
CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD RINGING REPORT 2014

Michael Holdsworth

The year

While still just short of 2011's record total (19,948*), 2014 was another great year for Cambridgeshire ringers. 19,375 birds were ringed, making it the second best year ever. Only ten years ago it was unusual for the County total to exceed 10,000, and 20,000 must now be in sight. This places Cambridgeshire at 18th in the Great Britain and Ireland rankings, just behind neighbours Northamptonshire (19,930) and Hertfordshire (22,145). Suffolk came out top as usual – benefiting, of course, from wader-ringing, and from their gull and tern colonies, plus their fair share of keen garden ringers who contributed over 15,000 Blue and Great Tits, Greenfinches and Goldfinches to their grand total of 55,524.

Overall, 2014 in Cambridgeshire was a very similar year to 2013 (18,187) with rather few stand-out differences.

The East Anglian Gull Group did not repeat its large catches at the Milton landfill site so there were fewer gulls ringed this year. Garden and feeder ringers had a poor year of it for redpolls and Siskins after the 2012/13 irruptions: just 70 redpolls (2013: 284) and 2 Siskins (2013: 192) were ringed. On the positive side, the large-box species broke every record after their poor showing the previous year. 989 Barn Owls ringed (mainly pulli, but including 35 full-grown birds), mainly by Peter Wilkinson and Colin Shawyer's team, is by far the best result to date, taking Cambridgeshire into third place behind Lincolnshire and Norfolk nationally, and demonstrating what a stronghold fenland continues to be for this species. 989 is in fact many more Barn Owls than were ringed in the whole of the UK during most of the 1980s and 90s. Kestrels also enjoyed a good vole year – 194 (121 in 2013). Two other species were boosted to record levels by some targeted ringing by me. 439 late-autumn Meadow Pipits to sound-lure on Burwell Fen, with some help from others, took the County to 530; it's just a pity that the species suffers such a vanishingly low ring-recovery rate despite continued trapping in Southern Europe. And Pied Wagtails were a feature of sociable winter evenings at the BP/McDonalds 'swamp' on the A505 at Whittlesford where roost numbers on occasions exceeded 300 birds. 318 birds there, together with roost catches at Wicken and Addenbrooke's Hospital, took us to 438 for the year. Pied Wagtail is a surprisingly under-ringed species, with a 2014 UK total (excluding pulli) of only 3,379; Cambridgeshire thus accounted for nearly one in eight full-grown Pied Wagtails ringed nationally.

For 2014 the Cambridgeshire rankings were Blue Tit 2,629, Great Tit 1,980 (both much as usual) then Blackcap 1,229. For the first time Barn Owl came in at fourth with 989, displacing Reed Warbler (849). Both the iconic Cambridgeshire *Acrocephalus* warblers were in fact well down: Reed 849/1,822 (2013) and Sedge 411/1,029. These are worryingly large reductions. They cannot simply be accounted for by the reduced effort and hours put in by the Wicken Fen Group (WFG), Tony Martin and myself (our main reedbed ringers)

*The BTO's online *Ringing and Nest Recording Report* is subject to revision after first publication. As a result, some of the totals for previous years published in CBC Ringing Reports do not now match those shown online. This applies in particular to comparisons of individual species for 2014 against 2013. Where this is the case, and where the CBC 2013 Ringing Report had a different number, the revised total is shown in *italics*.

during August and September. Whitethroat numbers showed a similar collapse to 194 from 403 and Grasshopper Warbler (12 from 33) must also be of concern. These may be very crude measures, but they match national statistics and BTO indices. The sub-Saharan migrants continue to be in markedly worse shape than the near-migrants; these held pretty much level or even improved: Blackcap 1,229/996 and Chiffchaff 499/421.

