

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* is a rare vagrant to north-west Europe, whose status has been clouded by escapes and an increasing European feral population. The BOURC are reviewing the status of Ruddy Shelduck on the British List. The species is currently in Categories B, D, and E of the British List but is potentially also occurring in Britain as a vagrant from established naturalised populations on the near continent and is therefore a candidate for Category C5 (vagrant naturalised species from outside Britain).

Below is an extract from available literature and the KOS records database. Please take the time to review your own records, and if they are not listed here, or if you provide more detail, please submit to the County Recorder, Barry Wright (umbrellabirds66@gmail.com), to include location, first/last date, number of birds, observers, and any other relevant information, at your earliest convenience.

There have also been records of related species, such as South African or Cape Shelduck, and hybrids. A list of these records is provided after the Ruddy Shelduck details.

The current Kent records of **Ruddy Shelduck** are as follows -

1885	Newenden, single duck, obtained on an unknown date during April.
ca. 1900	One shot, exact date and location unknown.
1943	North Kent marshes, duck, shot, 17th August
1950	Cliffe Pools, drake, shot, 30th April for a month.
1967	Swanscombe, adult duck, 28th April; later seen at Chetney, Stoke and High Halstow, until 22nd May.
1973	Lower Hope Point, single bird, 20th February.
	Cliffe Pools, single bird, 22nd September.
	Stour Valley, single bird, 11th-14th August.
	Dungeness, single bird, 1st, 2nd and 29th December.
	Motney Hill, single bird, 2nd December.
1974	Cliffe Pools, single bird, 19th January-2nd March, and again on 28 th April.
	Pembury, pair, 18th April.
1976	Swanscombe, female, 16th May.
1977	Littlebrook, female, 26th August until year end.
1978	Littlebrook, female, from 1977, was seen in January and again in May.
	Cliffe Pools, presumably same bird as at Littlebrook, was again seen in March and June.
1980	Sandwich area, seven birds on 14th August, a single bird from 15th August, a party of four on 20th, and five between 21st August and 6th September. These dates are consistent with post-breeding dispersal.
1981	In North, single bird, present from February to August.
	One at Sandwich Bay on 8th March.
	In West, single bird, present from March to April.
1982	Burham, 1-2 birds, present January to February.
	Sevenoaks WR, single bird, 2nd April.
	Sandwich Bay, single bird, present from 31st May until 2nd June.
	Sheppey, single bird, 5th-6th June.
	Thames Marshes, single bird, 8th August.
1983	New Hythe Lakes, single bird, 13th February.
	Cliffe Pools, single duck, 22nd May.
	Cliffe Pools, single bird, 17th July.

	Sevenoaks WR, single bird, 29th August until 13 th October.
1985	Minnis Bay, two birds flew west, 15th January, may have been birds displaced from the feral population in Holland due to severe weather.
	Richborough, single bird, 26th-28th January.
	Elmley, single bird, 23rd June until 20th July.
1986	Bough Beech, single bird, 24th October until year end.
	Elmley, single bird, 25th October.
	Sevenoaks WR, single bird, 26th October.
	Tonbridge, single bird, 7th November.
1987	Bough Beech, female, present throughout the year, also being seen infrequently at Hayesden and Sevenoaks WR.
	Conningbrook pits, single bird, 14th August.
	Elmley, single bird, present throughout October to December.
	Kingsnorth, two birds flew south, 8th December.
1988	North, single bird at two sites, several dates throughout the year.
	East, single bird, several dates throughout the year.
	West, single bird, several dates throughout the year.
1989	Bough Beech, a pair were present on 17th August.
	Yantlet, a pair present from 20th-28th August.
	Yantlet, single duck, 5th November.
	Egypt Bay, single bird, 17th November.
	Motney Hill, single bird, 18th November.
1990	Reculver, single bird, 16th April.
	Cliffe Pools, two birds, 3rd August.
	Dungeness, single bird, 21st-24th August, with a second present on 23rd.
	Dartford Marshes, single bird, 8th December.
1991	Elmley, single bird, 4th August.
	Elmley, single bird, 10th November.
	Capel Fleet, single bird, 26th October, may have been same as Elmley bird.
	Elmley RSPB, single duck, 10th November.
1992	Bough Beech, single bird, 30th March.
	Cliffe Pools, single bird, 10th April.
	Reculver, three birds flew west, 14th August.
	Funton Creek, single bird, 29th November and 5th December.
1993	Ham Fen, single duck, 24th-27th July.
1994	Dungeness RSPB, three birds, 29th and 31st August, were seen again flying east off Dungeness point later again on 31st.
	Elmley, two birds, 3rd-26th September, was joined by third bird from the 23rd.
	Swale NNR, at least two birds, on 5th, 9th-11th, and 20th September.
	Sandwich Bay, two birds flew north, 9th September.
	St. Margaret's, three birds, 24th September.
1995	Sandwich Bay, single bird, 10th July.
	Pegwell Bay, single bird, 17th September.
	Ham Road pits, Faversham, single bird, 21st September.
	Funton Creek, single bird, 30th September.
1996	ARC pits, four birds, 2nd August.
	Pegwell Bay, two birds, 26th October.
1997	Swanscombe Marsh, single duck, 1st January.

