
CAMBRIDGESHIRE BIRD RINGING REPORT 2015

Michael Holdsworth

2015 proved an unexceptional year for Cambridgeshire ringing, both in terms of the numbers of birds ringed and the range of species involved. The overall total, at 19,008 new birds, fell just short of 2014's *19,380** but was still comfortably above the previous years' four-year mean of 18,208. It shouldn't be forgotten, however, that it's only since 2004 or so that the annual total has consistently gone above 10,000, so the County clearly continues to have lots of busy and successful ringers continuing to do lots of interesting things.

It seems that all we now need in order to break the 20,000 barrier is a year when the totals both for pulli and full-grown birds are above average. This year it was the poor breeding season that let us down – the vole-dependent large-nestbox species (Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Kestrel) faring particularly badly.

It was a year of few highlights, no ringed rarities and a somewhat limited range of species. The species list totalled 88 species, which is the lowest for very many years. Even this total was boosted by the addition of two Greylags and one Egyptian Goose (Tony Martin adding to his Dunkirk list), which – at least as far as I can see from my incomplete records – were probably the first ever of these two naturalised species to be ringed in the County. As usual, however, this simple total conceals a degree of complexity: seven species ringed in 2015 are not on the 2014 list; and fifteen species were ringed in 2014 but not in 2015. Some of this is easily explained; for example, there were no large gull species captured at landfills. However, the absence of ringed Turtle Doves, Mistle Thrushes and Corn Buntings in 2015 sends a more depressing message.

There was still the usual sprinkling of less frequently ringed species. The single Shoveler was the first since 2011. Other singletons were a Water Rail at Ely Beet Pits; Wicken's annual surprised Hobby, this year embracing an equally surprised if entirely unharmed Kingfisher in a mist-net; and a late autumn (as usual) Firecrest, again at Wicken. This was Cambridgeshire's fifteenth Firecrest, of which the last five have been at Wicken. My Cambridge city site yielded six Snipe. There was just one Cuckoo caught, at Wicken, after seven in 2014 (plus an eighth at Chippenham Fen). Cetti's Warblers had a good year, if not a record, at 44, with captures widely distributed – at Wicken (28), Bainton, Kingfishers Bridge, Woodwalton Fen, Teversham Fen, Ely Beet Pits and Dunkirk. Single passage Nightingales at Dunkirk and Ely Beet Pits were the only ones away from the traditional breeding sites. Five young migrant Redstarts added colour to the autumn at Dunkirk and there was a sixth at Wicken. Two Stonechats on Burwell Fen took the County total to 14 – still fewer than Whinchat (16), but for how long? Twelve of these have been Wicken Fen Group (WFG) catches.

The rankings of individual species ringed remained pretty much unchanged. The cost of rings to ringers, which is only partly subsidised, has risen markedly over the last few years – as funding for the Ringing Scheme becomes more difficult – but does not seem to be

*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 2015 against 2014. Where this is the case, and where the CBC 2014 Ringing Report had a different number, the revised total is shown in *italics*.

impacting the scope of ‘citizen-science’ volunteer ringing. Garden and feeder ringing of species of least conservation concern remains popular, despite a Blue Tit ring now costing 24p (that’s nearly five shillings in old money)! This is also reflected in the retrap (a repeat handling at the same site) rates for some species (particularly the tits), which the BTO are now publishing, and which have been added as an additional column to the year’s totals at the end of this Report.

The table below shows the tallies and rankings of the top twenty species ringed in the County:

	Species (<i>Ranking 2014</i>)	2015	2014	2013
1	Blue Tit (1)	2,484	2,630	1,955
2	Great Tit (2)	1,638	1,980	1,396
3	Reed Warbler (5)	1,585	849	1,822
4	Blackcap (3)	1,296	1,229	996
5	Greenfinch (9)	849	615	561
6	Goldfinch (12)	691	531	612
7	Reed Bunting (7)	667	640	684
8	Robin (11)	654	589	483
9	Starling (10)	649	610	334
10	Blackbird (8)	587	627	756
11	Swallow (6)	558	708	338
12	Chaffinch (19)	539	434	505
13	Sedge Warbler (20)	536	411	1,029
14	Wren (16)	526	474	310
15	Chiffchaff (14)	523	499	421
16	Dunnock (15)	456	483	318
17	Pied Wagtail (18)	400	438	157
18	Long-tailed Tit (17)	397	450	265
19	Linnet (22)	342	249	70
20	Goldcrest (30)	289	137	82