A total of 96 different species was ringed in the year. Five species ringed in 2013 didn't make this year's list and nine are included for 2014 but not for 2013. The County list continued to grow, with two new species in 2014, and now numbers 156 species. At Dunkirk, Tony Martin maintained his record of County firsts with two Mediterranean Gulls raised in his Black-headed Gull colony (of which 129 ringed). One of these colour-ringed youngsters has since been sighted in March 2015 in the Souss-Massa National Park, Morocco, at the southern end of the species' wintering range, and subsequently in France and Cornwall. Mark Peck intercepted five Water Pipits at the Sutton Gault roost for an overdue first there. Cambridgeshire thus claimed over 25% of the Great Britain and Ireland totals for this species (5/12 nationally) as it did with the RSPB's Corncrakes (19/58). Best of the 'previously ringed' species was the Dunkirk Barred Warbler, only the third for Cambridgeshire. The last one, in 1979 – at Wicken Fen – was also a juvenile and on exactly the same date, 22 September. Otherwise rather few 'occasionally ringed' species were encountered. Three Stonechats (Wicken 2, Dunkirk 1) takes the historical tally to 12; the 16th Whinchat was also at Wicken; and swan catches near March took the long-term Whooper total from eight to eleven. My eight adult Cuckoos (Wicken 7, Chippenham Fen 1; out of 62 nationally) rewarded some brutally early starts in May. Rather to my surprise, Cambridgeshire's 22 Nightingales in 2014 (Paxton, Grafham, Wicken) was the third highest county total (150 nationally). The three juvenile male Redstarts were all at Dunkirk.

Cambridgeshire nest-recorders were again very active. The proportion of pulli (4,322) within the total ringed was above average, at 22%, largely pumped up by the nearly 1,000 Barn Owls (434 in 2013). Other important pulli 'project' totals were the Dunkirk Black-headed Gulls and six Avocets, but there were only 8 raft-born Common Terns at various sites this year. There were 131 (mainly Madingley) Jackdaws, and 297 pulli Sand Martins, again at Dunkirk; this project has now demonstrated that male nestlings are more likely to return to the natal colony than their sisters. 23 Yellow Wagtail and 40 Skylark pulli derived from farmland projects; the latter, when added to 17 full-grown captures, took Cambridgeshire to first place nationally for a species which is well-nigh impossible to catch later on (just 233 free-flying ringed)!

Ringing sessions for the Wicken Fen Group took place at several different sites on the Fen on 163 different days in 2014, down from 2013. The year total was 4,969 birds, of 63 species. In addition to these new birds, 689 retrapped individuals had been originally ringed at the Fen in previous years; and a further 16 were controls (birds originally ringed away from the Fen).

Totals for Meadow Pipit (439), Bearded Tit (67) and Linnet (60) were all-time Wicken records. The other two (juvenile) Bearded Tits in the County table were at Teversham Fen. Other WFG ringing records broken or equalled were 21 Barn Owls, part of the boom year; 22 roosting Yellow Wagtails and seven pulli Jackdaws. No new species was added to the WFG list, which thus remains at 106 species.

BTO Constant Effort Sites projects continued at Wicken (WFG), Bainton (Chris Hughes), Paxton Pits (Ian Dillon/Katie Fuller) and Five Arches Pit (Alan Brimmell).

Ringing totals for 2014

There are three age categories in the following summary table. Pulli are birds either ringed in the nest or as not-full-grown dependent juveniles where the place of ringing will definitely be the place of birth. Juveniles are birds in their first calendar year. Adults are birds in their second or any later calendar year. Unaged birds are full-grown flying birds where plumage characters do not allow first calendar year to be excluded (for example, a November Tree Sparrow or Long-tailed Tit). Recoveries are reports (captures, field sightings or found dead) of birds away from the site of ringing, often by another ringer (a 'control'). For most species, birds caught within 5 km of their ringing site are excluded.

Recoveries may include either birds ringed in Cambridgeshire and found elsewhere, or birds ringed elsewhere and found in Cambridgeshire. Five species, shown in *italics*, recorded recoveries without any new birds of those species being ringed.

