

Garganey

Anas querquedula

Category A

Rare migrant, mainly in spring, possibly bred in the past

28 records

A widespread breeder across Europe, with small numbers in Britain, crossing the Sahara to winter in Africa. A scarce summer visitor and passage migrant to Kent, breeding annually in small numbers.

There were a series of records in 1957 and 1960, then singles in 1978 and 1982. Since 1990 the species has occurred with greater regularity, with records in 16 of the 28 years, as demonstrated by figure 1.



Garganey at Botolph's Bridge(Brian Harper)

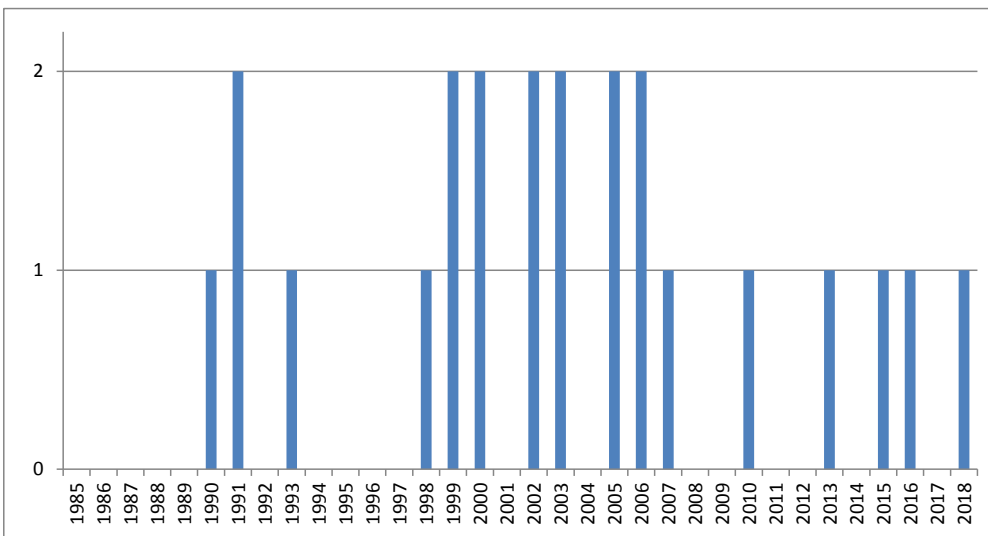


Figure 1: Garganey records since 1985 at Folkestone and Hythe

The majority of records have occurred in spring, between 15th March (week 11) and 21st May (week 21), as demonstrated by figure 2.

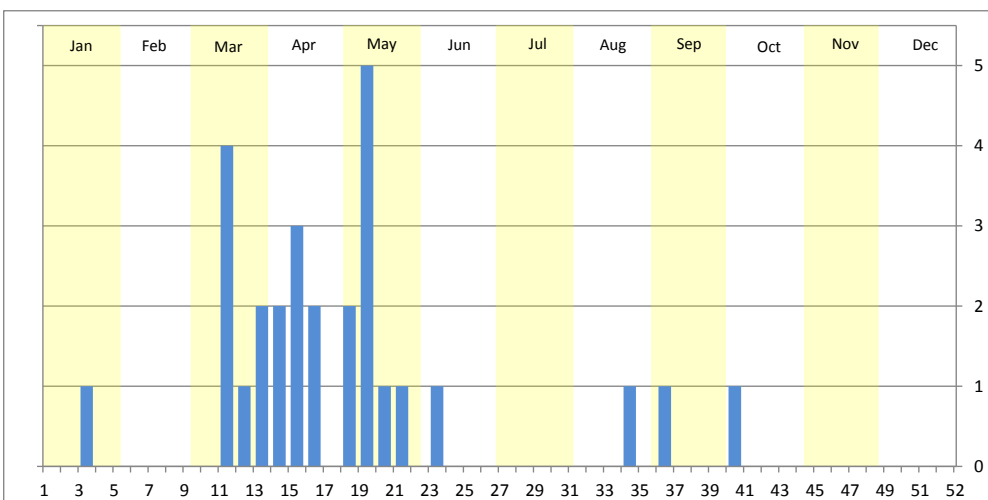


Figure 2: Garganey records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Only four records have occurred outside of this period, all being particularly noteworthy:

