

Thrush Nightingale

Luscinia luscinia

Category A

Very rare vagrant.

1 record

World/British distribution (Snow & Perrins 1998):

Breeds in central and eastern Europe from southern Scandinavia and the Baltic states to Romania and Ukraine, and eastwards through temperate Russia to southern Siberia. Winters in eastern Africa, largely south of the equator. It extended its range west and north during the twentieth century and first bred in the Netherlands in 1995. Germany, Poland and Fenno-Scandia have all seen recent increases and a spread to the south-west.

Kent status (KOS 2021):

Rare vagrant.

British (BBRC) records to end 2020: 228

Kent (KOS) records to end 2020: 6

After a steady increase in national records between 1950 and 1970, numbers since have been relatively constant with an average of between 4 and 5 per annum. The year that produced the sole area record (2008), also saw a record influx of 14 into Britain (BBRC, no date).

There had been six previous county records, with the first in 1968 and the others between 1988 and 1994. The first Kent record occurred in August, but all subsequent records have been in late spring, between 11th May and 9th June (KOS no date).

The only local record involved one that was heard singing from an area of dense woodland near Saltwood Castle by Sean McMinn on the 9th June 2008. The bird could not be seen but was tape-recorded.

The record by year is shown in figure 1.

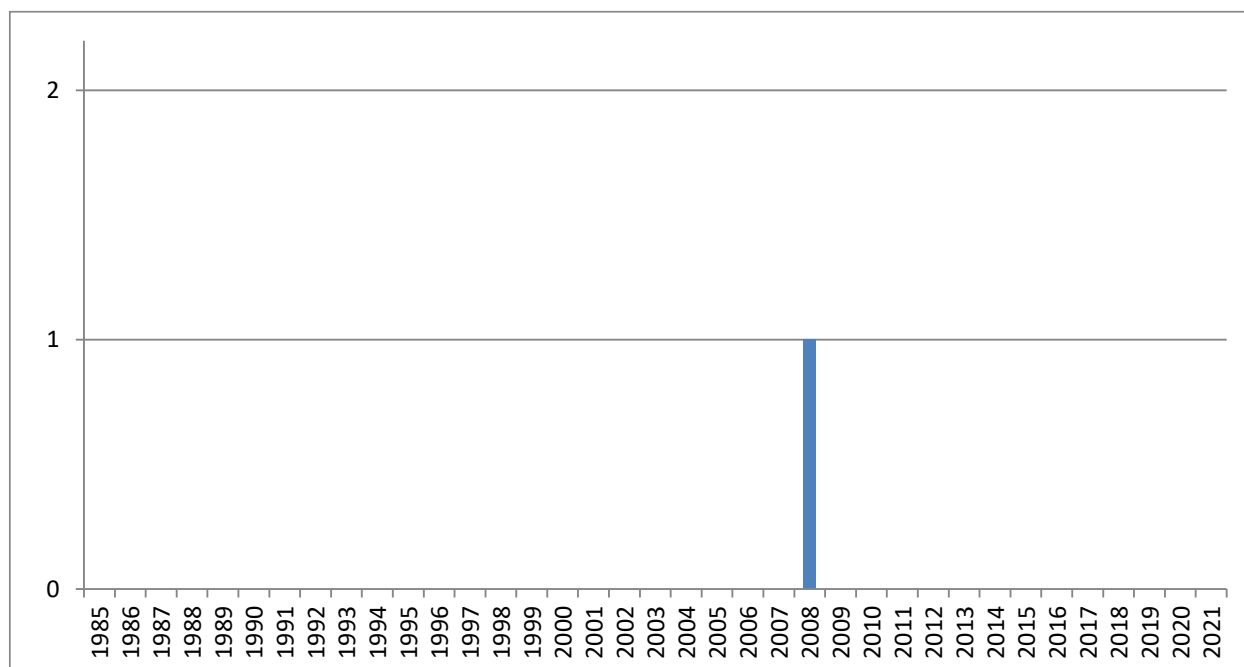


Figure 1: Thrush Nightingale records at Folkestone and Hythe

The record by week is given in figure 2.

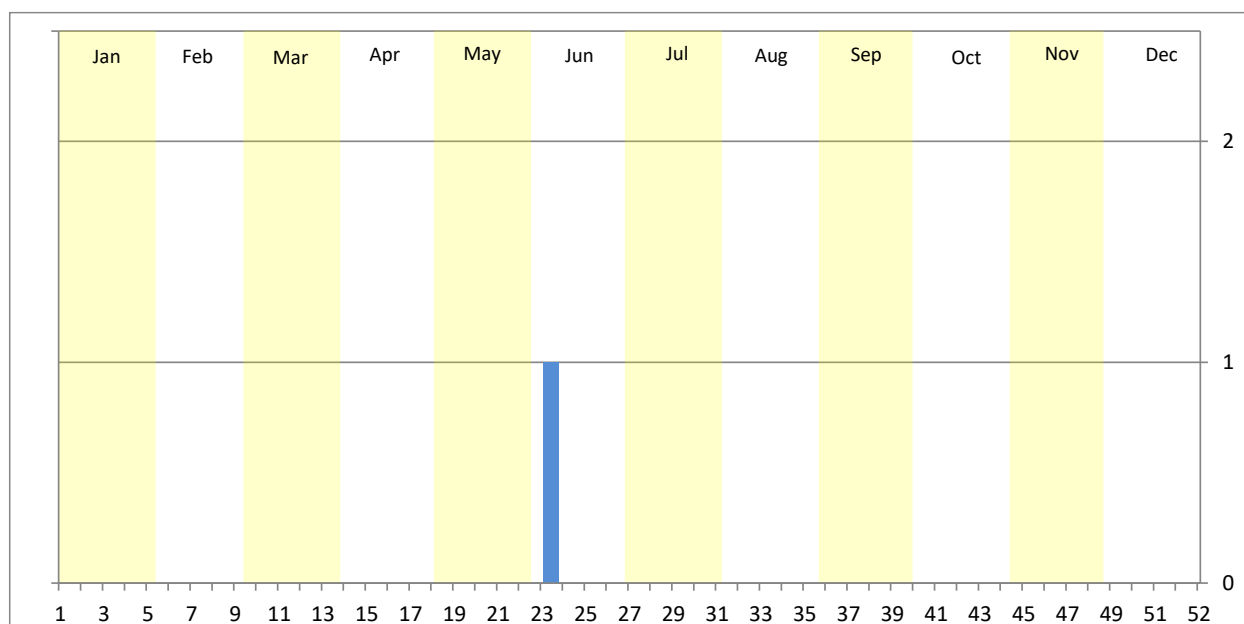


Figure 2: Thrush Nightingale records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the location of the record by tetrad.



Figure 3: Distribution of all Thrush Nightingale records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

Confirmation of the only area record is as follows:

2008 Saltwood, male in song, 9th June, sound recorded (S. McMinn).

References

British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Statistics. www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information/statistics (accessed 2021).

Kent Ornithological Society (KOS). 1953-2021. *Kent Bird Reports*. Kent Ornithological Society.

Kent Ornithological Society (KOS). The Kent List. <https://kentos.org.uk/index.php/recording/the-kent-list> (accessed 2021).

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

Acknowledgements

The tetrad map images were produced from the Ordnance Survey [Get-a-map service](#) and are reproduced with kind permission of [Ordnance Survey](#).