

Black Kite

Milvus migrans

Category A

Very rare vagrant

13 records

Breeds across most of Europe except Britain, north-west France, the Low Countries and Fenno-Scandia. Winters in northern tropical Africa.

A rare but regular vagrant to Kent between spring and autumn.

First recorded in the Folkestone and Hythe area in 1994, with another the following year, and 11 since 2005, as shown in figure 1. There was more than one record for the first time in 2011 (although two earlier records related to multiple individuals).



Black Kite at Capel-le-Ferne (Dale Gibson)

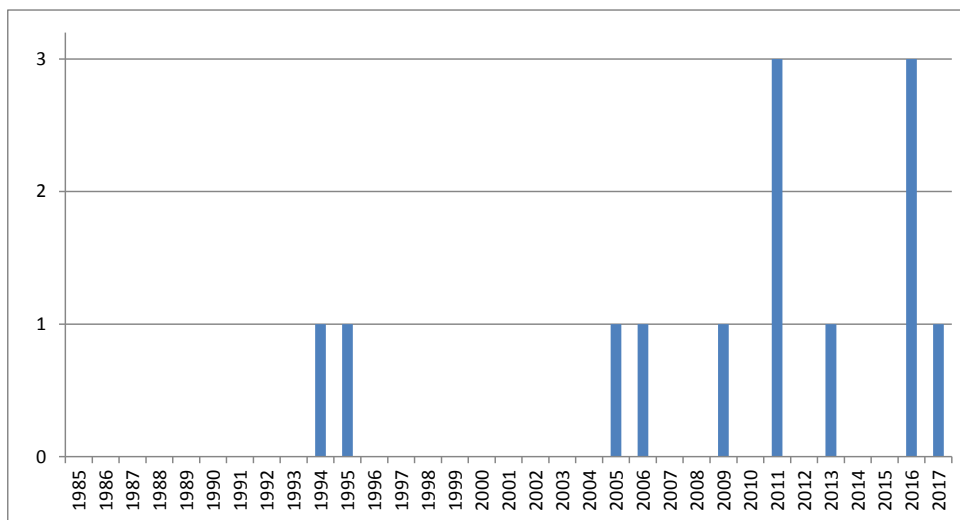


Figure 1: Black Kite records since 1985 at Folkestone and Hythe

All have been recorded between the 3rd April (week 14) and 19th May (week 20), except for singles in June and December, as demonstrated in figure 2.

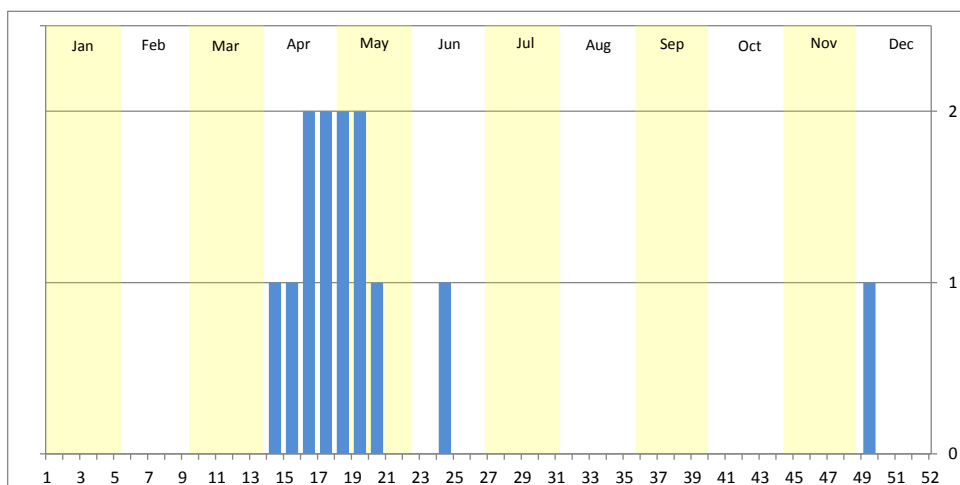


Figure 2: Black Kite records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Records are fairly well distributed geographically, with three from Hythe, two from Cheriton and Folkestone, records of two on the same day at Abbotscliffe and Capel-le-Ferne (with a further one at the latter site), and single sightings from Saltwood, Samphire Hoe and Westenhanger. The record of two arriving at Capel-le-Ferne in 1994 constituted the first multiple occurrence in Britain.

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1994** Capel-le-Ferne, two arrived in off the sea (singles at 10:45 and 11:30), 9th May, photographed (D. A. Gibson)
- 1995** Cheriton, one flew east, 20th April (D. A. Gibson)
- 2005** Hythe, one flew east, 12th April (I. A. Roberts)
- 2006** Abbotscliffe, two flew north-west (singles at 10:15 and 11:15), 6th May (D. A. Gibson, I. A. Roberts)
- 2009** Westenhanger, one flew north-east, 22nd April (I. A. Roberts)
- 2011** Folkestone, one flew north, 25th April (D. A. Gibson)
- 2011** Saltwood, one, 25th April (P. Howe), possibly same as above
- 2011** Cheriton, one flew west, 19th May (O. Leyshon)
- 2013** Samphire Hoe, one, 4th December (R. Smith), presumed same 12th to 13th December (P. Holt, D. Mansfield)
- 2016** Hythe, one flew east, 3rd April (N. Webster)
- 2016** Capel-le-Ferne, one flew west, 7th May (D. A. Gibson)
- 2016** Hythe, one flew west, 11th June (C. Griggs)
- 2017** Folkestone, one flew in off the sea, also seen flying west at Seabrook (D. A. Gibson, P. Howe)



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