

Goosander

Mergus merganser Category A

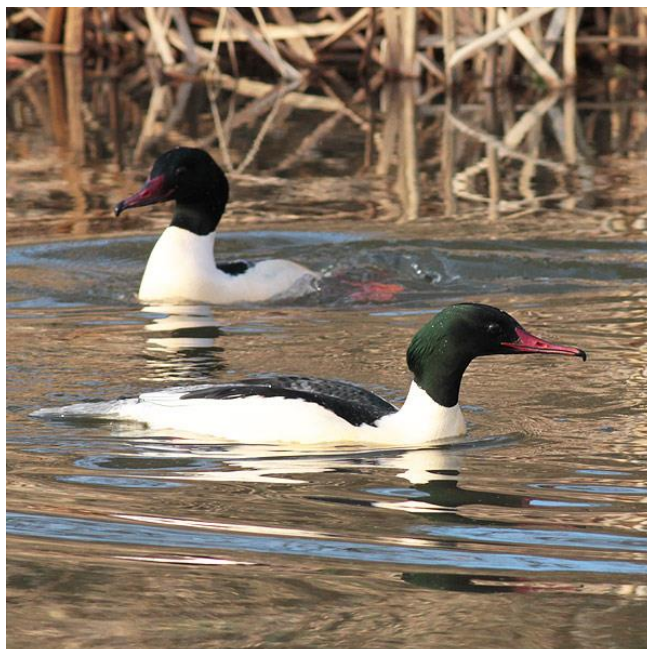
Scarce migrant and winter visitor 69 records

Nests in forested areas across northern Europe, Asia and North America, dispersing south in winter.

First bred in Britain in 1871, then increased in numbers in Scotland and since 1970 has spread across northern England into Wales, reaching south-west England.

An uncommon but regular passage migrant and winter visitor to Kent, with occasional cold weather influxes.

A rather rare visitor locally until recently, there have now been records in every year since 2007 except one, and with notable influxes in 2009, 2010 and 2012. Arrivals are often, but not always associated with cold weather.



Goosanders at Seabrook (Brian Harper)

The records by year since 1985 are shown in figure 1:

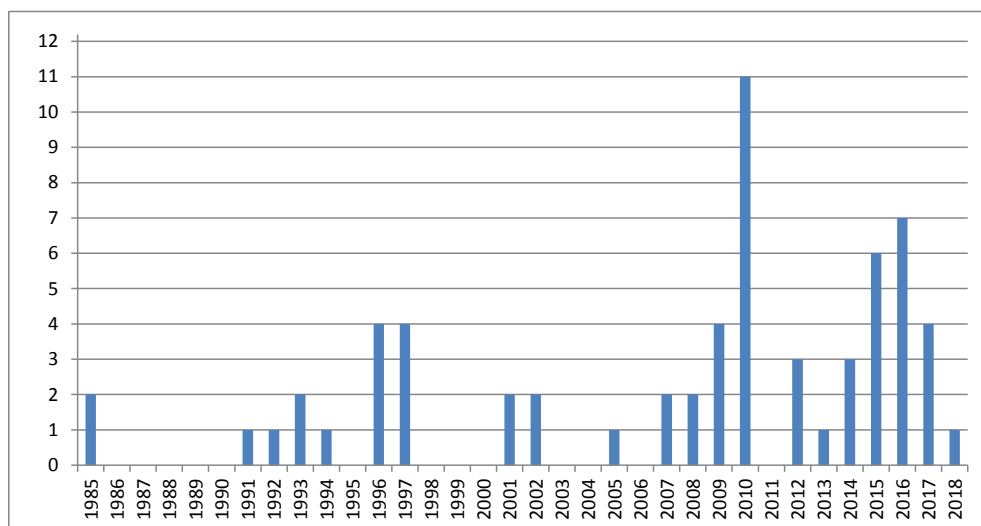


Figure 1: Goosander records since 1985 at Folkestone and Hythe

All winter records have occurred between the 13th November (week 46) and the 27th February (week 9) and there have been four spring records in March (2015 and 2018) and April (1994 and 2014).

