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KOS News

The Newsletter of the Kent Ornithological Society

Number 544 May 2023



Rook by Bob Gomes

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Finally a Spring of sorts has arrived, characterised by heavy rain and blustery winds. In spite of all this there have been some remarkable birds to entertain us, notably Bee-eaters, Hoopoes and Golden Orioles but also good numbers of Nightingale and even a showing of Turtle Doves. For my part I have had only limited opportunities to get out and about, but I did connect with a female Red-footed Falcon amongst a host of Hobbies at Stodmarsh. These birds inevitably attract a cohort of interested parties, mostly equipped with impressive camera equipment, and clad in varying amounts of camouflage.

What does seem to be largely absent in the field these days is any sign of someone using a notebook to record what they see. Back in the “good” old days most people who went by the name of ‘birdwatcher’ carried a notebook to record their observations, I certainly did and still do. The earliest of mine was a notebook used by me up to the age of seven, which in 1960 recorded nearly forty-five species I had seen around home in South Wales and kept by my Mam when I left home. For such a record to exist I feel I must have been pretty committed because my handwriting was always guaranteed to get me into trouble in school. Sadly, the oldest books and any up to 1973 were lost because of Mam’s Alzheimer’s, but most of the subsequent ones are still shabbily collecting dust.

The important stuff, the data they contain, was routinely submitted to various local recorders or to BTO enquiries for decades right up to today. I am sure I am not alone in storing this stuff, but old bird records are increasingly valuable in a rapidly changing world as they can provide a baseline to compare with today’s sorry state of the nation’s birds.

Of course, in the old days many of the records of unusual birds or breeding attempts ended up in local museums and rather few modern birders consider the value of such resources. This issue contains an interesting article by Philip Redman, a KOS founder member, describing the problems surrounding old records and museum collections. I am delighted to also include the regular annual Rookery Survey for East Kent compiled diligently as ever by John Websper, a member of long standing with lots of useful information to share. Long may he do so!

Good birding

Norman

News and announcements

AVIAN INFLUENZA GUIDANCE

Avian Influenza, or 'Bird Flu', is currently a major problem particularly in colonies around the North Sea, with high levels of sickness and mortality seen in many areas, including Kent.

If you find a dead or dying bird, avoid touching it directly if possible. If you have to move a dead bird please use protective gloves or a plastic bag and dispose of the bird by wrapping it and putting it in your general household waste, making sure you wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.

Any dead waterfowl, seabirds, or birds of prey, as well as other wild birds if five or more are found, should be reported to Defra.

You can contact them on 03459 33 55 77, or by email at defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

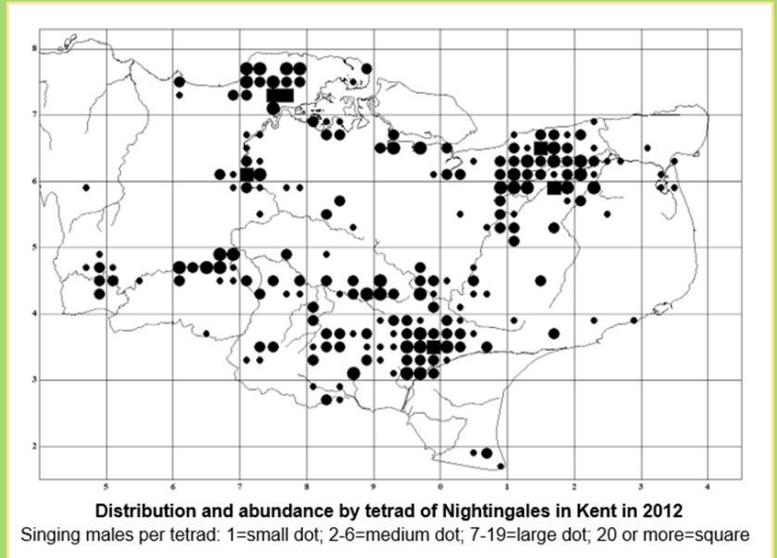
If you have visited any of the reserves or birding sites in Kent, it is recommended that you wash or anti-bac your hands before leaving.

Finally, if you feed the birds in your garden, it is always advisable to keep your feeders clean using a mild (1:20) disinfectant/water solution. Don't leave old food on the feeders, always change water daily, and wash your hands thoroughly when finished. This helps to control other pathogens including Trichomoniasis and Salmonella

KOS Nightingale Survey 2023

Note: Survey period extended to 21st May

It's over ten years since the last national Nightingale census (see **2012** map), which confirmed that Kent is the most important county for them. KOS is organising a survey this spring, so that we can track the population trend since 2012, identify which areas have most, and continue to promote their conservation.



We'll need lots of volunteers, but it won't be too difficult or time-consuming. The survey involves two visits to a one-kilometre square in the period **20th April-21st May**. Visits should be made between first light and 0830 (i.e. not at night, when paired males may not be singing) – a perfect time to be out enjoying the spring countryside.

To take part, visit the [survey website](#), and select the square or squares you'd like to cover. Some of them will hold lots of Nightingales, some none, but all the results are important to be able to know how well they are doing. And even if you don't find any Nightingales, the survey provides an opportunity to record other scarce birds, and also mammals, such as deer, which may affect Nightingale habitat.

Once a square is allocated to you, you will be able to download instructions, recording form and a map on which to record the locations of singing Nightingales. But to summarise the key parts of the instructions:

- Two daytime visits are required between 27th April and 14th May, ideally a week or more apart, with the first visit during the first seven days;
- Squares should be searched from first light to 08.30, covering all suitable Nightingale habitat within the square;
- Record dates and times of visits, and the locations of Nightingales, on the recording form and map;
- Record simple habitat data from a list of codes provided;
- Record other notable bird species and mammals such as deer and wild boar.

Nightingales are in trouble, so take a look at the website and please help if you can – and good luck! Thank you.

[KOS Nightingale Survey](#)

Additional Records of Nightingale

It is important that all Nightingales are reported this year. Any singing males recorded outside of the KOS survey should be reported using BirdTrack, KOS sightings database or eBird. It is important that an accurate location is provided to avoid double counting birds that others may have recorded during their

survey visits. Please give a 6-figure grid reference of the bird's location if possible or at least the 1km square reference. The KOS sightings database allows a pin to be dropped on a satellite map which automatically generates a full grid reference for the record.

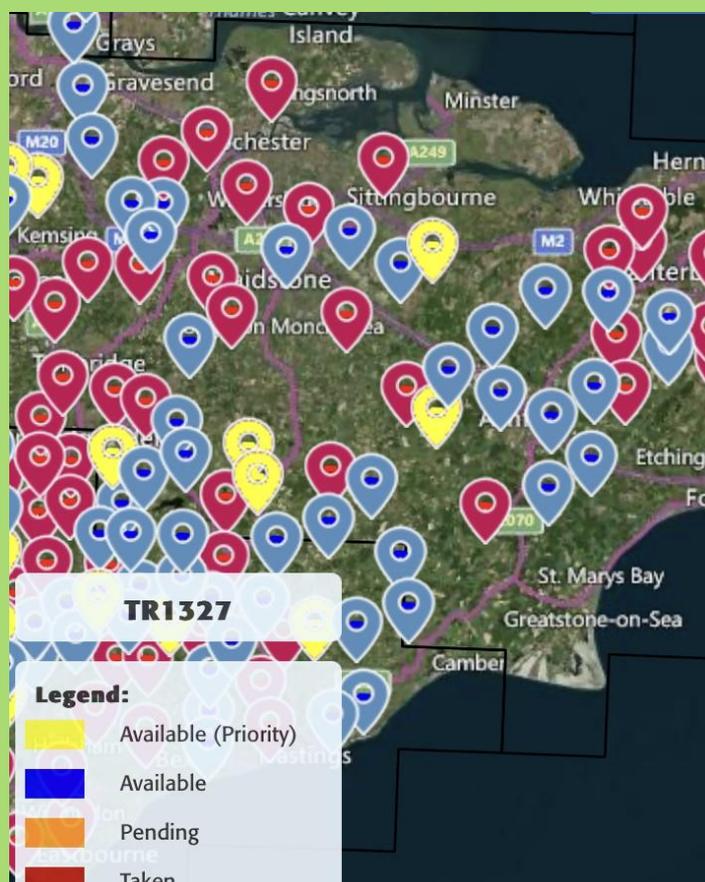
If birds are heard in adjacent squares whilst doing the survey, please make a note of the number of birds, and which 1km square(s) they are in, on the recording form. If possible, provide grid references. In all cases of additional records, it would be helpful if an indication of habitat could be provided.



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BREEDING WOODCOCK SURVEY 2023 – AN UPDATE

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) are coordinating a survey of breeding Woodcock using randomly selected woodland sites across Britain and Northern Ireland during 2023. First conducted in 2003, and repeated in 2013, the survey aims to give a recent review of the population status of birds in the UK and to investigate the bird's woodland habitat preferences.



THE PICTURE SO FAR...

We've had a fantastic response to the Woodcock Survey in Kent with 50 % of our squares covered. **Thank you** to everyone who has signed up to the survey, your commitment is hugely appreciated!

There are a few priority sites still available. If we can get full coverage of priority sites it will give us a much more realistic picture of the population status and range of the Woodcock in Kent as a breeding bird.

Please take a moment to look at the list of vacant priority sites below:

TQ9158 – Mintching Wood near Doddington, Sittingbourne

TQ5064 – Beechen Wood near Lullingstone Country Park, Shoreham

TQ5363 – Dunstall Woods near Shoreham

TQ6137 – Oxpasture Wood near Bells Yew Green, Tunbridge Wells

TQ7438 – Old Park Wood near Colliers Green, Goudhurst, Cranbrook

TQ7535 – Angley Wood near Cranbrook

TQ9242 – The Forest near Pluckley, Ashford

If you are unable to find a suitable site to survey but would still like to take part please go to the BTO Woodcock Survey page (link below) and take a look at the interactive map where you will be able to see other available sites, marked in blue. : www.bto.org/our-science/projects/woodcock-survey

BACKGROUND – WHY HAVE A WOODCOCK SURVEY?

Although almost 1.5 million Woodcock visit Britain to over-winter, the resident population is believed to stand at a much lower figure of approximately 55,000 males. Results from the BTO national Woodcock survey in 2003 and 2013 showed a population decline of 29%, prompting the Woodcock to be added to the UK Birds of Conservation Concern Red List in 2015.

Due to their crepuscular behaviour and cryptic camouflage the best way to count woodcock is by looking for displaying males during the breeding season. Males take to the air and display above areas of woodland, grunting and calling whilst making circuits over the tree tops. The best way to see these is to be positioned below the tree canopy level, in an opening – a path cross-section or woodland glade – so as to give the best view of the sky and a greater chance of seeing these unusual birds.

You can take part by selecting an area in Kent to survey using the interactive map on the BTO project home page. : www.bto.org/our-science/projects/woodcock-survey

All you need to do is register on the BTO website and sign up for the project.

WHAT DOES THE SURVEY INVOLVE? – AN OVERVIEW

- A total of 4 visits to your selected survey area
- 1 visit in APRIL: one daytime or early evening RECCE to establish the best place to locate the count point*
- **MAY TO JUNE: three evening SURVEY visits (75 minutes in total: 15 mins before sunset and 60 mins after sunset), at least one week apart**
- **The survey involves counting 'roding' male Woodcocks (see below for more information on roding behaviour)**

* if tree growth and closed canopy impairs visibility meaning there isn't a suitable count point within the survey square you may reposition yourself up to 400 metres outside the square if necessary.

* existing counters can change their count point if tree growth impairs visibility of the survey area.

- NOTE – if you don't see any woodcock during the first 2 dusk survey visits, there is no need to carry out the third survey.

- NOTE – you may like to continue to count the same area annually, although there's no obligation to do this.

What do I need to know?

It's good to familiarise yourself with the roding behaviour and call of the Woodcock before your survey visits. Male Woodcock perform a flight display at dawn and dusk, grunting and whistling whilst flying over an area of woodland, attracting the attention of females, like an aerial lekking system.

Follow this link to hear a typical roding Woodcock flight call: <https://xeno-canto.org/48091>). You can find more examples of their calls and other information on the BTO Woodcock Survey resources page www.bto.org/our-science/projects/woodcock-survey/resources . Please follow the link to view a short video by GWCT to get a better idea of what the survey involves. www.gwct.org.uk/game/research/species/woodcock/breeding-woodcock-survey/

What impact will this survey have?

