

Red-necked Grebe

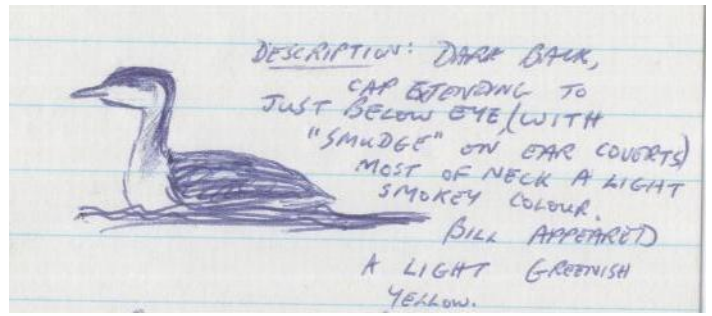
Podiceps grisegena

Category A

Rare migrant and winter visitor

32 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.



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

A scarce passage migrant and winter visitor to Kent.

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 regularity, with records in 13 of the 27 years to 2011, as demonstrated by figure 1. The best year to date was 1996, with four records.

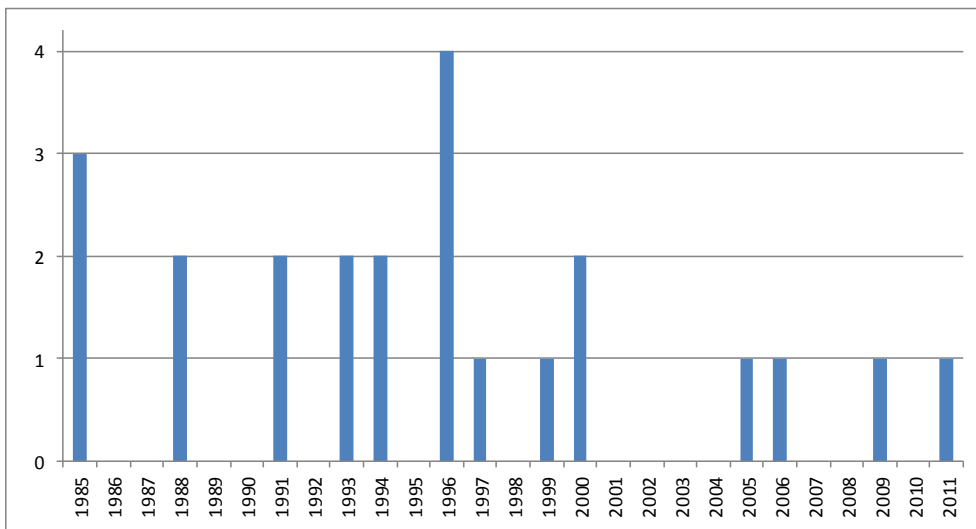


Figure 1: Red-necked Grebe records at Folkestone and Hythe since 1985

The earliest arrival date was the 23rd August (in 1973), with two records in each of September and October, and four 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.

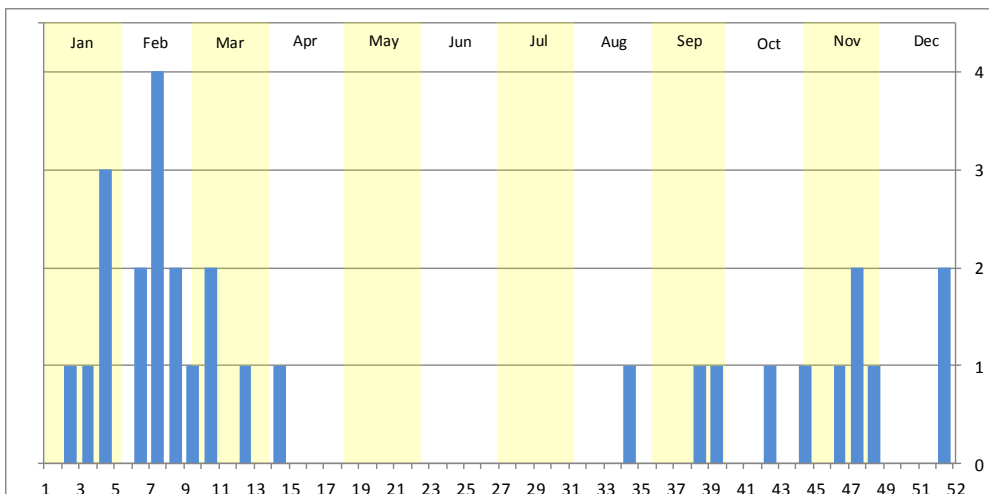


Figure 2: Red-necked Grebe records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

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. Earlier records were split between Nickoll’s Quarry (9) and coastal sites: Copt Point (6), Sandgate (5), Folkestone (3), Hythe Redoubt (2) and singles at Hythe, Hythe Ranges, Mill Point, Samphire Hoe and Seabrook.

