

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

Category A

Very rare vagrant

2 records

Breeds widely in southern Canada and in USA, having shown a recent marked eastward expansion to its range. Winters in coastal states, southwards from New England to West Indies. A transatlantic vagrant to Europe, mostly between December and April, but with British records in all months.

A very rare vagrant to Kent with 15 records to the end of 2011. All county records have occurred between the 9th December and the 24th April, and all records have been coastal with the exception of one at Sevenoaks in 2011.

There have been two Folkestone and Hythe records, singles in 1999 and 2001, as shown in figure 1.

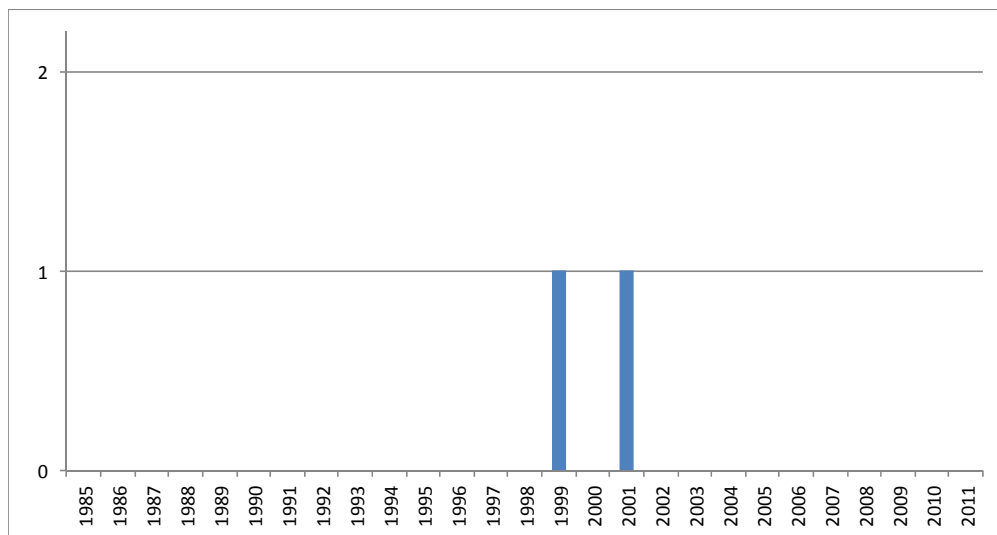


Figure 1: Ring-billed Gull records at Folkestone and Hythe

Both records have occurred in spring, with one on the 12th March (week 11) and one on the 4th April (week 14), as demonstrated by figure 2.

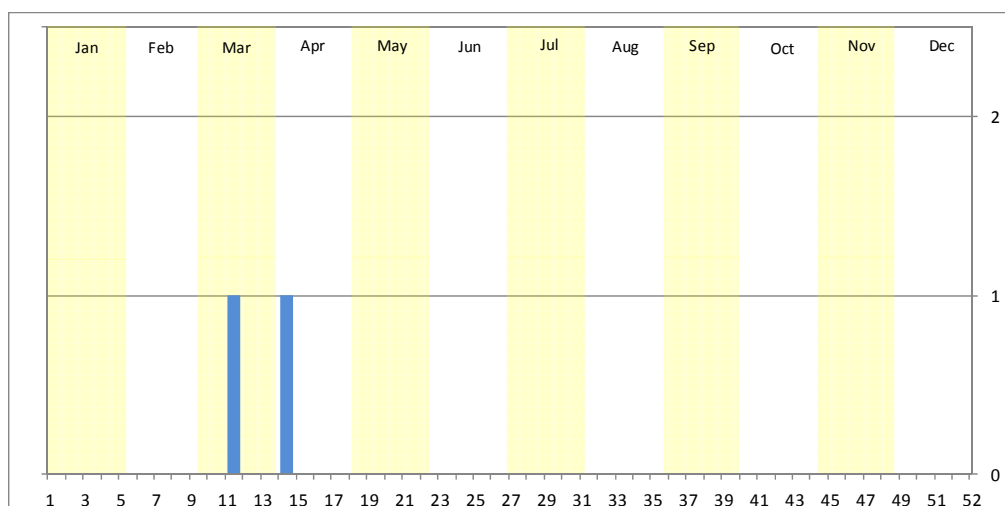


Figure 2: Ring-billed Gull records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

The full list of records is as follows:

1999 Copt Point, first-winter on rocks for ten minutes then flew west, 12th March (C. G. Bradshaw)

2001 Copt Point, first-winter flew east, 4th April (D. A. Gibson, I. A. Roberts)