

**THE NORTH WEST
NORFOLK
RINGING GROUP**



ANNUAL REPORT 2000

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Finally if any one has been omitted please accept our apologies.

Introduction

John Middleton, Editor

THIS REPORT for 2000 is the ninth that has been produced by the North West Norfolk Ringing Group now in its eleventh year.

It follows a similar format to that adopted in 1999, however we have decided that this report will revert to black and white production despite the success of our Millennium Issue that was produced in colour. This is mainly due to the costs associated with printing. All the sections that we usually present will continue to be featured.

Group Scientific objectives continue to focus on the collection of data connected with our long-term studies of Snow Bunting, Wheatear and Ringed Plover. These studies that we initiated following the Group's formation in 1990, were in the case of Snow Bunting and Wheatear designed to study species which although numerous during the winter period or spring migration had not previously been studied by any other groups or individuals in Norfolk. In this respect they are unique, no other individual or group in the county catches any appreciable numbers of these species. These long running data sets are either currently being analysed or will be in the near future with a view to publishing our results in an appropriate scientific journal. Some of the interim findings that have been published in previous Group Reports have revised some of the previously held assumptions within the County. Particularly with regard to Snow Bunting where it was thought that the majority of birds wintering in Norfolk were coming from the Greenland/Scandinavian populations whereas we now know that in most years they are predominantly of the Icelandic race. Similarly Wheatears of the Greenland race were thought to pass through the County in small numbers in late April and May. The Birds of Norfolk published in 1999 indicated that up until 1998 maximum counts of Greenland Wheatear in the field had been less than 30 birds. Our ringing study has demonstrated from analysis of the biometrics that while passage birds in March are exclusively the nominate race, in April both races occur in almost equal numbers although Greenland birds are arriving mainly from mid month on. In May Greenland race birds outnumber the nominate oenanthe.

Group ringing studies have already made an appreciable contribution to our knowledge of the avifauna of Norfolk.

All Group data is held on computer using the British Trust for Ornithology B-Ring software program and currently consists of over 42,000 new birds ringed. In addition the Recovery and Re-trap History database developed by Kelvin Baldwin that we featured in the 1999 Report holds details of all our recoveries and controls and maintains re-trap histories for particular species or sites. These provide fascinating profiles of individual birds ranging from the site fidelity of some warblers to the mobility of Snow Buntings both within and between winters. Colour ring sightings of Avocets have furnished life histories of some individuals that are now ten years old. This database will be even more invaluable, especially so since our colour ringing project on Ringed Plovers has become the subject of a British Trust for Ornithology RAS (Re-trapping Adults for Survival) project that we hope to run for at least five years. Recently while we were inputting data from colour ring sightings we were alerted to a Ringed Plover that was over twenty years old! More detailed aspects of some of these histories of individuals will be given elsewhere in this report.

Following the announcement last year that the Group intended to build it's own web site, this has now been successfully launched and you can log on at www.nwnrg.co.uk. Who knows, perhaps in the future we will cease to print reports and instead you could download from the worldwide web.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this report and welcome suggestions as to how it might be improved.

Review of the Year

Trevor Girling

The year began with the Annual BTO Ringing Conference at Swanwick, this year the group was represented by John Middleton and Sabine Schmitt.

During January the majority of group attention was focussed on the trapping of Snow Buntings and Starlings. The only catch of Snow Buntings was made at Salthouse on the 23rd and produced 45 new birds, and a new Skylark. Interestingly one of the retrap Snow Buntings caught at the same time, was a bird ringed 5 years and 80 days earlier, a new British longevity record. Garden whoosh netting resulted in 155 Starlings being trapped and a Lithuanian bird controlled. Recuperating from an operation meant that Trevor Girling was unable to visit Abbey Farm and so we missed out this year on wintering finches and Tree Sparrows. A windy and wet month, especially the latter half, kept temperatures 2-3 degrees C above normal.

The weather in February continued just as January had, with north westerly winds and long periods of rain in most areas. Whoosh netting was our main activity and during the month 146 Starlings were ringed along with a Black headed Gull. A Dutch ringed Starling was controlled on 5th in King's Lynn.

Considering the amount of rain that had fallen, it came as no surprise that the winter was the Wettest since 1706 and the Mildest since 1659.

March and cold northerly winds and rain predominated all month. Our spring nets were in operation early in the month when 4 Stonechat were caught on the 3rd at Snettisham Coastal Park (SCP), these proved to be the only ones caught all year. John discovered a roost of Pied Wagtails in bushes at the Linda McCartney's factory in Fakenham and 43 were caught on the 11th. After a long period of disuse, the groups double clap net was refurbished and refined by Trevor and John over two weekends, this paid dividends later in the month when 6 Meadow Pipits were caught on the 25th. Our main quarry of the month are Wheatears and they finally arrived a week later than last year, possibly due to the weather on 21st, and a further 15 were caught by the end of the month.

April continued as March had done with long periods of northwesterly wind and lots of rain. 17 more Meadow Pipits were trapped using the clap net, before our attention focussed on Wheatears, moving through on passage. 127 had been ringed by the end of the month; this included 37 caught on the 25th, which were part of a major fall involving at least 150 birds between Snettisham and Heacham. Terry Hallahan busied himself with some mist netting at Friar's Lane that produced our first warblers of the year as well as small numbers of finches. 3 young Egyptian Geese were also ringed on 29th, the first since 1991. Record breaking rainfall, almost twice the normal amount led to it being the wettest April since 1756.

May started very wet with enough rain to make it the wettest May for 18 years. High pressure then dominated for the rest of the month, temperatures rising to 28 degrees C on the 15th. Wheatear numbers were disappointing and the year total by the end of the month reached 160. Our Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) scheme on Ringed Plovers gathered momentum by obtaining colour ring sightings of adults between Snettisham and Heacham. The first chicks being ringed on 27th. Other pullus ringing commenced with Lapwing, Oystercatcher and Skylark. A new species for the group was a young Crow ringed on the 12th. After falling out of its nest, then returned safely by Terry.

June continued very much as May had done. Pullus ringing continued with Avocet and our first Barn Owls, more Skylarks were found at both SCP and Heacham North Beach (HNB). The RAS project occupied most of John and Trevor's time in ascertaining which colour ringed adults belonged to which nest. Terry started his rounds of traditional nest sites for Swallows, and also ringed a further 2 more Egyptian Geese young on 11th. John paid his annual visit to the local church tower, this year ringing 5 young Jackdaws on the 2nd.

High pressure was the norm in July. RAS project work and ringing pullus Ringed Plover continued. A contact through the local BTO representative led to a new site in the west of the

county for Barn Owls. The farmer had erected 4 nest boxes in January, of these, three and a natural site were successful, and the other box held a pair of Stock Doves. Calm weather led to Mist Netting gathering pace at the Willow Carr (WCB) and Friar's Lane. Although modest numbers of dispersing Warblers were being caught, it appeared that the breeding season might not have been as productive as last year.

August proved a very frustrating month at SCP for the second year running. Due to the strong winds that plague this site, it limited our mist netting to just one full visit, the only consolation was the discovery of a Swallow roost in the main drain during the 3rd week. 164 new birds were caught, and a young bird ringed by Terry as a pullus earlier this year was retrapped. Autumn passage continued at WCB, the site being sheltered enabled ringing on most days. Highlights included one each of Pied Flycatcher, Redstart, Grasshopper Warbler and Willow Tit; the latter caught on 30th was the first record for the group for four years.

September was very much like August, although the wind relented and more mist netting was done at SCP. Our annual count of Fulmar chicks at Hunstanton on 7th revealed 78 well grown young, the highest number for four years. Normally an excellent month for warblers at group sites September 2000 was rather disappointing. Numbers of passage birds at SCP were far less than last year, in fact greater numbers of finches were being caught with Greenfinch (37) and Goldfinch (62) being the top species. John did better at WCB although even here the Blackcap total (302) for the month was less than half that of 1999.

October and strong South Westerly winds and rain dominated the early part of the month, the wind then calmed and turned to the North East, allowing the first signs of a large autumn thrush movement to be noted as hundreds of Starlings arrived. John was still catching Blackcap at WCB and the month ended with 103 added to the total. Trevor attended the Spurn ringing course again this year, and successfully gained the backing for his Initial Trainer application. With the wind moving to a more favourable direction, Trevor at Spurn and John in Norfolk noticed arrivals of Blackbird and Redwing on exactly the same dates. Both species were caught in good numbers at both SCP and WCB during the remainder of the month including, Blackbird (66), Song Thrush (27) and Redwing (92). Other highlights included 3 Water Rail and a Snipe at WCB and a Woodcock and Kingfisher at SCP.

Into November and we exploit new arrivals of Thrushes throughout the month, as cold and wet conditions on the continent forced the birds south. At both SCP and WCB large numbers of Redwing (234) and Blackbird (284) were caught. Along with the Thrushes various species of finch were arriving, most notable were the 28 Bullfinch trapped, these numbers were higher than in any previous year of group activity. Another new species for the group, an adult female Hawfinch was caught and ringed at SCP on 5th, presumably this was a migrant. A further Water Rail at WCB brought the year total to 4.

As December arrived we baited the gardens for Starlings, and although 104 were caught there seemed to be very few visiting, probably brought about by the mild wet autumn. Very few Snow Buntings or Shorelarks were reported from our network of sites, and contacts elsewhere reported similar low numbers, it seems they too have chosen to winter further north. On 14th a Linnets roost was found by John in some shrubbery near Safeway's in Fakenham, after obtaining the required permission a catch was made on 22nd and resulted in 78 new birds. As we were packing the equipment away a small number of Pied Wagtails were noticed in an adjacent patch of shrubbery. We returned on 27th and managed to catch 16 new birds and retrap one originally ringed at Linda McCartney's in March.

2000 a year dominated by rain. The wettest autumn since 1776 and the wettest year since records began.

As far as numbers are concerned, an excellent year! Blackcap numbers were lower than hoped for, with the other warblers we fared better. A poor breeding season at SCP meant a very early departure for most summer migrants, so there were very few re-traps. Various roosts and the large arrival of thrushes in late autumn boosted Numbers of birds ringed. Perseverance, greater effort and hard work at times were rewarded by a very enjoyable years ringing for us all.

SITE REPORTS FOR 2000.

INTRODUCTION.

This section of the report follows the style first introduced last year. Only sites, where over 1000 birds were captured in 2000 are reported in detail, together with a totals summary for all sites.

- A summary of sites is presented below with a species highlight for each site.

| Site Name | Site Code | No Ringed | Species Highlight |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Willow Carr, River Burn | WCB | 2311 | Blackcap 567 |
| Snettisham Coastal Park | SCP | 1403 | Hawfinch 1 |
| Salthouse | SAL | 47 | Snow Bunting 45 |
| Friars Lane, Burnham Market | FLB | 419 | Greenfinch 107 |
| Gaywood | TKL | 320 | Starling 207 |
| Abbey Farm, Flitcham | AFF | 44 | Lapwing 21 |
| Snettisham | SNE | 68 | Ringed Plover 68 |
| Burnham Market | JMB | 267 | Starling 267 |
| COMBINED (LESS THAN 20 BIRDS) | OTHERS | 211 | Barn Owl 53 |
| Stanhoe | THS | 138 | Blue Tit 20 |
| Gateley | GAT | 9 | Blue Tit 3 |
| Confidential Site | CONFIDENTIAL | 6 | Avocet 6 |
| Shammer House | SHA | 23 | Lapwing 11 |
| Camping Hill Stiffkey | CHS | 24 | Swallow 24 |
| All Sites | | 5290 | |

Totals summary all sites and site species highlight.

- A report is presented for Snettisham Coastal Park, which includes a monthly capture calendar (**Table 1**).
- Snettisham Coastal Park Annual totals 1990-2000 are given in **Table 2**.
 - **Note 1**
Neither the monthly capture calendar (Table 1), or the Annual Totals 1990-2000 (Table 2) referred to above include Ringed Plover.
 - **Note 2**
The Site code SNE - includes additional areas of beach as well as the beach area adjacent to Snettisham Coastal Park – this enables all Ringed Plovers of the study population to be aggregated.
 - **Note 3**
The reader should refer to the site summary above or the Annual Totals 1990-2000 all sites combined Table on page 18 for Ringed Plover totals.
 - **Note 4**
Up to and including 1994 Ringed Plovers that were ringed at Holme were also included in those annual totals.
- A report is presented for the Willow Carr, Burnham Market, which includes a monthly capture calendar (**Table 3**).
- Willow Carr Annual totals 1998-2000 are given in **Table 4**.

SITE REPORTS FOR 2000.

SECTION 1.

SNETTISHAM COASTAL PARK.

Site Code SCP Habitat Code C7 B1 Reed marsh and scrub.
SNE Habitat Code H1 Marine open shore.

The Park was established in January 1984 with a lease signed by Sir Stephen Lycett Green and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and the agreement of the Heacham and North West Norfolk Wildfowlers Association. The park comprises 143 acres (approx 70 hectares) of land. With a variety of habitats ranging from open water, reed marsh, rough grass, thorn scrub and rabbit grazed turf with gravel areas, bounded to the west by the shingle bank which forms the first line of sea defence and the raised earth bank of secondary sea defences to the east. On the seaward side is the sand and shingle beach and mud flats of the Wash. The Coastal Park is part of a County Wildlife Site (CWS477) and the adjacent (CWS 478), and it borders the east side of the Wash Estuary, which is designated as a Ramsar site, NCR site, SPA, SAC and part AONB .

The diverse habitats are interesting not just because of the avian populations that breed or winter here or are passing through during spring and autumn migration. The site has considerable botanical interest and includes various nationally rare species as well as some species which are either rare or scarce in Norfolk with the shingle area supporting five notable plants – stalked orache, sea kale, smooth cat's ear, sea knotgrass and hoary cinquefoil.

Twenty four species of butterfly and 116 species of moth have been recorded including the Marbled Clover *Heliothis viriplaca*, which is accorded RDB status in the Brecks. This total also includes twenty six other moth species that are either nationally or locally rare.

