (Tony Poole)



Whimbrel at Abbotscliffe (Elliot Ranford)

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period birds were present at Folkestone Harbour (with a peak of 11), Hythe (with a peak of 12) and the Willop Outfall (with a peak of 33). Spring passage was evident from an increase to a peak of 53 at the Willop Outfall on the 17th April, whilst two were seen flying east past Mill Point on the 9th May.

The same sites were occupied in the late winter period, with peaks of 11 at Folkestone Harbour and 24 at Hythe, but few were noted at the Willop Outfall.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Up to 11 were present at the Willop Outfall between January and March, with a larger count of 34 there on the 19th February, whilst in April migrants increased numbers to 68 on the 14th. Elsewhere 12 flew east past the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 30th March and four flew east past Mill Point on the 4th May.

Small numbers were again present at the Willop Outfall from November, with a larger count of 41 there on the 25th November, whilst two were seen in Folkestone Harbour on the 15th December.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In contrast to last year's cold weather influx, there were no sightings in the early winter period. Spring passage comprised five flying east past the Dymchurch Redoubt on the 30th March, 23 flying east past Mill Point on the 22nd April and six flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 9th May.

In autumn three were at Copt Point on the 6th August, one flew past Princes Parade on the 17th November and a total of 39 flew west there on the 20th November.



Turnstone at Hythe (Chris Powell)



Sanderling at the Willop Outfall (Brian Harper)

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period at least two were frequenting the rock groynes at Hythe, opposite the ends of Stade Street and Twiss Road until at least the 21st March, whilst singles were seen at Folkestone Harbour on the 2nd January and 21st February. However, and rather concerningly, there were no sightings from the late winter period.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021				
Departure	21 st Mar	27 th Apr	-37	5 th May	-46	20 th May 1987
Arrival	-	31 st Oct	-	31 st Oct	-	30 th Sep 1984

Woodcock

Scolopax rusticola

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period singles were noted at the Aldergate Lane, Lympe Park Wood, Hythe Roughs and Abbotscliffe, with two at Kiln Wood, whilst in the late winter period singles were seen at Folks' Wood, Kiln Wood, Casebourne Wood, Capel-le-Ferne and Samphire Hoe, with three at Paraker Wood.

Jack Snipe

Lymnocyrtus minimus

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

At least two were wintering at the Willop Basin in the early winter period, with another at Donkey Street, and with the last sighting on the 9th April. In the late winter period it was first recorded on the 12th November and singles were wintering at Donkey Street and the Willop Basin, whilst one was flushed from Hoorne's Sewer on the 19th November.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Counts in the early winter period included 21 at Folkestone Racecourse and 30 at the Willop Basin. The last two were noted at Donkey Street on the 24th April.

It was first recorded in autumn at Abbotscliffe on the 3rd October, with another there on the 8th October, whilst wintering birds were widespread by November. Counts included six at Shrine Farm, 13 at Abbotscliffe and 30 at the Willop Basin. Some displacement due to cold weather on the continent was noted on the 17th December, when three were seen at Kiln Wood, five were at the former airfield at Lympe and eight were at Pedlinge (none of which are traditional wintering sites).



Purple Sandpiper at Hythe (Andrew Edwards)



Jack Snipe at the Willop Basin (Brian Harper)

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Passage migrant, occasionally overwinters (A)

The first arrival was at Battery Point on the 23rd April, with one at Samphire Hoe on the 2nd May, three there on the 4th May and one there on the 8th May, with a very late bird (equaling the latest ever) along the canal at Seabrook on the 10th June. The spring total of just seven bird/days was somewhat less than the mean for the previous decade of 16.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	23 rd Apr	28 th Apr	-5	17 th Apr	6	4 th Mar 2013*
Departure	10 th Sep	7 th Sep	3	23 rd Sep*	-13	Several wintered

The first returning bird was heard calling over Gibbin's Brook at 01:40 on the 4th August but there were just four further singles noted in autumn: at Folkestone Harbour on the 21st August, Sandgate on the 30th August, Hythe on the 1st September and Copt Point on the 10th September. This was a poor showing compared to the mean bird/day total for the previous decade of 17.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

At least two were wintering in the Botolph's Bridge/Donkey Street/Nickolls Quarry area until about mid-April, whilst three at Nickolls Quarry on the 17th April may have been migrants (or included an additional migrant) and there were later singles at Botolph's Bridge on the 25th April and a migrant at Cherry Garden Reservoirs on the 28th April.

Autumn migrants were seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 31st July, along the canal at Seabrook on the 21st August and at Port Lympne on the 5th November, whilst up to three were wintering again in the Botolph's Bridge/Nickolls Quarry area.

Redshank

<i>Tringa totanus</i>

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period there were up to six at the Willop Basin and Folkestone Harbour, with singles at Nickolls Quarry on the 29th January and 15th March.

Autumn migrants comprised one flying over Folkestone Warren in the early hours of the 4th September and one at Samphire Hoe on the 11th September, whilst in the later winter period there were up to five at the Willop Basin and Folkestone Harbour.



Common Sandpiper at Samphire Hoe (Elliot Ranford)



Redshank at Folkestone Harbour (Chris Powell)

Greenshank

<i>Tringa nebularia</i>

Scarce passage migrant (A)

One circled Nickolls Quarry and landed briefly on the lake on the 22nd April and one was flushed from a small pond at Pent Farm on the 6th June. This was only the third record in June and the latest ever.

Kittiwake

<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Only small numbers were noted during the early winter period. A light spring passage included 23 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 6th March, 12 flying east there on the 16th March and 14 flying east past Mill Point on the 9th May. One was found dead at the Hotel Imperial golf course on the 16th March.

In autumn counts of 170 flying past Princes Parade (12 east, 158 west) on the 21st November and 25 flying west there on the 23rd November were noteworthy.

Very rare vagrant (A) (6, 2)

A juvenile was glimpsed at Port Lympne on the 27th October before being relocated in the car park there on the afternoon on the 3rd November where it delighted many observers with its incredibly confiding nature during its stay until the 13th November (P. Coleman *et al*). Quite remarkably another juvenile was present in the area on the 6th November, seen flying past Sandgate (C. Powell). These were the seventh and eighth area records and the first time that two have been recorded in the same year, let alone on the same day. Also see photographs on the front cover and page 21.



Kittiwake at Folkestone Pier (Brian Harper)



Sabine's Gull at Port Lympne (Steve Ashton)

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Large numbers were present in the early winter period but the only count received involved 300 at West Hythe dam on the 24th January. Spring passage was noted between mid-March and mid-May, with counts including 22 flying east past Mill Point on the 29th March, 45 flying east there on the 27th April and 149 flying east there on the 9th May. There were no counts of note from the latter half of the year.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A first-winter bird first seen at Donkey Street on the 19th February then lingered in a field near the level crossing on the Botolph's Bridge Road until the 26th February, see photograph on page 8.

In the latter part of the year six were seen off Princes Parade on the 20th October, whilst five flew west past Mill Point the following day, one flew west past Princes Parade on the 7th November and three flew east past Mill Point on the 15th November. Later that month 12 flew west past Princes Parade on the 20th and 16 (3 east, 13 west) passed there the following day, marking the start of an exceptional influx, which included several inland records. At Nickolls Quarry one was seen on the 22nd November, with two the next day, then a record count for the site of seven on the 24th, with up to seven remaining until the 28th, five until the 30th November, three until the 6th December and one until the 12th December. Nearby an adult was in the same field by Botolph's Bridge Road as the February bird from the 22nd to 30th November, with two adults there on the 1st and 2nd December and a first-winter bird and an adult on the 3rd December.

Coastal sightings involved up to five feeding along the surf-line between Hythe and Battery Point between the 23rd and 28th November (with one on the 2nd December), with singles at Folkestone Harbour on the 23rd November (when one was found dead on the seawall at Samphire Hoe) and at the Willop Outfall on the 28th and 29th November.



Black-headed Gull at Folkestone Harbour (Tony Poole)



Little Gull at Princes Parade (Brian Harper)

Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyæetus melanocephalus</i>
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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 counts were 130 at West Hythe dam on the 3rd January, 370 at the Hotel Imperial golf course on the 11th January and 155 at Botolph's Bridge on the 4th February. A light spring passage included 18 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 11th April, seven flying east past Mill Point the following day and three flying east there on the 9th May.

As usual very few were noted between mid-May and the end of June, but numbers increased rapidly during July, with c.1,000 at Copt Point by the 21st July. Subsequent counts included c.1,000 again at Copt Point on the 25th September, at least 920 in the Hythe area on the 21st October, 1,645 at Copt Point on the 28th October and 1,159 at Sandgate on the 31st October. Many colour-ringed birds were noted during the year.

Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>
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Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Large numbers were present in the early winter period and counts included 150 at both Cock Ash Lake and Postling Wents on the 16th January, and 150 at Pedlinge and 400 at Postling Wents on the 9th February. Spring passage included 17 flying east past Mill Point on the 7th March and 33 flying east there on the 13th March. Large numbers were also present in the late winter period but the only count received was of 70 at Abbotscliffe on the 16th December.

Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>
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Winter visitor and passage migrant, with small numbers over-summering (A)

The highlight of the breeding season involved a pair nesting locally for the first time, on a roof at the Park Farm industrial estate, and successfully raising two young. On the 21st September one that had been ringed as a chick in southern Norway 81 days previously was seen at Sandgate. The only significant count this year involved 96 flying west past Seabrook on the 7th October.

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (28, 1)

One flew west at Folkestone Sunny Sands on the 2nd January (P. Smith).



Mediterranean Gull at Folkestone Beach
(Tony Poole)



Great Black-backed Gull at Folkestone Harbour
(Tony Poole)

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 2019 as holding the greatest concentrations of breeding birds were again visited in 2022:

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%
2022	120	+14	+13%	75	0	-	67	-13	-19%

The overall population across the three colonies increased from 195 in 2019 to 249 in 2020 (+28%), and to 263 in 2021 (+6%), then remained stable at 262 in 2022.

Rare but increasingly frequent visitor, mostly in winter (A) (18, 4)

A first calendar year bird was seen at Sandgate on the 21st September (C. Powell) and a further first calendar year bird there on the 26th September (C. Powell) had been ringed as a nestling in central Germany 106 days previously. An adult and a second-calendar year bird were seen at Sandgate on the 28th November (I. A. Roberts), whilst two adults were seen there on the 9th December (B. Harper).

A record year. There have now been sightings in each of the last ten years.

Rare migrant (A) (34, 2)

A first calendar year bird at Sandgate on the 1st October (C. Powell) had been ringed as a nestling in Switzerland four months previously and an adult was seen at Battery Point on the 26th December (C. Gillard).



Caspian Gull at Sandgate (Chris Powell)



Caspian Gull at Sandgate (Chris Powell)



Caspian Gulls at Sandgate (Ian Roberts)



Yellow-legged Gull at Sandgate (Chris Powell)

Breeding species, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were no records until the 18th February but regular sightings thereafter, with numbers increasing during March.

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 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%
2022	3	2	3	8	-1	-11%

Elsewhere there was one occupied nest on an industrial estate in the Pennypot area. In the autumn 36 flew west at Abbotscliffe on the 18th September, whilst at Sandgate there were 85 on the beach on the 21st September, with 89 on the 26th September and 126 on the 1st October. In addition to these, large numbers were noted passing through Sandgate from about mid-September to early October, although this passage was variable, with many of some days but very few on others. In total it was estimated that “many hundreds were involved, and probably well into the thousands”.

Colour-ringed birds from Germany, the Netherlands and Spain were recorded during the year (refer to page 97 for further details).

Sandwich Tern

Thalasseus sandvicensis

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

The first, one flying east past Seabrook on the 22nd March, was comparatively late, being ten days later than the mean for the previous decade and the latest arrival since 2016. There were almost daily records from the 28th March, with the first double-figure count involving ten flying east past Mill Point on the 29th March. The largest movements were noted in April, when 246 flew east past Mill Point on the 11th and a very good count (the fourth largest ever in spring) of 467 flew east there the following day. Smaller numbers continued to pass by into early May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	22 nd Mar	4 th Mar	18	14 th Mar	8	2 nd Mar 2019
Departure	26 th Dec	6 th Dec	20	30 th Oct	57	27 th Dec 1955

Autumn counts included 72 (10 east, 62 west) passing Sandgate on the 7th September, 44 flying west there on the 9th September, 32 fishing offshore of Seabrook on the 11th September and 150 fishing offshore of Hythe on the 3rd October. The trend of birds of birds lingering into November continued and this year saw the first ever double-figure counts in that month, which included 21 passing Mill Point on the 15th and 17 passing Princes Parade on the 21st November, whilst in December there were eight in Hythe Bay on the 1st, five off Hythe on the 2nd, seven off Battery Point/Hythe on the 4th and one off Hythe Ranges on the 26th December (the second latest ever). November sightings of Sandwich Tern are a recent phenomenon, with only two noted before 2018, but with annual occurrences since, whilst there had only been four records in December prior to this year. As the Kent Bird Report for 2019 noted “there is no doubt that Sandwich Terns are present [in the county] for longer than in the past”.

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

Formerly bred, but now a passage migrant in spring, very rare in autumn (A)

One seen flying east past Seabrook on the 11th April equalled the earliest ever arrival (in 2016) but the only other sighting involved two flying east past Mill Point on the 9th May. Yet another poor year, the mean for the previous decade is 20 birds.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	11 th Apr	28 th Apr	-17	26 th Apr	-15	11 th Apr 2016
Departure	-	-	-	-	-	16 th Sep 1999

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

The first, nine flying east past Mill Point on the 11th April, were later than average and set the tone for another very disappointing year for this species. The only double-figure counts involved 15 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 24th April and 21 flying east past Mill Point on the 9th May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	11 th Apr	10 th Apr	1	6 th Apr	5	29 th Mar 2020
Departure	19 th Oct	5 th Oct	14	27 th Sep	22	30 th Oct 2007

Small numbers were again noted in autumn, with just one double-figure count, when ten were seen off Sandgate on the 7th September and the last was noted there on the 19th October (only the third ever to be noted later than mid-October). Overall, it was the worst showing since 2009.



Sandwich Tern at Sandgate (Chris Powell)



Common Tern at Sandgate (Chris Powell)

Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
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Passage migrant (A)

One flew west past Mill Point on the 3rd November.

Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>
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Passage migrant (A)

The only records involved one flying east past Mill Point on the 29th April, one seen off Folkestone Warren on the 1st October and one flying west past Princes Parade on the 21st November. The total of just three was only a tenth of the mean for the previous decade of 33 and the lowest since regular seawatching began in the early 1990s. The poor spring passage could be attributable to unfavourable weather conditions during the main passage period (other species such as some of the ducks, waders and terns, and other skuas were also recorded in low numbers) but the paucity also of autumn records could be linked a population decline, perhaps linked to avian flu (BirdGuides, 2022).