The 2023 survey will be key to providing the best possible assessment of the breeding population status of the Woodcock in the UK as well as further helping to understand the causes of the population decline. This data will help to inform conservation projects and habitat management for this species in the future. Once the survey period is finished the Regional Organiser, Heather Mathieson, will give an overview of the survey results so we can understand better the state of the breeding woodcock population in Kent and you can see the overall picture and gain an insight into the crucial part you played in the survey.

Why are their numbers in decline?

There are several possible contributing factors to the decline in the woodcock resident population. Climate change and habitat loss are two major key factors, causing a decline in the range of this species. Increased temperatures has resulted in previously wet or damp wooded areas drying out impacting the abundance and availability of the woodcock's diet. In addition to this their preference for mixed or deciduous woodlands with dense understory could mean that there is less suitable breeding habitat available to successfully lay and rear broods.

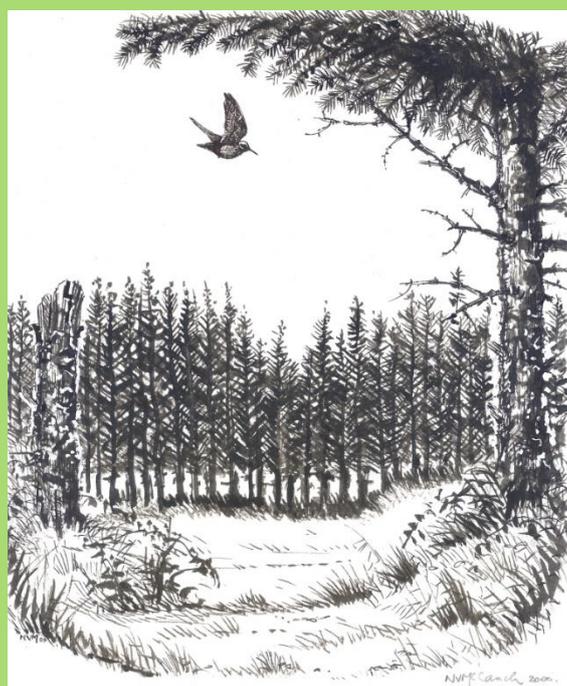
Recording other species

In addition to watching the skies for roding woodcock you may like to record any other species you encounter on your survey. There is a good chance you may hear various songbirds during the dusk chorus and may be lucky enough to see or hear crepuscular and nocturnal species such as the Tawny Owl, Woodcock, Nightjar and Nightingale.

Please record these sightings, and if you could, share this data with the Woodcock Survey Regional Organiser (Heather Mathieson– heather.maggie.mathieson@gmail.com). Heather will compile the data and share the findings once the survey season is finished. Your records will be included in the KOS Kent Bird Report. This is a great opportunity for us to gain a really useful insight into the status of some of our perhaps lesser known woodlands across Kent.

You can also add your bird list on the BirdTrack app. For more information about BirdTrack go to <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/birdtrack>

If you have any questions about the survey or would like more information please email the BTO Woodcock RO, Heather Mathieson heather.maggie.mathieson@gmail.com



RECORDING BREEDING BIRDS



Song Thrush nest by Steve Roberts

Every year the KOS receives thousands of records either directly from the KOS website or from platforms like BirdTrack or eBird. Every year authors of species accounts in the Kent Bird Report try to make sense of these reports. For breeding records, the task would be a lot easier if observers gave more information on the bird's behaviour. There are nationally agreed codes for both making sure you do not disturb the birds and to determine if a bird is possibly, probably, or definitely breeding. Please use them. If you are concerned that reporting a breeding bird may lead to disturbance you can report it directly to the Kent Recorder, Barry Wright umbrellabirds66@gmail.com

BIRDWATCHERS' CODE. [Watching birds | The Birdwatchers' Code - The RSPB](#)

1. Avoid disturbing birds and their habitats – the birds' interests should always come first.
2. Be an ambassador for birdwatching.
3. Know the law and the rules for visiting the countryside and follow them.
4. Report your sightings to the County Bird Recorder (KOS, Barry Wright) and the BirdTrack website (www.birdtrack.net)
5. Think about the interests of wildlife and local people before passing on news of a rare bird, especially during the breeding season.

EVIDENCE OF BREEDING

The following breeding codes used by BTO BirdTrack are now also incorporated in the KOS sightings database. During the breeding season (usually taken as 1 April to 31 July, but some species breed earlier and later!), please try and add the most appropriate code, if possible, to your record submission, especially for less common species.

Non-breeding

F Flying over.

M Observed but suspected to be still on **M**igration.

U Observed but suspected to be s**U**mmerring non-breeder.

Possible Breeder

H Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting **H**abitat.

S **S**inging male present (or breeding calls heard) in breeding season in suitable breeding habitat.

Probable Breeding

P **P**air observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season.

T Permanent **T**erritory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour on at least two different days, a week or more apart, at the same place, or many individuals on one day.

D Courtship and **D**isplay, judged to be in or near potential breeding habitat.

N Visiting probable **N**esting site.

A **A**gitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults, suggesting probable presence of nest or young.

I Brood patch on adult, examined in the hand, suggesting **I**ncubation.

B Nest **B**uilding or excavating nest hole.

Confirmed breeding.

DD **D**istractio**D**isplay or injury feigning.

UN Used **N**est or eggshells found in current season.

FL Recently **F**ledged young or downy young. Careful consideration should be given to likely provenance of any fledged juvenile capable of significant geographical movement.

ON Adults entering or leaving nest site in circumstances indicating **O**ccupied **N**est.

FF Adult carrying **F**aecal sac or **F**ood for young.

NE **N**est containing **E**ggs.

NY **N**est with **Y**oung seen or heard.

SEABIRD MONITORING PROGRAMME (SMP)



Roof top Gulls (BTO)

As previously reported, the above survey is now organised by the BTO, who have taken on this responsibility from the JNCC (Seabird Monitoring Programme). The SMP is now under the leadership of Sarah Harris, who has left her position as organiser for BBS/WBBS. The programme retains its partner organisations, JNCC and RSPB. Details of how the programme will be modified going forward are still being worked on but there is scope for wider participation than has been the case in the past. For further details please see www.bto.org/our-science/projects/seabird-monitoring-programme

Within Kent it is now possible for volunteers to register and sign up to count sites with breeding Gulls, Terns, Fulmars or Cormorants. These can be coastal or inland sites and all are marked on the Map of Seabird Monitoring Sites which can be accessed via the above link. This shows the current sites registered in Kent and for which data has been submitted in the past or as part of the recent JNCC Seabirds Count. By zooming in to view the master sites, any component ones will be revealed. Clicking on a site will start the process of requesting to become a counter. Once registered and allocated the site, you can then enter breeding data from visits you make. Hopefully this is something that you would continue to do each year, in much the same way as volunteers do for schemes such as the Heronry Census. You will be making a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the state of UK seabirds! Thanks.

COLOUR RINGED REDSHANK-REQUEST FOR SIGHTINGS.

The Swale Wader Group [Swale Wader Group - Home \(swalewaders.co.uk\)](http://swalewaders.co.uk) have started a five-year project colour ringing project on Redshank. Redshank numbers are declining nationally and the study aims to provide information on the origins of Redshank wintering in north Kent and the dispersion of our local breeding population. Please report any sightings to Brian Watmough brianrwat@yahoo.co.uk

Surveys

Current surveys are usually posted on the KOS website, for further information please contact Murray Orchard at murray.orchard@live.co.uk

We would like to encourage members to contribute items or photographs for inclusion in the newsletter, especially regarding birds in Kent. If you are interested, I am always happy to offer advice or assistance to aspiring authors. To facilitate page composition text needs to be presented as a Word document, photos or illustrations as j-peg files.

Norman McCanch (Editor) : nvmccanch@hotmail.com

we like to keep in touch with all our members, so if you change address, email address or phone numbers please remember to inform our membership secretary, Chris Roome. He can be contacted at:

Chris Roome, Rowland House, Station Rd., Staplehurst TN12 0PY

Tel: 01580 891686 e-mail: chrisroome105@icloud.com

Obituary notice - Michael Lane

Michael Lane, who has died of blood cancer at the age of 81 in Colchester, began his birdwatching in autumn 1952, the year that the KOS published its first Bird Report. Michael started his secondary education at Gillingham Grammar School in September 1952 and soon joined the group of young birdwatchers that was encouraged by Mr G.B.Rimes,¹ a classics master at the school. Michael would speak with gratitude and admiration of Mr Rimes who, as well as providing ornithological mentoring, sometimes recited Latin poetry as he walked.

Chance and 11-plus results placed Michael in the same form at Gillingham GS as Llew Davenport and they became firm friends in a friendship that would last until Llew's death. Michael moved to Colchester in 1968, to work first as a lecturer at the University of Essex and then, after being called to the Bar, as a barrister in East Anglian Chambers. Even as his illness limited his mobility, Michael continued to enjoy birdwatching and was fortunate to have several excellent places for doing so on his doorstep.

David Lane

1 GB Rimes was a significant influence on many schoolboy birdwatchers among them several stalwarts of the KOS. A short obituary of Mr Rimes can be found in the KBR for 1983

ROOK CENSUS 2023



This year's annual count of rooks took place between March 18th and 27th . 46 Rookeries were visited and a record total of 1,160 nests counted an increase of 96 (9%) over 2022 . The average number of nests for each site was 25. There were increases at 21 sites , a decrease at 18 and numbers remained the same as in 2022 in the other seven locations. .

A feature of this year's count was the absence of leaf foliage on the trees which made for a more accurate count particularly at the larger sites such as Lydd, Stodmarsh and Lympne (Berwick House). In most years we have found that by the last few days of March leaves are beginning to open which and in some instances can hamper making accurate counts particularly among Rookeries where some trees are festooned with ivy. Apparently the cold spell early in March put a brake on leaf development.

The largest increases were at the Thanet Waste site on the A256 (TR333602) and Monkton Village (TR280653). 129% & 66% respectively. These two examples illustrate how movement between adjacent colonies can vary from year to year. The Thanet Waste site was established in 2016 with just eight nests a total that has increased annually until there are currently 55. While the long established site (half-a-mile distance) at the former Richborough power station dropped from a peak of 51 in 2022 to 37 this year. The Monkton site which is spread over a wider area and has been established for at least twenty years can suffer losses or gains annually from the nearby Gore Street site. A similar situation exists on the A259 either side of Old Romney where there are three rookeries in the space of a mile although at another nearby site at Old Romney Church (TR034252) numbers have remained almost static at around 10 nests since 2017.

The two extremes: largest and smallest Rookeries in 2023

	Largest		Smallest
136	Lydd	2	Nonnington Court
75	Stodmarsh	3	Wingham (West)
59 \$	Stamford (M20 Services)	6	New Romney
52	Lympne(Berwick House)	6	Cliffsend (St Augustines G.C.
45	Monkton Village	8	Stone Lees G.C. (Nr. Pegwell Bay)
37	Richborough Power Station site	8	Gore Street (Monkton)
36	Elham Village	9	Staple Church
35	Wingham Village (East)	9	Sandwich (Town Centre)
		9	Ivychurch village

\$ =previously counted as two separate sites, M20 service area & Sandling Park but they are only some 200 metres apart separated by the railway. The former became established in 2021 while the latter was initially found in 2014.

Both rookeries established prior to 2000 & have always been the largest two in our census area.