	Pulli	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	Total	<i>Recovered</i>
Mute Swan		13	37		50	<i>42</i>
Bewick's Swan			5		5	<i>3</i>
Whooper Swan			3		3	
Shelduck			1		1	<i>1</i>
<i>Wigeon</i>						<i>2</i>
Teal		15	32		47	<i>2</i>
Mallard		14	47		61	<i>8</i>
<i>Pochard</i>						<i>2</i>
<i>Tufted Duck</i>						<i>9</i>
Sparrowhawk		5	14		19	
Water Rail		1	1		2	
Corncrake	7	4	8		19	
Moorhen		1	1		2	<i>1</i>
Avocet	6				6	<i>10</i>
Lapwing	46				46	
Common Sandpiper			1		1	
Redshank	4				4	
Snipe	4	3	5		12	<i>1</i>
Common Tern	8				8	
Black-headed Gull	129		6		135	<i>20</i>
Mediterranean Gull	2				2	
Lesser Black-backed Gull			29		29	<i>148</i>
Herring Gull			5		5	<i>22</i>
<i>Yellow-legged Gull</i>						<i>4</i>
<i>Iceland Gull</i>						<i>3</i>
Great Black-backed Gull			1		1	<i>1</i>
Stock Dove	36		3		39	
Woodpigeon	2	2	10		14	<i>1</i>
Collared Dove	2	3	10	1	16	
Turtle Dove	4		1		5	<i>2</i>
Cuckoo			8		8	
Barn Owl	954	7	28		989	<i>63</i>

	Pulli	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	Total	<i>Recovered</i>
Little Owl	16	1			17	<i>1</i>
Tawny Owl	21				21	
Swift	9		5		14	
Kingfisher		23	9		32	
Green Woodpecker		12	6		18	<i>1</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker		24	10	1	35	<i>1</i>
Kestrel	190	1	3		194	<i>3</i>
Hobby			1		1	
Magpie		5	1		6	
Jay		5	4		9	<i>1</i>
Jackdaw	131		14		145	<i>3</i>
Rook			1		1	
Carrion Crow		2	1		3	
Goldcrest		114	11	12	137	<i>1</i>
Blue Tit	904	1,148	576	1	2,629	<i>8</i>
Great Tit	1,042	642	291	5	1,980	<i>6</i>
Coal Tit	13	58	17	3	91	
Marsh Tit	9	45	20	1	75	
Bearded Tit	5	56	8		69	<i>1</i>
Skylark	40		14	3	57	
Sand Martin	297	22	39		358	<i>2</i>
Swallow	68	507	133		708	<i>3</i>
House Martin		1	34		35	<i>1</i>
Cetti's Warbler		16	7	11	34	<i>1</i>
Long-tailed Tit	1	176	96	177	450	
Chiffchaff	39	338	108	14	499	<i>6</i>
Willow Warbler		57	47	2	106	
Blackcap	14	974	219	22	1,229	<i>9</i>
Garden Warbler		71	48	3	122	
Barred Warbler		1			1	
Lesser Whitethroat		33	20		53	
Whitethroat	9	139	46		194	
Grasshopper Warbler		3	9		12	
Sedge Warbler		350	61		411	<i>4</i>
Reed Warbler	4	611	233	1	849	<i>11</i>
Nuthatch			2	13	15	
Treecreeper		53	9	3	65	<i>1</i>
Wren	5	344	119	5	473	<i>1</i>
Starling	92	327	184	7	610	<i>1</i>
Blackbird	20	310	294	3	627	<i>8</i>
Fieldfare		21	6		27	
Song Thrush	10	93	38		141	<i>4</i>
Redwing		46	14	5	65	
Mistle Thrush		1	5		6	
Spotted Flycatcher	16	1			17	

	Pulli	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	Total	<i>Recovered</i>
Robin	6	452	126	5	589	<i>6</i>
Nightingale		3	19		22	<i>1</i>
Redstart		3			3	
Whinchat			1		1	
Stonechat		3			3	
Duncock	3	344	131	5	483	<i>1</i>
House Sparrow	1	67	76	94	238	
Tree Sparrow				6	6	
Yellow Wagtail	23	21	17		61	
Grey Wagtail	11	1	3		15	
Pied Wagtail	5	175	258		438	<i>5</i>
Meadow Pipit	17	478	25	10	530	
Water Pipit			1	4	5	
Chaffinch		151	278	5	434	<i>3</i>
Bullfinch	4	122	99		225	
Greenfinch		277	327	11	615	<i>8</i>
Linnet	45	35	168	1	249	<i>1</i>
Lesser Redpoll			67		67	<i>3</i>
Mealy Redpoll			3		3	<i>1</i>
Goldfinch	4	179	336	12	531	<i>6</i>
Siskin			2		2	<i>6</i>
Yellowhammer	9	22	12	1	44	
Reed Bunting	35	303	278	24	640	<i>6</i>
Corn Bunting				1	1	
	4322	9,335	5246	472	19,375	<i>470</i>

Ring-recoveries

This section of the report is once again derived from the online BTO *Ringing and Nest Recording Report*.