	Stoke Fleet, single bird, 20th July.
	St. Mary's Bay/Coombe Bay, single bird, 3rd-25th August.
	Yantlet Creek, two birds, probably those from Stoke Fleet and St. Mary's Bay/Coombe Bay, 5th August.
	Stodmarsh, Chetney, Funton Creek, Shellness/South Swale and Cliffe Pools, seven birds moved between sites, from 16th August and 20th September.
	Oare Marshes, three birds, 18th November.
	South Swale/Harty Ferry, one or two birds, probably same as Oare Marshes birds, between 22nd November and the year end.
1998	Swale, single bird, presumed same as Oare Marshes and South Swale/Harty Ferry from 1997, present during the first half of the year.
	Swale NNR, two birds, probably same as Oare Marshes and South Swale/Harty Ferry from 1997, 23rd April.
	Chetney Marshes, two birds, 12th May.
	Oare Marshes, South Swale NNR, and Elmley RSPB, four birds, 12th-14th August.
	Scotney Court GP, single bird, 6th April.
	Stoke Lagoon, four birds, presumably the same as Oare Marshes, 15th-16th August.
	Grain Marshes, two, 31st August, and said to be regular there in 1998.
	Sandwich Bay, one bird, 16th-21st November, with a second bird on 17th only.
1999	Swale NNR, single bird, 14th June.
	Chetney Marshes, two birds, 18th July.
	Grove Ferry, four birds flew south-east, 7th August.
	ARC pits, three drakes, 23rd October.
2000	Funton Creek, two birds, between 6th August and 13th September.
	Chetney Marshes, two birds, 13th September, the same as those at Funton Creek.
2001	Cliffe Pools, three birds, 3rd July.
2002	Grove Ferry, immature bird, 7th May.
	South Swale NR, immature bird, presumed to be same bird as Grove Ferry, 10th May.
	Cliffe Pools, second-year bird, 7th-20th June.
	Elmley RSPB, single bird, 17th August.
	Conyer, single bird, probably same as Elmley bird, 8th September.
	Funton Creek, single bird, probably same as Elmley bird, 14th September.
2003	Chetney Marshes, single bird, 7th March.
	Iwade, single bird, 26th April.
	Funton Creek/Chetney Marshes, single bird, 30th-31st October.
2004	South Medway, single bird, 15th January.
	Elmley RSPB, single drake, 24th July.
2005	Eastwell Park, Ashford, single bird, 10th-12th July, and again on 15th August.
	Dungeness area, single bird wandered widely, 20th-24th August.
	Pegwell Bay, two birds flew in off the sea before flying south, 14th September.
2006	Allhallows, single duck flew north-west, 2nd May.
	Scotney Court GP, two birds, 26th August, and again on 1st September.
	Dungeness RSPB, two, presumably the Scotney Court GP birds, 5th September.
2007	Singleton Lake, Ashford, single bird, 15th July until 11 th August, with two there on 27th July.