Pomarine Skua

Stercorarius pomarinus

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring (A)

One flew east past Mill Point on the 9th May.

Arctic Skua

Stercorarius parasiticus

Passage migrant (A)

Spring passage involved a total of just three: one flying east past Samphire Hoe on the particularly early date (the second earliest ever) of the 16th March and two flying east past Mill Point on the 11th April. This was well below the mean for the previous decade of 14.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	16 th Mar	19 th Apr	-34	13 th Apr	-28	14 th Mar 2016*
Departure	13 th Oct	18 th Oct	-5	21 st Oct	-8	2 nd Dec 2020

The first autumn sighting involved one flying east past Sandgate on the 28th August, whilst in September there were daily sightings between the 4th and the 9th, including counts of 12 (4 west, 8 east) past Sandgate on the 7th and 4 (2 east, 2 west) there the following day, with a further single noted on the 22nd September. October produced sightings on seven dates in the first half of the month, all singles apart from two flying west past Sandgate on the 10th, with the last there on the 13th October. In contrast to the spring passage, the autumn total of 41 bird/days was a considerable improvement on the mean for the previous decade of 19 and the best since 2014.

Little Auk

Alle alle

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor (A) (24, 2)

One flew west past Princes Parade on the 20th November (B. Harper) and two flew east there the following day (I. A. Roberts). The first records since 2019.

Guillemot

Uria aalge

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were just small numbers noted in the early winter period, with counts of 20 off Folkestone Pier on the 2nd January and 100 Guillemots/Razorbills flying east past Princes Parade on the 21st January, whilst the only sign of spring passage was of eight flying east past Mill Point on the 22nd April.

Numbers remained low in the autumn/late winter period and the only notable count involved 108 Guillemots/Razorbills flying west past Princes Parade on the 21st November.

Razorbill

Alca torda

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The only confirmed sighting in the early winter period was at Samphire Hoe on the 1st January, although a movement of 100 Guillemots/Razorbills flying east past Princes Parade on the 21st January may have included this species.

In autumn up to two were seen offshore between Sandgate and Mill Point between the 21st and 30th September, then in late November there were five off Hythe on the 19th, 23 flying west past Princes Parade on the 20th and 108 large auks (of which 48 were identifiable as Razorbills) flying west there the following day. In December singles were noted off Battery Point on the 4th, Sandgate on the 8th, Hythe on the 9th and Folkestone Pier on the 27th.



Guillemot at Folkestone Harbour (Elliot Ranford)



Razorbill at Sandgate (Chris Powell)

Red-throated Diver

Gavia stellata

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Counts in the early winter period included 64 flying east past Seabrook on the 19th January and 130 flying east past Princes Parade on the 21st January. A light spring passage between early March and early May included counts of 40 flying east past Seabrook on the 5th March, 25 flying east past Mill Point on the 7th March, 20 flying east there on the 9th March, 25 flying east there on the 11th March and 47 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 16th March.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Latest/Earliest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Departure	9 th May	3 rd May	6	8 th May	1	6 th June 2006
Arrival	22 nd Sep	17 th Sep	5	28 th Sep	-7	7 th Sep 1997

The first returning bird was seen off Sandgate on the 22nd September and there were just single figure counts until late November, when 10 flew west past Princes Parade on the 20th November and 37 flew west there the following day.

Black-throated Diver

Gavia arctica

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

There were no spring records for the first time since 2010, whilst the only sightings in autumn involved one that flew west past Princes Parade on the 21st November and another that was reported at Folkestone Harbour on the 24th November.

Great Northern Diver

Gavia immer

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

One flew east past Seabrook on the 10th January (P. Howe). In the late winter period one flew west past Princes Parade on the 21st November (I. A. Roberts), whilst one was seen on the lake at Nickolls Quarry briefly on the 1st December before it flew off east (I. A. Roberts).

One (perhaps the same individual) was found off Battery Point on the 4th December (B. Harper, C. Gillard *et al.*) and was then seen regularly between Hythe and Battery Point until the 16th, although there may have been more than one individual involved in these sightings as two were present off Battery Point/Princes Parade on the latter date (M. Whybrow), see photograph on page 23. One (perhaps an additional individual) was seen flying east past Fisherman's Beach (Hythe) on the 9th December (S. McMinn).



Red-throated Diver at Sandgate (Chris Powell)



Great Northern Diver at Sandgate (Chris Powell)

Fulmar

Fulmarus glacialis

Breeding visitor and passage migrant (A)

Birds had begun to arrive back at the cliffs from late 2021 and three or four pairs bred at both Capel-le-Ferne and Samphire Hoe.

Spring passage included counts of 21 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 6th March and 13 flying east there on the 16th March. Small numbers were seen regularly again from late August and birds began to return to the colonies again in December.

Sooty Shearwater

Ardenna grisea

Scarce passage migrant (A)

Five flew west past Mill Point on the 3rd November and one flew west past Princes Parade on the 20th November.

Balearic Shearwater

Puffinus mauretanicus

Rare passage migrant (A) (45, 2)

Singles were seen flying west past Sandgate (C. Powell) and Hythe (I. A. Roberts) on the 7th September. These were considered to be different individuals based on the timings of the sightings.

Gannet

Morus bassanus

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

The only count of note in the early winter period involved 62 seen feeding off Seabrook on the 13th January. Spring passage included movements of 65 east past Seabrook on the 5th March, 200 east past Mill Point on the 11th March, 277 east past Samphire Hoe on the 11th April and 63 east past Mill Point on the 22nd April.

Counts in the latter half of the year included c.100 off Princes Parade on the 9th September, 165 off Sandgate on the 24th September, 146 flying east there on the 30th September, 123 flying east there on the 15th October, 83 flying east past Samphire Hoe on the 23rd October, 87 flying west past Mill Point on the 3rd November and 285 flying west past Princes Parade on the 21st November.

Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>
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Passage migrant and winter visitor, with occasional summer records (A)

In the early winter period at least one was present in the Folkestone Harbour area until mid-February, with up to two at Samphire Hoe in January/February and singles at Sandgate on the 26th January and 3rd February.

In the latter half of the year, one was seen intermittently at Samphire Hoe from the 4th September (with two there on the 6th December) and six were seen between Sandgate and Mill Point on the 21st September (a record count for that month), with three still present on the 25th September, and up to two to the 13th October, whilst one was seen in Folkestone Harbour on the 4th October. Also, two were seen off Princes Parade on the 24th November, one flew east past Sandgate on the 8th December and one flew east past Princes Parade on the 12th December.



Shag at Folkestone Harbour (Elliot Ranford)



Shags at Sandgate (Chris Powell)

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

Huge numbers were again seen in both winter periods. The peak counts involved 5,970 flying east past Princes Parade on the 21st January and 6,615 flying east there on the 11th December.

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

There were signs of recovery at Lypne Park Wood, with an increase to eight nests this year (from five in 2021, which suggests that the population was suppressed by severe weather in February that year).

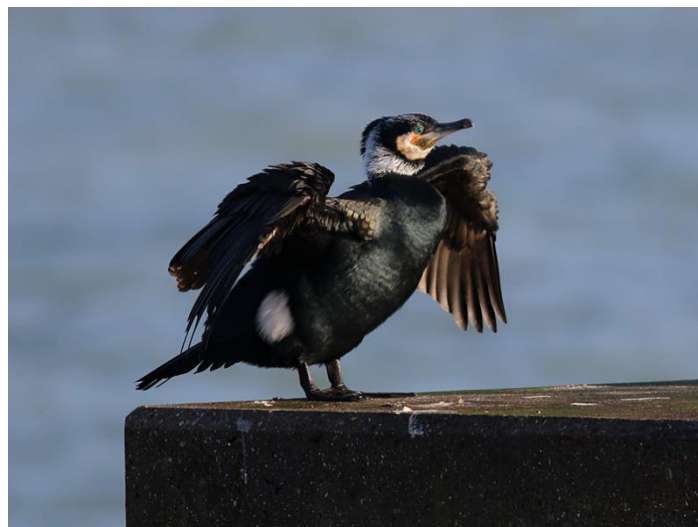
There was some evidence of passage or dispersal, mostly involving single birds but with three flying east at Seabrook on the 22nd June, two flying west there on the 7th July, two flying west at Sandgate on the 18th August, three flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 18th September and nine flying out to sea from Sandgate on the 29th September.

Very rare vagrant (A) (7, 1)

A juvenile was reported flying over the A259 Hythe in the early morning of the 10th September (per Rare Bird Alert). The eighth area record.



Cormorant at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)



Cormorant at Folkestone Pier (Brian Harper)

Very rare vagrant (A) (1, 2)

One was seen in flight between the Aldergate Bridge and West Hythe dam on the 12th March (D. Mansfield) and one flew west over Sandgate at 12:25 on the 1st October (C. Powell), see photograph on page 19. The second and third area records (following one that flew over Port Lympne in December 2014).

Very rare vagrant (A) (3, 4)

There was a remarkable series of sightings in the late winter, with an exceptional flock of 11 being found in a field with sheep between Donkey Street and Lower Wall by on the 10th November (M. Whybrow, I. A. Roberts, B. Harper). There was no sign of the flock in that area the following day but one was seen flying west over St. Hilda's Road in Hythe in the afternoon (I. A. Roberts), whilst one was seen feeding amongst European Bison at the Port Lympne Reserve a fortnight later on the 25th November (B. Harper) and one was reported flying over Earlsfield Road in Hythe on the 7th December (per Rare Bird Alert). These were only the fourth to seventh area records.

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (31, 9)

It was yet another record year for this species. One (possibly one of the two seen at Selby Farm in December 2021) was at Donkey Street on the 1st January, with singles (possibly the same individual) in the Donkey Street/West Hythe area on seven further dates to 12th February (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts *et al.*). In spring one flew east past Mill Point on the 9th May (I. A. Roberts), whilst in autumn two flew west at Samphire Hoe on the 4th September (M. D. Kennett), two flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 18th September (D. A. Gibson) and one arrived in off the sea at Copt Point on the 25th September (D. A. Gibson)

In the late winter period one was seen near Capel-le-Ferne on the 10th November (A. Mackay), one was at Nickolls Quarry on the 2nd December (I. A. Roberts), three flew west at Seabrook on the 8th December (M. Whybrow) and one was at Botolph's Bridge on the 10th December (C. Gillard).



Cattle Egret at Lower Wall Road (Brian Harper)



Grey Heron at Enbrook Park (Ian Roberts)

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

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

Up to seven were roosting at the Port Lympne Reserve and were likely to be the source of regular sightings at various sites on the marsh between January and March, whilst up to three were wintering in the Abbotscliffe foreshore/Samphire Hoe area with occasional singles at Copt Point and in Folkestone Harbour, and singles were seen on a roof in Foord Road and in a garden in Cheriton in February. Elsewhere one was seen at Postling on the 9th February and singles flew west at Seabrook on the 23rd February and 4th March.

In April one flew east at Seabrook on the 8th, two flew west there on the 9th and one flew east over Nickolls Quarry on the 25th, then there were no sightings until four flew east at Seabrook on the 21st June. In July one was seen at West Hythe on the 8th and two flew east at Seabrook on the 16th, with one flying east there on the 20th August.

There were regular sightings again from September, with the largest numbers along the coast between Folkestone Harbour and Samphire Hoe, with counts of 5 at Copt Point on the 10th September, 8 at Samphire Hoe the following day and five at the latter site on the 25th October, but only ones and twos noted from November. Up to two were seen regularly on the marsh. Elsewhere one flew east at Seabrook on the 10th October, two were at Mill Point on the 16th October and four were at Holy Well on the 23rd October.

Scarce passage migrant (A)

One was seen fishing offshore between the Willop Outfall and Dymchurch on the 17th May before it flew inland, and one flew north over Cheriton on the 17th July.



Little Egret at Folkestone Harbour (Tony Poole)



Little Egret at Donkey Street (Brian Harper)

Honey Buzzard

Pernis apivorus

Scarce passage migrant (A)

Singles were seen at Samphire Hoe on the 14th June, 17th July and 27th July, see photographs on pages 14 and 15.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	14 th Jun	-	-	24 th May	21	3 rd May 2013
Departure	27 th Jul	24 th Aug	13	28 th Aug	-32	15 th Oct 1995

Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nisus

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Ones and twos were seen at many sites throughout the year. The only indication of passage involved one seen arriving in off the sea at Mill Point on the 29th March.

Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus

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

An adult male (perhaps the individual seen in October/November last year) was noted at Lower Wall Road on the 6th January, Nickolls Quarry on the 23rd January and the Willop Basin on the 12th February, whilst an adult female flew high east over West Hythe dam on the 18th January, but there were no records in the late winter period.

Following the removal of the reed-bed that was being used as a roosting (and potentially breeding) site at Nickolls Quarry it appears that this species will revert to being rare in the local section of Romney Marsh again. Elsewhere one flew west at Sandgate on the 17th July and one flew over Abbotscliffe on the 21st September.

Scarce migrant and winter visitor (A)

The only record involved a “ring-tail” seen flying east past Mill Point on the 22nd April.



Honey Buzzard with Carrion Crow at Samphire Hoe
(Michael Smith)



Sparrowhawk with Blackbird at Samphire Hoe
(Martin Collins)

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

The first of the year was seen over Cheriton on the 8th March, with two further sightings the following day and a total of 25 recorded in March, with peak counts of three over Folkestone on the 17th, three over Lympne on the 20th and six over Cheriton on the 22nd. Only two singles were noted in April, at Lympne on the 8th and Copt Point on the 17th, but a further ten were noted in May, including two at Pent Downs on the 1st and four at Cheriton on the 24th. Two were then seen in June and three in July, with the last at Abbotscliffe on the 31st.

Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (16, 1)

One spent around 15 minutes hunting at Abbotscliffe/Great Farthingloe on the 14th December before flying off north-west at 12:45 (P. Coleman).

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, when four flew west at Seabrook on the 17th March and five flew west there on the 9th May.

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

There were regular records again from the West Hythe dam area in the early winter period, when up to three were present in January, whilst one was also seen there in July and there were further sightings in the late winter period.

Elsewhere one was seen at the Alkham Valley/Canterbury Road junction on the 21st February, a pair were seen intermittently at Pent Farm (where it is now known that a pair bred successfully for first time last year) and one was seen in the Hougham Valley, opposite The Plough, on the 29th December.

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Breeding resident (A)

There were records from numerous woodland sites including Gibbin's Brook, Lympe Park Wood, Folks' Wood and Heane Wood. The most noteworthy record related to a bird that was heard in the Broadmead Road/Folkestone Central area on the 18th November and 14th December, as records within Folkestone town are scarce.