The number of ring-recoveries reported by the public continues to fall. Once again the recoveries section is dominated by exchanges between ringers (controls). A high proportion of these are always Reed and Sedge Warblers, where some 80% of all recoveries are controls. Self-evidently this means that recovery patterns for many species are very much influenced by the distribution of ringers.

Bewick's Swan

W00451	Adult Male	07-02-2014	West Fen Farm, near March: 52°34'N 0°0'W (Cambridgeshire)
	Colour rings	25-10-2014	Stawy Przeręb, Zator: 50°1'N 19°22'E (Malopolskie) Poland 1,376 km ESE 8m 18d

Recent West Fen Farm cannon-net catches of winter swans have produced a good number of colour-ring re-sightings. In addition, two Whoopers, both originally ringed at Martin Mere, Lancashire in February 2004 were also recaptured at West Fen Farm in February 2014.

Wigeon

FP57118	First-year Male	05-01-2005	Dunkirk, Little Downham, Ely: 52°27'N 0°13'E (Cambridgeshire)
	Freshly dead (shot)	12-04-2014	Novo-Natalino: 52°22'N 48°54'E (Saratov Oblast) Russian Federation 3,299 km E 9y 3m 7d

This was the only foreign-recovered Wigeon recorded in 2014. Out of a total 106 foreign recoveries, 58 have been from Russia.

Snipe

LB48546	First-year	28-03-2011	Cantelupe Farm, Grantchester, Cambridge: 52°10'N 0°4'E (Cambridgeshire)
	Dead	19-04-2014	Strandetvej, near Højslev: 56°34'N 9°13'E (Viborg) Denmark 769 km NE 3y 22d

For 'dead' probably read 'shot out of season' (who finds dead Snipe?). This is a typical movement of a wintering bird moving (or attempting to move) back east to breed, our first *via* Denmark.

Black-headed Gull

EP71223	First-year	21-11-1987	Godmanchester: 52°19'N 0°9'W (Cambridgeshire)
	Caught by ringer	30-01-1988	Godmanchester: 52°19'N 0°9'W (Cambridgeshire) 2m 9d
	Caught by ringer	22-02-2012	Beemster: 52°34'N 4°52'E (Noord-Holland) The Netherlands 341 km E 24y 3m 1d
	Colour rings	13-03-2013	Arnhem, Musis Sacrum: 51°58'N 5°54'E (Gelderland) The Netherlands 415 km E 25y 3m 20d

A typical old-lag from the Godmanchester tip days. The longevity record is just over 34 years.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

GF79076	Nestling	17-07-1999	Orfordness: c. 52°4'N 1°34'E (Suffolk)
	Colour rings	31-10-1999	Leca de Palmeira: 41°10'N 8°42'W (Porto) Portugal 1,441 km SSW 3m 14d
	Colour rings	25-07-2000	Boulogne-Sur-Mer: 50°42'N 1°34'E (Pas-de-Calais) France 154 km S 1y 8d
	Colour rings	31-07-2001	Reserve de Chanteloup, Ile D'olonne: 46°33'N 1°46'W (Vendee) France 661 km SSW 2y 14d
	Colour rings	15-10-2004	Costa da Caparica: 38°37'N 9°13'W (Setúbal) Portugal 1,714 km SSW 5y 2m 28d
	Colour rings	26-04-2008	Neeltje Jans: 51°36'N 3°40'E (Zeeland) The Netherlands 155 km ESE 8y 9m 9d
	Colour rings	12-12-2009	Malaga: 36°43'N 4°25'W (Malaga) Spain 1,771 km SSW 10y 4m 25d
	Colour rings	02-01-2011	Malaga: 36°43'N 4°25'W (Malaga) Spain 1,771 km SSW 11y 5m 16d
	Colour rings	27-01-2013	Malaga: 36°43'N 4°25'W (Malaga) Spain 1,771 km SSW 13y 6m 10d
	Colour rings	05-01-2014	Malaga: 36°43'N 4°25'W (Malaga) Spain 1,771 km SSW 14y 5m 19d
	Colour rings	08-06-2014	Orton Goldhay: 52°31'N 0°16'W (Peterborough) 136 km WNW 14y 10m 22d

Multinational digiscoping of colour rings is becoming the new train-spotting. One wonders where this British bird went for its winters in the years between these sightings.

