

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

Category A

Rare migrant and winter visitor

34 records

Breeds from Denmark and northern Germany eastwards into Russia and south-eastwards to Caspian Sea. Winters in tidal waters mainly around the North and Baltic seas.

A scarce passage migrant and winter visitor to Kent.



Red-necked Grebe at Sandgate (Ian Roberts)

Ticehurst in his *A History of the Birds of Kent* (1909) mentions that a specimen was taken off Sandgate in the winter of 1893 and nearly sixty years elapsed before Roger Norman saw the next at Nickoll's Quarry in 1951. There were then single records in four further years up to 1982 before three sightings occurred in 1983. Since then this species has occurred with some (though perhaps decreasing) regularity, with records in 14 of the 33 years to 2017, as demonstrated by figure 1. The best year to date was 1996, with four records.

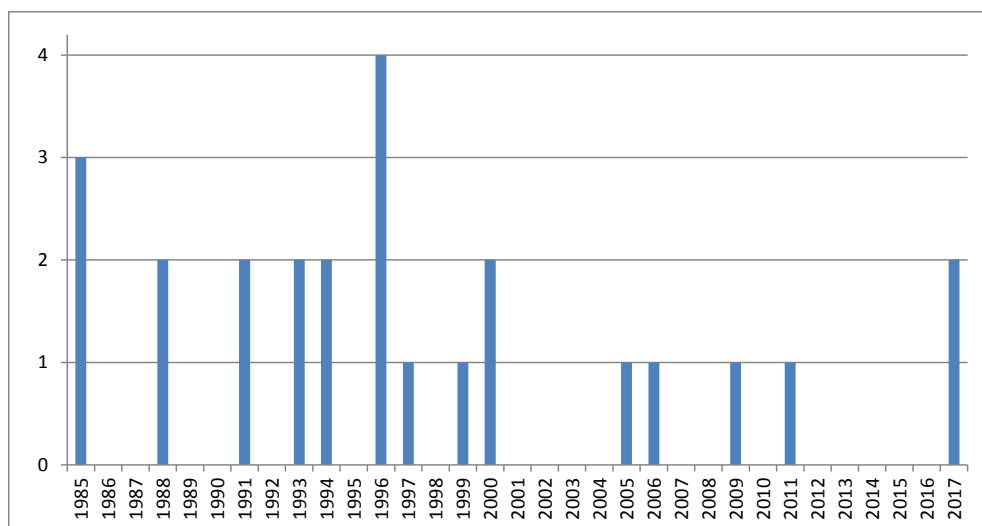


Figure 1: Red-necked Grebe records at Folkestone and Hythe since 1985

The earliest arrival date was the 23rd August (in 1973), with two records in each of September and October, and five in November. January and February have produced almost half (45%) of all sightings, with many associated with the onset of severe weather. There have been three March records and the latest was on the 7th April (2011). The records by week are given in figure 2, and there are further undated records in January and November.

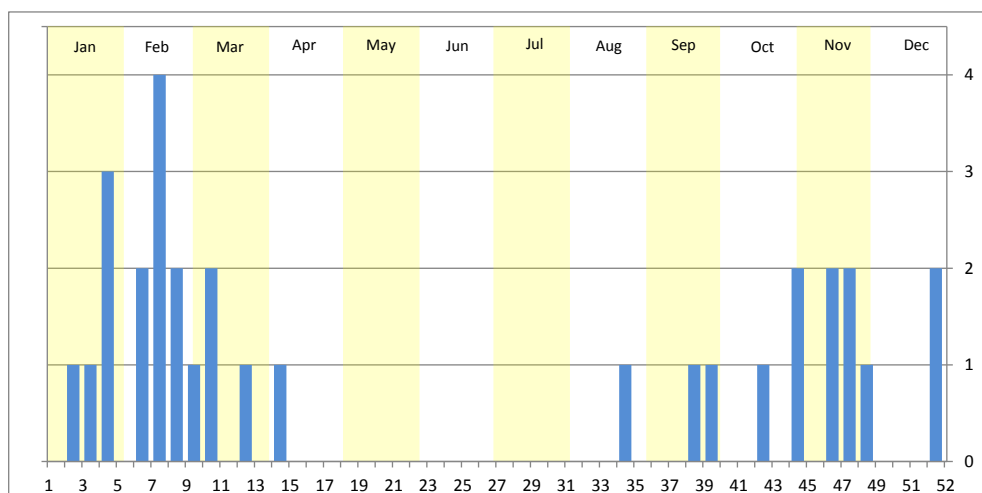


Figure 2: Red-necked Grebe records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