Location	Map Ref	1 st Count	Range	Average Nests
Lydd (a)	TR041210	2011	120 to 222	157
Stodmarsn(b)	TR217601	2004	30 to 78	56

(a) Not counted in 2012 & 2013: (b) Not counted 2007 & 2009

ROOKERY COUNTS IN EAST KENT 2004 - 2023 (fig 1)

YEAR		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	22	23
TR3060													
306670	Quex Park, Birchington	12	20	3	18	10	16	12	13	10	7	13	25
313663	Cleave Court (Acol)									17 \$\$	25	30	32
310646	Minster village	10	3	8	5	7	2	2	8	6	6	13	11
329642	St Augustines G C		8	16	12	16	14	9	8 \$	n.v	13	10+	6
336635	Stone Lees G C											6 \$	8
333618	A256Richboro. Nr. (Electrical Depot)	29	20	31	42	33	27	21	25	15	36+	51+	37
333602	A256 Thanet Waste						8	13	21	19	28	24	55
TR2060													
230632	Upstreet	3	5	6	12	12	9	12	16	12	17	15	19
217601	Stodmarsh village	55	49	45	50+	58	48	55	55	76	75+	78	75+
242578	WinghamVillage(West		5	0	4	nv	11	6	4	5	n.t	3	3
245576	Wingham Village(East				60 \$	43	25	30	28	34	42	44	35
244607	Preston (nr church)	20	18	18	19	23	14	11	14	11	9	11	12
258651	Sarre	20	18	22	11	18	13	12	17	19	22+	22+	35
280653	Monkton Village	57	61	18	58	32	22	40	56	46	48	27	45
271651	Gore Street(Monkton)	0	10	51	5	5	7	5	3	n.t.	8	13	8
286657	Monkton R`bout			8	15	20	18	18	25	35	29	27	25
TR2050													
263524	nr Nonington Court	42	31	27	35	35	44	29	28	15	11	5	2
255518	Nonington Cricket club							5	8	18	38	34	32
268566	Staple (Church)	6		10	7	9	11	9	19	9	12	2	9
273568	Staple (Rowen Close)										13	20	17
TR2040													
283491	Eythorne Village	15	18	22	21	14	20	21	22	23	28	22	13

TR3030													
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	22	
300445	Whitfield(A2 Rbout)	14	10	11	0	11	15	10	16	11	8	12	10
314458	Church Whitfield	28	28	27	28	35	35	25	35+	32+	20+	25	22
TR3040													
	Sub Totals										495	504	536
	YEAR	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	22	23
Totals		278	260	251	260	239	211	202	266	162	236		
Totals	YEAR TOTAL	646	421	312	746	816	917	939	###	###	###	###	###
TR3050													
327580	Sandwich Town Centre						6	7	6	4	8	9	9
350577	Sandwich Bay Toll			7	8	9	8	7	6	4	n.t	n.t	
358576	Sandwich Bay Estate								8	4	n.t	n.t	
340545	Hacklinge	24	22	14	17	20	18	16	15	18	23	18	20
TR0040													
60498	Bilting					30+\$	32	28	25	30	35	25+	25
TR0030													
013 294	Snave (church)				11 \$	16	10	22	27	31	16	13	13
013 296	Jct A2070/Ivychurch R				16	22		nt	13 B	15	6	4	10
TR0020													
19259	A259/Prospect Farm											20+	29
23284	Nr Ivychurch				19 \$	17	18	16	40	26	22	16	15
29277	Ivychurch				6 \$	12	9	17	A	9	6	9	9
34252	Old Romney (church)	nv	nv	nv	25	22	21	8	10	9	7	10	10
35253	Old Romney				8 \$	8	28	28	30	29	50	25	29
040 249	East of Old Romney											9	10
41210	Lydd Town	126	nv	nv	170+	120+	135	145	180	193	222	144	136
68250	New Romney	23	nv	nv	4	Nt	6	4	4	4	6	10	6
78261	New Romney(KWT visitor centre)	17	nv	nv	18	11	19	17	13	18	32	33	25
88269	St Mary's Bay	23	nv	nv	23	18	12	8+	6	2	3	6	14
TR1030													
123342	West Hythe						82 \$	83+	70	44	8	n.t	Nt
125350	Shepway Cross								30+\$	26	24	15	20
128357	Lympe(Berwick House)						30 \$	23+	18	20	35	42+	52
139371	M20Service Area									∞	29	30	35

140368	Sandling Park area				26 \$	35	35	46	25	38	22	23	24
149368	Sandling Station							20 \$	24	25	28	26	29
TR1040													
177436	Elham village							6 \$	28	24	17	30	36
198477	Barham Vineyard				23 \$	32	29	31	40	29	33	29	28
TR1060													
143602	Kent Uni (Cbury)	42	43	29	30	35	30	47	39	39	32	20	20
	Sub total										664	566	624

\$\$ Cleve Court was a large Rookery many years ago. Covid 19 restrictions prevented a census in 2020.
n.t. = no trace of any nests

A new site on the old A20 East of M20 Services Area & a second site in the village of Staple.
The Old Romney site includes two groups on the RHside (from Brenzett) of the A259 (1) in the area of Bush Farm & (2) immediately before the turning to old Romney.

Locations where Rookery has disappeared

YEAR		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	2021	22
6271	Brenzett	nv	nv	nv	Nt	Nt						
12283	Brenzett	nv	nv	nv	Nt	Nt						
12283	Brenzett	nv	nv	nv	Nt	Nt						
13264	Brenzett	14	nv	nv	Nt	Nt						
260671	St Nicholas-at-Wade			3	nv	nv						
242574	Wingham Church	0	0	0	0	0						
331560	Worth village		4	0	v	Nt						
327580	Sandwich RopeWalk	16	9	9	0	0	0	nt	nt	nt	nt	nt
284499	Eythorne/Elvington Eastry bypass(High & Dry)	5	Nv	0	0	0	nt	nt	nt			
		14	11	11	9	4	-5	Nt	nt			
	Dymchurch					9 \$	nt	nt	nt	nt		
	Westgate-on-Sea	23	15	8	6	5	3	6	4	0	n.t	n.t
307672	Acol	8	13	8	15	10	22	19	15	8	n.t	n.t
14605	A2 Fav-Ospringe	0	0	0	0	Nt	nt					
930631	Bapchild	nv	nv	nv	nv	nv	nv	nv	nv	nv	nv	nv
998611	Ospringe		0	0	0	nt	nv	nv	nv	nv	nv	nv
977598	Nr Newington (M2)					nv	nv	nv	nv	nv	nv	nv

nv = not visited; Nt = No trace of a Rookery

John Websper

COLOUR SUPPLEMENT

This newsletter is published just as the survey period of the 2023 KOS Nightingale survey is ending. There's still time to add records if you can – details on the KOS website and elsewhere in this newsletter. The Nightingale is, of course, the most beautiful of any bird occurring in Kent. But just in case you agree with the owl who said of the Nightingale, “you're filthy dark and small, like a sort of sooty ball”, I have prepared summaries of the status in Kent of five vulgarly colourful species for this newsletter. That quote was a translation from the thirteenth century poem *The Owl and the Nightingale*; I'm sure most people will know it in the original Middle English. ¹

Only one of these colourful birds (Kingfisher) is a regular breeding species here. The others (Roller, Blue-cheeked and European Bee-eaters and Golden Oriole) are variously rare vagrants, scarce migrants or in one case an occasional *breeding species. Together with Hoopoe (which would have been included here if I hadn't already dealt with it; see the May 2020 newsletter), these four often attract the adjective 'exotic' and perhaps together they provide a beaker full of the warm south.

As well as describing where, when and how many of these birds have occurred, up to 2021, I'll be saying a bit about the difficulties of pulling together and interpreting old records. Many people have made these summaries possible: observers, report writers and KOS recorders. I'd particularly like to thank Mark Kennett for his account of finding the first Blue-cheeked Bee-eater in the county.

Roller



Roller (wikicommons)

The first comprehensive book on birds in Kent (Ticehurst, 1909, *The History of the Birds of Kent*) mentions eight records but, as with so many early occurrences, several of these lack some details. There were also some in collections lacking almost all details of when and where, even whether they were obtained in Kent, and those have to be ignored.

The first of Ticehurst's records was one seen at Penge Common in summer 1832. Most of Penge Common (now largely lost to housing, I believe) was in Surrey, and Ticehurst, along with other authors, admits that he did not know which county the bird was in. Generally, in such cases, both adjoining counties tend to include the record as theirs – and that is the course followed by Keith Naylor on his website (*historicalrarebirds.info*), allocating it jointly to Kent, Surrey and Greater London. The KOS, however, has never covered that part of the nineteenth century county now in Greater London, so we do not claim this as our first Roller. For an unknown reason, the recent *Birds of Surrey* (Wheatley, 2007) also does not include it, although Surrey Bird Club does cover all the old parts of Surrey within Greater London.

The next of Ticehurst's records is of one shot at Wootton (between Canterbury and Dover) "a year or two" before 1844 (*Zoologist* 1844 p.623). It isn't known to have been retained as a preserved specimen but – as a record – it's not much vaguer than many. This, then, is regarded as the first for Kent.

The same article in *The Zoologist* records that Dr Plomley, who collected many birds on Romney Marsh, had a Roller specimen in his collection and said that the species was "occasionally to be met with" on the marsh. His collection went to Dover Museum where it was lost to enemy action in October 1943. The absence of any clear or even approximately dated details means that most people discount this record. That is not to say

that we don't believe one or more birds did occur. Rather, there's just not enough information for a definitive record.

The next occurrences involved one killed at Temple Ewell in 1879 and another at River in 1884. These seem straightforward but the reference quoted by Ticehurst does not contain any mention of Rollers, though I wonder if Ticehurst, usually meticulously accurate, for once slipped up here and gave the wrong reference. To add confusion, George Dowker (*Birds of East Kent*, 1889) gives the date of one at River as 1888, though Ticehurst comments that Dowker frequently gave inaccurate dates and that perhaps he was referring to the one in 1884.

A more precise record involves one caught alive on Rainham Marsh on 8th November 1888 (Prentis, *Birds of Rainham*, 1894). Walter Prentis, who farmed there, reported that "my people were employed clamping mangold wurtzel when, to their surprise, a Roller came and settled" nearby. It was weak and died soon afterwards. It was a very late date in the year, almost but not quite exceptionally so in a British context. One point to make about this record is that it was definitely in Kent. It was not the Essex Rainham Marshes! Confusion between the two has arisen occasionally, most recently in BirdTrack records transferred to KOS: records made at Rainham Marshes, Essex, were somehow given the site name of Lower Rainham and – initially – slipped into the Kent database.

A record from Bobbing in 1933 has never been published in Kent bird reports or books before (but is due to be added to a forthcoming KBR). The details were uncovered by Phil Redman, a KOS founder member, when he was going through the diaries of Norman Ticehurst. On 22nd August 1933, Ticehurst received an immature male Roller, "rather high, but the eyes and legs were quite soft", from (dare I say it) George Bristow. It had been shot by Mr E Stevens of Upper Toes, Bobbing. Phil Redman traced Mr Stevens' daughter, and both she and her brother recalled their father shooting the bird in an elm tree. The date is later than the period considered for Hastings Rarities; also, given the corroboration from the Stevens children, the KOS rarity panel has agreed that the record is acceptable.

That's enough of these bothersome complications. In Table 1, I am listing all of the records that I think are acceptable, even the earlier ones without full dates so long as we know within a year or two when they occurred.

Year	Location	Notes
Pre-1884	Wootton	One shot "a year or two" before 1844
1879	Temple Ewell	One shot in 1879
1884	River	One shot in 1884
1888	Rainham Marsh	One caught (later died) on 8th November
1894	Betteshanger	Adult male shot in 1894
1906	Edenbridge	One present from 20th July to 22nd September
1933	Bobbing	One shot shortly before 22nd August (see comments above)
1962	Canterbury	One "at" Canterbury [presumably near rather than at] from 26th June to 2nd July. Those dates are the 'official' BBRC ones, to which we adhere by convention; the KBR for 1962 gives the first date as 27th June.
1962	Wye	One at Wye from 4th or 5th to 15th July, considered to be probably the same as at Canterbury. The KBR gives the first date as 8th July.
1969	Trenleypark Wood	One on 8th-9th June. The location, as recorded in the KBR, was Trenleypark Wood but BBRC noted it rather vaguely as Canterbury.
1980	Aycliffe	A juvenile at Aycliffe on 8th September.
1992	Monkton	One at Monkton on 15th June
2014	Worth Marshes	A second calendar year bird on Worth Marshes on 12th May

Counting the 1962 Canterbury and Wye records as being the same bird, this gives a total of eleven individuals. In contrast to many rarities with so few records, the occurrences are heavily biased towards earlier years, with only three in the last fifty. This probably reflects the decreasing populations of the species. Until recently, it was thought to be declining steeply across Europe and, although BirdLife International now believes the rate of decline is not severe, it has become extinct in Germany, Denmark and Sweden.

Kingfisher



Kingfisher by Tracey Mantle

The Kingfisher is a resident and largely sedentary species, although birds do disperse after the breeding season and may sometimes be seen along the seashore. Figure 1 shows its breeding distribution, from the *Kent Breeding Bird Atlas 2008-13*. Obviously, from the species' feeding and nesting habitat requirements, it is tied to rivers and other water courses and wetlands.

There were a lot of changes between the 1988-94 atlas and that in 2008-13. As the new Atlas comments, some of this may be due to differing levels of coverage, but the scale of losses in west Kent seems particularly surprising. Over the county as a whole, the species was recorded in 24% fewer tetrads (2x2 km squares) with confirmed/probable breeding in 42% fewer. I don't think we have enough evidence from casual records to say how accurate the map is now, but might some factor such as presence of mink or water quality have been affecting Kingfisher numbers?

