

# Egyptian Goose

*Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Category C1

Rare passage migrant.

25 records

Breeds ferally in England (originally in East Anglia), having been imported into the country as early as the seventeenth century, and also in Belgium and the Netherlands, with a few pairs in France (Snow & Perrins, 1998).

Ticehurst (1909) mentioned that numerous examples of this species had been shot in Kent, presumably almost all escapes from captivity and Harrison (1953) added another from 1937.



Egyptian Geese at the Willop Basin (Ian Roberts)

Taylor *et al.* (1981) stated that it had been recorded annually in the county since 1970, with the first summering pairs in 1975. The majority were thought to originate from the growing feral population in East Anglia. Clements *et al.* (2015) reported that although birds had been present in Kent for many years it had been slow to establish a breeding population with the first successful pairs not recorded until 2008. At the time of the last atlas it was restricted to west Kent, in the catchments of the Darent, Medway and Teise rivers. Outside of the breeding season birds are prone to wandering.

The latest Kent Bird Report stated that the feral population continues to slowly establish itself in the county, although the stronghold continues to be in the west, however it is now breeding at lakes in the Ashford area (KOS, 2020).

It was first recorded locally in 1996, with another the following year, but then a 13 year gap followed until the next sighting in 2011, as demonstrated by figure 1. It has been recorded annually however since 2013 with increasing frequency and this seems likely to continue if the population is increasing and spreading eastwards in Kent.

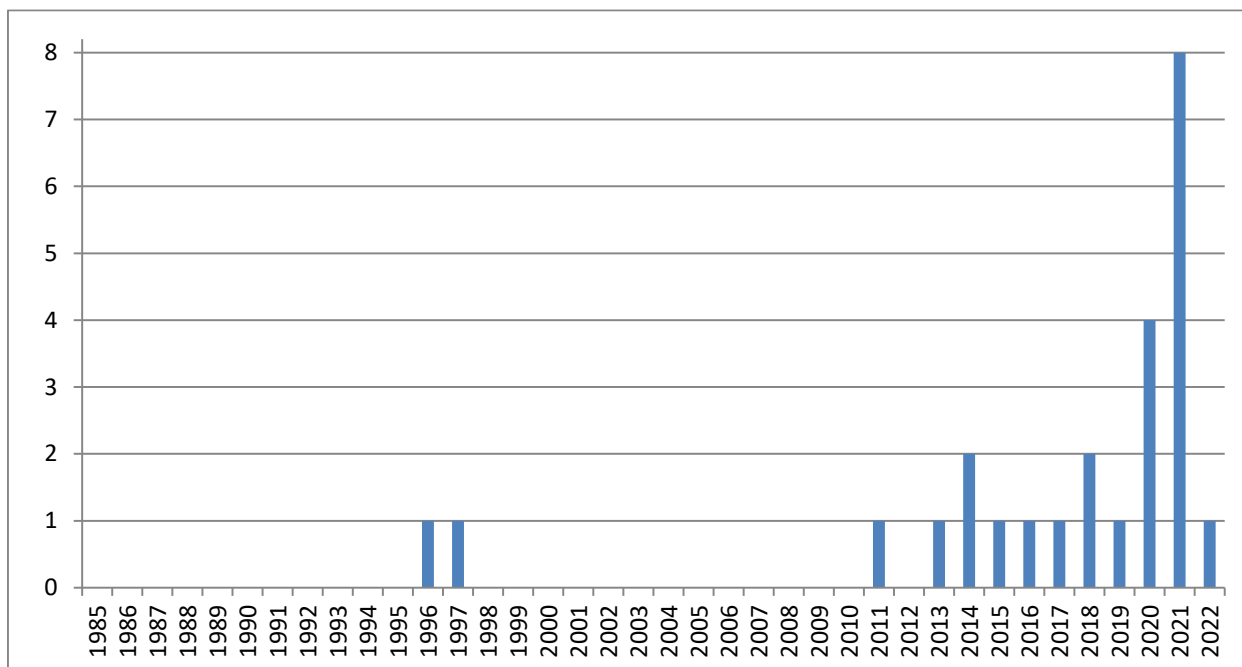


Figure 1: Egyptian Goose records at Folkestone and Hythe

All records have occurred between January and early May, with five in January, seven in February, four in March, eight in April and one in May, as demonstrated by figure 2. Most sightings were seen on single dates but one remained from January until April (92 days).