Observant readers will note that last year’s fourth-place holder, Barn Owl (only 193 this year), failed to make the top twenty this year (see below). As usual, the fluctuations in the numbers of the common residents – Robin, Wren, Dunnock, Long-tailed Tit – provide as much an index of annual effort as they do of the productivity of the breeding season. Some feeder-bird trends continue: the apparent and welcome recovery of Greenfinch numbers after the *trichomoniasis* years; and the rise and rise of easily-caught Goldfinches coming to nyjer seed. Otherwise, the main variations follow the fortunes of particular projects or focuses of activity. Within this table the year saw continuing specific studies of Starling and Linnet, and the usual vicissitudes of roost ringing of Swallows and Pied Wagtails. Two less ‘artificial’ increases stand out, however, neither necessarily reflecting local abundance. Reed Warblers regained their place in the top four on the strength of strong autumn passage numbers; and Goldcrests proved exceptionally numerous (mostly males, and very responsive to sound-lures) during October at a time when several southern Scandinavian observatories were ringing thousands in a day. Other species outside this top twenty also showed increases or decreases resulting from variations in special study effort or success. Two adult and 45 pulli Black-tailed Godwits were the first to be ringed for several years. No Avocets were ringed at Dunkirk, where Black-headed Gull numbers were also down at 66 (from 135 in 2014 and 391 in 2013). Three wing-tagged Marsh Harriers there were, however, the first to be ringed in Cambridgeshire since 2011; one of these was subsequently sighted in Lincolnshire in October. Pulli Sand Martins were down, at 104 (297, 277). Meadow Pipits dropped from 530 (2014) and 360 (2013) to 193 mainly because of a change in the mowing regime for ‘my’ pipit field on Burwell Fen. At Monks Wood,

however, Marta Maziarz joined Rich Broughton to study Coal Tits alongside his regular Marsh Tits. They colour-ringed 86 individual birds, including a control from Holme Fen. This work is continuing into winter 2016/17, looking at social organisation and habitat selection in native broadleaved woodland. With a further 20 from me at Chippenham Fen, and some garden ringing, this took the annual Coal Tit total to an all-time high of 163 (91, 81). Fifty Marsh Tits were also colour-ringed, in the 13th (and sadly probably penultimate) year of detailed CEH study.

The national ringing total in 2015 for Britain and Ireland fell just short of one million at 987,253. This total of course includes a lot of seabirds (3,086 Shags, 2,414 Guillemots etc.) and Northern or Western species (such as 2,176 Dippers and 11,464 Pied Flycatchers) somewhat unlikely to be ringed in Cambridgeshire. Our total of 19,008 does, however, represent 2.1% of the 891,187 individuals ringed nationally of our 88 species in 2015. The year again had Cambridgeshire punching well above its weight in the county medals table, particularly for the mixed bag of species shown below. With pulli taken out of the equation, our 396 full-grown Pied Wagtails represented one in six of the national total.

	Cambridgeshire 2015	Britain and Ireland	County ranking and percentage of national total
Bewick's Swan	16	22	First – 73%
Corncrake	8	11	First – 73%
Black-tailed Godwit	47	184	First – 26%
Pied Wagtail	396 FG	2,454 FG	First – 16%
Mallard	103	1,029	Fourth – 10%
Bearded Tit	56	779	Fifth – 7%
Shoveler	1	14	Fourth – 7%
Green Woodpecker	20	280	Second – 7%
Reed Warbler	1,585	24,344	Third – 7%
Marsh Tit	73	1,155	Fourth – 6%

It sometimes comes as a surprise how low the national (Britain and Ireland) grand total is for some species: Corn Bunting 90, for example, or Nightingale 220, Yellow Wagtail 289 and Mistle Thrush 297. And how high it can be in a bumper year for some others – for example Yellow-browed Warbler, 347 in 2015, though this may tell us almost as much about ringer behaviour (targeting the exotic) as it does about relative abundance.

