

# Goosander

*Mergus merganser*

Category A

Scarce migrant and winter visitor

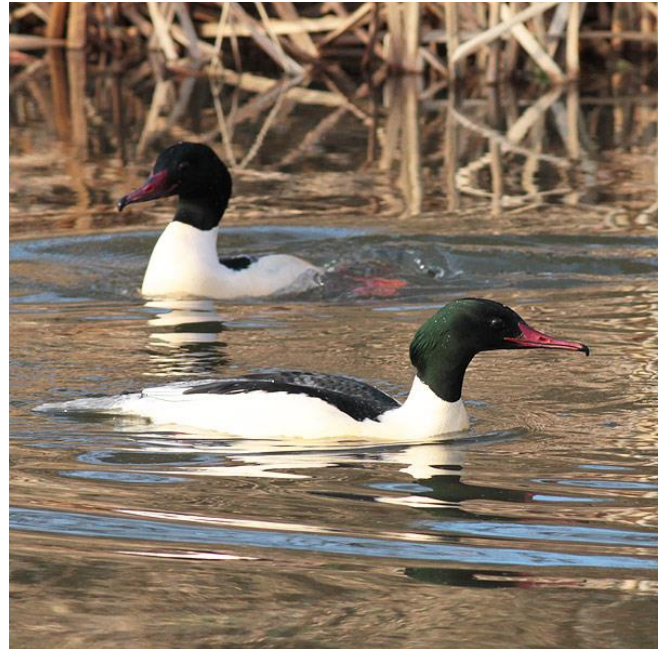
72 records

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:

