

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

Merops persicus

Category A

Very rare vagrant

1 record

Main breeding range within Western Palearctic is in Egypt, Turkey and Russia, with a small population in Morocco. Winters in Africa.

There had been ten records in Britain to the end of 2010 all of which were in counties along the south and east coast of England. The Folkestone and Hythe sighting was part of a small but record influx of three in 1989, which also included one in Cornwall on the 1st June and one in East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire over the 8th to 12th July.

This record also constituted the first for Kent. There has been one subsequent record, at Bockhill on the 22nd July 2009.

The only area record concerns one found by Mark Kennett at Church Hougham in the late afternoon of the 18th July 1989 which was present for about an hour and a half, allowing Ian Hodgson to also see it before it flew off to the north.

Confirmation of the record follows:

1989 Church Hougham, one, 18th July (M. Kennett, I. P. Hodgson)