

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

Category A

Very rare vagrant

12 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 three most recent in 2013, 2017 and 2018. The records by year are shown in figure 1.

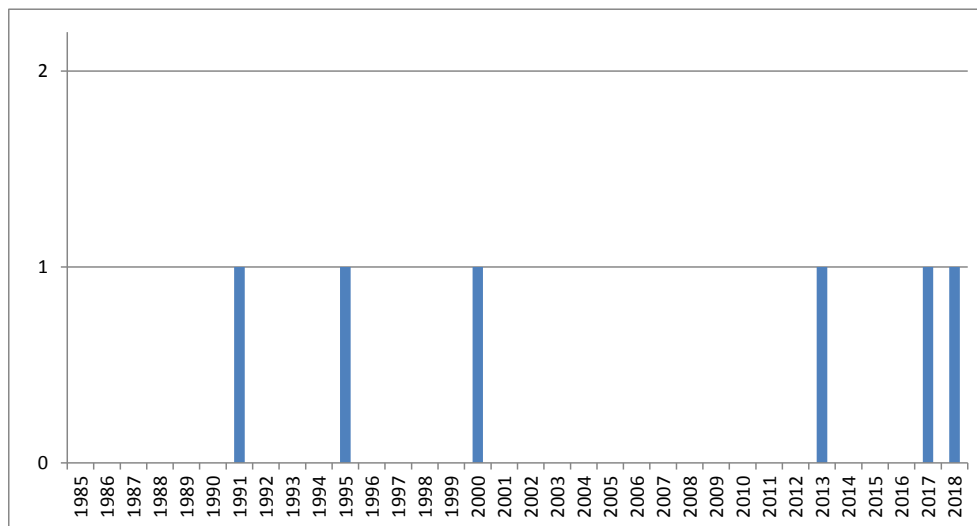


Figure 1: Long-tailed Duck records since 1985 at Folkestone and Hythe

Apart from one on 20th October 1957 and spring migrants on the 16th April 2000 and 15th April 2018, all other records fall between 4th November (week 44) and 10th February (week 6), as shown in figure 2.

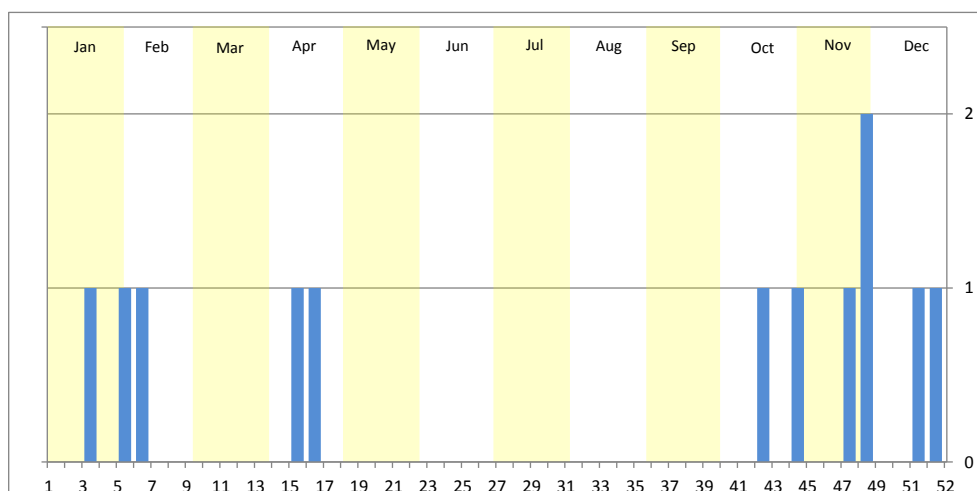


Figure 2: Long-tailed Duck records at Folkestone and Hythe by week

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)
- 2018** Samphire Hoe, two flew east, 15th April (M. Collins, B. Woolhouse)