

Ring-necked Parakeet

Psittacula krameri

Category C1, E

Rare visitor.

28 records

The natural range extends from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Burma and south to Sri Lanka, and it is also widespread in sub-Saharan Africa north of Equator. In Europe introduced or escaped birds now breed regularly in several countries, including Britain (Snow & Perrins, 1998).

Breeding in Britain by escaped or released Ring-necked Parakeets was first confirmed in Kent in 1971 (Balmer *et al*, 2013). There are now two distinct populations in the county, one in Thanet (which has been increasing at 15% per year but with limited spread into neighbouring countryside) and the other in the north-west of Kent, on the fringe of Greater London (which has been increasing at 30% per year and has expanded east to Meopham and south to Sevenoaks). The total breeding population has been estimated at around 1,000 pairs. There are occasional records elsewhere (Clements *et al*, 2015, KOS, 2020).

It was first recorded locally on the 3rd April 1987 when Ian Roberts saw one flying over Cherry Garden Avenue in Cheriton. There were two records of possible breeding noted in the 1988-94 atlas, in TR13 P and TR13 U (Henderson & Hodge, 1998), but nothing more is known of these records and the authors considered that, away from the main populations, “occasional records throughout the county ... are mostly probably wandering birds rather than breeders”.

There have been a further 25 documented sightings, including four in 2000, as shown in figure 1.

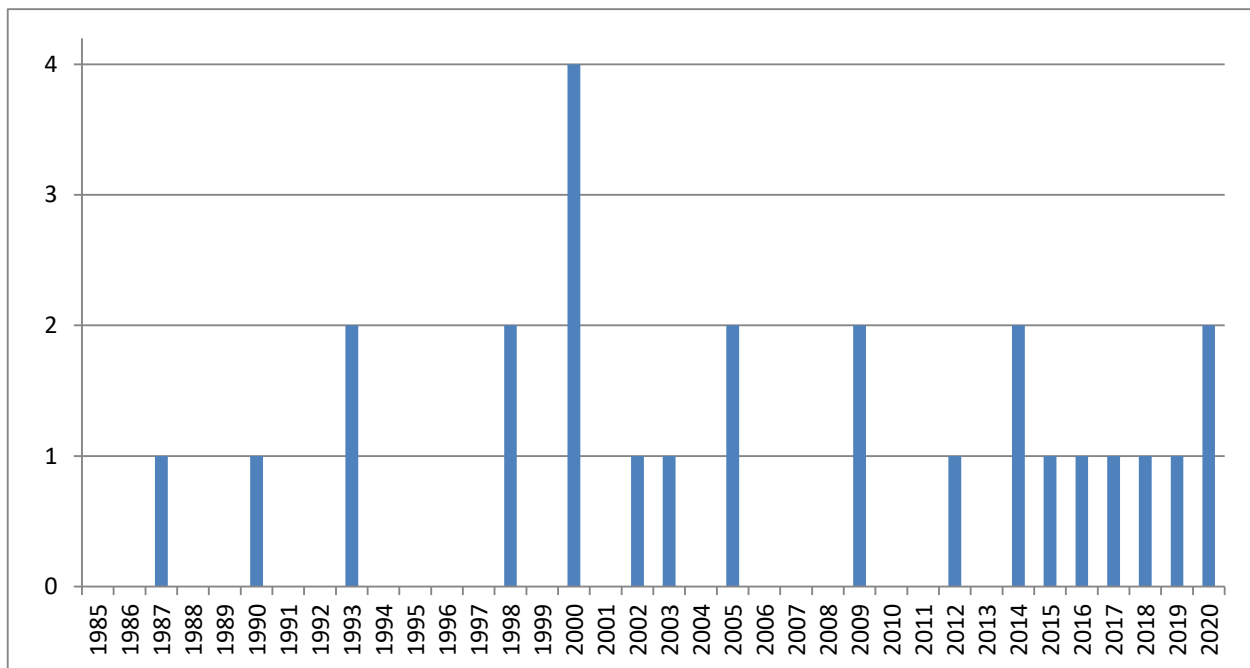


Figure 1: Ring-necked Parakeet records at Folkestone and Hythe

There is little pattern to the dates when this species has been recorded, as demonstrated by figure 2, but there is something of a cluster in spring, with eight between the 19th March and 27th May (week 12-22) and a rather more protracted series between the 30th June and 28th November (weeks 26-48).

