

Goosander

Mergus merganser

Category A

Scarce migrant and winter visitor

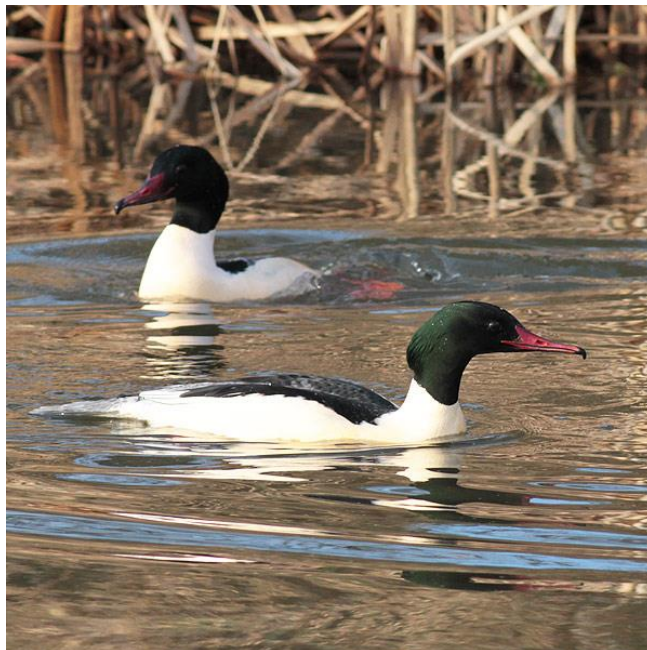
73 records

Nests in forested areas across northern Europe, Asia and North America, dispersing south in winter.

First bred in Britain in 1871, then increased in numbers in Scotland and since 1970 has spread across northern England into Wales, reaching south-west England.

An uncommon but regular passage migrant and winter visitor to Kent, with occasional cold weather influxes.

A rather rare visitor locally until recently, there have now been records in every year since 2007 except one, and with notable influxes in 2009, 2010 and 2012. Arrivals are often, but not always associated with cold weather.



Goosanders at Seabrook (Brian Harper)

The records by year since 1985 are shown in figure 1:

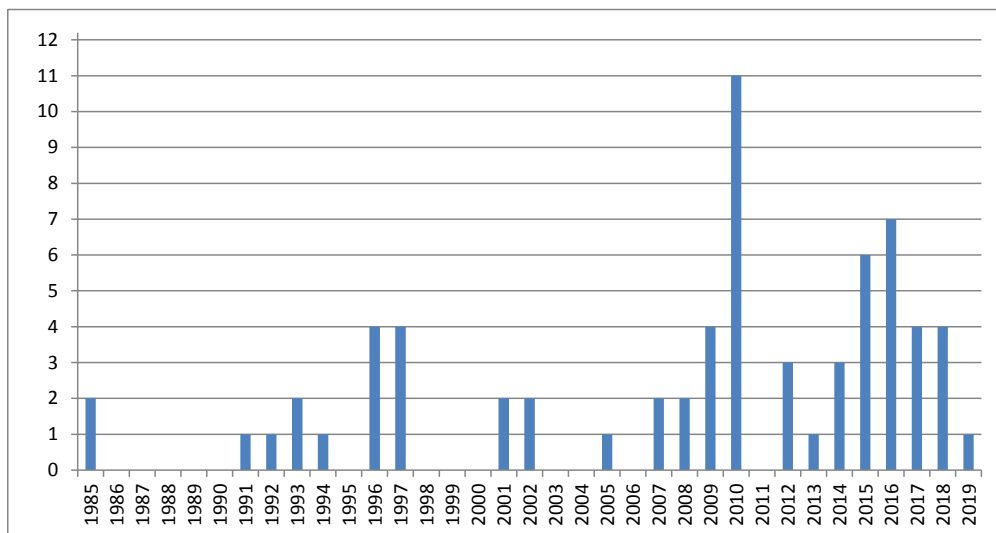


Figure 1: Goosander records since 1985 at Folkestone and Hythe

All winter records have occurred between the 13th November (week 46) and the 27th February (week 9) and there have been five spring records in March (2015, 2018 and 2019) and April (1994 and 2014).

