

Asian Desert Warbler

Sylvia nana

Category A

Very rare vagrant

1 record

Breeds from Iran and Kazakhstan to Mongolia and winters from North-east Africa to northern India.

It is a very rare vagrant to Britain with 11 records prior to the one at Samphire Hoe (most recently in 2000). All of the previous records were on the eastern or southern coasts of England between Yorkshire and Devon (apart from one in Cheshire), with one in Kent – at Seasalter in November 1991.



Asian Desert Warbler at Samphire Hoe (Roger Card)

The only area record is as follows:

2012 Samphire Hoe, one, 18th November, photographed (R. Card)

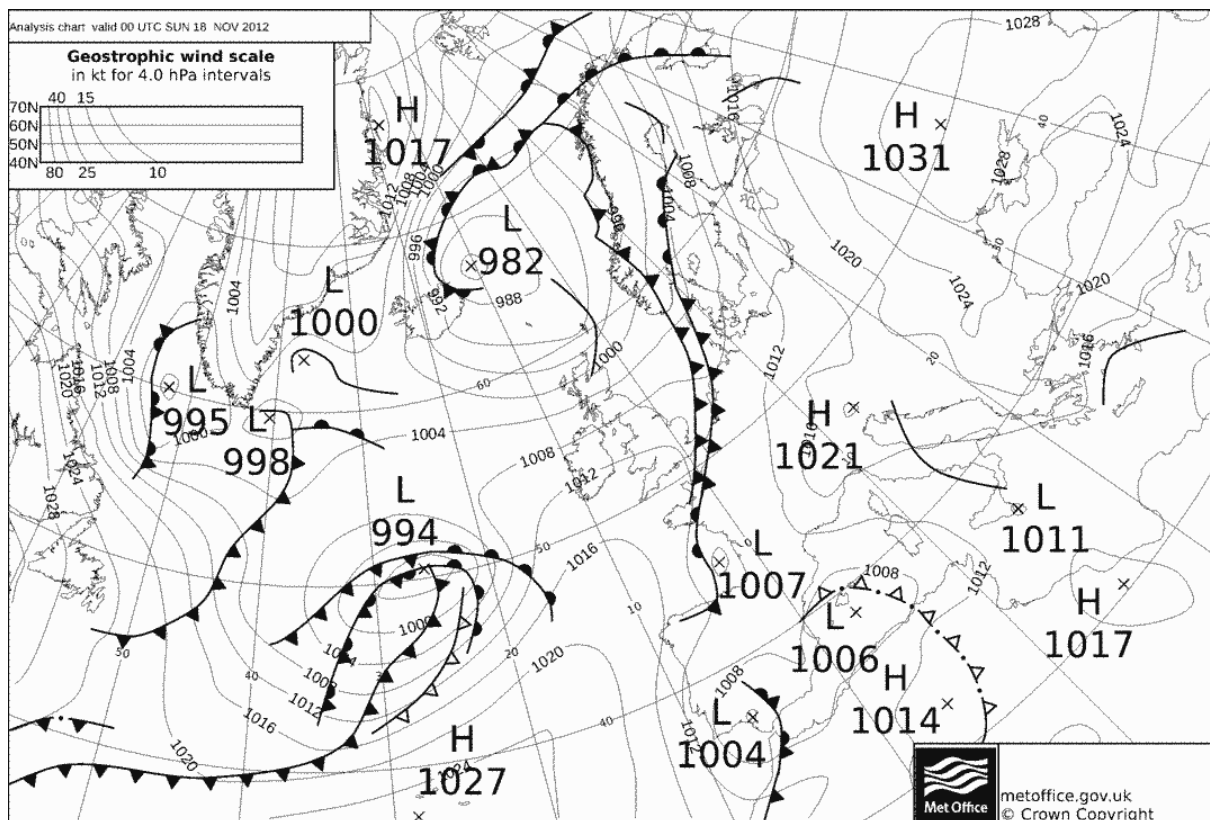
An account of the first area record is given below:

Asian Desert Warbler at Samphire Hoe 18th November 2012

(Roger Card)

Weather conditions:

The synoptic chart at midnight on 17th/18th November shows areas of high pressure extending eastwards into southern Asia, with two cold fronts running up the English Channel which brought heavy overnight rain to Kent. The morning dawned bright and clear, with a light to moderate north north-westerly wind which dropped during the day, leaving it feeling very mild and pleasant in late autumn sunshine.



Circumstances of the find:

On the morning of 18th November 2012 Roger Card found and photographed an Asian Desert Warbler at Samphire Hoe. It was last seen at 09:55 and unfortunately it could not be relocated despite extensive searching. The description that follows is taken from the photographs which demonstrate the key features.

Description of the bird:

Head and upperparts: Pale and sandy-coloured, with a contrastingly rufous tail. Outermost tail feathers white.

Underparts: Pale.

Bare parts: Pale yellow iris and pale straw-coloured legs and bill.

The record was accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee and appears in their annual report for 2012 (British Birds: 106, p. 612).



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