

## Pink-footed Goose

*Anser brachyrhynchus*

Category A

Very rare vagrant

6 records

Two discrete breeding populations, one in Iceland and Greenland, and the other in Spitsbergen. The former winter in Britain, south to the Wash, and the latter in Demark, west Germany and the Low Countries, with a few reaching northern France and eastern England, especially in severe winters. The first successful breeding in Britain was documented in 2010 when single pairs bred in Cumbria and Highland, with another pair present in the Outer Hebrides. These records appeared to relate to wild birds which lingered in the spring perhaps because of injury.



Pink-footed Geese at Botolph's Bridge (Ian Roberts)

A scarce passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers to Kent, with occasional larger flocks recorded. It is considered likely that Kent birds originate from the Spitsbergen population.

First recorded at Folkestone and Hythe in October 1997, when there were two records, followed by further sightings in 1998 and 1999. There was then a 12 year gap until the next, but then there were records in two consecutive years, as shown by figure 1.

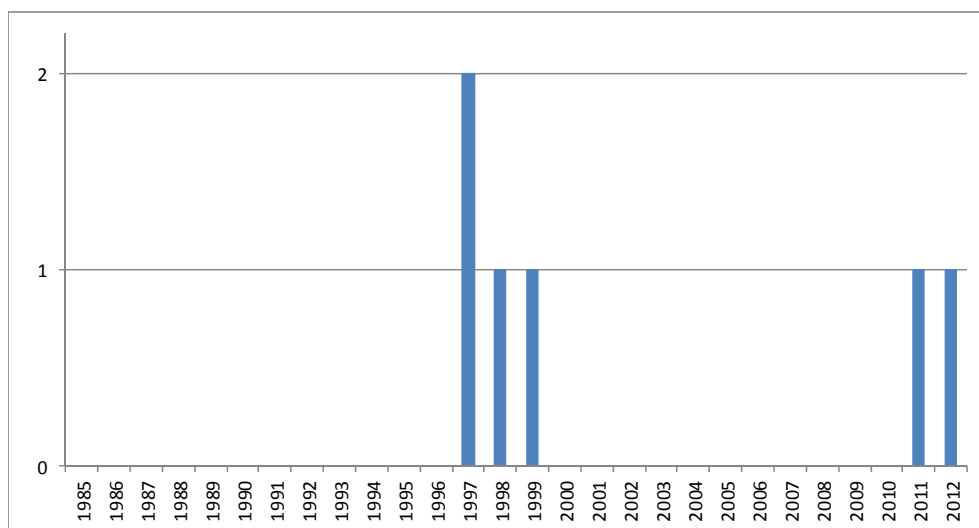


Figure 1: Pink-footed Goose records at Folkestone and Hythe

There have been five autumn records, between 12<sup>th</sup> October (week 41) and 15<sup>th</sup> November (week 46), and one in spring, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1999 (week 11). The records by week are given in figure 2.

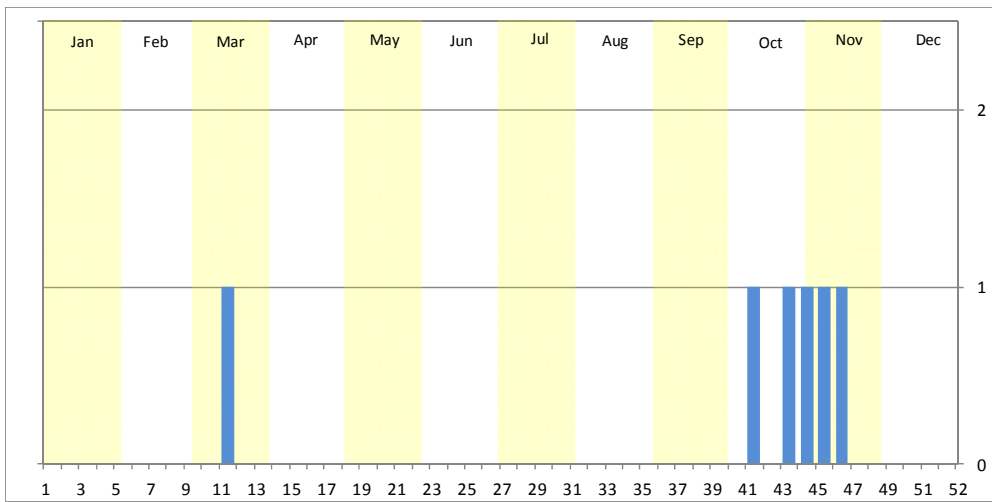


Figure 2: Pink-footed Goose records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

The distribution of winter records recorded in the BTO/KOS Atlas (2007 – 2012) is shown in figure 3. Other records have been coastal apart from single flocks seen at Botolph's Bridge and over Nickoll's Quarry.