Little Owl

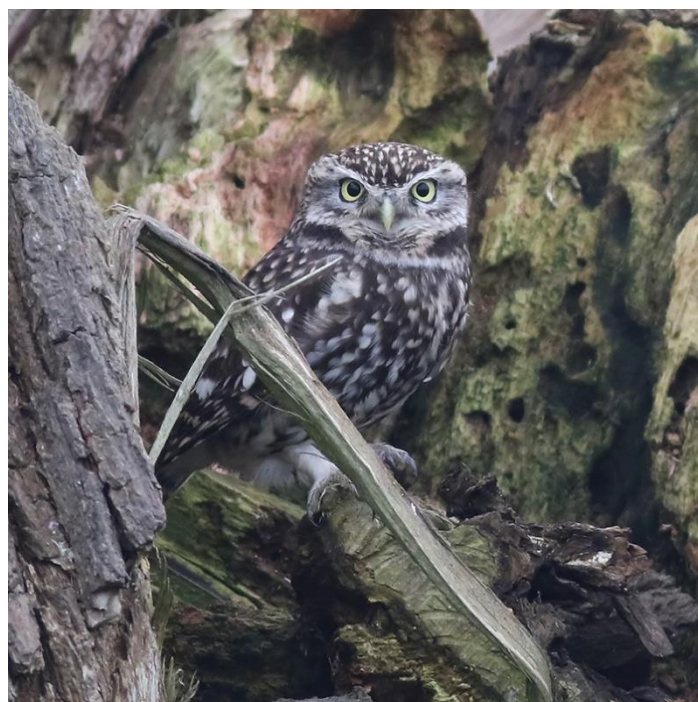
Athene noctua

Declining resident breeding species (C)

A pair were present in the Selby Farm area throughout, although their favoured tree was blown down in one of the autumn storms, making them much more difficult to observe. One was also seen regularly in the Summerhouse Hill/Beachborough Park area. Elsewhere singles were noted at Botolph's Bridge in March and at Lathe Barn (Donkey Street) in November.



Marsh Harrier at the Willop Basin (Adam Buckland)



Little Owl at Selby Farm (Brian Harper)

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

Rare passage migrant, has bred on at least two occasions (A) (21, 3)

One was again seen at an undisclosed site (where breeding occurred in 2019) in February and March but again there were no indications of nesting taking place (M. D. Kennett, P. Smith), whilst there were two sightings at the Aldergate Lane (probably involving one individual) on the 14th February and 8th March (D. Wrathall). However, the most interesting development involved two recently fledged juveniles seen in a garden at West Hythe in June (per M. Collins). This is only the second confirmed breeding record for the area although it is no doubt overlooked due to its unobtrusive nature.

Passage migrant (A)

The only record involved one seen at Samphire Hoe on the 3rd November. A poor year.



Long-eared Owl at West Hythe (per Martin Collins)



Long-eared Owl at West Hythe (per Martin Collins)

Hoopoe

Upupa epops

Formerly more regular, bred on one occasion. Now a very rare vagrant (A) (25, 2)

One was reported in a garden in Atkinson Road in Hawkinge in the morning of the 14th May (per Rare Bird Alert) and a popular, although at times elusive, individual was present in Lympe between the 17th and 22nd November (P. Sharp, I. A. Roberts *et al.*).



Hoopoe at Lympe (Mike Fitch)



Hoopoe at Lympe (Barry Wright)

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

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 and at least two pairs probably bred. Elsewhere there were two at Nickolls Quarry on the 23rd January, with singles frequently noted along the ditch to the north in the early and late winter periods.

At Folkestone Harbour there were three on the 2nd October, with at least one remaining until the end of the year, whilst singles were seen at Samphire Hoe on the 30th September and Copt Point on the 7th December.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

<i>Dendrocopos major</i>

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Widely recorded but there were no notable counts received of resident birds. One that flew west at Abbotscliffe on the 15th April was only the second apparent spring migrant to be recorded there (and the first since 1997). However, very few passage birds were noted in autumn, with just singles flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 20th September and 8th October, and two seen along the seawall at Hythe Ranges on the 16th October (the mean over the last 20 years is around 15).

Green Woodpecker

<i>Picus viridis</i>

Breeding resident (A)

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

Kestrel

<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

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



Kingfisher at Folkestone Harbour (Mike Fitch)



Kestrel at West Hythe (Brian Harper)

Merlin

<i>Falco columbarius</i>

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (A).

Singles were seen at Botolph's Bridge on the 23rd January, Selby Farm on the 15th February and Donkey Street on the 3rd March.

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

The breeding pair made an early return to Lympe Park Wood, with both birds present on the 20th April. At least one fledged young was noted on the 20th August, with two juveniles present from the 23rd August until at least the 20th September, with the last sighting there on the 1st October. These birds were probably responsible for most of the summer records on the marsh and adjacent areas, including sightings from Kiln Wood on the 25th April and Folks' Wood (although there were three there on the 13th May). There were a few sightings again from the Horn Street/Seabrook area, where breeding has been suspected in recent years, and a juvenile was seen there on the 26th August. There were also intermittent sightings in the Abbotscliffe/Church Hougham area between the 1st June and 3rd October and breeding may have occurred in that area. Elsewhere singles were seen over Cheriton on the 22nd April, Hythe on the 20th July and Sandgate on the 27th September.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	20 th Apr	29 th Apr	-9	26 th Apr	-6	9 th Apr 1998
Departure	3 rd Oct	27 th Oct	-24	4 th Oct	-1	27 th Oct 2021



Kestrels at Samphire Hoe (Dave Clarke)



Kestrel at Abbotscliffe (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 two pairs probably bred. Away from the cliffs there were singles at several sites on the marsh between January and March, one flew east at Seabrook on the 21st January, one was seen over Horn Street on the 14th February, one flew west at Hythe on the 11th March, two were seen at Mill Point on the 13th March and two flew west at Seabrook on the 10th April. In autumn one flew west at Sandgate on the 15th September and in the late winter period there were singles at the Aldergate Bridge on the 24th November, Donkey Street on the 17th December and Botolph's Bridge on the 29th December.

Rare passage migrant (C1, E?) (27, 1)

There were several sightings of what was presumed to be a single individual as follows: flying east at Seabrook on the 26th September (P. Howe), at the Golden Valley in Cheriton on the 11th October and 22nd October, and at Battery Point on the 14th October (C. Gillard), at Enbrook Park and Sandgate on the 28th October (G. Coultrip, C. Powell), at Seabrook on the 14th November (P. Howe, M. Whybrow) and at Battery Point again on the 4th and 26th December (C. Gillard). This was the 28th area record but the first to linger for any period of time.

Red-backed Shrike*Lanius collurio*

Formerly bred, now a very rare vagrant (A) (13 records since 1980, 1)

One was seen at Hythe Ranges on the 3rd September (S. McMinn). See photograph on page 17.

Golden Oriole*Oriolus oriolus*

A very rare vagrant but has possibly bred (A) (15, 1)

One was seen briefly at Crete Road West on the 19th May before it flew north (R. Rackcliffe). The first record since 2015 and only the second since 2000.

Jay*Garrulus glandarius*

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Resident birds were widely recorded. The only indication of passage involved one flying north over Abbotscliffe on the 17th May.

Magpie*Pica pica*

Breeding resident (A)

The largest numbers were again noted on the marsh, where the only count of note received involved 30 at Botolph's Bridge on the 9th January.

Jackdaw*Corvus monedula*

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

The only counts of note involved 670 at Lympne Park Wood on the 11th February, 250 flying west over the Golden Valley in Cheriton on the 16th October and 100 at Abbotscliffe on the 13th December.



Peregrine at Folkestone Warren (Martin Casemore)



Carrion Crow at Battery Point (Brian Harper)

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

There has been an attempt in recent years to implement systematic censusing of rookeries in East Kent (Websper 2022) and the numbers of nests at the sites that have been found by the surveyors in TR13 and TR23 (supplemented by counts by local observers) are shown in the table below:

Tetrad	Grid Ref	Site	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021	2022
TR13 A	TR1131	Dymchurch (Marine Ave.)						75	67
TR13 E	TR1038	Sellindge							5
TR13 E	TR1039	Horton Priory						24	31
TR13 H	TR1234	Lympne Park Wood	82	83	70	44	-	8	0
TR13 H	TR1234	Lympne (Shepway Cross)			30	26	-	24	16
TR13 H	TR1235	Lympne (Berwick House)	30	23	18	20	-	35	56
TR13 I	TR1336	Sandling (House Wood)	35	46	25	38	-	22	24
TR13 I	TR1337	M20 Junction 11						29	30
TR13 M	TR1435	Hythe (London Road)							59
TR13 N	TR1436	Sandling Station		20	24	25	-	28	31
TR13 P	TR1438	Postling (Vicarage Farm)							13
TR13 U	TR1639	Etchinghill							16
TR13 Y	TR1837	Newington							15
TR13 TOTAL			147	172	167	153	-	245	363

*No surveying was undertaken in 2020 due to lockdown restrictions.

The largest rookery locally had traditionally been at Lympne Park Wood, where there between 100 and 150 pairs in the early 1980s, with 110 pairs still present in 2003 but numbers then declined to just eight pairs in 2021 and none were present in 2022. The apparent increase in total population in the last two years is thought to reflect an improvement in coverage, rather than a genuine increase.

There was no evidence of any passage.

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

There were no counts of note.

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

At the traditional sites along the cliffs a pair probably bred at Capel-le-Ferne and another may have bred at Samphire Hoe, whilst a pair again attempted to breed near Lympne church but the nest was destroyed by a storm and a second build appeared to be unsuccessful. Elsewhere, a pair probably bred at a new site on the water tower at Shorncliffe Camp, at the top of Hospital Hill.

There were widespread reports from other sites which included four at West Hythe on the 1st February, six flying east over Seabrook on the 28th February, a group of 5 or 6 (thought to be a pair with young) by Sandling Road on the 13th June and four at Mill Point on the 15th November.

Coal Tit*Periparus ater*

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Widely recorded but there were no noteworthy counts of resident birds, whilst the only indication of passage involved two, possibly of the continental form (*P. a. ater*), seen at Hythe on the 25th September.

Marsh Tit*Poecile palustris*

Breeding resident (A)

There were records from the usual haunts of Folk's Wood, Brockhill Country Park, Bartholomew's Wood, Bargrove Wood and Paraker Wood during the year, but two at Enbrook Park were the first record for the site.

Blue Tit*Cyanistes caeruleus*

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

No counts of note were received.

Great Tit*Parus major*

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

No counts of note were received.

Bearded Tit*Panurus biarmicus*

Rare migrant (A) (22, 1)

An immature/female was seen in reeds along the eastern side of the lake at Nickolls Quarry on the 22nd and 25th November (I. A. Roberts, B. Harper).



Ravens at Sandgate (Chris Powell)



Bearded Tit at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)

Woodlark*Lullula arborea*

Rare passage migrant (A) (39, 1)

One was seen at Hythe Ranges on the 22nd October (S. McMinn).

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The only counts of note from the early winter period were at Abbotscliffe, where there was a peak of 28 on the 21st January. There was little indication of either spring or autumn passage. In the late winter period counts included 35 at Shrine Farm in November, 35 at Capel-le-Ferne in December, 50 at Botolph's Bridge in November and up to 88 at Abbotscliffe in December.



Skylark at Hythe Roughs (Brian Harper)



Skylark at Hythe Roughs (Brian Harper)

Passage migrant, formerly a breeding summer visitor (A)

The first arrival (one at Nickolls Quarry on the 25th April) was particularly late, being the latest arrival date since regular recording began in the late 1980s, but was quickly followed by five at the same site on the 27th April. In keeping with the late arrival, spring passage was poor with just a further four sightings, all at Abbotscliffe: one on the 2nd May, two arriving in off the sea on the 5th May, one in off on the 30th May and three in off on the 1st June. This was the lowest spring total since 2018.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	25 th Apr	28 th Mar	28	30 th Mar	26	5 th Mar 1995
Departure	17 th Nov	6 th Oct	42	10 th Oct	38	17 th Nov 2022

Conversely, autumn passage produced the highest total since 2017. The first returning birds were three at Church Hougham on the 22nd July, with five at Abbotscliffe on the 31st July and then ten there on the 3rd August. Small numbers were noted during August, with a peak of nine flying east at Seabrook on the 12th, and early September before a total of 112 were logged flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 15th September.

Small numbers were again noted to the end of September, with none noted in October, but there were an exceptional series of records in November, when singles were noted at Nickolls Quarry on the 7th, 11th, 12th, 16th and 17th. It is difficult to be certain how many individuals these records comprised, but the observers involved considered that there were at least three as there was almost daily coverage of this site during this period. There had only been three previous records in November, all on the 4th (at Hythe in 1963, West Hythe in 1981 and at Abbotscliffe in 2020), so these were the latest ever sightings and a reflection no doubt of the unusually mild conditions.

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first (three at Nickolls Quarry on the 2nd April) were rather late as there have been March sightings in all but one year since 2007. At least five were seen at the same site on the 4th April but numbers thereafter were low, with just ones and twos noted until the 25th April, when six were at Nickolls Quarry.

The main arrival occurred in late April and early May, with 19 across the area on the 27th April, 68 arriving in off the sea at Mill Point on the 29th April, 21 at Abbotscliffe on the 2nd May, 23 in off the sea there on the 3rd May and 23 in/east there on the 5th May, whilst smaller numbers continued to arrive into late May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021				
Arrival	2 nd Apr	28 th Mar	5	24 th Mar	9	2 nd Mar 2019
Departure	4 th Dec	13 th Nov	21	16 th Nov	18	8 th Dec 1955

Autumns passage was noted mostly during September, when “hundreds” were seen moving west at Abbotscliffe on the 10th, “a steady stream” flew south at Hythe Ranges on the 11th and 900 flew in off the sea at Sandgate and 1,000 flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 15th. Later in the month 158 were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 21st and the last three-figure count comprised around 250 flying east at Sandgate on the 29th September.

In October 20 flew west at Sandgate and 48 flew west at Abbotscliffe on the 8th, whilst the last double-figure count in that month involved ten flying west at Hythe Ranges on the 16th, however exceptional numbers were seen in November, a reflection no doubt of the unusually mild conditions. After nine had been noted at Nickolls Quarry on the 7th, an incredible total of 25 were present there on the 11th November (there had only been double-figure counts in six previous Novembers, with the latest being ten at Hythe on the 11th November 1951, and only one larger count, of 35 flying west at Hythe on the 1st November 2003). Ten were seen across the area the following day (three at the Willop Basin, three flying west at Abbotscliffe and four at Nickolls Quarry) and almost daily sightings continued until the month’s end, with counts including 12 in the area (five at Nickolls Quarry and seven at West Hythe) on the 19th and nine at Nickolls Quarry on the 21st. Perhaps unsurprisingly, a late bird was seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 4th December. This was only the tenth record in that month, with only five later sightings.

