

## Black Stork

*Ciconia nigra*

Category A

Very rare vagrant.

5 records

Breeds mainly across mid-latitude Europe, from Germany eastwards, with small populations in central and eastern France and occasional pairs as close as Belgium. Migrates south to winter in tropical Africa (Snow & Perrins, 1998). It is a rare but regular visitor to Britain, with 276 records to 2018 but it has gradually become more frequent in occurrence with an average of 9 records per years in the last decade (BBRC, 2021).

There had been 28 records in Kent to the end of 2019, with sightings in all months from April to October, although with a peak in May and June (both with five records) (KOS, 2021).



Black Stork at Sellindge (Derek Smith)

The first local record occurred in 1995, when John van der Dol watched one arrive in off the sea at Folkestone on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June. After a 16 year gap, there have been four further records in the last eleven years, as demonstrated by figure 1.

One was seen flying north-east over Hythe by Sean McMinn on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011, a first-summer individual was seen over Saltwood by Paul Howe and Hythe by Nigel Webster and Sean McMinn on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2015, Derek Smith saw one flying over Sellindge on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021, having presumably roosted nearby, and Ian Roberts saw one flying north over Crete Road East on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

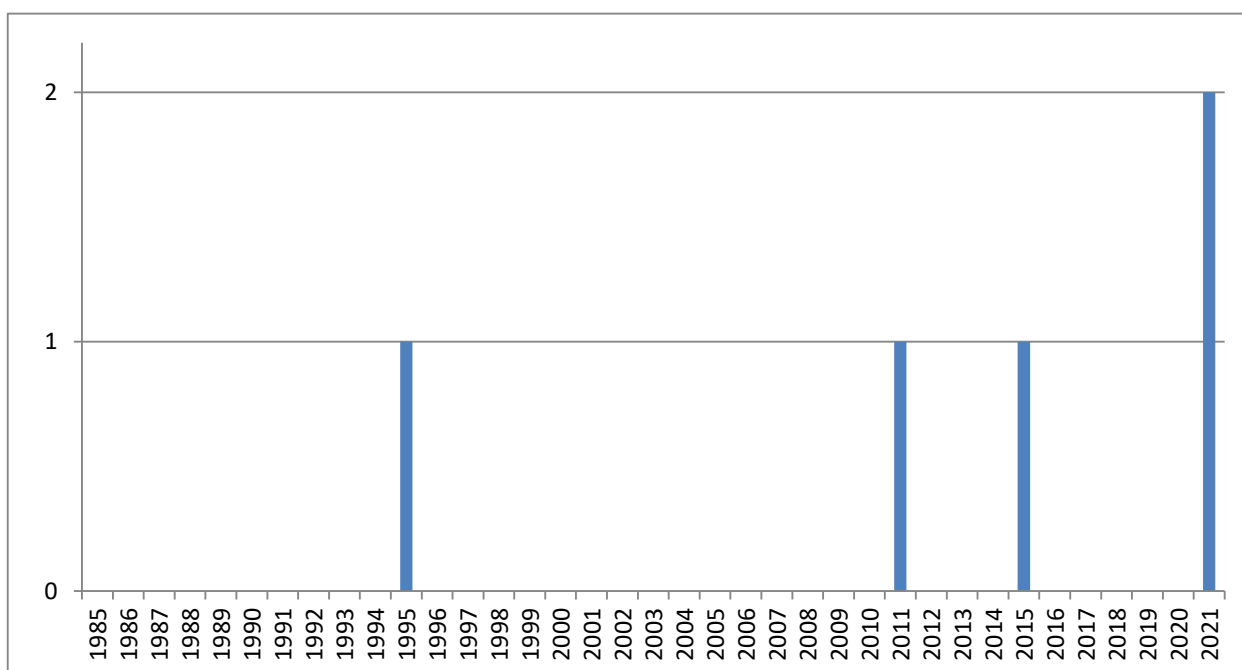


Figure 1: Black Stork records at Folkestone and Hythe

Three sightings were in June, with singles in July and in August, as shown by figure 2.