Iceland Gull

GR53121	Adult	19-03-2013	Milton Landfill Site: 52°15'N 0°7'E (Cambridgeshire)
	Colour rings	30-03-2014	Vestfyrret, Skagen Strand: 57°45'N 10°36'E (Nordjylland) Denmark 904 km NE 1y 11d
	Colour rings	03-04-2014	Skagen: 57°43'N 10°34'E (Nordjylland) Denmark 901 km NE 1y 15d

Our first-ever ringed Iceland Gull, from Milton, chose to winter in Denmark in 2014.

Great Black-backed Gull

NOS	Nestling	06-07-2011	Agneskjer, Lindesnes: 58°0'N 7°10'E (Vest-Agder) Norway
3034570	Colour rings	05-11-2011	Dogsthorpe Landfill Site: 52°36'N 0°13'W (Peterborough) 760 km SW 3m 30d
	Colour rings	09-02-2013	Shawell: 52°25'N 1°10'W (Leicestershire) 815 km SW 1y 7m 3d

The only other historical GBBG exchange was to the Netherlands.

Goldcrest

EAN646 First-year Male 03-10-2014 Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)
 Caught by ringer 26-10-2014 Titchfield Haven, Hill Head, Fareham: 50°49'N 1°15'W (Hampshire) 196 km SSW 23d

October tape-luring of passage Goldcrests is generating increasing numbers of controls as North European migrants track south-westerly across the country during the month. This is a typical example; one of these days one of these will be carrying a Scandinavian ring.

Sand Martin

D418446 Juvenile 20-07-2014 South Parks, Ripon: 54°09'N 1°31'W (North Yorkshire)
 Caught by ringer 30-07-2014 Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire) 238 km SSE 10d
 D053710 Nestling 18-06-2013 Dunkirk, Little Downham, near Ely: 52°27'N 0°13'E (Cambridgeshire)
 Caught by ringer 30-06-2014 Dunkirk, Little Downham, near Ely: 52°27'N 0°13'E (Cambridgeshire) 1y 12d
 Caught by ringer 08-08-2014 Hiers-Brouage: 45°51'N 1°4'W (Charente-Maritime) **France** 740 km S 1y 1m 21d
 D680793 First-year 30-07-2014 Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)
 Caught by ringer 29-08-2014 Etang de la Horre, Lentilles: 48°28'N 4°39'E (Aube) **France** 526 km SE 30d

These are three entirely typical movements as birds are intercepted at passage roosts in July and August. Sand Martins track to the east, unlike Swallows, which tend more to follow the Atlantic coast; and rather few are generally picked up further south – Cambridgeshire birds historically only to Spain (6), Morocco (2), Tunisia (1) and Senegal (4); the last probably from winter European ringing camps in that country. Senegal is as far south as Sand Martins get in winter.

Long-tailed Tit

766906	Juvenile	17-06-2007	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	
	Caught by ringer	20-08-2007	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	2m 3d
	Caught by ringer	01-03-2009	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	1y 8m 12d
	Caught by ringer	31-05-2009	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	1y 11m 14d
	Caught by ringer	01-10-2009	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	2y 3m 14d
	Caught by ringer	10-10-2012	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	5y 3m 23d
	Caught by ringer	14-04-2013	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	5y 9m 28d
	Caught by ringer	07-12-2013	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	6y 5m 20d
	Caught by ringer	12-04-2014	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	6y 9m 26d
BCR091	Full-grown	18-10-2007	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	
	Caught by ringer	23-11-2007	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	1m 5d
	Caught by ringer	02-08-2008	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	9m 15d
	Caught by ringer	12-03-2010	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	2y 4m 22d
	Caught by ringer	29-01-2011	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	3y 3m 11d
	Caught by ringer	08-01-2012	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	4y 2m 21d
	Caught by ringer	09-03-2014	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	6y 4m 19d
BCR440	Full-grown	01-11-2007	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	
	Caught by ringer	13-02-2008	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	3m 12d
	Caught by ringer	12-03-2009	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	1y 4m 11d
	Caught by ringer	09-03-2010	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	2y 4m 8d
	Caught by ringer	23-11-2010	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	3y 22d
	Caught by ringer	19-12-2011	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	4y 1m 18d
	Caught by ringer	12-02-2013	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	5y 3m 11d
	Caught by ringer	24-01-2014	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	6y 2m 23d
BRD702	Adult Female	27-05-2009	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	
	Caught by ringer	09-11-2009	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	5m 13d
	Caught by ringer	09-11-2010	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	1y 5m 13d

