

Cory's Shearwater

Calonectris borealis

Category A

Very rare vagrant.

2 records,
3 birds

World/British distribution (Snow & Perrins 1998):

Breeds around Mediterranean basin and on the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira. Non-breeding birds become widespread across the temperate North Atlantic Ocean from the Bay of Biscay to New England from about May or June, and occasionally large numbers may occur off Cornwall and South-west Ireland between July and September, otherwise is a scarce visitor to north-west Europe, mainly off Atlantic coasts, and only irregularly in the English Channel and North Sea.

Kent status (KOS 2022):

It is a rare vagrant to the county.

Kent (KOS) records to end 2020: 43

The Cory's Shearwater was not recorded in Kent until 1954, when two were seen off Sheppey in November, and Taylor *et al.* (1981) mention a further seven occurrences during their review period (1952-76), of which five were seen in spring. The first area record occurred within this period and involved two birds seen in the English Channel by K. Barrett when 11 miles south of Folkestone on the 11th July 1974. It was included in the Kent Bird Report for the year (in parentheses) but not in Taylor *et al.*, presumably because it was an "at sea" record. The occurrence was included within the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) report for that year (Smith *et al.* 1975) as it was considered to be a national rarity until 1982 (Grant *et al.* 1982), and "at sea" records are considered by the BBRC if they fall within the median line between the UK and neighbouring countries (or in open sea within UK Fishery Limits, which are 200 nautical miles) (Grant *et al.* 1985). The French coast (Boulogne) is approximately 30 miles south of Folkestone, so the sighting is within the median range.

The only other local record involved one that was reported off Copt Point on the 28th April 1986. Of the 43 records in the county, April has produced the most, with eight (KOS no date).

The records by year since 1985 are shown in figure 1.

