THE NORTH WEST NORFOLK RINGING GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT 2001

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

INTRODUCTION

John Middleton, Report Editor

THIS REPORT for 2001 is the 10th that has been produced by the North West Norfolk Ringing Group now in its twelfth year.

The format follows the usual one adopted for Group Reports and all the sections that we usually present continue to be featured.

The year was dominated by the catastrophic events of Foot and Mouth Disease and the effects this had on the farming community and the countryside generally. With restrictions in place in the countryside to avoid the spread of foot-and-mouth disease in livestock, the British Trust for Ornithology rightly issued a set of guidelines for all fieldwork including ringing and nest recording, these included:

1) not to undertake any fieldwork where restrictions are in place,

2) actively seek confirmation that access is permitted, even in circumstances where access is normally permitted without referral to the landowner,

3) to follow all the safety instructions that landowners require, if access is permitted,

4) if in doubt, don't undertake the fieldwork

Consequently this affected many of our ringing projects and with restrictions in force at Snettisham Coastal Park, which were not lifted until April, also caused us to abandon the long term Wheatear Project, at least for 2001. We could have started as soon as the restrictions were lifted, but starting on time is essential for this work, which investigates and compares the arrival time of the Greenland race *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa*, and so work on this project was suspended until 2002.

Fortunately our Ringed Plover study which is a Re-trapping Adults for Survival (RAS) project was not affected, as access to the Coastal Park was enabled in time. However a few Barn Owl sites could not be monitored this year because the respective landowners and farmers that were involved preferred that we should not undertake visits.

These events together with the theft of essential Tape Luring equipment from the Willow Carr at Burnham Market on the 17th August, just as autumn migration was beginning, impacted severely on Group Totals. Immediately a cessation of all ringing activities at this site was instituted, which although situated on private land, unfortunately has a Public Footpath along its boundary. This meant that despite a promising start to the autumn migration season, ringing at this site, which usually contributed approximately half of Group Totals in recent years, was brought to an abrupt and premature end. The cumulative effect of the foregoing events has meant that Group Totals are the lowest since 1992.

We continue to hold all Group data on computer using the British Trust for Ornithology B-Ring software program and this currently consists of over 44,000 new birds ringed. In addition the Recovery and Re-trap History database developed by Kelvin Baldwin holds details of all our recoveries and controls and maintains re-trap histories for particular species or sites.

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

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Trevor Girling

January was a very mixed month. The sunniest since 1959, mild at times but with some very sharp frosts and several centimetres of snow on the 19th. Snow Bunting numbers failed to increase and it seems that this winter is one of the poorest for this species with none being caught. Our ringing activities were restricted to some garden whoosh and mist netting. At the end of the month large numbers of finches and Yellowhammers were exploiting the tail corn put out at Abbey Farm (AFF). With a line of nets place against the hedge a catch of 23 Chaffinch and 28 Yellowhammers was made.

February started very wet and unsettled, John managed to whoosh net 30 Starlings and a dozen Blackbirds in the garden. High pressure dominated in the second half of the month with clear skies and very heavy frosts, that produced calm enough conditions for mist netting at AFF, that produced 3 Fieldfare, 56 Chaffinch and 63 Yellowhammers. The rain at the beginning of the month and the clear skies meant that February was the Coldest since 1996 and the Wettest since 1995.

March was fairly cold with some light falls of snow. News of a National outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease came as a major blow for many farmers and businesses across the UK, and ultimately also prevented many ringers from operating. After gaining the agreement of both the farmer and livestock owner to allow us to ring we set and furled nets on the evening of the 3rd at AFF. Television announcements that evening announcing various national and local restrictions prompted us to cancel on the morning of the 4th and remove the nets. Roost ringing at South Creake on 23rd yielded 39 Pied Wagtails and 2 Collared Doves. The following evening saw us assemble at the Lynda McCartney's factory in Fakenham where we caught another 64 Pied Wagtails. Heavy rain dominated for the rest of the month making it the wettest March since 1988.

April was a very changeable month, wet with long periods of Northerly winds and wintry showers. Local Foot and Mouth Disease restrictions were lifted during the first week, allowing access to Snettisham Coastal Park (SCP). The three week delay in access, caused the suspension of our Wheatear study and colour ringing of individuals, due to the fact that the majority of the nominate Oenanthe males had passed through, so any comparisons between sub species could not be made. In total 33 Wheatear were caught along with 3 Whinchat and 1 Stonechat, the first Wheatear being caught on 7th, with a maximum of 7 on 28th. A large number of Lapwing nests at AFF that failed due to rain and cold weather was disappointing, as all the nests had been carefully avoided during drilling operations. It was not surprising with the winds and rain that April was the coolest since 1989.

High pressure dominated most of May. With very little wind or rain our first migrant warblers were caught at SCP along with a few finches. Swift and hirundine passage was very much in evidence over the reedbeds in the park, Trevor succeeded in flicking 2 Swift a new species ringed at SCP and the groups first since 1993. At Snettisham our Re-trapping Adults for Survival (RAS) project on Ringed Plovers, got underway with colour ring sightings being gathered as the first birds settled to breed. As better weather dominated, the remaining broods of Lapwing and Oystercatcher hatched at AFF were caught and ringed. Lapwing productivity was low; very few broods had 4 young. May was the sunniest since 1997.

The first half of June was wet, but a high-pressure system towards the end of the month meant a mini heat wave, ending in thunderstorms. It was the driest June since 1996. Pullus ringing occupied most group attention with Swallow, Barn Owls and Ringed Plover all being studied. Terry ringed 2 Egyptian Geese in Stanhoe one on 23rd and one on 30th. John climbed into the church tower in Burnham Market and ringed 4 Jackdaws on 8th. One mist netting session at SCP produced several re-traps from previous years as well as a new Grasshopper Warbler.

July was a cool wet month especially the first three weeks. High pressure in the final week meant that temperatures rose to around 32° C on the 28th. Rain however was the major feature, Weybourne receiving 69mm on the 18th with 41mm of that in 3 hours. With so much rain no mist netting was done at SCP. John started to net at the Willow Carr (WCB) on 24th with good numbers of birds being caught by the end of the month.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

RAS studies on Snettisham beach continued with John, Sabine and Trevor identifying adults, finding nests and ringing pullus. Terry ringed 2 Spotted Flycatcher pullus at Stanhoe on 27th. Barn owls seem to be having a bad year as broods were small or boxes were deserted or not used at several sites, probably due to the month being the wettest in fact since 1993.

August was a mix of hot days and cooler conditions associated with outbreaks of heavy rain at times. Mist netting continued at WCB most days, catching good numbers of birds. That is until the theft by persons unknown of some cassette players and amplifier equipment. Unfortunately due to the theft, a decision was made to abandon the area as a ringing site on 18th. Such a shame considering the superb results that had been achieved so far and the very hard work that John had put into developing the site over the last 4 years. The site layout and running had been fine-tuned as have been shown by the number and diversity of birds caught. Mist netting at SCP was virtually non-existent again due to being wind exposed. Trevor attended the Sandwich Bay Ringing Course in the capacity of Field Assistant and gained very valuable experience especially with wader ringing.
For all the wrong reasons August is a month that will be remembered, both by the group and especially by John.

September was generally unsettled with N or NW winds and band of rain showers over much of the month. Heavy rain and thunder at times were coupled with winds up to 40 knots. With no ringing at WCB it was down to SCP to keep the totals ticking along. Due to the weather however only two visits were made, on the 1st and 30th and although a few warblers were caught, it was the lack of any finch passage in complete contrast to 2000 that meant numbers caught were very low.

Low pressure dominated October with more heavy rain and blustery showers. The Norfolk Broads were subjected to a Tornado on 6th. A period of changeable weather coupled with some sunny period led to a maximum temperature of 23 deg C. Later in the month wet and windy conditions returned. High pressure on the 27th and 28th meant that some group mist netting could be done at SCP with the first arrivals of Blackbird (25), Song Thrush (5) and Redwing (7) being caught. Trevor spent the 7th to 13th at the Spurn Ringing Course again this year but as mentioned above, the week suffered from similar weather conditions and hence a short supply of birds. However 2 Short eared Owls and a Yellow-browed Warbler were nice to see in the hand.

November was a very mild and sunny month. A low-pressure system over Scandinavia and high pressure over southern England produced ideal conditions for thrush migration. Large numbers of Starlings, Blackbirds, Redwing and Fieldfare were moving through the Coastal Park. Our main activity concentrated on catching these despite the wind blowing. In total Blackbird (137), Redwing (76) and Fieldfare (3) were ringed and a Belgian ringed Redwing and a Norwegian ringed Blackbird were controlled. Terry carried out some garden ringing catching Coal Tits (7) and a Nuthatch amongst others. The Nunnery Ringing Group in Thetford hosted the first East of England Ringing Conference on 3rd, and John gave a Power Point presentation on Wheatears, explaining some of the results of our long-term study on this species in Norfolk. This excellent talk was one of several that helped to make the day very enjoyable. The lack of rain this month meant that it was the driest November since 1989.

December started mildly, this quickly turned cold with some hard frosts and later in the month flurries of snow 2 to 3 cm deep. The driest December since 1991.The mild weather seemed to keep most Snow Buntings further north, and very erratic at our normal sites, so no efforts were made to bait or catch any birds. John gave his Wheatear talk again at the Joint Ringers and BTO Members Conference, this was very well received and mirrored his success in November. Garden ringing continued until the months end Trevor catching a Black headed Gull on 16th, and Terry catching finches, tits (Coal Tit 4) and Blackbirds (31) in his Stanhoe garden.

2001 again a year dominated by wind and rain meant that it was the coolest year since 1996.
The weather was at its worst for most of the autumn, and Foot and Mouth contributed to a late start to our spring ringing as well as access to farms later in the summer for Barn Owls.
A poor year as far as numbers are concerned, it was our worst since 1992. Cessation of ringing at the Willow Carr site had a huge affect both on the number of birds caught and group morale.

SITE REPORTS FOR 2001.

INTRODUCTION.

- This section of the report presents a totals summary for all sites shown in Table 1 below together with a more detailed report for Snettisham Coastal Park and for the Willow Carr.