The distribution of winter records recorded in the BTO/KOS Atlas (2007 – 2012) is shown in figure 3. Both records during the winter period were from the same site at Hythe. Other records have been split between Nickoll’s Quarry (9) and coastal sites: Copt Point (6), Sandgate (5), Folkestone (3), Hythe Redoubt (2), Mill Point (2), Samphire Hoe (2) and singles at Hythe, Hythe Ranges and Seabrook.

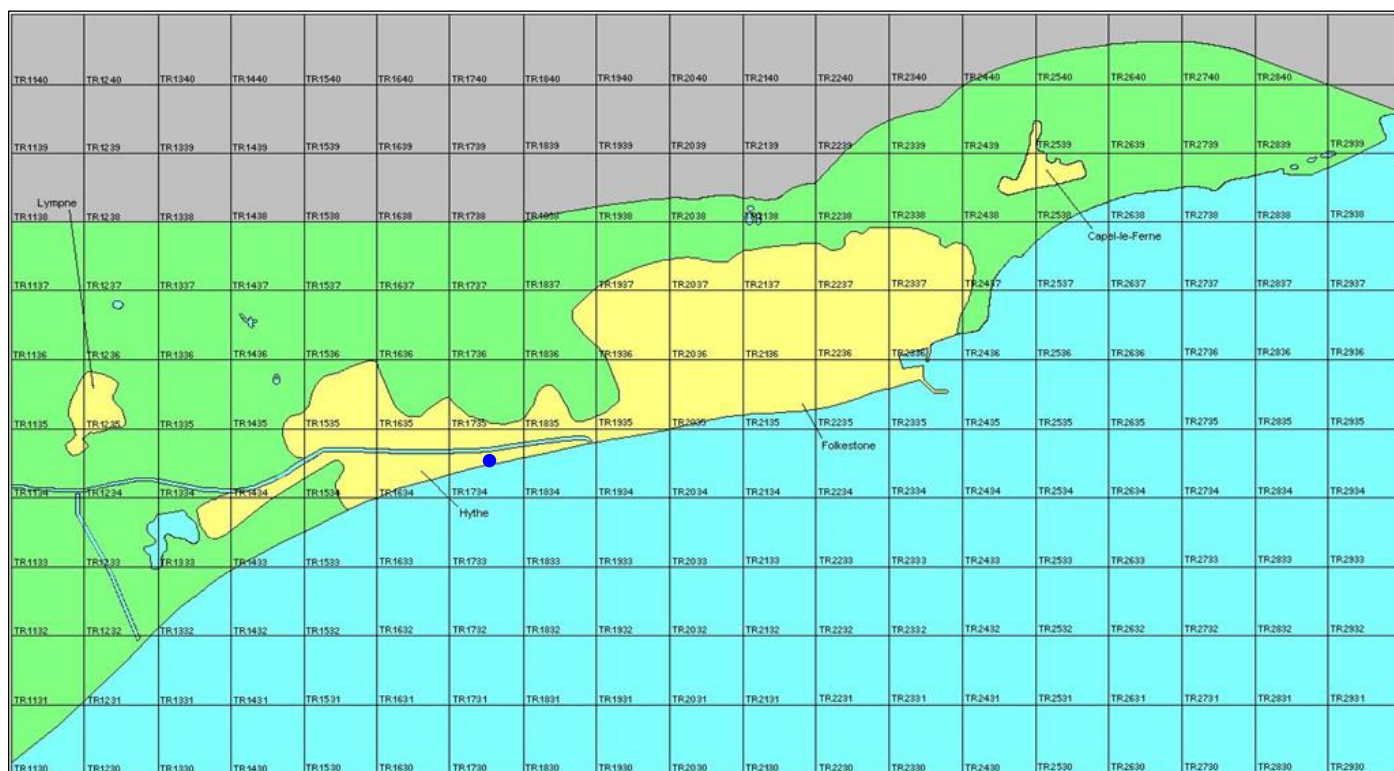


Figure 3: Wintering distribution of Red-necked Grebe at Folkestone and Hythe (2007 – 2012 BTO/KOS Atlas)

