

Caspian Tern

Hydroprogne caspia

Category A

Very rare vagrant

1 record

Breeds around the Baltic coast, migrating south usually overland to winter in tropical West Africa. Has declined recently, particularly in the western part of its range. Occasionally strays to Britain, where there had been 291 records up to the end of 2010.

First recorded in Kent in 1935 when there were records of single birds in October and November. There have been a further 21 records in the county but all have been found between the 19th April and 6th August, with a peak in June (eight records). Almost 80% of records have occurred since 1970 but there have been none since 1999.

The only area record is as follows:

1988 Folkestone Warren, one, 5th June (S. J. Broyd)

In addition a "huge" tern, possibly Caspian, was seen flying up-channel past Hythe Ranges on the 19th May 1992.