Site Name	Site Code	No Ringed
Willow Carr, River Burn	WCB	481
Snettisham Coastal Park	SCP	684
Friars Lane, Burnham Market	FLB	52
Gaywood	TKL	45
Abbey Farm, Flitcham	AFF	249
Snettisham	SNE	79
Burnham Market	JMB	129
Warham	WAR	17
Others (Less than 20 birds)	OTHERS	105
Stanhoe	THS	145
Shammer House	SHA	13
Camping Hill Stiffkey	CHS	17
All Sites		2016

Table1: Totals summary all sites

Overall Group Totals are the lowest for many years due to restrictions imposed due to Foot and Mouth Disease prevention precautions and the unfortunate theft of equipment at the Willow Carr. More details are given in that section of the report.

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.

Very little ringing was done in the Park this year due to two factors, which limited our activities somewhat!

1. Foot and Mouth disease restrictions
2. Adverse weather conditions.

This meant that very few warblers were caught in spring and during the post juvenile dispersal period. Autumn ringing concentrated on winter thrush migration, which made a significant contribution to the overall totals for this site.

Ringing totals for Snettisham Coastal Park for 2001 are presented in Table 2.

ANNUAL TOTALS SNETTISHAM COASTAL PARK 1990 – 2001.

Species	1990-2000	2001	Total
Mute Swan	4		4
Mallard	1		1
Sparrowhawk	9		9
Kestrel	3		3
Water Rail	1		1
Oystercatcher	8		8
Lapwing	4		4
Woodcock	1		1
Redshank	3		3
Common Sandpiper	1		1
Turtle Dove	7		7
Cuckoo	1		1
Little Owl	1		1
Short Eared Owl	1		1
Swift		2	2
Kingfisher	4		4
Wryneck	1		1
Green Woodpecker	13		13
Great Spot Woodpecker	2		2
Skylark	82	3	85
Swallow	278	3	281
House Martin	517	1	518
Tree Pipit	2		2
Meadow Pipit	124	7	131
Yellow Wagtail	1		1
Grey Wagtail	1		1
Pied Wagtail	4		4
Wren	242	22	264
Dunnock	435	18	453
Robin	316	36	352
Nightingale	2		2
Black Redstart	5		5
Redstart	19		19
Whinchat	73	3	76
Stonechat	17	1	18
Wheatear	967	36	1003
Ring Ouzel	1		1
Blackbird	692	180	872
Fieldfare	7	3	10
Song Thrush	159	10	169
Redwing	181	83	264
Mistle Thrush	8		8
Grasshopper Warbler	17	1	18
Sedge Warbler	469	16	485
Reed Warbler	630	24	654
Barred Warbler	3		3

Table 2: SCP Annual Totals 1990-2001

Annual Totals SCP 1990-2001 continued.

Species	1990-2000	2001	Total
Lesser Whitethroat	231	10	241
Whitethroat	447	32	479
Garden Warbler	46	2	48
Blackcap	427	33	460
Chiffchaff	92	8	100
Willow Warbler	401	10	411
Goldcrest	60	6	66
Pied Flycatcher	2		2
Spotted Flycatcher	1		1
Long-tailed Tit	238	38	276
Marsh Tit	1		1
Coal Tit	3		3
Blue Tit	461	17	478
Great Tit	187	10	197
Nuthatch	1		1
Treecreeper	2		2
Magpie	7		7
Starling	106		106
House Sparrow	29	2	31
Chaffinch	197	22	219
Brambling	1		1
Greenfinch	228	17	245
Goldfinch	248	9	257
Linnet	286	5	291
Redpoll	16		16
Bullfinch	98	10	108
Snow Bunting	31		31
Hawfinch	1		1
Yellowhammer	12	1	13
Reed Bunting	86	3	89
Corn Bunting	1		1
Total	**9624**	**684**	**9948**
No. Species	**76**	**36**	**77**

Table 2: SCP Annual Totals 1990-2001.

SITE REPORTS FOR 2001.

SECTION 2.

WILLOW CARR, RIVER BURN, BURNHAM MARKET.

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

This is the fourth 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.

We intended to operate the site in 2001 much the same as in other years with intensive tape luring of autumn migrants – a recipe which had proved so successful in previous years. However on the 17th August sometime after the morning session had ended at midday, some person or persons entered the site which is on private land owned by Holkham Estate and stole tape luring equipment. The equipment consisted of two tape players in a box together with a superb Belgian made amplifier capable of handling the output from each player simultaneously or individually. The output was wired to ten Motorola tweeter speakers, which curiously enough were not stolen, neither were any of the twenty nets, permanently erected on site, and neither was another single player linked to another Belgian made amplifier. Very curious indeed, particularly as the box which was stolen was underneath the box containing the single player, which was lifted off and stacked to one side! Why the thief or thieves ignored this set when it was easy enough to take everything is indeed a mystery! Nevertheless we felt it prudent to immediately suspend all further ringing activities at this extremely productive site and promptly removed all the rest of the equipment, as it was felt that to continue would jeopardise the security of the rest of the equipment. Setting up and taking down all the nets together with the volume of work necessary to set up the tape luring kit on a daily basis is just not a viable option. Currently we have no further plans to re-open the site, which we have reluctantly abandoned, at least for the time being.

Despite reporting the incident to the police together with full details of the equipment involved and being allocated a Crime Incident Number, nothing further was heard from this quarter!

- Ringing totals are given in Table 3 for 2001 up to and including the 17th August, together with Grand Totals for 1998 – 2001.
- An appraisal of the Willow Carr 1998-2001 is made.
- The contribution this site made to Group ringing in particular and Norfolk generally is shown in Tables 3a, 3b and 3c.
- Recoveries and controls generated at the Willow Carr are discussed and a summary given.
- Full details of all recoveries and controls are appended to the main section dealing with Recoveries and Controls.

It is with great regret that unfortunately due to the circumstances this is probably the last report for this superb site.

WILLOW CARR ANNUAL TOTALS 1998 – 2001.

Species	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Sparrowhawk		2			2
Water Rail	1	4	4		9
Snipe			1		1
Tawny Owl	2				2
Kingfisher		2		1	3
Great Spot Woodpecker		1	2		3
Swallow		1			1
House Martin			1		1
Wren	18	142	167	42	369
Dunnock	59	50	34	9	152
Robin	45	76	71	15	207
Redstart			2		2
Wheatear		1			1
Blackbird	34	120	213	7	374
Fieldfare			2		2
Song Thrush	15	50	55	7	127
Redwing	7	97	208		312
Cettis Warbler		2			2
Grasshopper Warbler	3	2	1		6
Sedge Warbler	45	128	121	80	374
Reed Warbler	130	224	214	136	704
Barred Warbler		3			3
Lesser Whitethroat		4	2		6
Whitethroat	13	21	20	4	58
Garden Warbler	14	23	42	22	101
Blackcap	336	896	567	47	1846
Chiffchaff	106	127	163	37	433
Willow Warbler	34	45	39	15	133
Goldcrest	5	27	66	11	109
Spotted Flycatcher		4	1		5
Pied Flycatcher	1		1		2
Long-tailed Tit	47	82	115	18	262
Marsh Tit		1			1
Willow Tit			1		1
Coal Tit	1		1		2
Blue Tit	NR	50	57	6	113
Great Tit	NR	38	35	7	80
Treecreeper	5	5	9	6	25
Starling		1	14		15
Tree Sparrow			1		1
Chaffinch	44	49	55	3	151
Brambling	3	1			4
Greenfinch	1				1
Goldfinch			1		1
Siskin		4			4
Redpoll			1		1
Bullfinch	23	23	16	5	67
Reed Bunting	3	1	8	3	15
Totals	**995**	**2307**	**2311**	**481**	**6094**
Number of Species	**28**	**36**	**37**	**21**	**49**

Table 3: Willow Carr Annual Totals.

Willow Carr 1998-2001.

An Appraisal

The **Willow Carr** has been an outstanding ringing site. As can be seen from the annual totals given in Table 3 a significant contribution was made to overall Group Totals shown in Table 4. This is illustrated quite well in **Table 3a** shown below.

Year	1998	1999	2000
Group Total	6649	4996	5290
Willow Carr Total	998	2307	2311
Percentage of Group Total	15.00%	46.20%	43.70%

Table 3a.

Even in the first year of operation this site accounted for 15% of Group totals.

It was also exceptional for the numbers of warblers that were captured especially Blackcap, with 1846 captured in the time we operated here. We had already caught 47 in 2001 and this was a promising start to the season with the best months of September and October still to come. The 1999 total of 896 for this species accounted for over 50% and together with 567 in 2000 nearly 40% of all Blackcaps caught in Norfolk in those years, based on figures presented at the annual Norfolk Ringers meeting. The numbers of Sedge and Reed Warblers caught also made significant contributions to the Norfolk ringing totals as can be seen from **Table 3b** and **Table 3c** below.

1999

Species	NWNRG 1999	Norfolk 1999	Percentage
Blackcap	896	1769	50.3%
Sedge Warbler	128	466	27.5%
Reed Warbler	224	1194	18.7%

Table 3b

2000

Species	NWNRG 2000	Norfolk 2000	Percentage
Blackcap	567	1441	40.1%
Sedge Warbler	121	586	20.6%
Reed Warbler	214	1414	15.1%

Table 3c

During the last 10 years Norfolk ringers only caught 23 Cetti's Warblers and 2 of these were at the Willow Carr in 1999. The 3 Barred Warblers that were also caught in 1999 were the only ones captured in Norfolk that year, and confounded many who thought that this species were normally only captured at coastal sites!

Recoveries and Controls.

A remarkable number of recoveries and controls were generated, only movements over 5 kilometres are included.

Blackcap recoveries included one in **Wales** and controls from **Belgium** and **Holland**.

Sedge Warblers were recovered in **France** with several more on the South coast of Britain and 3 were controlled from Sussex and one from Hampshire.

Reed Warblers were recovered in **Belgium** and **Morocco**, and one was controlled from **Lithuania** it was the first control in Britain from any of the Baltic States.

There were three recoveries of Long-tailed Tits that were all over 30 kilometres the longest movement was to Landguard in Suffolk 120 kilometres SSE.

Willow Carr 1998-2001.