Nine species of dragonfly/damselfly occur in the Park including the Nationally important Hairy dragonfly *Bracitron pratencise*.

The diverse habitat supports good numbers of breeding warblers particularly Reed, Sedge, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Willow Warbler and Grasshopper Warbler. Good numbers of Linnets, Meadow Pipits and Skylarks are also breeding. A few pairs of Bullfinch also breed in the Park and of course the ubiquitous Blackbird and several pairs of Song Thrush. The breeding bird population is not confined to just passerines, the open water has Moorhen and Coot, at least one pair of Mute Swan and Mallard and Tufted Duck. On the adjacent shingle bank and beach, which begins at the nearby Snettisham RSPB reserve and extends to Heacham South Beach about 5 km in all, breeding waders include Oystercatcher and approximately 65 pairs of Ringed Plover.

In spring there is a good passage of Wheatears and this is the focus of one of our long-term projects. Another project, which we began in 1994, monitors breeding success and or failure of Ringed Plover through colour ringing of both adults and chicks. Although this particular study is not confined solely to the Park boundaries, it also extends to those areas of beach both to the north and south. Other breeding waders have included Oystercatcher and Redshank.

Over 120 bird species have been recorded either in the Park or on the adjacent beach/sea.

SITE REPORTS FOR 2000.

SNETTISHAM COASTAL PARK BIRD LIST.

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| RED-THROATED DIVER | PURPLE SANDPIPER | DUNNOCK |
| BLACK-THROATED DIVER | DUNLIN | ROBIN |
| GREAT NORTHERN DIVER | RUFF | NIGHTINGALE |
| LITTLE GREBE | COMMON SNIPE | BLUETHROAT |
| GREAT CRESTED GREBE | WOODCOCK | BLACK REDSTART |
| RED-NECKED GREBE | BLACK-TAILED GODWIT | COMMON REDSTART |
| SLAVONIAN GREBE | BAR-TAILED GODWIT | WHINCHAT |
| BLACK-NECKED GREBE | WHIMBREL | STONECHAT |
| FULMAR | CURLEW | COMMON WHEATEAR |
| MANX SHEARWATER | SPOTTED REDSHANK | RING OUZEL |
| GANNET | REDSHANK | BLACKBIRD |
| CORMORANT | GREENSHANK | FIELDFARE |
| GREY HERON | GREEN SANDPIPER | SONG THRUSH |
| PURPLE HERON | WOOD SANDPIPER | REDWING |
| MUTE SWAN | COMMON SANDPIPER | MISTLE THRUSH |
| BEWICK'S SWAN | TURNSTONE | GRASSHOPPER WARBLER |
| WHOOPER SWAN | ARCTIC SKUA | SEDGE WARBLER |
| PINK-FOOTED GOOSE | GREAT SKUA | REED WARBLER |
| GREYLAG GOOSE | LITTLE GULL | BARRED WARBLER |
| CANADA GOOSE | BLACK-HEADED GULL | LESSER WHITETHROAT |
| BRENT GOOSE | COMMON GULL | COMMON WHITETHROAT |
| EGYPTIAN GOOSE | HERRING GULL | GARDEN WARBLER |
| SHELDUCK | LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL | BLACKCAP |
| MANDARIN DUCK | GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL | CHIFFCHAFF |
| WIGEON | KITTIWAKE | WILLOW WARBLER |
| GADWALL | SANDWICH TERN | GOLDCREST |
| TEAL | COMMON TERN | SPOTTED FLYCATCHER |
| MALLARD | ARCTIC TERN | PIED FLYCATCHER |
| POCHARD | LITTLE TERN | BEARDED TIT |
| TUFTED DUCK | BLACK TERN | LONG-TAILED TIT |
| EIDER | GUILLEMOT | MARSH TIT |
| LONG-TAILED DUCK | LITTLE AUK | COAL TIT |
| COMMON SCOTER | STOCK DOVE | BLUE TIT |
| GOLDENEYE | WOODPIGEON | GREAT TIT |
| SMEW | COLLARED DOVE | NUTHATCH |
| RED-BREASTED MERGANSER | TURTLE DOVE | TREECREEPER |
| RUDDY DUCK | CUCKOO | ISABELLINE SHRIKE |
| MARSH HARRIER | BARN OWL | RED-BACKED SHRIKE |
| MONTAGU'S HARRIER | LITTLE OWL | JAY |
| SPARROWHAWK | TAWNY OWL | MAGPIE |
| KESTREL | SHORT-EARED OWL | JACKDAW |
| MERLIN | SWIFT | ROOK |
| HOBBY | KINGFISHER | CARRION CROW |
| PEREGRINE | HOPOE | STARLING |
| RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE | WRYNECK | HOUSE SPARROW |
| GREY PARTRIDGE | GREEN WOODPECKER | TREE SPARROW |
| PHEASANT | GR SPOTTED WOODPECKER | CHAFFINCH |
| WATER RAIL | SKYLARK | BRAMBLING |

SITE REPORTS FOR 2000.

SNETTISHAM COASTAL PARK BIRD LIST Continued.

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| MOORHEN | SHORE LARK | GREENFINCH |
| COOT | SAND MARTIN | GOLDFINCH |
| OYSTERCATCHER | SWALLOW | SISKIN |
| AVOCET | HOUSE MARTIN | LINNET |
| RINGED PLOVER | RICHARD'S PIPIT | REDPOLL |
| GOLDEN PLOVER | TREE PIPIT | COMMON CROSSBILL |
| GREY PLOVER | MEADOW PIPIT | BULLFINCH |
| LAPWING | YELLOW WAGTAIL | SNOW BUNTING |
| KNOT | GREY WAGTAIL | YELLOWHAMMER |
| SANDERLING | PIED WAGTAIL | REED BUNTING |
| LITTLE STINT | WAXWING | CORN BUNTING |
| CURLEW SANDPIPER | WREN | |

Managing Snettisham Coastal Park for Wildlife.

- Nature conservation. V. People.
- Is it necessary for it to be a conflict?

When this area of the Kenhill Estate was established as Snettisham Coastal Park in 1984 with the lease between Sir Stephen Lycett Green and the Borough Council, the prime reason was that Sir Stephen wanted the general public to be able to enjoy this section of the coast. It was not established as a Nature Reserve.

Once the importance of the site to wildlife was realised, the implications of increasing amounts of tourism and its effects within the Park needed to be considered. In late 1998 early 1999 at the instigation of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, a meeting was convened to set up a management committee. The object was to involve all the bodies that used the park for recreational activities:

The Island Camping Club
The Heacham Wildfowlers
North West Norfolk RG
Wash Wader RG

And other interested parties including:

RSPB
Ken Hill Estate

Objectives are:

- To manage the habitat for conservation.
- To discuss ways of managing the impact of increasing numbers of visitors to the Park.
- To produce a management plan.

This initiative is welcomed and supported by the North West Norfolk RG

A draft plan was produced during 1999 and further discussions were planned. However the process appears to have ground to a halt as the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council did not convene any further meetings during 2000. Consequently no further progress has been made, although enquiries have elicited the response that the process is certainly not defunct.

MONTHLY CAPTURE CALENDAR SNETTISHAM COASTAL PARK 2000.

| Species | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Total |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Sparrowhawk | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Oystercatcher | | | | 5 | | | | | | 5 |
| Woodcock | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Kingfisher | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Green Woodpecker | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Great Spot Woodpecker | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Skylark | | 1 | 12 | 14 | 2 | | | | | 29 |
| Swallow | | | | | 3 | 164 | 1 | | | 168 |
| Meadow Pipit | 6 | 19 | 8 | | | | | | | 33 |
| Pied Wagtail | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Wren | | | 1 | | 7 | 3 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 37 |
| Dunnock | | | | | 9 | 3 | 17 | 10 | 2 | 41 |
| Robin | | 2 | 0 | | 7 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 14 | 38 |
| Whinchat | | 7 | 5 | | | | | | | 12 |
| Stonechat | 4 | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| Wheatear | 16 | 127 | 17 | | | | | | | 160 |
| Blackbird | | | 1 | | 4 | 2 | 13 | 19 | 130 | 169 |
| Fieldfare | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 |
| Song Thrush | | | | | | | 6 | 12 | 6 | 24 |
| Redwing | | | | | | | | 5 | 113 | 118 |
| Sedge Warbler | | | 2 | | 12 | 3 | 3 | | | 20 |
| Reed Warbler | | | | | 27 | 8 | 16 | | | 51 |
| Lesser Whitethroat | | | 2 | | 7 | 9 | 4 | | | 22 |
| Whitethroat | | | 1 | | 11 | 7 | 17 | | | 36 |
| Garden Warbler | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 |
| Blackcap | | | | | 9 | 6 | 37 | 9 | | 61 |
| Chiffchaff | | | | | 4 | | 4 | 1 | | 9 |
| Willow Warbler | | | | | 19 | | | | | 19 |
| Goldcrest | | | | | | | 4 | 6 | 10 | 20 |
| Long-tailed Tit | | | | | 5 | | 7 | 6 | 18 | 36 |
| Blue Tit | | | | | 6 | 1 | 16 | 11 | 14 | 48 |
| Great Tit | | | | | 5 | | 4 | 3 | 3 | 15 |
| House Sparrow | | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Chaffinch | | | 1 | | 1 | 0 | 7 | 17 | 6 | 32 |
| Greenfinch | | | | | | 2 | 37 | 3 | 5 | 47 |
| Goldfinch | | | | | 2 | | 62 | 15 | 3 | 82 |
| Linnet | | | | | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | | 6 |
| Redpoll | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Bullfinch | | | 1 | | 5 | | 3 | 4 | 26 | 39 |
| Hawfinch | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Yellowhammer | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Reed Bunting | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 3 |
| Totals | 26 | 157 | 51 | 19 | 146 | 214 | 286 | 139 | 365 | 1403 |

Table 1: Monthly Capture Calendar SCP 2000.

ANNUAL TOTALS SNETTISHAM COASTAL PARK 1990-2000.

| Species | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Mute Swan | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| Mallard | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Sparrowhawk | | 1 | | | | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| Kestrel | | | | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | 3 |
| Water Rail | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Oystercatcher | | | | 3 | | | | | | | 5 | 8 |
| Lapwing | | | | | | | | | | 4 | | 4 |
| Woodcock | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Redshank | | | | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | 3 |
| Common Sandpiper | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Turtle Dove | | | 1 | | | | 4 | 1 | | 1 | | 7 |
| Cuckoo | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Little Owl | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Short Eared Owl | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Kingfisher | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Wryneck | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Green Woodpecker | | | | 1 | | 4 | 3 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 13 |
| Great Spot Woodpecker | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 |
| Skylark | 8 | 1 | 2 | | 6 | | 4 | 5 | 11 | 16 | 29 | 82 |
| Swallow | 15 | 2 | 57 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 2 | | 7 | 168 | 278 |
| House Martin | | | | 444 | | 29 | 38 | 6 | | | | 517 |
| Tree Pipit | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| Meadow Pipit | 12 | | 16 | | | 5 | 13 | 18 | 20 | 7 | 33 | 124 |
| Yellow Wagtail | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Grey Wagtail | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Pied Wagtail | | | | | | | 3 | | | | 1 | 4 |
| Wren | 1 | 13 | 7 | 21 | | 49 | 22 | 24 | 13 | 55 | 37 | 242 |
| Duncock | 4 | 24 | 34 | 41 | | 71 | 44 | 37 | 62 | 77 | 41 | 435 |
| Robin | | 16 | 10 | 42 | | 34 | 26 | 41 | 70 | 39 | 38 | 316 |
| Nightingale | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| Black Redstart | | | | | | | 4 | 1 | | | | 5 |
| Redstart | | | 1 | 4 | | 11 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 19 |
| Whinchat | | 2 | 2 | | 5 | | 16 | 9 | 16 | 11 | 12 | 73 |
| Stonechat | | | 1 | | | | 5 | | 4 | 3 | 4 | 17 |
| Wheatear | 11 | 7 | 27 | | 53 | 6 | 190 | 164 | 174 | 175 | 160 | 967 |
| Ring Ouzel | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Blackbird | 6 | 72 | 12 | 46 | | 42 | 41 | 136 | 53 | 115 | 169 | 692 |
| Fieldfare | | | | | | | | 4 | | | 3 | 7 |
| Song Thrush | 1 | 13 | 8 | 19 | | 5 | 12 | 21 | 38 | 18 | 24 | 159 |
| Redwing | | 6 | | 11 | | | 8 | 30 | 7 | 1 | 118 | 181 |
| Mistle Thrush | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 5 | 1 | | 8 |
| Grasshopper Warbler | | 4 | 5 | 1 | | 3 | 4 | | | | | 17 |
| Sedge Warbler | 5 | 25 | 21 | 38 | | 190 | 64 | 37 | 22 | 47 | 20 | 469 |
| Reed Warbler | 30 | 36 | 33 | 33 | | 134 | 83 | 98 | 57 | 75 | 51 | 630 |
| Barred Warbler | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | | | | 3 |
| Lesser Whitethroat | 3 | 17 | 15 | 14 | | 69 | 33 | 29 | 9 | 20 | 22 | 231 |
| Whitethroat | 6 | 10 | 12 | 33 | | 168 | 64 | 45 | 21 | 52 | 36 | 447 |
| Garden Warbler | | 2 | 1 | 5 | | 19 | 9 | 3 | 5 | | 2 | 46 |
| Blackcap | | 9 | 20 | 20 | | 74 | 29 | 62 | 55 | 97 | 61 | 427 |
| Chiffchaff | | 1 | 2 | 6 | | 15 | 13 | 11 | 16 | 19 | 9 | 92 |

Table 2: Annual Totals 1990-2000.

