

Common Rosefinch

Carpodacus erythrinus

Category A

Very rare vagrant

3 records

Breeds primarily in eastern Europe, from eastern Germany into Russia, and Scandinavia, with small numbers on the coasts of the Netherlands, Belgium and northern France, including a few pairs as close as Cap Blanc Nez in recent years. Migrates south-east in autumn to winter mainly in Indian sub-continent and China.

The first Kent record was not recorded until 1977 but there have been fairly regular records since, with another 22 to the end of 2010. Records fall into two distinct arrival periods: late spring (between 18th May and 21st June) and early autumn (between 27th August and 16th September), except for an isolated record in late July.

The first Common Rosefinch to be recorded in the Folkestone and Hythe area was in 1988 and there have been two further records, as demonstrated by figure 1.

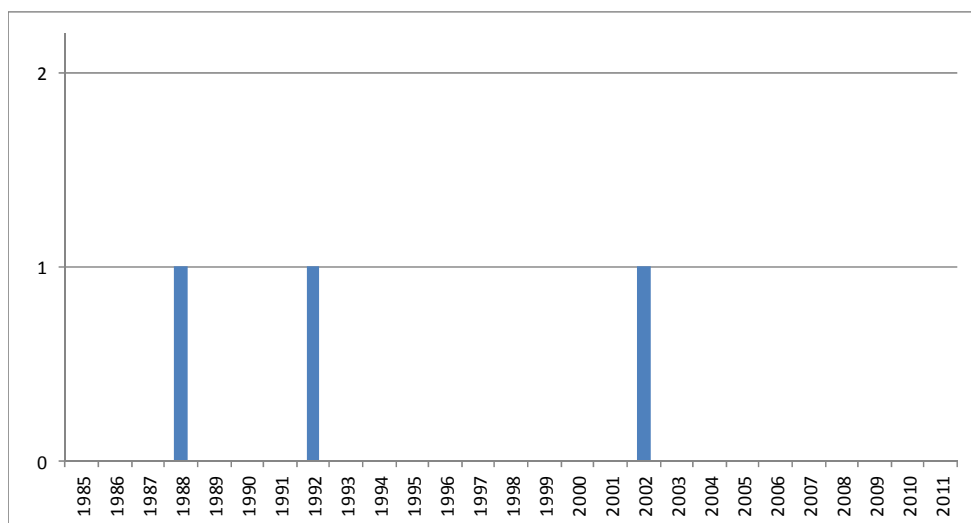


Figure 1: Common Rosefinch records at Folkestone and Hythe

All records to date have occurred in late spring, between 31st May (week 22) and 14th June (week 24), as demonstrated by figure 2.

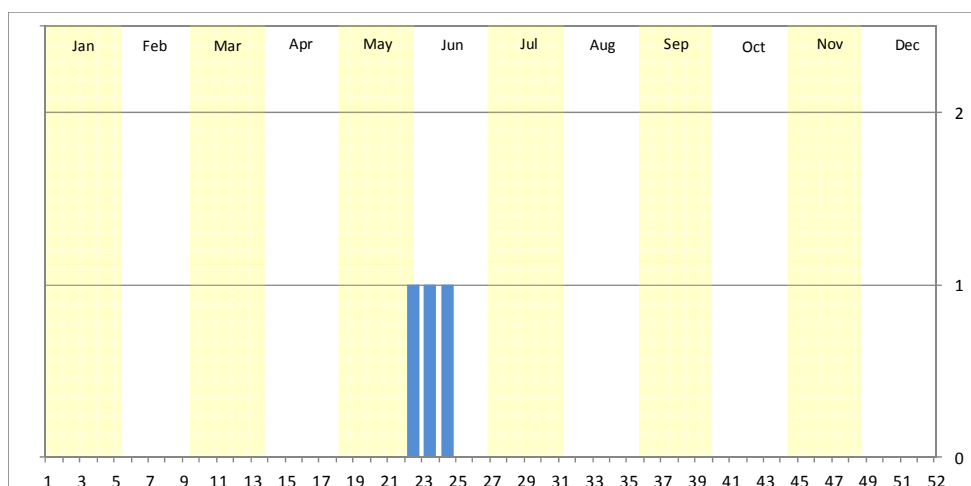


Figure 2: Common Rosefinch records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

All records to date have been coastal, as demonstrated by figure 3, with two at Capel-le-Ferne and the other at Mill Point.