There have been no records in mid-summer (19th May to 29th June) and only two in winter (December-February).

Records are well-scattered, as demonstrated by figure 3, which shows the distribution of records by tetrad, with 6 at Hythe, 4 at Folkestone and Cheriton, 3 at Capel-le-Ferne, 2 at Abbotscliffe and Samphire Hoe, and singles at Copt Point, Nickolls Quarry, Palmarsh, Seabrook and Willop sewage works.

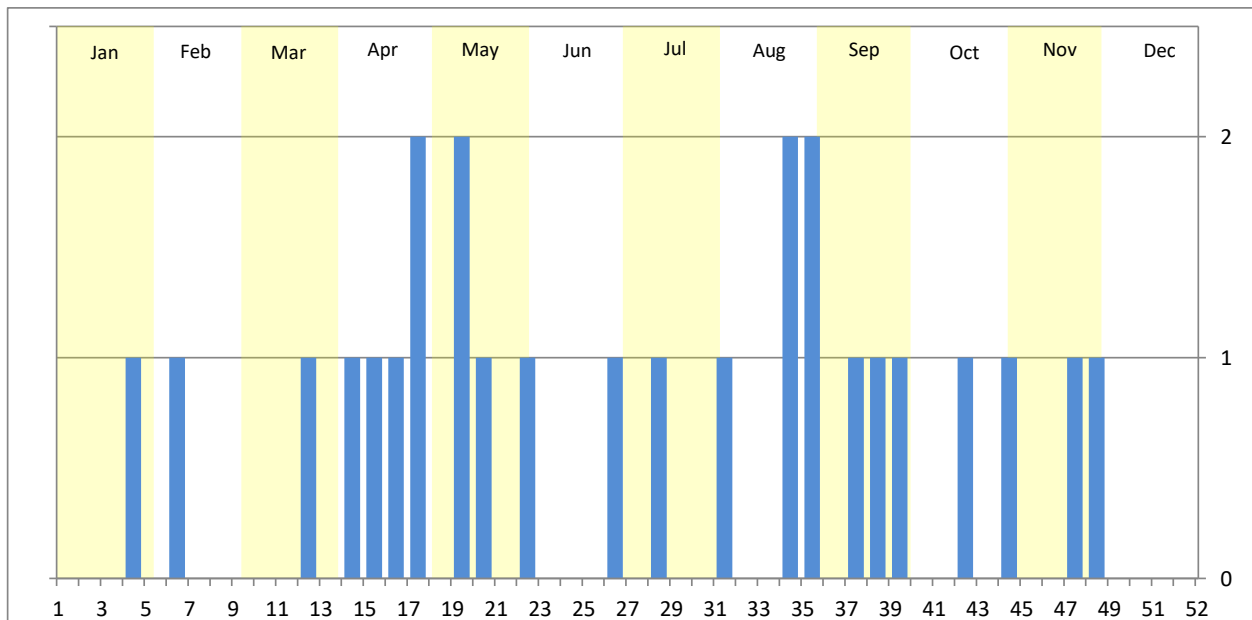


Figure 2: Ring-necked Parakeet records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

