

Puffin

Fratercula arctica

Category A

Very rare vagrant

6 records

Breeds mainly around northern and western coasts of Britain and Ireland, Iceland, Norway, Spitsbergen, with small numbers in north-west France. Strongly dispersive and essentially marine outside of the breeding season, keeping well offshore, with winter range poorly known.

A scarce passage migrant and winter visitor to Kent.

First recorded at Folkestone and Hythe in February 1960, when one was found dead at Folkestone, with another reported off Copt Point in 1986. There have been four subsequent records, in 1995, 2000, 2002 and 2019, as shown in figure 1.

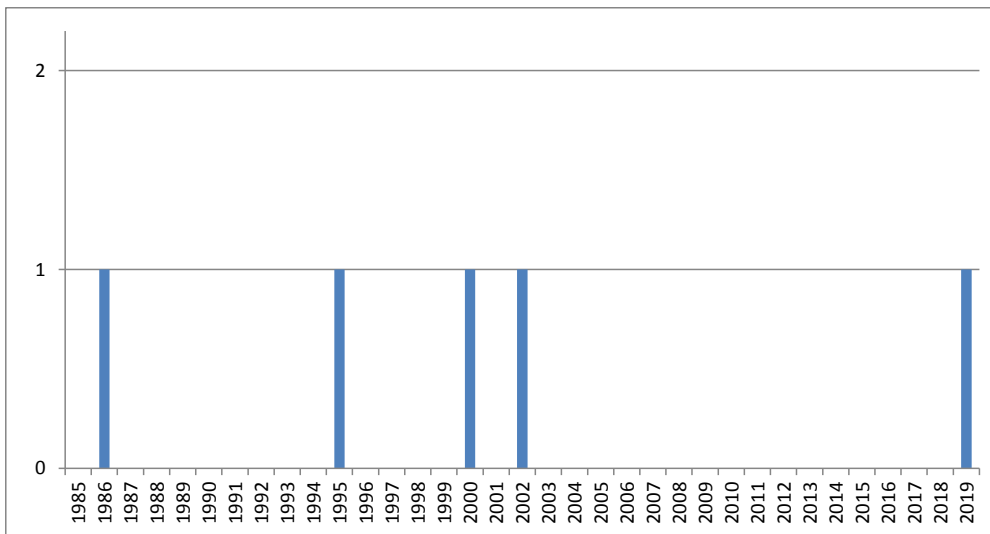


Figure 1: Puffin records since 1985 at Folkestone and Hythe

There have been three winter records (in January/February), two in spring (late April/early May) and one in summer/early autumn (in early August), as demonstrated by figure 2.

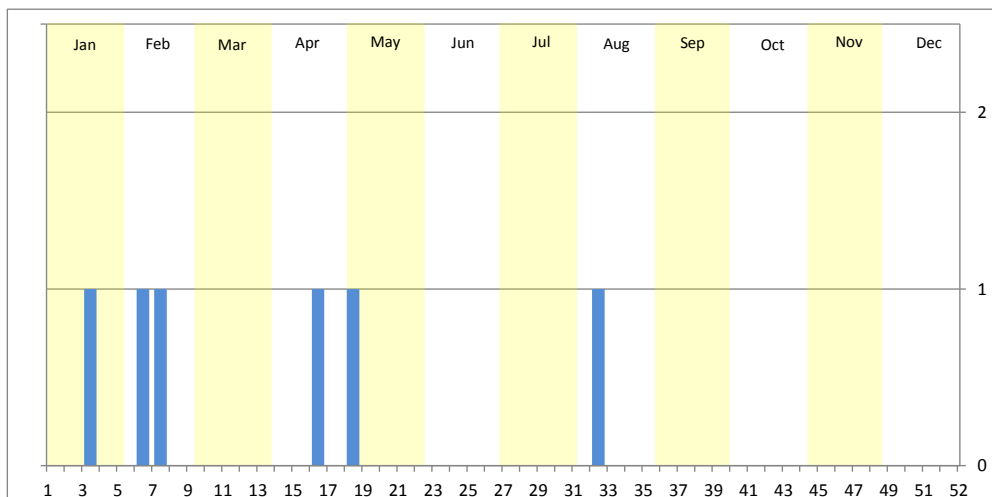


Figure 2: Puffin records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

All records are from the Folkestone/Copt Point area, apart from the most recent at Samphire Hoe. The full list of records is as follows:

1960 Folkestone, one found dead, 8th February (D. F. Musson)

1986 Copt Point, one, 17th February (reported)

1995 Folkestone Pier, one on the sea just offshore for at least 30 minutes, 7th August (D. A. Gibson)

2000 Copt Point, one flew east with Guillemots, 2nd May (D. A. Gibson, I. A. Roberts)

2002 Folkestone Harbour, one flew east, 19th January (reported)

2019 Samphire Hoe, one flew east, 22nd April (S. Cutt)