A summary of these recoveries and controls are given below:

- The number of Recoveries was 20, including:
  - Blackcap 6
  - Chiffchaff 2
  - Robin 1
  - Reed Warbler 4
  - Sedge Warbler 4
  - Long-tailed Tit3

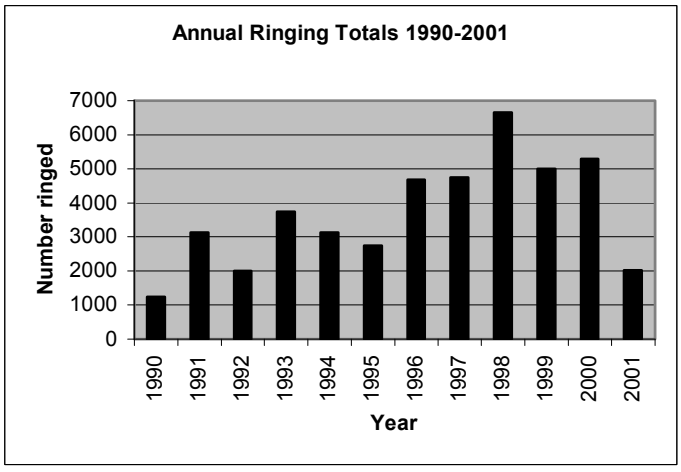
- The number of controls was 19, including:
  - Blackcap 5
  - Chiffchaff 1
  - Reed Warbler 6
  - Sedge Warbler 7

Full details of these are appended to the main section dealing with Recoveries and Controls and can be found on page 27**.**

Although full details of some these (except those for the current year), have already been given in previous Group Reports, no apology is given for repeating them once more! In any case the usual reporting format deals with recoveries and controls on an annual basis based on those actually 'received' in that year. Recoveries and controls are not normally presented by ringing site. However on this occasion it was felt that this would be an appropriate way to present these data.

ANNUAL TOTALS 1990 –2001 all sites combined.

- The next section of this report presents the annual totals for all Group sites combined in Table 4. Species are in Euring order and year.
- Totals are depicted graphically in Graph1 below.
- Graph 2 depicts the number of species ringed annually.



Graph1: Numbers ringed annually 1990-2001.

ANNUAL TOTALS 1990 –2001.

Euring No	Species	Latin Name	1990-2000	2001	Total
00220	Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis*	124		124
00460	Manx Shearwater	*Puffinus puffinus*	1		1
01520	Mute Swan	*Cygnus olor*	243		243
01700	Egyptian Goose	*Alopochen aegyptiacus*	6	2	8
01730	Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*	9		9
01860	Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	24		24
02600	Marsh Harrier	*Circus aeruginosus*	164		164
02690	Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*	28		28
03040	Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	40		40
03580	Red-legged Partridge	*Alectoris rufa*	1		1
03670	Grey Partridge	*Perdix perdix*	1		1
04070	Water Rail	*Rallus aquaticus*	15		15
04240	Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	8		8
04290	Coot	*Fulica atra*	9		9
04500	Oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus*	37	5	42
04560	Avocet	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	107		107
04700	Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*	893	79	972
04930	Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*	276	11	287
04970	Sanderling	*Calidris alba*	86		86
05120	Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*	1		1
05190	Snipe	*Gallinago gallinage*	2		2
05290	Woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*	5		5
05460	Redshank	*Tringa totanus*	17		17
05560	Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	1		1
05610	Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*	46		46
05820	Black-headed Gull	*Larus ridibundus*	89	2	91
05900	Common Gull	*Larus canus*	22		22
06150	Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	11		11
06240	Little Tern	*Sterna albifrons*	16		16
06540	Puffin	*Fratercula arctica*	1		1
06680	Stock Dove	*Columba oenas*	74	10	84
06700	Woodpigeon	*Columba palumbus*	48	1	49
06840	Collared Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*	27	5	32
06870	Turtle Dove	*Streptopelia turtur*	17		17
07240	Cuckoo	*Cuculus canorus*	2		2
07350	Barn Owl	*Tyto alba*	164	32	196
07570	Little Owl	*Athene noctua*	5		5
07610	Tawny Owl	*Strix aluco*	11		11
07670	Long-eared Owl	*Asio otus*	2		2
07680	Short-eared Owl	*Asio flammeus*	2		2
07950	Swift	*Apus apus*	8	2	10
08310	Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*	7	1	8
08480	Wryneck	*Jynx torquilla*	2		2
08560	Green Woodpecker	*Picus viridis*	23		23
08760	Gr Spotted Woodpecker	*Dendrocopus major*	26	1	27
09760	Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*	322	3	325
09780	Shorelark	*Eremophila alpestris*	52		52
09810	Sand Martin	*Riparia riparia*	498		498
09920	Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	2110	50	2160
10010	House Martin	*Delichon urbica*	692	10	702
10090	Tree Pipit	*Anthus trivialis*	4		4

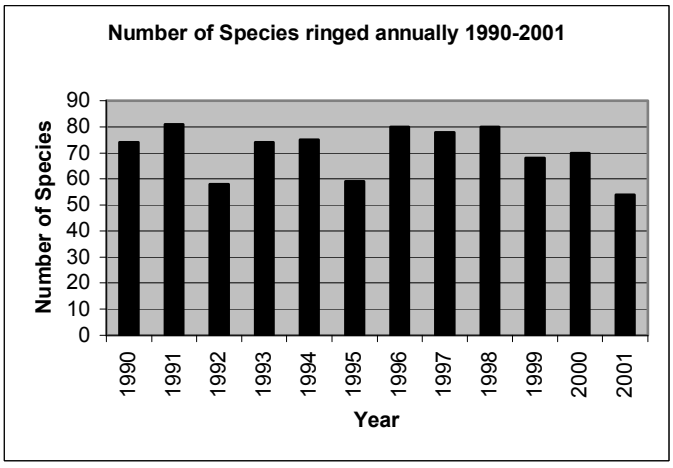
ANNUAL TOTALS 1990 –2001. continued

Euring No	Species	Latin Name	1990-2000	2001	Total
10110	Meadow Pipit	*Anthus pratensis*	206	7	213
10170	Yellow Wagtail	*Motacilla flava*	3		3
10190	Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	1		1
10200	Pied Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*	582	104	686
10480	Waxwing	*Bombycilla garrulus*	14		14
10500	Dipper	*Cinclus cinclus*	2		2
10660	Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	1111	69	1180
10840	Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*	1676	55	1731
10990	Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*	1417	66	1483
11060	Bluethroat	*Luscinia svecica*	1		1
11040	Nightingale	*Luscinia megarhynochos*	4		4
11210	Black Redstart	*Phoenicurus ochruros*	10		10
11220	Redstart	*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*	93		93
11370	Whinchat	*Saxicola rubetra*	85	3	88
11390	Stonechat	*Saxicola torquata*	28	1	29
11460	Wheatear	*Oenanthe oenanthe*	1077	36	1113
11860	Ring Ouzel	*Turdus torquatus*	4		4
11870	Blackbird	*Turdus merula*	2931	276	3207
11980	Fieldfare	*Turdus pilaris*	247	6	253
12000	Song Thrush	*Turdus philomelos*	641	22	663
12010	Redwing	*Turdus iliacus*	653	83	736
12020	Mistle Thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*	43	1	44
12200	Cettis Warbler	*Cettia cetti*	3		3
12360	Grasshopper Warbler	*Locustella naevia*	27	1	28
12430	Sedge Warbler	*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*	1024	96	1120
12510	Reed Warbler	*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*	1624	160	1784
12590	Icterine Warbler	*Hippolais icterina*	1		1
12730	Barred Warbler	*Sylvia nisoria*	11		11
12740	Lesser Whitethroat	*Sylvia curruca*	355	10	365
12750	Whitethroat	*Sylvia communis*	623	36	659
12760	Garden Warbler	*Sylvia borin*	302	24	326
12770	Blackcap	*Sylvia atricapilla*	2961	83	3044
13000	Yellow-browed Warbler	*Phylloscopus inornatus*	2		2
13080	Wood Warbler	*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*	3		3
13110	Chiffchaff	*Phylloscopus collybita*	769	50	819
13120	Willow Warbler	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	895	26	921
13140	Goldcrest	*Regulus regulus*	840	17	857
13150	Firecrest	*Regulus ignicapillus*	7		7
13350	Spotted Flycatcher	*Muscicapa stiata*	52	2	54
13490	Pied Flycatcher	*Ficedula hypoleuca*	42		42
13640	Bearded Tit	*Panurus biarmicus*	4		4
14370	Long-tailed Tit	*Aegithalos caudatus*	1033	57	1090
14400	Marsh Tit	*Parus palustris*	19		19
14420	Willow Tit	*Parus montanus*	9		9
14610	Coal Tit	*Parus ater*	126	14	140
14620	Blue Tit	*Parus caeruleus*	2288	90	2378
14640	Great Tit	*Parus major*	965	44	1009
14790	Nuthatch	*Sitta europaea*	10	3	13
14860	Treecreeper	*Certhia familiaris*	42	6	48
15140	Isabelline Shrike	*Lanius isabellinus*	1		1
15150	Red-backed Shrike	*Lanius collurio*	2		2

ANNUAL TOTALS 1990 –2001. continued

Euring No	Species	Latin Name	1990-2000	2001	Total
15390	Jay	*Carrulus glandarius*	4		4
15490	Magpie	*Pica pica*	22		22
15600	Jackdaw	*Corvus monedula*	24	4	28
15670	Crow (Carrion/Hooded)	*Corvus corone/cornix*	1		1
15820	Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	2720	54	2774
15910	House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	194	20	214
15980	Tree Sparrow	*Passer montanus*	99		99
16360	Chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*	1872	123	1995
16380	Brambling	*Fringilla montifringilla*	80		80
16490	Greenfinch	*Carduelis chloris*	2062	22	2084
16530	Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis*	481	10	491
16540	Siskin	*Carduelis spinus*	553		553
16600	Linnet	*Carduelis cannabina*	436	5	441
16620	Twite	*Carduelis flavirostris*	52		52
16630	Redpoll	*Carduelis flammea*	28		28
16660	Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra*	25		25
16790	Scarlet Rosefinch	*Carpodacus erythrinus*	1		1
17100	Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	258	16	274
17170	Hawfinch	*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*	1		1
18470	Lapland Bunting	*Calcarius lapponicus*	1		1
18500	Snow Bunting	*Plectrophenax nivalis*	1838		1838
18570	Yellowhammer	*Emberiza citrinella*	264	94	358
18770	Reed Bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	188	6	194
18820	Corn Bunting	*Miliara calandra*	6		6
		Total	**42458**	**2016**	**44474**
		Number of Species	**126**	**55**	**126**

Table 4: Annual Totals 1990-2001.



Graph 2: Number of species ringed annually 1990-2001.

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2001.

INTRODUCTION

Section one.

- The style and content of this section of the report follows the style re-adopted last year.

- Maps of recoveries featured for the first time in our Millennium Issue 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.

