

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

Category A

Very rare vagrant

11 records

Main breeding population in Fenno-Scandia and northern Russia. Winters around the coasts of western Europe, from Norway south to Morocco.

An uncommon but regular passage migrant and winter visitor in Kent.



Long-tailed Duck at Samphire Hoe (Ian Roberts)

There was a series of six records in the seven years between 1957 and 1963, but then a gap of almost thirty years before the first modern record in 1991. Further sightings followed in 1995 and 2000 but then there was a 13 year gap until the most recent in 2013 and 2017. The records by year are shown in figure 1.

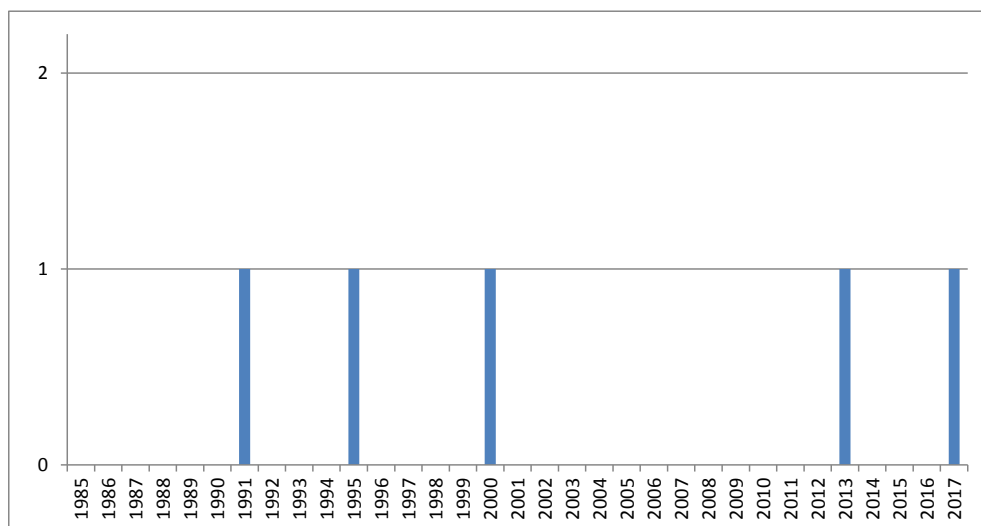


Figure 1: Long-tailed Duck records since 1985 at Folkestone and Hythe

Apart from one on 20th October 1957 and a spring migrant on 16th April 2000, all other records fall between 4th November (week 44) and 10th February (week 6), as shown in figure 2.

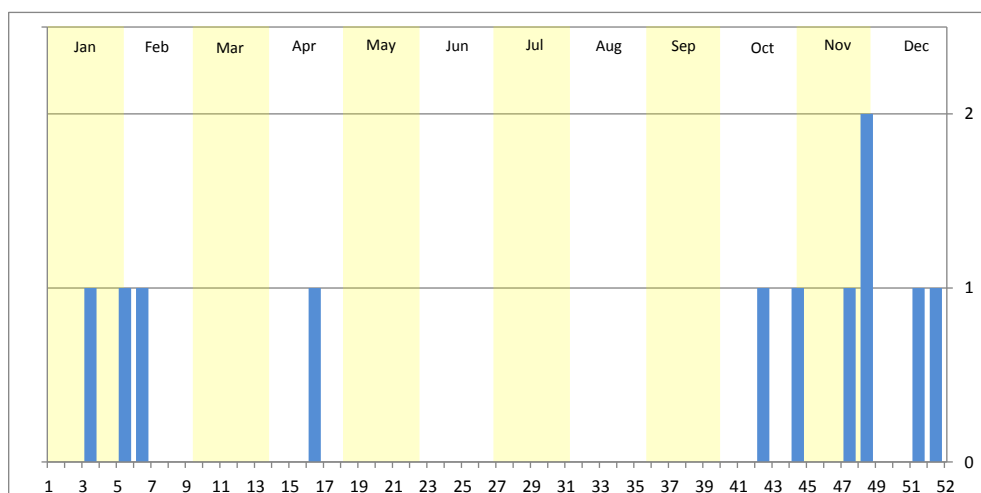


Figure 2: Long-tailed Duck records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

The full list of records is as follows:

- 1957** Folkestone, first-winter, 20th October (R. S. Pitcher)
- 1959** Folkestone, first-winter female, 1st December (D. F. Musson)
- 1960** Folkestone, adult female, 1st February (D. F. Musson)
- 1960** Hythe Canal, one, 25th December to 12th January 1961 (W. S. Nevin, D. F. Musson)
- 1961** Hythe Redoubt, one, 19th January (D. F. Musson)
- 1963** Hythe, one, 23rd December (W. S. Nevin)
- 1991** Hythe Redoubt, one, 10th February (reported)
- 1995** Sandgate, one, 2nd December (P. Howe, H. G. Brown)
- 2000** Copt Point, one flew east with Common Scoters, 16th April (D. A. Gibson)
- 2013** Samphire Hoe, female on the sea then flew west, 20th November, photo (M. D. Kennett, I. A. Roberts)
- 2017** Folkestone Harbour, one, 4th November (M. Walford)