The 2008-13 Atlas estimated the Kent population to be in the range 75-100 pairs, but there has been no dedicated survey. Over the past fifty years, BTO surveys have shown fluctuations but no clear trend (BTO Bird Trends). Cold weather, particularly when water freezes, can lead to declines such as in the late 1970s-early 1980s and around 2010-2012, but numbers can recover quite quickly. Even after the winter of 1962/63, it was only five years before the KBR was saying "plenty of records".

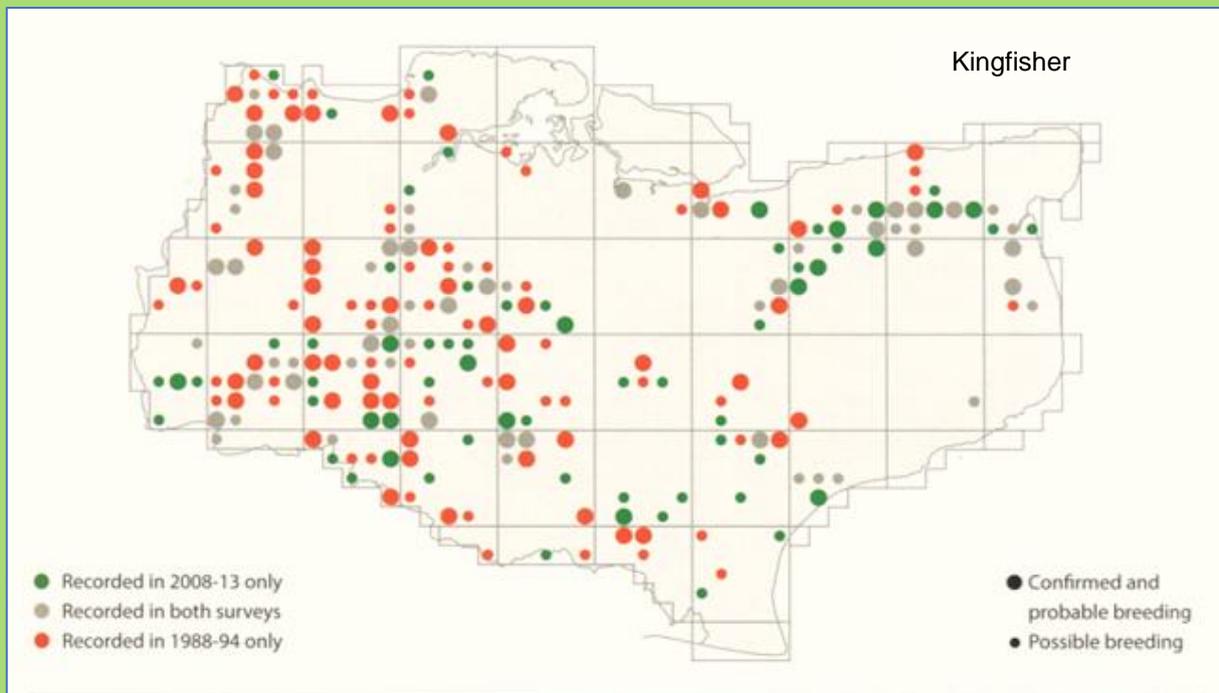
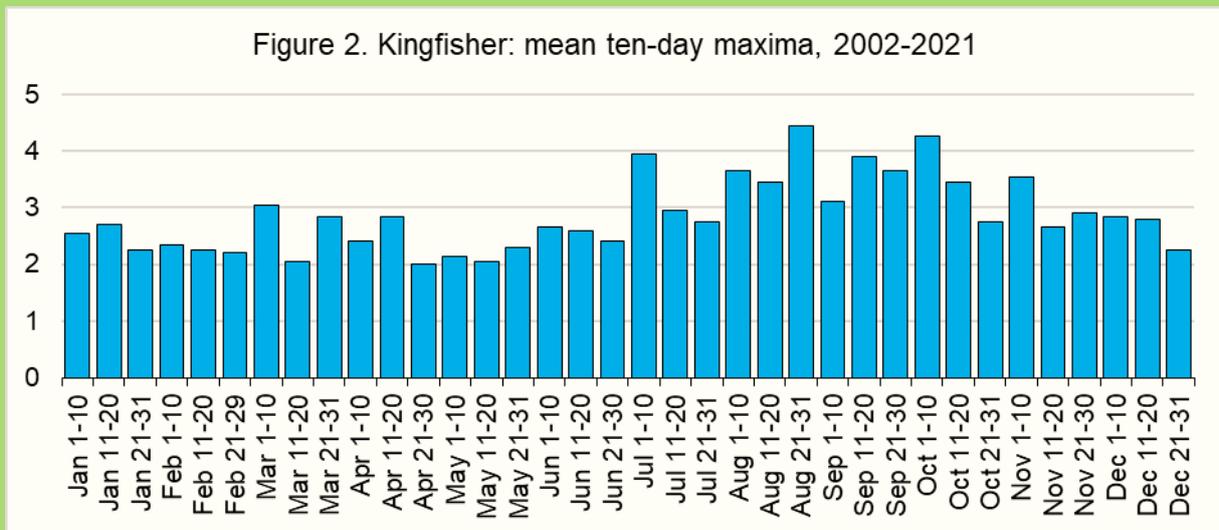


Figure 1. Kingfisher breeding distribution

The majority of Kingfisher sightings are of one or two birds but sometimes three, four or even more may be seen together. It is difficult to be sure that one isn't counting the same birds repeatedly, but coverage of longer stretches of waterway can result in higher totals. All counts of ten or more during the past twenty years have come from boat trips between Grove Ferry and Sandwich, with the highest being 22 on 7th October 2019. As Figure 2 shows, there isn't much variation in the size of counts through the year, except that they are higher in autumn when family parties and dispersing birds boost numbers.



Ringing can demonstrate that larger numbers are present than are seen at once. At Reculver in 1993, for example, fourteen juveniles were caught during 10th July-9th October; this is close to breeding locations, but most will have been dispersing from sites further afield. Similar ringing totals have been achieved there in other years.

One dispersing bird was seen to come to grief: flying out to sea from Hythe on 17th January 2004, it was killed by gulls. Another was chased out to sea by a Herring Gull at Folkestone on 15th September 2016.

Notwithstanding these attempts to find new homes, Kingfishers really are pretty sedentary. Over 80% of ringing recoveries affecting Kent have been in Kent itself or London, and none in Britain further than from Snodland to Lakenheath in Suffolk. However, there have been a couple of overseas movements: a full-grown bird moved from the Netherlands to Grain in 2014-15 and a German nestling moved almost 900 km to Sturry in 1998.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater



Blue-cheeked Bee-eater by Brendan Ryan

Breeding no nearer than north Africa and the Middle East, this is the most exotic of our five colourful species. Up to now, eleven individuals have been accepted in Britain from the first in 1921, all singles, with two of them assumed to have moved from one location and county to another. Most have been in southern England but two fairly recent ones were in northern Scotland. The two Kent birds were the sixth and tenth in Britain.

The first in Kent was one found by Mark Kennett at Church Hougham, to the west of Dover, on 18th July 1989. It didn't get a finder's note in the KBR for that year, but Mark has provided the evocative account below. Its short stay of about an hour and a half allowed Ian Hodgson to get there to see it, but no-one else – the telephones in those days were not very smart. I also asked Ian about it – he too remembers it well and muttered something about milk floats and speed limits! By the way, the bird seen in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire on 8th-10th July that same year is treated as a different bird from the Kent one by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

When Jack Chantler found the next at Bockhill, St Margaret's, on 22nd July 2009, communications had improved sufficiently to allow several tens of observers to see the bird which was in the area for three and a half hours.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* at Church Hougham

Mark Kennett



Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Church Hougham, by Murray Wright

On the 18th of July 1989 I was covering Great Farthingloe, one of the areas I regularly watch. It was a warm summer's day with a light SE wind. Being July, it was quiet. That is until a Bee-eater appeared over the top of my head and continued to fly NW towards Church Hougham. At this stage plumage colour was silhouetted but the most notable feature was the long central tail feathers. There was no question that this was something special. So, I set off in pursuit. I was thinking that if it had come in off the sea then it would be looking to come down and feed. There are some electric lines at the east end of Church Hougham, about a mile from where I was, so I crossed the Hougham Valley and headed towards them. To my amazement, and delight, there it was! It was perched with occasional sallies out to catch food. At this point in my birding career, I hadn't seen European Bee-eater. However, I had seen pictures, and read reports in the press, of a Blue-cheeked Bee-eater in Yorkshire a few days earlier and there were strong similarities to this bird. I ran one and a half miles home and called Ian Hodgson, who lived in Deal at the time. I said "I have a Bee-eater at Church Hougham and I think it's Blue-cheeked!". Within 20 minutes Ian had picked me up and we returned to the site. It was still there. Ian quickly confirmed that it was Blue-cheeked Bee-eater as he had recently photographed the species in Turkey. As we discussed how Church Hougham would cope with a large number of birders, the site was a single track no through road with limited parking in the Village, the bird flew strongly North never to be seen again.

Description: Wholly green apart from a thick dark eye stripe. Powder blue cheeks and rusty throat patch with chestnut underwings. Long central tail feathers.

Bee-eater

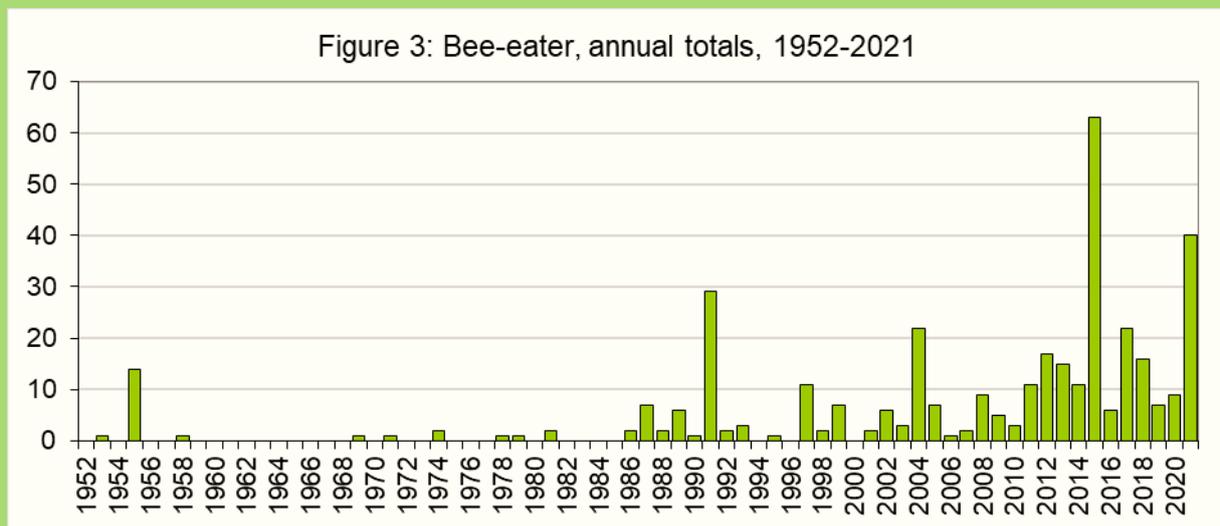


Bee-eater, South Foreland by Jamie Partridge

The European Bee-eater was once a great rarity in Britain but since the 1980s has increased to the point where it's difficult to work out how many occur each year. The problem is exacerbated by the species' tendency to fly over, invisible at height, giving the distinctive 'pruit' calls, so that one doesn't know how many were there, and being highly mobile it's hard to know whether you're seeing the same group that was down the coast or a new lot.

Ticehurst (*History of the Birds of Kent*, 1909) mentions three good records. The first was shot at Kingsgate in May 1827, the second shot some time prior to 1844 near Lydd and the third was seen near Mereworth on 24th June 1882. After a long gap, the next was seen near Sevenoaks by Jeffrey Harrison, no less, on 15th May 1953.