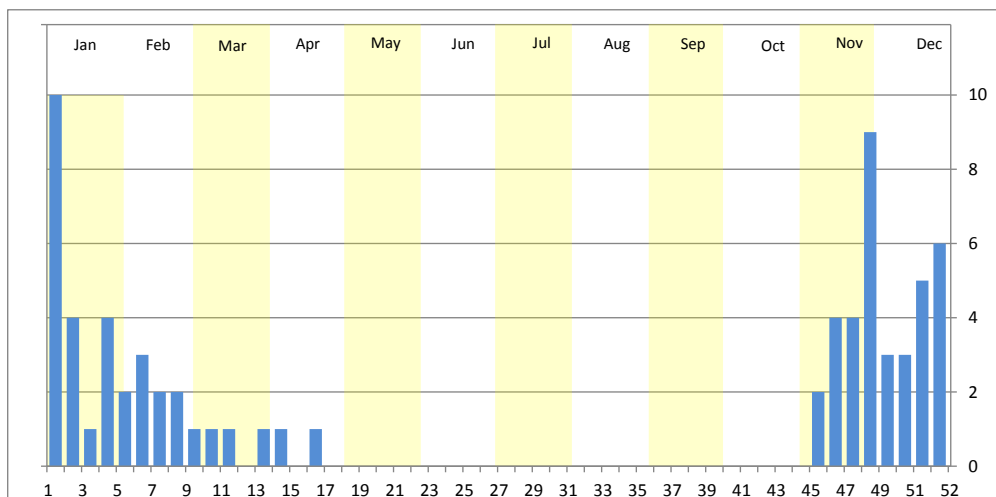


Figure 2: Goosander records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

The distribution of winter records recorded in the BTO/KOS Atlas (2007 – 2012) is shown in figure 3. Overall the majority of records are from Nickolls Quarry (15), the Royal Military Canal between West Hythe dam and Seabrook (15) and Botolph’s Bridge (14) with most of the others at the coast, including 5 at Samphire Hoe, 3 at Copt Point, 3 at Mill Point and 12 in Hythe Bay, between Sandgate and Fisherman’s Beach.

The distribution of winter records recorded in the BTO/KOS Atlas (2007 – 2012) is shown in figure 1.