2008	Cliffe Pools, single bird, 26th July until 2nd September.
2009	Dungeness BO, three birds flew west, 29th November.
2010	Elmley RSPB, single bird, 18th July.
	Wouldham, three birds flew south along Medway, 2nd September.
	Oare Marshes, single duck, 3rd-6th September.
2011	Chetney Marshes, single bird, 17th April.
	Bough Beech, three birds, 1st September.
	Eastborough, single bird, 16th October.
	Stoke Lagoon, single bird, 26th December.
2012	Yantlet Creek, single bird, from Stoke Lagoon 2011, until 16th January.
	Swale, up to three birds, 1st-27th January.
	Eastwell Park, Ashford, single bird, 30th September until 27th October.
	Swale, two birds, 13th-15th November.
2013	Cliffe Pools, two birds, 6th-10th August.
	Scotney Court GP, two birds, perhaps those first seen at Cliffe Pools, present from 22nd August until 17th October.
	Dungeness RSPB, the two Scotney Court GP birds, were seen on three dates between 21st and 28th September.
2014	Scotney Court GP, single bird on several dates during January.
	Chetney Marshes, single bird, 20th April.
	Lade Pits, two birds, 16th August.
	Scotney Court GP, single bird, 16th-17th August.
	Scotney Court GP, nine birds, 18th August.
2015	Dungeness RSPB, two birds, 17th July.
	Murston Pits, two birds, 19th August.
	Harty Marshes, two birds, presumably the same as Murston, 5th September.
2016	Oare Marshes, six birds, 2nd August.
	Kingsdown and Sandwich Bay, six birds, presumably the same as Oare Marshes, 3rd August with two remaining at Sandwich Bay until 21st August when briefly joined by a third bird.
	Conyer, single bird, 18th-29th August.
	Elmley NNR, single bird, 3rd November.
2017	Cliffe Pools, single bird, 19th June.
	Cliffe Pools, four birds, 15th July.
	Dungeness area, single bird, 17th July.
	Dungeness area, single bird, 14th August.
	Murston Pits, single bird, 3rd September.
2018	Bough Beech, two birds, 14th March.
2019	Cliffe Pools, single duck, 21st June and 7th-8th July.
2020	Oare Marshes, female, 20th March.
	Sandwich Bay, female, 24th-31st March, presumed to be same as Oare Marshes.
	Pegwell Bay, female, 15th April; presumed to be same as Oare and Sandwich Bay.

Kent records of related species and hybrids

Australian or Paradise (New Zealand) Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides/variegata*

1986	Sevenoaks, one, 4th-5th July.
1987	Westbere, two, 4th March.

South African (Cape) Shelduck *Tadorna cana*

1944	East Kent, female, shot, 13th November
1971	Dungeness, two, 24th August-14th September
1977	Bough Beech reservoir, nine, 26th July, with two remaining on the 27th. Westbere, pair, 6th September, with female present throughout October.
1980	Cliffe, up to two, "one or two at Cliffe or Elmley" during 16th August-8th December. Elmley, up to two, "one or two at Cliffe or Elmley" during 16th August-8th December.
1982	Sandwich Bay, one, 8th February. Elmley, one, 24th November.
1985	Sandwich Bay, one, 19th January-28th February. Reculver, one, 2nd February, presumed to be the same as at Sandwich Bay.
1989	Scotney Court GP, one, 21st October.
1990	Bough Beech reservoir, one, 7th November.
2001	Higham Bight, one, 22nd May.
2004	Dungeness, one, 24th April, seen on RSPB Reserve and at Observatory. Oare Marshes, one, 23rd May. Grove Ferry, one, 8th August and (presumed same) 1st September.
2005	Dungeness, four, 14th September, on RSPB Reserve.
2006	Bough Beech reservoir, male, 22nd June.

Hybrid – Ruddy Shelduck x unknown

2012	Cliffe, one, 25th June: odd head pattern was assumed to indicate hybridisation.
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Hybrid – Ruddy Shelduck x South African Shelduck

1977	Stonar Lake, one, 14th-21st November.
1983	Cliffe, two, second half of September.

Hybrid – Common Shelduck x South African Shelduck

1983	Cliffe, two, second half of September.
2005	Dungeness, eight, juveniles on ARC Pit thought to be this hybrid.
2006	Dungeness, seven, juveniles on ARC Pit.
2012	Wouldham, one, seen in March, May and June.
2013	Wouldham, one, 3rd February.
2014	Medway (presumably Wouldham), one, seen in January and February.
2015	Wouldham, one, 18th June; paired with Common Shelduck, with ten ducklings following.
2017	Wouldham, one, occasionally present 21st January-27th April. This bird published in the KBR as Ruddy Shelduck but assumed to be the hybrid from previous years.
2018	Wouldham, one, 29th April and 28th May.

2019	Wouldham, one, 23rd and 30th March.
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