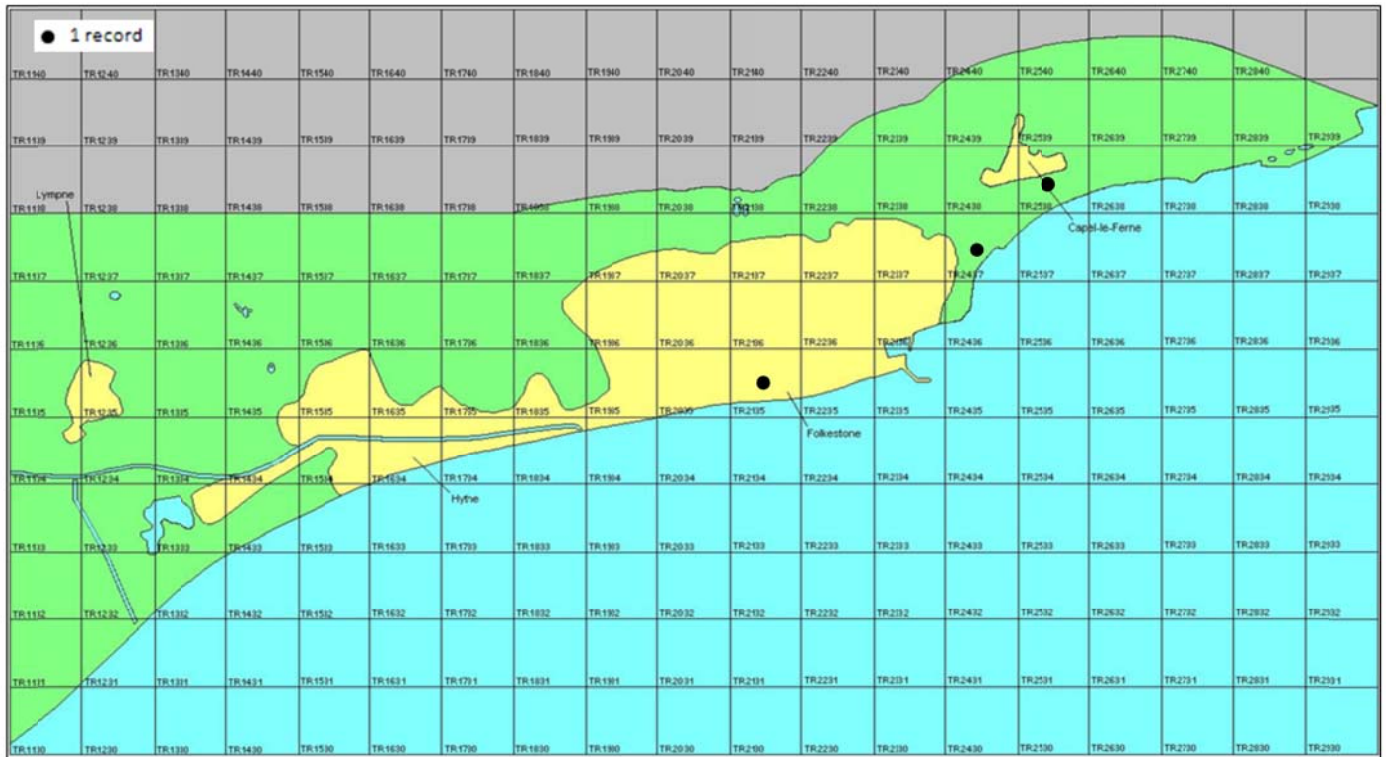


Figure 3: Occurrence of Common Rosefinch at Folkestone and Hythe by 1km square

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1988** Mill Point, immature male in song, 14th June (I. A. Roberts)
- 1992** Capel-le-Ferne Café, female or immature male, 7th June (I. A. Roberts)
- 2002** Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site, adult male in song, 31st May (I. A. Roberts)

An account of the first area record is given below:

Common Rosefinch at Mill Point 14th June 1998

(Ian A Roberts)

Circumstances of the find:

I was on the seafront at Mill Point on 14th June when at around 07:40 a passerine appeared to fly in off the sea, and gave a clear, phyllosc-like “hueet” call, although it did not resemble a warbler in size or shape, being more finch-like. It landed in a small bush out of sight but sang twice “wee-ju-wee-ju-woo” with a phyllosc-like tone and quality. I approached nearer trying to get a view of the bird, but it appeared very flighty and I only caught a glimpse before it flew off. It appeared brown above and streaked below, with a plain-looking face.

When I returned home I made reference to recordings of the call and song of Common Rosefinch and these were identical to what I had heard earlier that morning.

Description of the bird:

Size, shape, jizz: a finch-like bird.

Head and upperparts: appeared brown above, with a plain-looking face.

Underparts: streaked below.

Voice: a clear, phyllosc-like "hueet" call and a song with a similar tone and quality: "wee-ju-wee-ju-woo".

Comments on the record:

The record was accepted by the KOS rarities committee and appears in the Kent Bird Report for that year as the seventh county record.