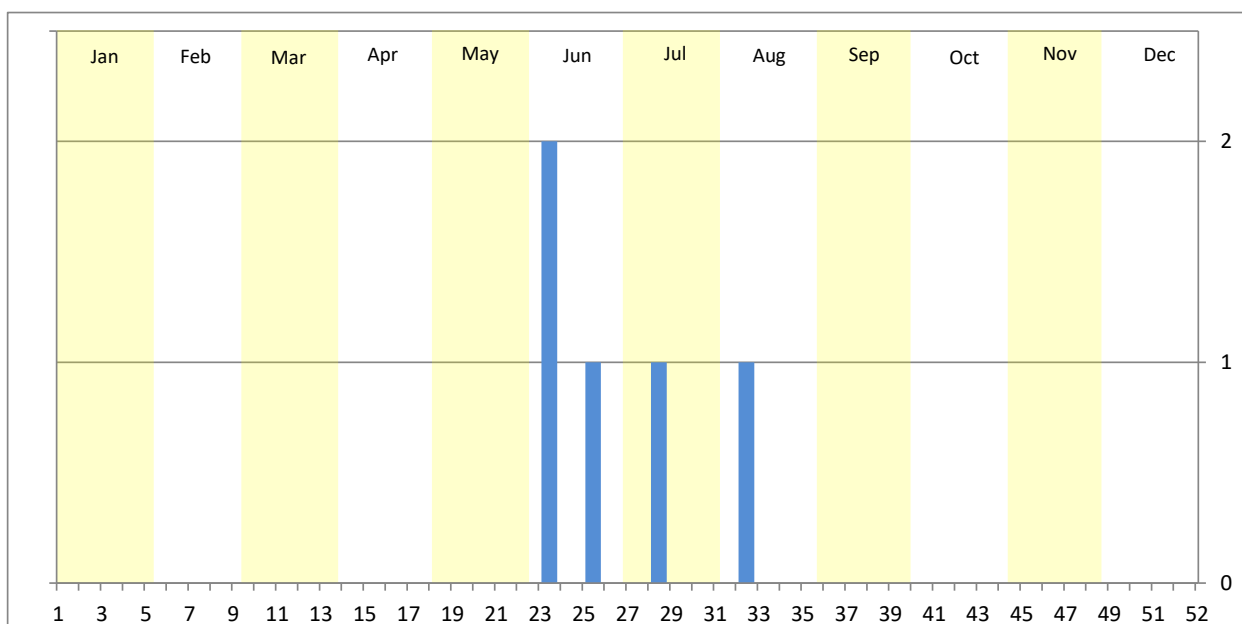


Figure 2: Black Stork records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the distribution of records by tetrad.



Figure 3: Distribution of all Black Stork records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1995** Folkestone, one flew in off the sea, 22<sup>nd</sup> June (J. H. van der Dol)
- 2011** Hythe, one flew north-east, 8<sup>th</sup> June (S. McMinn)
- 2015** Saltwood and Hythe, first-summer flew west, 7<sup>th</sup> August (P. Howe, S. McMinn, N. Webster), later seen and photographed at Dungeness
- 2021** Sellindge, one, 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June, when flew high north-east, photographed (D. Smith)
- 2021** Crete Road East, one flew north, 15<sup>th</sup> July, photographed (I. A. Roberts), having earlier been seen flying west over Dover
- 2021** Folkestone, one flew east, 17<sup>th</sup> July (I. A. Roberts), presumed same as above



Black Stork at Sellindge (Derek Smith)



Black Stork at Crete Road East (Ian Roberts)

## **References**

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

Kent Bird Reports. Kent Ornithological Society

KOS Kent list: <https://kentos.org.uk/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](#).



Black Stork at Dungeness (Martin Casemore), the same bird earlier seen at Hythe