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first sighting (of three at Nickolls Quarry on the 4th April) was close to the mean arrival date but there were no further records until the 21st April. Spring passage was unremarkable, with no double-figure counts of passage birds. Breeding was again noted at Samphire but the nests were not counted. Elsewhere at least one pair bred at Honeywood Cottages (north of Sandling Park, in TR13 N) and 7 or 8 pairs nested in western Hawkinge (in TR23 E), whilst up to ten seen feeding over Cock Ash Lake in June were thought to be from a colony outside of the area.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021				
Arrival	4 th Apr	29 th Mar	6	5 th Apr	-1	7 th Feb 2004
Departure	25 th Nov	6 th Oct	50	1 st Nov	24	2 nd Dec 1974

Autumn passage was noted mainly between mid-September and early October, with c.3,000 flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 15th September, c.1,000 feeding along the cliffs at Round Down and c.1,500 seen over Hythe on the 19th September, c.1,000 at Abbotscliffe on the 20th September and 1,172 flying east at Seabrook on the 3rd October. The last three-figure count involved 362 flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 8th October, with only small numbers noted in the remainder of the month however (as with the other hirundines), there were a series of sightings in November, when there were two at Nickolls Quarry on the 7th, 9th and 22nd, with late singles there on the 24th and 25th (there have only been four later sightings).

Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
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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, Donkey Street (near The Little Piece), the Aldergate Bridge, Botolph's Bridge, Nickolls Quarry (up to four), Hythe Ranges, and along the canal between Hythe and Seabrook.

Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
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Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

No counts of note were received.

Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>
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Rare passage migrant (A) (36, 1)

One was seen at Port Lympne on the 5th November (P. Coleman).

Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
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Formerly a breeding summer visitor, now a declining passage migrant (A)

After the first at Nickolls Quarry on the 8th April, there was an arrival of eight on the 10th April (with singles at Botolph's Bridge, Nickolls Quarry, the canal at Palmersh, Hythe, Cheriton and Samphire Hoe, and two at the Willop Sewage Works), and further singles at Crete Road West and in a garden in Folkestone the following day. Three were then at Abbotscliffe on the 13th April, with one at Nickolls Quarry on the 14th, two at Abbotscliffe on the 15th and singles at Nickolls Quarry on the 18th and Samphire Hoe on the 24th April. The total of 19 bird/days was less than last year (29) and the mean for the previous decade of 28.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	8 th Apr	16 th Apr	-8	7 th Apr	1	26 th Mar 1960
Departure	20 th Sep	7 th Sep	13	21 st Sep	-1	19 th Oct 1986

The first returning birds were seen in a garden in Folkestone on the 1st August, with the peak count of the autumn being nine at Abbotscliffe on the 3rd August, whilst further counts that month included four there on the 8th, four in a garden in Folkestone on the 17th and four at Lympne Castle and seven at Abbotscliffe on the 22nd. The only records in September were one at Abbotscliffe on the 10th, two at Samphire Hoe the following day and one at Abbotscliffe on the 20th. The autumn total of 55 bird/days was less than last year (64) and the mean for the previous decade of 102.

Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
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Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, with small numbers wintering.

In January there were up to four at the Willop Sewage Works, two at West Hythe dam and one at the Aldergate Bridge. A singing male at Donkey Street on the 19th February might have been an early migrant or an overlooked wintering bird, but one in a garden at Hythe seafront on the 2nd March was certainly considered to be a new arrival, and was soon followed by a singing male at Abbot's Court Farm and two at Donkey Street the following day. On the 10th March one was singing in a garden in Folkestone and two were at Holy Well, with two at the Aldergate Bridge on the 12th, three at West Hythe on the 13th and one at Lympne Park Wood and two at Hawkinge on the 15th March.

Arrivals continued during the second half of March, with a peak count of eight at Nickolls Quarry on the 21st. Further counts in April included eight again at Nickolls Quarry on the 2nd and nine at Holy Well on the 5th.

Autumn passage was noted mainly from September, when double-figure counts included 15 at Samphire Hoe on the 11th, 14 at Mill Point on the 16th, 17 at Enbrook Park on the 27th and 12 at Mill Point and 16 at Samphire Hoe on the 30th. Numbers dwindled through October, with peak counts of nine at Abbotscliffe on the 3rd, six at Samphire Hoe on the 9th and six at Mill Point on the 16th, and into November. In the late winter period up to two were wintering at Nickolls Quarry, with up to four again at the Willop Sewage Works.



House Martin at Round Down (Jamie Partridge)



Willow Warbler at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first (two singing males) did not appear at Nickolls Quarry until the 14th April, bucking the trend of earlier arrival dates. There were three singing males present there from the 17th April and held territory at the site, and may have bred. A migrant male was singing at Abbotscliffe on the 5th May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021				
Arrival	14 th Apr	6 th Apr	8	8 th Apr	6	1 st Apr 2017
Departure	24 th Aug	1 st Sep	-8	20 th Sep	-27	15 th Oct 1996

Autumn passage produced a total of 9 bird/days at the cliffs, all in August: singles at Abbotscliffe on the 1st and 3rd, with two there on the 7th and 10th, one at Samphire Hoe on the 13th, and singles at Abbotscliffe on the 22nd and 24th.

Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first arrivals were at Aldergate Lane on the 14th April, Beachborough Lakes on the 17th April and Nickolls Quarry on the 18th April, with two at Nickolls Quarry on the 22nd April and two at Donkey Street on the 23rd April, when the first was heard along the canal. A widespread arrival ensued during the last week of April, with birds breeding in typical haunts across the marsh. The only potential breeding record away from the marsh involved a male seeming to be holding territory along the East Stour River at Pent Farm.

There were several late summer “out of habitat” migrants, with singles singing at Abbotscliffe on the 20th and 23rd May, at Paraker Wood on the 28th May and another at Abbotscliffe on the 6th July.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	14 th Apr	17 th Apr	-3	11 th Apr	3	3 rd Apr 2016
Departure	22 nd Aug	30 th Aug	-8	20 th Sep	-28	24 th Nov 2018

Autumn produced two passage migrants away from the breeding sites: singles at Abbotscliffe on the 1st and 22nd August.

Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
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Rare summer visitor and passage migrant (A) (21, 1)

A migrant was singing at the eastern end of Abbotscliffe on the 1st June (M. D. Kennett).

Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>
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Scarce and declining passage migrant, mainly in autumn. Bred until about the late 1980s/early 1990s but now rare in spring (A)

The only sightings involved singles at Abbotscliffe on the 17th August and 28th September.

Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
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Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, with small but increasing numbers wintering (A)

Several were again present in the early winter period, including at least one in gardens in Lympe, one in a garden in Hythe and at least six in gardens in Folkestone (one at Foord Road, one at Wood Avenue, two at East Cliff Gardens and two at Ingles Manor). The difficulty of determining when the first spring arrivals occur was illustrated by a wintering male at East Cliff Gardens starting to sing on the 21st March with a presumed migrant male heard in song along the canal at Seabrook the following day (there had been no winter records at this site, although it may have been overlooked when silent). A singing male at Nickolls Quarry and a bird observed nest building at West Hythe on the 31st March were certainly summer visitors and records became more widespread from the first week of April, but there were no counts of note in spring.

Counts in autumn included 16 at Abbotscliffe and 50 at Samphire Hoe on the 11th September, 13 at Abbotscliffe on the 21st September, 18 at Samphire Hoe on the 30th September and 12 at Abbotscliffe on the 3rd October. Numbers dwindled thereafter and there were just three sightings in early November: two at Samphire Hoe on the 4th and singles at Church Hougham on the 9th and near Folkestone Central on the 12th. Wintering birds appeared to arrive during December, with one at Enbrook Park on the 11th and two near Wingate Hill on the 13th December, whilst in the latter half of the month there were singles in gardens in Hythe and Cheriton, with up to three in a garden in Lympe.

Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>
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A scarce and declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

In spring there were singles at Bluehouse Wood on the 30th April, Crete Road West on the 19th May and Princes Parade on the 30th May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	30 th Apr	8 th May	-8	27 th Apr	3	10 th Apr 2001
Departure	5 th Sep	30 th Aug	6	4 th Sep	1	6 th Nov 1981

Autumn produced further singles at Abbotscliffe on the 22nd August and 5th September.



Chiffchaff at the Willop Sewage Works (Brian Harper)



Blackcap at Folks' Wood (Tony Poole)

Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first, one at Hythe Ranges on the 24th April, was the latest arrival since 2015, with the next at Donkey Street on the 27th April and widespread sightings from early May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021				
Arrival	24 th Apr	20 th Apr	4	16 th Apr	8	8 th Apr 2007
Departure	21 st Sep	9 th Oct	18	2 nd Oct	-11	3 rd Nov 1994

Autumn passage was noted from early August, when counts included seven at Abbotscliffe on the 10th August, eight there on the 17th August and six there on the 5th September.

Whitethroat

Sylvia communis

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first arrivals, one at Nickolls Quarry and three at Abbotscliffe on the 13th April, were slightly later than usual, but numbers at the latter site soon increased to six by the 15th April and there was a widespread arrival in the second half of the month. Further counts included six at Samphire Hoe on the 4th May and 16 territorial males across the Abbotscliffe area on the 16th May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference +/-	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021				
Arrival	13 th Apr	31 st Mar	13	9 th Apr	4	30 th Mar 2002
Departure	15 th Sep	8 th Oct	-23	4 th Oct	-20	19 th Oct 2016

Autumn passage was noted from early August, when a peak count of 24 were at Abbotscliffe on the 1st, with further counts of 22 there on the 7th August, 16 on the 8th and 10th August, and 15 on the 22nd August. The final double-figure count involved 11 at Samphire Hoe on the 29th August. In September there were seven at Abbotscliffe on the 5th and eight at the cliffs (3 at Samphire Hoe and 5 at Abbotscliffe) on the 11th, with the last at Abbotscliffe on the particularly early date of 15th September (the first time that there have been no sightings in the second half of September since 2005).

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

One remained at Samphire from 2021 and was last seen on the 8th February.

There was a significant arrival in autumn, beginning with one at the western end of Abbotscliffe on the 8th October (I. A. Roberts), with two new individuals (one at the former rifle range and one near the underpass) at Abbotscliffe on the 11th October (M. D. Kennett) and further three birds (one in cliff-top scrub at the eastern end and two in the arable field near Great Farthingloe) at Abbotscliffe the following day (M. D. Kennett). Subsequent sightings of singles there on the 13th (C. Powell) and 30th October (M. D. Kennett), and three on the 13th November (M. D. Kennett) were assumed to have involved some of the previous arrivals, but could have comprised new birds. Elsewhere one was seen at Samphire Hoe on the 19th October (I. A. Roberts). The total of at least seven individuals (excluding the overwintering bird from 2021) constituted a record year.



Garden Warbler at Abbotscliffe (Elliot Ranford)



Whitethroat at Capel-le-Ferne (Tony Poole)



Dartford Warbler at Abbotscliffe (Chris Powell)



Dartford Warbler at Samphire Hoe (Dave Clarke)

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

In the early winter period there were singles at Castle Hill and Mill Point and two at Enbrook Park. It is not always easy to distinguish between wintering birds and spring migrants but singles at the Ridgeway in Lympne on the 12th March and in a garden near Folkestone Central were perhaps the latter.

There were again sightings during the breeding season, with two at Brockhill Country Park on the 19th April and a singing male at the American Garden in Saltwood on the 8th May.

In autumn single birds were noted at Enbrook Park from the 2nd September, with three present on the 26th September and six on the 30th September, whilst up to five remained throughout October, and at least two until the end of the year. Elsewhere, one was seen along the canal at Seabrook on the 19th September and there were two in Paraker Wood on the 22nd September, whilst October saw widespread ones and twos, with three at Copt Point on the 17th, four at Samphire Hoe on the 19th, three at Mill Point on the 21st and four at Holy Well on the 23rd. Only scattered singles were reported in November apart from two in a garden near Folkestone Central on the 12th November. The only December record away from Enbrook Park involved two at Holy Well on the 18th.



Firecrest at Enbrook Park (Brian Harper)



Firecrest at West Hythe (Mike Fitch)

Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
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Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Resident birds were widely recorded throughout the year. There was no evidence of spring passage but autumn migration saw a significant improvement on the nine recorded last year, although the total of 65 bird/days was still well below the mean for the previous decade of around 220. The only counts of five or more comprised six at Abbotscliffe on the 20th October, five at Mill Point the following day and five at Abbotscliffe on the 13th November.

Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
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Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Widely recorded. The only count of note was of 20 at Abbotscliffe on the 13th November.

Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
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Breeding resident (A)

There were records from Port Lympne, Lympne Churchyard, Horton Priory, Lympne Park Wood, Folks' Wood, Brockhill Country Park, Chesterfield Wood, Bartholomew's Wood and Paraker Wood during the year.

Breeding resident (A)

There were widespread sightings from the usual haunts.



Wren at Cheriton (Tony Poole)



Nuthatch at Paraker Wood (Brian Harper)

Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The only count from the early winter period involved 200 at the Willop Sewage Works on the 12th February. In spring 300 flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 5th March and 3,650 flew east at the Aldergate Bridge on the 7th March.

Autumn passage included counts of 1,000 arriving in off the sea at Sandgate on the 7th October, 575 in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 11th October, 200 in off the sea there the following day, 220 in off the sea at Mill Point on the 3rd November, 260 flying west at Shrine Farm on the 5th November and 120 arriving in off the sea at Princes Parade on the 21st November.

Ring Ouzel

Turdus torquatus

Passage migrant, typically more numerous in autumn (A)

The first, at Creteway Down on the 11th April, arrived on the same date as last year. Further singles were seen in spring at Abbotscliffe on the 14th and 15th April, at Summerhouse Hill on the 17th April, at Beachborough Lakes on the 24th April and at Samphire Hoe on the 2nd May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021				
Arrival	11 th Apr	11 th Apr	0	13 th Apr	-2	9 th Mar 1997*
Departure	5 th Nov	5 th Nov	0	7 th Nov	-2	26 th Nov 2005*

In autumn singles were seen at Round Down on the 19th September, Samphire Hoe on the 20th October and at the latter site from the 4th to 5th November.

The spring total of six bird/days was a little below the mean for the previous ten years of 10 but the autumn total of just four was well below the average of 96 bird/days (and the lowest since 1995, when the spring total also exceeded the autumn total, which has only occurred since twice: this year and last year).

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were little signs of passage except for a pronounced arrival on the 13th November, when there were counts of 15 at Abbotscliffe and Samphire Hoe.



