

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Category C

Very rare vagrant

11 records

Breeds ferally in East Anglia, and also in Belgium and the Netherlands, with a few pairs in France.

Recorded annually in Kent, where the majority are thought to originate from the feral East Anglian population, though some might be escapes.

First recorded in the Folkestone and Hythe area in 1996, with another the following year, but then a 13 year gap before nine in the last eight years, as demonstrated by figure 1.



Egyptian Goose at the Willop Basin (Ian Roberts)

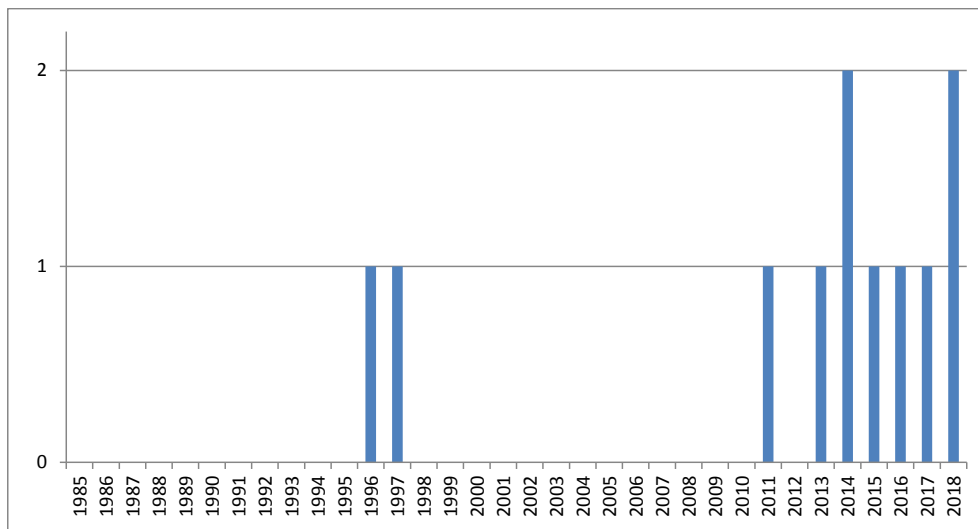


Figure 1: Egyptian Goose records at Folkestone and Hythe

The first four occurred in January, between the 2nd (week 1) and 23rd (week 4), with the others in February (3), March (2), April and May, as demonstrated by figure 2. Seven of the records were seen on single dates but one remained from January until April (92 days).

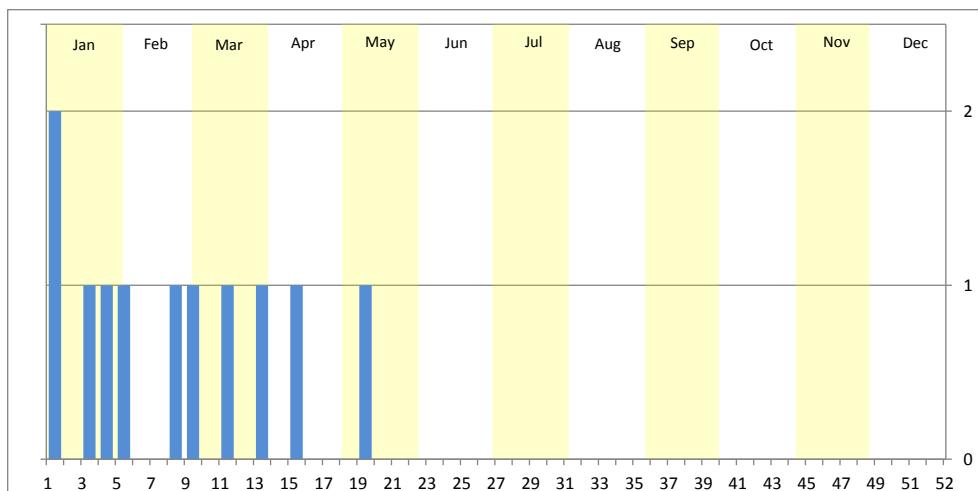


Figure 2: Egyptian Goose records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

The distribution of winter records recorded in the BTO/KOS Atlas (2007 – 2012) is shown in figure 3. The records all refer to a single flock that flew in from west, circled and flew back west, passing through at least four single kilometre squares as they did so.

The earlier records concern one that flew over Folkestone and a long-stayer which frequented the Hythe Canal / Nickolls Quarry area for over three months, whilst the most recent were at the Willop Basin (3), Samphire Hoe (2), Nickolls Quarry (2) and Hythe.

