

# Serin

*Serinus serinus*

Category A

Rare passage migrant

26 records

Breeds across central and southern Europe from France eastwards to Baltic states, and south to north Africa. There was a major, mainly northward, expansion of its range which began in the nineteenth century and continued into the twentieth, reaching northern France in the 1950s and Finistère in the 1970s. There was an increase in records in Britain at this time and even sporadic breeding, but it did not become established. The species is vulnerable to cold wet weather and unable to cope with more northerly winters. It also appears to show a reluctance to cross open water, also being very scarce to the north of the Baltic Sea. Winters mainly within southern part of its range.

A scarce but regular coastal passage migrant in Kent.

First recorded at Folkestone and Hythe in 1993 when there were five sightings, which remains the record year to date. Thereafter it was recorded with some regularity, with a total 14 occurrences in all of the next seven years to 2000. Since then however there have been just seven further records, and only four in the last eleven years. The records by year are shown in figure 1.

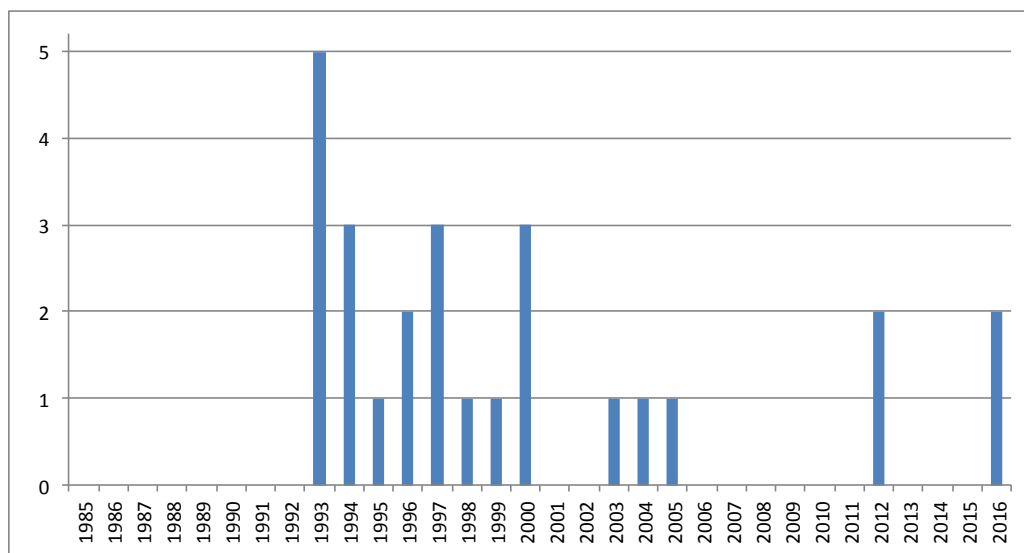


Figure 1: Serin records at Folkestone and Hythe

The majority (73%) of records have been in spring or early summer, mainly between the 3<sup>rd</sup> April (week 14) and 20<sup>th</sup> May (week 21), with one on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. The recent summer record (on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012) is the only occurrence in that season to date. The autumn records have occurred between the 22<sup>nd</sup> October (week 43) and 21<sup>st</sup> November (week 47). The records by week are given in figure 2.

