

Dotterel

Charadrius morinellus

Category A

Very rare vagrant.

4 records

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 (Snow & Perrins, 1998). 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 (Holling *et al*, 2019). In Kent it is a scarce passage migrant in both spring and autumn (KOS, 2020).

It was first recorded at Folkestone and Hythe in 1997, with three subsequent sightings as shown in figure 1.

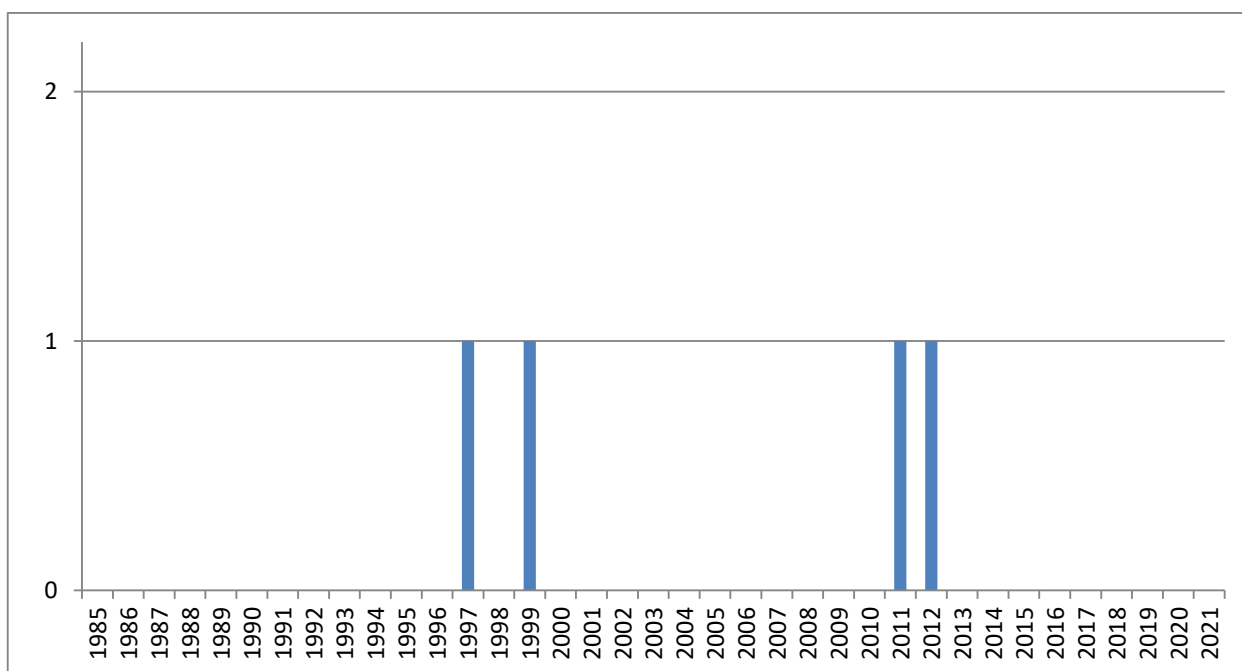


Figure 1: Dotterel records at Folkestone and Hythe

The records by week are given in figure 2.

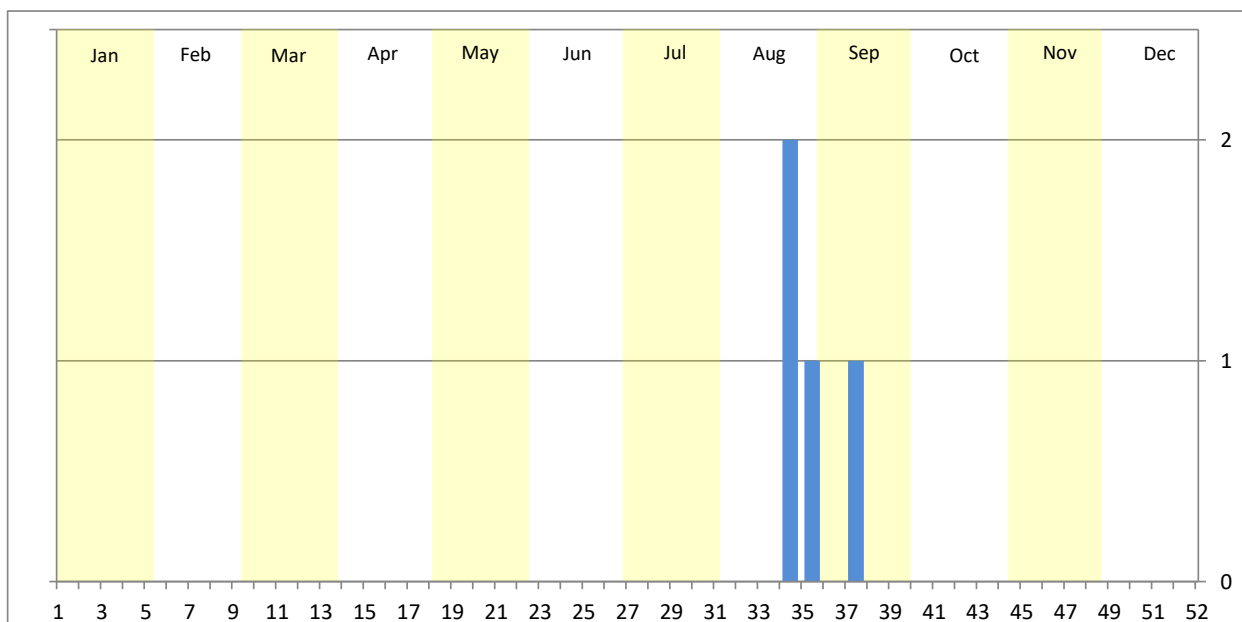


Figure 2: Dotterel records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

All records have occurred between the 20th August (week 34) and 16th September (week 37), with three in August.

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



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. 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

Kent Bird Reports. Kent Ornithological Society

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

Acknowledgements

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