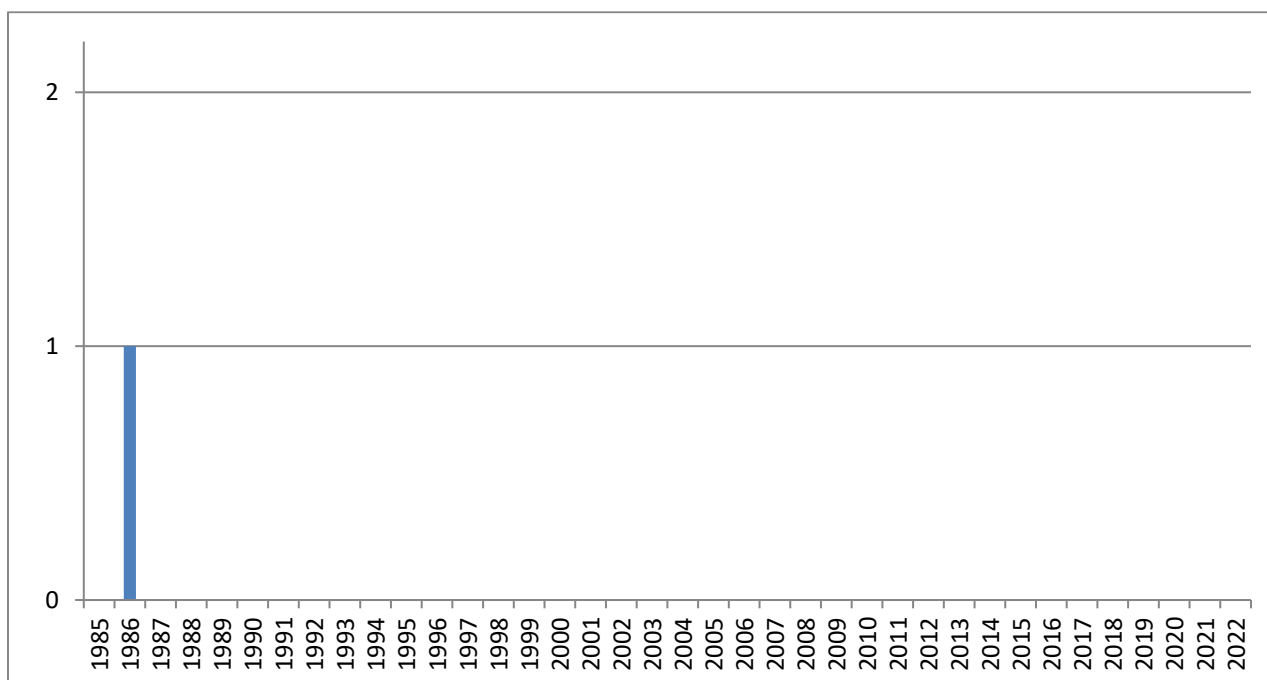


Figure 1: Cory's Shearwater records at Folkestone and Hythe since 1985

The records by week are given in figure 2.

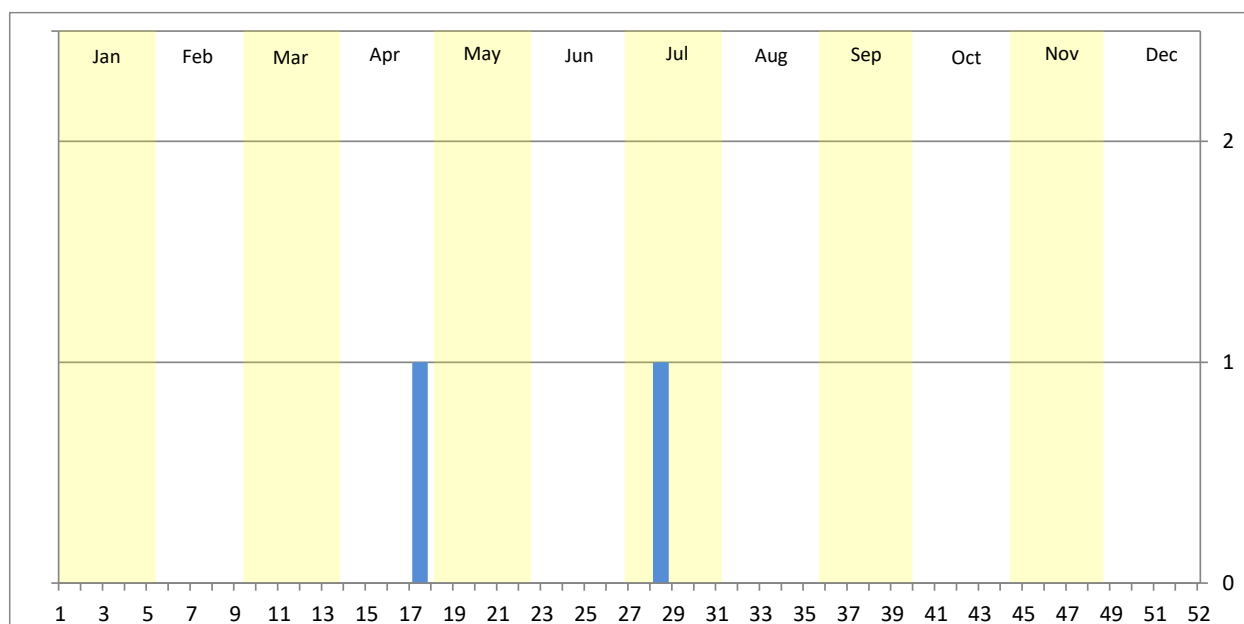


Figure 2: Cory's Shearwater records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the location of records by tetrad. The first record is not mapped as it occurred at sea.



Figure 3: Distribution of all Cory's Shearwater records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

The full list of records is as follows:

1974 At sea, two seen in the English Channel 11 miles south of Folkestone, 11th July (K. Barrett)

1986 Copt Point, one, 28th April (reported)

References

Grant, P. J. & the Rarities Committee 1982. Rarities Committee news and announcements. *British Birds* 75: 337-338.

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Kent Ornithological Society (KOS). The Kent List. <https://kentos.org.uk/index.php/recording/the-kent-list> (accessed 2021).

Smith, F. R. & the Rarities Committee 1975. Report on rare birds in Great Britain in 1974. *British Birds* 68: 306-338.

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

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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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