

# Greenish Warbler

*Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Category A

Very rare vagrant.

4 records

Breeds from eastern Germany eastwards through Russia to the Yenisey River and south through Mongolia to Afghanistan and the Himalayas. Winters throughout the Indian subcontinent and east to Thailand. It has gradually been spreading westwards across Europe, with first confirmed breeding in Sweden in 1953 (and regular on Gotland at least since the 1980s), Denmark in 1980, Germany in 1990, Norway in 1991 and the Netherlands in 2003 (White & Kehoe, 2019, Snow & Perrins, 1998, Ebels, 2003).

It was formerly a great rarity in Britain, with just four records prior to 1950 but has steadily increased, with almost annual records since 1965 and it was averaging 17 records per annum (with a total of 447 recorded) by the end of 2005 when the British Birds Rarities Committee removed it from the list of species which it considered to be national rarities (Fraser & Rogers, 2006, BBRC, 2021). The upward trend has continued, with an average of 25 national records in the last decade (White & Kehoe, 2019). Kent had produced a total of 31 records to the end of 2018 (KOS, 2020).

The first Folkestone and Hythe record involved two singing males found by Dale Gibson in Folkestone Warren in trees below the Capel-le-Ferne Café on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1993. Both birds then held territory until the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, with at least one lingering until the 1<sup>st</sup> July, and they became a popular attraction during their stay, entertaining many observers.

The second area record involved an autumn migrant found at the eastern end of Samphire Hoe on the afternoon of the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007. This individual also became well-watched, remaining in the area until the 1<sup>st</sup> October, and shared its favoured sycamore patch with a Yellow-browed Warbler during part of its stay.

The two most recent records were much shorter stayers and were enjoyed only by single observers: a male seen and heard singing by Steve Tomlinson at Beachborough Park on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and one seen and heard calling by Paul Howe at Seabrook on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The records by year are shown in figure 1.