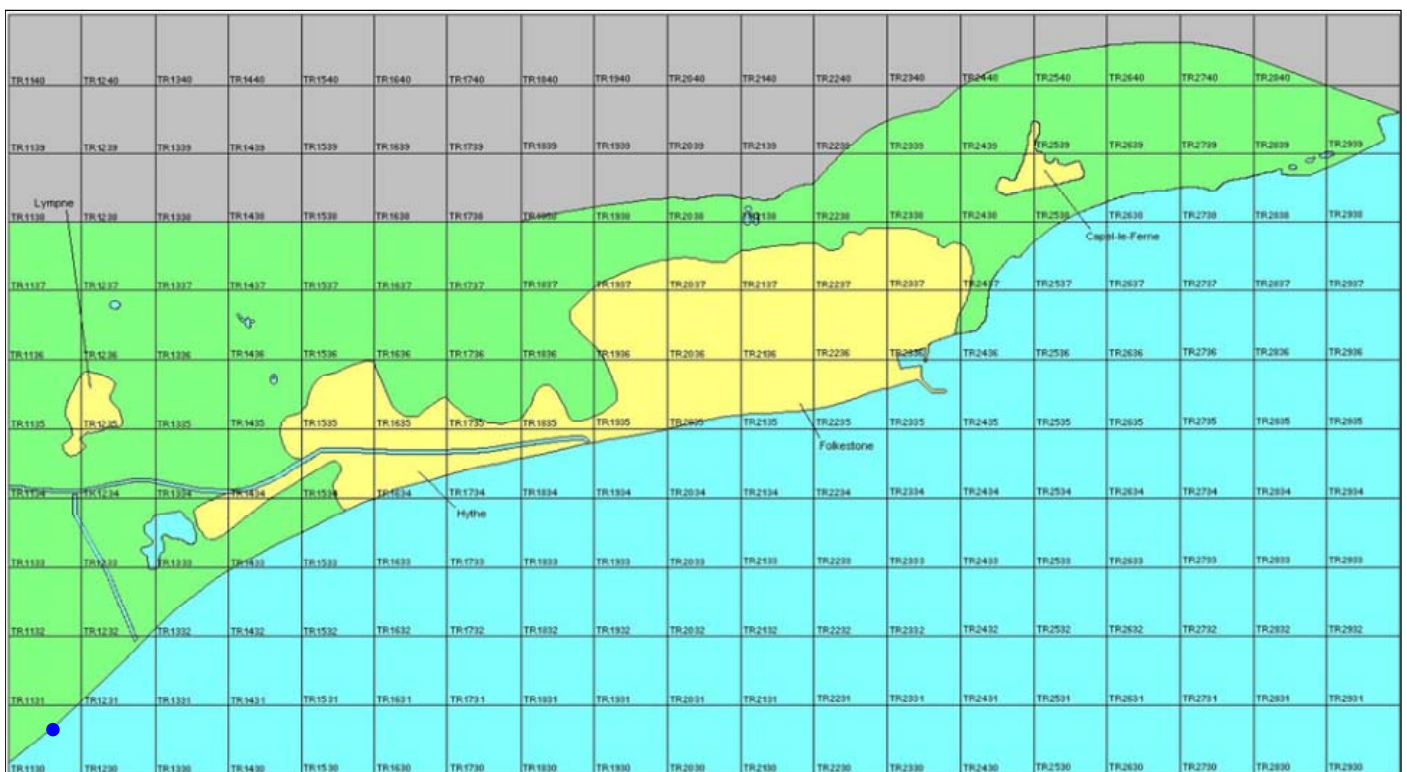


Figure 3: Wintering distribution of Pink-footed Goose at Folkestone and Hythe (2007 – 2012 BTO/KOS Atlas)

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1997** Nickoll's Quarry, 18 flew north-east, 12<sup>th</sup> October (R. K. Norman)
- 1997** Hythe Ranges, 17 flew north, 24<sup>th</sup> October (R. K. Norman)
- 1998** Samphire Hoe, one seen "on the water and in flight", 30<sup>th</sup> October (F. R. Fisher)
- 1999** Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site, six flew west, 12<sup>th</sup> March (D. A. Gibson)
- 2011** Willop Outfall, one flew east, 6<sup>th</sup> November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2012** Botolph's Bridge, 28, 15<sup>th</sup> November, photographed (I. A. Roberts)



Pink-footed Geese at Botolph's Bridge (Ian Roberts)