Caught by ringer	16-11-2011	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	2y 5m 20d
Caught by ringer	30-10-2014	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	5y 5m 3d
Caught by ringer	16-12-2014	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)	5y 6m 19d

Long-tailed Tits can be remarkably long-lived, but these are still some way short of the GB & I record of 8 years, 11 months. These are all the captures (and mainly within winter flocks) of these four resident individuals to be recorded, and it is remarkable how infrequently each has been recaptured, despite Wicken being such an intensively worked site. It's almost as if they are checking in only once a year or so.

Blackcap

D097120	Full-grown Male	06-07-2013	Paxton Pits Nature Reserve: 52°15'N 0°15'W (Cambridgeshire)
	Caught by ringer	08-04-2014	Punta Blanca: 35°52'N 5°19'W (Ceuta) Ceuta, Spain 1,862 km SSW 9m 2d
Z029464	First-year Female	02-10-2014	Little Wilbraham Fen, Fulbourn: c. 52°12'N 0°13'E (Cambridgeshire)
	Caught by ringer	19-10-2014	Dunes de la Slack, Wimereux: 50°46'N 1°36'E (Pas-de-Calais) France 185 km SSE 17d
J516584	Adult Female	27-05-1994	Port Holme, near Godmanchester: 52°19'N 0°10'W (Cambridgeshire)
	Dead	31-03-1995	Tarfaya: 27°55'N 12°55'W (Morocco) Morocco 2,910 km SSW 10m 4d

These were the only overseas ring-recoveries reported. As a short-range migrant, most Blackcap movements are to the near-Continent, particularly France, and to the northern Mediterranean. These two North African recoveries (one somewhat overdue from 1995!) are unsurprising but unusual.

Reed Warbler

D097067	Adult Female	16-06-2013	Paxton Pits Nature Reserve: 52°15'N 0°15'W (Cambridgeshire)
	Caught by ringer	20-08-2014	Noyant, Soulaire-Et-Bourg: 47°33'N 0°31'W (Maine-et-Loire) France 523 km S 1y 2m 4d
Z029224	First-year	13-08-2014	Little Wilbraham Fen, Fulbourn: c. 52°12'N 0°13'E (Cambridgeshire)
	Caught by ringer	01-09-2014	Etiang-De-Moisan, Messanges: 43°48'N 1°22'W (Landes) France 941 km S 19d

Unusually, these were the only two foreign ring-recoveries reported.

Starling

FRP First-year Male 15-10-2007 Les 20 Hectares, Boiry-Sainte-Rictrude: 50°12'N 2°45'E (Pas-de-Calais) **France**
 JA583854 Caught by ringer 11-07-2010 Grange Farm, near Caxton: 52°12'N 0°4'W (Cambridgeshire) 298 km NW 2y 8m 26d

As their numbers plummet, Starlings are always worth ringing. This looks like Cambridgeshire's one hundredth foreign-ringed bird, but only the first ever from France. The rest come mainly from breeding populations in 11 different countries to the north and east.

Goldfinch

Y113146 First-year Male 04-10-2011 Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)
 Caught by ringer 20-03-2014 Bournonville: 50°42'N 1°51'E (Pas-de-Calais) **France** 209 km SSE 2y 5m 16d

Most Goldfinch movements are of northern birds moving south and west within the UK. Rather few continue on into France and Iberia.

Please send any comments on this report and any 2015 records to secretary@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk or to 4A Cavendish Avenue, Cambridge CB1 7US.