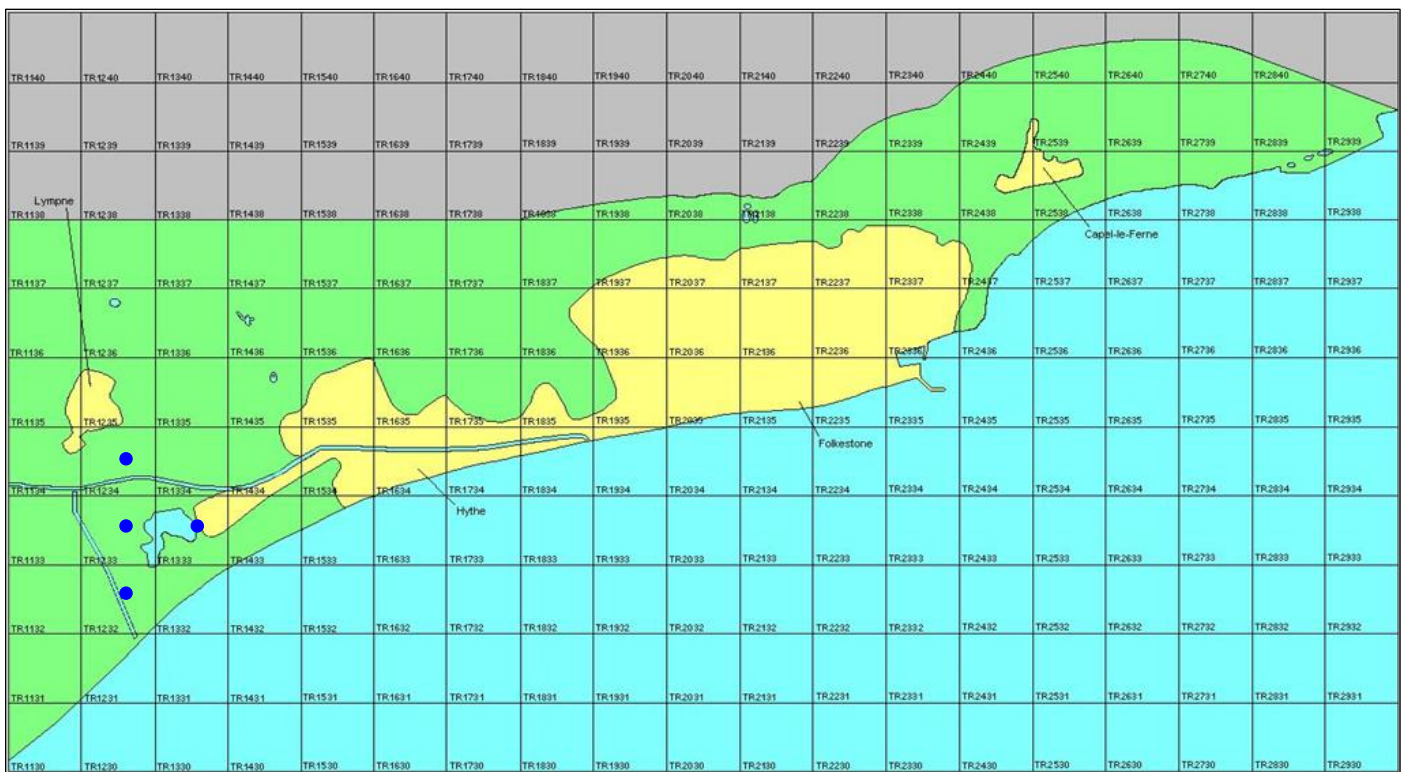


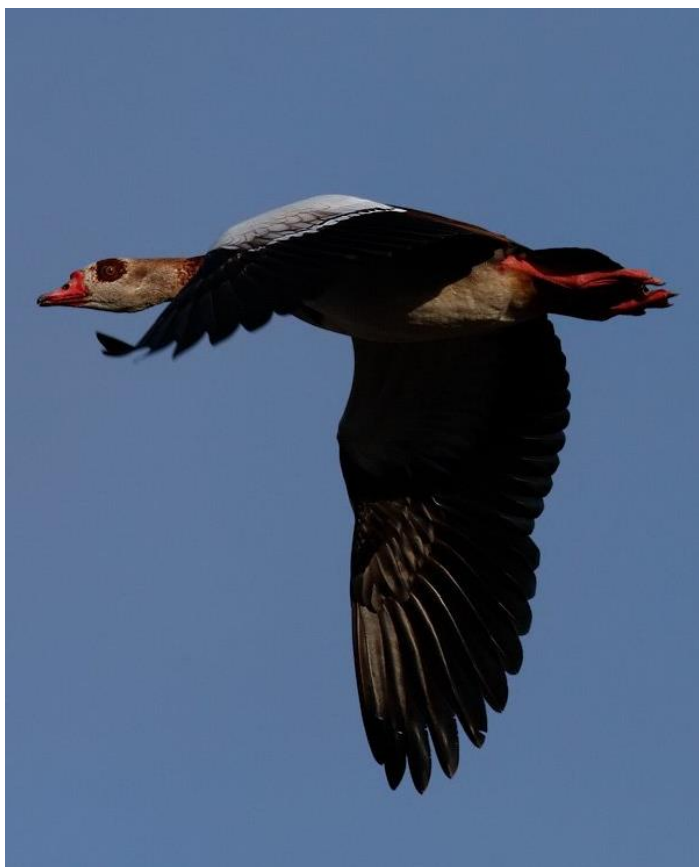
Figure 3: Wintering distribution of Egyptian Goose at Folkestone and Hythe (2007 – 2012 BTO/KOS Atlas)

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1996** Folkestone, one flew low to the east, 21st January (D. A. Gibson)
- 1997** Hythe Canal (Hythe Town), one, 4th to 21st January, and again on 16th March and 6th April, also seen at Nickoll's Quarry on at least 4th, 8th and 13th 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, 4th January (I. A. Roberts). Flock included an albino individual and had been previously seen at Dungeness
- 2013** Samphire Hoe, two flew east, 23rd January, photographed (I. A. Roberts)
- 2014** Willop Basin, five, 11th April, photographed (I. A. Roberts, J. Tomsett)
- 2014** Willop Basin, one, 7th May (B. Harper)
- 2015** Nickolls Quarry, two flew west, 27th February, photographed (I. A. Roberts)
- 2016** Hythe Canal (Hythe Town), one, 3rd to 6th February, photographed (I. A. Roberts, N. Webster, P. Howe *et al*)
- 2017** Willop Basin, seven, 21st February (I. A. Roberts)
- 2018** Samphire Hoe, two flew west, 15th March (I. A. Roberts)
- 2018** Nickolls Quarry, two, 31st March (B. Harper)



Egyptian Goose at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Egyptian Geese at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)