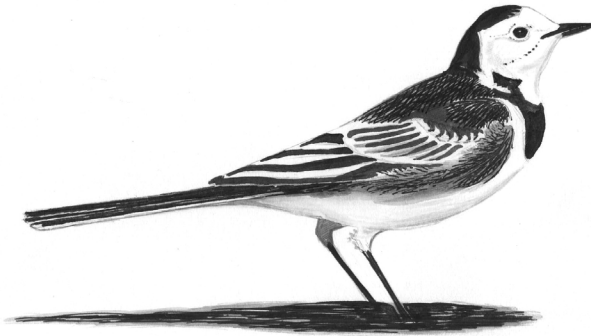
Cambridgeshire nest-recorders were again very active, despite a dire season both for large-nestbox and garden-box species. The proportion of pulli (2,523) within the total ringed was well below average at 13%; it had been a more normal 22% in 2014. Barn Owls had a dreadful year at 156 pulli (954 in 2014, the best year ever) and Kestrels at 79 (190) did just as badly, demonstrating the cyclical nature of these species' breeding fortunes. Poor Blue Tit pulli numbers, at 760 (904) and likewise Great Tit 835 (1042) showed the effect of poor weather at the crucial caterpillar time. The fall in Jackdaw pulli numbers from 131 to 29 probably had more to do with the Cambridge University Madingley project. Other reductions in numbers were also mainly related to finishing projects, this time on farmland: no Yellow Wagtail pulli (23) and just three Skylarks (40). The three Common Terns ringed were at Wicken, as usual. My Spotted Flycatcher pulli totalled 22, and there were also two passage juveniles caught at Wicken.

Ringing sessions for the WFG took place at several different sites on the Fen on 155 different days in 2015. The year total was 3,913 birds, of 59 species. In addition to these new birds, 831 retrapped individuals had been originally ringed at the Fen in previous

years; and a further 17 were controls (birds originally ringed away from the Fen). Blackcap was the highest individual species total at 409. Totals for Goldcrest (119), Siskin (35), Jackdaw (17 pulli) and Coal Tit (11) were all-time Wicken records.

Apart from Wicken I have individual 2015 totals for some (not all) additional important Cambridgeshire ringing sites (with new bird ringing totals >200): Dunkirk 1,386, Chippenham Fen 796, Kingfishers Bridge 697, Ely Beet Pits 673, Paxton Pits 624, Grange Farm (Knapwell) 583, Oakington 577, Great Fen 500, Meldreth 465, Whittlesford BP garage 283, Bainton 231 and Teversham Fen 230.

BTO Constant Effort Sites projects continued at Wicken (WFG), Bainton (Chris Hughes), Paxton Pits (Ian Dillon/Katie Fuller) and Five Arches Pit (Alan Brimmell). Trial CES projects ran at Ely Beet Pits and the Great Fen.



Pied Wagtail *Richard Fowling*

Ringing totals for 2015

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 birds found dead) of birds away from the site of ringing, often by another ringer (a 'control'). Recoveries may include either birds ringed in Cambridgeshire and found elsewhere, or birds ringed elsewhere and found in Cambridgeshire. For the first time this year the BTO has made available totals for birds retrapped. These are reports of birds found alive (captured or re-sighted) within 5km of their original place of ringing. Species shown in *italics* recorded recoveries without there being any new birds of those species being ringed.

	Pulli	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	2015	<i>Retrapped</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
Mute Swan		12	25		37	325	41
Bewick's Swan		1	15		16		5
Greylag Goose		2			2		
Egyptian Goose		1			1		
<i>Wigeon</i>							1
Teal		13	43		56	17	2
Mallard		18	85		103	26	5
Shoveler			1		1		
<i>Pochard</i>							1
<i>Tufted Duck</i>							4
Marsh Harrier	3				3		1
Sparrowhawk		7	9		16	4	1
Water Rail		1			1		
Corncrake	1	2	5		8		
Moorhen			1		1		
Lapwing	20				20		
Black-tailed Godwit	45		2		47		1
Redshank	3				3		
Snipe			6		6		
Common Tern	3				3		
Black-headed Gull	66				66	1	17
<i>Lesser Black-backed Gull</i>						1	76
<i>Herring Gull</i>							10
<i>Great Black-backed Gull</i>							1
Stock Dove	37		3		40		
Woodpigeon	1	4	6		11		
Collared Dove			4		4		
Cuckoo	1		1		2		
Barn Owl	156		37		193	26	63
Little Owl	1		2		3		
Tawny Owl	13				13		