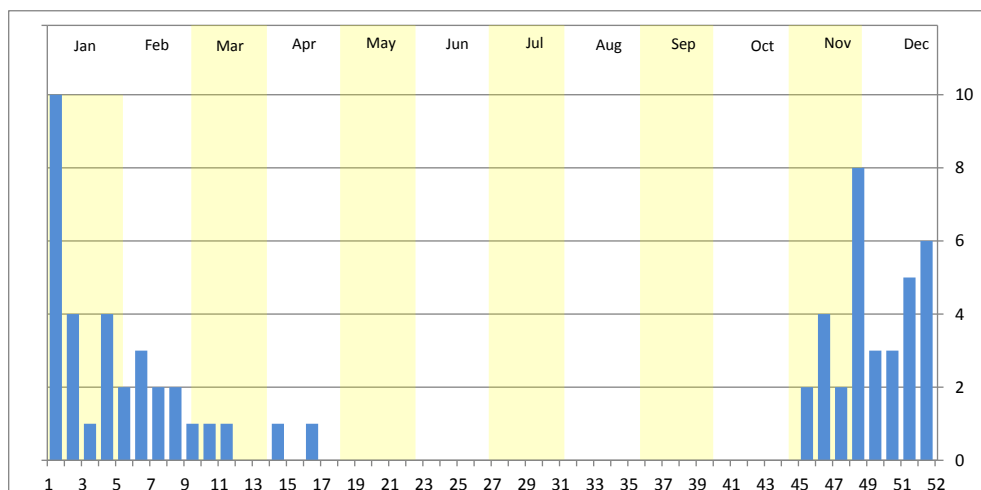


Figure 2: Goosander records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

The distribution of winter records recorded in the BTO/KOS Atlas (2007 – 2012) is shown in figure 3. Overall the majority of records are from Nickolls Quarry (15), Botolph’s Bridge (14) and the Royal Military Canal between West Hythe and Seabrook (14), with most of the others at the coast, including 4 at Samphire Hoe, 3 at Copt Point and 12 in Hythe Bay, between Sandgate and Fisherman’s Beach.

The distribution of winter records recorded in the BTO/KOS Atlas (2007 – 2012) is shown in figure 1.