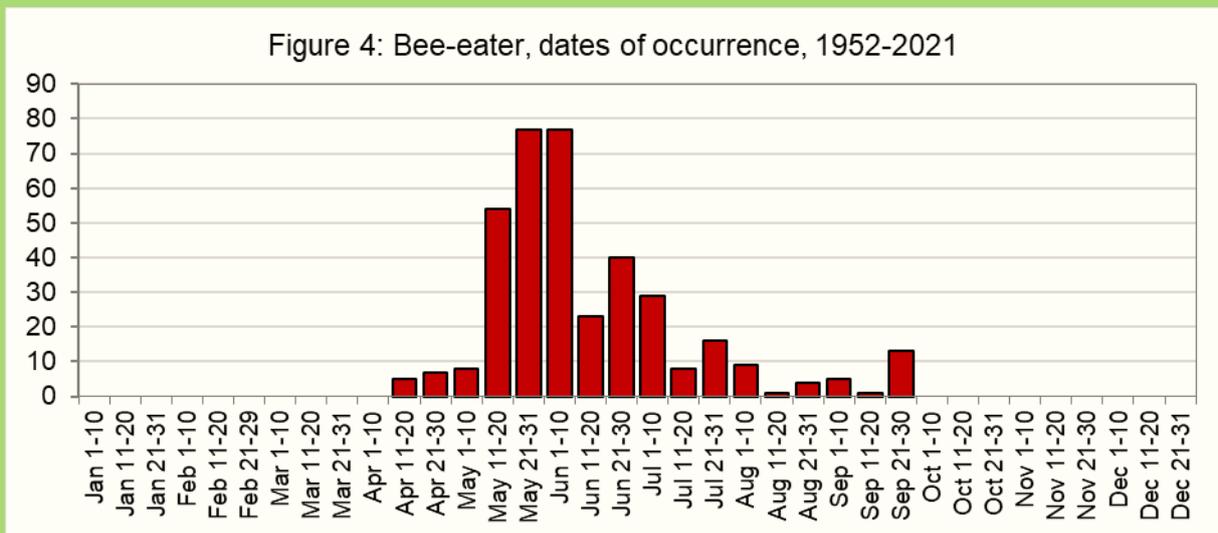
The annual totals from 1952 onwards are shown in Figure 2. From 1990, totals are often approximate. Bee-eater was a BBRC rarity until 1990 but the one record that year, at Foreness, published in the KBR, seems not to have been sent to the British Birds Rarities Committee; I have (contrary to my usual practice) included it here, assuming it was an oversight. One at North Foreland in 1997 was accepted by KOS as 'bee-eater species' only and that is excluded. I have used the KOS database as well as Kent Bird Reports in the compilation of Bee-eater data but, from 2014 onwards, it's hard to know whether successive records relate to the same or different birds. I may have been a bit over-generous in one or two years, including 2015.



Until 1987, no more than two occurred in any one year, apart from 1955. In that year, one was seen at Sandwich Bay in June and then three pairs bred at Plumpton in Sussex which, with seven young, left the site on the morning of 25th September, and “about a dozen” were seen at Dymchurch late afternoon (and heard next day). I’m counting that flock as 13, the number seen leaving Plumpton. That, surprisingly, remains the largest group recorded in Kent. Other records of seven or more have been:

2004	Seasalter	Ten flew W on 6th June
2013	Saltwood	Ten on 14th May
2015	Dungeness	Ten flew S over Boulderwall on 25th June
2015	Kingsdown	Seven flew S and were later seen at Hawkinge on 27th June
2021	Dover	Ten perched in hawthorns before flying off, on 8th June
2021	Folkestone Warren	Nine flew in off the sea, on 9th June, and were seen at South Foreland 25 minutes later; assumed different from those on 8th June
2021	Sandwich Bay	Nine flew N on 1st July

There is a strong spring bias to occurrence, as elsewhere in Britain. Figure 4 shows the seasonal pattern in Kent. The earliest of all were five seen in Dover on 19th April 2015. The latest were the flock on 25th-26th September 1955, and in more recent times one at Whitstable on 13th September 1995.



Golden Oriole



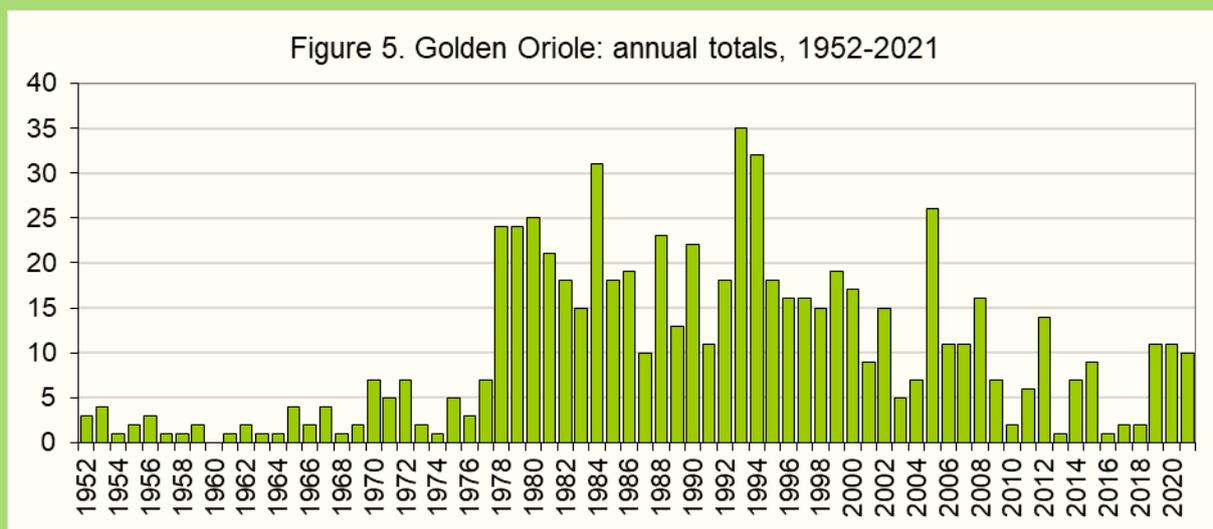
Golden Oriole, France (Wikicommons)

I have very good reason for believing the Golden Oriole to be of more regular and frequent occurrence than is generally thought, for in spite of its brilliant colouring it is so secretive when it has once settled down in a chosen spot, that unless one is familiar with its song, the bird is very likely to escape notice.

So wrote Ticehurst (*History of the Birds of Kent*, 1909) and, as so often, his words remain true today. At that time, Golden Oriole was a regular summer visitor in very small numbers, with most reports east of a line from Hythe through Ashford to Reculver though some were found west of that. Nests were occasionally seen, for example near Dover and Sandwich and on Thanet. One regularly occupied location was Elmstone (east of Wingham), where birds were present in at least eight years from the 1840s to 1880s; probably they were there most years, and likely they were also regularly present at other sites where they were less known or recorded. Ticehurst decried the frequency with which potentially nesting birds were shot.

By the mid twentieth century, Harrison (*Birds of Kent*, 1953) knew of less regular occurrence, but records did continue including confirmed and probable breeding attempts. Several more were seen at Elmstone in the Second World War and up to 1953 (and I encountered a singing male there in 1989). Nevertheless, there may well have been a real continuing decline through to the 1970s, though the ability of the species to evade detection by birdwatchers at seldom-visited localities raises the possibility that it was never as scarce as it seemed in the post-war years.

The annual numbers of records from 1952 onwards are shown in Figure 5. This is based on a combination of Kent Bird Reports and the KOS database (we encountered some discrepancies between the two) augmented by other sources such as BirdGuides and local reports.



The sudden jump in numbers in the late 1970s is thought to be at least partly genuine, as numbers at regularly watched coastal locations did increase at that time. However, part of the increase can be attributed to intensive and successful searching for breeding pairs in east Kent woodlands. That effort declined through the 1980s, though partly because the observers were having less success.

To summarise the recent breeding records in east Kent, the first report of proven breeding was in 1976. There were then two pairs confirmed or probably nesting in 1977, one plus two strongly possible in 1978, and five plus one strongly possible in 1979. Throughout 1978-1983, there were also birds at other locations in which they could have bred but no proof was obtained (often because limited effort was possible). There was then one more instance of proven breeding in 1988. Did breeding start and then stop as the records imply? Or could it, perhaps, have been a temporary increase within a constantly present but very small population?

The recent report of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel in *British Birds* (November 2022, p.629) illustrates the rise and fall of breeding numbers in Britain (mainly in East Anglia) from the 1970s to the last confirmed instance in 2009. The panel regards the species now as a 'former breeder'. My guess is that nesting does persist – it's just a matter of finding them, and that's not easy. I was once shown an east Kent nest with half-grown young; there was no song, no evidence of the adults at all for a long time until a low jay-like call was heard, the heads of the young popped up, a female appeared, fed them and was gone, a green bird into the green leaves.

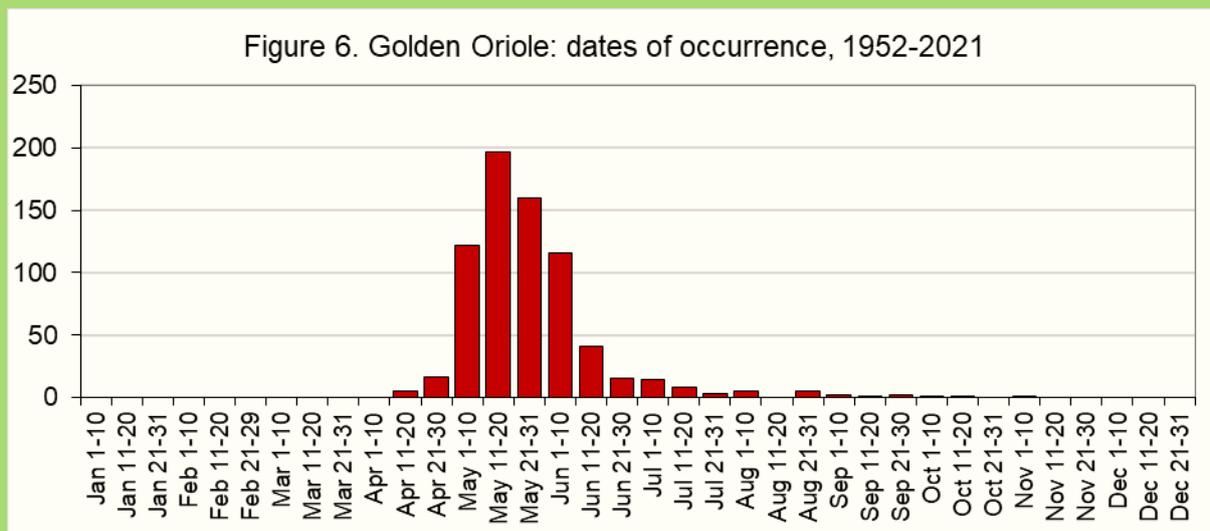
While there has been a marked decline in all records, including coastal migrants, since the 1990s, Golden Orioles do still turn up in suitable breeding habitat. During the past ten years, my assessment is that birds have been reported in at least nine locations where nesting is possible. How much follow-up effort was expended in an attempt to establish breeding? I don't know but suspect little.

Traditionally, Golden Orioles have been associated with oak woodland, but it's long been known that they like foraging in poplars (which can support abundant large caterpillars on which the birds prey). Indeed, the East Anglian population was found primarily in poplar plantations. The Kent population of the 1970s and 1980s was associated with tall, overstood chestnut coppice woodland, though birds ranged widely in oak and poplar stands in search of food. There was a suspicion that, although they moved throughout large blocks of woodland, nests were more often than not in smaller outlying blocks. Sweet chestnut was favoured for nest sites, in contrast to earlier finds in Kent of nests in oak and elm, for example.

I have quickly looked at all locations where birds have been seen over the recent twenty years, summarised in Table 2. Records, like birders, are concentrated on the coast but note the preponderance of north-east Kent occurrence. Note also that 15.5% were inland.

Reculver & Thanet	47 (27.0%)
Dungeness area	31 (17.8%)
Walmer-Folkestone	29 (16.7%)
Pegwell-Sandwich Bays	28 (16.1%)
Inland east Kent	18 (10.3%)
North Kent (Thames-Sheppey)	12 (6.9%)
Inland rest of Kent	9 (5.2%)

Golden Oriole records in Kent are predominantly in spring (Figure 6). In this, they show a similar pattern to other species with distributions centred in southern Europe, such as Bee-eater (see above), Red-rumped Swallow and Serin – what are thought of as classic ‘over-shooting’ migrants. Golden Oriole does show a stronger bias towards spring occurrence than those other species; that could be genuine but perhaps might be influenced by the fact that it can be so inconspicuous unless it calls – and vocalisation, especially song, is more frequent in spring.