- 843 recoveries of 63 species are in the Group Recoveries database, but not all will be featured in this report.

- Recoveries are reported on a 'received' basis and not on the basis of the recovery year, this ensures that late receipt of recovery reports of a recovery (from a previous year), does not exclude them from being reported.

- Only recoveries and controls received during 2001 will be included in this report.

- 72 recoveries were received from the BTO in 2001

- Not all will be included.

- Recoveries will be selected for their significance or interest.

Section two.

- Appended to the main report this section details all recoveries and controls that were received for the Willow Carr 1998-2001.
    - Part one – Recoveries
    - Part two - Controls

Section three.

- A summary of the number of annual recoveries is given in Table 5.

- The order of Table 5 is given alphabetically.

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 AND CONTROLS 2001.

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.

- When included species are arranged alphabetically.

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 Sebastion, Spain	NOS	Stavanger, Norway	SVS	Stockholm, Sweden
ESI	Icona, Spain				

2. Ring number.

3. Age when ringed according to the Euring code, shown opposite, 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, place and method of recovery using the conventions shown in the list.

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 AND CONTROLS 2001.

Section one

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

EG27452		24/06/2000	1	Nr Heacham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**879**	05/08/2000	RR	Cley-next-the-sea, Norfolk, England 50 km ENE (64 DEG) 42 Days
EG27453		24/06/2000	1	Nr Heacham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**880**	05/08/2000	RR	Cley-next-the-sea, Norfolk, England 50 km ENE (64 DEG) 42 Days
EG27454		24/06/2000	1	Nr Heacham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**881**	05/08/2000	RR	Cley-next-the-sea, Norfolk, England 50 km ENE (64 DEG) 42 Days

A brood of Avocets that successfully fledged and were seen together with their parents as a family group.

ET02272		12/06/1999	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**863**	17/03/2000	VV	Snettisham, Norfolk, England Local N (0 DEG) 279 Days

This 1999 chick obviously survived and was seen back near its natal site.
Interestingly all of these recoveries involving colour ringed birds were chicks from pairs that had bred outside the usual Reserve locations.

ET07234		03/06/1998	1	Nr Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**866**	01/08/1999	VV	Brownsea Island, Dorset, England 289 SW (214 DEG) 424 Days

This is the second Avocet ringed by the Group to be sighted at Brownsea Island and although seen in 1999 this recovery was not received until 2001.

ET07253		12/07/1998	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**865**	12/03/2000	VV	Titchwell, Norfolk, England Local 609 Days
NWNRG	**864**	17/03/2000	VV	Snettisham, Norfolk, England Local 614 Days

A typical example of an adult commuting between the two local RSPB Reserves.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

GF94886		04/06/1999	1	Docking, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**868**	06/01/2001	X	Ingoldisthorpe, Norfolk, England 12 km SW (234 DEG) 582 Days
GF94888		04/06/1999	1	Bloodgate Hill, South Creake, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**860**	18/01/2001	XF	Necton, Nr Swaffham, Norfolk, England 26 km S (175 DEG) 594 Days
GH87470		21/07/2000	1	Gately, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**888**	06/03/2001	XF	Colkirk, Norfolk, England 5 km NW (318 DEG) 228 Days

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2001.

Section one continued.

GN08358		17/06/2000	1	Nr Great Bircham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**886**	10/12/2000	XF	Nr West Rudham, Norfolk, England 6 km SSE (158 DEG) 176 Days
GN08359		17/06/2000	1	Wighton, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**869**	27/11/2000	XF	Bale, Nr Fakenham, Norfolk 6 km ESE (108 DEG) 163 Days
GN08360		24/06/2000	1	Shammer,Nr North Creake, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**896**	16/01/2001	S	South Creake, Norfolk, England 5 km ESE (113 DEG) 206 Days

All of these recoveries are of chicks that fledged and then failed to survive their first winter, a common fate of young Barn Owls.

GN08334		15/06/2001	1	Little Hale Nr Shipdam, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**911**	17/07/2001	S	Reymerston, Norfolk, England 8 km NE (45 DEG) 32 Days

This starving fledgling was taken into care and subsequently released.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

CF15222		30/10/1999	3 F	Snettisham Coastal Park, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**839**	11/11/2000	R	Castricum Duinen, Noord-Holland, **Netherlands** 284 km E (97 DEG) 378 Days

The second recovery of a Group ringed Blackbird to the Netherlands, first ringed in October 1999 at our coastal site it was most probably a Scandinavian migrant that had crossed the North Sea. The subsequent control by the ringing station at Castricum Duinen in November 2000 tends to support this idea.

RJ32753		02/11/1998	3 F	Holme next the Sea, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**840**	22/12/2000	XF	Downpatrick, County Down, **Northern Ireland** 440 km WNW (290 DEG) 781 Days

Our first recovery to Northern Ireland, again this is most probably a continental migrant that chose to go much further west in a subsequent year.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

KC44653		02/09/2000	3J M	Langham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**858**	25/09/2000	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 16 km W (277 DEG) 23 Days

Originally ringed by a ringer with permit number 499! This must surely rank as a longevity record (no not for the bird, for the ringer)!

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2001.

Section one continued.

VO99792		13/09/2000	3 M	Vrouwenpolder, Zeeland, **The Netherlands**
NWNRG	**859**	05/10/2000	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 246 km NW (308 DEG) 22 Days

Our first Blackcap from Holland, a rapid movement in apparently the wrong direction. Is this a case of reverse migration during juvenile dispersal or is it part of the strategy of some continental Blackcaps notably from Germany to over winter in Britain.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

K496849		06/03/1996	6	Banningham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**871**	29/04/2000	R	Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 42 km WNW (291 DEG) 1515 Days
N670508		01/08/1998	3J	Northwold, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**870**	07/02/1999	R	Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 47 km N (11 DEG) 190 Days

Who says it's not worth ringing Blue Tits because they don't go anywhere!

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

5U7023		11/09/2000	3	Nr Wells next the Sea, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**847**	14/09/2000	R	River Burn, Norfolk, England 9 km W (270 DEG) 3 Days
5U7803		13/10/2000	3	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**861**	01/11/2000	R	Icklesham, Sussex, England 228 km S (181 DEG) 19 Days

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

NA09091		27/08/2000	2 M	Langham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**885**	14/10/2000	R	Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 17 km W (276 DEG) 48 Days

Originally ringed by a ringer (permit number 499) one of the ringing scheme pioneers.

VF72798		19/10/2000	3 F	Holme-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**867**	22/10/2000	R	Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 11 km E (99 DEG) 3 Days
VS53349		08/11/1999	3 F	Holme-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**872**	08/04/2000	R	Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 11 km E (99 DEG) 152 Days

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2001.

Section one continued.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

VS42881		29/05/2000	1	Sunderland Farm, Docking, Norfolk
NWNRG	**851**	29/08/2000	X	Docking, Norfolk, England 4 km SSW (197 DEG)92 Days

Who would have thought that we would be reporting our first House Sparrow recovery, not surprising as it wasn't until ringing restrictions of this species was lifted that we ringed more than a token (one) each year.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

GA08980	13/07/1996		1	Orfordness, Suffolk, England
NWNRG	**895**	24/06/2001	X	Nr Snettisham, Norfolk, England 117 km NW (320 DEG) 1807 Days

Originally ringed by Landguard Bird Observatory this colour-ringed bird was found dead.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

3Z3472		08/07/2000	3J	Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**884**	12/10/2000	R	Nr Holme-next-the-Sea 11 km W (279 DEG) 96 Days
3Z3476		29/07/2000	3J	Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**883**	12/10/2000	R	Nr Holme-next-the-Sea 11 km W (279 DEG) 75 Days
3Z3477		29/07/2000	3J	Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**882**	12/10/2000	R	Nr Holme-next-the-sea, Norfolk, England 11 km W (279 DEG) 75 Days

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

U1143		25/06/1991	4	Norwich, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**877**	02/05/2001	X	St Benet's Abbey, Nr Ludham, Norfolk, England 15 km ENE (68 DEG) 3599 Days

This swan was one of a number that were ringed by the Group when the RSPCA Animal Hospital was based at Docking. They subsequently moved to East Winch and set up their own ringing group to deal specifically with rehabilitated birds and our involvement then came to an end and although we continued to receive numerous recoveries these have lessened in recent years.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

FA62962		06/07/1996	8	Holbeach St. Mathew, Lincs, England
NWNRG	**906**	26/06/2001	X	North Creake, Norfolk, England 44 km E (83 DEG) 1816 Days

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2001.

Section one continued.

FA91873		28/06/2000	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**856**	22/07/2000	XF	Heacham, Norfolk, England 5 km NE (42 DEG) 24 Days
FA91874		28/06/2000	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**852**	10/08/2000	X	Heacham, Norfolk, England 4 km NNE (31 DEG) 43 Days

FA91873 and **74** were chicks from a pair that nested on the shingle bank at Snettisham and successfully hatched a brood of three, although they didn't survive for very long.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

P568918		24/03/2001	5 F	Fakenham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**897**	17/05/2001	XF	Fakenham, Norfolk, England 1 km W (270 DEG) 54 Days

Only included because of very few recoveries (two) we have received for this species despite ringing over 600.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

P244829		21/07/2001	3	Steyning, Sussex, England
NWNRG	**910**	31/07/2001	R	Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 241 km NNE (17 DEG) 10 Days

Yet another example of a juvenile bird apparently moving in the 'wrong' direction.

P251602		01/08/2000	3J	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**891**	30/04/2001	A	Tinghir, Ouarzazate, **Morocco** 2440 km SSW (193 DEG)272 Days

Our first recovery to Morocco, the report said intentionally taken fate unknown!

P251631	06/08/2000		3J	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**843**	18/08/2000	R	Sinaai, Oost-Vlanderen, **Belgium** 302 km SE (131 DEG) 12 Days

Our first recovery of a Reed Warbler to Belgium.

P472605		26/07/2000	3	Holme next the Sea, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**849**	15/08/2000	R	River Burn, Norfolk, England 12 km E (99 DEG) 20 Days
P564760		20/09/2000	3	Nr Wells next the Sea, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**842**	24/09/2000	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk 9 km W (270 DEG) 4 Days

The river valley site at the Willow Carr had many controls not only of this species but also others – which also had moved in both easterly and westerly directions as these two examples show. It poses the question as to whether further movement is along the river valley or further a field.

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2001.