	Pulli	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	2015	<i>Retrapped</i>	<i>Recovered</i>
Swift	24		2		26	1	2
Kingfisher		18	8		26	3	2
Green Woodpecker		10	10		20	1	
Great Spotted Woodpecker		17	28	1	46	44	1
Kestrel	79	1	4		84	2	3
Hobby			1		1		
Magpie		3	7		10		
Jay		2	14		16	4	
Jackdaw	29		11		40		1
Carrion Crow	2				2		2
Goldcrest		186	42	61	289	80	2
Firecrest		1			1	1	
Blue Tit	760	1079	642	3	2484	1467	14
Great Tit	835	411	385	7	1638	1033	6
Coal Tit		120	42	1	163	72	1
Marsh Tit		47	23	3	73	10	
Bearded Tit		37	9	10	56	6	
Skylark	3				3		
Sand Martin	104	58	33		195	31	2
Swallow	71	434	53		558		3
House Martin		2			2		
Cetti's Warbler		20	16	8	44	52	2
Long-tailed Tit		101	101	195	397	304	4
Chiffchaff	45	336	120	22	523	92	6
Willow Warbler	7	95	61	2	165	40	2
Blackcap	8	938	328	22	1296	132	7
Garden Warbler		53	59	3	115	26	
Lesser Whitethroat		55	28	1	84	2	1
Whitethroat	1	217	44	1	263	14	
Grasshopper Warbler	1	8	15		24	3	
Sedge Warbler	2	443	91		536	51	9
Reed Warbler	3	1246	336		1585	204	22
Nuthatch		1	7	2	10	9	
Treecreeper		39	15	4	58	41	
Wren	3	383	134	6	526	242	2
Starling	65	260	317	7	649	169	11
Blackbird	22	207	353	5	587	339	22
Fieldfare		2	4		6		
Song Thrush	14	62	41		117	30	1
Redwing		85	23	5	113		
Spotted Flycatcher	22	2			24		
Robin	35	450	162	7	654	352	4
Nightingale		2	9		11	16	2
Redstart		3	1	2	6		
Stonechat		2			2		

	Pulli	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	2015	Retrapped	Recovered
Duncock	3	254	197	2	456	318	2
House Sparrow		50	89	113	252	46	4
Tree Sparrow			3	2	5	1	
Yellow Wagtail			2		2		
Grey Wagtail	6	1			7		
Pied Wagtail	4	187	209		400	13	4
Meadow Pipit	17	145	29	2	193	1	
Brambling		1	1		2		
Chaffinch		150	388	1	539	98	3
Bullfinch		97	91		188	105	2
Greenfinch		427	418	4	849	65	7
Linnet		7	334	1	342	32	1
Lesser Redpoll		72	18	6	96	25	
Mealy Redpoll		1			1		
Goldfinch	4	287	400		691	79	4
Siskin		25	9	4	38		
Yellowhammer		44	50	2	96		
Reed Bunting	4	360	289	14	667	146	3
	2523	9605	6351	529	19008		393

Ring-recoveries

This next 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.

Please send any comments on this report and any 2016 records to secretary@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk or to 4A Cavendish Avenue, Cambridge CB1 7US.

Bewick's Swan

RUM Adult Female	11-08-2008	Khabuicua: 68°30'N 53°49' E (Nenets A.O.) Russian Federation
AA1502 Colour rings	14-01-2009	Eldernell: 52°34'N 0°4'W (Cambridgeshire) 3,377km WSW 5m 3d
Colour rings	28-01-2011	Methwold Severals: 52°31'N 0°26'E (Norfolk) 3,357km WSW 2y 5m 17d
Colour rings	21-01-2015	Shell Farm, Prickwillow: 52°24'N 0°21'E (Cambridgeshire) 3,373km WSW 6y 5m 10d

Good numbers of Bewick's Swans now carry colour rings and are being regularly tracked from their breeding grounds, as this bird, across Eastern Europe, Germany, and The Netherlands to their wintering grounds in the UK.