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1893** Sandgate, one obtained, in winter (per N. Ticehurst)
- 1951** Nickoll’s Quarry, one, 21st January (R. K. Norman)
- 1958** Nickoll’s Quarry, one, 9th to 11th March (R. K. Norman)
- 1967** Seabrook, one swimming east, 2nd December (T. Grant)
- 1973** Nickoll’s Quarry, two “still showing chestnut on the neck”, 23rd August (M. E. Upstone)
- 1979** Nickoll’s Quarry, two including one found dead, 10th March (D. Weaver)
- 1983** Copt Point, one, 18th February (reported)
- 1983** Folkestone, two, 22nd February (per Kent Bird Report)
- 1983** Folkestone, two, 29th September (per Kent Bird Report)
- 1985** Copt Point, one, 13th January (reported)
- 1985** Nickoll’s Quarry, one, 16th February (R. & S. Philpott)
- 1985** Copt Point, two, 23rd February (reported)
- 1988** Sandgate, one, in January (reported)
- 1988** Shakespeare Beach, one, in November (reported)
- 1991** Hythe Redoubt, one, 15th February (R. K. Norman)
- 1991** Copt Point, one flew west, 31st October (D. A. Gibson)
- 1993** Hythe, one in partial summer plumage, 7th to 8th February (I. A. Roberts *et al*)
- 1993** Hythe Ranges, two flew west, 26th December (R. K. Norman)
- 1994** Nickoll’s Quarry, one, 13th November (R. K. Norman)
- 1994** Nickoll’s Quarry, one, 23rd November (R. K. Norman)
- 1996** Sandgate, one, 5th to 11th February (P. Howe, H. G. Brown, R. Thorogood)
- 1996** Copt Point, two, 14th February (D. A. Gibson)
- 1996** Nickoll’s Quarry, one, 26th February to 8th March (R. K. Norman)
- 1996** Sandgate, one, 19th to 21st March (P. Howe, R. Thorogood)
- 1997** Sandgate, one, 24th January (P. Howe)
- 1999** Nickoll’s Quarry, one, 15th October (R. K. Norman)

2000 Copt Point, one flew west, 20th September (D. A. Gibson, I. A. Roberts)

2000 Hythe Redoubt, one, 28th December (P. Haines)

2005 Samphire Hoe, one flew west, 19th November (I. A. Roberts)

2006 Mill Point, one flew east, 27th January (I. A. Roberts)

2009 Hythe, one, 24th January (D. Brown)

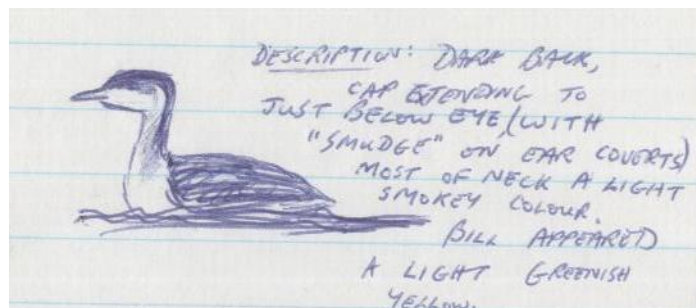
2011 Hythe, one, 7th April (S. McMinn)

2017 Mill Point, one on the sea, later seen off Sandgate, 4th November, photographed (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)

2017 Samphire Hoe, one, 13th November (P. Holt)



Red-necked Grebe at Sandgate (B. Harper)



Red-necked Grebe at Seabrook in 1967 (T. Grant)