

# Cory's Shearwater

*Calonectris diomedea*

Category A

Very rare vagrant

2 records

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

A very rare vagrant to Kent with 38 records to 2010. Apart from one seen in January, records are fairly evenly spread between April and November, though April has produced the most county records with eight. All records have been coastal with Dungeness (42%) and Thanet (18%) accounting for the majority, but with two at nearby Dover and another at St. Margaret's Bay.

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 11<sup>th</sup> July 1974 and the record appeared in both the Kent Bird Report and British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) Report for that year. At the time it was still a national rarity (as it was until 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). 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 28<sup>th</sup> April 1986. The records by week are given in figure 1.

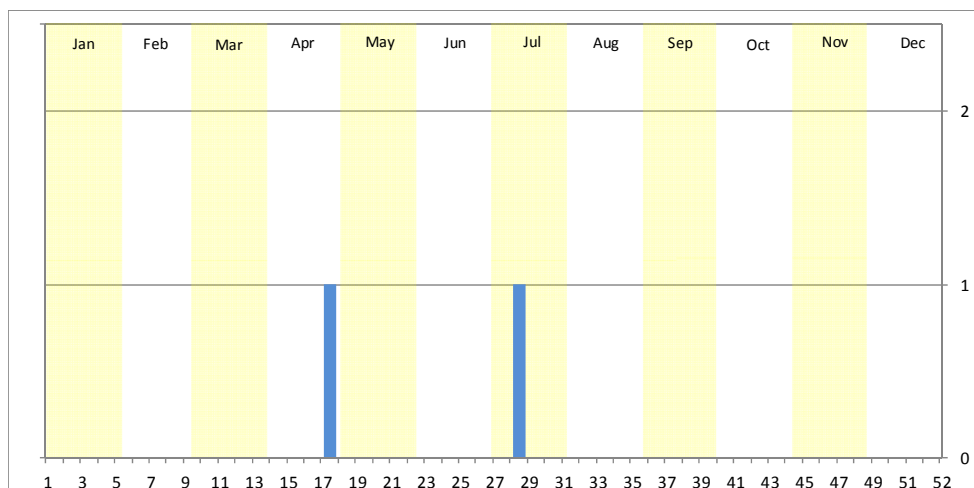


Figure 1: Cory's Shearwater records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

The full list of records is as follows:

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

**1986** Copt Point, one, 28<sup>th</sup> April (reported)