

# Garganey

*Anas querquedula*

Category A

Rare migrant, mainly in spring, possibly bred in the past

27 records

A widespread breeder across Europe, with small numbers in Britain, crossing the Sahara to winter in Africa. A scarce summer visitor and passage migrant to Kent, breeding annually in small numbers.

There were a series of records in 1957 and 1960, then singles in 1978 and 1982. Since 1990 the species has occurred with greater regularity, with records in 15 of the 26 years, as demonstrated by figure 1.



Garganey at Botolph's Bridge(Brian Harper)

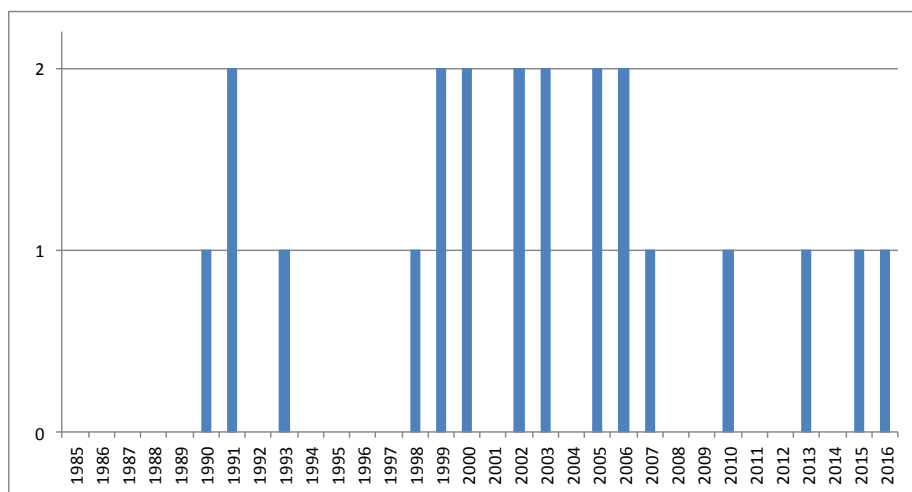


Figure 1: Garganey records since 1985 at Folkestone and Hythe

The majority of records have occurred in spring, between 15<sup>th</sup> March (week 11) and 21<sup>st</sup> May (week 21), as demonstrated by figure 2.

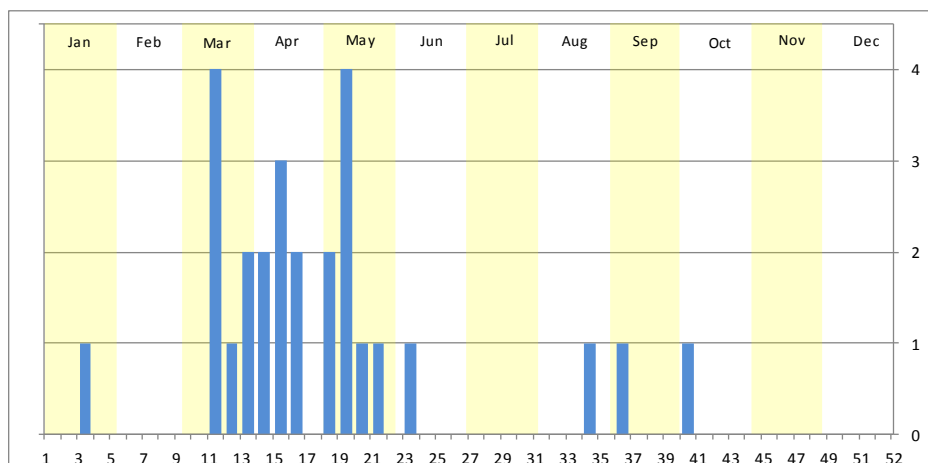


Figure 2: Garganey records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Only four records have occurred outside of this period, all being particularly noteworthy:

- The first two were in 1957, when a female was flushed from an 'airfield' dyke in the Nickolls Quarry area on the 9<sup>th</sup> June (the same day as a pair of small duck, either Garganey or Teal, were briefly seen flying away from the 'old' pit), followed by a record of four to six birds present daily in the area from 25<sup>th</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> September. These events suggest breeding might have occurred locally. Interestingly in 1960 at Nickolls

Quarry, a pair was found in the 'old' pit on 15<sup>th</sup> March, with then up to 3 pairs present (including two birds in 'airfield' dykes) until at least 27<sup>th</sup> March, after which unfortunately there was no coverage until June.