The earliest records in the year of Golden Oriole in Kent have involved a female seen at High Halden on 11th April 1984 and one at Dungeness on 12th April 2009. I must admit to some concern about the first one (it is not mentioned specifically in the KBR, which may indicate the editors decided it was unreliable – but it remains listed as accepted on the KOS database). The next earliest are males on 18th April, at Dungeness in 1962 and at Barham in 1970, then others on 20th or 21st April in various years. In autumn, there have been three October records, the latest one a male at Gillingham on 18th October 1990, and one after that, a young male at Folkestone on 2nd November 1959.

Andrew Henderson

¹ Pu art dim an of fule howe, an pinchest a lutel soti clowe.

Bird records Ancient and Modern

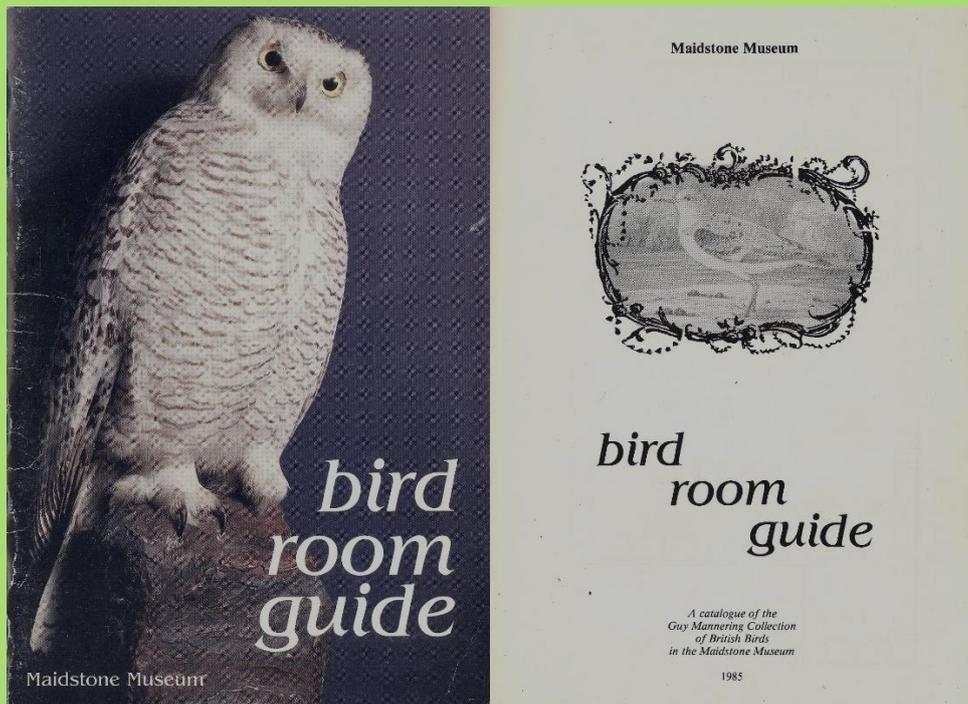
Reading the March 2023 issue of the Bulletin made me pull out a part-written Manuscript concerning museum collections in the county. Your Editor in his Editorial mentions that he trained as a taxidermist while Chris Cox's paper dealt with a visit to the Natural History Museum at Tring, so I hope that the following may be of interest .

How many members of the Society are aware that in recent years two collections of birds which were kept in Museums in the County have ended up, one in Austria and the second in Poland? Perhaps it might be more pertinent to ask how many members are aware that they ever existed?

The most recent of these concerns the Harrison Institute at Sevenoaks. An eclectic collection initiated by James Harrison but with many specimens of Kentish origin, including the Norman Ticehurst collection which was purchased in the early 1950's. I recall several years ago visiting the Harrison and being enthusiastically welcomed by Dr. David Harrison as he was so pleased that somebody 'local' was interested in their collections. Today the work of the Institute concentrates on biodiversity research and education particularly in Africa and Asia. The bird collection amounted to almost 20,000 skins and, in comparison with today's digitalised world, finding things was a task of going through the card index, cabinets and shelves physically. My primary reason was to find the missing volumes of the Ticehurst Diaries which Jeffrey Harrison had borrowed shortly before he died in 1978. David gave me the run of the library and we both searched without success only finding one volume. Fortunately, in autumn 2021 the most important volumes from 1890 to 1920 were found. It is regrettable that the Collection has not remained in Britain but a new home has been found and the Harrison Institute have donated it to the Natural History Museum in Vienna.

The other important collection for the county was the 'Manwaring Collection' which was on show at the Maidstone Museum until sometime about 2015, when it was put into a storage container! In 2018 it was 'loaned' to the Natural History Museum in Krakow, Poland where it now resides. I am certain that as far as the Borough of Maidstone is concerned, it can be regarded as 'permanent'.

When the late Eric Philp was curating the Natural History Section of the Maidstone Museum he methodically examined and catalogued the birds. Subsequently the museum published a detailed catalogue.



Which other museums in the County holds display or skin collections other than the Quex Park Museum in Thanet and the Cranbrook Museums? I am aware that at the latter the Boyd Alexander Collection has Kentish birds dating from about 1890 to 1905 .

A few years ago, when researching the Hastings Rarities', I discovered that the Rothschild Collection which is housed at the American Museum of. Natural History in New York had a number of skins identifiable as having been obtained in Kent and East Sussex. When I approached them as to what skins they held they sent me, within 48 hours, a computerised list of their holdings and on my visits to New York went there to view some of the skins. I was welcomed by Dr. Paul Sweet (a Brit!!), The Collections Manager, who personally assisted me in examining skins from the Rothschild Collection which comprises some 280,000 skins out a total of 850,000 from around the world which are housed on six floors of the Museum. At the time I was surprised by the lack of specimens from Kent and East Sussex and later discovered that Ernst Hartert (Rothschild's Curator) had destroyed almost all of them as they had originated from the 'notorious George Bristow'. Later still I discovered, whilst going through some archives at the BTO, that an equally notorious character namely, 'Richard Meinertzhagen was the source of that information!

The importance of historical records was brought home to me when I was living at Cap Gris-Nez. I received from the late Bill Bourne an article he had 'written on the birds which had been eaten at the interview between Henry the eighth of England and Francis the first of France at the 'Field of the Cloth of Gold', just outside 'Calais in 1520. The quantity was enormous and some of the bird species were identifiable. Thinking it over it seems likely that Henry had birds shipped over from England; both the Romney and East Kent Marshes as well. as the Cinque Ports were close at hand. The Kentish landscape in those days bore no resemblance to that of today; in the 16th century ships being able to sail up the River Rother to Small Hythe (Tenterden). Next time, as you whizz down the autoroute A26 from Calais en route to the Camargue, look-out for the sign for 'Le camp du Drap du l'Or' (Field of the Cloth of Gold).

I cannot compete with Henry the eighth as my notebooks only go back to 1943, in the years prior to the first KBR in 1952. In my school days I was only really interested in History and Geography and, when I took up birds soon found my way to the Kent County Library at Springfield, Maidstone, where, amongst other books, I discovered Ticehurst's 'A History of the Birds of Kent' and the 'South-Eastern Bird Reports' which covered Hampshire, Surrey" Sussex and Kent'. The latter started in 1936 but was defunct by 1948. At that time the modern birdwatcher was still a fledgling. I recorded Red-backed Shrikes, Wrynecks and Sand martins all breeding in the Bearsted area; surely there is a case for the KOS. archiving the many notes made by members and others in the past?

I remember that in the late 1950's Eric Philp, along with John Simpson and Ernest Still, edited a monthly bulletin of the birds recorded in the previous month in the County. It was produced by first typing out the list on a stencil; one had to correct the errors in typing by rubbing out the mistake, then typing it again. Then came the messy bit using for ink a thick oily substance to print it. I cannot remember how long this lasted, two or three years? Does the Society or anybody have access to a complete set? They may help to understand the developments of the Society over the years.

I am aware that the likes of the BTO and RSPB have been swamped with detailed notebooks and are not taking any more unless of exceptional interest. Many old records and papers are lost because, when a keen birdwatcher dies his/her executors find nobody in the family or others who are interested, so they end up being scrapped. May I suggest that the KOS follow the example .of other county societies and consider the appointment of an archivist with a view to collecting the archives of members and others for researchers in the future.

PS Redman

Editorial Comment:

Phil Redman raises some important issues with regard to archives of older records. The society is fortunate that Robin Mace acts as our very efficient archivist, but the fundamental problem is the old one of storage space and durability. For many years records submitted to the KOS were entered on file cards, even in the 1950's as many as 1000 per year. The situation became desperate in recent years, such that the cards occupied two pallets, probably over a tonne of paper! Through the kindness of a member, we were able to store these in a dry garage, but this was only ever going to be a temporary solution. Fate came to our aid when a legacy received by the society was used to digitize the records into a format which should be accessible with some maintenance for years to come.

The problem of the fate of personal notebooks is equally problematic. Clearly we do not have premises or facilities to store such items, a quick trawl through my studio and bookshelves revealed annual diaries going back to 1973, with corresponding well-worn field notebooks and endless sketchbooks in some cases extending even farther into my dim past, amongst them a few now obviously of more dubious provenance. They were only ever meant for personal use, but scrutiny reveals lots of useful information.

My solution to this is relatively simple; I already use BTO Birdtrack to record my current observations, so it has been relatively simple to start inputting my old records onto the format. This has already revealed the loss of some sites from years ago, notably breeding records of Black Redstarts from the old derelict Surrey Docks in 1974. Searching Google Earth for map references shows the site to be no more, only close-packed modern developments. Did anyone else record these birds at that place? When did they disappear? Questions to be answered!!

KENT BIRD SIGHTINGS FOR MARCH-APRIL 2023 - Chris Hindle

Species printed in **red** require descriptions or good quality photographs to be accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee (species in capital letters) or the KOS Rarities Committee (species in lower case). The results of these committees' deliberations are regularly published in this newsletter.

WEATHER

March began cold and dry under the influence of high pressure, but from the 8th onwards it was predominantly unsettled with moist, milder air pushing up from the south. After transitory fine weather on the 27th, the month ended with a westerly pattern, very unsettled with low pressure close to the UK. Mean temperatures for the month were close to average but rainfall was above average with, for instance, a monthly total of 69.5 mm of rain at Bishopstone.

April was a predominantly unsettled month, with little in the way of consistent warmth, though it was more settled for a time around mid-month. This was followed by a return to rather chilly and unsettled conditions. It was rather wet, most notably in Kent, with 62.75 mm of rain during the month although sunshine was close to normal.

EARLIEST SPRING MIGRANTS IN 2023

For some species like Whimbrel, Greenshank, Common Sandpiper, Black Redstart, Blackcap and Chiffchaff it can be difficult to unpick wintering birds from newly arrived migrants.