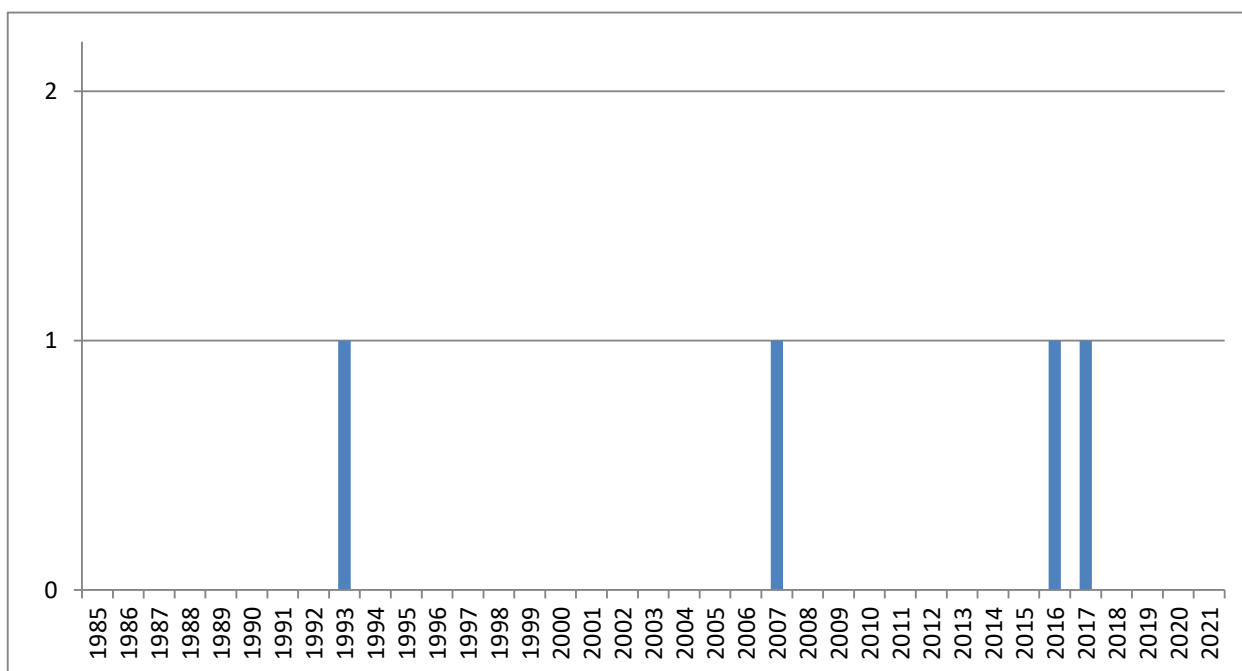


Figure 1: Greenish Warbler records at Folkestone and Hythe

The records by week are given in figure 2. As White & Kehoe (2019) observe, almost all records occur during two narrow windows, from late May to mid-June and mid-August to late September.

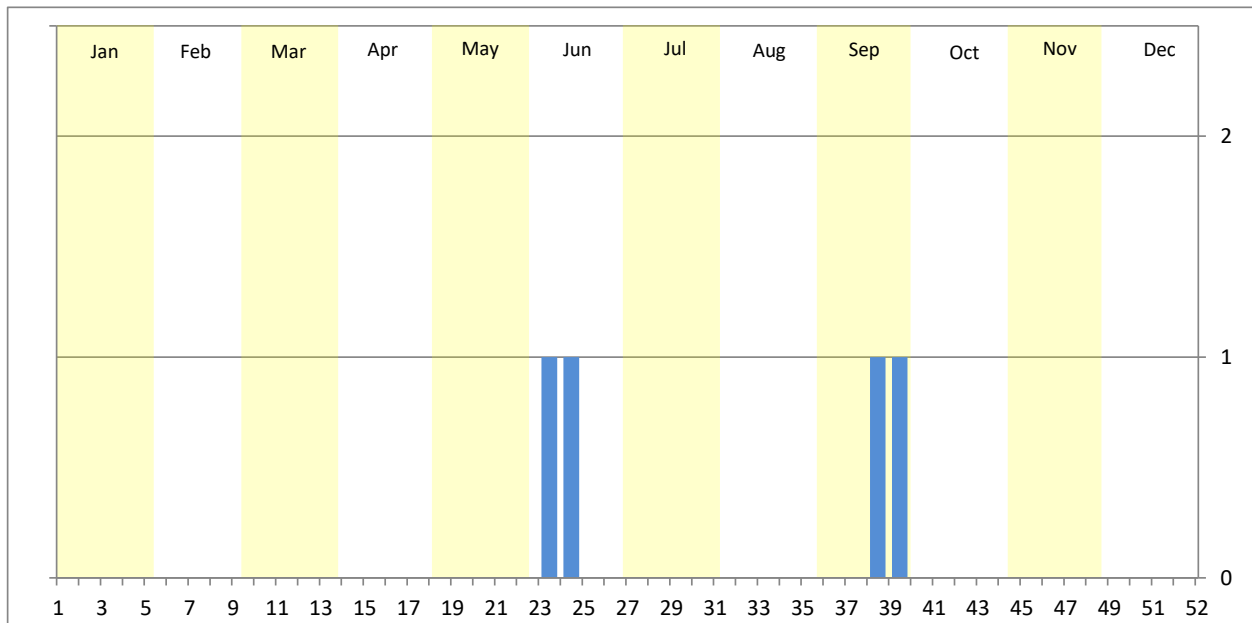


Figure 2: Greenish Warbler records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the distribution of records by tetrad.



Figure 3: Distribution of all Greenish Warbler records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1993** Folkestone Warren, two, in song, 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June, with at least one remaining to 1<sup>st</sup> July, video-recorded (D. A. Gibson *et al*)
- 2007** Samphire Hoe, one, 27<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October (P. Holt *et al*)
- 2016** Beachborough Park, one, in song, 8<sup>th</sup> June (S. Tomlinson)
- 2017** Seabrook, one, 17<sup>th</sup> September (P. Howe)

## **References**

BBRC statistics: <https://www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information/statistics> (accessed 2021)

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

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## **Acknowledgements**

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