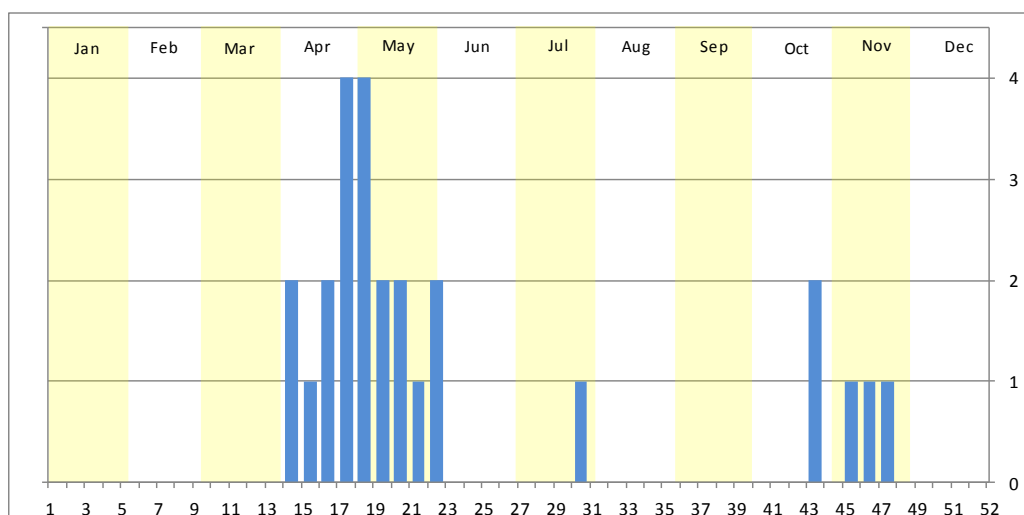


Figure 2: Serin records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Fourteen records were from the cliffs (Abbotscliffe and Capel-le-Ferne), with six at Copt Point, two at Samphire Hoe and singles at Cheriton, Church Hougham, Hythe and Mill Point.

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1993** Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site, one flew north-west, 12<sup>th</sup> April (D. A. Gibson)
- 1993** Copt Point, female flew in off the sea, 24<sup>th</sup> April (D. A. Gibson)
- 1993** Mill Point, one flew west, 10<sup>th</sup> May (I. A. Roberts)
- 1993** Copt Point, one flew west, 10<sup>th</sup> May (D. A. Gibson), different to above based on times of observation
- 1993** Abbotscliffe, one, 22<sup>nd</sup> October (D. A. Gibson)
- 1994** Capel-le-Ferne, male, 29<sup>th</sup> April (D. A. Gibson)
- 1994** Capel-le-Ferne, one flew east, 1<sup>st</sup> May (D. A. Gibson)
- 1994** Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site, one flew west, 1<sup>st</sup> June (D. A. Gibson)
- 1995** Copt Point, male flew in off the sea, 14<sup>th</sup> May (D. A. Gibson)
- 1996** Capel-le-Ferne, one flew west north-west, 8<sup>th</sup> November (D. A. Gibson)
- 1996** Copt Point, one flew west, 21<sup>st</sup> November (D. A. Gibson)
- 1997** Abbotscliffe, female, flew north-west, 3<sup>rd</sup> April (D. A. Gibson)
- 1997** Capel-le-Ferne Café, one flew in/west, 8<sup>th</sup> April (I. A. Roberts)
- 1997** Copt Point, male flew in off the sea, 3<sup>rd</sup> May (D. A. Gibson, I. A. Roberts)
- 1998** Abbotscliffe, one flew in/east, 27<sup>th</sup> April (I. A. Roberts)
- 1999** Church Hougham, male, 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April (M. D. Kennett *et al*)
- 2000** Samphire Hoe, one, 16<sup>th</sup> May (P. Holt)
- 2000** Abbotscliffe, one flew in off the sea, 20<sup>th</sup> May (D. A. Gibson, I. A. Roberts)
- 2000** Samphire Hoe, one, 27<sup>th</sup> May (P. Holt)
- 2003** Abbotscliffe, one, 15<sup>th</sup> November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2004** Copt Point, one flew east, 27<sup>th</sup> April (I. A. Roberts)
- 2005** Capel-le-Ferne, male singing briefly near Royal Oak pub, 30<sup>th</sup> April (I. A. Roberts)
- 2012** Cheriton, one flew north, 25<sup>th</sup> July (D. A. Gibson)
- 2012** Abbotscliffe, one flew east, 24<sup>th</sup> October (I. A. Roberts)
- 2016** Abbotscliffe, one flew east, 17<sup>th</sup> April (I. A. Roberts)
- 2016** Hythe, one flew in/west, 5<sup>th</sup> May (S. McMinn)