ANNUAL TOTALS SNETTISHAM COASTAL PARK 1990-2000.

| Species | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | Total |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Willow Warbler | 3 | 11 | 10 | 27 | | 119 | 59 | 74 | 23 | 56 | 19 | 401 |
| Goldcrest | | 1 | | 7 | | 3 | 2 | 16 | 4 | 7 | 20 | 60 |
| Pied Flycatcher | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Spotted Flycatcher | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Long-tailed Tit | | 13 | 3 | 21 | | 44 | 24 | 48 | 26 | 23 | 36 | 238 |
| Marsh Tit | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Coal Tit | | | | 2 | | | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| Blue Tit | | 39 | 23 | 63 | | 70 | 72 | 53 | 36 | 57 | 48 | 461 |
| Great Tit | | 10 | 8 | 35 | | 27 | 24 | 17 | 20 | 31 | 15 | 187 |
| Nuthatch | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Treecreeper | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | 2 |
| Magpie | | 5 | | | | | | | 2 | | | 7 |
| Starling | | 14 | 31 | 8 | | 6 | 6 | 5 | 29 | 7 | | 106 |
| House Sparrow | | | | | | 18 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 29 |
| Chaffinch | | 5 | 3 | 13 | | 14 | 15 | 34 | 45 | 36 | 32 | 197 |
| Brambling | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Greenfinch | | 8 | 11 | 18 | | 22 | 29 | 40 | 29 | 24 | 47 | 228 |
| Goldfinch | | | 10 | 19 | | 23 | 19 | 22 | 42 | 31 | 82 | 248 |
| Linnet | 21 | 16 | 20 | 27 | | 38 | 60 | 40 | 19 | 39 | 6 | 286 |
| Redpoll | | 5 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | 3 | 16 |
| Bullfinch | | 2 | 7 | 7 | | 8 | 11 | 9 | 4 | 11 | 39 | 98 |
| Snow Bunting | | 31 | | | | | | | | | | 31 |
| Hawfinch | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Yellowhammer | | 4 | 5 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| Reed Bunting | | 14 | 14 | 12 | | 12 | 5 | 18 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 86 |
| Corn Bunting | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Total | 127 | 441 | 442 | 1057 | 66 | 1347 | 1084 | 1171 | 947 | 1179 | 1403 | 9264 |
| No. Species | 15 | 36 | 37 | 37 | 4 | 39 | 48 | 43 | 38 | 41 | 42 | 76 |

Table 2: Continued.

SITE REPORTS FOR 2000.

SECTION 2.

WILLOW CARR, RIVER BURN, BURNHAM MARKET.

Site Code WCB Habitat Code C7 F3 Reed swamp and willow carr

This is the third year that we were able to operate at this site. Situated in the same kilometre square a few hundred metres from the Osier Carr which the Group previously used as a ringing site. The habitat is reed swamp with developing willow carr. It is surrounded on two sides by mature trees, the third by grazing meadows and on the fourth by the River Burn. It's sheltered location enables ringing to take place whatever the wind except when it is from the east.

Following the extremely successful season of 1999 we decided to adopt a similar approach for the year 2000. Intensive ringing on a virtual daily basis again commenced in July but ended in November instead of in October.

Ringing started on the 18th July and ended on 29th November. A total of 77 days was achieved here at this productive site during 2000.

| Month | No Ringing Days |
|--------------|------------------------|
| July | 8 |
| August | 19 |
| September | 20 |
| October | 17 |
| November | 13 |

Year totals whilst similar to 1999 differed in the numbers that were captured of some species. Blackcap totals of 567 were over 300 down on the previous year, Garden Warbler numbers were higher and the totals of Reed and Sedge Warblers were similar to 1999. Willow Warbler numbers were down but Chiffchaff numbers increased. However increased numbers of both Redwing and Blackbird were due mainly to extending the ringing season into November. Winter thrush migration occurred in both October and November and we were able to take full advantage of it.

MONTHLY CAPTURE CALENDAR WILLOW CARR 2000.

| Species | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Water Rail | | | | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Snipe | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Great Spot Woodpecker | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| House Martin | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Wren | 40 | 47 | 35 | 32 | 13 | 167 |
| Dunnock | 11 | 7 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 34 |
| Robin | 15 | 16 | 15 | 8 | 17 | 71 |
| Redstart | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 |
| Blackbird | 7 | 12 | 6 | 41 | 147 | 213 |
| Fieldfare | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Song Thrush | 8 | 9 | 14 | 15 | 9 | 55 |
| Redwing | | | | 87 | 121 | 208 |
| Grasshopper Warbler | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Sedge Warbler | 37 | 75 | 9 | | | 121 |
| Reed Warbler | 54 | 101 | 54 | 5 | | 214 |
| Lesser Whitethroat | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Whitethroat | 10 | 8 | 2 | | | 20 |
| Garden Warbler | 1 | 29 | 12 | | | 42 |
| Blackcap | 75 | 93 | 302 | 94 | 3 | 567 |
| Chiffchaff | 34 | 55 | 62 | 9 | 3 | 163 |
| Willow Warbler | 16 | 18 | 5 | 0 | | 39 |
| Goldcrest | 3 | 2 | 15 | 38 | 8 | 66 |
| Spotted Flycatcher | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Pied Flycatcher | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Long-tailed Tit | 20 | 11 | 3 | 70 | 11 | 115 |
| Willow Tit | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Coal Tit | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Blue Tit | 14 | 12 | 9 | 14 | 8 | 57 |
| Great Tit | 10 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 2 | 35 |
| Treecreeper | 3 | 4 | | 2 | | 9 |
| Starling | | | | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| Tree Sparrow | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Chaffinch | 17 | 22 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 55 |
| Goldfinch | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Redpoll | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Bullfinch | 4 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 16 |
| Reed Bunting | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 4 | 8 |
| Total | 381 | 538 | 579 | 448 | 365 | 2311 |

Table 3: Monthly Capture Calendar Willow Carr 2000.

WILLOW CARR ANNUAL TOTALS 1998-2000.

| Species | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Sparrowhawk | | 2 | | 2 |
| Water Rail | 1 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| Snipe | | | 1 | 1 |
| Tawny Owl | 2 | | | 2 |
| Kingfisher | | 2 | | 2 |
| Great Spot Woodpecker | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Swallow | | 1 | | 1 |
| House Martin | | | 1 | 1 |
| Wren | 18 | 142 | 167 | 327 |
| Dunnock | 59 | 50 | 34 | 143 |
| Robin | 45 | 76 | 71 | 192 |
| Redstart | | | 2 | 2 |
| Wheatear | | 1 | | 1 |
| Blackbird | 34 | 120 | 213 | 367 |
| Fieldfare | | | 2 | 2 |
| Song Thrush | 15 | 50 | 55 | 120 |
| Redwing | 7 | 97 | 208 | 312 |
| Cettis Warbler | | 2 | | 2 |
| Grasshopper Warbler | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Sedge Warbler | 45 | 128 | 121 | 294 |
| Reed Warbler | 130 | 224 | 214 | 568 |
| Barred Warbler | | 3 | | 3 |
| Lesser Whitethroat | | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Whitethroat | 13 | 21 | 20 | 54 |
| Garden Warbler | 14 | 23 | 42 | 79 |
| Blackcap | 336 | 896 | 567 | 1799 |
| Chiffchaff | 106 | 127 | 163 | 396 |
| Willow Warbler | 34 | 45 | 39 | 118 |
| Goldcrest | 5 | 27 | 66 | 98 |
| Spotted Flycatcher | | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Pied Flycatcher | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Long-tailed Tit | 47 | 82 | 115 | 244 |
| Marsh Tit | | 1 | | 1 |
| Willow Tit | | | 1 | 1 |
| Coal Tit | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Blue Tit | NR | 50 | 57 | 107 |
| Great Tit | NR | 38 | 35 | 73 |
| Treecreeper | 5 | 5 | 9 | 19 |
| Starling | | 1 | 14 | 15 |
| Tree Sparrow | | | 1 | 1 |
| Chaffinch | 44 | 49 | 55 | 148 |
| Brambling | 3 | 1 | | 4 |
| Greenfinch | 1 | | | 1 |
| Goldfinch | | | 1 | 1 |
| Siskin | | 4 | | 4 |
| Redpoll | | | 1 | 1 |
| Bullfinch | 23 | 23 | 16 | 62 |
| Reed Bunting | 3 | 1 | 8 | 12 |
| Totals | 995 | 2307 | 2311 | 5613 |

Table 4: Annual Totals 1998-2000.

MONTHLY CAPTURE CALENDAR ALL SITES COMBINED.

| Species | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Egyptian Goose | | | | 3 | | 2 | | | | | | | 5 |
| Sparrowhawk | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 |
| Water Rail | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 1 | | 4 |
| Oystercatcher | | | | | 4 | 5 | | | | | | | 9 |
| Avocet | | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | 6 |
| Ringed Plover | | | | | 8 | 32 | 28 | | | | | | 68 |
| Lapwing | | | | | 36 | 4 | | | | | | | 40 |
| Snipe | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Woodcock | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Turnstone | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Black-headed Gull | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Stock Dove | | | | | | 2 | 5 | 6 | | | | | 13 |
| Woodpigeon | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | 6 |
| Collared Dove | 2 | | 1 | | | | | 2 | | | | 1 | 6 |
| Barn Owl | | | | | | 18 | 27 | 8 | | | | | 53 |
| Kingfisher | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Green Woodpecker | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 5 |
| Skylark | 1 | | | 1 | 12 | 14 | 2 | | | | | | 30 |
| Swallow | | | | | | 36 | 10 | 172 | 1 | | | | 219 |
| House Martin | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Meadow Pipit | | | 6 | 19 | 8 | | | | | | | | 33 |
| Pied Wagtail | | | 43 | | 5 | | 5 | 1 | | | | 16 | 70 |
| Wren | | | | 2 | 1 | | 55 | 51 | 48 | 47 | 20 | 1 | 225 |
| Dunnock | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | 1 | 26 | 11 | 31 | 21 | 6 | 3 | 108 |
| Robin | | | 1 | 3 | | 5 | 26 | 18 | 28 | 12 | 31 | 6 | 130 |
| Redstart | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Whinchat | | | | 7 | 5 | | | | | | | | 12 |
| Stonechat | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| Wheatear | | | 16 | 127 | 17 | | | | | | | | 160 |
| Blackbird | 20 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 2 | | 19 | 14 | 23 | 66 | 284 | 21 | 461 |
| Fieldfare | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Song Thrush | | | | 1 | | | 10 | 10 | 20 | 27 | 15 | 1 | 84 |
| Redwing | | | | | | | | | | 92 | 234 | 1 | 327 |
| Mistle Thrush | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | 3 |
| Grasshopper Warbler | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Sedge Warbler | | | | 3 | 2 | | 49 | 78 | 12 | | | | 144 |
| Reed Warbler | | | | | | | 83 | 109 | 70 | 5 | | | 267 |
| Lesser Whitethroat | | | | | 2 | | 7 | 10 | 5 | | | | 24 |
| Whitethroat | | | | | 1 | 1 | 21 | 15 | 19 | | | | 57 |
| Garden Warbler | | | | | | | 1 | 30 | 12 | 1 | | | 44 |
| Blackcap | | | | 8 | | 1 | 102 | 100 | 339 | 103 | 4 | | 657 |
| Chiffchaff | | | | 3 | | | 46 | 56 | 66 | 10 | 3 | | 184 |
| Willow Warbler | | | | | | | 36 | 18 | 5 | | | | 59 |
| Goldcrest | | 1 | | | | | 4 | 2 | 21 | 46 | 18 | | 92 |
| Spotted Flycatcher | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Pied Flycatcher | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Long-tailed Tit | 2 | | 1 | 4 | | | 35 | 11 | 10 | 76 | 30 | | 169 |

MONTHLY CAPTURE CALENDAR ALL SITES COMBINED

| Species | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Willow Tit | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Coal Tit | | | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Blue Tit | 5 | 3 | 7 | | 6 | 1 | 37 | 14 | 29 | 29 | 32 | 17 | 180 |
| Great Tit | 1 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 38 | 10 | 20 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 116 |
| Nuthatch | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Treecreeper | | | | | | | 3 | 4 | | 2 | | | 9 |
| Magpie | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Jackdaw | | | | | | 5 | | | | | | | 5 |
| Crow (Carrion/Hooded) | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Starling | 155 | 146 | 26 | | 6 | | 4 | 3 | | 9 | 5 | 104 | 458 |
| House Sparrow | 5 | | | | 13 | 2 | 17 | | | 6 | 2 | 1 | 46 |
| Tree Sparrow | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Chaffinch | 4 | 1 | 2 | 30 | 5 | | 41 | 32 | 21 | 26 | 12 | 2 | 176 |
| Greenfinch | 2 | | 9 | 45 | 3 | 1 | 15 | 22 | 37 | 40 | 22 | | 196 |
| Goldfinch | | | | 2 | 1 | | 4 | | 62 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 89 |
| Linnet | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 4 | | | 78 | 84 |
| Redpoll | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | 4 |
| Bullfinch | | | | 3 | 1 | | 9 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 28 | 1 | 60 |
| Hawfinch | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Snow Bunting | 45 | | | | | | | | | | | | 45 |
| Yellowhammer | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Reed Bunting | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | | 11 |
| Monthly Totals | 245 | 159 | 139 | 273 | 142 | 142 | 768 | 821 | 897 | 664 | 773 | 267 | 5290 |

ANNUAL TOTALS 1990-2000 All sites combined.