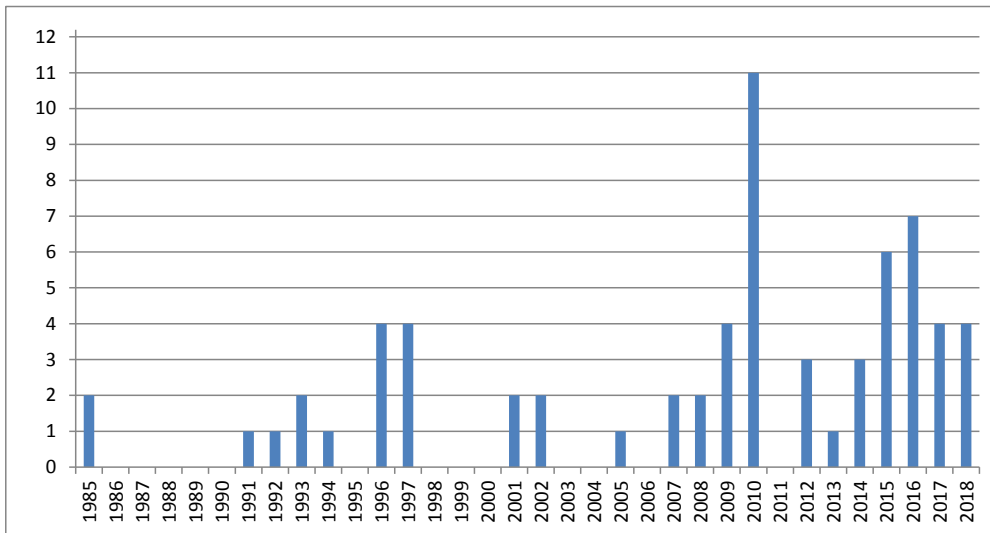


Figure 1: Goosander records since 1985 at Folkestone and Hythe

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

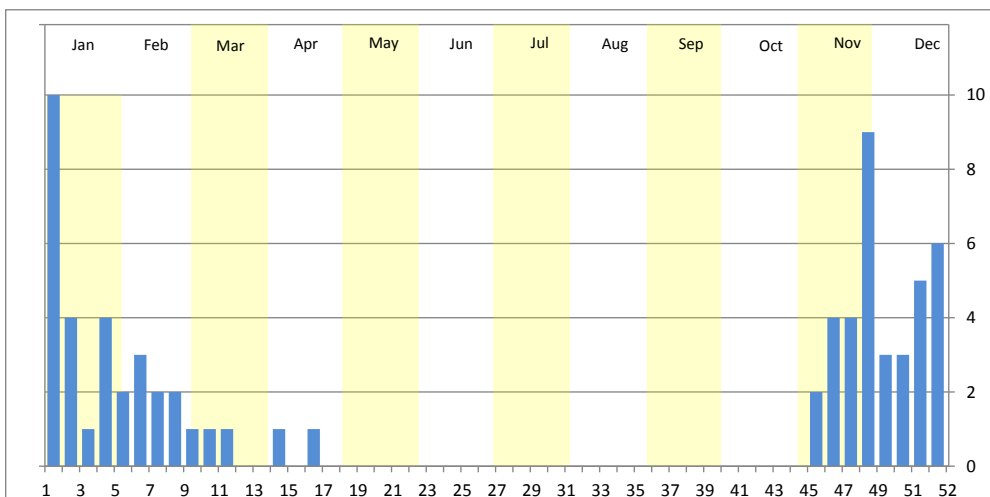


Figure 2: Goosander records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