Ring Ouzel at Abbotscliffe (Elliot Ranford)



Ring Ouzel at Cheriton (Tony Poole)

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Numbers in the early winter period were low with just one double-figure count of 15 at Cock Ash Lake on the 28th February, and departure was early with the last at Samphire Hoe on the 29th March.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Departure	29 th Mar	24 th Apr	-26	20 th Apr	-23	5 th Jun 2016
Arrival	20 th Oct	13 th Oct	7	12 th Oct	8	21 st Sep 2018

Arrival in the autumn was also rather late, with the first four seen flying west at Sandgate on the 20th October. Numbers increased in early November, when there were counts of 95 at Cock Ash Lake and 100 at Pent Farm on the 5th, whilst 28 flew west at Abbotscliffe on the 14th November and 60 were at the Aldergate Bridge on the 25th November. Counts in December were generally low although there were “plenty of winter thrushes” at Botolph’s Bridge on the 8th.

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

Numbers were low in the early winter period, with a peak of just 20 at Port Lympne on the 4th February. Spring passage was light with a diurnal peak of 20 at Abbotscliffe on the 14th March, whilst there were larger nocturnal movements on the evenings of the 18th and 29th March. In April there were eight at Samphire Hoe on the 3rd April and the last was at Abbotscliffe on the 15th April.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Departure	15 th Apr	24 th Mar	22	6 th Apr	9	4 th May 1981
Arrival	10 th Oct	10 th Oct	0	3 rd Oct	7	7 th Sep 2016

The first autumn birds (two at Abbotscliffe on the 10th October) were seen on the same day at last year. Numbers in October were low, with the first double-figure count not being noted until the 5th November, when 50 were at Pent Farm, whilst 28 were seen at Abbotscliffe on the 13th November and 152 were noted there the following day (including 122 flying west). There was a “marked increase” at Botolph’s Bridge on the 7th December, when 38 were at Capel-le-Ferne, whilst on the following day there 50 at Saltwood reservoir and “plenty of winter thrushes” at Botolph’s Bridge, but notable counts thereafter.

Song Thrush

Turdus philomelos

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period there were double-figure counts of 23 at West Hythe dam on the 6th January and 14 at the Willop Sewage Works on the 12th February. There was no evidence of spring passage and little movement in autumn, although there were counts of ten at Abbotscliffe on the 3rd October and 18 there on the 13th November.



Redwing at Botolph’s Bridge (Brian Harper)



Song Thrush at West Hythe (Brian Harper)

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Breeding resident (A)

There were no counts of note and no evidence of passage.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

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

The only spring migrant was seen at Crete Road West on the 19th May, but on the 2nd June a nest was found at Bartholomew’s Wood and fledged young were seen there later in the month. This was the first time that confirmed or probable breeding had occurred since 2009.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021				
Arrival	19 th May	5 th May	14	12 th May	7	19 th Apr 1961
Departure	6 th Oct	12 th Sep	24	25 th Sep	11	11 th Oct 1999

Autumn produced singles at Abbotscliffe on the 21st, 22nd and 24th August, and at Lympe Castle on the 22nd August, with two at Church Hougham churchyard on the 26th August. In September there were singles at Hythe Ranges, Folkestone Warren and in a garden in Grove Road in Folkestone on the 11th, with two at Pedlinge on the 19th, then a late individual was seen at Lympe Church on the 6th October. There had been October records in just seven previous years and later records in just one (1999), when one lingered at Church Hougham until the 11th October.

Robin

Erithacus rubecula

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In autumn there was a noticeable increase at coastal sites on the 20th October and there was a peak count of 34 at Abbotscliffe on the 13th November.



Mistle Thrush at Donkey Street (Brian Harper)



Robin at West Hythe (Brian Harper)

Nightingale

Luscinia megarhynchos

Declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

A male singing in scrub adjacent to the canal at Port Lympe on the 29th April was presumably the same bird as last year returning, but it was not reported subsequently. Another male was holding territory in early May at Thorn Wood (where one had been heard in June last year) and may have bred.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	29 th Apr	20 th Apr	9	22 nd Apr	6	10 th Apr 1981
Departure	-	-	-	-	-	20 th Aug 2000

Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula hypoleuca

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn (A)

Singles were seen in a garden at Ingles Manor on the 18th August and at Abbotscliffe on the 28th August. A below average year, with the mean for the previous ten years being 5 bird/days.

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The only sightings in the early winter period were at Samphire Hoe, where at least one was present in January. In March a male was singing from within a building site along Marine Parade, Folkestone between the 3rd and 13th, whilst there were singles at Capel-le-Ferne and Samphire on the 14th, at Abbotscliffe on the 17th and 23rd, and at the Willop Sewage Works on the 26th, with another there on the 2nd April.

Five were seen at Samphire Hoe on the 3rd April and at least two lingered and bred, with two juveniles seen in July. One at Lympne on the 8th April, a singing male at Hythe Ranges on the 9th April and one at Palmarsh on the 3rd May were likely to have been migrants, but a male that held territory below Abbotscliffe between the 14th April into June may have bred and a male was also found to be on territory at Dollands Moor in June (however this site is not publicly accessible so no further investigation was possible).

One in a garden in Seabrook on the 28th July was an unusual record and may have bred locally, whilst the family party remained at Samphire Hoe into November, with at least until the end of the year. Elsewhere in autumn, two were seen at Hythe on the 3rd October and singles were at Abbotscliffe on the 10th October and Hythe Ranges on the 16th October, whilst in November there was one at Sandgate on the 6th, a small arrival on the 12th (with singles at Hythe, Mill Point and Abbotscliffe), singles (possibly the same individual) at the Willop Outfall and Dymchurch Redoubt on the 19th, one at Folkestone Harbour on the 20th and 25th, one at the Willop Outfall on the 25th and one at Mill Point on the 27th.

Redstart

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Passage migrant, mainly in autumn (A)

There were no sightings in spring, whilst in autumn there were singles at Hythe Ranges on the 14th August, Abbotscliffe on the 21st August, Church Hougham on the 26th August, Samphire Hoe on the 29th August and 2nd September, and Hythe Ranges on the 11th September. The total of six bird/days was somewhat below the mean for the previous decade of 11 and constituted the worst showing since 2006.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	-	13 th Apr	-	14 th Apr	-	12 th Mar 1960
Departure	11 th Sep	3 rd Sep	8	1 st Oct	-21	27 th Oct 1999

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

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

One was seen at Abbotscliffe on the 5th May, see photograph on page 13.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	5 th May	30 th Apr	5	4 th May	1	11 th Apr 2011
Departure	11 th Oct	21 st Sep	20	4 th Oct	7	10 th Nov 2009

The first of a poor autumn passage was seen at Samphire Hoe on the 9th August, with two at Church Hougham on the 17th August and then singles until two were at Hythe Ranges on the 3rd September, with four at Abbotscliffe on the 5th and four at both Abbotscliffe and Samphire Hoe on the 11th, and with singles again to the 11th October. The autumn bird/day total of 28 was significantly less than the mean for the previous ten years of 60.

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

In the early winter period there were singles at West Hythe dam, Hythe Roughts, Nickolls Quarry and Cheriton Hill, with two at the Willop Basin and up to nine at Samphire Hoe. Two pairs bred at Abbotscliffe, with up to six pairs at Samphire Hoe, and a pair may have bred at Hythe Ranges, where a male was seen in spring and five were present in August. Post-breeding numbers peaked at 19 at Samphire Hoe and 23 at Abbotscliffe in September.

In addition to birds at breeding sites, in the late winter period there was one near Newbeach Holiday Park, two at the Willop Basin and Church Hougham, three at Nickolls Quarry and Creteway Down, and four at Donkey Street, Hythe Ranges and in the Folks' Wood/Pedlinge area.



Black Redstart at Willop Sewage Works (Brian Harper)



Whinchat at Abbotscliffe (Elliot Ranford)

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

In marked contrast to last year (which saw the earliest ever record) the first was not until the 29th March, when one was seen at Samphire Hoe, which was the latest arrival date since 2009. Spring passage was light, with 18 in April and ten in May, with peak counts of four at Samphire Hoe on the 12th April and three there on the 26th April. See photograph on page 11.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference +/-	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021				
Arrival	29 th Mar	24 th Feb	33	16 th Mar	13	24 th Feb 2021
Departure	25 th Oct	5 th Nov	-11	31 st Oct	-7	4 th Dec 2016

Autumn passage was noted from the 3rd August, when two were noted at Samphire Hoe, and there were counts there of five there on the 4th and 9th August, and six on there on the 13th August. September generally produced ones and twos, apart from a significant arrival on the 3rd, when three were at Copt Point and 22 at Hythe Ranges. The only sightings in October involved one at Folkestone Harbour on the 3rd and the last, at Samphire Hoe, on the 25th.

Declining breeding resident (A)

There were no counts of note.



Stonechat at Hythe Roughs (Brian Harper)



Wheatear at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

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

There were nine seen between Botolph's Bridge and Donkey Street, with up to three noted intermittently until early March. In the late winter period up to six were again present in the same area from the 5th November. Elsewhere there up to four at Abbotscliffe in December.

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.

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (A)

The first, one seen arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 13th April, was relatively late but was quickly followed by one seen flying over the Willop Outfall the next day, whilst another migrant was at Samphire one the 18th April before the breeding pair had returned to the Hoorne's Sewer area by the 23rd April. Further migrants were noted at Abbotscliffe on the 2nd, 5th and 16th May, and 1st June.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	13 th Apr	2 nd Apr	11	7 th Apr	6	21 st Mar 2018
Departure	21 st Sep	20 th Sep	1	2 nd Oct	-12	20 th Oct 1984

Small numbers of returning migrants were noted at coastal sites from the 8th August with larger counts of 13 flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 25th August and 16 flying west there on the 5th September.

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Breeding resident and passage migrant (A)

Small numbers were present at various sites in the early winter period, including the Willop Sewage Works, the Aldergate Bridge, West Hythe dam, Nickolls Quarry, Enbrook Park and Samphire Hoe. The only sign of spring passage involved one flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 2nd April. Several pairs were thought to have bred again. A light autumn passage was noted between early September and late October, involving ones and twos at coastal sites, with larger counts of three flying south at Hythe Ranges on the 11th September, six flying east over Abbotscliffe on the 15th September and three flying east there the following day.



Tree Sparrow at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)



Grey Wagtail at Willop Sewage Works (Brian Harper)

Pied/White Wagtail

Motacilla alba

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)

The only count of note in the early winter period involved 33 at Botolph's Bridge on the 1st January. A light spring passage was noted in March, with ones and twos noted moving at coastal sites. Autumn passage was also light, although there were larger counts of five flying west at Abbotscliffe on the 8th October and nine flying west there on the 12th October.

No White Wagtails were identified this year.

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

A light spring migration included six flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 5th March and five flying east there on the 2nd April. Autumn passage was noted between September and early November, when counts included 40 flying south at Hythe Ranges on the 11th September, 292 flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 15th September, 130 flying east the following day, 61 flying over there on the 21st September and 57 flying east there on the 4th November.

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn (A)

The only sighting in spring involved one at Abbotscliffe on the 16th May.

Arrival/Departure	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2021	2021	+/-		+/-	
Arrival	16 th May	-	-	25 th Apr	21	26 th Mar 1965
Departure	11 th Sep	20 th Sep	-9	21 st Sep	-10	20 th Oct 2001

A light autumn passage comprised one flying west at Seabrook on the 14th August, singles at Abbotscliffe on the 22nd and 25th August, one flying west at Sandgate on the 10th September and three flying west at Abbotscliffe the following day. The total of eight birds was in line with the mean for the previous decade of 7.4.



Pied Wagtail at Samphire Hoe (David Todd)



Meadow Pipit at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.

In the early winter period there were records from the Willop Outfall, the Folkestone Harbour/Pier area and Samphire Hoe. At least two pairs were thought to have bred at Samphire Hoe and one was seen feeding chicks at Folkestone Warren in mid-June.

In the latter part of the year birds were again present at the Willop Outfall, in the Folkestone Harbour/Pier area, at Copt Point and at Samphire Hoe.

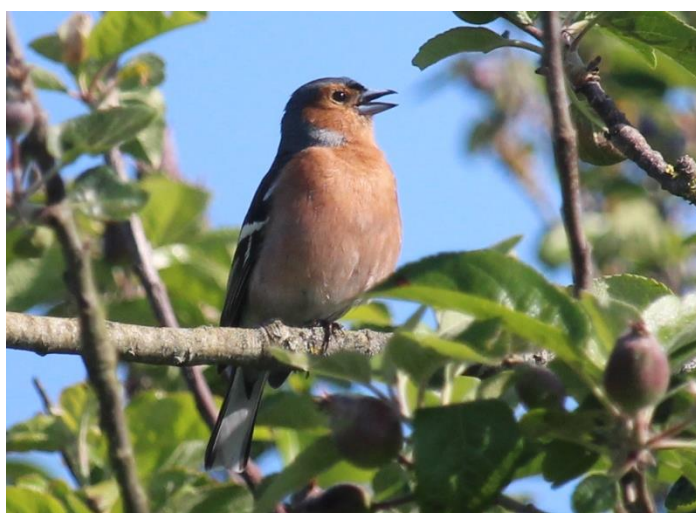
Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The peak count in the early winter period was of 40 at Abbotscliffe on the 21st January. After a good count of 1,125 flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 5th March the remainder of the spring passage was modest, with just four further three-figure counts: 337 east at Seabrook on the 15th March, 188 east there on the 25th March, 462 east at Mill Point on the 29th March and 206 east at Abbotscliffe on the 2nd April. The total of around 2,500 was significantly below the mean for the previous decade of over 7,850.

Autumn passage was again very poor, with peak counts of just 28 arriving in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 28th September and 30 in off the sea there on the 19th November. In the late winter period there were up to 40 at Kick Hill in late November into December.



Rock Pipit at Folkestone Warren (Martin Casemore)



Chaffinch at Capel-le-Ferne (Tony Poole)

Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The only spring records involved one flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 5th March and one seen in a garden in Lympe the following day.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Departure	6 th Mar	25 th Mar	-19	31 st Mar	-25	23 rd Apr 1958
Arrival	19 th Sep	11 th Oct	-22	13 th Oct	-24	19 th Sep 2022

In autumn one flew in off the sea at Round Down on the 19th September (the earliest ever arrival date), three were seen at Shrine Farm on the 22nd October, two flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 4th November and two flew west there on the 14th November. There were three records from the late winter period: one at Kick Hill from the 21st November to the 8th December, one between Folks' Wood and Pedlinge on the 30th November and one at Kiln Wood on the 17th December.



Brambling at Round Down (Jamie Partridge)



Brambling at Kick Hill (Brian Harper)

Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
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Rare migrant and winter visitor (A) (22, 1)

One was seen in a garden in at Ingles Manor at Folkestone on the 17th April (C. & J. Tomlinson). This was only the 23rd record but there have now been nine sightings in the last six years.

Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
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Breeding resident (A)

There were records of resident birds from numerous sites.

Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
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Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant, having declined in recent years (A)

Numbers remain low. There were no indications of spring passage but in autumn six were seen arriving in off the sea at Sandgate on the 15th September.



Hawfinch at Folkestone (John Tomlinson)



Greenfinch at Folkestone Downs (Tony Poole)

Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
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Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, less common in winter (A)

In the early winter period counts included 20 at the Willop Sewage Works, 20 at Botolph's Bridge, 18 at Hythe Ranges, 25 at Nickolls Quarry and 40 at Abbotscliffe.

There were no indications of spring passage but in autumn 30 flew west at Abbotscliffe on the 8th October and 25 flew east there on the 4th November. In the late winter period counts included 45 at Hythe Ranges in December.

Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>
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Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

The only spring record was of one at Samphire Hoe on the 18th April.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Departure	18 th Apr	26 th May	-38	4 th May	-17	30 th May 2018
Arrival	11 th Oct	11 th Oct	0	7 th Oct	4	2 nd Sep 2001

A light autumn passage was noted between the 11th October and 18th November, with the only double-figure count being 20 flying east at Abbotscliffe on the 4th November.

Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
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Passage migrant, with occasional summer irruptions, rare in winter (A)

The only record involved 12 seen at Lympne Castle on the 22nd August. Another poor year.

Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
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Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, widespread but less common in winter (A)

There were no counts in spring, whilst autumn passage was modest, with peak counts of 103 at Abbotscliffe on the 3rd October, 430 flying east there on the 12th October and 358 flying east there on the 4th November.

Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
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Winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

In the early winter period there were 39 in the Cock Ash Lake/Horton Priory area and 79 at Chesterfield Wood. Spring passage was noted mainly in March and counts included 37 flying east at Seabrook on the 15th March, 33 east at Samphire Hoe the next day, 137 east at Seabrook on the 20th March, 56 east there on the 25th March, 92 east there on the 26th March and 44 east at Mill Point on the 29th March. Small numbers were then noted until the 17th May. The spring passage total of around 470 birds was the best since 2016.

Departure/Arrival	Date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest/Latest ever
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Departure	17 th May	12 th Apr	35	16 th Apr*	31	29 th May 2000*
Arrival	11 th Sep	7 th Oct	-26	19 th Sep*	-8	2 nd Sep 1997*

Autumn passage, in contrast, was poor again, with the only double-figure counts comprising 30 in off the sea at Abbotscliffe on the 14th October and 60 east there on the 4th November.



Linnet at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Siskin at Palmarsh (Brian Harper)

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

One remained at Folkestone Harbour from the 21st December 2021 until the 9th January, see photograph on page 6. In the late winter period singles flew east at Abbotscliffe on the 4th November and west there on the 19th November, whilst one was seen on the ground there on the 9th December.



Snow Bunting at Folkestone Harbour (Ross Newham)



Snow Bunting at Folkestone Harbour (Brian Harper)

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

The flock of 32 recorded at Botolph's Bridge in December 2021 remained into the early winter period and increased to an excellent peak of 20 on the 23rd January, which was the largest count since November 2016. Good numbers remained into February and March, and 27 were still present in late March but birds then soon dispersed.

Territorial males were present at Donkey Street, the Aldington Road and Shrine Farm, with three at Abbotscliffe. In the later winter period there were up to six at Abbotscliffe in November/December and a peak of 23 at Botolph's Bridge on the 10th November.

Breeding resident (A)

In the early winter period there were counts of 19 at Pent Farm, 30 at Botolph's Bridge and 32 at Abbotscliffe, whilst the late winter period saw peaks of 25 at Botolph's Bridge, 46 at Abbotscliffe and 80 between Folks' Wood and Pedlinge. At Samphire Hoe where the species is unusual one was seen on the 10th April.

Breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant (A)

There were no counts of note from the early winter period, whilst the only sign of spring passage involved one at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd March. Autumn passage was mainly logged at Abbotscliffe in September and October, with counts of 16 there on the 28th September and 11 on the 12th October, whilst several birds were seen moving west during this period. Elsewhere two flew west at Hythe Ranges on the 16th October.



Corn Bunting at Willop Sewage Works (Brian Harper)



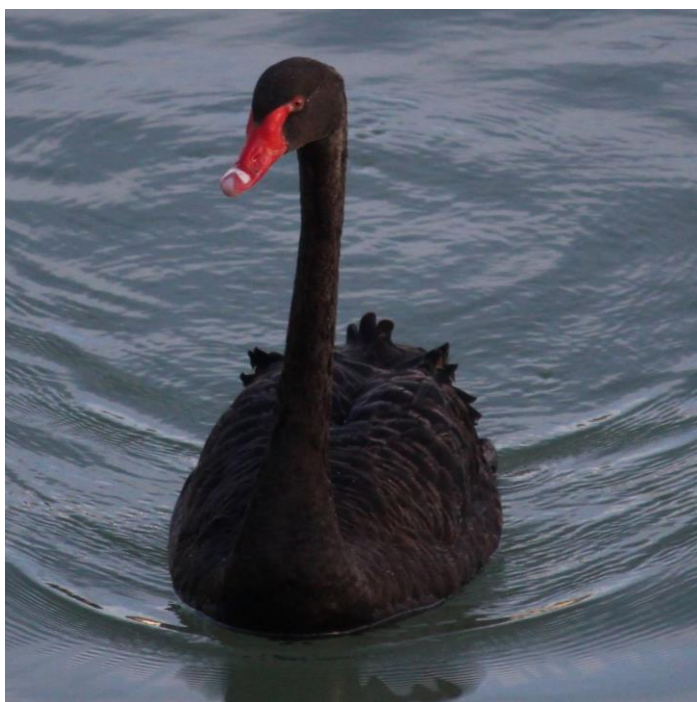
Yellowhammer at Burmarsh (Brian Harper)

Category E species

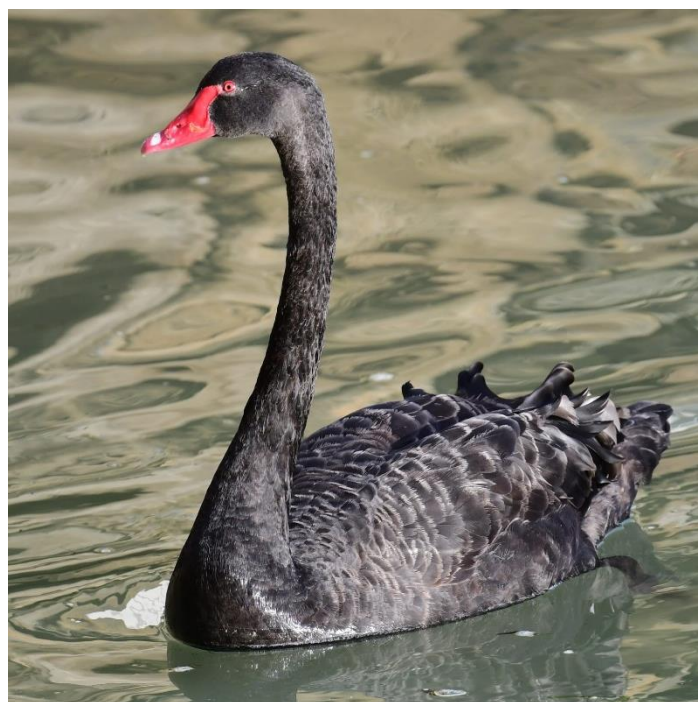
Black Swan

Cygnus atratus

One was seen in Folkestone Harbour on the 22nd October. Around 20 pairs are thought to nest annually in Britain (including two pairs in Kent: at Leeds Castle and Chilham) but this population is not considered to be self-sustaining (Holling *et al.* 2017).



Black Swan at Folkestone Harbour (Tony Poole)



Black Swan at Folkestone Harbour (Mike Fitch)

Up to two of captive origin remained at Cock Ash Lake throughout the year.

Two were seen near Little Dane Farm on Elvington Lane, south of Hawkinge on the 26th April.

The semi-feral flock of up to eight that originate from Saltwood Castle continued to wander into the Saltwood area.

A flock of 22 that no doubt originated from the introduction scheme at Knepp Wildland in Sussex were seen passing west over Samphire Hoe, Castle Hill, Cheriton and Sandgate on the 16th August, see photograph on page 16.



Muscovy Duck at Cock Ash Lake (Tony Poole)



White Stork at Cheriton (Mike Linklater)



White Stork at Cheriton (Mike Linklater)



Harris's Hawk at Kick Hill (Brian Harper)

One seen flying over Port Lympne on the 23rd March had originated from the Isle of Wight reintroduction programme and seems likely to have been the same individual that was seen at Kingsdown and Sandwich Bay the following day. This male (ringed as G463) was also seen locally last year, when it arrived in off the sea at Samphire Hoe (having departed at Dover and travelled almost 7km into the Channel) on the 5th April and also passed south-west through the area the following day. These birds are included in category E as this population is not yet self-sustaining.

One was seen in the Kick Hill area on several dates between the 13th and 30th November.



White Storks at Cheriton (Mike Linklater)

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 7 species but later for 17 species, with one arriving on the same date. The arrival date of Little Tern was of particular note, as it equalled the earliest ever.

Arrival dates of summer migrants

Species	Arrival date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest ever arrival
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Swift	28 th Apr	22 nd Apr	6	23 rd Apr	5	18 th Apr 2015
Cuckoo	1 st May	25 th Apr	6	20 th Apr	10	27 th Mar 2001
Turtle Dove	22 nd May	5 th May	17	24 th May	-2	10 th Apr 1993
Whimbrel	11 th Apr	29 th Mar	13	10 th Apr	1	25 th Mar 2011
Common Sandpiper	23 rd Apr	28 th Apr	-5	17 th Apr	6	4 th Mar 2013*
Sandwich Tern	22 nd Mar	4 th Mar	18	14 th Mar	8	2 nd Mar 2019
Little Tern	11 th Apr	28 th Apr	-17	26 th Apr	-15	11 th Apr 2016
Common Tern	11 th Apr	10 th Apr	1	6 th Apr	5	29 th Mar 2020
Arctic Skua	16 th Mar	19 th Apr	-34	13 th Apr	-28	14 th Mar 2016*
Honey Buzzard	14 th Jun	-	-	24 th May	21	3 rd May 2013
Hobby	20 th Apr	29 th Apr	-9	26 th Apr	-6	9 th Apr 1998
Sand Martin	25 th Apr	28 th Mar	28	30 th Mar	26	5 th Mar 1995
Swallow	2 nd Apr	28 th Mar	5	24 th Mar	9	2 nd Mar 2019
House Martin	4 th Apr	29 th Mar	6	5 th Apr	-1	7 th Feb 2004
Willow Warbler	8 th Apr	16 th Apr	-8	7 th Apr	1	26 th Mar 1960
Sedge Warbler	14 th Apr	6 th Apr	8	8 th Apr	6	1 st Apr 2017
Reed Warbler	14 th Apr	17 th Apr	-3	11 th Apr	3	3 rd Apr 2016
Garden Warbler	30 th Apr	8 th May	-8	27 th Apr	3	10 th Apr 2001
Lesser Whitethroat	24 th Apr	20 th Apr	4	16 th Apr	8	8 th Apr 2007
Whitethroat	13 th Apr	31 st Mar	13	9 th Apr	4	30 th Mar 2002
Ring Ouzel	11 th Apr	11 th Apr	0	13 th Apr	-2	9 th Mar 1997*
Spotted Flycatcher	19 th May	5 th May	14	12 th May	7	19 th Apr 1961
Nightingale	29 th Apr	20 th Apr	9	22 nd Apr	6	10 th Apr 1981
Redstart	-	13 th Apr	-	15 th Apr	-	12 th Mar 1960
Whinchat	5 th May	30 th Apr	5	4 th May	1	11 th Apr 2011
Wheatear	29 th Mar	24 th Feb	33	16 th Mar	13	24 th Feb 2021
Yellow Wagtail	13 th Apr	2 nd Apr	11	7 th Apr	6	21 st Mar 2018
Tree Pipit	16 th May	-	-	25 th Apr	21	26 th Mar 1965

Departures of summer migrants were earlier for 11 species and later for 13. The latest ever Sand Martin and second latest Sandwich Tern were of particular note.

Departure dates of summer migrants

Species	Departure date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Latest ever departure
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Swift	20 th Sep	6 th Oct	-16	18 th Sep	2	16 th Nov 1957
Cuckoo	10 th Sep	27 th Aug	14	26 th Jul	45	28 th Sep 1969
Turtle Dove	22 nd Jul	-	-	4 th Aug	-14	24 th Oct 1981*
Whimbrel	1 st Aug	25 th Aug	-24	1 st Sep	-31	12 th Nov 2013
Common Sandpiper	10 th Sep	7 th Sep	3	23 rd Sep*	-13	Several wintered
Sandwich Tern	26 th Dec	6 th Dec	20	30 th Oct	57	27 th Dec 1955
Little Tern	-	-	-	-	-	16 th Sep 1999
Common Tern	19 th Oct	5 th Oct	14	27 th Sep	22	30 th Oct 2007
Arctic Skua	13 th Oct	18 th Oct	-5	21 st Oct	-8	2 nd Dec 2020
Honey Buzzard	27 th Jul	24 th Aug	-28	27 th Aug	-32	15 th Oct 1995
Hobby	3 rd Oct	27 th Oct	-24	4 th Oct	-1	27 th Oct 2021
Sand Martin	17 th Nov	6 th Oct	42	10 th Oct	38	4 th Nov 1963
Swallow	4 th Dec	13 th Nov	21	16 th Nov	18	8 th Dec 1955
House Martin	25 th Nov	6 th Oct	50	1 st Nov	24	2 nd Dec 1974
Willow Warbler	20 th Sep	7 th Sep	13	21 st Sep	-1	19 th Oct 1986
Sedge Warbler	24 th Aug	1 st Sep	-8	20 th Sep	-27	15 th Oct 1996
Reed Warbler	22 nd Aug	30 th Aug	-8	24 th Sep	-33	24 th Nov 2018
Garden Warbler	5 th Sep	30 th Aug	6	4 th Sep	1	6 th Nov 1981
Lesser Whitethroat	21 st Sep	9 th Oct	-18	2 nd Oct	-11	3 rd Nov 1994
Whitethroat	15 th Sep	8 th Oct	-23	4 th Oct	-20	19 th Oct 2016
Ring Ouzel	5 th Nov	5 th Nov	0	7 th Nov	-2	26 th Nov 2005*
Spotted Flycatcher	6 th Oct	12 th Sep	24	25 th Sep	11	11 th Oct 1999
Nightingale	-	-	-	-	-	20 th Aug 2000
Redstart	11 th Sep	3 rd Sep	8	1 st Oct	-21	27 th Oct 1999
Whinchat	11 th Oct	21 st Sep	20	4 th Oct	7	10 th Nov 2009
Wheatear	25 th Oct	5 th Nov	-11	31 st Oct	-7	4 th Dec 2016
Yellow Wagtail	21 st Sep	20 th Sep	1	3 rd Oct	-12	20 th Oct 1984
Tree Pipit	11 th Sep	20 th Sep	-9	21 st Sep	-10	20 th Oct 2001

Five winter visitors departed earlier than last year and three were later. In autumn three species arrived earlier, two later and two on the same date last year. The earliest ever Brambling was particularly noteworthy.