| Species | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | Total |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Fulmar | | 21 | 28 | 17 | 23 | 21 | 7 | 7 | | | | 124 |
| Manx Shearwater | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Mute Swan | 14 | 62 | 90 | 66 | 9 | 2 | | | | | | 243 |
| Egyptian Goose | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 6 |
| Shelduck | 6 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | 9 |
| Mallard | 2 | 8 | | 7 | 7 | | | | | | | 24 |
| Marsh Harrier | 31 | 16 | 38 | 37 | 14 | 27 | | 3 | | | | 166 |
| Sparrowhawk | 2 | 4 | | 3 | 3 | | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 28 |
| Kestrel | 11 | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 6 | | | 40 |
| Red-legged Partridge | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Grey Partridge | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Water Rail | | | | | | | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 15 |
| Moorhen | 4 | 2 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | 8 |
| Coot | | 6 | | 3 | | | | | | | | 9 |
| Oystercatcher | 2 | 6 | 1 | 12 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 9 | 37 |
| Avocet | 24 | 9 | | 24 | 2 | | | 2 | 13 | 27 | 6 | 107 |
| Ringed Plover | 15 | 4 | | 53 | 183 | 46 | 128 | 146 | 109 | 141 | 68 | 893 |
| Lapwing | 35 | 36 | 33 | 16 | 14 | 11 | 2 | 11 | 31 | 47 | 40 | 276 |
| Sanderling | | | | | | | 61 | | 25 | | | 86 |
| Dunlin | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Snipe | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Woodcock | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 5 |
| Redshank | 4 | | | 6 | 4 | 2 | | 1 | | | | 17 |
| Common Sandpiper | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Turnstone | | | | | 5 | 6 | 22 | | 4 | 8 | 1 | 46 |
| Black-headed Gull | 10 | 37 | | | | | 26 | 13 | 1 | | 2 | 89 |
| Common Gull | | 11 | | 1 | | | 9 | 1 | | | | 22 |
| Common Tern | 7 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | 11 |
| Little Tern | 10 | 4 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 15 |
| Puffin | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Stock Dove | 13 | 7 | 10 | 2 | | 1 | 3 | 11 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 74 |
| Woodpigeon | 4 | 7 | | | 6 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 48 |
| Collared Dove | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 13 | 6 | 6 | 27 |
| Turtle Dove | | | 1 | | 1 | | 4 | 3 | 7 | 1 | | 17 |
| Cuckoo | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 |
| Barn Owl | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 24 | 29 | 34 | 53 | 164 |
| Little Owl | 1 | | | | | | | 4 | | | | 5 |
| Tawny Owl | | | | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | 2 | | 11 |
| Long-eared Owl | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Short-eared Owl | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Swift | 1 | 5 | | 2 | | | | | | | | 8 |
| Kingfisher | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| Wryneck | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Green Woodpecker | | | | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 23 |
| Great Spot Woodpecker | 2 | 3 | | 2 | 2 | | | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 26 |
| Skylark | 13 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 24 | 8 | 5 | 70 | 126 | 36 | 30 | 322 |
| Shorelark | | | | | | | | | 44 | 8 | | 52 |
| Sand Martin | 2 | 142 | 218 | 55 | 76 | | 1 | 4 | | | | 498 |
| Swallow | 64 | 50 | 138 | 113 | 671 | 143 | 208 | 299 | 115 | 90 | 219 | 2110 |

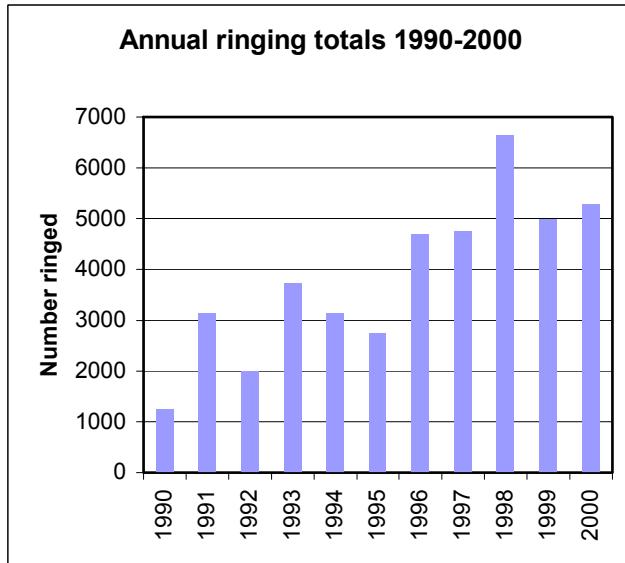
ANNUAL TOTALS 1990-2000 All sites combined.

| Species | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | Total |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| House Martin | 1 | 40 | 91 | 460 | 2 | 50 | 41 | 6 | | | 1 | 692 |
| Tree Pipit | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 4 |
| Meadow Pipit | 47 | 9 | 17 | | 33 | 5 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 7 | 33 | 206 |
| Yellow Wagtail | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | 3 |
| Grey Wagtail | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Pied Wagtail | 3 | | 5 | 11 | 44 | 146 | 178 | 104 | 20 | 1 | 70 | 582 |
| Waxwing | | 1 | | | | | 13 | | | | | 14 |
| Dipper | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 |
| Wren | 25 | 39 | 36 | 109 | 92 | 73 | 91 | 84 | 118 | 219 | 225 | 1111 |
| Dunnock | 41 | 109 | 109 | 196 | 125 | 139 | 170 | 150 | 352 | 169 | 108 | 1668 |
| Robin | 74 | 60 | 49 | 162 | 81 | 60 | 122 | 127 | 399 | 141 | 130 | 1405 |
| Bluethroat | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Nightingale | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | | 4 |
| Black Redstart | 1 | | 1 | | | | 6 | 2 | | | | 10 |
| Redstart | | 2 | 4 | 19 | 17 | 11 | 20 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 92 |
| Whinchat | 1 | 7 | 2 | | 7 | | 17 | 9 | 16 | 14 | 12 | 85 |
| Stonechat | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | 7 | | 7 | 6 | 4 | 28 |
| Wheatear | 30 | 23 | 27 | 2 | 65 | 6 | 199 | 175 | 180 | 210 | 160 | 1077 |
| Ring Ouzel | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | 4 |
| Blackbird | 112 | 346 | 88 | 234 | 138 | 60 | 337 | 383 | 416 | 344 | 461 | 2919 |
| Fieldfare | 2 | 13 | | 9 | 19 | 8 | 156 | 20 | 13 | 1 | 6 | 247 |
| Song Thrush | 32 | 75 | 24 | 107 | 30 | 14 | 55 | 56 | 86 | 76 | 84 | 639 |
| Redwing | 9 | 20 | | 49 | 7 | 1 | 34 | 80 | 28 | 99 | 327 | 654 |
| Mistle Thrush | 2 | 15 | | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 43 |
| Cettis Warbler | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 3 |
| Grasshopper Warbler | | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | | 3 | 2 | 1 | 27 |
| Sedge Warbler | 6 | 63 | 34 | 45 | 75 | 194 | 106 | 93 | 88 | 176 | 144 | 1024 |
| Reed Warbler | 32 | 46 | 44 | 45 | 217 | 134 | 114 | 187 | 235 | 303 | 267 | 1624 |
| Icterine Warbler | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Barred Warbler | | 1 | | | 4 | 2 | 1 | | | 3 | | 11 |
| Lesser Whitethroat | 8 | 32 | 18 | 46 | 17 | 72 | 51 | 49 | 13 | 24 | 24 | 354 |
| Whitethroat | 6 | 17 | 15 | 47 | 25 | 179 | 78 | 67 | 58 | 74 | 57 | 623 |
| Garden Warbler | 2 | 17 | 8 | 36 | 59 | 20 | 38 | 16 | 32 | 23 | 44 | 295 |
| Blackcap | 16 | 31 | 128 | 134 | 75 | 119 | 137 | 154 | 495 | 1010 | 657 | 2956 |
| Yellow-browed Warbler | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 |
| Wood Warbler | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 3 |
| Chiffchaff | 4 | 7 | 14 | 26 | 21 | 37 | 65 | 67 | 188 | 155 | 184 | 768 |
| Willow Warbler | 8 | 22 | 25 | 84 | 45 | 125 | 148 | 157 | 120 | 102 | 59 | 895 |
| Goldcrest | 144 | 13 | 6 | 104 | 44 | 11 | 44 | 86 | 245 | 51 | 92 | 840 |
| Firecrest | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | 7 |
| Spotted Flycatcher | 2 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 52 |
| Pied Flycatcher | | 2 | 1 | 5 | 13 | | 3 | 7 | 10 | | 1 | 42 |
| Bearded Tit | | 2 | | | 2 | | | | | | | 4 |
| Long-tailed Tit | 57 | 63 | 25 | 167 | 45 | 81 | 67 | 91 | 147 | 121 | 169 | 1033 |
| Marsh Tit | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | | 4 | | 19 |
| Willow Tit | 4 | 2 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 9 |
| Coal Tit | 5 | 15 | 3 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 15 | 12 | 41 | 7 | 5 | 126 |
| Blue Tit | 54 | 287 | 149 | 233 | 208 | 130 | 193 | 342 | 309 | 185 | 180 | 2270 |
| Great Tit | 17 | 72 | 36 | 92 | 56 | 62 | 83 | 141 | 158 | 131 | 116 | 964 |

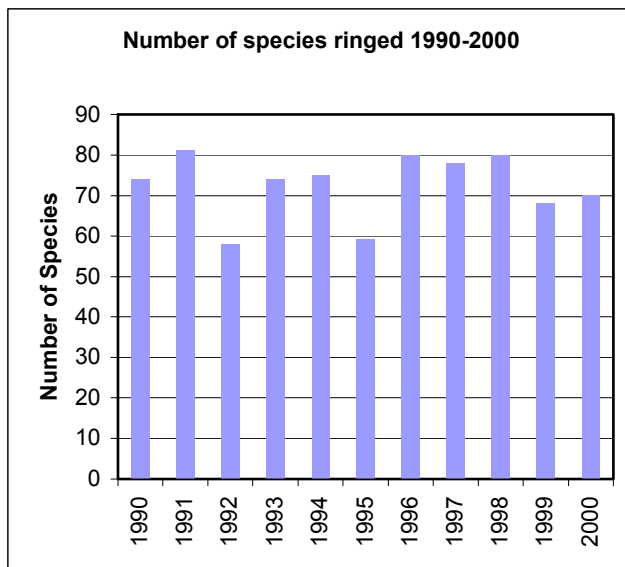
ANNUAL TOTALS 1990-2000 All sites combined.

| Species | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Nuthatch | | 1 | | | 1 | | | 6 | | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| Treecreeper | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 42 |
| Isabelline Shrike | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Red-backed Shrike | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Jay | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | 4 |
| Magpie | 2 | 8 | 2 | 1 | | | | 6 | 2 | | 1 | 22 |
| Jackdaw | 3 | | | | | | | | 11 | 5 | 5 | 24 |
| Crow (Carrion/Hooded) | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Starling | 93 | 151 | 161 | 35 | 186 | 39 | 760 | 257 | 434 | 146 | 458 | 2720 |
| House Sparrow | 1 | | 1 | | 3 | 20 | 21 | 42 | 35 | 25 | 46 | 194 |
| Tree Sparrow | 3 | 9 | | | | 6 | 36 | 21 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 99 |
| Chaffinch | 22 | 157 | 60 | 307 | 98 | 140 | 258 | 243 | 273 | 138 | 176 | 1872 |
| Brambling | | 32 | | 5 | 3 | | 22 | 3 | 13 | 1 | | 79 |
| Greenfinch | 21 | 620 | 104 | 54 | 51 | 93 | 160 | 337 | 349 | 72 | 196 | 2057 |
| Goldfinch | 2 | 7 | 14 | 36 | 1 | 25 | 51 | 58 | 118 | 36 | 89 | 437 |
| Siskin | | | | 1 | 1 | | 4 | | 541 | 6 | | 553 |
| Linnet | 22 | 26 | 20 | 35 | | 49 | 61 | 43 | 38 | 58 | 84 | 436 |
| Twite | | | | 4 | 45 | 3 | | | | | | 52 |
| Redpoll | | 5 | 6 | 6 | | | 1 | 1 | 5 | | 4 | 28 |
| Crossbill | 1 | | | | | | | 7 | 17 | | | 25 |
| Scarlet Rosefinch | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Bullfinch | 15 | 12 | 10 | 31 | 1 | 12 | 18 | 21 | 40 | 38 | 60 | 258 |
| Hawfinch | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Lapland Bunting | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Snow Bunting | | 146 | 57 | 293 | 48 | 253 | 95 | 258 | 305 | 338 | 45 | 1838 |
| Yellowhammer | 14 | 14 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 32 | 33 | 71 | 49 | 11 | 1 | 264 |
| Reed Bunting | 4 | 21 | 15 | 25 | 23 | 23 | 19 | 23 | 15 | 9 | 11 | 188 |
| Corn Bunting | | | 1 | | | | | | 5 | | | 6 |
| Total | 1238 | 3134 | 2002 | 3736 | 3128 | 2738 | 4684 | 4747 | 6649 | 4996 | 5290 | 42342 |
| No. Species | 74 | 81 | 58 | 74 | 75 | 59 | 80 | 78 | 80 | 68 | 70 | 126 |

GRAPHS: ANNUAL TOTALS AND NUMBER OF SPECIES RINGED 1990-2000.