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), the Royal Military Canal between West Hythe dam and Seabrook (15) and Botolph’s Bridge (14) with most of the others at the coast, including 5 at Samphire Hoe, 3 at Copt Point, 3 at Mill 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.

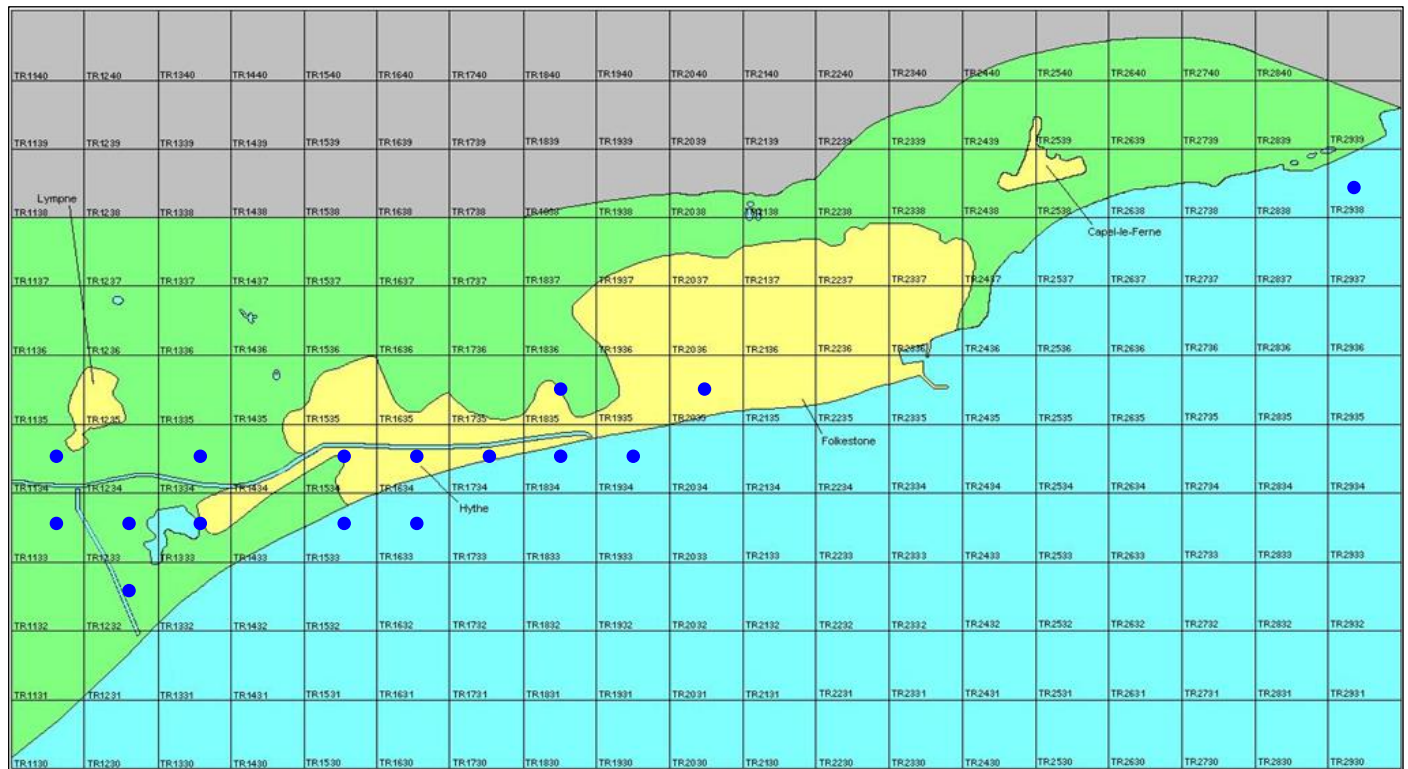
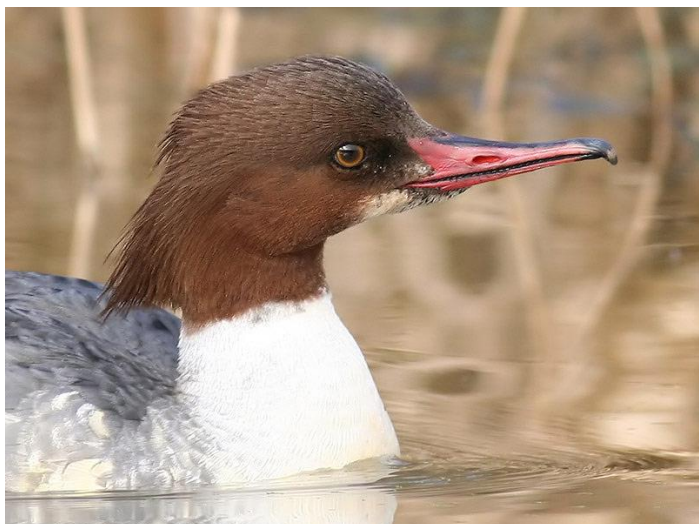


