

# Barred Warbler

*Sylvia nisoria*

Category A

Very rare vagrant

2 records

Breeds across mid-latitude Europe eastwards from eastern Germany into Russia, and south-east through the Balkans to the Black Sea. Winters in east Africa.

A rare autumn vagrant to Kent. The first county record was at Dungeness in 1951, with a further 91 to the end of 2010. There have been just 11 records in the last ten years though, which suggests a recent decline compared to 20 records in the 1980s and 23 in the 1990s. The extreme arrival dates are 1<sup>st</sup> August and 17<sup>th</sup> December, but the vast majority (86%) have occurred between mid-August and mid-October, with September accounting for almost half of all sightings. Over half of the Kent records are shared between the two observatories (29 in the Dungeness area and 22 at Sandwich Bay), with 14 on the Isle of Thanet, 12 along the north coast between Reculver and Grain, 11 in the Bockhill / St. Margaret's Bay area, and a few scattered singles, including one at West Hythe.

The first area record concerned one, thought to have been a first winter, seen by Neil Frampton at West Hythe on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1984. The second was a mobile and elusive individual seen by Ian Roberts at Abbotscliffe on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

The occurrence of the two records at Folkestone and Hythe are demonstrated by figure 1.

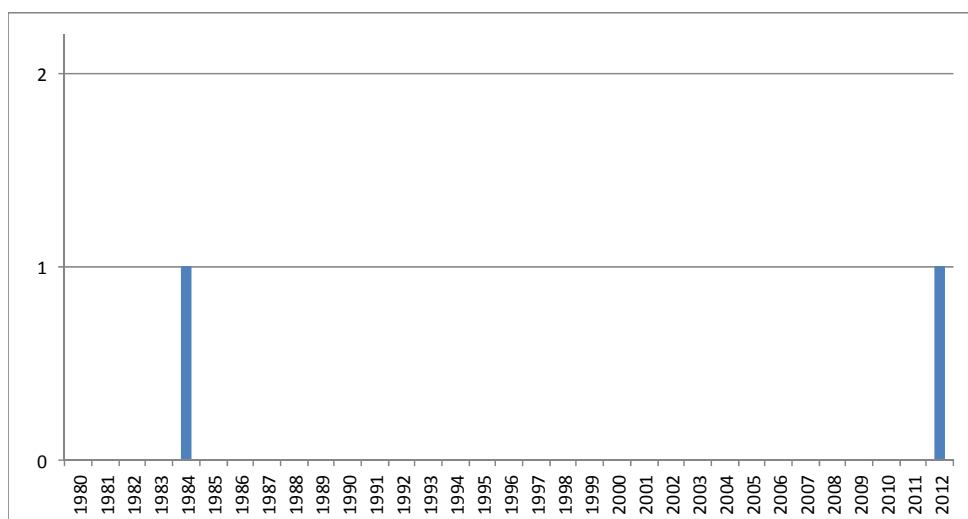


Figure 1: Barred Warbler records at Folkestone and Hythe

The distribution of occurrences by week are shown by figure 2.

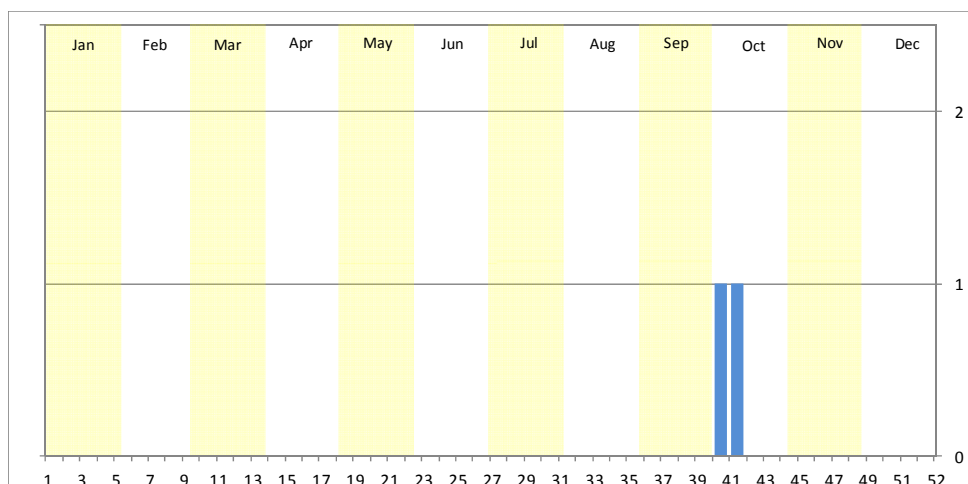


Figure 2: Barred Warbler records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

The full details of the records are as follows:

**1984** West Hythe, first-winter, 30<sup>th</sup> September (N. C. Frampton)

**2012** Abbotscliffe, one, 9<sup>th</sup> October (I. A. Roberts)