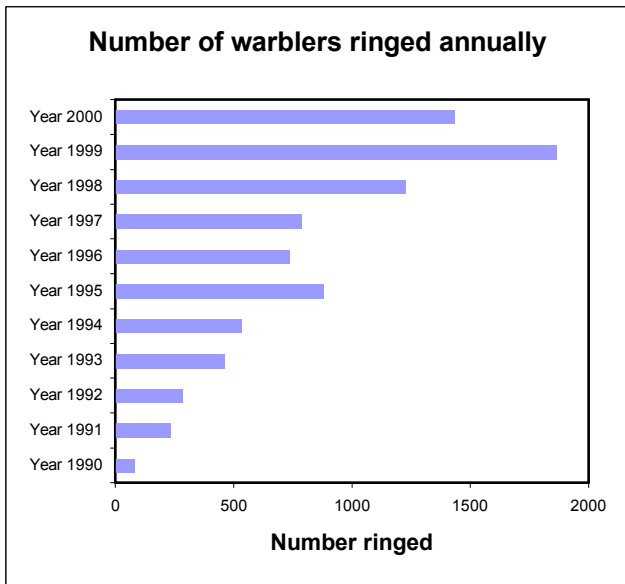


Graph 1: Annual Totals 1990-2000



Graph 2: Number of Species ringed 1990-2000

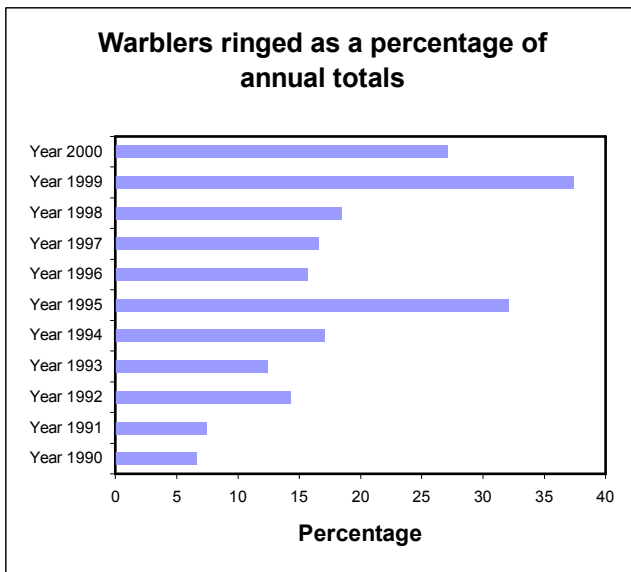
GRAPHS: NUMBERS OF WARBLERS RINGED ANNUALLY 1990-2000.



Graph 3: Shows the combined annual totals of eight common warbler species

- Sedge Warbler
- Reed Warbler
- Lesser Whitethroat
- Whitethroat
- Garden Warbler
- Blackcap
- Chiffchaff
- Willow Warbler

Graph 3: Combined numbers ringed of eight common warbler species



Graph 4: Shows the combined totals of eight common warbler species expressed as a percentage of year totals (all species).

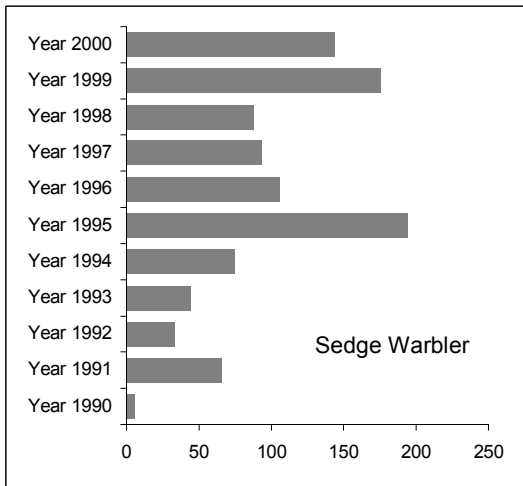
- Sedge Warbler
- Reed Warbler
- Lesser Whitethroat
- Whitethroat
- Garden Warbler
- Blackcap
- Chiffchaff
- Willow Warbler

Graph 4: Warbler totals as a percentage of annual totals.

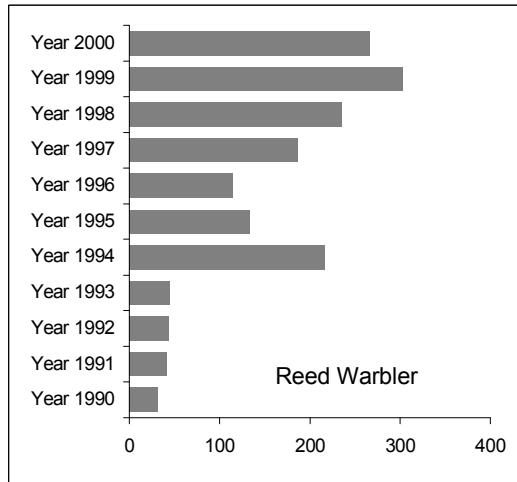
GRAPHS: ANNUAL TOTALS OF EIGHT WARBLER SPECIES 1990-2000.

The series of graphs depicted in this section of the report show the annual totals of eight commonly caught warblers. The reader should exercise caution in attempting any interpretation, as they do not necessarily reflect 'good' or 'bad' years. Annual variations in the numbers caught of the eight species may for example, be explained by differences in trapping effort which may in turn be weather related.

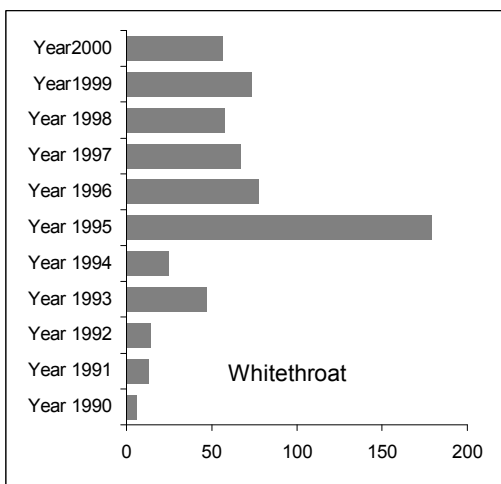
The graphs certainly show that 1995 was a superb year in terms of numbers and these totals were gained mainly at Snettisham Coastal Park where we were able to take advantage of the weather, in a year which was uncharacteristically kind to us, and when a team was available to exploit it.



Sedge Warbler 1990-2000



Reed Warbler 1990-2000



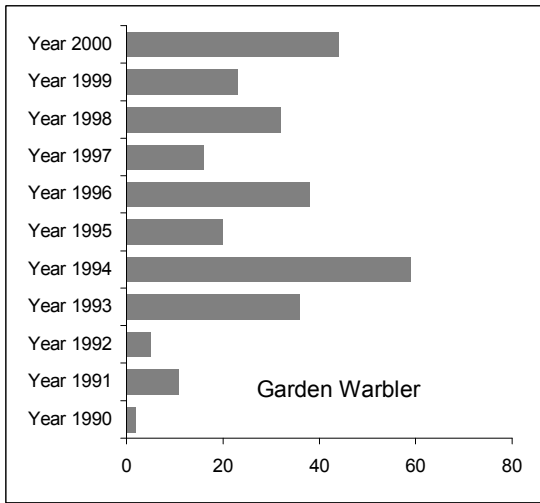
Whitethroat 1990-2000



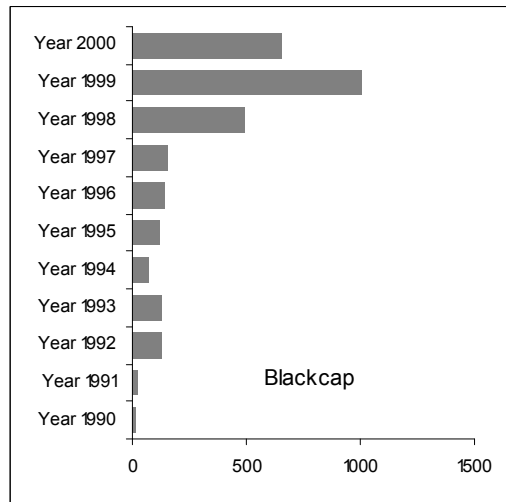
Lesser Whitethroat 1990-2000

GRAPHS: ANNUAL TOTALS OF EIGHT WARBLER SPECIES 1990-2000.

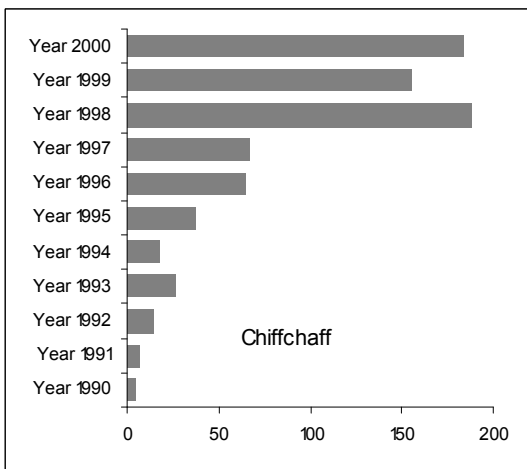
The reader will have noticed that overall numbers ringed of the eight warbler species have increased markedly during the years 1998-2000. This can partly be explained by the Group beginning ringing operations at the new site at the Willow Carr, River Burn. Fluctuations in ringing effort due to adverse weather are much less marked here and a more or less constant effort of daily trapping can be maintained. This does not mean that the site is run as a constant effort site (CES), because although we operate a standardised net pattern, operations cease as soon as catching does and hence the number of hours of operation is not standardised. Most of the catch is made during the first two or three net rounds after which there is a marked decline in numbers caught.



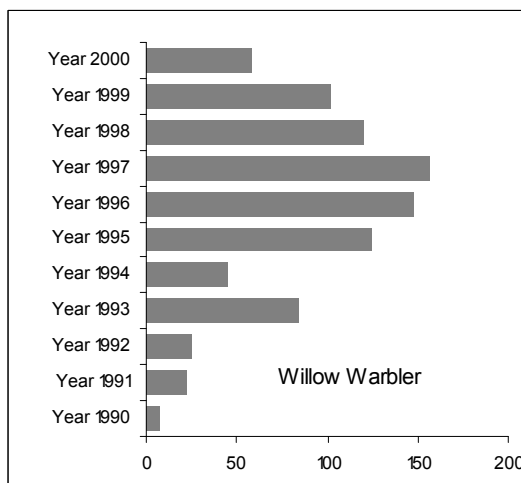
Garden Warbler 1990-2000



Blackcap 1990-2000



Chiffchaff 1990-2000



Willow Warbler 1990-2000

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

INTRODUCTION.

In addition to our long-term studies of:

- Snow Bunting.
- Wheatear.
- Avocet.
- Ringed Plover.

Which are all colour-ringing studies.

The group continue to monitor some species either by an annual count or by using a nest box scheme including:

- Fulmars at Hunstanton.
- Barn Owl nest box scheme plus natural sites.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

The Fulmar colony at Hunstanton is the largest in Norfolk. In 1994 there were 124 pairs that were breeding. On the 7th June 1994 a total of 431 birds were counted sitting on the cliff and 30 more were swimming offshore. 107 chicks were expected to fledge that year.

The number of chicks expected to fledge has decreased almost annually since then. Reasons are for this decline at present unclear.

Annual counts of chicks:

1995 = 67
1996 = 79
1997 = 62
1998 = 51
1999 = 45

However in 2000 the number of chicks expected to fledge were 78 – an improvement on the preceding three years. Since 1994 the cliff face at Hunstanton has suffered extensive rock falls and erosion, which has removed many of the lower nesting ledges. Most birds are consequently nesting on the higher ledges, which cannot be reached by ladder.

Climbing is not an option due to the extremely unstable nature of the cliff face, which might result in debris being dislodged with disastrous consequences for any chicks. During the last three years no Fulmars have been ringed by the group. We continue to monitor this colony, counting the number of pairs and chicks on an annual basis.

BARN OWL. *Tyto alba*

The group monitor a number of nest boxes and natural sites throughout Norfolk. In 2000 we found 15 occupied sites, 14 of which were in boxes with 1 a natural tree hole nest. A total of 53 birds were ringed last year, 3 of these were adults and the rest pullus.

During 2000 the Group tried out some criteria proposed by Colin Shawyer, which enables sexing of chicks in the nest. This uses the presence or absence of spotting on the under wing and is not previously described. Young males have no spotting and young females do. It remains to be seen whether the criteria will be reliable. But if proved to be so it will be invaluable to ringers.

SNOW BUNTING. *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

Our long-term colour ringing study begun in 1990 has specific **Scientific objectives**.

1. To determine the age, sex and racial composition of the flocks wintering in Norfolk both within and between winters

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

2. To compare the results of this study with that of others notably Banks et al (1989, 1990), Smith, R.D (1992). and Smith et al (1993), Jukema J. and Fokemma, J.(1992), and Findley, P. (1991-1994).
3. To colour ring all Snow Buntings captured to generate sightings and recoveries.
4. Use these sightings and recoveries to obtain a picture of between site movements in a particular winter and also between winters. To investigate other patterns of movement of our colour marked population within Britain.
5. To validate ageing and sexing criteria proposed by Banks et al (1990) and Smith (1992), of Snow Buntings in winter plumage.
6. Use techniques proposed by Banks et al (1990) to racially assign Snow Buntings in winter plumage.
7. To compare the racing techniques proposed by Banks et al (1990) with an alternative technique described by Jukema and Fokkema (1992), which utilises a more comprehensive system of feather tract scoring.
8. To evaluate which of the scoring systems is most reliable. And if found to rank equal in reliability, to be able to recommend that of the two scoring methods, the first which simply estimates the amount of dark on primary 9 (or the second innermost) as a percentage score of the visible portion of the feather is the simplest to apply.
9. To catch Snow Buntings in winter in Norfolk and using the techniques outlined above age, sex and racially assign all those captured.
10. To publish papers in the relevant journals of the results.

2000 Fieldwork

During 2000 only 45 new birds were captured. Due in part to an extremely successful period of trapping in late 1999, consequently there were very few un-ringed birds in early 2000. However one bird re-trapped in January sets a new longevity record for this species of 5 years 80 days, which previously stood at 4 years.

VP19652 SNOBU N 09/01/1995 5 F SAL
R 23/01/2000 6 F SAL 1840 days 5y, 80d

First trapped in January 1995, we had not seen this bird until it was subsequently re-trapped in January 2000. We do not know where it had been during the intervening time, unlike many of the Snow Buntings captured by the Group, for which we have extensive re-trap data and comprehensive individual life histories. Some of these histories have provided fascinating details of an individual bird and its movements both within and between winters.

The hoped for numbers in November and December of 2000 did not materialise – there were very few present all winter. The winter of late 2000 was extremely mild. After 50 being present in November numbers at Salthouse quickly dropped to less than twenty and struggled to reach double figures for the remainder of the winter. Ringers in the north-east who often caught our birds at their site in Cleveland were also commenting on a similar lack of birds. We do not know whether this was due to the mild winter or other factors such as a poor breeding season.