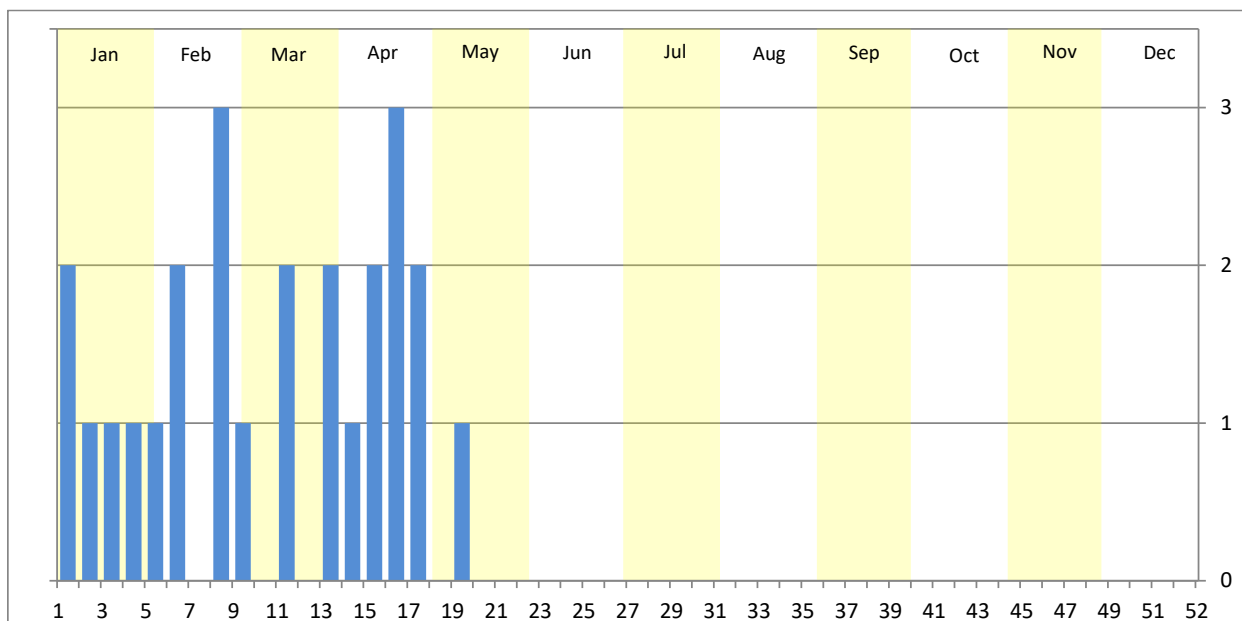


Figure 2: Egyptian Goose records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the distribution of records by tetrad. The first record involved one flying over Folkestone and the next a long-staying individual that frequented the Hythe Canal/Nickolls Quarry area for over three months.

The other records are from Nickolls Quarry (6), Willop Basin/Outfall (5), Samphire Hoe (4), Cock Ash Lake (3), Seabrook (3), the canal at Hythe and Radnor Park in Folkestone.