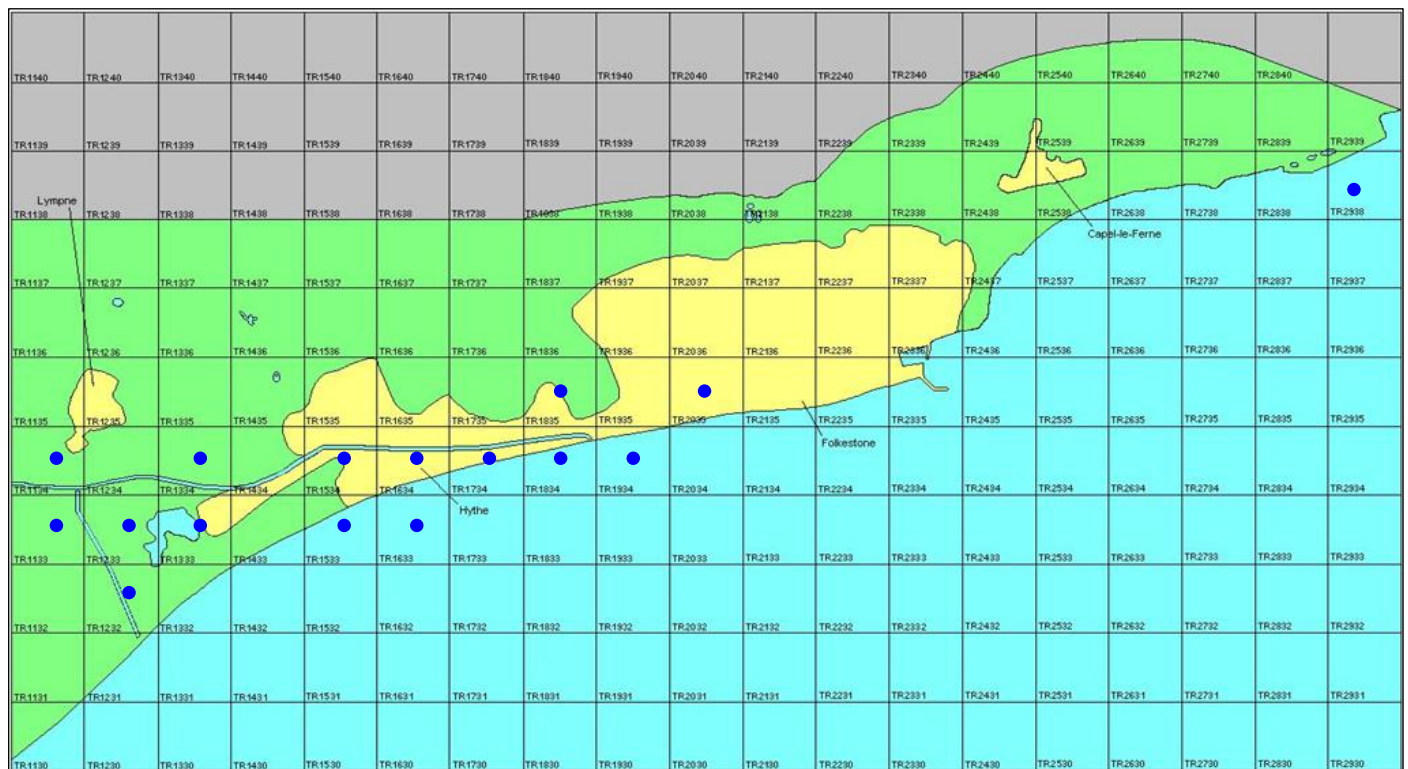


Figure 1: Wintering distribution of Goosander at Folkestone and Hythe by 1km square

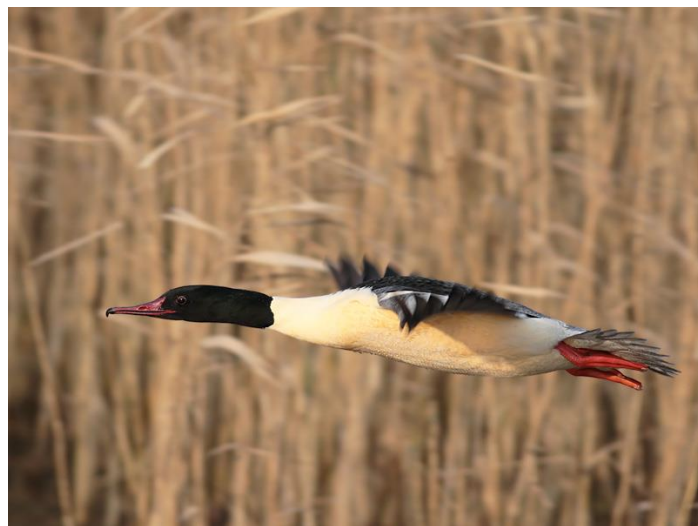
The full list of records is as follows:

- 1954** Hythe, one, 6th February (G. E. Manser)
- 1954** Nickolls Quarry, drake, December (per R. K. Norman)
- 1955** Nickolls Quarry, drake shot, winter 1955/56
- 1963** Hythe, six, 3rd February (per Kent Bird Report)
- 1980s** Palmarsh, immature/female, in period 1980-85 no date given (N. C. Frampton)
- 1985** Palmarsh, nine drakes, 19th January (per Kent Bird Report)
- 1985** Copt Point, one, 23rd January (per Kent Bird Report)
- 1991** Nickolls Quarry, drake, 17th December (R. K. Norman)
- 1992** Nickolls Quarry, immature/female, 29th December (R. K. Norman)
- 1993** Botolph’s Bridge, immature drake, 2nd January (R. K. Norman)
- 1993** Nickolls Quarry, drake, 29th December (R. K. Norman)
- 1994** Copt Point, three flew east, 17th April (D. A. Gibson)
- 1996** Nickolls Quarry, two, 27th January (R. K. Norman)
- 1996** Sandgate, immature/female on sea, 11th February (J. C. Martin)
- 1996** Nickolls Quarry, two, 15th February, one remaining until 22nd February (R. K. Norman)
- 1996** Nickolls Quarry, two drakes and one female, 15th December, female to 22nd December (R. K. Norman)
- 1997** Nickolls Quarry, pair, 1st January (R. K. Norman)
- 1997** Seabrook, immature/female on canal, 3rd January (I. A. Roberts)
- 1997** Hythe, two immature/females, 4th January to 2nd February, photographed (P. Howe, I. A. Roberts *et al*)
- 1997** Mill Point, immature/female flew east, 5th January (I. A. Roberts)
- 2001** Copt Point, two flew east, 13th November (I. A. Roberts)
- 2001** Nickolls Quarry, immature/female, 14th December (R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)
- 2002** Nickolls Quarry, drake, 27th January (I. A. Roberts)
- 2002** Nickolls Quarry, three immature/females, 7th December (R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)