Section one continued.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

NV50515		03/06/1989	1	Holme-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**893**	22/10/1999	VV	Greve de Goulven, Finistere, **France** 590 km SW (215 DEG) 3793 Days
NWNRG	**894**	04/02/2000	VV	Greve de Goulven, Finistere, **France** 590 km SW (215 DEG) 3898 Days
NV81369		17/07/2000	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**855**	13/10/2000	VV	Goulvensbaye, Finisterre, **France** 576 km SW (215 DEG) 88 Days

The Brittany coast seems to be a popular winter destination for our Ringed Plovers.

NV79893		05/06/1999	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**907**	27/07/2001	VV	Cley-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England 43 km ENE (75 DEG) 783 Days
NV94395		17/07/1999	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**899**	17/04/2001	VV	Blakeney Point, Norfolk, England 38 km ENE (73 DEG) 640 Days

A growing number of our colour marked population have apparently dispersed to breed elsewhere, most of these were ringed as chicks.

NV94357		21/06/1999	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**890**	06/05/2001	XF	Blakeney Fresh Marsh, Norfolk, England 41 km ENE (77 DEG) 685 Days

Reported to have been taken by a raptor, possibly a Sparrow Hawk. This bird may well have chosen to breed at this location, as reported earlier, a growing number of recoveries (colour ring sightings) involve Snettisham chicks found away from their natal site during the breeding season.

BV85945		31/08/1980	4 F	Heacham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**874**	20/05/2000	RR	Snettisham, Norfolk, England Local 7202 Days

This Ringed Plover already more than one year old when first captured is now at least nineteen years old.

NV81379		22/07/2000	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**878**	19/11/2000	RR	Spurn, South Yorkshire, England 82 km NNW (346 DEG) 120 Days
NV94373		29/06/1999	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**901**	20/02/2001	VV	Cleethorpes, Humberside, England 82 km NNW (338 DEG) 602 Days
NV82670		17/06/1996	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**904**	31/03/2000	VV	Nr Barnsley, South Yorkshire, England 141 km WNW (301 DEG) 1383 Days

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2001.

Section one continued.

NV94326		22/06/1999	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**903**	22/12/1999	RR	Newbiggin, Morecambe Bay, Cumbria, England 274 km WNW (301 DEG) 183 Days
NWNRG	**902**	16/10/2000	VV	Newbiggin, Morecambe Bay, Cumbria, England 274 km WNW (301 DEG) 482 Days
NV94334		13/07/1999	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**875**	25/09/2000	VV	Dawlish Warren, Nr Exeter, Devon, England 368 km SW (226 DEG) 440 Days

We know that most of our colour marked Ringed Plovers move away from the breeding area at Snettisham during the winter. However a confusing picture has emerged, with sightings received from the East, Northeast, Northwest and Southwest coasts also from Wales, Ireland and France.

NV81374		17/07/2000	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**853**	16/08/2000	X	Nr Heacham, Norfolk, England 2 km NNE (31 DEG) 30 Days

A chick that succumbed fairly quickly all that was found was the leg together with the ring!

NV94368		28/06/1999	1	Snettisham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**900**	28/02/2001	VV	Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England 29 km ENE (72 DEG) 611 Days

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

P251240		08/04/2000	4	Snettisham Coastal Park, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**841**	15/10/2000	XF	Nr Rodby, Lolland**, Denmark** 748 km ENE (74 DEG) 190 Days

Although we previously controlled one from Norway, this is our first Robin to Denmark. Both would be Scandinavian migrants

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus*

P021310		16/08/2000	3	Icklesham, Sussex, England
NWNRG	**848**	22/08/2000	R	River Burn, Norfolk, England 228 km N (1 DEG) 6 Days

Apparently heading in the 'wrong' direction.

P251763		18/08/2000	3	River Burn, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**846**	03/09/2000	R	Titchfield Haven, Fareham, Hants, England 273 km SSW (210 DEG)16 Days

This one seems to be getting it right!

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2001.

Section one continued.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

N697861		09/01/1999	4 M	Holkham , Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**905**	10/01/2000	VV	De Slufter, Texel, **The Netherlands** 265 km E (87 DEG) 366 Days

Despite only ringing 52 of this species, fortunately all were colour ringed. The value of this is that we have already received seven sightings including one previously to Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

VP19652		`09/01/1995	5 F	Salthouse, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**845**	23/01/2000	R	Salthouse, Norfolk, England Local N (0 DEG) 1840 Days

This recovery is one of several we have now which exceed the previous longevity record for this species of 4 years.

VS56466		23/01/2000	5 F	Salthouse, Norfolk, England
NWNRG 898		13/02/2001	VV	Salthouse, Norfolk, England Local 387 Days

VS42563		28/11/1998	3 M	Salthouse, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**889**	21/02/2000	VV	Hofn, Hornafjordur, Austur-Skaftafells**, Iceland** 1565 km NW (323 DEG) 450 Days

Our third recovery to Iceland.

VS42788		13/12/1999	3 F	Heacham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**876**	06/01/2001	RR	Foveran, Newburgh, Grampian Region, Scotland 515 km NNW (342 DEG) 390 Days

Perhaps choosing to winter further north in a subsequent winter. It has been demonstrated by our colour ringing study that Snow Buntings wintering in Norfolk are mostly 1st winter females and that adult birds and males winter further north.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

CF15709		30/01/2000	5 F	Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**850**	11/11/2000	XF	Grassmo, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England 144km W (281 DEG) 286 Days

The only movement of any note.

RK59714		23/01/1994	6 M	Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**844**	22/04/2000	X	Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 2 km S (180 DEG) 2281 Days

Just over 6 years old it hadn't moved very far. Three other local recoveries were also received in 2001

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2001.

Section one continued.

Swallow		*Hirundo rustica*		
P251814		21/08/2000	3J	Snettisham Coastal Park, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**887**	17/05/2001	V	Foulsham, Nr Dereham, Norfolk, England 39 km ESE (104 DEG) 269 Days
P457016		10/07/2000	1	Shammer, N.Creake, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**857**	22/08/2000	R	Snettisham Coastal Park, Norfolk, England 18 km WSW (258 DEG) 43 Days

In August 2000 a small swallow roost was in evidence at the Coastal Park some were ringed and these recoveries are the only two received so far. **P251814** was found the following year trapped in a building and was released. **P457016** was a local nestling. Both would have been already undertaking their autumn migration when captured and ringed.

Willow Carr Recoveries 1998-2001.

Section two, Part 1.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

N697596		15/09/1998	3J M	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**693**	11/04/1999	XF	Poringland, Nr Norwich, Norfolk, England 59 km SE (137 DEG) 208 Days
N697751		01/10/1998	3 M	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**624**	15/10/1998	XF	Felinfoel, Nr Llanelli, Dyfed, Wales 358 Km WSW (247 DEG) 14 Days
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
P175470		09/09/1999	3J F	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk
NWNRG	**820**	25/04/2000	XF	Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England 8 km ESE (119 DEG) 229 Days
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

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

5U7803		13/10/2000	3	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**861**	01/11/2000	R	Icklesham, Sussex, England 228 km S (181 DEG) 19 Days
8C0967		21/07/1999	3J	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**741**	31/07/1999	R	Snettisham Coastal Park, Norfolk, England 22 km WSW (245 DEG) 10 Days

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

Willow Carr Recoveries 1998-2001.

Section two, Part 1 continued.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

N880337		30/07/1999	4	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**763**	06/08/1999	R	Icklesham, Sussex, England 228km S (181 DEG) 7 Days
P175253		02/09/1999	3	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**760**	10/09/1999	R	Icklesham, Sussex, England 228km S (181 DEG) 8 Days
P251631		06/08/2000	3J	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**843**	18/08/2000	R	Sinaai, Oost-Vlanderen, **Belgium** 302 km SE (131 DEG) 12 Days
P251602		01/08/2000	3J	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**891**	30/04/2001	A	Tinghir, Ouarzazate, **Morocco** 2440 km SSW (193 DEG)272 Days

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

N697331		16/08/1998	3	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**743**	01/09/1999	R	Nr Holme-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, England 12 km W (279 DEG) 381 Days

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus*

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
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
P175063		24/08/1999	3	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**759**	29/08/1999	R	Icklesham, Sussex, England 228km S (181 DEG) 5 Days
P251763		18/08/2000	3	River Burn, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**846**	03/09/2000	R	Titchfield Haven, Fareham, Hants, England 273 km SSW (210 DEG)16 Days

Willow Carr Controls 1998-2001.

Section two, Part 2.

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
K939496		17/08/1997	3J M	Snettisham Coastal Park, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**731**	07/05/1999	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 22 km ENE (65 DEG) 628 Days
KC44653		02/09/2000	3J M	Langham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**858**	25/09/2000	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 16 km W (277 DEG) 23 Days
N554445		21/06/1999	3J	Nr Sheringham, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**737**	24/08/1999	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 28 km W (274 DEG) 64 Days
VO99792		13/09/2000	3 M	Vrouwenpolder, Zeeland, **The Netherlands**
NWNRG	**859**	05/10/2000	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 246 km NW (308 DEG) 22 Days

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

5U7023		11/09/2000	3	Nr Wells next the Sea, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**847**	14/09/2000	R	River Burn, Norfolk, England 9 km W (270 DEG) 3 Days

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

N887331		30/07/1999	3	Weybourne, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**739**	14/08/1999	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 27 km W (274 DEG) 15 Days
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
P083105		14/07/1999	1	Snettisham Coastal Park, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**758**	29/08/1999	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 22km ENE (65 DEG) 46 Days
P472605		26/07/2000	3	Holme next the Sea, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**849**	15/08/2000	R	River Burn, Norfolk, England 12 km E (99 DEG) 20 Days

Willow Carr Controls 1998-2001.

Section two, Part 2 continued.

P564760		20/09/2000	3	Nr Wells next the Sea, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**842**	24/09/2000	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk 9 km W (270 DEG) 4 Days
VV92260		19/07/1999	2	Ventes Ragas, Silute, **Lithuania**
NWNRG	**770**	13/08/1999	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk 1359 km W (259 DEG) 25 Days

The first Reed Warbler to be recovered in Britain from a Baltic State, this control must rank as one of the best that the Group ever received!