- The third was the only record of a migrant in autumn: a female/immature at Nickolls Quarry on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1998.
- The last was an exceptional winter record of a drake at Nickolls Quarry on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, with presumably the same bird again on the 14<sup>th</sup> February.

The majority of records have been from Nickolls Quarry (8) or coastal seawatching points: Samphire Hoe (5), Mill Point (4) and Copt Point (3), with the others at Folkestone Reservoirs, Horn Street, Lympe, Sandling Park and the Willop Sewer (2).

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1957** Nickolls Quarry, female, 9<sup>th</sup> June (R. K. Norman)  
**1957** Nickolls Quarry, four to six birds present daily, from 25<sup>th</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> September (R. K. Norman)  
**1960** Nickolls Quarry, a pair, 15<sup>th</sup> March, then three pairs until at least 27<sup>th</sup> March (R. K. Norman)  
**1978** Sandling Park, a pair, 12<sup>th</sup> May (C. R. Tuff)  
**1982** Lympe, one, 18<sup>th</sup> April (Reported)  
**1990** Mill Point, a pair flew east, 30<sup>th</sup> April (I. A. Roberts)  
**1991** Willop Sewer (north of Nickolls Quarry), three (one male, two females), 28<sup>th</sup> March (R. K. Norman)  
**1991** Willop Sewer (between the New Cut and the Willop Basin), two, 7<sup>th</sup> April (R. K. Norman)  
**1993** Horn Street Lake, male, 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> March (I. A. Roberts)  
**1998** Nickolls Quarry, female/immature, 7<sup>th</sup> October (R. K. Norman)  
**1999** Nickolls Quarry, male 17<sup>th</sup> January, presumed same 14<sup>th</sup> February (R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)  
**1999** Nickolls Quarry, one 21<sup>st</sup> May (R. K. Norman)  
**2000** Copt Point, male flew east, 1<sup>st</sup> May (D. A. Gibson, I. A. Roberts)  
**2000** Horn Street Lake, male, 4<sup>th</sup> September (P. Howe)  
**2002** Copt Point, male flew east, 9<sup>th</sup> May (D. A. Gibson)  
**2002** Nickolls Quarry, male, 10<sup>th</sup> May (R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)  
**2003** Mill Point, pair flew east, 15<sup>th</sup> March (I. A. Roberts)  
**2003** Copt Point, 13 flew east, 15<sup>th</sup> April (I. A. Roberts)  
**2005** Mill Point, a pair flew east, 20<sup>th</sup> March (I. A. Roberts)  
**2005** Samphire Hoe, 12 flew east (in three flocks), 2<sup>nd</sup> April (I. A. Roberts)  
**2006** Samphire Hoe, five flew east, 14<sup>th</sup> March (I. A. Roberts)  
**2006** Samphire Hoe, male flew east, 14<sup>th</sup> May (I. A. Roberts)  
**2007** Samphire Hoe, male flew east, 21<sup>st</sup> April (I. A. Roberts)  
**2010** Folkestone Reservoirs (Castle Hill), female, 14<sup>th</sup> March (P. Holt)  
**2013** Botolph's Bridge, pair, 11<sup>th</sup> April, photographed (B. Harper)  
**2015** Nickolls Quarry, pair, 9<sup>th</sup> April, photographed (I. A. Roberts, B. Harper)  
**2016** Mill Point, male flew east with Common Scoters, 6<sup>th</sup> May (B. Harper), also seen off Copt Point (D. A. Gibson) and Samphire Hoe (I. A. Roberts)



Garganey at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)