Departure dates of winter migrants

Species	Departure date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Latest ever departure
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Brent Goose	8 th May	9 th May	-1	7 th May*	3	26 th May 1997*
Purple Sandpiper	21 st Mar	27 th Apr	-37	5 th May	-8	20 th May 1987
Red-throated Diver	9 th May	3 rd May	6	8 th May	-5	6 th June 2006
Fieldfare	29 th Mar	24 th Apr	-26	20 th Apr	6	5 th Jun 2016
Redwing	15 th Apr	24 th Mar	22	6 th Apr	-14	4 th May 1981
Brambling	6 th Mar	25 th Mar	-19	31 st Mar	-7	23 rd Apr 1958
Lesser Redpoll	18 th Apr	26 th May	-38	4 th May	-17	30 th May 2018
Siskin	17 th May	12 th Apr	35	16 th Apr*	31	29 th May 2000*

Arrival dates of winter migrants

Species	Arrival date		Difference	Prev. ten year mean	Difference	Earliest ever arrival
	2022	2021	+/-		+/-	
Brent Goose	7 th Sep	19 th Sep	-12	21 st Sep*	-15	1 st Sep 2008*
Purple Sandpiper	-	31 st Oct	-	31 st Oct	-	30 th Sep 1984
Red-throated Diver	22 nd Sep	17 th Sep	5	28 th Sep	-7	7 th Sep 1997
Fieldfare	20 th Oct	13 th Oct	7	12 th Oct	8	21 st Sep 2018
Redwing	10 th Oct	10 th Oct	0	3 rd Oct	7	7 th Sep 2016
Brambling	19 th Sep	11 th Oct	-22	13 th Oct	-24	19 th Sep 2022
Lesser Redpoll	11 th Oct	11 th Oct	0	7 th Oct	4	2 nd Sep 2001
Siskin	11 th Sep	7 th Oct	-26	19 th Sep*	-8	2 nd Sep 1997*



Honey Buzzard at Samphire Hoe (Michael Smith)

Year list

January

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

52	Great Tit	1 st Jan
53	Skylark	1 st Jan
54	Cetti's Warbler	1 st Jan
55	Long-tailed Tit	1 st Jan
56	Chiffchaff	1 st Jan
57	Wren	1 st Jan
58	Treecreeper	1 st Jan
59	Starling	1 st Jan
60	Blackbird	1 st Jan
61	Redwing	1 st Jan
62	Song Thrush	1 st Jan
63	Mistle Thrush	1 st Jan
64	Robin	1 st Jan
65	Stonechat	1 st Jan
66	House Sparrow	1 st Jan
67	Tree Sparrow	1 st Jan
68	Dunnock	1 st Jan
69	Grey Wagtail	1 st Jan
70	Pied Wagtail	1 st Jan
71	Meadow Pipit	1 st Jan
72	Chaffinch	1 st Jan
73	Linnet	1 st Jan
74	Goldfinch	1 st Jan
75	Corn Bunting	1 st Jan
76	Yellowhammer	1 st Jan
77	Reed Bunting	1 st Jan
78	Ringed Plover	2 nd Jan
79	Turnstone	2 nd Jan
80	Purple Sandpiper	2 nd Jan
81	Redshank	2 nd Jan
82	Kittiwake	2 nd Jan
83	Glaucous Gull	2 nd Jan
84	Fulmar	2 nd Jan
85	Shag	2 nd Jan
86	Marsh Tit	2 nd Jan
87	Blackcap	2 nd Jan
88	Goldcrest	2 nd Jan
89	Nuthatch	2 nd Jan
90	Rock Pipit	2 nd Jan
91	Snow Bunting	2 nd Jan
92	Goosander	3 rd Jan
93	Fieldfare	3 rd Jan
94	Black Redstart	3 rd Jan
95	Green Woodpecker	4 th Jan
96	Greenfinch	4 th Jan
97	Tufted Duck	5 th Jan
98	Oystercatcher	5 th Jan
99	Sanderling	5 th Jan
100	Woodcock	5 th Jan
101	Jay	5 th Jan
102	Firecrest	5 th Jan
103	Siskin	5 th Jan
104	Red-legged Partridge	6 th Jan
105	Marsh Harrier	6 th Jan
106	Barn Owl	6 th Jan

107	Bullfinch	7 th Jan
108	Mandarin Duck	9 th Jan
109	Dartford Warbler	9 th Jan
110	Great Northern Diver	10 th Jan
111	Shelduck	18 th Jan
112	Little Owl	18 th Jan
113	Pink-footed Goose	22 nd Jan
114	Goldeneye	22 nd Jan
115	Green Sandpiper	23 rd Jan
116	Merlin	23 rd Jan
117	Scaup	26 th Jan

February

118	Tawny Owl	11 th Feb
119	Curlew	12 th Feb
120	Long-eared Owl	14 th Feb
121	Lesser Black-backed Gull	18 th Feb
122	Little Gull	19 th Feb
123	Grey Partridge	21 st Feb

March

124	Red-breasted Merganser	5 th Mar
125	Brambling	5 th Mar
126	Bar-tailed Godwit	6 th Mar
127	Pintail	7 th Mar
128	Red Kite	8 th Mar
129	Black-necked Grebe	9 th Mar
130	Glossy Ibis	12 th Mar
131	Eider	13 th Mar
132	Arctic Skua	16 th Mar
133	Little Ringed Plover	20 th Mar
134	Sandwich Tern	23 rd Mar
135	Dunlin	29 th Mar
136	Wheatear	29 th Mar

April

137	Swallow	2 nd Apr
138	House Martin	4 th Apr
139	Willow Warbler	8 th Apr
140	Whimbrel	11 th Apr
141	Little Tern	11 th Apr
142	Common Tern	11 th Apr
143	Ring Ouzel	11 th Apr
144	Whitethroat	13 th Apr
145	Yellow Wagtail	13 th Apr
146	Sedge Warbler	14 th Apr
147	Reed Warbler	14 th Apr
148	Egyptian Goose	16 th Apr
159	Hawfinch	17 th Apr
150	Lesser Redpoll	18 th Apr
151	Hobby	20 th Apr
152	Grey Plover	22 nd Apr

153	Greenshank	22 nd Apr
154	Hen Harrier	22 nd Apr
155	Common Sandpiper	23 rd Apr
156	Lesser Whitethroat	24 th Apr
157	Sand Martin	25 th Apr
158	Swift	28 th Apr
159	Great Skua	29 th Apr
160	Nightingale	29 th Apr
161	Garden Warbler	30 th Apr

May

162	Cuckoo	1 st May
163	Whinchat	5 th May
164	Pomarine Skua	9 th May
165	Hoopoe	14 th May
166	Tree Pipit	16 th May
167	Osprey	17 th May
168	Golden Oriole	19 th May
169	Spotted Flycatcher	19 th May
170	Turtle Dove	22 nd May
171	Black-winged Stilt	23 rd May

June

172	Marsh Warbler	1 st Jun
173	Honey Buzzard	14 th Jun

August

174	Redstart	14 th Aug
175	Grasshopper Warbler	17 th Aug
176	Pied Flycatcher	19 th Aug
177	Crossbill	22 nd Aug

September

178	Balearic Shearwater	7 th Sep
179	Red-backed Shrike	7 th Sep
180	Purple Heron	10 th Sep
181	Caspian Gull	21 st Sep
182	Ring-necked Parakeet	26 th Sep

October

183	Yellow-legged Gull	1 st Oct
184	Velvet Scoter	22 nd Oct
185	Woodlark	23 rd Oct

November

186	Sabine's Gull	3 rd Nov
187	Arctic Tern	3 rd Nov
188	Sooty Shearwater	3 rd Nov
189	Short-eared Owl	3 rd Nov

190	Yellow-browed Warbler	5 th Nov
191	Cattle Egret	10 th Nov
192	White-fronted Goose	18 th Nov
193	Barnacle Goose	20 th Nov
194	Little Auk	20 th Nov
195	Black-throated Diver	21 st Nov
196	Bearded Tit	22 nd Nov

December

197	Rough-legged Buzzard	14 th Dec
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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 Norwegian-ringed Great Black-backed Gull, a German-ringed Caspian Gull, a Swiss-ringed Yellow-legged Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gulls ringed in Germany, the Netherlands and Spain.

A large number of Mediterranean Gull rings were again read in 2022, with birds having been ringed in 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 very grateful to Chris Powell for passing on details of all of the large gulls.

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.

Great Black-backed Gull					<i>Larus marinus</i>
-	Ringed	20 Jul 2022	Juvenile (1CY)	Vest-Agder, Norway	
Black J47CH	Read in field	21 Sep 2022	First-winter (1CY)	Sandgate	860km SSW
Caspian Gull					<i>Larus cachinnans</i>
-	Ringed	12 Jun 2022	Juvenile (1CY)	Berlin, Germany	
Yellow X2LJ	Read in field	26 Sep 2022	First-winter (1CY)	Sandgate	860km WSW
Yellow-legged Gull					<i>Larus michahellis</i>
-	Ringed	01 Jun 2022	Juvenile (1CY)	Lake Neuchâtel, Switzerland	
Yellow HB161	Read in field	01 Oct 2022	First-winter (1CY)	Sandgate	620km NW
Lesser Black-backed Gull					<i>Larus fuscus</i>
-	Ringed	27 Jul 2022	Juvenile (1CY)	Texel, Netherlands	
Green K.DVC	Read in field	21 Sep 2022	First-winter (1CY)	Sandgate	340km SW
-	Ringed	11 Jul 2022	Juvenile (1CY)	Heligoland, Germany	
Yellow HN144	Read in field	21 Sep 2022	First-winter (1CY)	Sandgate	575km SW
-	Ringed	31 Mar 2019	Second-winter (2CY)	La Caleta, Malaga, Spain	
White N:3VW	Read in field	26 Sep 2022	Adult (4+CY)	Sandgate	1,665km NNE

Obituary: Roger Keith Norman (1934 - 2022)

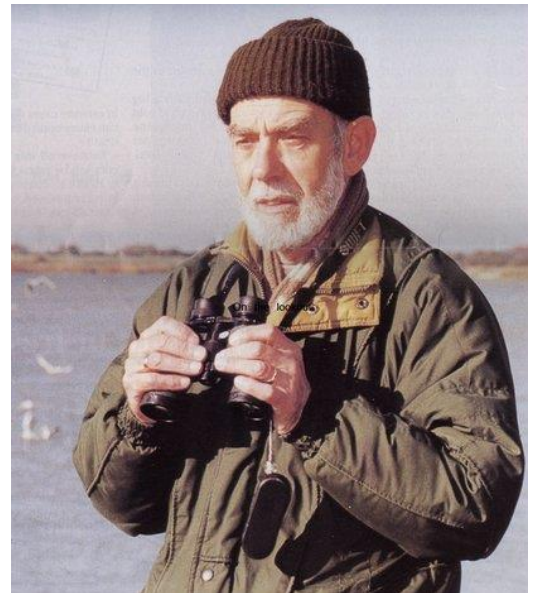
Roger was born on the 1st July 1934 and lived initially at 17 Victoria Avenue in Hythe, but was then evacuated to Pembrokeshire during the Second World War. There he learnt to speak the Welsh language and remained fond of the area, returning much later in life to make reacquaintances with some old school friends.

Returning to Hythe after the war he (probably like many youngsters in the late 1940s) developed an interest in birds from the practice of egg collecting, confined in his case to local parks, woods and gardens around the town. The turning point for Roger came early in 1950 when he was invited to attend an illustrated talk by Roland Green, a bird artist, who promoted the work of the RSPB at that meeting, and this convinced him that he should join and become a birdwatcher instead of an egg-collector. A chance meeting with a birdwatcher from Saltwood in 1949, in which year he also acquired his first bicycle, led to his introduction to the gravel pits at Palmarsh (now known as "Nickolls Quarry") and he started birdwatching there from 1950.

Roger and two other local young birders, Eric Pilcher and Brian Uden, made numerous visits to the gravel pits and were occasionally joined by the local established birdwatchers, William "Tommy" Nevin and George Shannon, although mostly as a response to an alert by one of them regarding a particular unusual wader or grebe. The gravel pits attracted a growing wader list during the 1950s that included the first documented local records of Avocet, Little Ringed Plover, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and Wood Sandpiper, as well as the three scarcer grebes.



Palmarsh gravel pits in 1951



Roger Norman at Palmarsh gravel pits

Roger was a Founder Member of the Kent Ornithological Society, having cycled from Hythe to its inaugural meeting in Canterbury in 1951. In September 1952 he enlisted in the Royal Air Force for five years, half of which (from September 1953 to March 1956) was served abroad on camps in the Middle East, but during the rest of the time he returned home on most weekends and when on leave. While stationed in Egypt and Iraq he became a member of the Fayid Ornithological Club.

In about 1954 he developed the idea of thoroughly working the bushes at Hythe Ranges and planned to put this into practice upon his return to the parental home in Hythe in March 1956. However, he could not visit the area as much as he would have liked during the remainder of that year, especially during the autumn, so it was not until 10th March 1957 that he initiated the "West Hythe Bird Station Journal" - an observatory-style log, no doubt inspired by the recently formed bird observatory at Dungeness - covering much of Hythe Ranges and the Nickolls Quarry area.

He re-enlisted in the RAF in May 1958 for a further five years but all of these were spent at North Cotes (near Cleethorpes in Lincolnshire) and he was able to continue to return home when he could. However, during this second period of service his mother (by then his sole surviving parent) died, and the family home was sold, so when

he left the air force in May 1963 he chose to live in London, where he met his wife Judy, and two years later moved to Cleethorpes, where they had two sons. Here he spent 22 years working at Courtaulds, a major textile producer.

Whilst in Cleethorpes Roger became a member of the Lincolnshire Bird Club and was involved in the founding of Cleethorpes Ringing Group, whilst his interests in ringing led to him becoming the “ringing secretary” of the Tory Island Bird Observatory in County Donegal between 1960 and 1968 and assisting in the running of the Mullet Bird Observatory in County Mayo. In 1989, shortly before leaving Lincolnshire, he had a book on “The Birds Of Cleethorpe’s Shore” published.