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus*

K756921		10/08/1996	3	Farlington Marsh, Portsmouth, Hampshire
NWNRG	**732**	04/05/1999	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 265 km NNE (27 DEG) 997 Days
N091166		02/09/1998	3J M	Nr Barnsley, South Yorks, England
NWNRG	**730**	03/08/1999	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 160 km ESE (116 DEG) 335 Days
N353263		20/07/1998	3J	Nr Weybourne, Norfolk, England
NWNRG	**729**	16/07/1999	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 26 km W (274 DEG) 361 Days
N427642		12/08/1999	3J	Nr Holme-next-the-Sea, Norfolk
NWNRG	**735**	13/08/1999	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 12 km E (99 DEG) 1 Days
N617200		27/08/1999	3	Icklesham, Sussex, England
NWNRG	**746**	30/08/1999	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 228 km N (1 DEG) 3 Days
N617483		28/08/1999	3	Icklesham, Sussex, England
NWNRG	**745**	30/08/1999	R	River Burn, Burnham Market, Norfolk, England 228 km N (1 DEG) 2 Days
P021310		16/08/2000	3	Icklesham, Sussex, England
NWNRG	**848**	22/08/2000	R	River Burn, Norfolk, England 228 km N (1 DEG) 6 Days

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2001.

Section three. Table of all recoveries received 1990-2001.

Species	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Avocet						1	1	2	2	6	7		19
Barn Owl	3				1	2	1	4	2	9	3	5	30
Bar-tailed Godwit							1						1
Blackbird		7	6	3	5	1	4	3	7	5	3	1	45
Blackcap			2	1		1	1	1	1	9	6		22
Black-headed Gull	1	1						2		3			7
Blue Tit			1		1	2		1		2	1		8
Brambling					1								1
Bullfinch					1								1
Chaffinch				1		1		2	1				5
Chiffchaff								2	1	1	2		6
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	4		35
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 Black-backed Gull												1	1
Lesser Whitethroat							1		2				3
Linnet								2		1			3
Long-tailed Tit							3		1	2	6		12
Magpie		1			1								2
Marsh Harrier		3	1			2		1					7
Mute Swan		19	31	17	19	15	9	2	3		2	1	118
Oystercatcher	1		1	2				1		1	4	1	11
Pied Wagtail						1						1	2
Pink-footed Goose			1										1
Redpoll							1						1
Redshank		1											1
Reed Bunting						1							1
Reed Warbler			1	3	2	2	2	2		6	4	2	24
Ringed Plover				1	10	4	15	13	16	16	13	6	94
Robin		1	1		1	1		2	2	1	3		12
Sand Martin		4	13	5	12								34

Table 5: Recoveries and controls 1990-2001.

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2001.

Section three continued. Table of all recoveries received 1990-2001.

Species	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Sanderling							16	11	5	1			33
Sedge Warbler					3	1	1	1		10	2		18
Shore Lark										5	2		7
Siskin									23	9			32
Snow Bunting		6	1	8	5		14	7	40	9	21	2	113
Song Thrush		1					1						2
Sparrowhawk			1							1			2
Starling		2	5	1	1	3	3	11	7	6	5	3	47
Swallow		3		1	1	1		2	1	1	1	1	12
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**	**77**	**126**	**113**	**90**	**24**	**843**

Table 5: Recoveries and controls 1990-2001.

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

INTRODUCTION.

The Group specializes in conducting long term ringing projects especially on some species that although common in Norfolk have received little or no study by other Norfolk ringers or indeed nationally. Some of these studies have involved research into winter visitors or spring migrants.

- Snow Bunting.
- Wheatear

Other studies have been concerned with breeding populations. They have included:

- Avocet.
- Ringed Plover.

All of these are colour-ringing studies, the value of which should not be underestimated.

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 Group again monitored the Hunstanton colony in 2001, although this was confined to a count of chicks due to most birds nesting on the higher ledges, which cannot be reached by ladder and so once again none were ringed.
However with 78 chicks expected to fledge the count was the same as last year, and although not yet back to the number counted in 1994 (107), is on a par with numbers recorded annually shown in Table 6 below.

Year	Number of chicks
1994	107
1995	67
1996	79
1997	62
1998	51
1999	45
2000	78
2001	78

Table 6

BARN OWL. ***Tyto alba***

The need for a replicable baseline estimate of the Barn Owl population prompted a collaboration between the BTO and the Hawk and Owl Trust, called Project Barn Owl. The project recognised the importance of such an estimate in allowing future changes in population levels to be monitored and for causal factors to be identified and later quantified. The initial fieldwork was carried out over three years (1995-1997). Ringing and nest recording make an extremely important contribution to our understanding of bird populations and the changes that occur. While both make important contributions, their respective values could be increased still further if the two operated in tandem. The group monitor a number of nest boxes and natural sites throughout Norfolk, recording occupancy and ringing the young of whatever species is in residence. At the beginning of 2001, as we were already contributors to the Nest Record scheme it was natural that we should join a new initiative promoted by the BTO. The aim was to integrate Barn Owl Monitoring throughout the UK by involving both Nest Recorders and Ringers. This National Project should be well placed to determine the current status of this owl throughout Britain.

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

Currently the Group monitor 37 sites and we are always seeking to add new ones. Although potentially a record number of sites should have received visits, three farmers asked us not to visit their farms due to Foot and Mouth Disease control. At one site building works were being undertaken. Of those occupied sites that were visited during the year it soon became apparent that it was not a good breeding year. Four pairs failed and others did not make an attempt and of those that did the number of owlets in a brood averaged 2.6, and in some instances were reduced to a single chick.
In all 33 sites were visited, 17were occupied and 4 of these failed, one of these hatched only one chick from three eggs, this single chick died before reaching a ring-able age. Ten sites were completely unoccupied.
Six boxes were occupied by, Stock Dove (5), and Kestrel (1).

SNOW BUNTING. *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

Our long-term colour ringing study begun in 1990 has specific scientific objectives.
These have been described in detail in previous Group Ringing Reports and are not repeated here.
A total of 1838 have been ringed and also colour ringed during the period of the study.

Now that this project has virtually ended we hope to publish some of the results in an appropriate Scientific Journal. Phil Atkinson has undertaken data analysis and to draft a paper, which is now at an advanced stage of preparation and we hope soon to be submitted.

WHEATEAR ***Oenanthe oenanthe***

Wheatears have been the subject of a study by the Group which begun 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:

- 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.

Unfortunately due to the restrictions imposed by Foot and Mouth Disease precautions the project was suspended during the 2001 field season.

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

AVOCET ***Recurvirostra avosetta.***

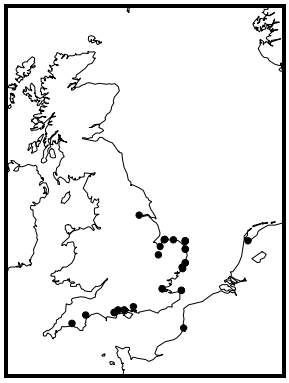
The Group have been studying chick survival at a number of sites on the Norfolk coast, an increasing number of these are at locations other than at the usual RSPB Reserves. Higher than usual winter and spring rainfall has often created small pools and flashes, which have remained into the breeding season. Several of these have been occupied during the last couple of years quite successfully, with one pair fledging all three young that were subsequently seen at Cley–Next-the-Sea. However the exact locations are deliberately not given for security reasons.

All Avocets 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.

Some colour ring sightings have produced some fascinating profiles of individuals, particularly of their movements outside the breeding season.

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



Group ringed Avocets have been seen at various 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).

Map of Colour-ring sightings and recoveries of Avocets.

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.

Although Avocets were again breeding on land outside the usual reserves, the Group were unable to negotiate permission from the landowner in time to ring the young in 2001. We will continue to monitor these attempts in future years.

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

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 extended from the RSPB Snettisham Reserve to Heacham South Beach. This area is known to support approximately 65 pairs. About 75% of the population have been colour-ringed, either as pulli or as adults.

At the end of 1999 RSPB involvement with this project came to an end. Accordingly the project was registered as a Re-trapping Adults for Survival (RAS), with the BTO in 2000 and this began 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, attempt to retain a high level of colour-ringed adults and to maintain the high proportion of individually identifiable birds by ringing the pulli each season. We would also find and monitor as many nests as possible and record the outcome and submit Nest Record Cards to the BTO.

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.

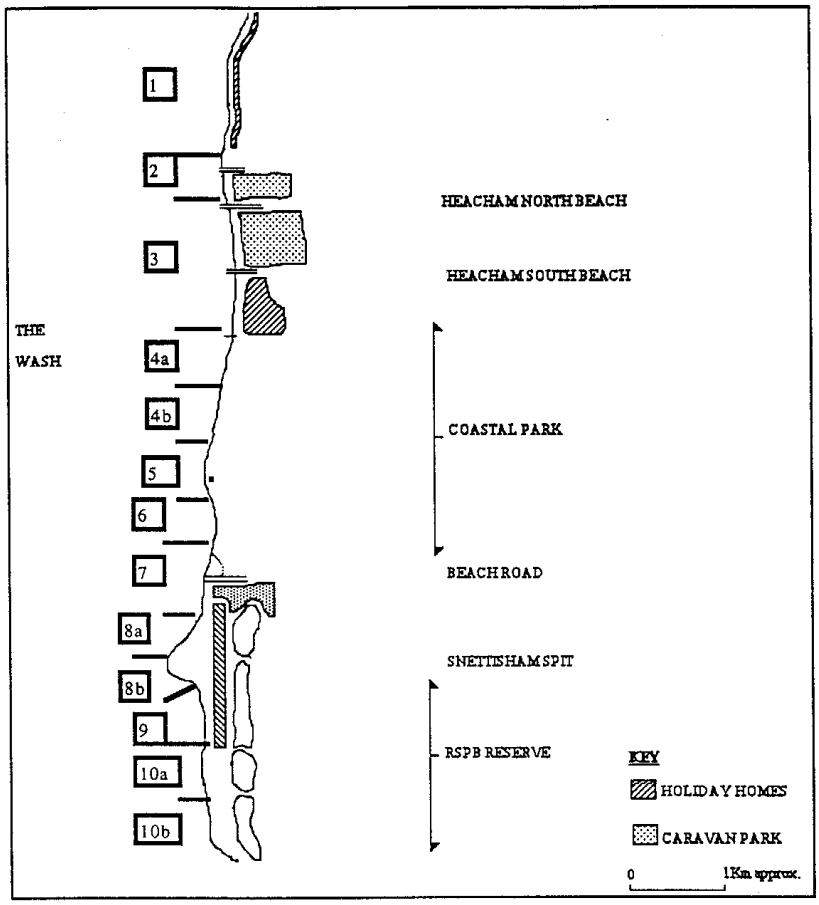


Fig1: Study site and division into sections.