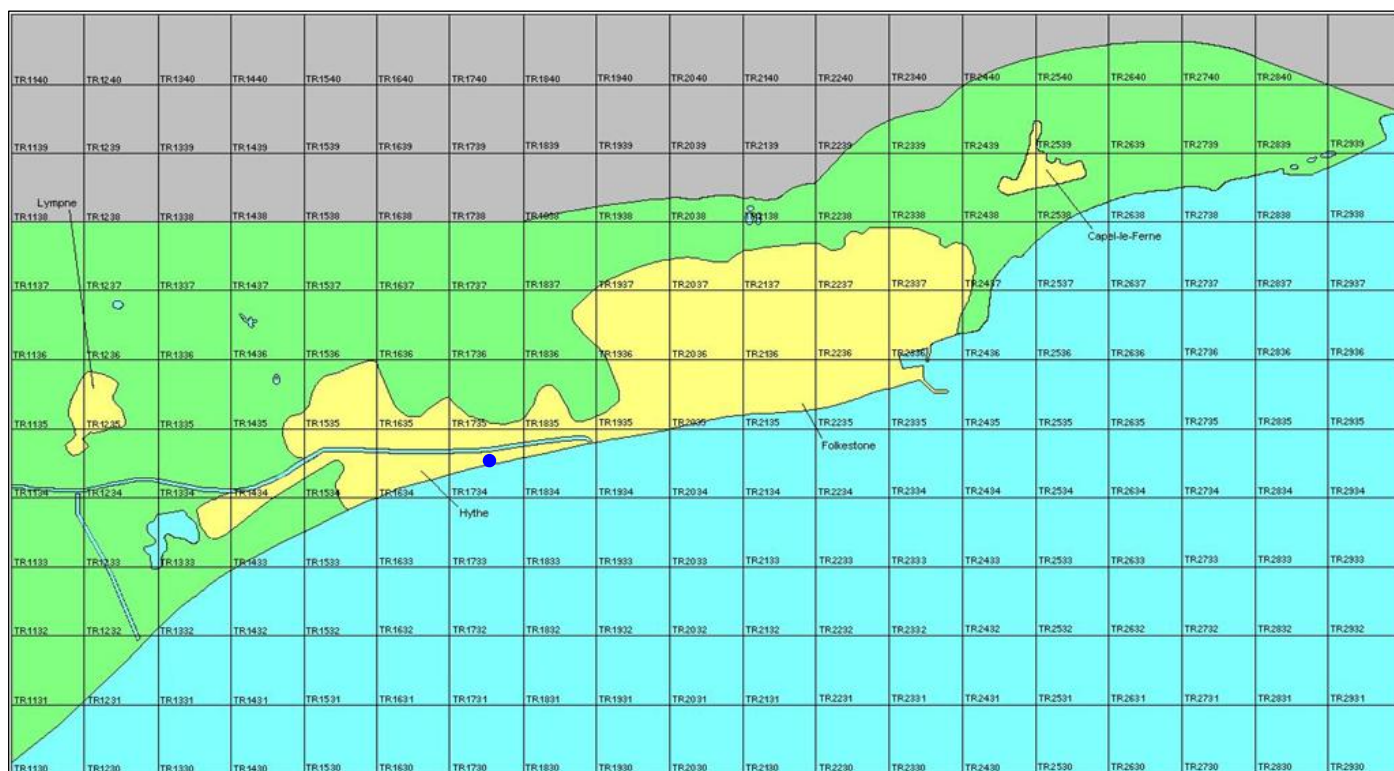


Figure 3: Wintering distribution of Red-necked Grebe at Folkestone and Hythe (2007 – 2012 BTO/KOS Atlas)

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)