

Cory's Shearwater

Calonectris borealis

Category A

Very rare vagrant.

2 records

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 (Snow & Perrins, 1998).

It is a rare vagrant to Kent with 44 records to the end of 2019. Apart from one seen in January, records have been fairly evenly spread between April and November, although April has produced the most county records with eight. All records have been coastal with almost half (48%) from Dungeness (KOS, 2021).

There have been just two records at Folkestone and Hythe. The first involved two birds seen in the English Channel 11 miles south of Folkestone on the 11th July 1974 and the record appeared in both the Kent Bird Report and British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) Report for that year (Smith *et al*, 1975). At the time it was still a national rarity (as it was 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 well within the median range.

The second record involved a report of a one passing Copt Point on the 28th April 1986.

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)

The records by year are shown in figure 1.

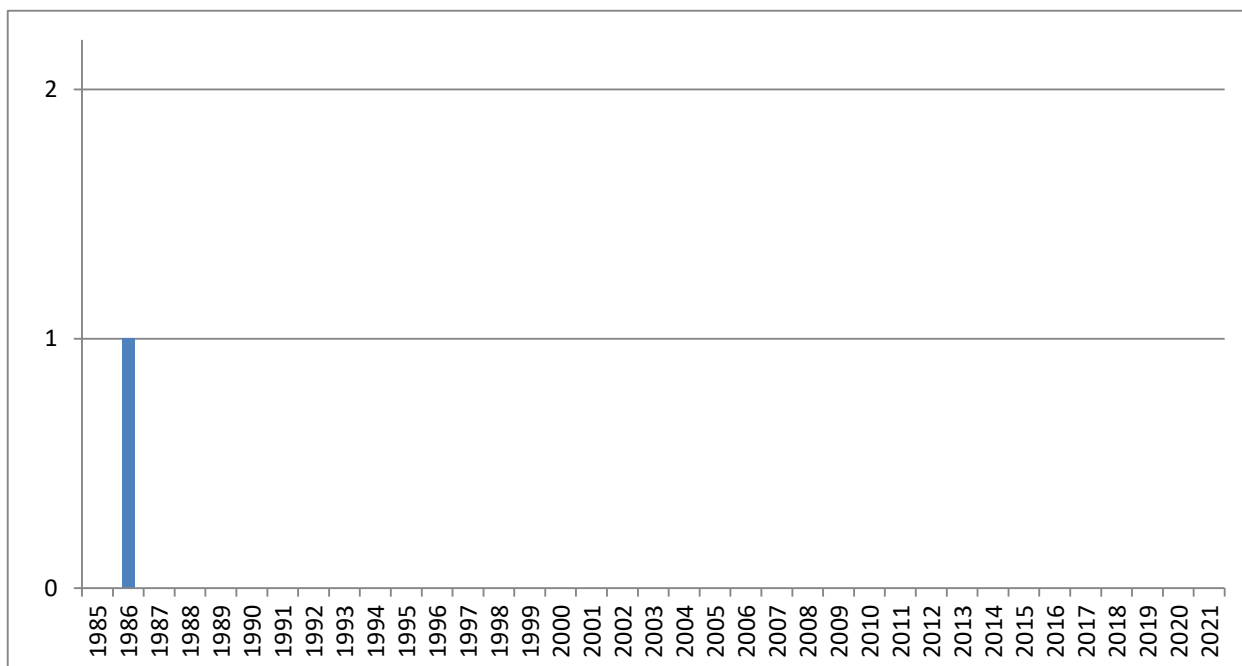


Figure 1: Cory's Shearwater records at Folkestone and Hythe since 1985

The records by week are given in figure 2

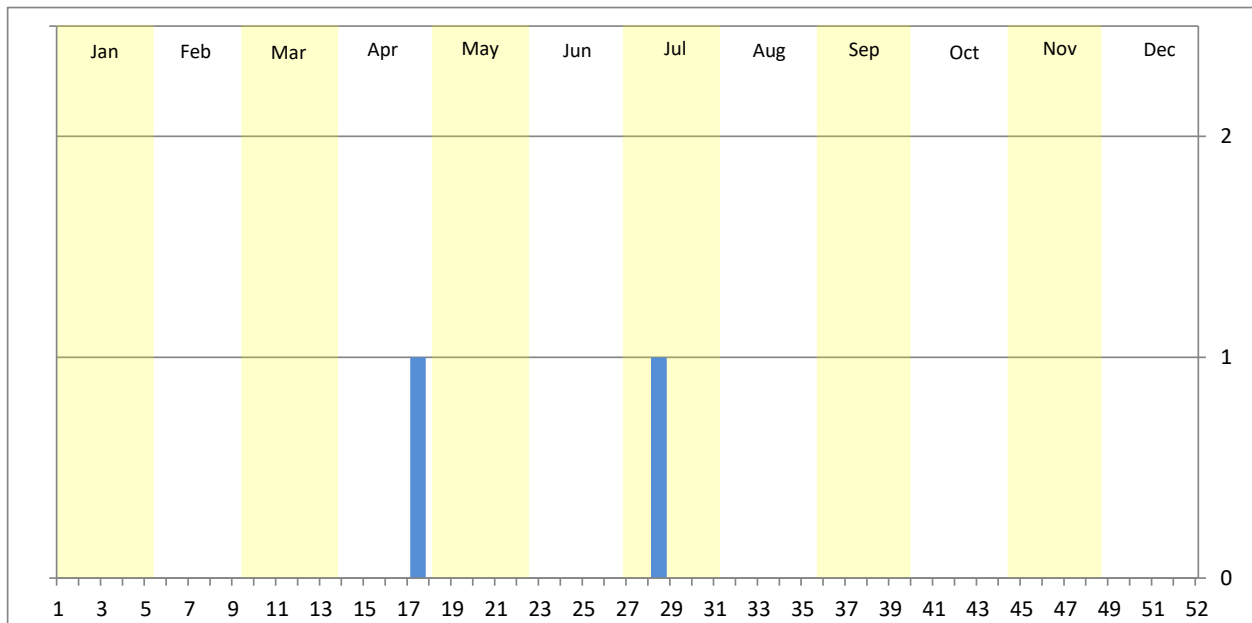


Figure 2: Cory's Shearwater records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

Figure 3 shows the distribution of records by tetrad.

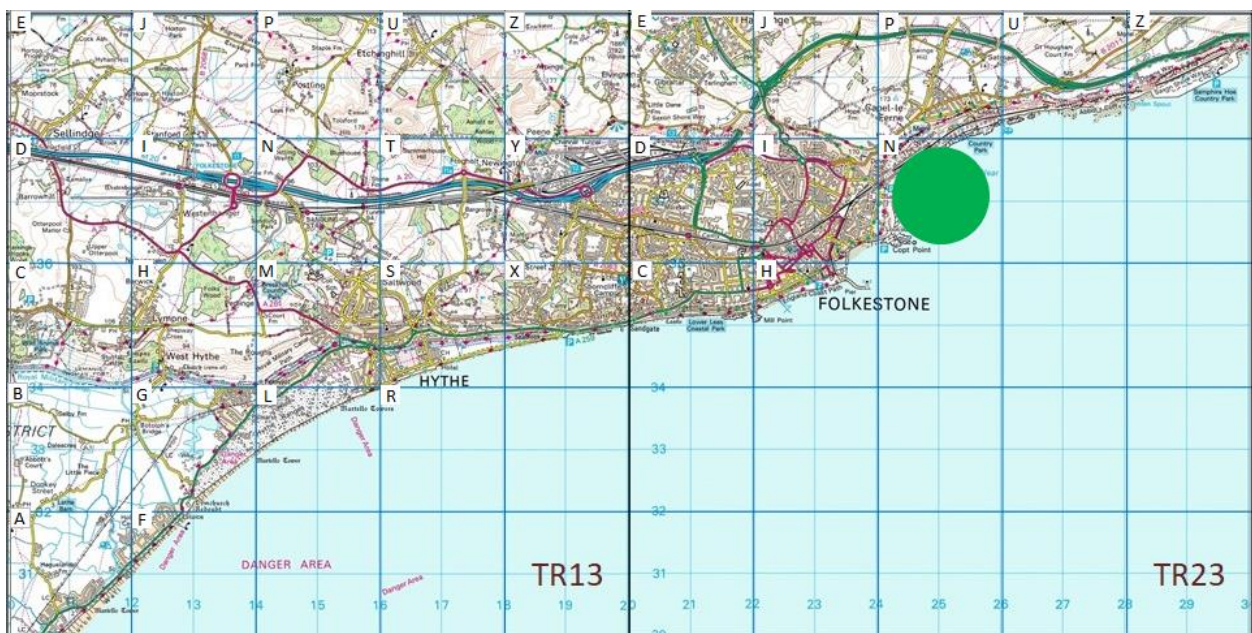


Figure 3: Distribution of all Cory's Shearwater records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

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.
- Grant, P. J. & the Rarities Committee, 1985. Rarities Committee news and announcements. *British Birds*, 78: 471-472.
- Kent Bird Reports. Kent Ornithological Society

KOS Kent list: <https://kentos.org.uk/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.

Acknowledgements

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