Arrival dates compared to the Kent mean: (-) = earlier, (0) = the same, (+) = later

- Garganey** – a male and female arrived at Stodmarsh on Mar 18th. **(+8)**
- Common Swift** – four birds were seen at Grove Ferry/Stodmarsh on Apr 20th. **(+5)**
- Cuckoo** – one was heard at Kingston on Apr 6th. **(+7)**
- Turtle Dove** – there was one at Oare Marshes on Apr 16th. **(+5)**
- Little Ringed Plover** – the first record was at New Hythe on Mar 11th. **(-5)**
- Whimbrel** – six flew over Dungeness RSPB on Apr 2nd. **(+1)**
- Common Sandpiper** – one was seen at Swanscombe Marsh on Apr 6th **(-2)**
- Greenshank** – there was one at Cliffe Pools on Apr 2nd. **(-3)**
- Wood Sandpiper** – a bird was seen at Worth Marshes on Apr 25th. **(+4)**
- Sandwich Tern** – a bird flew east at Dungeness on Feb 19th. **(-13)**
- Little Tern** – one flew past DBO on Apr 15th. **(+4)**
- Common Tern** – one was seen at DBO on Mar 28th **(+1)**
- Arctic Tern** – three flew past DBO on Apr 10th. **(-2)**
- Black Tern** – one flew north at North Foreland on Apr 13th. **(-4)**
- Osprey** – one was reported from Grove Ferry on Mar 21st **(-4)**
- Hobby** - one was reported from Tonbridge on Mar 15th **(-9)**
- Sand Martin** – there was a bird at Worth Marshes on Mar 14th. **(+5)**
- Swallow** – one flew west at Palm Bay on Mar 13th. **(+2)**
- House Martin** – birds were seen at Dungeness RSPB and Dover on Mar 18th. **(-3)**
- Chiffchaff** – a newly arrived bird was seen at Hythe on Mar 7th. **(-1)**
- Willow Warbler** – there was one at Dungeness on Mar 20th. **(-4)**
- Sedge Warbler** – one was singing at Dungeness RSPB on Mar 25th. **(-3)**
- Reed Warbler** – one was heard at Dungeness RSPB on Apr 8th. **(+2)**
- Grasshopper Warbler** – one was heard "reeling" at Sandwich Bay on Apr 12th **(+2)**

Lesser Whitethroat – birds were heard at Stodmarsh and Finberry on Apr 13th. (+2)
Common Whitethroat – one was singing at Cliffe Pools on Apr 5th (+1)
Garden Warbler – there was one at Seaton on Apr 14th. (+2)
Blackcap – birds were seen at Samphire Hoe and Folkestone on Mar 12th. (-7)
Spotted Flycatcher – an early bird was seen at Swalecliffe on Apr 28th. (-2)
Ring Ouzel – a bird flew in off the sea at North Foreland on Apr 1st. (+1)
Nightingale – one was heard at New Hythe GPs on Apr 4th. (-2)
Black Redstart – a bird was seen at Foreness on Mar 9th. (+8)
Common Redstart – a two males were recorded from DBO on Apr 6th. (+3)
Northern Wheatear – there was a widespread arrival of birds on Mar 15th. (+9)
Whinchat – single birds were at Worth, Cliffe and Higham on Apr 25th. (+14)
White Wagtail – one was seen at North Foreland on Mar 7th. (-3)
Yellow Wagtail – a male flew W at Reculver on Mar 21st. (+2)
Tree Pipit – single birds flew over North Foreland and Foreness on Apr 5th. (+5)

PARTRIDGE TO WILDFOWL

The **Black Brant** found at North Foreland on Feb 27th remained in the area until Mar 6th. Single birds were also seen at Lower Halstow on Mar 6th, Pegwell Bay on the 11th, Seasalter and Kingsdown on the 12th and Dover Harbour on the 13th.

In March up to 48 **Bewick's Swans** were recorded from Walland Marsh and Dungeness RSPB until the 5th with one first winter bird seen at Reculver until the Mar 23rd.

Three **Whooper Swans** were still to be seen at Walland Marsh on Mar 2nd and single **Pink-footed Geese** were seen at Stodmarsh on Mar 15th and at Otford on Apr 23rd.

During March there were still 140 **Russian White-fronted Geese** at Swale NNR at the beginning of the month decreasing to 36 by the Apr 3rd. There were also up to 35 seen at Swalecliffe, High Halstow, Cooling Marshes, Conningbrook and Grain. In April two were still at Conningbrook on the 1st and five at Dungeness RSPB on the 2nd with one still there on the 11th with one at Oare Marshes from the 12th-19th.



Egyptian Geese by Kieron McDonnell

As many as 21 **Egyptian Geese** were counted at Haysden, Cliffe Pools, Dunorlan Park, East Malling, Godmersham, River Darent, East Peckham, DBO, Swalecliffe, Kennington, Gravesend, Kingsdown, Whetsted GPs, Postling, Seaton and Stodmarsh/Grove Ferry.

The **Ruddy Shelduck** was reported again from Haysden between Mar 12th and 26th.

Up to 12 **Mandarin** were seen at Furnace Pond, Bough Beech, Broke Hill Farm, Seaton, East Peckham, Penshurst Place, Whetsted GPs and Weddington.



Garganey by Steve Ashton

After the first two **Garganey** were seen at Stodmarsh on Mar 18th up to three birds were seen at Grove Ferry/Stodmarsh, Dungeness RSPB, DBO, Cliffe Pools, Oare Marshes, Dartford Marshes, New Hythe, Pegwell Bay, Higham Marshes, Worth Marshes, Sandwich Bay, Sevenoaks WR, Seasalter and Elmley.

A male **Red-crested Pochard** was seen at Leybourne Lakes on Mar 26th whilst the female **Ring-necked Duck** first seen at Stodmarsh on Jan 6th remained there until Apr 14th and the wintering **Scaup** was still present at Scotney GPs on Apr 9th.

A male **LESSER SCAUP** was identified at Worth Marshes on Apr 4th. This is only the second record for Kent following a first year male seen at Scotney in 2004 and 2005 between Nov 17th and Mar 14th and then seen at Bough Beech on Mar 16th. Up to seven **Velvet Scoter** were seen at Coldharbour, Grenham Bay, Walmer and DBO with the last 19 seen at DBO on Apr 27th whilst two first winter/female **Long-tailed Ducks** flew E at DBO on Mar 8th and another was seen there on Apr 7th. Up to seven **Goosanders** were recorded at Bough Beech, Sandwich Bay, Hythe, Kearsney Abbey, East Peckham, Haysden and Stodmarsh with the last bird seen at Worth Marshes on Apr 19th.

NIGHTJAR TO WADERS

Following an unprecedented influx of **Alpine Swifts** into the UK and Ireland as many as three birds were seen at various sites throughout Kent. Historically only 79 Alpine Swifts have ever been recorded before in Kent.



Alpine Swift by Tracey Mantle

In the table below there is almost certainly some duplication, for instance the two birds seen on the 20th at Reculver Marshes, Seasalter and Oare Marshes are highly likely to be the same birds as is the bird seen at South Foreland and St Margarets on the 25th.

March	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th
Stodmarsh	1							
Worth Marshes	1							
Scotney GPs	1							
Bockhill	1						1	
Reculver Marshes		2W						
Seasalter		2W						
Oare Marshes		2W						
Thanet *			3	2	3	2	2	2
New Hythe GPs				1	1	1	1	1
South Foreland							1	
Pegwell Bay							1	
Darenth Lakes							1	

* Birds were seen regularly between North Foreland and Foreness with two roosting on St Anne's Church, Cliftonville overnight.

There were more birds seen at the beginning of April with one flying in off the sea at St Margarets-at-Cliffe and two seen in the Dungeness area on the 1st and one flying N there on the 3rd. On the 6th, there was one recorded at St Peters, Thanet and the next day single birds were recorded from North Foreland and Upper Hale Farm. A bird was also reported from St Margarets-at-Cliffe on Apr 27th.

A **Common Crane** was seen at High Halstow on Mar 27th and one flew past Swalecliffe on Apr 20th.

Single **Red-necked Grebes** were seen at Hythe on Apr 1st and 3rd and Swalecliffe from the 9th-13th, three **Slavonian Grebes** were reported from Riverside CP on Mar 15th and single **Black-necked Grebes** were seen at Scotney GPs on Mar 20th, Dungeness RSPB on the 21st, DBO on the Mar 28th with three on Apr 16th and one at Stodmarsh on Apr 13th and 14th.

A **Stone-curlew** was found at Higham Bight on Mar 22nd.

A **KENTISH PLOVER** was photographed at Elmley on Apr 19th.

During March and April up to 14 **Purple Sandpipers** were seen at Broadstairs Harbour, North Foreland, Ramsgate Harbour and Swalecliffe.

Single **Jack Snipe** were seen on Chislet Marshes on Mar 11th and Swalecliffe on the 15th with single birds at DBO on Apr 12th and 25th.

A **Wood Sandpiper** was seen at Worth Marshes on Apr 25th after which single birds were recorded from Swalecliffe.

During March and April as many as four **Spotted Redshank** were seen at Oare Marshes, Northward Hiill, Worth Marshes, Milton Creek and Elmley.

GULLS TO SHEARWATERS

A **Little Gull** flew E at Reculver on Mar 9th and there were 12 at DBO on the 28th with singles at Dover Harbour on the 30th and Dungeness RSPB on the 31st. During April as many as 74 birds were recorded from DBO and up to eight birds were seen at Oare Marshes, Foreness, Collard's Lake, Swalecliffe and Dungeness RSPB.

An adult **Glaucous Gull** was seen at Sandwich Bay between Mar 1st and 3rd and at Sandown Castle on the 4th and Dover from the Mar 8th-Apr 3rd and again on Apr 20th. One was also reported flying S at North Foreland on Mar 10th and a second calendar year bird flew E past DBO on the 30th whilst an adult flew past Folkestone on the 24th.



Glaucous Gull by Russ Blackman

A second calendar year **Iceland Gull** was seen at DBO on Mar 12th.

Up to three **Caspian Gulls** were seen at Dungeness with single birds at Dartford, Foreness, Dover and Cliftonville and single **Yellow-legged Gulls** were seen at Dungeness RSPB, DBO, Minnis Bay, North Foreland, Walpole Bay, Stodmarsh, Maidstone and Seaton.

The first **Black Tern** was reported flying N at North Foreland on Apr 13th and another was seen at South Swale LNR on the 30th when there were also four at DBO.

The first returning **Great Skua** was seen at DBO on Mar 18th and then single birds were seen there on Mar 28th and Apr 1st, 15th, 16th, 23rd and 30th. In addition, single birds flew N at North Foreland on Apr 22nd.

The first three **Pomarine Skuas** of the spring flew past DBO on Apr 21st with two flying E there and one flying N at Walmer on the 23rd and another at North Foreland on the 29th and four at DBO on the 30th.

The first two returning **Arctic Skuas** were seen at DBO on Mar 18th after which up to 31 were recorded from DBO with smaller numbers at Mill Point and Bockhill.

There was a large easterly movement of **Red-throated Divers** along the Channel on Mar 4th with 2,352 counted at DBO and 1,400 at Sandwich Bay.

A **Manx Shearwater** was seen at DBO on Mar 30th with another at DBO and Mill Point on Apr 27th.

During these two months up to four **Black-throated Divers** were seen at DBO with single birds recorded from Deal, Sandwich Bay and Mill Point.

Single **Great Northern Divers** were seen at Reculver on Mar 3rd, at DBO on Mar 15th with up to three at Tankerton and Swalecliffe between Mar 17th and Apr 8th. Single birds were also seen at DBO on Apr 6th and 8th with one at North Foreland on Apr 25th.

WHITE STORK TO WOODPECKERS

The long staying adult **White Stork** was still at Worth Marshes on Mar 29th and what appeared to be a different bird was seen there on Apr 6th when there was also a sighting of one at Port Lympne with one

flying over Bough Beech on the 12th. On April 27th, a bird flew over Dartford, Maidstone and Sissinghurst and was seen at Dungeness on the 29th and 30th.



Shag by Martin Garwood

One or two **Shags** were seen at Chatham, Bockhill, Grenham Bay, North Foreland and Samphire Hoe.

The two long staying **Glossy Ibises** were still at Dungeness RSPB throughout March and April.

As many as five **Spoonbills** were recorded at Tankerton, Grove Ferry/Stodmarsh, Foreness, Elmley, Sandwich Bay, Faversham Creek, Pegwell Bay, Foreness, Sheppey and Oare Marshes and up to three **Bitterns** were recorded at Stodmarsh, Dungeness RSPB, DBO, Lade and Stonar.

Single adult **Night-herons** were seen at Dungeness RSPB from Apr 25th-27th and at Worth Marshes on Apr 25th with two adults at Worth Marshes on the 30th.



Night Heron by Russ Blackman

Up to 10 **Cattle Egrets** were seen at Elmley, Dungeness RSPB, Sandwich Bay, Seaton, Nickoll's Quarry and Grove Ferry/ Stodmarsh.

A **Purple Heron** was reported from Capel Fleet on Apr 25th.

As many as three **Great White Herons** were recorded from Oare Marshes, Grove Ferry/Stodmarsh, Worth Marshes, Godmersham, Seaton, Seasalter, Hythe, North Foreland, Sandwich Bay and Harty Ferry.

An **Osprey** was reported from Grove Ferry on Mar 21st after which single birds were recorded at Worth Marshes, Dungeness RSPB, DBO, Oare Marshes, Grove Ferry/Stodmarsh, Riverside CP, Ham Marshes, Bough Beech and Sandwich Bay.

During March and April one or two **Hen Harriers** were seen at Grove Ferry/Stodmarsh, Cooling Marshes, Kingsdown, Elmley, Oare Marshes, Harty Marshes, Langdon Bay, Capel Fleet, Rushenden, Swale NNR and Seaton.



Hen Harrier by Mike Gould

Up to five **Red Kites** were seen at Bough Beech, Dunorlan Park, Reculver, Hothfield Common, Swalecliffe, Worth Marshes, Abbotscliffe, Broomfield, North Foreland, Foreness, Chilham, Snodland, Oare Marshes, Fairfield, Deal, Smeeth, Newnham, Weddington, Canterbury, Sandwich, Hildenborough, Bockhill, Sissinghurst, Penshurst Place, Snodland, Godmersham and Brokes Mill Farm.