One small flock of 12 observed at Heacham throughout December 2000 and January 2001 consisted of at least 5 colour-ringed individuals. The combinations showed that 5 years and 49 days had elapsed since VP19772 was first captured. This also exceeds the previous longevity record.

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|---|------------|---|---|---------|-----------|---------|
| VP19772 | SNOBU | N | 19/01/1996 | 5 | F | Heacham | | |
| | | R | 17/02/1996 | 5 | F | Heacham | 29 days | 0y, 29d |
| | | R | 31/01/1997 | 6 | F | Holkham | 378 days | 1y, 26d |
| | | S | 31/12/1997 | 6 | F | Heacham | 712 days | 2y, 8d |
| | | S | 20/02/1998 | 6 | F | Heacham | 763 days | 2y, 59d |
| | | S | 28/11/1999 | 6 | F | Heacham | 1409 days | 4y, 1d |
| | | S | 01/01/2001 | 6 | F | Heacham | 1809 days | 5y, 49d |

Results.

Some of the re-trap data shows some interesting results, with some birds exhibiting a degree of winter site fidelity as does this example shown below, which also exceeds the old longevity record, but only by 37 days!

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|---|------------|---|---|----------------|-----------|----------|
| VN81693 | SNOBU | N | 17/01/1997 | 5 | F | Old Hunstanton | | |
| | | R | 31/01/1997 | 6 | F | Holkham | 14 days | 0y, 14d |
| | | S | 08/12/1997 | 4 | F | Snettisham | 325 days | 0y, 325d |
| | | S | 10/12/1997 | 4 | F | Snettisham | 327 days | 0y, 327d |
| | | S | 31/12/1997 | 4 | F | Heacham | 348 days | 0y, 348d |
| | | R | 06/01/1998 | 6 | F | Heacham | 354 days | 1y, 2d |
| | | S | 01/11/1998 | 6 | F | Heacham | 653 days | 1y, 301d |
| | | R | 07/01/1999 | 6 | F | Heacham | 720 days | 2y, 16d |
| | | S | 28/11/1999 | 6 | F | Heacham | 1045 days | 2y, 341d |
| | | R | 13/12/1999 | 6 | F | Heacham | 1060 days | 3y, 4d |
| | | S | 15/12/2000 | 6 | F | Heacham | 1428 days | 4y, 20d |
| | | S | 01/01/2001 | 6 | F | Heacham | 1445 days | 4y, 37d |

Others are moving from one end of the county to the other as in this example:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|---|------------|---|---|------------|----------|----------|
| VS56437 | SNOBU | N | 23/01/2000 | 5 | F | Salthouse | | |
| | | S | 31/12/2000 | 4 | F | Snettisham | 343 days | 0y, 343d |

Whilst some others make rapid movements around the coast during the same winter.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|---|------------|---|---|-----------|---------|---------|
| VN26655 | SNOBU | N | 09/11/1993 | 3 | F | Salthouse | | |
| | | R | 06/12/1993 | 3 | F | Titchwell | 27 days | 0y, 27d |
| | | R | 17/12/1993 | 3 | F | Holkham | 38 days | 0y, 38d |

Phil Atkinson has analysed most of the data and a paper has almost been finalised, it is hoped that this will soon be completed and submitted for publication.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Wheatears have been the subject of a study by the Group which began in 1990 to investigate:

- The timing of arrival of spring migrants of the Greenland race *O. o. leucorhoa* at the study area on the north-west Norfolk coast.
- The abundance of the Greenland race.
- For many years birds of the Greenland race *leucorhoa* were considered to pass through Norfolk only in small numbers:

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

Results.

Some preliminary results were analysed, written up and published in the 1996 Group report (Middleton 1996). However this highlighted a difficulty in being able to conclusively separate the two races due to an overlap in the range of wing lengths for both males and females. In 2000 we were able to get the data analysed by a cluster analysis function using a main frame computer. It is hoped to be able to proceed further with racial separation by this method although early indications are that complete separation of the two races by this means will never be 100%.

The data is at an advanced stage of analysis and it is hoped to conclude this during 2001. The process of writing up these results will then begin with the aim of submitting a paper for publication.

- There is a suggestion from colour-ringing studies being carried out on the German Island of Helgoland that the Greenland race *leucorhoa* have a different stopover strategy to that of the nominate *oenanthe* (V. Dierschke pers comm).
- Wheatears of the nominate race *oenanthe* quickly resume their onward migration.
- The Greenland race *leucorhoa* stay at the stopover site longer, sometimes for several days or more.

In order to test this hypothesis a new study was begun to ascertain whether this also applies to spring passage migrants in north-west Norfolk, the study would run for at least two years:

- A colour-ringing scheme was registered with the BTO.
- Beginning in spring 2000, all Wheatears captured by the Group at the study site were colour-ringed.
- Feather samples were collected so that either DNA analysis or the analysis of stable isotopes could be undertaken. There is a possibility this work would be undertaken by the German Institute fur Vogelforschung, Willhemshaven.

In order to carry out this study effectively it was apparent that some priorities would have to change. Instead of aiming to capture and ring as big a sample as possible between mid March and the first week in June, the main priority would be to obtain re-sightings of colour-ringed birds. In order to do this we decided to reduce the size of the study area and concentrate on the northern end of Snettisham Coastal Park and the adjacent Heacham South Beach area. In any case we knew that this tended to be the most productive area.

More than 50 days were spent in the field trapping new birds, obtaining counts and sightings of ringed birds. Some very interesting results are already apparent – contrary to what was believed, birds of both races stayed for anything up to twelve days. We now think that weather conditions, in particular wind direction and strength may be the key to whether birds of either race move on or stay. However it is not quite this simple as this does not answer the question why some did actually move whereas others stayed. Further work will be required before we can attempt to answer this.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*.

The Group have been studying chick survival at a number of sites on the Norfolk coast, the exact locations are deliberately not given for security reasons.

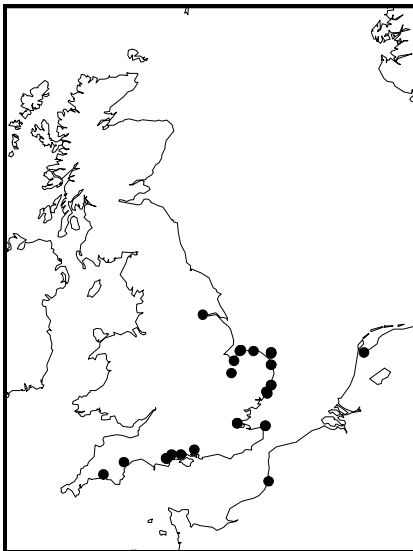
All have been colour ringed with 2 colours on the tibia of one leg and a yellow over metal ring on the tibia of the other leg.

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

Many sightings of our colour-ringed birds have occurred, many of them in the south-west on the Tamar Estuary where many Avocets are known to winter.

Some of these sightings are of the same individual such as this one ringed on 05/08/1991. It was seen again at the following locations in England:

| | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|---------|
| 17/09/91 | Halvergate, | Norfolk | 06/08/94 | Breydon, | Norfolk |
| 31/12/91 | Tamar, | Devon | 05/03/95 | Titchwell, | Norfolk |
| 21/03/92 | Titchwell, | Norfolk | 10/04/96 | Holme, | Norfolk |
| 19/04/92 | Farlington, | Hampshire | 11/03/97 | Titchwell, | Norfolk |
| 01/05/92 | Stanpit, | Dorset | 07/03/98 | Titchwell, | Norfolk |
| 26/06/92 | Sidlesham, | Sussex | 07/03/99 | Titchwell, | Norfolk |
| 31/07/92 | Titchwell, | Norfolk | 14/10/99 | Middlebere, | Dorset |
| 07/08/92 | Minsmere, | Suffolk | 08/05/00 | Titchwell, | Norfolk |



Map of Colour-ring sightings and recoveries of Avocets.

- Group colour-ringed Avocets have been seen at a variety of coastal locations:
- In the south- west, in Devon, Dorset and Hampshire.
- In the south- east in Kent.
- In Suffolk and east Norfolk.
- In France (one).
- The Netherlands (one).

The numbers of Avocets breeding in the county is increasing. Not just at well known Reserves owned by the RSPB and County Trust, some pairs are breeding on private land and in places where they have not been recorded previously. The wet winter and early spring of 2000 resulted in numerous pools on some grazing meadows, and some were adopted last year. Pools do not need to be very large for this to occur. At least 3 pairs occupied such sites in 2000, one pair successfully hatched 3 chicks of which at least 2 fledged. A nearby pool was occupied by two pairs, but only one pair bred, fledging three chicks. All the chicks were colour-ringed and already we have received some sightings. One brood ringed on 24th June were seen as a family party at Cley on the 5th August.

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

Whilst Avocets breed far inland in the central Asian steppes, most Avocets breeding in Britain are at coastal locations and Norfolk generally follows this. However some pairs are breeding at the purpose made scrapes at Welney, and these are the furthest inland. One chick colour-ringed by the Group on 27th June 1998 was seen at Welney on 30th April 1999, where it apparently bred. It would be unusual if it did in fact breed in its 2nd year as most are thought not to breed until two or three years old. Another bird ringed on 15th June 1999 was also seen at Welney 27 km from the place where it was ringed on 6th July 2000.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

A colour-ringing project was begun in 1994 to investigate the effects of human disturbance on the breeding population at Snettisham/Heacham. The study area extends from the RSPB Snettisham Reserve to Heacham South Beach. This area is known to support approximately 65 pairs. Between 1994 and 2000 over 150 adults were captured and individually colour ringed. Additionally, 384 chicks have also been individually colour ringed, 134 were given combinations which matched year of hatching but were not individually identifiable and 84 were only metal ringed for various reasons. This means that about 75% of the population was colour-ringed, either as pulli or as adults. During both 1998 and 1999 much less effort was made to nest trap adults although we continued to ring as many chicks as could be found. In fact 1999 was the best year with a record 141 chicks located and ringed.

At the end of 1999 it became apparent that funding for the hoped for 2nd Phd student would not materialise and the long involvement and association by the University of East Anglia with this project would come to an end. At the same time the RSPB decided that their involvement with the project that they had initiated would also cease as the objectives that were defined at the beginning had been fulfilled.

The effect of reduced effort during the years 1998/99 to nest trap adults was already becoming obvious with an increasing number of un-ringed adults entering the breeding population. It also seemed that to just abandon the project after all the effort that was made during the past six years was a poor option. So the Group decided that we would carry the project forward by joining the BTO Re-trapping Adults for Survival scheme, and start a study on Ringed Plover. After all we already had the basis for a study of this type already in being. Accordingly we registered the project with the BTO and 2000 saw the beginning of a study that would run for at least five years. The aim of the project is to monitor each year, the number of returning adult birds to the site. Additionally at the very least we would attempt to retain a high level of colour-ringed adults and secondly to maintain the high proportion of individually identifiable birds by ringing the pulli each season. We would continue to find and monitor as many nests and record the outcome and submit Nest Record Cards to the BTO.

In this pilot year of our study several visits were made to the whole study area including the RSPB reserve and Heacham South Beach, in order to obtain sightings of colour ringed birds. These visits were made fairly early in the year between April and mid May. Searching for nests and pulli ringing was not carried out in the RSPB reserve or the Sailing Club spit, but observations of adult birds in the breeding season gave an idea of the numbers of adult birds present. However a full intensive survey was carried out between Beach Road Snettisham (Area 7) and Heacham South Beach (Area 3). Within this area 50 nesting attempts were made, with 164 eggs being laid. From these 62 pulli were ringed and of these 50 are estimated to have fledged successfully. Additionally 6 new adult birds were colour ringed and 7 birds were re-trapped.

Of the 50 nests found, we failed to identify either of the breeding adults for 11 nests, and this was due mainly to the nesting attempts failing soon after we found them. With a further 12 nests only 1 adult of the pair was identified. 11 nests had a colour-ringed bird paired with either an un-ringed bird, or a metal ringed bird. Both adults were identified for the remaining 16 nests.

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

Of the 16 nests where both birds were identifiable, 1 pair re-nested three times. 2 pairs re-nested once, and six other birds nested more than once but with different mates, of these six, 2 birds switched mates three times.

Fig 1. Shows the original study site and divisions that were used since 1996. For continuity the same areas have been applied to the RAS project using the same numbering system for the sections. Sections 1, 2, 8, 9 and 10 have not been included as part of the RAS project for 2000.

The distribution of the 50 nests found in the study area is shown below:

Section 3 2 Nests
Section 4a 9 Nests
Section 4b 8 Nests
Section 5 12 Nests
Section 6 14 Nests
Section 7 5 Nests

Areas 5 to 7 are where the highest amount of disturbance is to be found. The high number of nests found in these areas is accounted for by a high number of re-nesting attempts after failure, rather than to them being densely populated areas.