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

RAS Project Report 2001.

In the second year of our study several visits were made to the whole study area between the RSPB reserve and Heacham South Beach (HSB), in order to obtain sightings of colour-ringed birds. These visits were made between May and June. No earlier visits could be made in early April due to Foot and Mouth Disease restrictions. Although searching for nests and ringing of pulli was not carried out on the RSPB Reserve (sections 9-10), or the Sailing Club spit (section 8), observations undertaken of adult birds in the breeding season gave an idea of the numbers of adult birds that were present. However a full intensive survey was carried out between Beach Road Snettisham (Area 7), and HSB (Area 3). Within this area 48 nesting attempts were made, with 185 eggs being laid. A total of 78 pulli were ringed and of these 65 are estimated to have fledged successfully. Additionally 2 new adult birds were trapped and colour ringed and 2 birds were re-trapped.

Of the 48 nests that were found, we failed to identify either of the breeding adults belonging to 4 of these, this was mainly due to the nesting attempts failing soon after they were found. A further 12 nests had only 1 breeding adult identified.
18 nests had a colour-ringed bird paired with either an un-ringed bird, or with a metal ring only. The adults of the remaining 14 nests were both identified.

Of the 14 nests where both birds were identifiable, 2 pairs re-nested once, and six other birds nested more than once but with different mates.

A summary of the distribution of all 48 nests found in the study area is shown below.

Section 3 2 Nests
Section 4a 3 Nests
Section 4b 7 Nests
Section 5 17 Nests
Section 6 15 Nests
Section 7 4 Nests

Areas 5 to 7 are where the highest disturbance occurs; hence the high number of nests found are due to re-nesting attempts after failure, rather than being due to a high density of population and a high number of successful nests.

The study this year was again very time consuming, with a combined total of more than 350 hours in the field spread over 33 different days, although this was less than the 500 hours and 68 days spent on observations in 2000.
Compared to last year which was the first year of the study, the number of hours and days spent looking for colour combinations, nests and establishing pairs, were less, although we were far more successful in finding nests and allocating which adults belonged to a particular nest.

Winter Distribution.

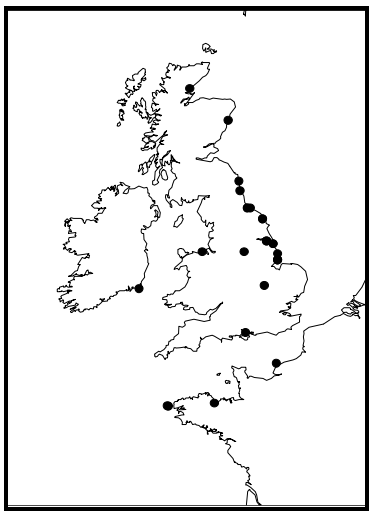
At one time the Wash population of Ringed Plovers were thought to be mainly sedentary. Some results from the recoveries and colour-ring sightings that we have received, has indicated that the breeding population at Snettisham on the east Wash winter in a number of locations in Britain and Ireland and also in France as far south as 46-09N 01-15W. Sightings of colour-ringed Ringed Plover have come from fifteen counties in England and Wales and are summarised in Table 7. With most being seen during the winter at east or northeast coasts, contrary to the findings of Liley (1998), who stated that 'the majority move south west', although his conclusions were based on a much smaller sample. Although currently it would seem that most of the Snettisham population winter at east or northeast coasts, the picture is still unclear and we need to receive further information before final judgement is made.
Only movements greater than 25 kilometres are included in Table 7, with movements of less than 25 kilometres being disregarded as this distance is within the Wash estuary system or is otherwise close to the breeding locality.

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

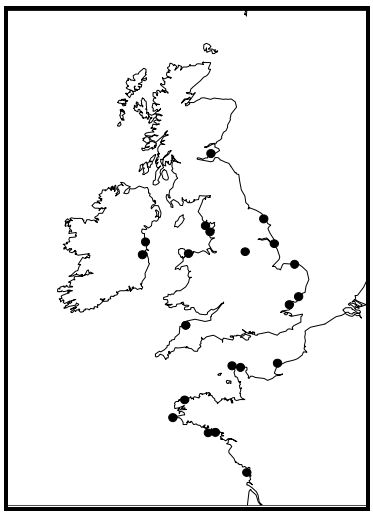
These can be summarised as follows:

County	Number	Country	Number
Cambs	1	Eire	5
Cleveland	2	France	7
Clwyd	1		
Cumbria	4		
Devon	3		
Essex	1		
Hants	1		
Humberside	6		
Lancs	1		
Lincs	1		
N.Yorks	2		
Norfolk	3		
Northumberland	2		
S.Yorks	3		
Suffolk	1		

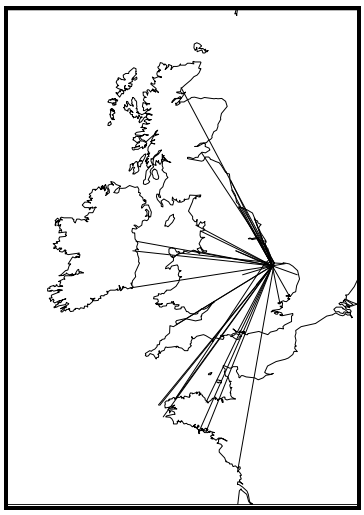
Table 7



Recoveries of juvenile Ringed Plovers in their first winter.



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



All Ringed Plover recoveries.

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.

SPECIES AND PROJECTS REPORT.

Juvenile Dispersal.

There is growing evidence that not all Snettisham hatched chick's return to their natal site. An increasing number of colour ring sightings during the breeding season have been received. These have included reports of individuals breeding at Scolt Head, Blakeney and Cley. In addition, the Group received by e-mail details of an individual breeding in the Netherlands. NV94348 was ringed 01/06/2000 and was seen at various times from 26May 01 – 21July 01 when it was observed with its partner and at least two small young at Dutch Amersfoort-coordinates: 225-618. Fortunately our good friend Erik Maassen was able to convert the Dutch Amersfoot co-ordinates to a standard global format for us. This is the first confirmed record of a Snettisham hatched bird breeding in Holland, and although another e-mail has been received of a sighting in August, breeding was not confirmed.

The value of colour ringing cannot be under estimated and an increasing number of sightings now come in via the colour ringing website at www.cr-birding.be or via our own homepage www.nwnrg.co.uk

Photo ©John Webb

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Liley, D. 1998: The winter distribution and breeding biology of Ringed Plovers (*Charadrius hiaticula*) breeding on the Wash. *Wash Wader Ringing Group Report 1997-1998*: 55-56.

BIRD RINGING IN HOLLAND

John Middleton

At the end of September 2001 I spent 6 days visiting Holland at the invitation of an old friend Erik Maassen. It provided an opportunity to see how the Dutch 'did things'. I was especially keen to visit places, such as Castricum, names I had previously seen only on recovery printouts. Erik organized a series of visits to some Ringing Stations including Castricum but as events turned out the weather intervened and on the day we were due to go there all ringing there had been cancelled due to strong winds and rain! So I never did get to see this ringing station.

Although many ringers do operate on their own, bird ringing in Holland seems to be much less of an individual activity than it is in the UK, with many ringers operating together in Groups particularly on the coast at the so called Vinkenbanen. Other Groups specialise in studies of waders, geese and Golden Plovers, with the 'Wilsterflappers' of Friesland and Groningen using a traditional clap-netting method to catch predominately Golden Plover and Lapwing.

Plate1 Groningen 'Wilsterflapper'

'Wilsterflapper' Eddie van Marum with live decoy bird Golden Plover nearest his hand. If you look closely at the photograph, you can see immediately behind his hand the line that leads from the special harness back to his 'hide'.
The other decoys are plastic ones commonly used by hunters in Italy and France.
He takes great care of his birds and has had some of them for 2 or 3 years. The special harness in which the bird 'sits' is attached to a mechanism which allows the catcher from his 'hide' to lift the bird clear of the ground and then to gently lower it back, the lowering sensation causes the bird to extend its wings and flap them a few times. This movement is what attracts birds to the catching area. They stay in the special harness for a maximum of one hour after this time they are changed for another fresh bird and given the opportunity to rest.

Another crucial piece of equipment is the whistle or flute that you can see hanging round his neck. These are hand made and virtually unobtainable these days. It takes a strong pair of lungs and some not inconsiderable musical ability to play the calls of Golden Plover throughout the day to attract birds flying in the vicinity to the catching area. He progressively decreases the intensity and volume of the 'tune' as the flying birds approach. Visions of the 'Pied Piper' spring to mind!

He uses a clap net approximately 25 metres long and what I found unusual was that even with a net as big as this no springs of any kind are used. It relies on the throw poles being unequal in length, the way they are attached to a 'foot' at the base and attention to some

precise measurements and fine tuning. Most clap nets of this size including our own or that I had seen previously rely on some pretty heavy duty springs to throw the net. One of his sites is at Winsum, near Groningen. He told me that Golden Plover use 'traditional' fields year after year.


Plate 2 The 'Hide'

The 'hide' he uses is absolutely minimal, just a piece of canvas attached to two poles set in the ground and I was surprised to find that contrary to what you might expect, the clap net was directly to the right of where we are sitting and not behind. Evidently it works, as this is the traditional method used by 'Wilsterflappers'. The 'seat' is the box that contains the decoy birds and although the other necessary paraphernalia such as the rest of the ringing equipment, sandwiches and thermos flask are in full view this doesn't seem to deter birds from flying to the catching area. The clap net is always set to throw in the same direction as the wind to intercept birds landing into the wind. The live decoy and a few plastic ones are set just beyond the catching area as newly arriving birds tend to land in front of those that have already settled. Anyone who has watched a flock of Starlings will know what I mean as the birds at the back continually move over the flock to resettle at the front.

The numbers caught are usually fairly modest and never in the hundreds, although he only caught three birds on the day I visited him because there were few birds present, some days later he captured twenty three. This traditional technique that he uses is several hundred years old and formerly was used extensively to catch birds for market, with several thousands being caught annually by the 'Wilsterflappers', most of which were sent to London markets destined for the pot. Nowadays there are very few of them left that operate these old methods, Eddie is probably the youngest and aside from his interest in bird ringing one of his objectives is to keep these old traditions and methods alive. At his home later in the day, he showed me an extremely interesting book, which has recently been published, which details these old methods but unfortunately it is only available in the Dutch language.