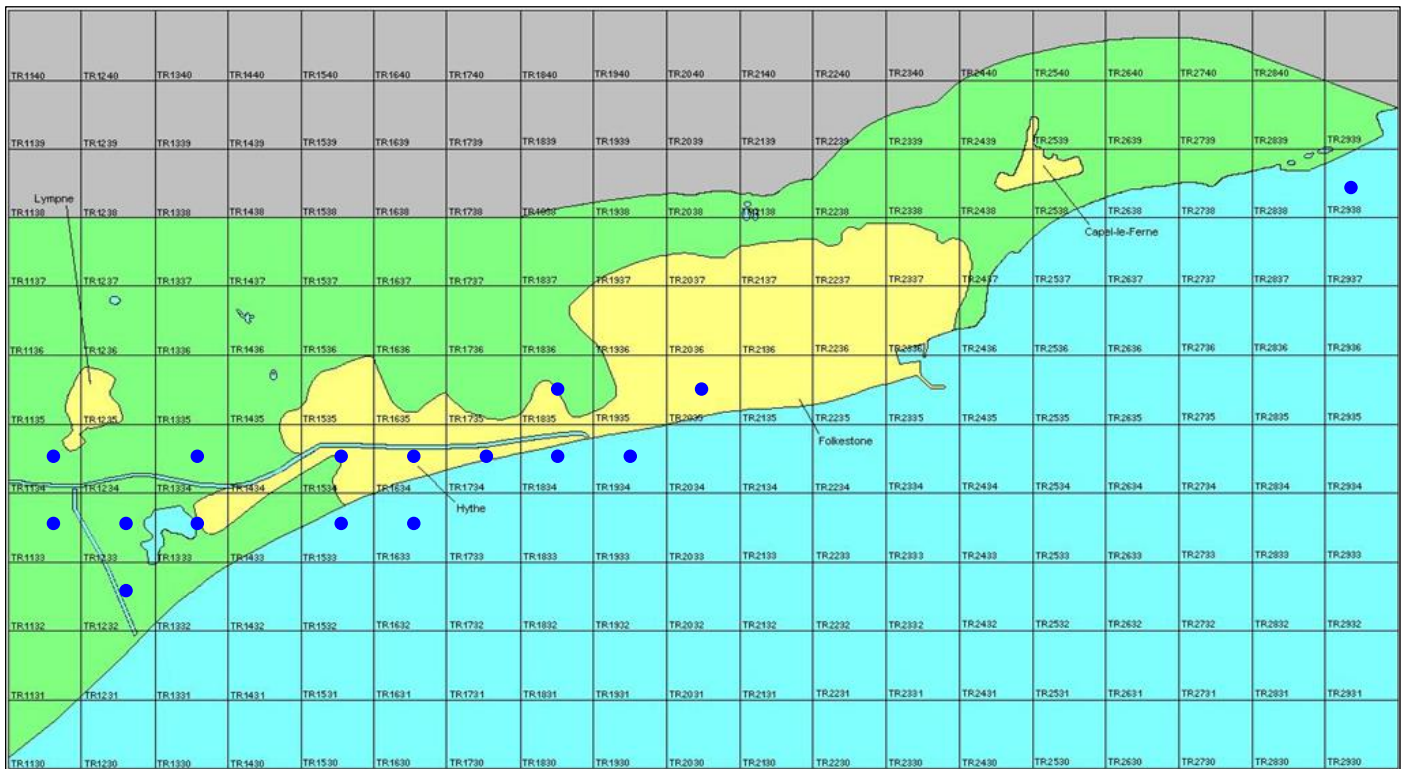


Figure 1: Wintering distribution of Goosander at Folkestone and Hythe by 1km square

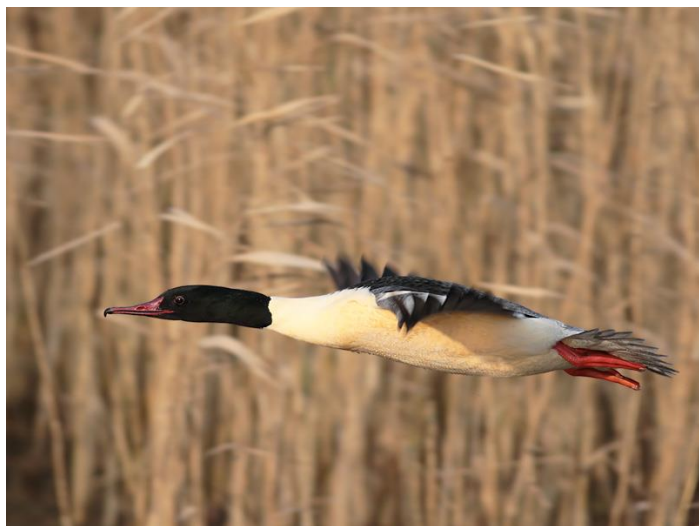
The full list of records is as follows:

- 1954** Hythe, one, 6th February (G. E. Manser)
- 1954** Nickolls Quarry, drake, December (per R. K. Norman)
- 1955** Nickolls Quarry, drake shot, winter 1955/56
- 1963** Hythe, six, 3rd February (per Kent Bird Report)
- 1980s** Palmarsh, immature/female, in period 1980-85 no date given (N. C. Frampton)
- 1985** Palmarsh, nine drakes, 19th January (per Kent Bird Report)
- 1985** Copt Point, one, 23rd January (per Kent Bird Report)
- 1991** Nickolls Quarry, drake, 17th December (R. K. Norman)
- 1992** Nickolls Quarry, immature/female, 29th December (R. K. Norman)
- 1993** Botolph’s Bridge, immature drake, 2nd January (R. K. Norman)
- 1993** Nickolls Quarry, drake, 29th December (R. K. Norman)
- 1994** Copt Point, three flew east, 17th April (D. A. Gibson)
- 1996** Nickolls Quarry, two, 27th January (R. K. Norman)
- 1996** Sandgate, immature/female on sea, 11th February (J. C. Martin)
- 1996** Nickolls Quarry, two, 15th February, one remaining until 22nd February (R. K. Norman)
- 1996** Nickolls Quarry, two drakes and one female, 15th December, female to 22nd December (R. K. Norman)
- 1997** Nickolls Quarry, pair, 1st January (R. K. Norman)
- 1997** Seabrook, immature/female on canal, 3rd January (I. A. Roberts)
- 1997** Hythe, two immature/females, 4th January to 2nd February, photographed (P. Howe, I. A. Roberts *et al*)
- 1997** Mill Point, immature/female flew east, 5th January (I. A. Roberts)
- 2001** Copt Point, two flew east, 13th November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2001** Nickolls Quarry, immature/female, 14th December (R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)
- 2002** Nickolls Quarry, drake, 27th January (I. A. Roberts)
- 2002** Nickolls Quarry, three immature/females, 7th December (R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)

