

Dotterel

Charadrius morinellus

Category A

Very rare vagrant.

4 records,
6 birds

World/British distribution (Snow & Perrins 1998, Holling et al. 2019):

Breeds in the arctic tundra and the arctic-alpine zone, with strongholds in Fenno-Scandia and Russia, extending eastwards across Siberia, with smaller numbers in northern Britain and a handful of pairs on a few mountain peaks across mid and lower-latitude Europe. The winter quarters lie mainly in the semi-arid belt of the Middle East and North Africa, with a few in Spain. The British population appears to be in decline, with a 57% decrease over a 24 year period, and a total of 423 males were located in the most recent survey.

Kent status (KOS 2022):

In Kent it is a scarce passage migrant in both spring and autumn.

Taylor *et al.* (1981) stated that “most records are from the coastal marshes and Dungeness, and in light of experience in central England, migrant flocks may well be overlooked inland, especially on the Downs”. This provide to be prescient although there were no local records until 1997 when Ian Roberts found two in a field near Hougham Court on the 25th August, whilst two of the other three records have also been on the Downs.

In 1998 Dale Gibson and Ian Roberts saw one flying west at Copt Point on the 16th September then, after a gap of 13 years, there were again sightings in consecutive autumns, with Mark Kennett seeing two in a field at the eastern end of Abbotscliffe on the 31st August 2011 and Ian Roberts noting one flying over the gully field at Abbotscliffe on the 20th August 2012.

The records by year are shown in figure 1.

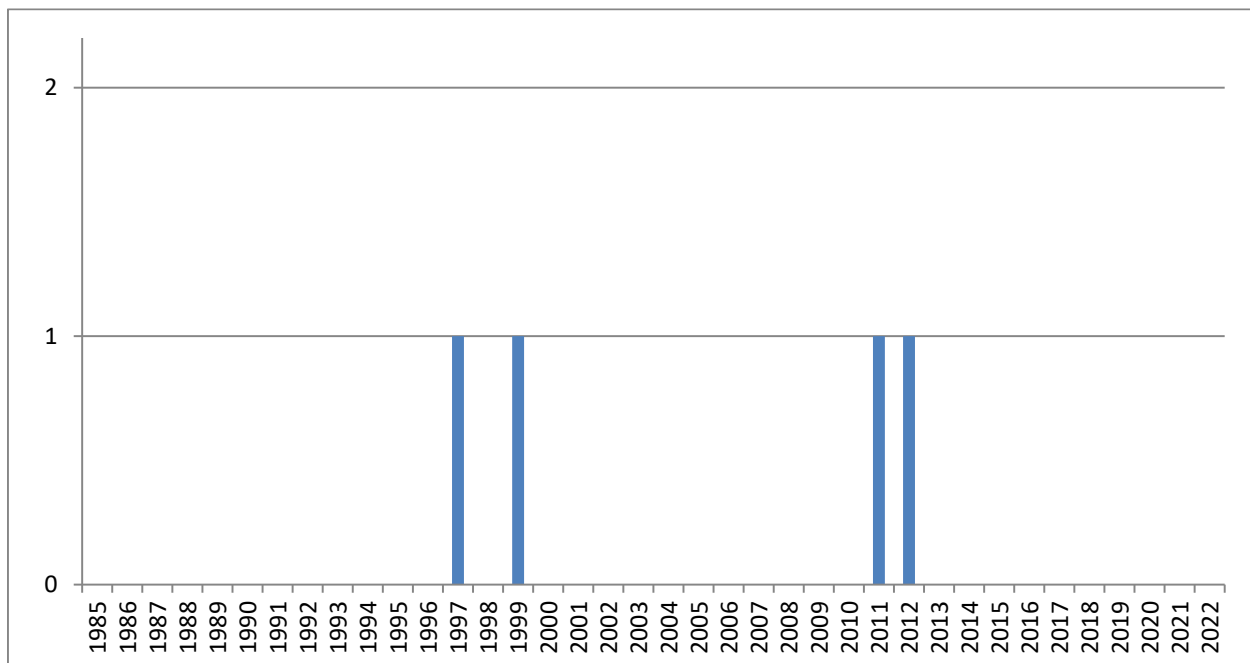


Figure 1: Dotterel records at Folkestone and Hythe

All records have occurred between the 20th August (week 34) and 16th September (week 37), with three in August. The records by week are given in figure 2.

