

# Wood Sandpiper

*Tringa glareola*

Category A

Rare passage migrant

23 records

Breeds chiefly in Fenno-Scandia and Russia with a few pairs in countries on the southern coast of the Baltic, and in Britain (where up to 27 pairs were present in 2010).

A regular passage migrant to Kent, which is more plentiful in autumn.

First recorded at Folkestone and Hythe at Nickolls Quarry in the 1950s, when there were a total of seven records to 1961 involving ten birds, with two in spring and five in autumn. There followed a thirty year gap until the next in 1992, but then the species occurred with some regularity, including records in five consecutive years from 2000, as shown in figure 1.



Wood Sandpiper at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)

At this time an area of shallow water, islets and mud existed at Nickolls Quarry, attracting a range of migrant waders. However the habitat was then altered and was no longer attractive to the species, until construction work in 2015 temporarily created some small pools and there was a further record. Wood Sandpiper has been a very rare vagrant at this site since, with records in 2015 and 2020, and elsewhere, with the only other record being one at Botolph's Bridge in May 2008.

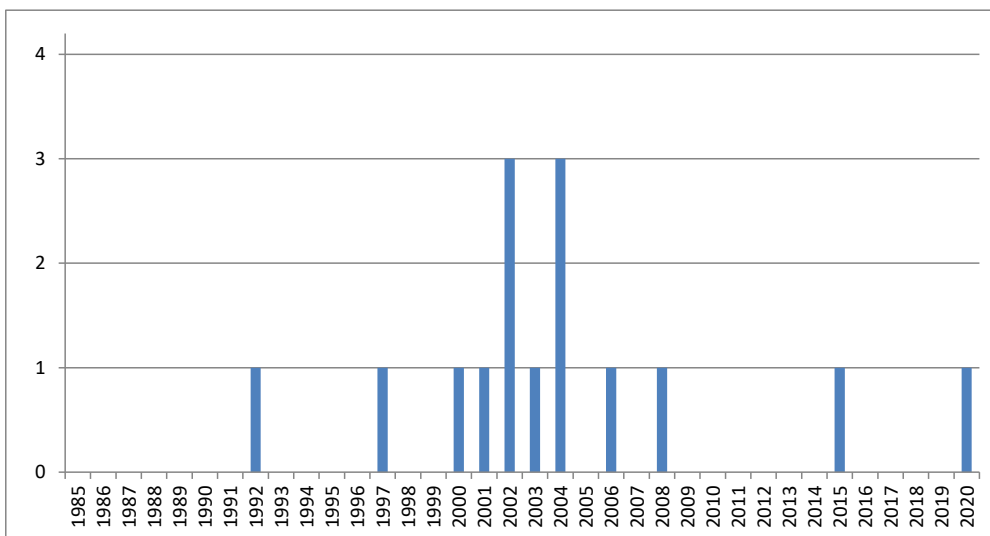


Figure 1: Wood Sandpiper records since 1985 at Folkestone and Hythe

Records appear to fall into two distinct arrival periods, as demonstrated by figure 2. Spring records have occurred between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May, apart from a notably late individual on 14<sup>th</sup> June (in 1992). Arrival dates of autumn migrants have been between the 17<sup>th</sup> July (week 29) and 9<sup>th</sup> September (week 37).

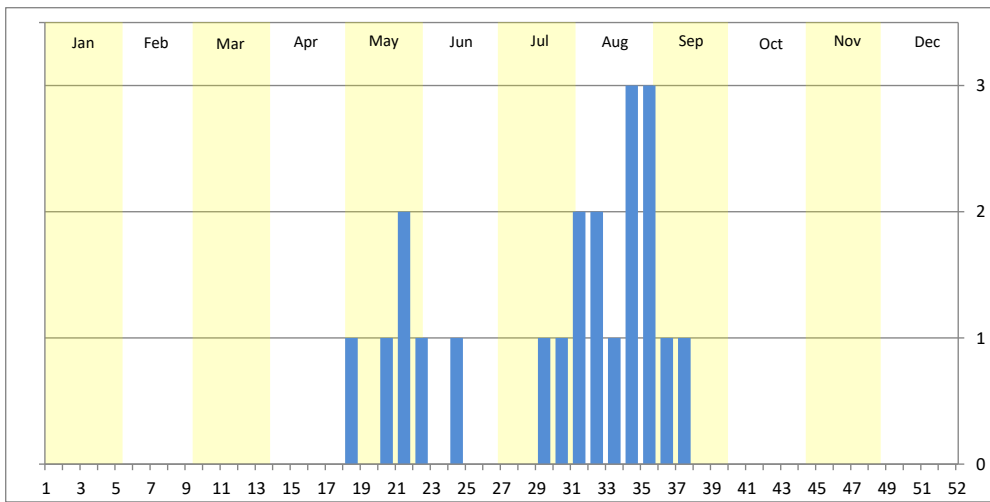


Figure 2: Wood Sandpiper records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1952** Nickolls Quarry, one, 20<sup>th</sup> August (R. K. Norman)
- 1956** Nickolls Quarry, two, 5<sup>th</sup> August (R. K. Norman)
- 1956** Nickolls Quarry, one, 9<sup>th</sup> September (R. K. Norman)
- 1957** Nickolls Quarry, one, 29<sup>th</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> September (R. K. Norman)
- 1958** Nickolls Quarry, one, 3<sup>rd</sup> May (R. K. Norman)
- 1958** Nickolls Quarry, one, 9<sup>th</sup> September (R. K. Norman)
- 1961** Nickolls Quarry, three, 24<sup>th</sup> May (R. K. Norman)
- 1992** Nickolls Quarry, one, 14<sup>th</sup> June (R. K. Norman)
- 1997** Nickolls Quarry, one, then flew high south-west, 10<sup>th</sup> August (I. A. Roberts)
- 2000** Nickolls Quarry, two, 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July, with one remaining to the 31<sup>st</sup> (R. K. Norman, D. A. Gibson, P. Haines)
- 2001** Nickolls Quarry, one, 31<sup>st</sup> May (R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)
- 2002** Nickolls Quarry, one, 14<sup>th</sup> August (R. K. Norman)
- 2002** Nickolls Quarry, one, 26<sup>th</sup> August (I. A. Roberts)
- 2002** Nickolls Quarry, one, 2<sup>nd</sup> September (R. K. Norman)
- 2003** Nickolls Quarry, one flew east, 23<sup>rd</sup> August (R. K. Norman)
- 2004** Nickolls Quarry, at least four different birds on 11 dates from 17<sup>th</sup> July, including one staying from 29<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> August (R. K. Norman, I. A. Roberts)
- 2006** Nickolls Quarry, one, 27<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August (I. A. Roberts)
- 2008** Botolph's Bridge, one, 18<sup>th</sup> May (R. K. Norman)
- 2015** Nickolls Quarry, five, 29<sup>th</sup> August, photographed (B. Harper)
- 2020** Nickolls Quarry, one, calling at night, 22<sup>nd</sup> May (I. A. Roberts)