2005 Nickolls Quarry, immature/female, 4th December (R. K. Norman)
2007 Nickolls Quarry, immature/female, 20th December (R. K. Norman)
2007 Samphire Hoe, drake flew east, 30th December (Per D. E. Smith)
2008 Paraker Wood, pair flew north-west, 30th November (I. A. Roberts)
2008 Palmarsh, immature/female, "regularly in late December", presumed same at Nickolls Quarry, 6th January 2009 (B. Harper)
2009 Seabrook, immature/female on canal, 6th January to 2nd February, photographed (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts *et al*)
2009 Botolph's Bridge, three, 11th January (B. Harper)
2009 Seabrook, drake on canal, 28th December (B. Harper)
2009 Nickolls Quarry, two immature/female, 28th December, photographed (B. Harper)
2010 Hythe, drake on canal, 2nd January (I. A. Roberts)
2010 Botolph's Bridge, up to two immature/female, 2nd to 12th January (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
2010 Botolph's Bridge, flock of 12 flew over, 20th February, photographed (B. Harper)
2010 Hythe, one on canal, 14th November (B. Harper)
2010 Hythe, three immature/females flew east at sea, 27th November (I. A. Roberts)
2010 Hythe, immature/female on the sea, 27th November (I. A. Roberts)
2010 Sandgate, five on the sea, 28th November (I. A. Roberts)
2010 Botolph's Bridge, one, 29th November (B. Harper)
2010 Seabrook, flock of 20 on the sea (inc. several drakes), 1st December (I. A. Roberts)
2010 Samphire Hoe, three flew east, 2nd December (M. Kennett)
2010 Botolph's Bridge, two pairs, 18th December, with up to three to 27th December, and one to 1st January 2011, presumed one of same at Nickolls Quarry on 30th December (B. Harper)
2012 Seabrook, three drakes on canal and sea, 7th to 8th January, with two to 11th January and one to 14th January, photographed (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts), presumed one of same at Hythe on 13th January (P. Holt)
2012 Hythe, pair flew west, 3rd February (I. A. Roberts)
2012 Botolph's Bridge, up to three (two drakes), 7th to 11th February, presumed same singles at Nickolls Quarry on 8th February and West Hythe on 9th and 11th February (B. Harper, R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)
2013 Botolph's Bridge, one, 30th November to 1st December (B. Harper)
2014 Samphire Hoe, drake flew east, 2nd April (M. Kennett)
2014 Samphire Hoe, three, 17th November (per D. E. Smith)
2014 West Hythe, immature/female, 20th to 28th December, photographed (D. Wrathall, B. Harper, I. A. Roberts *et al*), presumed same Botolph's Bridge 30th December.
2015 West Hythe, immature/female, 14th January to 14th March, photographed (A. Chambers, I. A. Roberts, E. Preedy *et al*), possibly same as above, also seen east to Hythe Roughs
2015 Seabrook, four flew west, 14th February (B. Harper)
2015 Botolph's Bridge, drake flew over, 21st February (B. Harper)
2015 Botolph's Bridge, two immature/female on cut then flew east, 8th March (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
2015 Hythe, drake, 3rd to 8th December, also on sea off Hythe, and presumed same at Seabrook on 4th December, photographed (N. Webster, P. Smith, I. A. Roberts)
2015 Beachborough Ponds, two drakes flew over, 13th December (I. A. Roberts)
2016 Battery Point, one flew west, 10th January (B. Harper)
2016 Princes Parade, immature/female flew west, 10th January (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts, N. Webster)
2016 Princes Parade, three flew east, 27th February (N. Webster)
2016 Mill Point, immature/female on the sea, 7th November (I. A. Roberts)
2016 Hythe, immature/female flew east, 7th November (I. A. Roberts)
2016 Fisherman's Beach (Hythe), immature/female on the sea, 13th November (I. A. Roberts)
2016 Botolph's Bridge, 19th November to 2nd January 2017, possibly same as above (B. Harper)
2017 Botolph's Bridge, three (one drake) flew south-west, 1st January (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
2017 Botolph's Bridge, two drakes flew over, 22nd January (B. Harper)
2017 Hythe Redoubt, three offshore, 25th November (B. Harper)
2017 Nickolls Quarry, one immature/female, 19th December (I. A. Roberts)
2018 Botolph's Bridge, pair, 18th March (B. Harper)
2018 Mill Point, one flew east, 21st November (B. Harper)
2018 West Hythe dam, two, 25th to 26th November, with at least one to 30th November when it was also seen at Donkey Street, photographed (B. Harper, I. A. Roberts)
2018 Samphire Hoe, two flew west, 29th November (S. Cutt)
2019 Beachborough Lakes, drake flew south, 27th March (S. Tomlinson)



Goosander at Seabrook (Brian Harper)



Goosander at Seabrook (Brian Harper)



Flock of 12 Goosanders at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)



Goosander at Seabrook (Brian Harper)