

# Richard's Pipit

*Anthus richardi*

Category A

Rare passage migrant

18 records

Breeds in Siberian, wintering from Pakistan to Indo-China south to Malaysia. A scarce but regular visitor to western Europe, which occurs with quite high frequency considering its breeding range, even wintering regularly in southern Iberia.

A rare but regular passage migrant to Kent, particularly in the autumn. There had been 119 county records to the end of 2010, 55% of which were in the last twenty years.



Richard's Pipit at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)

Harrison, in his *The Birds of Kent* (1953), makes mention of a record about which he states that it “really has no value, as it is recorded as a ‘probable’ example. It relates to an alleged bird seen near Seabrook on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1930 (*Brit. Birds*, xxiv, p.28)”. He goes on to state that such uncertainties would really be far better left unrecorded. This would have been the first spring record for the county though it is not unknown at this season, with Harrison detailing one at Shellness on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1950 and the later *Birds of Kent* (1981) mentioning three others between 15<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> May.

The first confirmed record in the Folkestone and Hythe area was in 1990, when one was found at Church Hougham on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September by Mark Kennett. Since then however it has occurred with some regularity, with another 16 records in the subsequent 25 years, all of which have occurred in October and all but one of which was at Abbotscliffe (with the other at Seabrook).

The records by year are shown in figure 1. Of the two large pipits, Richard's is marginally more regular, and has a mean arrival date almost three weeks later in the autumn (13<sup>th</sup> October). The 2012 record was the latest to date.

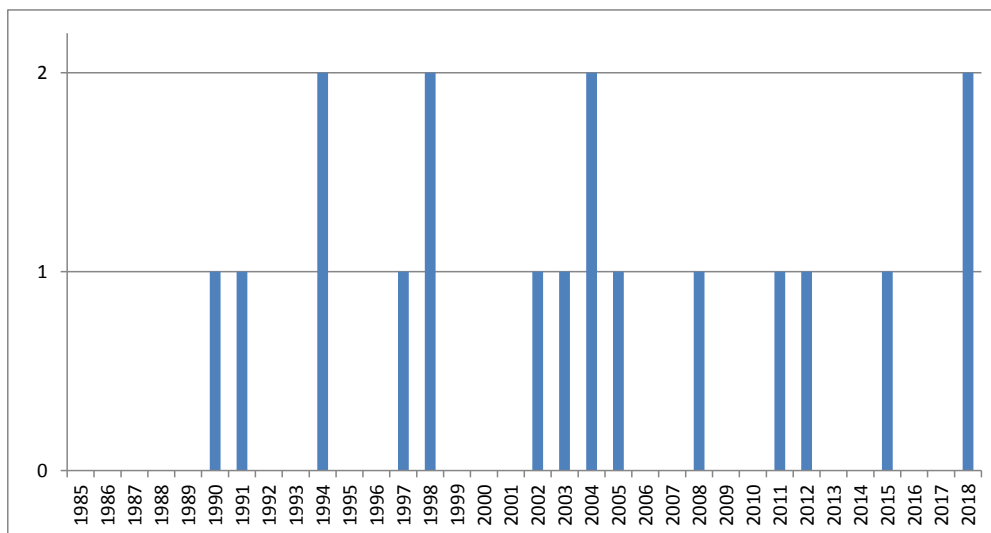


Figure 1: Richard's Pipit records at Folkestone and Hythe

Apart from the first record, which was on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September (week 38), all others have been recorded in October, between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> (weeks 40-44), as demonstrated by figure 2.

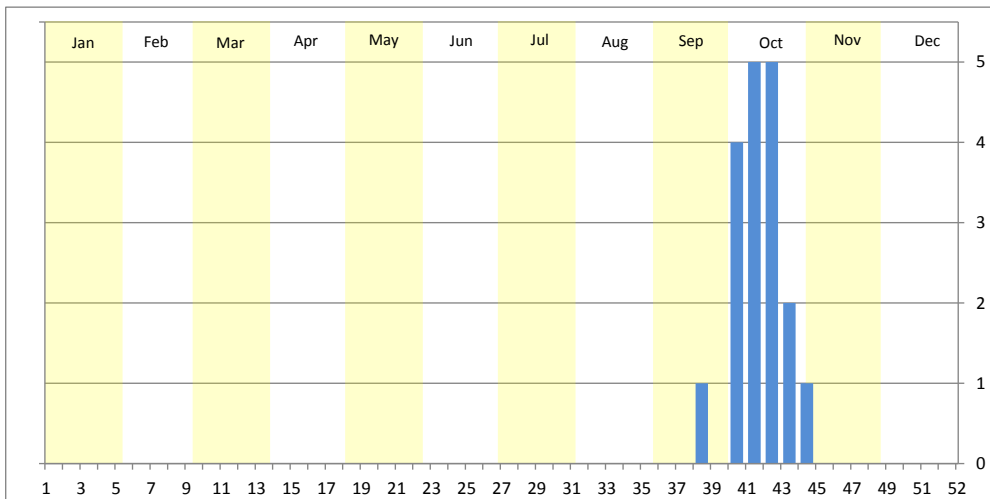


Figure 2: Richard's Pipit records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

As mentioned above, aside from the first record (which was at Church Hougham) and the most recent (at Seabrook), all others have been from Abbotscliffe, though one in 2015 was also probably seen at Creteway Down.

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1990** Church Hougham, one, 22<sup>nd</sup> September (M. D. Kennett, S. Kennett, D. E. Smith)
- 1991** Abbotscliffe, two, 21<sup>st</sup> October, one remaining to the 22<sup>nd</sup> (I. A. & A. F. Roberts, D. A. Gibson, J. P. Siddle)
- 1994** Abbotscliffe, two, 1<sup>st</sup> October (D. A. Gibson)
- 1994** Abbotscliffe, one flew west, 24<sup>th</sup> October (D. A. Gibson)
- 1997** Abbotscliffe, one flew east, 13<sup>th</sup> October (D. A. Gibson)
- 1998** Abbotscliffe, one flushed from gully, then flew west, 6<sup>th</sup> October (D. A. Gibson)
- 1998** Abbotscliffe, one flew west, 13<sup>th</sup> October (D. A. Gibson, I. A. Roberts)
- 2002** Abbotscliffe, one flew east, 4<sup>th</sup> October (I. A. Roberts)
- 2003** Abbotscliffe, one, 19<sup>th</sup> October (I. A. Roberts, D. A. Gibson, T. Scotland)
- 2004** Abbotscliffe, one, 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October (I. A. Roberts, J. A. Gibson)
- 2004** Abbotscliffe, one, 17<sup>th</sup> October, considered different to above (D. A. Gibson)
- 2005** Abbotscliffe, one flew west, 3<sup>rd</sup> October (I. A. Roberts)
- 2008** Abbotscliffe, one flushed from gully, then flew north-west, 9<sup>th</sup> October (D. A. Gibson, J. A. Gibson)
- 2011** Abbotscliffe, one, 17<sup>th</sup> October, photographed (I. A. Roberts)
- 2012** Abbotscliffe, one, 28<sup>th</sup> October (P. Edmondson, D. A. Gibson)
- 2015** Abbotscliffe, one flew east, 12<sup>th</sup> October, also probably seen earlier at Creteway Down (I. A. Roberts, D. A. Gibson)
- 2018** Abbotscliffe, one flew west, 14<sup>th</sup> October (I. A. Roberts)
- 2018** Seabrook, one flew west, 26<sup>th</sup> October (P. Howe)



Richard's Pipit at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)