- The first two were in 1957, when a female was flushed from an 'airfield' dyke in the Nickolls Quarry area on the 9th June (the same day as a pair of small duck, either Garganey or Teal, were briefly seen flying away from the 'old' pit), followed by a record of four to six birds present daily in the area from 25th August to 3rd September. These events suggest breeding might have occurred locally. Interestingly in 1960 at Nickolls Quarry, a pair was found in the 'old' pit on 15th March, with then up to 3 pairs present (including two birds in 'airfield' dykes) until at least 27th March, after which unfortunately there was no coverage until June.
- The third was the only record of a migrant in autumn: a female/immature at Nickolls Quarry on the 7th October 1998.
- The last was an exceptional winter record of a drake at Nickolls Quarry on the 17th January, with presumably the same bird again on the 14th February.

The majority of records have been from Nickolls Quarry (8) or coastal seawatching points: Samphire Hoe (6), Mill Point (4) and Copt Point (3), with the others at Folkestone Reservoirs, Horn Street, Lympne, Sandling Park and the Willop Sewer (2).

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1957** Nickolls Quarry, female, 9th June (R. K. Norman)
1957 Nickolls Quarry, four to six birds present daily, from 25th August to 3rd September (R. K. Norman)
1960 Nickolls Quarry, a pair, 15th March, then three pairs until at least 27th March (R. K. Norman)
1978 Sandling Park, a pair, 12th May (C. R. Tuff)
1982 Lympne, one, 18th April (Reported)
1990 Mill Point, a pair flew east, 30th April (I. A. Roberts)
1991 Willop Sewer (north of Nickolls Quarry), three (one male, two females), 28th March (R. K. Norman)
1991 Willop Sewer (between the New Cut and the Willop Basin), two, 7th April (R. K. Norman)
1993 Horn Street Lake, male, 28th to 29th March (I. A. Roberts)
1998 Nickolls Quarry, female/immature, 7th October (R. K. Norman)
1999 Nickolls Quarry, male 17th January, presumed same 14th February (R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)
1999 Nickolls Quarry, one 21st May (R. K. Norman)
2000 Copt Point, male flew east, 1st May (D. A. Gibson, I. A. Roberts)
2000 Horn Street Lake, male, 4th September (P. Howe)
2002 Copt Point, male flew east, 9th May (D. A. Gibson)
2002 Nickolls Quarry, male, 10th May (R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)
2003 Mill Point, pair flew east, 15th March (I. A. Roberts)
2003 Copt Point, 13 flew east, 15th April (I. A. Roberts)
2005 Mill Point, a pair flew east, 20th March (I. A. Roberts)
2005 Samphire Hoe, 12 flew east (in three flocks), 2nd April (I. A. Roberts)
2006 Samphire Hoe, five flew east, 14th March (I. A. Roberts)
2006 Samphire Hoe, male flew east, 14th May (I. A. Roberts)
2007 Samphire Hoe, male flew east, 21st April (I. A. Roberts)
2010 Folkestone Reservoirs (Castle Hill), female, 14th March (P. Holt)
2013 Botolph's Bridge, pair, 11th April, photographed (B. Harper)
2015 Nickolls Quarry, pair, 9th April, photographed (I. A. Roberts, B. Harper)
2016 Mill Point, male flew east with Common Scoters, 6th May (B. Harper), also seen off Copt Point (D. A. Gibson) and Samphire Hoe (I. A. Roberts)
2018 Samphire Hoe, two flew east, 8th May (I. A. Roberts)



Garganey at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)