Plate 3 The net is set towards the trees in the distance

Ringing Groups tend to operate at permanent sites or ringing stations much like UK Bird Observatories, these sites are known as 'Vinkenbaan' and the Group usually incorporates this in their name. Vink is the Dutch word for Chaffinch and Erik tells me that baan is difficult to translate but Fowlers yard is about the nearest and so the name literally means Chaffinch Fowling Yard, another interpretation is 'Finchery'. Fincheries are known for centuries and these were especially situated in the Holland part of the Netherlands.

In the beginning the birds were caught for food and to be kept as cage birds, first by the ordinary people, and later also by people in high society. Estate owners employed personnel to do that job. Later when people started to think differently about catching (and killing) birds and using decoy Chaffinches that had been deliberately blinded it became 'un-fashionable' to do these things anymore. The old catchers carried out this barbaric practise because they believed that then the bird would sing even in autumn, eventually it was forbidden. Ultimately catching birds for the pot and cages was also forbidden and legislation brought in which restricted bird trapping to licensed bird ringers. Some of the old traditional methods (clap nets, decoys) used by the old bird catchers are still in use today together with more modern ones (tape luring, mist nets).

As there is a lot of work involved in operating a Vinkenbaan, and you need more hands to get the job done people got together in ringing groups. All the Vinkenbanen that I visited, operate

in coastal locations situated in the extensive dune system that is characteristic of much of the coastline of the Netherlands. Currently there are six Vinkenbanen still working today in the Netherlands, all of them are situated in the western part and I was lucky enough to visit three of them.

Much of this dune system is used by the Dutch Water Companies to filter and store water, which is ultimately destined for domestic use. The effect of this water treatment in some cases has been to modify the natural dune habitat and this has been particularly well documented in the Amersterdam Watersupply Dunes, which are located near Zandvoort and Haarlem in the western part of the Netherlands. Because of the increasing need for drinking water for the citizens of Amsterdam in the 1950's, 40 infiltration beds were dug in the dune area and river water from the Rhine was supplied. This water has been dephosphatised since 1976 and through the infiltration of water and the rise in groundwater level generally, the vegetation succession was stimulated which resulted in the growth of Buckthorn in the drier areas and Willow and phragmites in the wetter parts.
When the Vinkenbaan Vogelringstation Paradijsveld, Amsterdamse Waterleiding Duinen, Zandvoort began bird ringing in these dunes in 1965 they were barely covered by Marram grass! This Ringing Group has recently begun to analyse 30 years data to show how changes to the vegetation over time has influenced the numbers and diversity of the species caught.

At the ringing stations they usually operate with both mist nets and clap-nets, in a more or less permanent set-up with a ringing hut or cabin as a base. These would surely be the envy of most UK ringers many of whom, including ourselves, operate from less permanent bases such as the back of a vehicle.

Plate 4 The Cabin

But to describe some of the cabins that I saw as ringing huts is like comparing McDonalds to the Ritz! This one shown above is the headquarters of 'Vinkenbaan Mr. Cornelis van Lennep 1751-1813'.
This is Erik's Ringing Group and they have about twenty five members, and although not all of them are active, who cares as long as they pay their subscriptions!
The cabin is connected to mains electricity courtesy of the Water Company. The facilities include bunk beds, cooking facilities, computer, weather station linked to the computer software, storage for nets and other ringing equipment, facilities to house decoy birds and what I called 'The Control Room'. This latter with its banks of cassette and minidisk players, switches, neon indicator lights and amplifiers looked like a professional broadcasting studio. Lined up in racks around the walls were endless cassettes and minidisks for every conceivable species all neatly labelled. The entire complex is wired for sound including the mist net area. Erik showed me the set up in daylight one afternoon but in the morning when we came to open the nets in the dark I got separated (lost!) from him and as I was slightly disorientated by the strange terrain decided the best policy was to stay by a speaker and the nearby unopened nets until he caught up!

Plate 5 View of the habitat

Plate 6 Another view of the habitat

The two views shown in Plates 5 & 6, look towards the clap net station, which is kept free of vegetation, the surrounding area is quite well vegetated. In plate 6 you can see the Ringing Cabin and behind and to the right of it is the area where the mist nets are set.

Erik's Group operate a CES and I was intrigued to learn that all ringing at the Ringing Station including the CES was operated on a rota system with ringers operating usually in pairs on specified days. This ensures that ringing effort is maintained more or less 7 days a week unless weather conditions intervene. I should imagine that any UK ringer operating a CES would be pleased to be able to institute such a rota system!

Although I knew that Quail could be captured by this method, one activity, which as far as I know might be unique to Holland, is the night time catching of Water Rails using tape lures and with mist nets set in a box type configuration. This activity is carried out both at Castricum and at Erik's Ringing Station, and there is intense rivalry between the two Groups as to who can capture the most.

Plate 7
The 500th Water Rail details input direct to the PC!

In the year 2000 Erik and his team caught 501 Water Rails by these means!
An added bonus, were 16 Spotted Crake, 79 Moorhen and 4 Quail. He also told me that Little Grebe and Coot were also possible, but he wasn't keen on tape luring Little Grebe into a predominately Buckthorn habitat!

In common with many continental ringers including the Belgians, the Dutch are allowed to use methods to capture birds that are not allowed in Britain. One of the principal differences is their legal use of live birds as decoys. I have already shown how the 'Wilsterflappers', operate their traditional method to catch Golden Plover. But the legitimate use of decoy birds is commonly deployed. The live decoys that are used are either permanent captives, kept specifically for that purpose or a bird or birds taken from the current days catch, kept for a period of time and later released, usually the same day often after just an hour. Licensed ringers are allowed to keep in captivity a specific number that is agreed by their ringing scheme.

Erik took me to see a ringer at Westerschouen in Zeeland who operates with decoys in the 'old way', and I was amazed at the number and range of species that this old man uses as decoy birds. Today at 74 years old with some help from his ex daughter in law Hannie, who is one of the few female ringers in Holland, and some other members of his Group, Leen van Ree still operates at the 'Vinkenbaan Nebularia', where he first began to capture birds over forty years ago. One species he specializes in catching with the clap nets are Grey Wagtails and in year 2000 he captured 70, not to mention 83 Firecrest caught in his mist nets!
In total he caught 4157 birds of 63 Species in year 2000.

In year 2001 he captured 120 Grey Wagtails attracted to a Grey Wagtail decoy and tape lure.

Plate 8
Erik and Leen at the door of the ringing cabin.

Leen pronounced Lane told me that he preferred to wear the old wooden shoes or clogs because he found that on cold days they helped to keep his feet warm!

He uses four spring operated permanent clap nets and one hundred metres of mist nets situated in the thicker scrub between the clap netting set up and another cabin where he virtually lives during the ringing season which begins in the second half of July and runs until the end of November 24 hours a day!

The main cabin was well equipped with all the creature comforts necessary, including cooking and sleeping facilities and a wood-burning stove.

Inside the cabin Leen and Erik attend to the daily chores of feeding and watering the decoy birds in their cages. Decoys that are kept permanently stay at the ringing station during the season. At the end of the ringing season they are taken back to aviaries at Leen's house to spend the winter.
The decoy birds are used in several ways, most, simply stay in the cages, these are placed outside in special racks, others are attached to a special harness or if taken during the day's catch are placed under a basket made from a wire frame covered in clap netting for a period of time before being released as a replacement becomes available. Some of his decoys are four or five years old.

Plate 9

Plate 10 Caged Decoy birds in the racks

Plate 11 Collecting up the decoys at the end of the day

Except for the 'trees', the clap netting area is kept free of vegetation. The 'trees' in the pictures are branches of dead trees set into the ground in a mini avenue. A double clap net is placed between the avenues of trees and originally a small drinking water pool complete with dripping water from a container was an integral component of the installation.

Not unnaturally this set up is called ‘The Druip’, you don’t need to speak Dutch to understand that! Formerly the dunes were much less vegetated than they are now, without much cover and ‘The Druip’ was a very useful installation as the birds were attracted to the ‘trees’. They were intentionally without leaves as this gave the catcher a good view of the birds as they landed and then descended to the ground attracted by the water dripping into the pool. You can see a similar set up immediately to the right of Erik’s cabin. Nowadays nobody uses dripping water but the ‘trees’ and the name has remained.

Plate 12 The Druip

This is the double clap net system operated at ‘The Druip’. Underneath the wire hoops are decoy birds attached to harnesses, others are in their cages in the rack system you can see on the left of the picture. The wire hoops hold a fired net clear of the decoy birds.

The mist nets are set in the vegetated area outside the clap netting section. His Ringing Hut has electricity supplied by a small wind turbine. Leen also uses tape lures and the players are connected to speakers by wiring buried in the ground. One interesting feature of his Vogelringstation is the intercom system he installed between the entrance to the clap netting area and the cabin. Before proceeding from the mist net section through the entrance to the clap net area you are obliged to announce your presence via the intercom before being invited to enter, naturally if a catch is about to be made you are told to stay put!

I was impressed by the tremendous effort that had obviously gone into setting up these Ringing Stations. It would be difficult or impossible to achieve, without a great deal of team work and the co-operation of the water companies on whose land they operate. These guys are ordinary ringers and pay for their facilities themselves partly by their subscriptions and partly by using ingenuity to persuade other people to donate or help out. Even ringing cabins such as redundant portacabin type, site huts, might be ‘donated’ by for example building companies if you have got enough cheek to ask. They might even be persuaded to transport it over the dunes to your ringing site, after all it has to get there somehow!

My visit was extremely enjoyable despite some bad weather and I certainly learned a few new tricks, although unless UK laws relating to ringing are changed, I wouldn’t be able to put them into practice! I certainly was envious of their luxurious Cabins and the way they had got them fitted out and also how they operated more as a team rather than as individuals.

Photographs: Plates 2, 3 and 7 kindly provided by Erik Maassen to whom we are grateful, all other plates by the author.

Acknowledgements:

I enjoyed my visit tremendously and I must especially thank Erik Maassen for organizing and making everything possible and who together with his wife Anja, also his daughter Merel (Blackbird) and son Jelle, made me so welcome in their home.

Thanks also to Tom van Spanje, Eddie van Marum, Fred Cottaar and Leen van Ree. Also all the other ringers that I met and whose names I unfortunately cannot remember thank you all for making my visit to Holland so enjoyable.

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

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Schmitt, S. & Middleton, J. 1998: Siskins January-May 1998. *The North West Norfolk Ringing Group Annual Report 1998*: 43-49.

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.

11 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.