Cormorant

5268360 Nestling	03-07-2014	Point of Ayre Gravel Pits (Isle of Man): 54°24'N 4°23'W
Colour rings	09-09-2014	Cley Marshes NWT Reserve: 52°57'N 1°3'E (Norfolk) 394km ESE 2m 6d
Colour rings	13-03-2015	Wicken Fen: 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire) 387km SE 8m 10d

Ringed Cormorants found in Cambridgeshire have come from the near-Continent: Denmark (1) and The Netherlands (2). Internal UK movements are often quite long-distance, as this example of juvenile dispersal.

Black-tailed Godwit

POL Adult	19-02-2007	Salinas de Alhos Vedros, Setubal: 38°39'N 9°1'W (Setubal) Portugal
1010376 Colour rings	09-04-2007	Welney, Ouse Washes: 52°31'N 0°2'W (Cambridgeshire) 1,692km NNE 1m 21d
Colour rings	16-07-2007	Cley-next-the-Sea: 52°56'N 1°2'E (Norfolk) 1,767km NNE 4m 27d
Colour rings	17-10-2007	Cley-next-the-Sea: 52°56'N 1°2'E (Norfolk) 1,767km NNE 7m 28d
Colour rings	24-03-2008	Berry Fen: 52°20'N 0°0'E (Cambridgeshire) 1,673km NNE 1y 1m 5d
Colour rings	03-08-2008	Cley-next-the-Sea: 52°56'N 1°2'E (Norfolk) 1,767km NNE 1y 5m 15d
Colour rings	11-03-2009	Cley-next-the-Sea: 52°56'N 1°2'E (Norfolk) 1,767km NNE 2y 20d
Colour rings	27-07-2009	Cley-next-the-Sea: 52°56'N 1°2'E (Norfolk) 1,767km NNE 2y 5m 8d
Colour rings	19-04-2010	Oronsay: 56°0'N 6°15'W (Argyll and Bute) 1,941km N 3y 2m
Colour rings	19-07-2010	Cley-next-the-Sea: 52°56'N 1°2'E (Norfolk) 1,767km NNE 3y 5m
Colour rings	12-09-2010	Freiston: 52°55'N 0°9'E (Lincolnshire) 1,732km NNE 3y 6m 24d

Colour rings	24-04-2011	Shannon Airport: 52°41'N 8°56'W (Clare) 1,561km N 4y 2m 5d
Colour rings	07-08-2011	Cley-next-the-Sea: 52°56'N 1°2'E (Norfolk) 1,767km NNE 4y 5m 19d
Colour rings	11-04-2012	Welches Dam: 52°27'N 0°8'E (Cambridgeshire) 1,689km NNE 5y 1m 23d
Colour rings	28-06-2012	Cley-next-the-Sea: 52°56'N 1°2'E (Norfolk) 1,767km NNE 5y 4m 9d
Colour rings	27-03-2013	Fen Drayton: 52°17'N 0°3'W (Cambridgeshire) 1,668km NNE 6y 1m 8d
Colour rings	17-04-2013	Ouse Washes RSPB: 52°27'N 0°9'E (Cambridgeshire) 1,690km NNE 6y 1m 29d
Colour rings	21-04-2013	Loch Gilp: 56°0'N 5°26'W (Argyll and Bute) 1,946km N 6y 2m 2d
Colour rings	23-06-2013	Langwith House: 54°13'N 1°34'W (North Yorkshire) 1,820km NNE 6y 4m 4d

A nice wide-ranging life-history of a probable *islandica* Godwit, tracked by those fanatical 'godwitologists', with just the one report – its original capture – in winter. Where does it go other years?