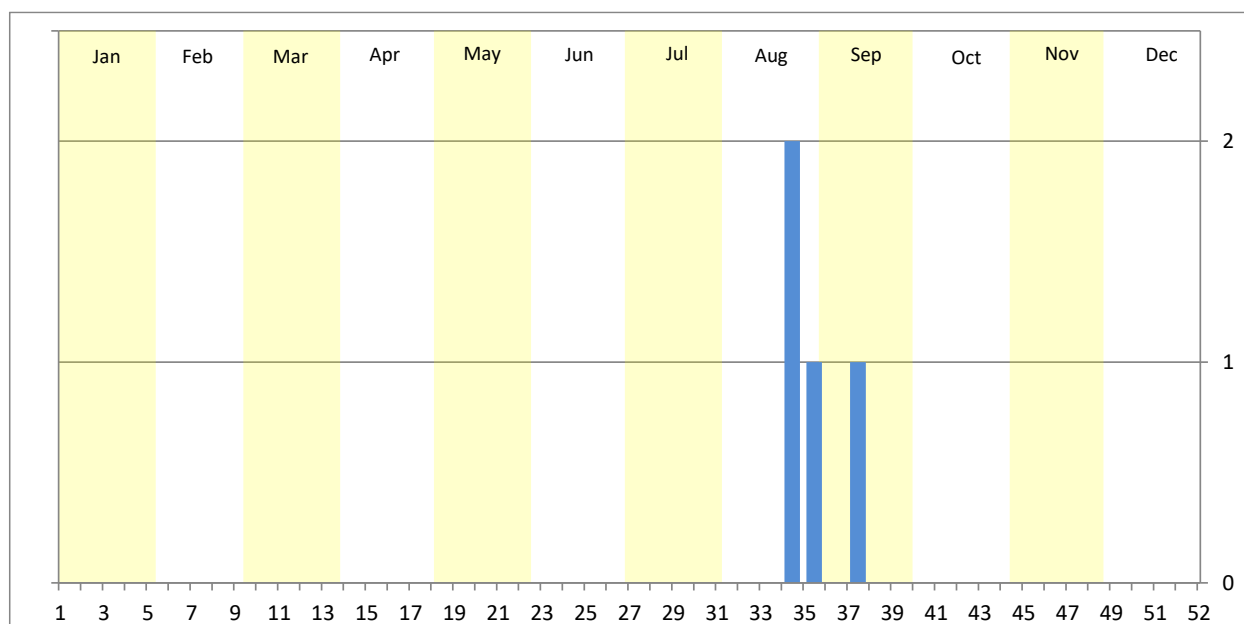


Figure 2: Dotterel records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the distribution of records by tetrad. Three have occurred at Abbotscliffe or Hougham Court, with the other flying past Copt Point. Figure 3 shows the location of records by tetrad.



Figure 3: Distribution of all Dotterel records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1997** Church Hougham, two in a field near Hougham Court, 25th August (I. A. Roberts)
- 1998** Copt Point, one flew west, 16th September (D. A. Gibson, I. A. Roberts)
- 2011** Abbotscliffe, two in a field at the eastern end, 31st August (M. D. Kennett)
- 2012** Abbotscliffe, one flew over the gully field, 20th August (I. A. Roberts)

References

Holling, M. & the Rare Breeding Birds Panel 2019. Rare breeding birds in the UK in 2017. *British Birds* 112: 706-758.

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Snow, D. & Perrins, C.M. 1998. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*. Oxford University Press.

Taylor, D., Davenport, D. & Flegg, J. 1981. *Birds of Kent*. Kent Ornithological Society.

Acknowledgements

The tetrad map images were produced from the Ordnance Survey [Get-a-map service](#) and are reproduced with kind permission of [Ordnance Survey](#).

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