

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

Category A

Rare passage migrant

32 records

The nominate race breeds mostly across mid-latitude Europe with a large population in the Low Countries, but only small numbers (60-70 pairs) in Britain, and winters mainly in Africa. The race which breeds in Iceland winters in western Europe.

A passage migrant and winter visitor to Kent. Breeds in small numbers (six pairs with a status of at least possible breeding in 2010, one of which was confirmed).



Black-tailed Godwits at Battery Point (Brian Harper)

Ticehurst in his *A History of the Birds of Kent* (1909) records that Folkestone Museum had a specimen but the source of it was unknown.

The first confirmed sighting at Folkestone and Hythe was in 1956, when at Nickoll's Quarry on the 19th August Roger Norman recorded that "at 05:45 hours one flew in from the south, stayed in the old pit for a half-hour then set off north-west minutes before four more flew across the pit, heading south-west". The next record was in 1968 when the late Geoffrey Munns saw one at Hythe on the 31st May. Another was seen in 1984 and since then there has been a series of 29 records since 1990, including four in both 2000 and 2004, as shown in figure 1.

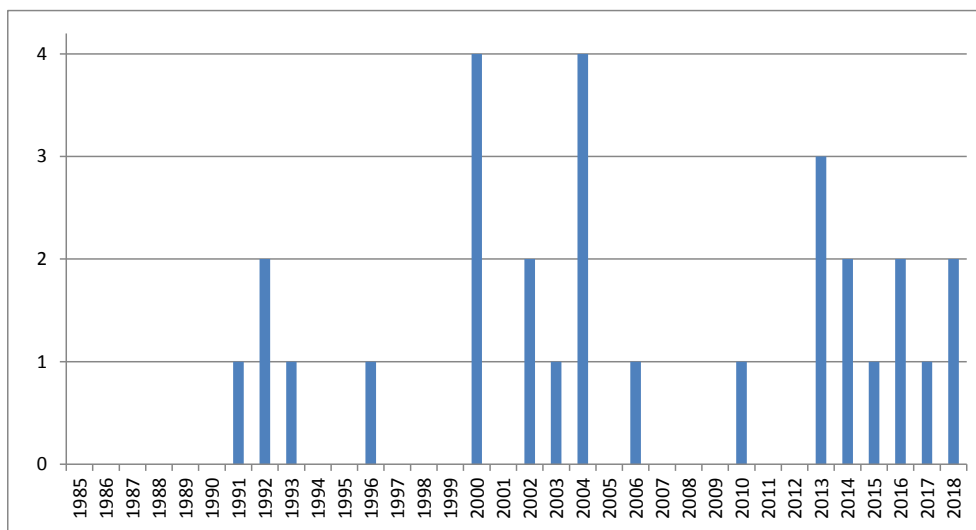


Figure 1: Black-tailed Godwit records at Folkestone and Hythe

Records have occurred in all months between March and August, with a peak in early April (when there have been six records between the 2nd and the 10th), except for two sightings November 2013 and one in December 2014, as demonstrated by figure 2.



Black-tailed Godwits at the Willop Basin (Ian Roberts)

