

Wicken Fen Cetti's Warbler biometrics

This is an analysis of 326 captures from the recent recolonisation at Wicken.

A subset of 287 of these captures (often of the same bird) are included in the attached scatter diagram. The number is fewer than the total 326 because some records with either a wing or a weight missing had to be excluded. In addition, four 3J birds with NFG wings below 53 are excluded. Two measurements (63/12.2 and 60/15.9) have also been excluded as these are obvious measuring errors on birds which had been multiply captured at other times with 'good' measurements; both these are shown in the tables below. Finally, for the scatter diagram, ten measurements of summer gravid females have been excluded. These gravid measurements are also covered in detail in the tables below. Note that more males than females are caught at all times of year.

There is just one bird X077899 (see below) with a wing of 60. This is clearly a female from its other non-gravid weights (11.80, 12.50, 12.70).

The analysis clearly shows that there is no size overlap with Cettis except in the case of NFG 3J birds and gravid females. The species is bimorphic.

Female birds have wings <60 and weights <13.0.

Males have wings >60 and weights >13.0.

As with some other species, and in both sexes, wing-length increases by up to 2-3mm after the first complete moult (in the bird's second calendar year).

The detailed tables look at some potentially borderline cases:

- birds with wings of 59 at any capture and
- birds both with wings <61 and with weights of >13.0

1. All birds which had a wing of exactly 59 at any capture

N	T492569	4	F	S	04/06/2006	FRB	58	12.00	04/06/2006	AJF
R	T492569	4	F	S	25/06/2006	K2-	59	12.60	25/06/2006	AJF
R	T492569	4	F	S	14/07/2008	K2-	59	11.40	14/07/2008	MYH
R	T492569	4	F	S	09/08/2009	K2-	59	11.80	09/08/2009	PJS
N	V496964	3	F		20/12/2007	FRG	56	12.40	20/12/2007	MYH
R	V496964	4	F	S	22/06/2008	FRC	55	12.30	22/06/2008	MYH
R	V496964	2			01/11/2008	FR1	58	11.70	01/11/2008	DE
R	V496964	2	F		02/12/2008	FR1	58	12.00	02/12/2008	AHW
R	V496964	2			28/12/2008	FRA	59	13.00	28/12/2008	MYH
R	V496964	4	F		18/03/2009	FR1	58	12.10	18/03/2009	AHW
R	V496964	2	F	S	12/11/2009	FRG	58	12.30	12/11/2009	MYH
R	V496964	2	F	S	21/12/2009	FRG	59	11.40	21/12/2009	AJF
R	V496964	4	F	S	01/02/2010	FRG	63	12.20	01/02/2010	JRJ

Error

N	V834292	5	F	B	10/07/2008	FR1	57	11.50	10/07/2008	MYH	
R	V834292	4	F		17/04/2009	FRG	59	13.10	17/04/2009	MYH	Gravid?
R	V834292	4	F	S	16/05/2009	FRB	59	12.40	16/05/2009	NIL	
R	V834292	4	F	S	08/07/2009	FR1	59	12.30	08/07/2009	TDF	
R	V834292	4	F	S	17/07/2009	FRC	59	12.60	17/07/2009	NMH	
R	V834292	4	F	S	22/07/2009	FR1	59	12.50	22/07/2009	NIL	
R	V834292	4	F	S	22/04/2010	FRG	59	12.10	22/04/2010	MYH	
R	V834292	4	F	S	29/04/2010	FRG	59	12.00	29/04/2010	JAS	
N	X077669	4	F	S	27/06/2009	FR1	59	12.00	27/06/2009	MYH	
R	X077669	2			08/07/2009	FRG	56	11.70	08/07/2009	TDF	
R	X077669	4	F	S	11/07/2009	FR1	59	11.30	11/07/2009	MYH	
R	X077669	2	F	S	08/10/2009	FR1	58	12.00	08/10/2009	JRJ	
R	X077669	2	F	S	21/12/2009	FRA	58	12.20	21/12/2009	DE	
R	X077669	4	F	S	14/05/2010	FR1	59	12.30	14/05/2010	MYH	
R	X077669	4	F	S	30/05/2010	FR1	59	12.90	30/05/2010	JAS	
N	X077899	4	F	S	23/04/2009	HBF	59	11.80	23/04/2009	AHW	
R	X077899	4			01/05/2009	HWP	60	13.70	01/05/2009	PMB	Gravid?
R	X077899	4			02/05/2009	HWP	59	15.10	02/05/2009	ESS	Gravid?
R	X077899	4	F	B	02/06/2009	HBF	60	13.70	02/06/2009	CJT	Gravid?
R	X077899	4	F	S	07/06/2009	HBF	59	12.70	07/06/2009	JAS	
R	X077899	4	F		17/06/2009	HBF	58	12.50	17/06/2009	JAT	
N	X077982	3J	F	S	21/07/2009	B2-	59	11.20	21/07/2009	AHW	
R	X077982	4	F		11/05/2010	B2-	59	12.60	11/05/2010	AHW	

Some females do have wings of 59; and there is one bird at 60 (above). All these birds are clearly females on weight.