After 1963 his visits to the Folkestone and Hythe area had become extremely few but included several family holidays to Kent. Then, following redundancy in 1990, he returned to Kent to live at St. Mary’s Bay and rekindled his interest in Nickolls Quarry and Hythe Ranges, becoming a member of the MOD conservation group and a local BTO 10km steward. In July 1991 Roger found new employment in Hythe, which meant that Nickolls Quarry was on the route to his place of work, and he made ever increasing numbers of visits to the site (reaching a peak of 190 in 1995). A major change in duties and circumstances at his employment resulted in less time available for early morning visits and this was reflected in fewer visits in 1997 and 1998 but his retirement in June 1999 led to increased and lengthier visits thereafter. He also continued to cover Hythe Ranges and wrote accounts of his observations at both locations which can be found on the [website](#) (under the “further information section) and a summary of “The Birds of Palmarsh Gravel Pit” was published in the Kent Bird Report for 2000 (KOS 2002).

His visits decreased in frequency after 2006 due to habitat loss and increasing disturbance at the Nickolls Quarry site and his increasing involvement in surveys elsewhere on Romney Marsh, including studies on Hen and Marsh Harrier roosts. His beloved wife Judy died in 2013 after a long illness and his studies brought him comfort at this difficult time. The Nickolls Quarry site has since continued to be developed and one of the new buildings has been named in his honour: Roger Norman House. His other interests included bees, archaeology, local history and even weathervanes and he was an accomplished poet: a piece he wrote in 2008 with his eventual death in mind is reproduced below.

Roger sadly passed away on the 5th September 2022 after a four-month battle with cancer. He passed peacefully to the sound of birdsong with his sons, Frank and Vic, at his side. He was remembered at a service at Hawkinge Crematorium on the 23rd September.

“When I have been to ash transformed
and in a casket the contained,
there is a task to be performed
which, my friends, is now explained.

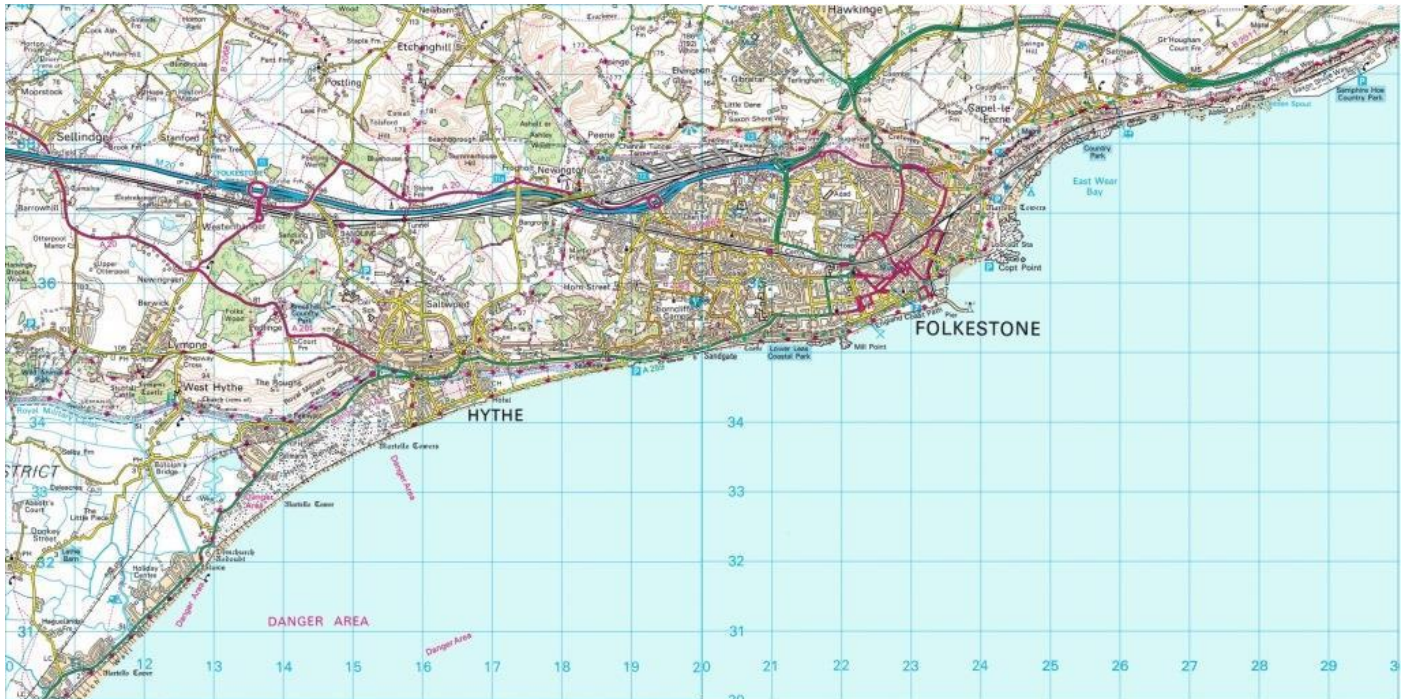
To my resting place I need to be
conveyed with certain dignity
assemble then and carry me
to Walland Marsh, so wild and free.

Avoid those days when strong winds whine
and drag the clouds across the skies
but choose a day of bright sunshine
when gentle zephyr winds arise
to lift and carry when released
my ashes from that casket sealed
until at last their drift has ceased
across the Fleet of Beaconsfield.

When at sunset in a future year
you watch the reedbeds eagerly
for the first Harriers to appear
and settle in the roost; think of me.”

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.

Site	Tetrad
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
Alkham Valley/Canterbury Road junction	TR23 J
American Garden	TR13 N
Atkinson Road (Hawkinge)	TR13 E
Bargrove Wood	TR13 T
Bartholomew's Wood	TR13 N
Battery Point	TR13 X
Beachborough Lakes	TR13 T
Beachborough Park	TR13 U
Blackhouse Shaw	TR13 S
Bluehouse Wood	TR13 N
Botolph's Bridge	TR13 G
Broadmead Road (Folkestone)	TR23 I
Brockhill Country Park	TR13 M
Brockhill School	TR13 M
Capel-le-Ferne	TR23 P
Capel Street	TR23 P
Casebourne Wood	TR13 Y
Castle Hill	TR23 D
Channel Tunnel Terminal	TR13 Y
Cheriton	TR13 Y/TR23 D
Cheriton Hill	TR13 Z
Cherry Garden Reservoirs	TR23 D/TR23 E
Chesterfield Wood	TR13 N
Church Hougham	TR23 U
Cock Ash Lake	TR13 E
Copt Point	TR23 N
Crete Road West	TR23 E
Creteway Down	TR23 J
Dollands Moor	TR13 T
Donkey Street	TR13 B
Dymchurch	TR13 A
Dymchurch Beach	TR13 A
Dymchurch Redoubt	TR13 G (/TR13 F for records on sea)
Earlsfield Road (Hythe)	TR13 S
East Cliff Gardens (Folkestone)	TR23 I

Site	Tetrad
Enbrook Park	TR23 C
Etchinghill	TR13 U
Fisherman's Beach (Hythe)	TR13 L
Folkestone	TR23 C/TR23 D/TR23 H/TR23 I
Folkestone Beach	TR13 H
Folkestone Central	TR23 I
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
Folks' Wood	TR23 H
Foord Road (Folkestone)	TR23 I
Gibbin's Brook	TR13 E
Gibraltar Lane	TR23 E
Golden Valley (Cheriton)	TR23 C/TR23 D
Great Farthingloe	TR23 Z
Grove Road (Folkestone)	TR23 I
Haguelands Farm	TR13 A
Hawkinge	TR23 E
Hayton Lake	TR13 J
Heane Wood	TR13 N
Hillhurst Farm	TR13 I
Holy Well	TR23 J
Honeywood Cottages	TR13 N
Hoorne's Sewer	TR13 B
Horn Street	TR13 X/TR13 Y
Horton Park Lakes	TR13 J
Horton Priory	TR13 E
Hougham Valley	TR23 U
House Wood	TR13 I
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 M/TR13 R/TR13 S
Ingles Manor (Folkestone)	TR23 C
Kick Hill	TR13 T
Kiln Wood	TR13 I
Lathe Barn	TR13 B
Little Dane Farm, Elvington Lane	TR23 E
London Road (Hythe)	TR13 M
Lower Wall Road	TR13 B
Lympne	TR13 H
Lympne (Berwick Cross)	TR13 H
Lympne (Shepway Cross)	TR13 H

Site	Tetrad
Lympne Castle	TR13 C
Lympne Church	TR13 C
Lympne former airfield	TR13 C
Lympne Park Wood	TR13 C/TR13 H
M20 junction 11	TR13 I
Marine Avenue (Dymchurch)	TR13 A
Marine Parade (Folkestone)	TR23 H
Mill Point	TR23 C/TR23 H
Newbeach Holiday Park	TR13 A/TR13 F
Newington	TR13 Y
Nickolls Quarry	TR13 G
Palmarsh	TR13 G
Paraker Wood	TR13 X
Park Farm/Park Farm Industrial Estate	TR23 D/TR23 I
Pedlinge	TR13 H
Peene	TR13 Y
Pennypot	TR13 M
Pent Farm	TR13 J/TR13 P
Port Lympne (Reserve)	TR13 C
Postling	TR13 P
Postling Wents	TR13 N
Princes Parade	TR13 S/TR13 X
Radnor Park	TR23 I
Rose Cottage (Burmarsh Road)	TR13 G
Round Down	TR23 Z
Saltwood	TR13 M
Saltwood Castle	TR13 S
Saltwood Reservoir	TR13 S
Samphire Hoe	TR23 Z
Sandgate	TR13 X/TR23 C
Sandling Station	TR13 N
Seabrook	TR13 X
Selby Farm	TR13 B
Sellindge	TR13 E
Shorncliffe Camp	TR13 Y
Shrine Farm	TR13 N
Smeeds Farm	TR13 E
Stade Street (Hythe)	TR13 S
Stanford Lake	TR13 E/TR13 J
Stone Farm	TR13 N
St Hilda's Road (Hythe)	TR13 M
Summerhouse Hill	TR13 T
The Durlocks (Folkestone)	TR23 I
The Little Piece (Donkey Street)	TR13 B
The Plough	TR23 U
The Ridgeway	TR13 H

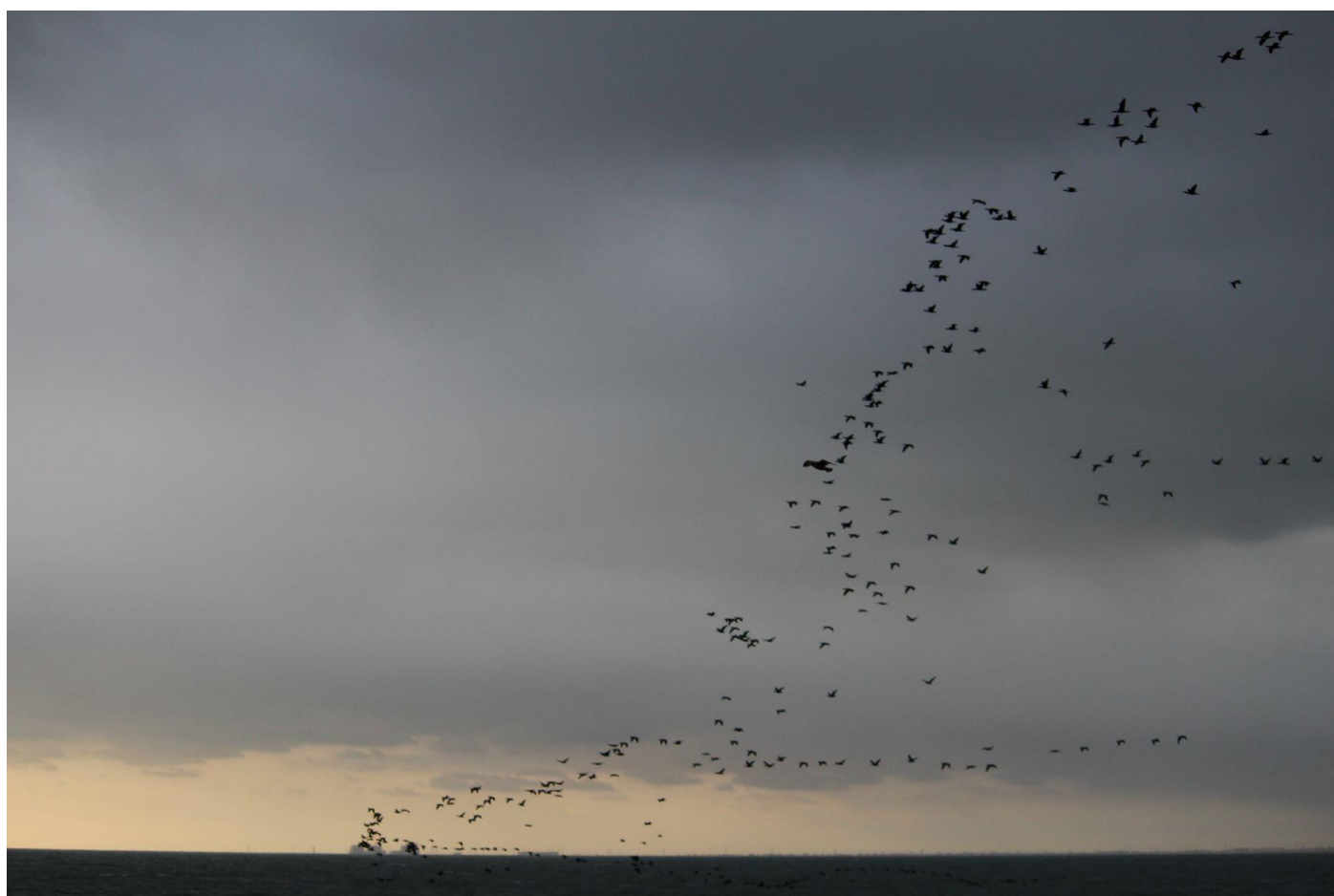
Site	Tetrad
Thorn Wood	TR13 N
Twiss Road (Hythe)	TR13 S
West Hythe	TR13 H
West Hythe dam	TR13 C
Willop Basin	TR13 A
Willop Outfall	TR13 A
Willop Sewer	TR13 A/TR13B
Willop Sewage Works	TR13 A/TR13 B
Wingate Hill	TR23 I
Wood Avenue (Folkestone)	TR23 I
Woodside Farm Pond (near Postling Wents)	TR13 N/TR13 P
Vicarage Farm (Postling)	TR13 P



Little Gull at Princes Parade (Brian Harper)

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Cormorants at Princes Parade (Tony Poole)