- 2005** Nickolls Quarry, immature/female, 4th December (R. K. Norman)
- 2007** Nickolls Quarry, immature/female, 20th December (R. K. Norman)
- 2007** Samphire Hoe, drake flew east, 30th December (Per D. E. Smith)
- 2008** Paraker Wood, pair flew north-west, 30th November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2008** Palmarsh, immature/female, "regularly in late December", presumed same at Nickolls Quarry, 6th January 2009 (B. Harper)
- 2009** Seabrook, immature/female on canal, 6th January to 2nd February, photographed (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts *et al*)
- 2009** Botolph's Bridge, three, 11th January (B. Harper)
- 2009** Seabrook, drake on canal, 28th December (B. Harper)
- 2009** Nickolls Quarry, two immature/female, 28th December, photographed (B. Harper)
- 2010** Hythe, drake on canal, 2nd January (I. A. Roberts)
- 2010** Botolph's Bridge, up to two immature/female, 2nd to 12th January (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
- 2010** Botolph's Bridge, flock of 12 flew over, 20th February, photographed (B. Harper)
- 2010** Hythe, one on canal, 14th November (B. Harper)
- 2010** Hythe, three immature/females flew east at sea, 27th November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2010** Hythe, immature/female on the sea, 27th November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2010** Sandgate, five on the sea, 28th November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2010** Botolph's Bridge, one, 29th November (B. Harper)
- 2010** Seabrook, flock of 20 on the sea (inc. several drakes), 1st December (I. A. Roberts)
- 2010** Samphire Hoe, three flew east, 2nd December (M. Kennett)
- 2010** Botolph's Bridge, two pairs, 18th December, with up to three to 27th December, and one to 1st January 2011, presumed one of same at Nickolls Quarry on 30th December (B. Harper)
- 2012** Seabrook, three drakes on canal and sea, 7th to 8th January, with two to 11th January and one to 14th January, photographed (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts), presumed one of same at Hythe on 13th January (P. Holt)
- 2012** Hythe, pair flew west, 3rd February (I. A. Roberts)
- 2012** Botolph's Bridge, up to three (two drakes), 7th to 11th February, presumed same singles at Nickolls Quarry on 8th February and West Hythe on 9th and 11th February (B. Harper, R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)
- 2013** Botolph's Bridge, one, 30th November to 1st December (B. Harper)
- 2014** Samphire Hoe, drake flew east, 2nd April (M. Kennett)
- 2014** Samphire Hoe, three, 17th November (per D. E. Smith)
- 2014** West Hythe, immature/female, 20th to 28th December, photographed (D. Wrathall, B. Harper, I. A. Roberts *et al*), presumed same Botolph's Bridge 30th December.
- 2015** West Hythe, immature/female, 14th January to 14th March, photographed (A. Chambers, I. A. Roberts, E. Preedy *et al*), possibly same as above, also seen east to Hythe Roughs
- 2015** Seabrook, four flew west, 14th February (B. Harper)
- 2015** Botolph's Bridge, drake flew over, 21st February (B. Harper)
- 2015** Botolph's Bridge, two immature/female on cut then flew east, 8th March (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
- 2015** Hythe, drake, 3rd to 8th December, also on sea off Hythe, and presumed same at Seabrook on 4th December, photographed (N. Webster, P. Smith, I. A. Roberts)
- 2015** Beachborough Ponds, two drakes flew over, 13th December (I. A. Roberts)
- 2016** Battery Point, one flew west, 10th January (B. Harper)
- 2016** Princes Parade, immature/female flew west, 10th January (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts, N. Webster)
- 2016** Princes Parade, three flew east, 27th February (N. Webster)
- 2016** Mill Point, immature/female on the sea, 7th November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2016** Hythe, immature/female flew east, 7th November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2016** Fisherman's Beach (Hythe), immature/female on the sea, 13th November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2016** Botolph's Bridge, 19th November to 2nd January 2017, possibly same as above (B. Harper)
- 2017** Botolph's Bridge, three (one drake) flew south-west, 1st January (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
- 2017** Botolph's Bridge, two drakes flew over, 22nd January (B. Harper)
- 2017** Hythe Redoubt, three offshore, 25th November (B. Harper)
- 2017** Nickolls Quarry, one immature/female, 19th December (I. A. Roberts)
- 2018** Botolph's Bridge, pair, 18th March (B. Harper)



Goosander at Seabrook (Brian Harper)



Goosander at Seabrook (Brian Harper)



Flock of 12 Goosanders at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)



Goosander at Seabrook (Brian Harper)