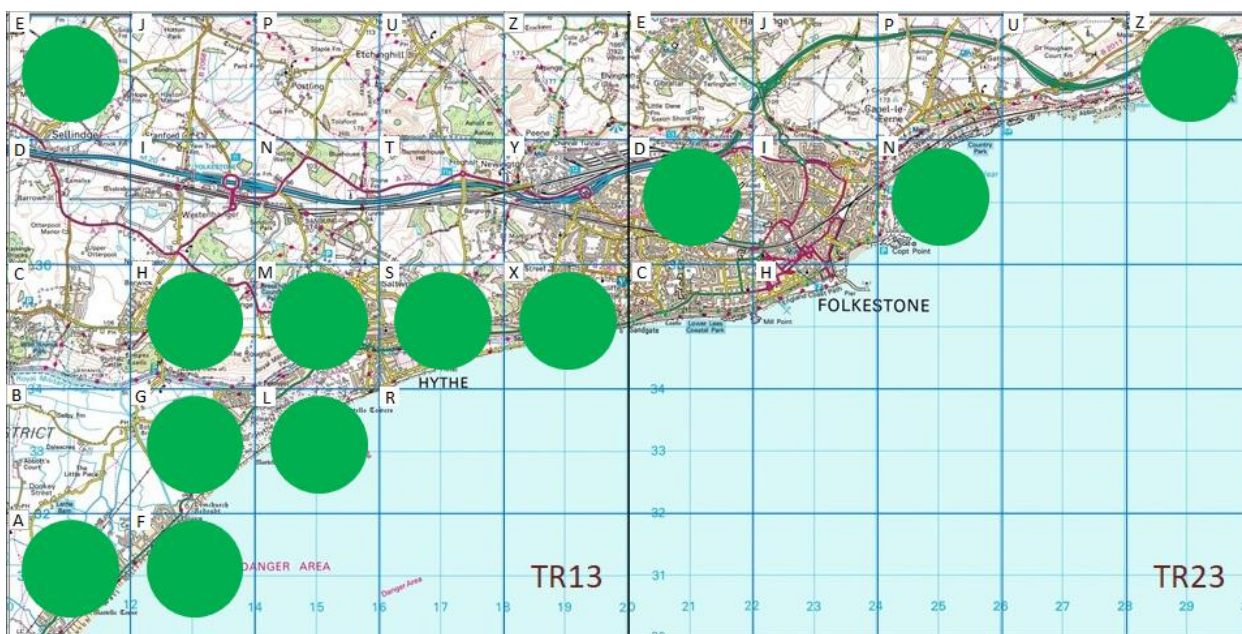


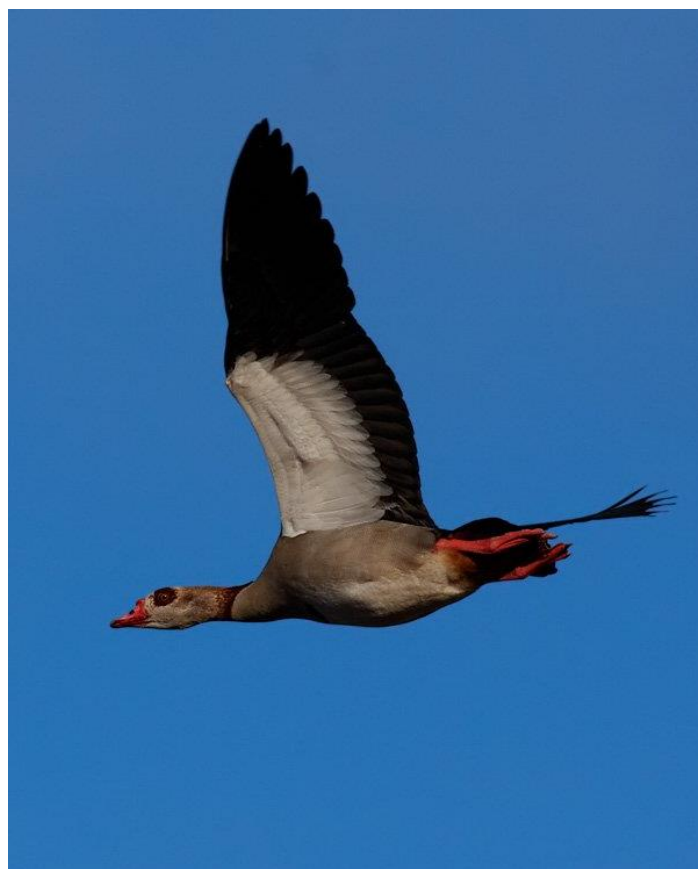
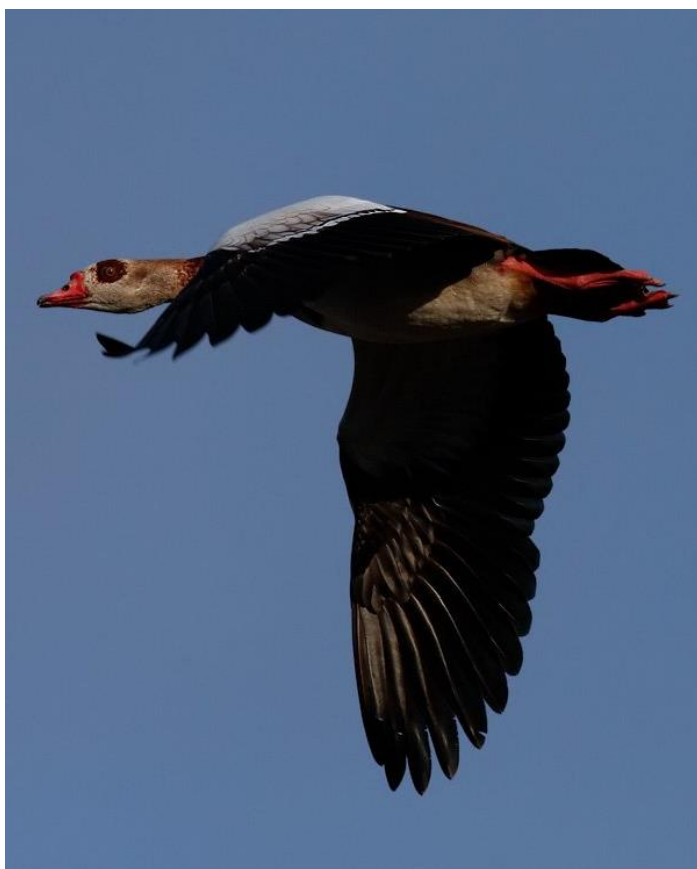
Figure 3: Distribution of all Egyptian Goose records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