Caspian Gull

PLG Adult Female	21-04-2011	Zb. Kozielno, Paezkow: 50°28'N 16°58'E (Opolskie) Poland
DN18798 Colour rings	28-11-2011	Milton, Cambridge: 52°14'N 0°9'E (Cambridgeshire) 1,183km W 7m 7d
Colour rings	03-08-2014	Cley-next-the-Sea: 52°56'N 1°3'E (Norfolk) 1,129km WNW 3y 3m 13d
Colour rings	25-11-2014	Cottenham Long Drive: 52°17'N 0°9'E (Cambridgeshire) 1,183km W 3y 7m 4d
Dead (hit wires)	28-12-2015	Swaffham Prior: 52°15'N 0°17'E (Cambridgeshire) 1,173km W 4y 8m 7d

This is the sixth Polish-ringed Caspian Gull to be reported in the County. For a while at least, it showed remarkable winter-site fidelity, no doubt associated with the Milton landfill site.

Kingfisher

SA26718 First-year Male	29-08-2015	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)
Dead (hit by train)	13-09-2015	near Waterbeach: 52°16'N 0°11'E (Cambridgeshire) 6km SW 15d

Train casualties have often 'travelled' (– assisted...) for many miles; but not in this sorry case of seriously bad luck.

Peregrine

GM78783 Nestling Female 20-05-2013 Winchester: 51°3'N 1°18'W (Hampshire)
 Long dead (shot) 02-03-2015 Great Fen: 52°23'N 0°21'E (Cambridgeshire) 189km NE 1y 9m 10d

A depressing end as Peregrines struggle to establish themselves as breeding birds in the County. Wild spaces and reserves will always attract prospecting birds.

Goldcrest

JEB211 First-year 02-10-2015 Walberswick: 52°17'N 1°38'E (Suffolk)
 Caught by ringer 11-10-2015 Dunkirk, Little Downham, near Ely: 52°26'N 0°14'E (Cambridgeshire) 97km W 9d
 EKK047 Full-grown Male 14-10-2012 Hinxton Hall Genome Campus: 52°4'N 0°10'E (Cambridgeshire)
 Caught by ringer 02-11-2015 near Kildary: 57°44'N 4°3'W (Highland) 687km NNW 3y 19d

All four of these captures fall precisely within the peak weeks for passage Goldcrests in Southern England. But whereas the top bird looks like a classic Scandinavian arrival making its way inland from the coast, the origin of the second is less clear. It is perhaps equally likely to have been a native British bird.

Sand Martin

FRP Full-grown 06-03-1992 Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj: 16°25'N 16°13'W Senegal
 3903210 Caught by ringer 28-06-1992 near Huntingdon: 52°19'N 0°9'W (Cambridgeshire) 4,236km NNE 3m 22d

This rather ancient control, only just reported by the Paris scheme, is our second Senegal-ringed Sand Martin; this is as far south as they get into the Sahel. In addition, three Cambridgeshire-ringed Sand Martins have been recorded in Senegal; all have been controls by expedition ringers.

Cetti's Warbler

Z664803 Full-grown Male 02-09-2015 Woodwalton Fen: 52°26'N 0°12'W (Cambridgeshire)
 Caught by ringer 10-10-2015 Leighton Moss, near Silverdale: 54°9'N 2°47'W (Lancashire) 259km NW 1m 8d

When they go, they certainly go. This rapid long-distance dispersal, by a likely juvenile, is typical. Cetti's tend to move North and West, often only being stopped by the Irish Sea.

Chiffchaff

DHR464 Adult 18-12-2012 near Barleycraft Gravel Pit, Bluntisham: 52°20'N 0°0'W (Cambridgeshire)
 Freshly dead 27-03-2015 Pontefract: 53°40'N 1°19'W (West Yorkshire) 174km NNW 2y 3m 9d

This was a wintering bird, captured in game cover in midwinter. One wonders whether it was a Northern breeder. Did it leave the UK at all before its demise two years later?

Blackcap

D668413 Juvenile Male 21-06-2014 Hinxton Hall Genome Campus: 52°4'N 0°10'E (Cambridgeshire)
 Caught by ringer 19-09-2014 Terres d'Oiseaux, Braud-et-Saint-Louis: 45°16'N 0°40'W (Gironde) **France** 757km S 2m 29d
 Z562249 Juvenile 24-06-2015 Grafham Water Nature Reserve: 52°17'N 0°20'W (Cambridgeshire)
 Caught by ringer 19-09-2015 Les Boullins, Saint-Julien-du-Sault: 48°1'N 3°16'E (Yonne) **France** 540km SSE 2m 26d

ESI First-year Female Noain: 42°45'N 1°37'W (Navarra) **Spain**
 3L62015 Caught by ringer 20-07-2015 Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire) 1,071km N 9m 26d

Three probably local birds-of-the-year doing exactly what you would expect them to, while at the same time providing nice examples of coordinated firings into Southern Europe.