A **Black Kite** was reported flying N over St Peters, Thanet on Apr 6th and another was reported from Worth Marshes on Apr 19th.

A third calendar year **White-tailed Eagle** number **G542** spent a couple of hours in the rain at Dungeness RSPB on Mar 26th and was seen at Elmley on the 28th and Apr 1st. One was also reported from Horsmonden on Apr 1st.

During March and April single **Long-eared Owls** were seen at single sites in **North** and **South** and two in **East**.

As many as three **Short-eared Owls** were seen at Sandwich Bay, Swale NNR, Cliffe Pools, Pegwell Bay, Stodmarsh, Elmley, Reculver Marshes, Foreness, Graveney, Walland Marsh, North Foreland, Bockhill, Walland Marshes and Waltham.



Hoopoe by Russ Blackman

Single **Hoopoes** were found at Whetsted GPs on Apr 15th, at North Foreland on Apr 20th and at Worth Marshes from the 24th-25th.

FALCONS TO HIRUNDINES

During March and April single **Merlins** were seen at Reculver, Elmley, North Foreland, Oare Marshes, Stodmarsh, Collard's Lake, DBO and Sandwich Bay.

The **Great Grey Shrike** seen intermittently at Hothfield Common since November 2022 was found there again between Mar 25th and Apr 16th.

Single **Hooded Crows** were seen at Dungeness from Apr 1st-30th, at North Foreland on Apr 11th and Foreness, North Foreland on Apr 26th and 27th and Bockhill on the 29th.

A **Continental Coal Tit** was reported from Foreness on Mar 29th.



Penduline Tit by Russ Blackman

The two **Penduline Tits** that had been seen intermittently at Elmley since December were seen again from Mar 15th with up to four reported there between Mar 24th and Apr 1st. A male was also seen at Dungeness RSPB on Apr 2nd and 3rd and there was also one at Oare Marshes from Apr 22nd-24th.

A **Woodlark** flew S at Foreness on Mar 1st and others flew NW at Furnace Pond on the 4th and W at Reculver on the 6th and 12th and at North Foreland on the 12th with two there on the 13th, three on the 14th and one on the 16th and 26th. One was also seen at Langdon Hole on Mar 14th with others at Dungeness RSPB on Mar 19th and Foreness on the 20th with two there on the 23rd. During April one was seen at DBO on the 27th and another was heard singing near Chillenden on the 30th.

A **Red-rumped Swallow** flew S at North Foreland on Apr 10th.

WARBLERS TO WHEATEARS

The **HUME'S WARBLER** first seen at Enbrook Park on Feb 11th was still there on Mar 31st and the bird found at Elmstone during February was seen again between Mar 6th and 25th. The Dover bird first seen in December 2022 was refound on Mar 20th and seen again on the 29th.



Hume's Warbler by Barry Wright

After the first **Grasshopper Warbler** was heard at Sandwich Bay on Apr 12th, one or two birds were recorded from Swanscombe Marsh, Chamber's Wall, Dungeness, Greatstone, Herne Bay, Grain, Seasalter, Nethergong, Cliffe Pools and Sandwich Bay.

During March one or two **Dartford Warblers** were recorded from Dungeness, Sandwich Bay, Worth Marshes and Aycliffe.

There were widespread reports of up to eight **Firecrests** recorded from Bockhill, Shuart, Enbrook Park, Tankerton, Charing, Chamber's Wall, Dunorlan Park, Dengemarsh, Perry Wood, Petham, Patixbourne, Bough Beech, Pegwell Bay, Bekesbourne, Denge Wood, Selling, Sheldwich, Leysdown, Victory Wood, Chilham Lakes, Herne Common and Folkestone. There was also a spectacular count of 21 at Beveridge Bottom Wood on Apr 26th.

Single **SHORT-TOED TREECREEPERS** were seen at Langdon Bay on Apr 7th and at Bockhill on Apr 8th. If accepted by BBRC these will be the 31st and 32nd records for Kent.



Short-toed Treecreeper by Jamie Partridge

The first **Ring Ouzels** was seen at North Foreland on Apr 1st after which up to five birds were seen at Chamber's Wall, Minnis Day, Walpole Bay, DBO, Minster, Bockhill, Langdon Bay, Grove Ferry/Stodmarsh, Swale LNR, Foreness, Cliffe Pools, Northward Hill and North Foreland.



Ring Ouzel by Steve Ashton

Single **Pied Flycatchers** were reported from Walmer and Margate on Apr 16th, at Blean on the 18th, DBO on the 23rd and 24th and at Foreness on the 24th.

As many as seven **Black Redstarts** were seen at Foreness, Reculver, Cliftonville, Walpole Bay, Langdon Bay, Kingsdown, Finberry, Margate, Hythe, Bockhill, Samphire Hoe, Conningbrook, South Foreland, North Foreland, Stodmarsh, Knole Park, Furnace Pond, Sandwich Bay, Lydd, New Hythe, Dover, Worth Marshes and Swale LNR.

SPARROWS TO BUNTINGS

A **Blue-headed Wagtail** was reported from North Foreland on Apr 22nd and a **Richard's Pipit** was found at Sandwich Bay on Feb 8th and then recorded intermittently until Apr 17th.

During March and April as many as six **Water Pipits** were recorded from Grove Ferry/ Stodmarsh, Cliffe Pools, Elmley, Oare Marshes, Sandwich Bay, Langdon Bay, Dungeness RSPB and Worth Marshes.

One or two **Hawfinches** were seen at Godmersham.



Female Hawfinch by Peter Maton

A **Serin** was seen feeding with a flock of Linnets at Harty Marshes on Mar 18th and others were seen at South Foreland on the 19th and North Foreland on the 23rd and 28th. In April single birds were seen at Foreness on the 4th with one at North Foreland and three at Dungeness on the 5th and singles at DBO on the 7th and Pegwell Bay on the 8th.

Single **Lapland Buntings** were recorded at Foreness on Mar 12th and North Foreland on the Mar 19th and Apr 1st whilst up to four **Snow Buntings** were seen at Reculver with the last bird on the Mar 21st.

A ringed **Little Bunting** was retrapped at Bockingfold Farm, Marden on Mar 11th. It had originally been mistakenly identified and ringed as a female Reed Bunting at the same site on 30th December 2020.

DBO = Dungeness Bird Observatory **BBRC** = British Birds Rarities Committee
RSPB = Royal Society for the Protection of Birds **BOU** = British Ornithological Union
"The Patch" = the warm water outflow from Dungeness Nuclear Power Station
NNR=National Nature Reserve **NR**=Nature Reserve **LNR**=Local Nature Reserve
FC = Field Centre **WR** = Wildlife Reserve **GP** = Gravel Pits **CP** = Country Park

CONTRIBUTORS

This summary owes much to the contributors to the various sites in "Latest Sightings" on the KOS Website at www.kentos.org.uk, KOSForum, Twitter and the RBA Hotline.

Records have been contributed by A. Appleton, D. Barnett, B. Benn, Bockhill Birders, R. Bonsor, Bough Beech (per A. Ford), E. Brown, N. Burt, G. Burton, F. Cackett, J. Cantelo, J. Carnell, P. Carr, R. Carr, M. Casemore, J. Chantler, P. Chantler, M. Chidwick, R. Collins, G. Coultrip, K. Cutting, DBO (per D. Walker), B. East, D. Elliott, J. Elliott, A. Farrar, D. Faulkner, Folkestone and Hythe Birds (per I. Roberts), C. Gibbard, M. Gould, R. Heading, J. Headley, T. Hillsden, A. Hindle, C. Hindle, M. Hindle, G. Hollamby, M. Hollingworth, P. Holt, M. Kennett, S. Kennett, J. King, G. Lee, O. Leyshon, A. Lipczynski, K. Lord, R. Mace, M. Mak, A. Malone, T. Mantle, J. Massey, N. McCanch, S. McMinn, S. Message, S. Mills, S. Mount, R. Newham, R. O'Reilly, M. Orchard, J. Partridge, K. Privett, C. Powell, M. Puxley, R. Rackliffe, B. Ring, M. Roser, K. Ross, B. Ryan, Samphire Hoe (per P. Holt and P. Smith), SBBO (per A. Lipczynski and S. Walton), Sevenoaks WR, I. Shepherd, D. Smith, P. Smith, R. Smith, W. Stoneham, M. Sutherland, Swale NNR (per R. Smith, D. Faulkner, I. Davidson), A. Swandale, P. Trodd, C. Turley, J. Turner-Moss, D. Tutt, M. Watts, C. White, M. Wilson, T. Wilson, J. Woolgar, B. Woolhouse, D. Wrathall, B. Wright, M. Wright and J. Young.

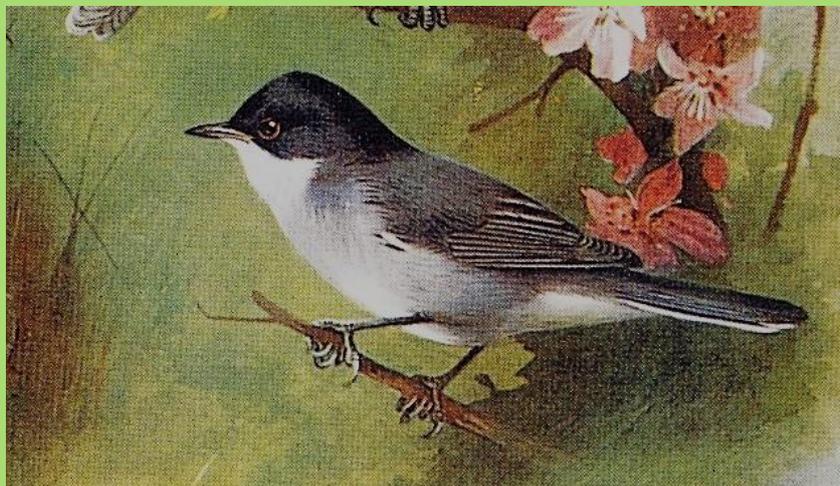
Please send records for this review to Chris Hindle at christopherhindle@hotmail.com

Records sent to me may not all be used for this report as I try to extract the more interesting sightings, however all records are equally important and I forward them to the appropriate Area Recorders and they are then entered onto the KOS database.

Please also send to me any descriptions or photos of rare birds so that they may be assessed by the relevant committee.

Fifty Years Ago

Sardinian Warbler

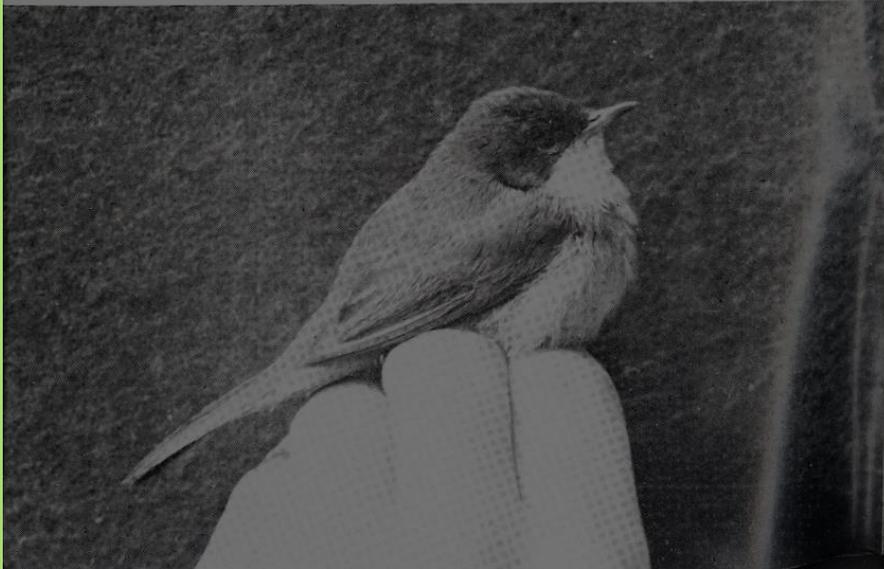


Sardinian Warbler by Archibald Thorburn (PDI)

Sardinian Warbler

'One at Dungeness on Apr. 17th (KR, RES et al) was a new species for Kent

SARDINIAN WARBLER trapped and ringed at Dungeness.
(Photo. D. E. Chittenden)



Sardinian Warbler Dungeness, 1st Kent record (KBR)

KBR1973