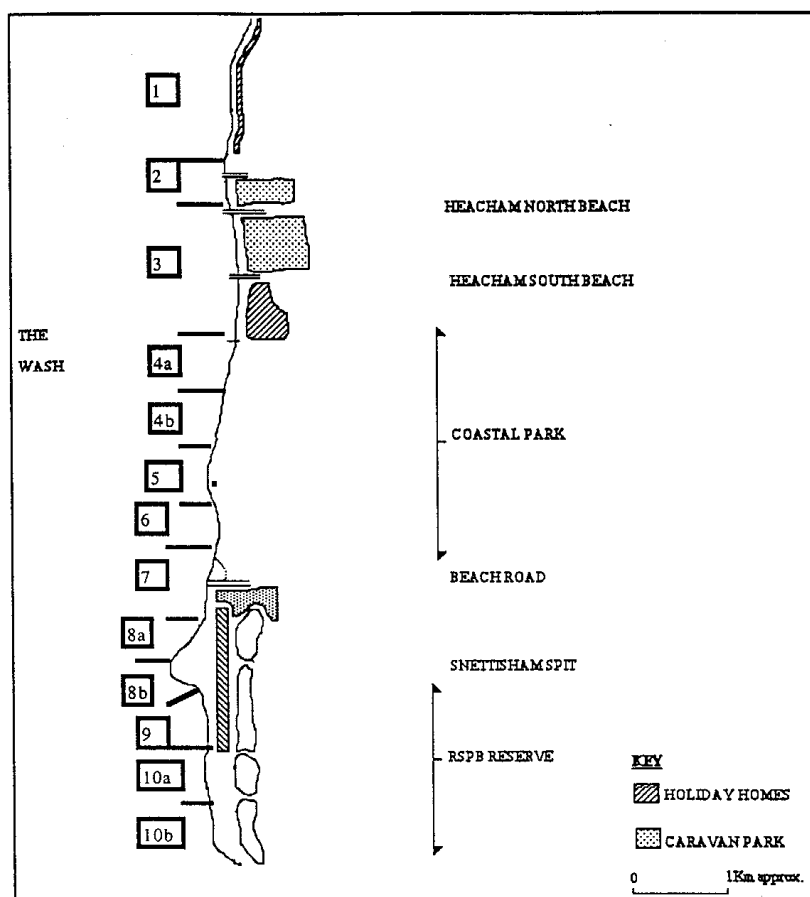


Fig 1: Study site and division into sections.

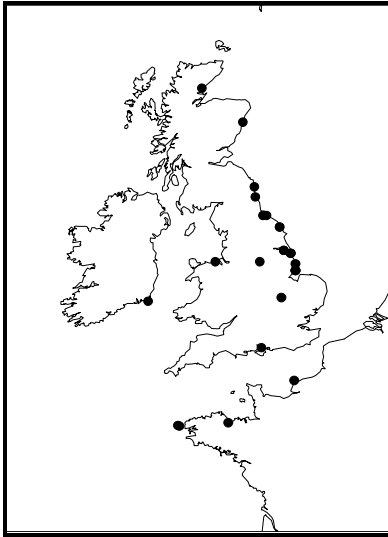
The study this year was very time consuming with a combined total of more than 500 hours spent in the field on 68 different occasions. The time was spent collecting colour combinations, finding and monitoring nests, nest trapping some adults and colour-ringing chicks. We found it straightforward and relatively easy to obtain adult combinations generally, particularly at high tide, getting the combinations of the adults to ensure the pair bonds and to be certain of which bird belonged to which nest was much more difficult.

The Ringed Plover RAS study 2000 has proved an extremely interesting and fulfilling project to work on, hopefully in the future as more data is collected the results will become more valuable.

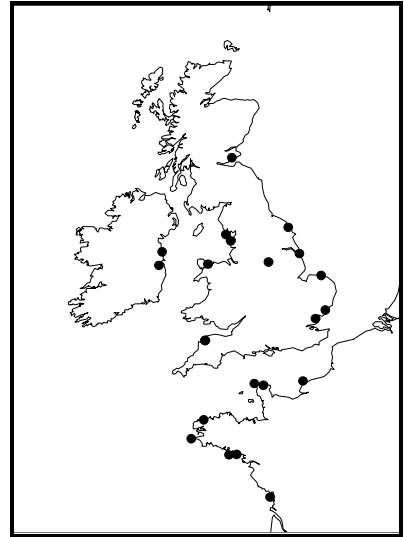
SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

Winter Distribution.

At one time the Wash population of Ringed Plovers were thought to be mainly sedentary. Some results from the recoveries and colour-ring sightings that we have received, has indicated that the breeding population at Snettisham on the east Wash winter in west and south west Britain and Eire, and also in France as far south as 46-09N 01-15W. However there have also been several recoveries from northern England at both north-west and north-east coast locations and in Scotland.



Recoveries of juvenile Ringed Plovers in their first winter.



Winter recoveries of adult Ringed Plovers August-Dec and Jan-Feb .



Very few of the breeding population are sighted during the winter. Fisher in Norfolk Bird and Mammal Report 1997, The Birds of the Wash 1971-1996 states that there are no Ringed Plovers at Snettisham in December and January based on WEBS counts. But a count in December 1997 found over 200 on the north Norfolk coast. Personal observations during the extremely mild winter of 2000-2001 revealed that there were Ringed Plovers present at Heacham. Wintering birds are thought to be from eastern North Sea coastal sites. No colour- ringed birds were seen at this time although we know that some of the breeding population have returned by February.

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2000.

INTRODUCTION

- The style and content of this report differs from that of our Millennium Issue, which attempted an interpretation of all the recoveries received by the Group from 1990-1999, by species.
- Instead this report of recoveries and controls for 2000 reverts to the format usually adopted in previous annual reports.
 - 758 recoveries of 62 species are in the Group Recoveries database, but not all will be featured in this report.
 - Only recoveries and controls received during 2000 will be included in this report.
 - Recoveries will be selected for their significance or interest.
- Maps of recoveries are not included in this report – when a sufficient number of additional recoveries have been received during the coming years to make it worthwhile they will be updated and feature in another Special Issue.
- A summary of the number of annual recoveries is given in Table 1.
- The order of Table 1 is given alphabetically.

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2000.

| Species | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | Total |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Avocet | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Barn Owl | 3 | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 19 |
| Black-headed Gull | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 2 | | 3 | | 7 |
| Blackbird | | 7 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 44 |
| Blackcap | | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 17 |
| Blue Tit | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | | 6 |
| Brambling | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Bullfinch | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Chaffinch | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | | 5 |
| Chiffchaff | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Common Gull | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Coot | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Dipper | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Dunnock | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 11 |
| Fieldfare | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 3 |
| Fulmar | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | | | | 1 | | 11 |
| Goldcrest | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Great Tit | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 3 |
| Green Woodpecker | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Greenfinch | | 12 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 32 |
| Grey Plover | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Guillemot | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| House Sparrow | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Jackdaw | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Jay | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Kestrel | | | | 1 | | | | | 2 | 1 | | 4 |
| Lapwing | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Lesser Whitethroat | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | | | 3 |
| Linnet | | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | 3 |
| Long-tailed Tit | | | | | | | 3 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| Magpie | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 |
| Marsh Harrier | | 3 | 1 | | | 2 | | 1 | | | | 7 |
| Mute Swan | | 19 | 31 | 17 | 19 | 15 | 9 | 2 | 3 | | 2 | 117 |
| Oystercatcher | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | | | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| Pied Wagtail | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Pink-footed Goose | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Redpoll | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Redshank | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Reed Bunting | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Reed Warbler | | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 5 | 4 | 21 |
| Ringed Plover | | | | 1 | 10 | 4 | 15 | 12 | 15 | 7 | 6 | 70 |
| Robin | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| Sand Martin | | 4 | 13 | 5 | 12 | | | | | | | 34 |
| Sanderling | | | | | | | 16 | 11 | 5 | 1 | | 33 |

Table 1: Recoveries and Controls 1990-2000

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2000.

Table 1: Recoveries and Controls 1990-2000 continued.

| Species | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | Total |
|----------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Sedge Warbler | | | | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 8 | 2 | 16 |
| Shore Lark | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Siskin | | | | | | | | | 23 | 9 | | 32 |
| Snow Bunting | | 6 | 1 | 8 | 5 | | 14 | 7 | 40 | 6 | 20 | 107 |
| Song Thrush | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| Sparrowhawk | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 |
| Starling | | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 44 |
| Swallow | | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 10 |
| Tree Sparrow | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Turnstone | | | | | | 1 | 4 | | | | | 5 |
| Twite | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Wheatear | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 3 |
| Whitethroat | | | | | 1 | | 4 | | | | | 5 |
| Willow Warbler | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 3 |
| Woodlark | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Wren | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 2 |
| Yellowhammer | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | 2 |
| Total | 6 | 64 | 74 | 54 | 75 | 50 | 90 | 76 | 125 | 84 | 60 | 758 |

Political Boundaries

- ◆ Many geopolitical changes have occurred which have not yet been incorporated into ringing scheme codes. This report follows these conventions:
- ◆ Changes that follow boundaries used previously and still easily identifiable (eg the succession of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania or German reunification) use the new political names (eg the old West Germany and East Germany become Germany).
- ◆ Where changes are less clear (eg the rest of the old USSR) or will require new codes (eg the former Yugoslavia) changes await confirmation of boundaries and so are not shown.

Recoveries

- A recovery is where a bird ringed by the group is re-trapped more than 5km away from its original ringing site or is reported dead, not released or released without its ring.
- A control is where a bird not originally ringed by the group, is recovered by the Group more than 5km away from its original ringing site.
- The Group received 60 reports of recoveries and controls in 2000.
- When included species are arranged in Voous order

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2000.

Each record contains information for a particular recovery in the following order:

1. Ringing Scheme code if not BTO

| | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|-------------------|
| BLB | Bruxelles, Belgium | ESM | Madrid, Spain | PLG | Gdansk, Poland |
| CIJ | Jersey, Channel Islands | FRP | Paris, France | POL | Lisbon, Portugal |
| DFH | Helgoland, Germany | HGB | Budapest, Hungary | SFH | Helsinki, Finland |
| DDH | Hiddensee, Germany | IAB | Bologna, Italy | SUE | Matsalu, Estonia |
| DFR | Radolfzell, Germany | ISR | Reykjavik, Iceland | SUK | Kaunus, Lithuania |
| DKC | Copenhagen, Denmark | NLA | Arnhem, Netherlands | SUR | Riga, Latvia |
| DKK | Kalo, Denmark | NOO | Oslo, Norway | SUM | Moscow, Russia |
| ESA | San Sebastian, Spain | NOS | Stavanger, Norway | SVS | Stockholm, Sweden |
| ESI | Icona, Spain | | | | |

2. Ring number.

3. Age when ringed according to the Euring code, figures do not represent years.

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | pullus (nestling or chick). |
| 2 | fully grown but of unknown age. |
| 3 | juvenile in 1st calendar year. |
| 4 | adult at least one year old. |
| 5 | hatched in previous calendar year. |
| 6 | adult at least two years old. |
| 7 | hatched two calendar years ago. |
| 8 | adult at least three years old. |

Sex if known. M = Male, F = Female.

4. Date and place of ringing.

5. The date and place of recovery and the method of recovery using the conventions shown.

In addition, for many recoveries, the circumstances of recovery are also known e.g. oiled, killed by cat, road casualty etc

6. Distance and direction moved.

| | |
|----|--|
| X | found dead |
| XF | found freshly dead or dying |
| XL | found dead not recent |
| + | shot or intentionally killed by man |
| +F | shot or intentionally killed by man - fresh |
| +L | shot or intentionally killed by man not recent |
| SR | sick or injured, released with ring |
| S | sick or injured not known to have been released |
| A | alive and probably healthy, fate unknown |
| AC | alive and probably healthy, now captive |
| V | alive and probably healthy, caught and released but not by a ringer |
| N | alive and probably healthy, caught and released but not by a ringer - nesting |
| VV | alive and probably healthy, ring or colour marks read in the field but not by a ringer |
| NN | alive and probably healthy, ring or colour marks read in the field but not by a ringer - nesting |
| R | caught and released by ringer |
| B | caught and released by ringer - nesting |
| RR | alive and probably healthy, ring or colour marks read in the field by ringer |
| BB | alive and probably healthy, ring or colour marks read in the field by ringer - nesting |
| // | condition on finding unknown |

7. Number of days elapsed from date of original ringing to recovery.

RECOVERIES 2000.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------|----|--|-----------------------|
| ET07253 | 12/07/1998 | 1 | Confidential site, Norfolk, England | |
| NWNRG 818 | 14/10/1999 | VV | Middlebere Farm, Poole Harbour, Dorset | |
| | | | 285 km | SW (216 DEG) 459 Days |

This bird was back in Norfolk in March, it was seen at both Titchwell and Snettisham.

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------|----|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| ET07280 | 15/06/1999 | 1 | Confidential site, Norfolk, England | |
| NWNRG 828 | 06/07/2000 | RR | Welney, Norfolk, England | |
| | | | 27 km | SSW (197 DEG) 387 Days |

The second of our Avocets to be seen at Welney.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| GF08126 | 03/07/1996 | 1 | Thornham, Norfolk, England | |
| NWNRG 791 | 16/06/1999 | X | Terrington Marsh, Norfolk, England | |
| | | | 24 km | SSW (211 DEG) 1078Days |

Found dead near a nest box where it may have been breeding it shows how young Owls are dispersing before they find a territory they can settle.

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------|----|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| GF94887 | 04/06/1999 | 1 | Nr South Creake, Norfolk, England | |
| NWNRG 792 | 05/03/2000 | XF | Hillington, Norfolk, England | |
| | | | 16 km | SW (235 DEG) 275 Days |

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------|----|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| GN08304 | 27/06/1999 | 1 | Beacon Hill, Burnham Market, Norfolk | |
| NWNRG 771 | 03/11/1999 | XF | Docking, Norfolk, England | |
| | | | 7 km | WSW (255 DEG) 129 Days |

Both the two preceding recoveries suffered the fate of many young Barn Owls in their 1st winter, collisions with motor vehicles.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 6998255 | 24/08/1999 | 3 M | Piringen, Limburg, Belgium | |
| NWNRG 768 | 17/09/1999 | R | River Burn, Burnham Market, England | |
| | | | 400 km | NW (307 DEG) 24 Days |

An example of a juvenile bird migrating in the wrong direction it should be moving SE.

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------|------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| P175296 | 03/09/1999 | 3J F | River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk | |
| NWNRG 826 | 08/05/2000 | R | Nr Hollesley Heath, Suffolk, England | |
| | | | 111 km | SSE (155 DEG) 248 Days |

This one seems to be getting it right!

RECOVERIES 2000.