Figure 1: Wintering distribution of Goosander at Folkestone and Hythe by 1km square

The full list of records is as follows:

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

- 2005** Nickolls Quarry, immature/female, 4<sup>th</sup> December (R. K. Norman)
- 2007** Nickolls Quarry, immature/female, 20<sup>th</sup> December (R. K. Norman)
- 2007** Samphire Hoe, drake flew east, 30<sup>th</sup> December (Per D. E. Smith)
- 2008** Paraker Wood, pair flew north-west, 30<sup>th</sup> November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2008** Palmarsh, immature/female, "regularly in late December", presumed same at Nickolls Quarry, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (B. Harper)
- 2009** Seabrook, immature/female on canal, 6<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February, photographed (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts *et al*)
- 2009** Botolph's Bridge, three, 11<sup>th</sup> January (B. Harper)
- 2009** Seabrook, drake on canal, 28<sup>th</sup> December (B. Harper)
- 2009** Nickolls Quarry, two immature/female, 28<sup>th</sup> December, photographed (B. Harper)
- 2010** Hythe, drake on canal, 2<sup>nd</sup> January (I. A. Roberts)
- 2010** Botolph's Bridge, up to two immature/female, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> January (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
- 2010** Botolph's Bridge, flock of 12 flew over, 20<sup>th</sup> February, photographed (B. Harper)
- 2010** Hythe, one on canal, 14<sup>th</sup> November (B. Harper)
- 2010** Hythe, three immature/females flew east at sea, 27<sup>th</sup> November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2010** Hythe, immature/female on the sea, 27<sup>th</sup> November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2010** Sandgate, five on the sea, 28<sup>th</sup> November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2010** Botolph's Bridge, one, 29<sup>th</sup> November (B. Harper)
- 2010** Seabrook, flock of 20 on the sea (inc. several drakes), 1<sup>st</sup> December (I. A. Roberts)
- 2010** Samphire Hoe, three flew east, 2<sup>nd</sup> December (M. Kennett)
- 2010** Botolph's Bridge, two pairs, 18<sup>th</sup> December, with up to three to 27<sup>th</sup> December, and one to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, presumed one of same at Nickolls Quarry on 30<sup>th</sup> December (B. Harper)
- 2012** Seabrook, three drakes on canal and sea, 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> January, with two to 11<sup>th</sup> January and one to 14<sup>th</sup> January, photographed (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts), presumed one of same at Hythe on 13<sup>th</sup> January (P. Holt)
- 2012** Hythe, pair flew west, 3<sup>rd</sup> February (I. A. Roberts)
- 2012** Botolph's Bridge, up to three (two drakes), 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February, presumed same singles at Nickolls Quarry on 8<sup>th</sup> February and West Hythe on 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February (B. Harper, R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)
- 2013** Botolph's Bridge, one, 30<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December (B. Harper)
- 2014** Samphire Hoe, drake flew east, 2<sup>nd</sup> April (M. Kennett)
- 2014** Samphire Hoe, three, 17<sup>th</sup> November (per D. E. Smith)
- 2014** West Hythe, immature/female, 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> December, photographed (D. Wrathall, B. Harper, I. A. Roberts *et al*), presumed same Botolph's Bridge 30<sup>th</sup> December.
- 2015** West Hythe, immature/female, 14<sup>th</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> 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, 14<sup>th</sup> February (B. Harper)
- 2015** Botolph's Bridge, drake flew over, 21<sup>st</sup> February (B. Harper)
- 2015** Botolph's Bridge, two immature/female on cut then flew east, 8<sup>th</sup> March (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
- 2015** Hythe, drake, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> December, also on sea off Hythe, and presumed same at Seabrook on 4<sup>th</sup> December, photographed (N. Webster, P. Smith, I. A. Roberts)
- 2015** Beachborough Ponds, two drakes flew over, 13<sup>th</sup> December (I. A. Roberts)
- 2016** Battery Point, one flew west, 10<sup>th</sup> January (B. Harper)
- 2016** Princes Parade, immature/female flew west, 10<sup>th</sup> January (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts, N. Webster)
- 2016** Princes Parade, three flew east, 27<sup>th</sup> February (N. Webster)
- 2016** Mill Point, immature/female on the sea, 7<sup>th</sup> November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2016** Hythe, immature/female flew east, 7<sup>th</sup> November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2016** Fisherman's Beach (Hythe), immature/female on the sea, 13<sup>th</sup> November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2016** Botolph's Bridge, 19<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017, possibly same as above (B. Harper)
- 2017** Botolph's Bridge, three (one drake) flew south-west, 1<sup>st</sup> January (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
- 2017** Botolph's Bridge, two drakes flew over, 22<sup>nd</sup> January (B. Harper)
- 2017** Hythe Redoubt, three offshore, 25<sup>th</sup> November (B. Harper)
- 2017** Nickolls Quarry, one immature/female, 19<sup>th</sup> December (I. A. Roberts)
- 2018** Botolph's Bridge, pair, 18<sup>th</sup> March (B. Harper)
- 2018** Mill Point, one flew east, 21<sup>st</sup> November (B. Harper)
- 2018** West Hythe dam, two, 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November, with at least one to 30<sup>th</sup> November when it was also seen at Donkey Street, photographed (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
- 2018** Samphire Hoe, two flew west, 29<sup>th</sup> November (S. Cutt)



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)