2. All 'out-of-bounds' bird with a combination of wing under 61 and weight over 13 at any capture.

N	T492523	4	F		23/04/2006	FRB	54	10.90	23/04/2006	MYH	
R	T492523	4	F	S	04/06/2006	FRB	54	13.10	04/06/2006	AJF	Gravid?
N	T940592	4	F	B	22/05/2007	FRB	55	14.70	22/05/2007	DXM	Gravid?
R	T940592	4	F		13/07/2007	FRB	55	10.50	13/07/2007	MYH	
R	T940592	4	F		08/09/2007	FR1	57	12.00	08/09/2007	AHW	
N	V834292	5	F	B	10/07/2008	FR1	57	11.50	10/07/2008	MYH	
R	V834292	4	F		17/04/2009	FRG	59	13.10	17/04/2009	MYH	Gravid?
R	V834292	4	F	S	16/05/2009	FRB	59	12.40	16/05/2009	NIL	
R	V834292	4	F	S	08/07/2009	FR1	59	12.30	08/07/2009	TDF	
R	V834292	4	F	S	17/07/2009	FRC	59	12.60	17/07/2009	NMH	
R	V834292	4	F	S	22/07/2009	FR1	59	12.50	22/07/2009	NIL	
R	V834292	4	F	S	22/04/2010	FRG	59	12.10	22/04/2010	MYH	
R	V834292	4	F	S	29/04/2010	FRG	59	12.00	29/04/2010	JAS	
N	V835165	4	F	S	31/05/2008	H2-	55	13.60	31/05/2008	AHW	Gravid?
R	V835165	4	F	S	15/06/2008	HBF	56	13.10	15/06/2008	HJN	Gravid?
R	V835165	4	F	S	28/06/2008	HBF	57	12.00	28/06/2008	PEB	
R	V835165	4	F	S	18/07/2008	HBF	56	11.30	18/07/2008	NMH	
N	V835991	2			19/10/2008	FRC	58	11.00	19/10/2008	DJR	
R	V835991	4	F	S	01/05/2009	HBF	58	14.00	01/05/2009	NIL	Gravid?
R	V835991	4	F	S	02/05/2009	HBF	56	13.50	02/05/2009	PJS	Gravid?
R	V835991	4	F	S	04/10/2009	FR1	56	11.30	04/10/2009	JAS	
N	X077899	4	F	S	23/04/2009	HBF	59	11.80	23/04/2009	AHW	
R	X077899	4			01/05/2009	HWP	60	13.70	01/05/2009	PMB	Gravid?

R	X077899	4			02/05/2009	HWP	59	15.10	02/05/2009	ESS	Gravid?
R	X077899	4	F	B	02/06/2009	HBF	60	13.70	02/06/2009	CJT	Gravid?
R	X077899	4	F	S	07/06/2009	HBF	59	12.70	07/06/2009	JAS	
R	X077899	4	F		17/06/2009	HBF	58	12.50	17/06/2009	JAT	
N	X078189	3J			07/06/2009	HBF	56	13.20	07/06/2009	JAS	NFG Male?
N	L093290	3J			29/07/2010	FRC	56	13.10	29/07/2010	MYH	NFG Male?
R	L093290	3J			04/08/2010	FRB	57	12.60	04/08/2010	MYH	Prob Female?
N	X078969	3	M	S	06/09/2009	FRG	63	14.30	06/09/2009	PMB	
R	X078969	4			01/02/2010	FRG	60	15.90	01/02/2010	IDB	Error
R	X078969	4	M	S	21/02/2010	FRG	62	14.30	21/02/2010	MYH	
R	X078969	4	M	S	06/04/2010	FRA	62	15.40	06/04/2010	IDB	
R	X078969	4	M	S	29/04/2010	K2-	61	16.00	29/04/2010	JAS	
R	X078969	4	M	S	12/05/2010	FRC	62	15.30	12/05/2010	MYH	
R	X078969	4	M	S	14/05/2010	FR1	62	15.10	14/05/2010	MYH	
R	X078969	4	M	S	26/05/2010	FR1	61	15.30	26/05/2010	MSP	
R	X078969	4	M	S	23/06/2010	FRC				JAS	
R	X078969	4	M	S	29/07/2010	FRB	62	15.20	29/07/2010	MYH	
R	X078969	4	M	S	12/09/2010	FRB	67	15.60	12/09/2010	MYH	
R	X078969	4	M	S	14/10/2010	FRB	65	15.20	14/10/2010	JRJ	

While some of these birds with wings of 59 and 60 have had weights over 13.0, they are all still females (except the last). The higher weights are all from gravid birds.

NX078189 was correctly left unsexed in June, as an NFG male with a short wing cannot be excluded.

The same would have been true of L093290, had it not been caught again in August with a solid female wing/weight combination.

X078969, a big male, just has the one erroneous wing-length recorded.

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