Garden Warbler

L296832	Adult Male	15-06-2011	Bainton Gravel Pits: 52°38'N 0°22'W (Peterborough)
	Caught by ringer	29-05-2012	Bainton Gravel Pits: 52°38'N 0°22'W (Peterborough) 0km 11m 14d
	Caught by ringer	02-05-2013	Bainton Gravel Pits: 52°38'N 0°22'W (Peterborough) 0km 1y 10m 17d
	Caught by ringer	13-05-2015	Bainton Gravel Pits: 52°38'N 0°22'W (Peterborough) 0km 3y 10m 28d
Y408018	Adult	31-05-2012	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)
	Caught by ringer	12-05-2015	Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire) 0km 2y 11m 11d

Two nice combinations of longevity and site fidelity.

Sedge Warbler

FRP	First-year	28-08-2012	Tour aux Moutons, Donges: 47°19'N 2°4'W (Loire-Atlantique) France
6907612	Caught by ringer	27-05-2015	Chippenham Fen: c. 52°17'N 0°25'E (Cambridgeshire) 582km NNE 2y 8m 29d
FRP	First-year	20-08-2014	Tour aux Moutons, Donges: 47°19'N 2°4'W (Loire-Atlantique) France
7166517	Caught by ringer	16-08-2015	Woodwalton Fen: 52°26'N 0°12'W (Cambridgeshire) 584km NNE 11m 27d
Z436821	First-year	31-07-2015	Ely Beet Pits: 52°23'N 0°17'W (Cambridgeshire)
	Caught by ringer	16-08-2015	Tour aux Moutons, Donges: 47°19'N 2°4'W (Loire-Atlantique) France 590km SSW 16d
Z507934	First-year	20-08-2015	Kingsfishers Bridge, Wicken: 52°19'N 0°16'W (Cambridgeshire)
	Caught by ringer	03-09-2015	Tour aux Moutons, Donges: 47°19'N 2°4'W (Loire-Atlantique) France 581km SSW 14d

Seventeen French-ringed Sedge Warblers have now been found in Cambridgeshire and 40 vice-versa; the majority of these will be our breeding birds or juveniles. The industrial-strength *Programme Paludicole* (see what they did there...) runs from July to September at Donges on the mouth of the Loire (<http://www.acrola.fr>). In 2015, they ringed 11,508 birds, of which 6,940 were Sedges and only 69 were the sought-after eponymous Aquatics. Of their 85 controls, 39 were Sedges from the UK.

Robin

D927493 Juvenile Wicken Fen: c. 52°18'N 0°16'E (Cambridgeshire)
 Caught by ringer Beachy Head: 50°44'N 0°15'E (East Sussex) 175km S 3m 5d

This year's report seems to be focussing on dispersal. Was this youngster already tired of life?

Nightingale

TS99944 Full-grown Female 23-04-2014 Grafham Water Nature Reserve: 52°17'N 0°20'W (Cambridgeshire)
 Caught by ringer 20-06-2014 Maidscross Nature Reserve: 52°24'N 0°31'E (Suffolk) 62km ENE 1m 28d
 Caught by ringer 13-05-2015 Maidscross Nature Reserve: 52°24'N 0°31'E (Suffolk) 62km ENE 1y 20d

Captures at two well-worked Nightingale sites. It is interesting to speculate whether this new bird at Grafham didn't find a partner, or tried, and failed to breed; then relocated to the Brecks which proved more attractive – returning there the following year.

Meadow Pipit

Z801761 First-year 02-10-2015 Beeley Moor: 53°11'N 1°33'W (Derbyshire)
 Caught by ringer 08-10-2015 Burwell Fen: c. 52°17'N 0°17'E (Cambridgeshire) 161km SE 6d

With over 1000 pipits ringed on Burwell Fen in the last few years, this is scant reward, but nonetheless demonstrates what we already knew – that these are passage birds. But from the Pennines, Scotland or even Iceland?

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