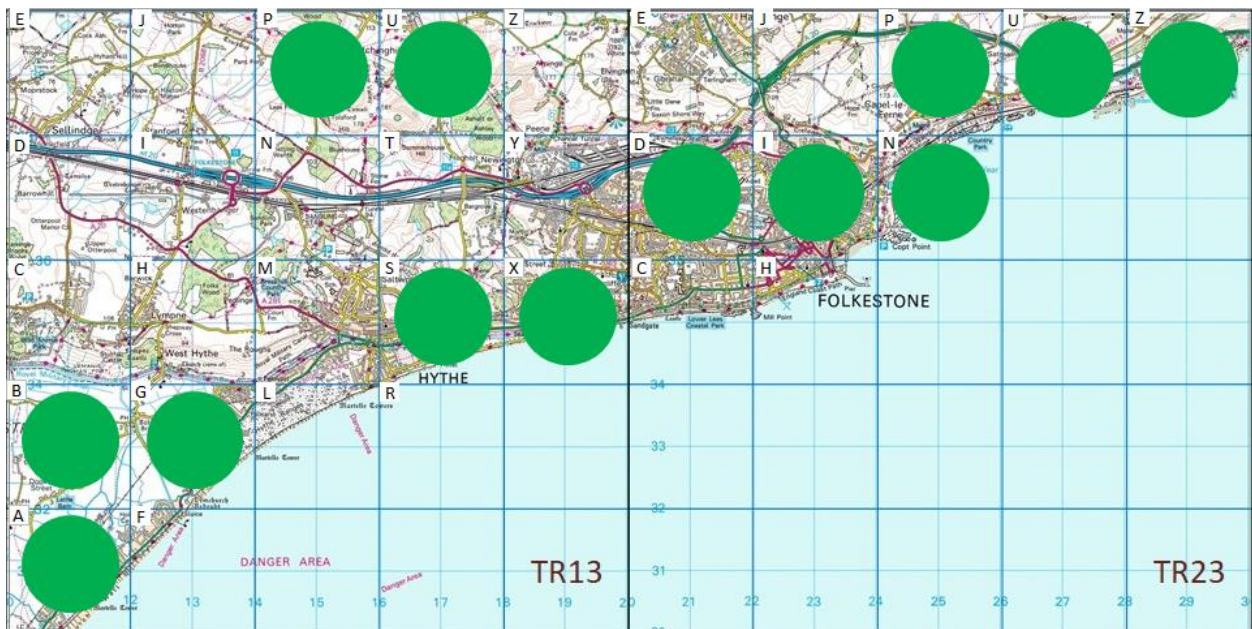


Figure 3: Distribution of all Ring-necked Parakeet records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

Most sightings presumably originate from the feral populations in Kent although some might relate to escaped birds and, with most sightings involving brief views of flyover birds, it can be difficult to rule out other parakeet species. A parakeet species that was seen and heard calling as it flew south over Donkey Street on the 9th November 2019 was though possibly to have been a Monk Parakeet.

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1987** Cheriton, one flew over Cherry Garden Avenue, 3rd April (I. A. Roberts)
- 1988-94** TR13 P, recorded during atlas period, no further details (per KOS)
- 1889-94** TR13 U, recorded during atlas period, no further details (per KOS)
- 1990** Copt Point, one, 28th August (D. A. Gibson)
- 1993** Folkestone, one, 30th June (D. A. Gibson)
- 1993** Folkestone, one flew west, 31st August (D. A. Gibson)
- 1998** Hythe, one, 12th and 13th September (I. A. Roberts)
- 1998** Hythe, one flew over Stade Street, 31st October (I. A. Roberts)
- 2000** Hythe Imperial Golf Course, one flew east, 23rd April (I. A. Roberts)
- 2000** Nickolls Quarry, one flew east, 25th April (I. A. Roberts)

2000 Abbotscliffe, one flew west, 7th May (D. A. Gibson, I. A. Roberts)
2000 Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site, one flew west, 2nd August (D. A. Gibson)
2002 Capel-le-Ferne village, one, 19th March (I. A. Roberts)
2003 Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site, one flew west, 18th October (D. A. Gibson)
2005 Abbotscliffe, one flew west, 28th September (I. A. Roberts), presumed same flew west again on 4th October
2005 Folkestone, one flew over the Golden Valley, 28th November (P. Lightman)
2009 Hythe, one flew over Lynton Road on two occasions, 13th July (I. A. Roberts)
2009 Folkestone, flock of six flew north over Wood Avenue, 25th August (M. Vandoen)
2012 Samphire Hoe, one heard calling, 18th May (per D. E. Smith)
2014 Cheriton, one flew over Laurel Close, 13th April (S. Lloyd, V. Lloyd)
2014 Hythe, one flew over South Road, 22nd April (I. A. Roberts)
2015 Samphire Hoe, one flew east, 25th November (per D. E. Smith)
2016 Cinderella Farm (Palmarsh), one, 19th September (A. Johnson)
2017 Willop sewage works, one, 6th February (I. A. Roberts)
2018 Cheriton, three, 26th August (R. Thorogood)
2019 Seabrook, one flew west, 25th January (P. Howe)
2020 Cheriton, two, 8th May (D. Clarke)
2020 Hythe, one, 27th May (P. Trodd)

References

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Clements, R., Orchard, M., McCanch, N. & Wood, S. 2015. *Kent Breeding Bird Atlas 2008-13*. Kent Ornithological Society

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Acknowledgements

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