The full list of records is as follows:

**1996** Folkestone, one flew low to the east, 21<sup>st</sup> January (D. A. Gibson)

**1997** Hythe Canal (Hythe Town), one, 4<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January, and again on 16<sup>th</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> April, also seen at Nickolls Quarry on at least 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March with anglers reporting it several times either side of those dates, photographed (I. A. Roberts, R. K. Norman, G. Redfern, P. Howe)

- 2011** Nickolls Quarry, five flew in from west, circled and flew back west, 4<sup>th</sup> January (I. A. Roberts). Flock included an albino individual and had been previously seen at Dungeness
- 2013** Samphire Hoe, two flew east, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, photographed (I. A. Roberts)
- 2014** Willop Basin, five, 11<sup>th</sup> April, photographed (I. A. Roberts, J. Tomsett)
- 2014** Willop Basin, one, 7<sup>th</sup> May (B. Harper)
- 2015** Nickolls Quarry, two flew west, 27<sup>th</sup> February, photographed (I. A. Roberts)
- 2016** Hythe Canal (Hythe Town), one, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> February, photographed (I. A. Roberts, N. Webster, P. Howe *et al*)
- 2017** Willop Basin, seven, 21<sup>st</sup> February (I. A. Roberts)
- 2018** Samphire Hoe, two flew west, 15<sup>th</sup> March (I. A. Roberts)
- 2018** Nickolls Quarry, two, 31<sup>st</sup> March (B. Harper)
- 2019** Samphire Hoe, four flew south, 27<sup>th</sup> April, photographed (M. Collins, B. Woolhouse)
- 2020** Willop Sewage Works, six flew east, 7<sup>th</sup> February (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
- 2020** Nickolls Quarry, one, 8<sup>th</sup> April (B. Harper)
- 2020** Seabrook, one flew east, 17<sup>th</sup> April (P. Howe)
- 2020** Seabrook, one flew east, 20<sup>th</sup> April (P. Howe)
- 2021** Willop Outfall, four flew east, later seen at Nickolls Quarry, 8<sup>th</sup> January (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
- 2021** Nickolls Quarry, one, 9<sup>th</sup> February (I. A. Roberts)
- 2021** Willop Basin, one, 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February (I. A. Roberts), presumed same as above
- 2021** Nickolls Quarry, two, 20<sup>th</sup> February (I. A. Roberts)
- 2021** Cock Ash Lake, two, 20<sup>th</sup> February (I. A. Roberts)
- 2021** Seabrook, two flew east, 17<sup>th</sup> March (P. Howe)
- 2021** Radnor Park (Folkestone), one, 30<sup>th</sup> March (R. Thorogood)
- 2021** Samphire Hoe, four flew east, 8<sup>th</sup> April (I. A. Roberts)
- 2021** Cock Ash Lake, one, 29<sup>th</sup> April (I. A. Roberts)
- 2022** Cock Ash Lake, two, 16<sup>th</sup> April (I. A. Roberts)



Egyptian Goose at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)

### References

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### ***Acknowledgements***

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Egyptian Goose at Hythe (Ian Roberts)