

ELY BEET PITS



RINGING REPORT

2015

Ringling at EBP

Although ringing activities have taken place periodically at EBP, 2015 was the first year carried out by myself, (Dave Culham). 2015 was used as a test year, as we were unsure of the best sites to put net lanes & in which areas would be most productive. It soon became apparent that the best areas on site were in the main reedbed & the areas of scrub separating the 2 largest reed beds.

Operations were carried out by Dave Culham, Ken Venus, Rick Osborne, with occasional help from Josh Stafford. The plan was to visit the site every 7-10 days during the breeding season, (May-Sept), however the poor summer weather meant visits were sporadic.

Each visit completed comprised of a minimum of seven nets being used. A total of 180ft in the reed bed & 130ft in the scrub area. Occasional nets were used in the opposite reedbed and along the main track.

From the latter part of August until early September, (mainly due to holidays!) efforts were made to build up a Swallow roost in the reed bed. This was highly successful with 171 Swallows & 9 Sand Martins being ringed on migration.

Plans for 2016 & beyond

The site has now been registered with the BTO as a CES, (constant effort site), site. This will, over a period of years, enable us to study the survival rates of resident species, while studying the breeding success rates for all visiting species, during 12 scheduled visits during twelve time periods of 10-11 days between 1st May and 3rd September. The same start & finish time & the same nets used on each visit.

The Swallow roost project will also continue with more planned attempts between late August and early October. Outside of the CES timescale regular visits will be made to monitor passage birds using the site.

Monitoring of schedule 1 species such as Marsh Harrier, Bearded Tit and Cettis Warbler to ensure the habitat is maintained to maximise breeding success.

Ringling Results for 2015

SPECIES	FULLY GROWN	RETRAPS/ CONTROLS	TOTAL
Water Rail	1	0	1
Sand Martin	9	0	9
Swallow	171	0	171
Wren	19	3	22
Dunnock	11	0	11
Robin	2	0	2
Nightingale	1	0	1
Blackbird	2	0	2
Song Thrush	2	0	2
Cettis Warbler	2	0	2
Sedge Warbler	72	2	74
Reed Warbler	244	29	273
Lesser Whitethroat	2	0	2
Whitethroat	42	5	47
Blackcap	14	0	14
Chiffchaff	1	0	1
Blue Tit	25	2	27
Great Tit	7	1	8
Goldfinch	25	0	25
Reed Bunting	21	1	22
TOTAL	673	43	716

The summary shows the site is of great importance as a breeding site for summer migrants. As would be expected, with the amount of reedbed habitat on site, Reed and Sedge Warblers dominate. Sedge Warbler numbers are especially impressive with almost half the birds ringed being adult birds. This suggests a very strong breeding population at EBP. A healthy population of Whitethroat breeds around the edge of the reed beds in the extensive nettle beds. These are joined by a few pairs of Lesser Whitethroat and Blackcap.

Most of the summer migrant species are 'site faithful' when it comes to nesting, this is shown EBP by a number of returning birds. It is worth remembering these small birds, weighing an average 11g are flying 3-4,000km each way, every year!! Meaning one particular Reed Warbler, X868254, which was ringed as an adult on 26th June 2010, has completed a minimum of 6 round trips to sub Saharan African, totalling at least 36,000km, (@22,000 miles!!). During 2015 a total of summer migrants were trapped from previous years. 1 from 2010, 2 from 2011 & 3 from 2013.



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Juvenile Common Whitethroat

Returning Migrants

Ring No.	Species	Date Ringed	Age/ Sex	Recapture Date 1	Recapture Date 2	Recapture Date 3
X868254	Reed Warbler	26/06/10	Ad M	20/06/15		
L864288	Reed Warbler	12/06/11	Ad	14/07/15	20/07/15	31/07/15
Y166833	Reed Warbler	03/07/11	Ad M	11/08/15		
D262529	Whitethroat	14/07/13	Ad M	14/07/15		
Y855131	Reed Warbler	25/05/13	Ad M	31/07/15		
D262536	Whitethroat	14/07/13	Ad M	11/08/15		

1st Winter Male
Blackbird.

Controls and Recoveries.

The data collected relies on the ringed bird being either trapped by another ringer, anywhere in the world, or by being found and reported by a member of the public. These are `controls` & `recoveries`.



Controls are birds caught at **EBP** with a ring from a different ringer/site. A recovery is a bird ringed at **EBP** and found/trapped elsewhere.

Recoveries

Ring No.	Species	Age/Sex	Date of Ringing	Location of Capture/recovery	Date of Capture	Distance	Direction	Duration
Z720150	Swallow	Juvenile	04/09/15	Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire	05/09/15	12km	SSW	1 day
Z436821	Sedge Warbler	Juvenile	31/07/15	Tour aux Moutons, Donges, Loire-Atlantique, France	16/08/15	590km	SSW	16 days

Two very good recoveries, the Swallow was trapped at a roost attempt on the evening of 4th Sept, then being trapped the following day at Wicken Fen NNR. A good example of autumn migration. The Sedge Warbler trapped in France is a more dramatic example, showing that when these birds decide they are going, they don't hang around!! 590km in 16 days equates to almost 37km per day!

Controls

Ring No.	Species	Age/Sex	Date of Ringing	Location of Ringing	Date of control	Distance	Direction	Duration
TS30337	Great Tit	1 st winter Female	30/01/15	Wicken Fen, Cambs.	08/04/15	12km	NNE	68 days
D610380	Reed Warbler	Juvenile	19/08/13	Dunkirk, Little Downham, Cambs.	31/07/15	8km	SE	711 days
Y855131	Reed Warbler	Ad M	25/05/13	Wicken Fen, Cambs.	31/07/15	12km	NNE	797 days

The two Reed Warbler controls illustrate birds fledged within the Fens and relocating to breed themselves within the general area. The Great Tit is an example of juvenile Tit dispersal. Tits have large broods, causing a large influx of juvenile birds into the area. Pressure on food supply and suitable nesting sites force young birds to relocate.



Willow Warbler



Juvenile Water Rail

Breeding Species.

Monitoring the site during the breeding season, the following species were confirmed as breeding on site.

Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Greylag Goose, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Mallard, Gadwall, Coot, Moorhen, Water Rail, Marsh Harrier, Wood Pigeon, Pied Wagtail, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Common Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Blackcap, Magpie, Linnet, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Reed Bunting.

Unconfirmed breeding species include: Cettis Warbler, Bearded Tit, Shoveler and Grey Heron.

Although unconfirmed, with the abundance of breeding Reed Warblers, as hosts. We are reasonably confident that Cuckoo have bred on site.

Nightingale, Barn Owl, Hobby, Collared Dove, Starling, Swallow, Sand Martin, House Martin, Kestrel, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long Tailed Tit, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Garden Warbler all breed in the immediate area around Queen Adelaide.



Reed Warbler chicks



Reed Warbler

nest



Adult male

Swallow

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Adult Lesser Whitethroat



Adult Common Whitethroat



Adult male Reed Bunting