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------|------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| P175614 | 12/09/1999 | 3J M | River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk | |
| NWNRG 794 | 03/10/1999 | R | Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey, England | |
| | | | 189 km | SSW (206 DEG) 21 Days |
| P251864 | 24/08/2000 | 3J M | River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk | |
| NWNRG 836 | 21/09/2000 | R | Sandwich Bay Estate, Kent, England | |
| | | | 192 km | SSE (167 DEG) 28 Days |

As do these two!

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------|----|---|------------------------|
| 5Z3246 | 09/09/1999 | 3 | River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk | |
| NWNRG 819 | 13/03/2000 | R | Landguard Point, Felixstowe, Suffolk, England | |
| | | | 120 km | SSE (161 DEG) 186 Days |
| 5Z3296 | 14/10/1999 | 2 | River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk | |
| NWNRG 814 | 24/03/2000 | XF | Banham, Nr Norwich, Norfolk, England | |
| | | | 58 km | SSE (157 DEG) 162 Days |
| 5Z3363 | 28/10/1999 | 2 | River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk | |
| NWNRG 809 | 20/03/2000 | SR | King's Lynn, Norfolk, England | |
| | | | 30 km | SW (222 DEG) 144 Days |

Very few Long-tailed Tits are recovered this far from the place of ringing, most are recovered within a few kilometres.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------|----|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| U3538 | 16/06/1993 | 6 | Ipswich, Suffolk, England | |
| NWNRG 837 | 28/09/2000 | VV | Broad Fen, Dilham, Norfolk, England | |
| | | | 83 km | NNE (16 DEG) 2661Days |
| U3775 | 22/09/1993 | 6 | Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk | |
| NWNRG 773 | 05/02/2000 | R | River Stour, Mistley, Essex, England | |
| | | | 112 km | S (172 DEG) 2327Days |

In the mid 90's the Group were involved with the local RSPCA animal hospital, ringing re-habilitated Swans until they were able to set up a ringing group of their own. These are just two of these birds, obviously still going strong!

RECOVERIES 2000.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| FA32695 | 03/02/1991 | 8 | Heacham, Norfolk, England | | |
| NWNRG 824 | 17/01/2000 | X | Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk, England | 19 km ENE (67 DEG) | 3270Days |

Originally ringed by Wash Wader Ringing Group this bird was recovered inland from the coast. Many Oystercatchers are breeding on farmland where they favour crops such as spring-sown sugar beet

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------------|---|------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| FA69576 | 11/01/1997 | 7 | Snettisham, Norfolk, England | | |
| NWNRG 831 | 21/07/2000 | X | Snettisham, Norfolk, England | 2 km N (360 DEG) | 1287Days |

Again originally ringed by Wash Wader Ringing Group it was found dead near the original ringing location.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| P001740 | 07/08/1999 | 4 | Icklesham, Sussex, England | | |
| NWNRG 832 | 03/08/2000 | R | River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk | 228 km N (1 DEG) | 362 Days |

First ringed in Sussex in August 1999 this bird would be already undertaking it's annual migration. The subsequent recovery in Norfolk almost 1 year later may reveal its origins.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----|---|-------------------|----------|
| NV77804 | 31/05/1994 | 5 M | Holme, Norfolk, England | | |
| NWNRG 801 | 21/08/1999 | VV | Scolt Head Island, Burnham Overy, Norfolk | 11 km E (81 DEG) | 1908Days |
| NV81489 | 02/08/1997 | 1 | Snettisham, Norfolk, England | | |
| NWNRG 800 | 15/05/1999 | VV | Scolt Head Island, Burnham Overy, Norfolk | 22 km NE (54 DEG) | 651 Days |
| NV81452 | 01/07/1997 | 1 | Snettisham, Norfolk, England | | |
| NWNRG 799 | 08/10/1997 | VV | Brancaster Staithe, Norfolk, England | 19 km NE (55 DEG) | 99 Days |
| NWNRG 802 | 02/05/1999 | VV | Scolt Head Island, Burnham Overy, Norfolk | 22 km NE (54 DEG) | 670 Days |

These recoveries may reflect the result of pressure on this species from tourism. The increasing disturbance at holiday beaches where many are attempting to breed may be causing them to re-locate to less disturbed places.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------------|----|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| NV77898 | 14/06/1996 | 1 | Snettisham, Norfolk, England | | |
| NWNRG 798 | 05/06/1998 | VV | Breydon Water, Norfolk, England | 88 km ESE (110 DEG) | 721 Days |

RECOVERIES 2000.

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----|--|
| NV94283 | 16/07/1998 | 6 F | Snettisham, Norfolk, England |
| NWNRG 834 | 19/08/2000 | RR | Sandymount Strand, Dublin, Eire |
| | | | 434 km W (275 DEG) 765 Days |

This is the 4th recovery we have received of our colour-ringed birds that have been seen in Ireland.

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----|---|
| NV94256 | 18/06/1998 | 1 | Snettisham, Norfolk, England |
| NWNRG 752 | 27/02/1999 | VV | Boulmer, Northumberland, England |
| | | | 311km NNW (335 DEG)254 Days |
| NV94326 | 22/06/1999 | 1 | Snettisham, Norfolk, England |
| NWNRG 821 | 07/03/2000 | VV | Newbiggin, Morcambe Bay, Cumbria, England |
| | | | 274 km WNW (301 DEG) 259 Days |

While many Ringed Plovers ringed by the Group are known to go as far west as Dublin, Eire, some go to both north-west and north-east coasts in the UK.

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----|--|
| NV94232 | 10/06/1998 | 1 | Snettisham, Norfolk, England |
| NWNRG 754 | 24/04/1999 | VV | Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, England |
| | | | 25km NNW (342 DEG) 318 Days |
| NV94233 | 10/06/1998 | 1 | Snettisham, Norfolk, England |
| NWNRG 830 | 09/07/2000 | VV | Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire, England |
| | | | 25 km NNW (342 DEG) 760 Days |

Many of our colour-ringed birds have been seen just across the Wash at Gibraltar Point.

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----|--|
| NV94365 | 25/06/1999 | 1 | Snettisham, Norfolk, England |
| NWNRG 764 | 12/10/1999 | VV | Spurn Point, Humberside, England |
| | | | 81km NNW (344 DEG) 109 Days |
| NV94322 | 01/06/1999 | 1 | Snettisham, Norfolk, England |
| NWNRG 765 | 06/09/1999 | RR | Ile D'Ouessant, Finistere, France |
| | | | 627km SW (218 DEG) 97 Days |

This is a popular destination for many of our juvenile Ringed Plovers.

Sedge Warbler*Acrocephalus schoenobanaenus*

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|---|--|
| 4259201 | 19/08/1998 | 3 | Saint-Vigor-d'Ymonville, Seine Maritime, France |
| NWNRG 815 | 13/06/1999 | R | Snettisham Coastal Park, Snettisham, Norfolk |
| | | | 376 km N (1 DEG) 298 Days |

Ringed as a juvenile on a typical route taken by our Sedge Warblers it was recovered the next year back at Snettisham where it was probably breeding.

RECOVERIES 2000.

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----|---|
| N880255 | 16/07/1999 | 3J | River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk |
| NWNRG 822 | 25/08/1999 | R | Floirac, Charente-Maritime, France 838 km S (187 DEG) 40 Days |

Again this demonstrates the route taken by Sedge Warblers from Norfolk.

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----|---|
| N880192 | 07/07/1999 | 4 M | River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England |
| NWNRG 766 | 11/08/1999 | R | Pitsea Marshes, Basildon, Essex, England 158km S (186 DEG) 35 Days |

Next stop France?

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----|---|
| N697841 | 31/12/1998 | 2 M | Holkham, Norfolk, England |
| NWNRG 827 | 21/02/2000 | RR | St Peter-Bohl, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany 535 km ENE (74 DEG) 417 Days |

Only approximately 160 Shore Lark have ever been ringed in Britain and the Group were responsible for over a third of these. Fortunately we had the foresight to colour-ring them, and one was sighted by a German ringer near his study area.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----|---|
| VS42722 | 13/12/1999 | 4 F | Heacham, Norfolk, England |
| NWNRG 823 | 26/02/2000 | R | South Gare, Teesmouth, Cleveland 218 km NNW (331 DEG) 75 Days |
| VS42761 | 13/12/1999 | 3 F | Heacham, Norfolk, England |
| NWNRG 783 | 29/12/1999 | VV | Snettisham, Norfolk, England 4 km SSW (211 DEG) 16 Days |
| NWNRG 813 | 05/03/2000 | R | South Gare, Teesmouth, Cleveland, England 218 km NNW (331 DEG) 83 Days |

A number of previous recoveries have indicated that in late winter after putting on fat Norfolk ringed birds depart to stopover destinations in the north-east and in particular to South Gare. These two follow that pattern.

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----|--|
| VS42741 | 13/12/1999 | 4 F | Heacham, Norfolk, England |
| NWNRG 795 | 18/12/1999 | RR | Gibraltar Point, Skegness, Lincs 24 km NNW (336 DEG) 5 Days |
| NWNRG 789 | 23/01/2000 | VV | Snettisham, Norfolk, England 4 km SSW (211 DEG) 41 Days |

This recovery shows the mobility of Snow Buntings and the short distance, (for a Snob), movements they make. The distance involved is less than from Snettisham to Salthouse – a common movement.

RECOVERIES 2000.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----|----------------------------------|---------------|---------|
| VS42757 | 13/12/1999 | 4 F | Heacham, Norfolk, England | | |
| NWNRG 807 | 22/02/2000 | VV | Gibraltar Point, Lincs., England | | |
| | | | 24 km | NNW (338 DEG) | 71 Days |
| VS56411 | 18/12/1999 | 4 F | Salthouse, Norfolk, England | | |
| NWNRG 825 | 15/01/2000 | RR | Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England | | |
| | | | 59 km | SE (134 DEG) | 28 Days |

A number of Snow Buntings are wintering at this location and we understand that a ringing study has begun. This may shed further light on the movements of wintering birds in Norfolk.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----|--|---------------|---------|
| VS56448 | 23/01/2000 | 5 F | Salthouse, Norfolk, England | | |
| NWNRG 817 | 12/03/2000 | VV | Nr Coldingham, Borders Region, Scotland | | |
| | | | 395 km | NNW (327 DEG) | 49 Days |

A typical late winter Snow Bunting movement, further fattening will proceed here.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------------|-----|--|---------------|----------|
| K934044 | 03/11/1997 | 3 M | Westduinen, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands | | |
| NWNRG 793 | 05/02/2000 | R | King's Lynn, Norfolk, England | | |
| | | | 267 km | WNW (287 DEG) | 824 Days |
| V168828 | 15/07/1999 | 3 | Ventes Ragas, Silute, Lithuania | | |
| NWNRG 811 | 18/01/2000 | R | Burnham Market, Norfolk, England | | |
| | | | 1360 km | W (259 DEG) | 187 Days |

Two more foreign recoveries to add to many already in our Recovery Database . Despite first receiving a Dutch ring, the first of these may have a similar origin to the second. Many of our recoveries have involved Starlings from the Baltic States and Scandinavia.

PAPERS WRITTEN BY GROUP MEMBERS OR THAT HAVE ARISEN AS A RESULT OF GROUP RESEARCH

Atkinson, P. 1993: A few results of Snow Bunting ringing in Norfolk. *Norfolk Bird Club Bulletin* 3: 7-8.

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Membership of North West Norfolk Ringing Group

Membership of the Group is open to anyone who has an interest in bird ringing and we welcome new members, either experienced ringers or anyone who would like to train as a ringer.

Prospective members will be vetted by the group.

Prospective trainees must complete 3 months probation.

Trainees must be able to demonstrate that they have the dedication necessary to progress through to a permit upgrade.

All trainees requiring a permit upgrade must show a satisfactory level of ringing competence.

All members will respect the confidentiality necessary regarding Schedule 1 species.

Associate membership is designed especially for those who wish to support the group but not necessarily be involved in all, or indeed any of its ringing activities. It is therefore particularly suitable for students who may wish to join the group for a limited period in order to pursue a particular project. Associate members may attend Group meetings but not vote on issues affecting Group Policy.

Finance:

Members will pay an annual subscription, which currently is £10 for full members and £5 for associate membership. Honorary membership may be conferred where an individual has links with the Group but may not necessarily be a ringer.

Members are responsible for their own permit fees and renewals.

Non-member visiting ringers will be asked to contribute to ring costs.

Expenditure will be restricted to group equipment and expenses where considered justified.

Equipment:

All equipment purchased by the group will remain the property of the group.

Should the group disband the equipment will be divided amongst group members and any remaining funds donated to the BTO.

Personal equipment used by the group remains the property of the individual concerned.

Procedure for Ring Purchase

'A' permit holders may purchase rings in the groups name quoting the group number 9152. The ring string numbers must be notified to the group secretary.

C permit holders including specific C may only purchase rings direct from the BTO (quoting the group number 9152) with the permission of their Trainer who should endorse the official BTO order form accordingly.

When the C permit holder receives rings that they have ordered from the BTO, the ring string numbers must be notified to their Trainer who will in turn notify the group secretary.

Trainees are not permitted to purchase rings. The rings that they use, will initially be provided by their trainer, who will be reimbursed by the trainee for the rings that the trainee has used.

Training - the group has a structured training programme based on the acquisition of skills. We operate in a variety of habitats throughout the year.

All group members, not just Trainees, are encouraged to take the opportunity to ring with other ringers or groups. In this way experience can be obtained in different situations, sometimes gaining an insight into specialist methods or techniques such as cannon netting which couldn't be provided within the NWNRG. Group members, especially Trainees are encouraged to participate in ringing courses, where they will meet a wide variety of fellow ringers and Trainers. These occasions provide welcome opportunities for the exchange of ideas and information.

Group thinking is that advancement should be via a recognised ringing course and that Trainers within the Group should not upgrade their own Trainees. In this way independent assessment of ability will occur, which in itself is also a measure of the training received and therefore of the Trainer.